

# MOUNTAIN TIMES

Vol. 51, No. 13

The best things in life are **FREE!** I flatter myself.

March 29 - April 4, 2023



## DON'T GET FOOLED

The worldwide day of jokes and pranks is Saturday, April 1.



**KICKING OFF BMMC**  
Remember Jones will rock the Pickle Barrel Friday, March 31.

Page 16



By Victoria Gaither

**MAPLE OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND, APRIL 1-2**  
Vermont's sugar makers open their doors for the second (and final) spring open house weekend. Experience the joys and traditions of pure maple syrup, the sight of the steam rising, the aroma of boiling sap, and the divine flavor! This year 95 sugarhouses are opening their doors statewide. Find them at: [vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://vermontmaple.org/mohw).

## Woodstock Village eliminates auditors

### Staff report

Woodstock Village eliminated its elected auditors in a 16-2 vote at the annual Village meeting on March 21 in favor of hiring a public accountant or auditing firm to review finances.

Though the Village has elected auditors, this year filled by Steven Stuntz, it has long hired a professional audit firm.

"The function has diminished to reviewing the audit we pay a professional auditor to do," Trustee Jeff Khan said. "It's a position that's outdated and serves no real benefit to the trustees or the Village."

This year's audit was conducted by Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. in Montpelier for around \$15,000.

"They provide unbiased audits that are useful to us," Khan said.

There was little discussion in the hour-long annual meeting and all articles passed.

The proposed \$1,463,235.28 budget, of which \$630,841.65 is to be raised by taxes, passed with two "no" votes.

The budget is up about 5% from the previous year. Most of the increases are due to salary, health care increases

Auditors → 7



Courtesy of Killington Resort

Mogul Olympian Hannah Soar trained on Killington's Outer Limits and competed in the BMMC when she was just 8 years old.

## Annual Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge showcases steep Beast bumper, big party

By Karen D. Lorentz

Spring has sprung and that means Killington's festive spring events lineup kicks into high gear this Saturday, April 1, with the iconic Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge.

The competition features male and female amateurs in five age brackets ranging from 13-and-under to 50-plus. Judges give points for turns and line, air, and speed. Spectators witness some great control and technical skiing as well as a sense of flair and putting it on the line as competitors go for it — all creating the excitement factor.

The competition begins at 9 a.m. with competitors having one run. The top 32 men and 16 women will compete in a dual format at approximately 12 p.m. Pairs of competitors will run a dual course with sudden death format until only the winners remain. Awards will be presented to the first-, second-, and third-place overall men's and women's winners and their names will be engraved on the Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge trophy.

Asked what the Mogul Challenge means to competitors,

Olympian Hannah Soar said, "Solidifying one's name on the elusive Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge trophy alongside generations of great mogul skiers is on the bucket list of many East Coasters. Little did I know that at eight years old the 2008 BMMC would be the first event of many on the path to becoming an Olympian."

The Mogul Challenge also translates into one gigantic tailgate/snow/deck party with live music presented by Kona Big Wave after the morning runs and again after the finals and award presentations with Jamie's Junk show from 2:30-4 p.m.

Soar added, "The BMMC is a staple in the Killington community. Growing up in the community with the enthusiasm that surrounds BMMC weekend without a doubt ignited my passion for mogul skiing; the nerves of the competitors, the fun times in the parking lot, and the general community passion for mogul skiing all come together to create the best event of the year."

BMMC → 4

## Two local elementary school principals honored

By Katy Savage

Two teachers from Rutland county have been named principals of the year by the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA).

Christy Coloutti of Northwest Elementary School in Rutland and Debbie Alexander of Lothrop Elementary School in Pittsford were among four principals recognized for their leadership.

The honorees were nominated by their peers and chosen by the VPA executive council.

"It's a huge honor and you can't win the same honor twice," VPA Executive Director Jay Nichols said.

Coloutti was named the National Association of Elementary School

Principals of the year.

Coloutti has been on the job for less than a year, but has already made a big impact.

"She's a superb educator," Rutland City Public Schools Superintendent

Loren Pepe after spending 10 years as principal of Proctor Elementary School. But, Rutland Northwest, a K-2 school with around 158 students and 11 classroom teachers, was familiar to her.

"I have high expectations for them. I'm firm but fair. I love them to death but I also hold them accountable," said Coloutti.

Bill Olsen said. "She has high expectations for her staff and students but she's extremely supportive of everybody in her building."

Coloutti took over last July for

Coloutti started her education career at Rutland Northwest 25 years ago, as a student teacher at age 22. She was first a special educator before she got her administrative

license as director of special ed.

Coloutti was encouraged to become a principal and found the job suited her outgoing personality.

"I love people, I love being around people," she said. "I love talking to people and this is a very social career. Being principal, I feel like I have a greater impact on the building as a whole."

Coloutti has focused on creating a supportive environment. She's tried to get to know everyone in the building. While most children fear the principal's office, she's made her office a place for students to go for "positive breaks." She has Legos for students to play with and she has

Principals of the year → 27



# Gryphon Building to get new apartments

Mark Foley, Jr. is renovating the upper floors of the Gryphon Building in Rutland to create 10 one or two bedroom apartments.

Gov. Phil Scott announced Wednesday, March 22 that Foley was one of six recipients of \$860,000 in tax credits. Foley received \$125,000 toward his \$750,000 project.

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) tax credits are supporting rehabilitation and revitalization projects throughout Vermont's designated downtown and village centers. The six projects will help generate over \$20 million in building improvements around the state.

A new round of funding will be announced in April, with tax credits available to projects in state-designated Downtowns, Village Centers, and Neighborhood Development Areas.

"These investments are impactful, supporting local businesses, creating new housing, and improving the economic vitality of our community centers," said Scott. "This kind of targeted investment in our downtowns and village centers, along with the strategic use of federal relief dollars, shows what we can do to make Vermont an even better place to live and visit."

"Thanks to the support of the Legislature, we are excited to be able to expand the reach of this program in the coming year," said Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Josh Hanford. "Our next round of funding will allow applicants of state-designated Neighborhood Development Areas to also participate in the program, supporting investments in rental housing around our existing commercial centers."

# Hartland town manager receives public rebuke

By Curt Peterson

Popular Hartland Town Clerk Brian Stroffolino surprised the Select Board on March 20 reading a statement accusing a town employee of "abusive, aggressive, disrespectful, threatening, violent and vulgar behavior on many occasions," which "created a toxic workplace environment." He didn't name the offender, but the accused is believed to be Town Manager David Ormiston.

Stroffolino said "many" complaints to the Select Board have not resulted in improvement.

"How is the Select Board going to proceed?" the clerk, an elected official, asked

board chair Phil Hobbie.

Hobbie would not respond directly, explaining privacy regulations require employee issues discussions to be held in executive session, after which only decisions made are announced.

Hobbie thanked Stroffolino for his input, reminding him employment issues can't be aired in a public meeting.

"I feel a lot of compassion for Brian," Hobbie told the Mountain Times.

He contacted Stroffolino Tuesday morning, reviewing why he couldn't address his statement publicly. The clerk said he appreciated

the Select Board had heard his concerns.

A Hartland listserv post by resident Jay Boeri ignited discussion some called "an uproar."

Of the 44 posts, seven claim first-hand unpleasant dealings with Ormiston. Seventeen rely on rumors, or cite "common knowledge." Seven concern the Select Board's and the manager's performance.

Asked to confirm previous discussions with the Select Board regarding friction with town employees, Ormiston said "disagreements are always part of serving in municipal government."

Rebuke → 28

# RRMC moves to symptom-based masking

Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) relaxed the universal masking requirements that have been in place since the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic on Monday, March 27 and moved to symptom-based masking.

"Symptom-based masking is for people who have any cold or flu-like symptoms when they come to the hospital or outpatient clinics," said Rick Hildebrandt, the chief medical information officer at Rutland Regional. "We also continue to encourage basic infection control across the board such as frequent hand washing and other sanitizing measures."

In February, as part of a phased approach, Rutland Regional relaxed masking requirements at one of its busiest clinics, carefully monitoring for an uptick in Covid or other infectious diseases. As there was no discernible increase in infections, masking requirements were relaxed in all other off-site clinics in early March.

Furthermore, hospitalizations for Covid have remained low for several weeks. Both of these factors provided excellent clinical indicators that the risk of Covid to staff and patients is low and that relaxing the hospital's mask requirement was an appropriate and safe next step.

"We recognized that the pandemic has now moved into more of an endemic phase, and we wanted to find a way to safely relax masking and PPE requirements for patients and staff, but do so in a way that is supported by data," said Todd Gregory, the chief medical officer at Rutland Regional Medical Center. "We've not seen an appreciable increase in infection involving Covid or other respiratory agents among staff or patients during the test period, and consequently feel it is reasonable to change our mask requirements organization-wide."

Mask wearing will still be required in some instances, however.

"Anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms will be required to wear a mask," added Gregory. "Additionally, masks may be required in certain areas of the hospital or outpatient clinics based on exposure risks, patient population, etc."

The hospital will continue to provide masks for anyone who chooses to wear one.

"This is a positive shift for our community and for our hospital," said Judi Fox, interim president and CEO at Rutland Regional. "We have appreciated the cooperation and support of our patients and visitors in maintaining our Covid protocols over the past three years. It has been a true team effort to keep Rutland Regional and our community as safe and healthy as possible throughout the pandemic. We look forward to seeing smiling faces again."

# Forest school proposal seeks new site

By Brett Yates

Public opposition has led the would-be founders of a nature-based preschool in Chittenden to seek out alternative locations in town for their plan. They now describe their initial target, the North Chittenden Grange Hall, as "a backup site only."

In January, the team behind the proposed "forest school" asked the Select Board for permission to rent half of the municipally owned building for the indoor component of their full-time, year-round, mostly outdoor program, which aims to address a dearth of childcare options in the area.

While some residents have spoken in favor of the idea, others have condemned it as a monopolization of public space, which they've argued should remain open for spontaneous use by the community.

Another possibility is to use a classroom at the Barstow Memorial School, if it can make one available.

The preschool's organizers have scheduled a meeting

Forest school → 6



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# Crowds pack in to celebrate history of Pico

By Karen D. Lorentz

On March 24, a standing room only crowd learned fascinating highlights on Pico's history, ranging from its opening and unique position of women having operated it to the area's ski patrol, ski club, and racing programs that engendered a loyalty that has made the mountain one of America's 30 longest operating ski areas.

Frank Heald, a former general manager, summed it up best when asked how he could account for Pico's appeal. He cited being 10 miles from Rutland, family oriented, Junior Program on Sundays, racing ambience, and being "blessed with the friendliest staff" and being "a special place."

Asked about the name which originally was Pico Peak, he said they learned Pico was Spanish for peak, which redundancy caused the name change to Pico Mountain.

The two-hour presentation, which was arranged by the Sherburne Killington Historical Society, kicked off with a wonderful slide show, put together by Ann Keim Thomas.

Thomas Aicher, president of the Pico Education Foundation, narrated the slide show with the pictures — many of which have not been seen before — capturing highlights from Pico's history.

From Pico's opening on Little Pico on

Thanksgiving Day 1937 with a 1,200-foot rope tow, small warming hut, and parking lot across the road, the slide show covered many Pico highlights.

They included details about: founders Janet and Brad Mead; the Karl Acker Ski School; Olympian Andrea Mead Lawrence; the first ski accommodations; the Otter Ski Patrol; the famous Constam T-Bar (first in America debuting January 1941); the racing programs and Pico Ski Club being a "Pico staple;" the various owners of Pico; Suzy Chaffee "Chapstick;" and many interesting but little-known facts like Chaffee's role in Title 9 being passed to offer equal oppor-

tunity in sports for women. Attendees also learned that the first lift towers were wood, the ski patrol made their own toboggans, Pico operated during World War II when most areas had to shut down, Triple Slope was originally called Gnomes Knoll, and the T-Bar lasted for 39 seasons, longer than any other lift at Pico.

**Pico women, Meads, North Tower**

Justin Lindholm, who grew up in a ski family that operated Lindholm's Sports store in Rutland for several decades and then ran it himself, talked about changes in equipment, but only after giving a shout out

Pico celebration → 18

## OBITUARIES

### John M. Bruno, 80

John M. Bruno, 80, died Sunday March 26, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born May 5, 1942 in Torrington, Connecticut, a son of John and Helen (Pormbjak) Bruno. He graduated from Torrington High School in 1960.

Bruno studied at the University of Connecticut, first obtaining a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering in 1964 and later a Mmster of science in 1968. He was married to Barbara Kissh on Sept. 5, 1964 in Harwinton, Connecticut.

In 1972 they moved to Brownsville, Vermont, where John started Bruno Associates, an engineering, surveying and consulting business in Woodstock. He retired in 2006 and they moved to a 1870s farm house in South Charlestown, New Hampshire on the Connecticut River. They later moved to their current home in Hartland to be closer to their son Mark.

John Bruno was a member of the West Windsor Zoning Board for 22 years. He also served on the Charlestown, New Hampshire Planning Board and the Hartland Planning Commission.

He enjoyed working with wood, carving birds and wood turning. Most of all he enjoyed time with family and friends, summer on Goose Pond and a good laugh.

John Bruno is predeceased by a son Robert Bruno and a sister Barbara Ohotnicky.

He is survived by his beloved wife Barbara of 58 years of Hartland, his son Mark Bruno and his wife Billie Jean of Hartland and granddaughter Molly Bruno and her partner Oliver Levin of Malden, Massachusetts.

A visitation will be held 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Knight Funeral Home in Windsor.

Condolences to the Bruno family may expressed in an online guestbook at: KnightFuneralHomes.com. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or charity of your choice.

A celebration of John Bruno's life will be held at a later date.



John Bruno

### Pat Keeley, 95

Glenna (Pat) Keeley of Woodstock, Vermont, formerly of Newport, Rhode Island, died peacefully on March 25, 2023, of natural causes. She was 95 years old.

Pat Keeley spent her entire life in Newport Rhode Island where she and her husband Ken (deceased) raised their family in their house on Union Street. She spent her early years caring for her children. She was a woman of many talents. She was a self-taught seamstress and made all of her children's clothes and worked doing alterations for neighbors and clients who heard about her skillfulness via the Newport grapevine. She was a true beach girl and passed that on to her daughters. Every summer day was spent at either Third beach when her children were small, and later at "First."

In her later years in Newport she enjoyed walks on the beach, spending time with friends at the King center and with a sewing circle at her church. She moved to Virginia for a few years to be with her son and eventually to Woodstock to be closer to her family.

She was pre-deceased by her husband Ken and her son Joe. She leaves behind two daughters, Kathleen Bishop (Paul) of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Patricia Keeley Bragg of Pittsfield, Vermont. She also leaves behind four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother.

As Mom, Grandma, Great-grandma she was most happy when she was with her family. She brought much joy, laughter and love to all and will be sadly and deeply missed but always in our hearts.

Donations in her memory may be made to Merten's House, 73 River Road, Woodstock VT 05091.



Glenna (Pat) Keeley

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

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# Moguls Olympian Hannah Soar reflects on how OL, Bear Mountain training helped define her talent

By Karen D. Lorentz

It's a cliché, but so true for the Soar family — the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Whether genes or pure luck, both of Hannah Soar's parents were recreational mogul skiers in the 1980s and even competed in the amateur Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge (BMMC).

"My Mom learned to ski at age 28 and is a diehard skier. My dad who grew up in Chicopee, Massachusetts, learned as a kid and skied Mt. Tom and Killington. They met at Colgate and he became a weekend warrior who got mom into the sport. My grandfather, my father, and my uncle all had Killington lifetime passes," Hannah told the Mountain Times.

So it's not too surprising that her parents had Hannah skiing on a leash at 18 months and that she took to the sport quickly and was able to do Outer Limits at age 4 or 5! Hannah competed in her first event at age 8, the BMMC where she took fourth place overall and earned the bragging rights of having her name on the BMMC trophy for 2008.

Born in Somers, Connecticut, Hannah grew up and went to school there until her freshman and sophomore years when she joined the winter term at the Killington Mountain School. She attended KMS full time for her junior and senior years, graduating in 2017. In spring of her junior year, she was named to the 2016-2017 U.S. Freestyle Ski Team.

## Q&A with Hannah Soar

**MT: Did competing come as natural to you as skiing did?**

HS: In general, I'm not very competitive but when I was age 8 I loved mogul skiing. I loved Outer Limits but literally hated the competitive side.

I joined the Killington Ski Club as a kid and started competing in USSA events. I would throw up before them but inevitably win the event.

I preferred training, free skiing, and anything but competition day.

I loved the sport so much, but I had to work through the nerves. I had to learn to enjoy competing. Through sports psychology, my parents' support, and meditation, now I'm able to overcome the nerves and like competing. I had to figure things out — to learn to do the jumps in the air and handle the pressure, which is a reality for athletes.

**MT: When did you set your sights on the Olympics?**

HS: I wasn't good enough to do the Olympics in 2018 (age 18) and started college during the spring. I trained hard summer 2018, gunning for the 2022 Olympics. I had to get to the World Cup Team to qualify for the Olympics. I made it for the 2018-19 season but tore my high ankle. I was out for the majority of the season but got in three races and got a top 10.

My first World Cup podium came later in 2019 — third in a dual moguls FIS World Cup in China.

I finished third in the 2021 World Cup overall standings, which led up to making the Olympic Team for Freestyle skiing and making it to the second finals round at the competition. [She narrowly missed the third finals round by coming in seventh.]

**MT: Where are you now in your competitive career? Future plans?**

HS: I have five World Cup podiums: 2 seconds and 3 thirds and many top 10s.

I will be 24 in June and my plans are to compete in 2023-24 then finish college in May. I'm an economics major and had an internship at Black Rock last summer and this summer another one and hope to work for them after college.

**MT: Any special memories?**

HS: My highlight was coming home after the Olympics and having Killington put on a coming home party for me. It meant a lot because prior to the Olympics we had to isolate due to Covid. It was really nice to come home to the Killington community which has always meant a lot to me and my family.



Courtesy Hannah Soar

The Killington support crew celebrated at Deer Valley World Cup 2023 where Soar placed third.

**MT: Any advice for aspiring athletes?**

HS: Just because something is hard doesn't mean you're not going to be great. It requires work. You have to work really hard to overcome barriers; determination and trial and error will help work things out as will dedication to your craft.

**MT: What are some changes you've seen in moguls?**

HS: The increase in difficulty of tricks that females are doing. Most World Cups have single and dual mogul events. There were only singles at the 2022 Olympics, but in 2026 there will be both duals and singles.

**MT: Were there any people who were special influences or mentors to you?**

HS: My parents and Donna Weinbrecht. Donna is the person I aspire to be, she's very real and helped me learn. The weekend warriors who ski moguls at Killington have also created the person and skier I am —

most are older than I am but some I grew up with from the parking lot days at Bear. We skied OL and spent time hanging out in the lot. I enjoyed playing with friends in the snowbanks there. It helped me enjoy skiing because I had friends — the social environment is one of my favorite things about Killington to this day.

**MT: Any other sports, hobbies, activities?**

HS: I'm a big biker. I started at 18 and friend sold me a gravel/road bike. I do rides and mountain and gravel biking. I whip out the bike for VT Adaptive Century Ride.

**MT: What are your thoughts on ski town culture?**

HS: I think that with the Killington 365 pass and biking, locals come together over joint passions for the outdoors over all the seasons; and that creates a unique bond in the community and strong connection for our environment in our town.

## ← BMMC: from page 1

### Outer Limits, a bumper beast

The ultra-steep Outer Limits debuted in 1979-80, spawning the mighty mogul field and the Annual Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge in 1981. Outer Limits became Donna Weinbrecht's classroom where she taught herself to ski moguls. [At the time, Killington didn't have a freestyle team and coaches due to national insurance and injury issues related to inverted maneuvers.] After winning the Mogul Challenge four times, the rules changed to exclude holders of USSA cards. No matter, Weinbrecht qualified for the U.S. Championships in 1987 and was named to the U.S. Freestyle Team.

Training on "all conditions, hard pack to slush to epic powder" and the steep pitch of the trail made her fearless. "After Outer Limits, nothing fazed me," she said in a phone interview.

In addition to winning the first Olympic Gold Medal awarded for women's mogul skiing at the 1992 Albertville Games in France, Weinbrecht has won every accolade in her sport, including seven national and five world

championship titles and 46 World Cup mogul events.

The three-time Olympian noted Outer Limits changed her life. "I was lucky to be at the right place at the right time when moguls was an emerging sport that led to an exciting and fulfilling life's journey. The BMMC prepared me for competition pressure. Competing when the locals expected you should win, the pressure was intense," Weinbrecht said, adding she enjoys leading mogul camps at Killington each winter now.

This year's Mogul Challenge might propel another aspiring amateur on a journey and life's dream as it did for Weinbrecht, Soar and other Killington OL bumpers like Chuck Martin, Maggie Connor, and Bobby Aldighieri who went to the 1992 Olympics.

While the online pre-registration closed Tuesday, anyone interested in signing up can go to registration on event day and put their name on the waitlist. (The competition is available to amateurs only — USSA members or anyone who has been a member as a racer in the past five years is ineligible.)

### Parking and party tips

The king of bump amateur competitions draws thousands — mogul skiers and mogul fans, as well as revelers to Bear Mountain for the biggest snow and tailgate party in the East.

Whether a repeat spectator or new to this event, it's good to know about some parking and party tips:

Tailgate set-up begins Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. No Friday set-up is allowed, Bear Mountain parking gates are locked at 5 p.m. Friday evening.

Free shuttles will run from 6:30 a.m. until after the event to transport guests between base areas.

Bear lifts operate until 4 p.m. but the Skye Peak Express Quad will reopen at 4:30 p.m. allowing guests to ski/ride back to other base areas.

Food is available inside Bear Mountain Lodge in addition to a barbecue on the Bear Mountain deck. Personal consumption of alcohol is permitted, but it's against state law to dispense alcohol.

Killington requests that all non-service animals be left at home. No donkeys!



# With state poised to scale back motel housing, an alternative has yet to materialize

By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

For the past three years, the federal government has picked up the tab for state programs that now house about 2,800 people experiencing homelessness — 600 of whom are children — in motels across Vermont.

With federal funding for its Covid-19 pandemic-era motel programs nearly gone and Vermont's rates of homelessness climbing ever higher, the vexing question before state budget writers in the Legislature is this: Now what?

Advocates are arguing forcefully that without alternatives for shelter, the state has no choice but to continue funding the programs at current rates. The Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition, a collection of over 90 organizations, has asked for \$72 million in next year's budget to continue the program as is.

"Until we have an increase in the supply of affordable housing, we need to be building bridges to housing, not cliffs into homelessness," said Anne Sosin, VAHC's interim director.

But neither the Republican governor nor the Democratic-controlled Legislature have suggested they would sign on to any funding plans on that scale.

A mid-year spending package written by the Legislature to adjust the current year's budget, which Gov. Phil Scott reluctantly allowed to pass into law, will continue to pay for motel housing with state funding through June 30 but begins to restrict eligibility a month prior on May 31.

Roughly 1,800 households are currently living in motels. The Department

aside enough money to keep anyone meeting new eligibility requirements housed year-round, in addition to Scott's proposal to relax eligibility during the winter.

An initial \$29 million figure recommended by the panel has been heavily criticized by advocates, who say it would put upward of 2,000 people at risk of losing their shelter. But Wood stressed that the actual dollar amount attached to her panel's recommendations were still in flux.

"What we are trying to do is to signal to the community that we are going to increase base funding in the (motel) program beyond what it has been pre-Covid. And that's all I can say at this point in time," she said. "I don't know what the final numbers are going to be."

Rep. Taylor Small, P/D-Winooski, who took the lead on the human services' panel work on emergency housing, said she did not expect the total number to budge upward much. She conceded it likely would not be enough to keep newly prioritized populations sheltered year-round. But she argued the hotels already were not adequately addressing the needs of unhoused Vermonters.

"We know that the hotels are not the ultimate solution at the end of the day," she said. "It is a challenge to not have an administration that is coming forward with a more robust plan on

how we are addressing homelessness."

Largely thanks to congressional aid packages, the state has already plowed nearly \$340 million into affordable housing since the start of the pandemic and another \$166 million into motels between March 2020 through the end of 2022.

But the latest federal figures show that Vermont has the second highest per-capita rates of homelessness in the country, behind only California. And for now, the problem appears to be getting worse — not better.

The number of Vermonters becoming unhoused outpaced those exiting homelessness in 2022. According to figures compiled by the Agency of Human Services, 2,400 households became homeless that year, while 2,200 found housing.

Colby Lynch, a resident of one of Barre's motels, fell into homelessness in 2021, despite both she and her partner working as home care providers at the time. After a weekslong stint in

their van, they secured a room at the Quality Inn, where they've now been for a year and half.

"If there were housing units available, then we would be in one right now," Lynch said at a Statehouse press conference held last week by the Vermont Interfaith Action. "Vermont has

"Until we have an increase in the supply of affordable housing, we need to be building bridges to housing, not cliffs into homelessness," said Anne Sosin.

no housing safety net."

She and her partner also find themselves in a catch-22, according to Lynch. If they find housing, they have to demonstrate that they can afford it. But while they both still work, they've had to give up their old — and better paid — jobs to stay under the income requirements of the motel voucher program currently keeping a roof over their heads.

"We see signs that everywhere is hiring ... But not having homes available to rent is impacting folks' ability to apply for these jobs," she said.

And the motels, while sometimes offering substandard — and expensive — accommodations, remain Vermont's most significant source of shelter. About 80% of the estimated 2,000 homeless households in Vermont relied on motels for shelter in 2022, according to data collected as part of the federal government's annual point-in-time count each January.

Motels aside, there are only a little over 600 shelter beds or emergency housing units in the entire state of Vermont, per figures compiled by the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness. For every one shelter bed in Vermont, about 10 people reached out to the state for emergency housing needs last year, according to the group.

"There's very modest, if any, capacity to absorb folks who are getting ready to move out of the hotels," said Martin Hahn, the group's executive director.

If shelter space is full or scarce in most places, it is entirely nonexistent — save for hotels — in some of the poorest regions of Vermont.

"At present there is no emergency shelter in the Northeast Kingdom," said Patrick Shattuck, the executive director of Rural Edge, a nonprofit affordable housing developer serving the area. "I mean there really are no alternatives."

Hahn said he received a call just last week from North Country Hospital in Newport, looking for a place to put someone they were about to discharge from their emergency room. He did not have an answer for them.

Housing → 7

## Off the rails

At the start of the State House March Madness competition a few weeks ago a group of members in the House Transportation Committee collaborated to put in an entry,



By Rep. Jim Harrison

which they named "Off the rails." And to their own surprise, their committee effort is doing quite well in the standings.

The slogan may also be how the governor views the recent actions in the legislature as being "off the rails" from his perspective on taxes, fees, spending and a few policy issues. And with new supermajorities in the House and Senate, legislative leaders could choose to enact their way even if bills are vetoed by overriding the veto.

Last week started off with the governor allowing the annual budget adjustment bill to be enacted without his signature. His chief concern was that it spent \$50 million more than his administration originally proposed without being in the context of other spending priorities for the FY24 budget. However, he stopped short of vetoing the bill.

Some of the legislative initiatives that are causing the Administration concern right now include:

- Last week, the House passed the family leave bill that will provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave to every employee for a new child, illness, or other qualified event. It is alleged to be the most generous state program of its kind (up to 90% wage replacement) and will be funded by a new payroll tax. Startup costs, including a necessary reserve are estimated to be over \$100 million and will require the addition of 45-50 new state employees and a new IT system.
- The Senate continues to work on a childcare bill with a parental leave component that would also be funded by a new payroll tax and elimination of last year's \$1,000 child tax credit for families.
- The House Ways & Means Committee added an amendment to the annual Transportation bill that increases motor vehicle fees by approximately \$22 million annually. The same committee, working with the Secretary of State's office also amended another bill with increases in most professional licensing and corporation fees to raise approximately \$3.5 million annually.
- The House passed universal school meals paid for by the Education Fund, which could increase property taxes by \$30 million.
- The House passed a new firearm bill, H.230, with restrictions that some attorneys believe may be unconstitutional. Vermont AG Charity Clark has vowed to defend the bill in court if challenged.
- The House passed the conservation bill, H.126, which requires conserving 30% of land and water by 2030 and 50% by 2050. A similar bill was vetoed by the governor last year. The conservation requirements are applauded by most environmental groups and exceed the vision proposed by President Biden.
- The Clean Heat bill, S.5, has been sent over to the House from the Senate. It's no secret that Scott opposes the Senate version of the bill due to concern over impact on heating fuel prices and transition costs to homeowners.
- And finally, the House Appropriations Committee has drafted a budget for FY24, which begins July 1 that is almost certain to cause consternation with the governor. A final version of the bill will be completed on Monday, March 27, and sent to the full House for action. It will likely be a split vote from the committee.

Scott had messaged early on that it was important to him to retain the reserve he had proposed for the state share of federal infrastructure grants. Those funds have been spent for

Harrison → 7

Roughly 1,800 households are currently living in motels... Motels aside, there are only a little over 600 shelter beds or emergency housing units in the entire state.

for Children and Families estimates that 1,045 of those households would remain eligible under the new rules.

Scott, for his part, has argued unequivocally that Vermont cannot continue as it has been absent federal cash. But neither has he proposed reverting completely to the pre-pandemic status quo. The governor's proposed budget for next year includes \$26 million, enough, according to officials, to offer anyone who needs one a motel room through the winter months.

House budget-writers are now at work on their draft of next year's budget, which begins July 1. Rep. Theresa Wood, D-Waterbury, who chairs the chamber's Human Services Committee, said the panel is recommending to colleagues in the House Appropriations Committee that they set



# House passes suicide prevention bill H.230 to increase gun safety

The House on Thursday, March 23, passed the suicide prevention bill, H. 230, An act relating to implementing mechanisms to reduce suicide. The legislation addresses the alarming increase in suicide rates in Vermont by creating mechanisms to provide a period of time and space from firearms for individuals experiencing suicidal impulses. The bill requires locked gun storage to prevent firearms from being accessed by children, creates a 72-hour purchase waiting period, and allows family and household members to petition the court for temporary gun removal under the state's "red flag" laws.

"I am so proud of the work that the House Health Care and Judiciary Committees undertook to get this life-saving legislation passed today," said Speaker Krowinski. "While such legislation cannot change the past, and it won't save all Vermonters in the future, I know this bill will make a difference and prevent Vermonters in crisis from having quick access to the lethal means that could end their life. We need to build on this

legislation, reduce mental health stigma, and continue to support our family, friends, and communities in moments of crisis."

"In 2021, 142 Vermonters took their lives. That's 20.3 suicides for every 100,000 people, which is the highest number and rate of suicide deaths in state history — 90% of all gun deaths in our state are suicides,"

In 2021, 142 Vermonters took their lives ... 90% of all gun deaths in our state are suicides," Rep. Alyssa Black said.

Rep. Alyssa Black said. "We cannot completely eliminate suicide in Vermont, but we must do better. We can make sure fewer Vermonters die due to suicide, and we can make sure fewer families and friends are left wondering why their loved ones leave this world too soon. That's what this legislation does; it takes steps to mitigate access to a firearm during a personal crisis and saves lives."

"The suicide prevention bill

provides meaningful measures to reduce the incidence of firearm violence in Vermont, particularly related to the use of this means of attempted suicide that is almost always lethal. In addition, there is strong support for the constitutionality of the provisions," said the Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, Rep. Martin LaLonde. "This bill is a solution that we should implement now. It will save lives while preserving Vermonters' right to keep and bear arms."

Governor Scott has maintained that he does not believe Vermont needs further gun-related bills. He signed a series of gun-safety bills in 2018, much to the consternation of gun advocates.

Following today's vote, the bill will move to the Senate for further consideration. If enacted, Vermont will join a growing number of states that have implemented comprehensive suicide prevention plans.

If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, please call or text 988 for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

# Bill to make cocktails-to-go permanent passes Vt House, moves to Senate

On Tuesday, March 21, the Vermont House of Representatives passed H.470, which would make cocktails-to-go permanent. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

"Cocktails-to-go were allowed during the pandemic to support struggling hospitality businesses which represent thousands of jobs across Vermont," said Andy Deloney, senior vice president & head of state public policy at the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. "Since then, cocktails-to-go have become a regular part of takeout dining for adult consumers and a stable source of revenue for hospitality businesses as they continue to recover from the lasting impacts of Covid-19. These businesses are now facing new economic challenges like staffing shortages, supply chain issues and record-high inflation. Stripping them of an added revenue source amid these economic hardships just doesn't make sense."

Currently, cocktails to-go is set to expire on July 1, 2023. H.470 removes the sunset date and allows on-premise licensees to sell cocktails to-go for carryout with a food order.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 18 states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to permanently allow cocktails to-go, and 14 others have enacted laws that allow cocktails to-go on a temporary basis. Numerous states are still considering cocktails to-go legislation.

"The future of the hospitality industry will be dependent upon many factors outside of the control of business owners, and cocktails to-go is a valuable tool in their continued recovery and long-term growth," Deloney said.

States that signed legislation to make cocktails to-go  
Cocktails → 7

# Auditor Hoffer releases report identifying risks to Vt's universal broadband efforts

State Auditor Doug Hoffer released a new report March 21 highlighting potential risks to Vermont's unique strategy to achieve universal broadband access.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board is overseeing the distribution of approximately \$350 million to extend high speed internet to every unserved address in the state. At the local level, 10 communications union districts (CUDs), which have been formed by groups of Vermont towns, are receiving the funds and partnering with private telecommunications companies to extend fiber to residential and business addresses and to provide service.

"This effort represents one of the largest infrastructure projects in Vermont history," said Hoffer. "Without the massive infusion of federal funds Vermont has received, we'd be looking at incremental progress, not a universal plan. It is precisely because of the once-in-a-lifetime nature of the level of funding that we can't afford to make mistakes."

The report identifies 10 risks the VCBB needs to mitigate to increase the likelihood that every Vermonter will have access to 100/100 Mbps service. The risks range from supply chain issues, to federal spending restrictions, to

contract and governance oversight concerns. "I know that many people, including hundreds of unpaid local volunteers, have been working extremely hard to fill in the broadband gaps left by the large corporate telecom companies," Hoffer added. "They've had to create new organizations, develop business plans, and hire contractors in short order. Our report is meant to support their work by flagging for them and state officials the things that could impede success. Far better to address these concerns before the next \$250 million is spent than to regret unforced errors after the fact."

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Forest school:  
from page 2

next week with the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union to discuss the prospect. The town hall in South Chittenden also came up as a potential option at the March 27 Select Board meeting.

"I really do understand about the Grange," said Clair Purcell, representing the forest school. "And this whole process has thrown up all these other options, and I think that's what's been so wonderful about the broad community engagement that we've had: Barstow wasn't considering it before, and now they are, and that's a really big piece."

Members of the public attending the meeting assured Purcell that, sited at Barstow, the forest school would have the community's full support. But Purcell warned of the likelihood of a lengthy pro-

cess in coming to an agreement with the School Board, and she urged the Select Board to consider a temporary lease at the Grange Hall in the meantime.

"We think this is going to work out, but it's going to take two months of conversation, and we need that time to get going," she said.

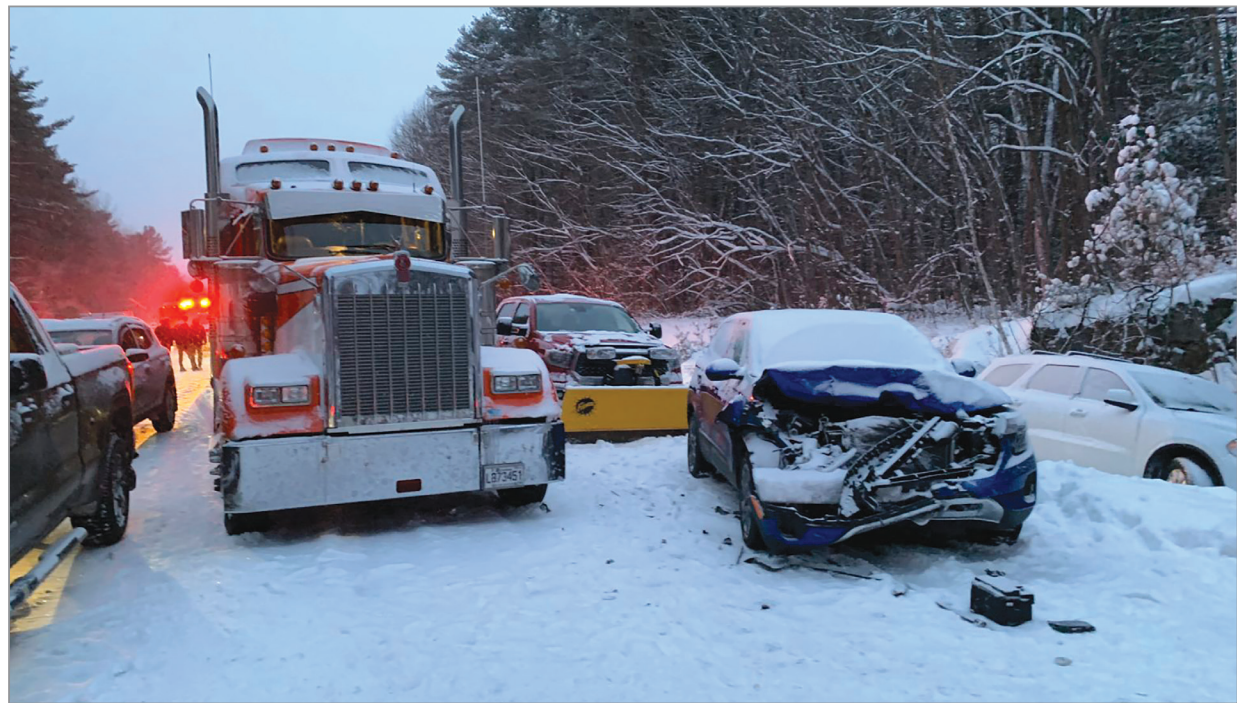
Without a lease in place, the forest school can't use its \$25,000 start-up grant.

Without a lease in place, the forest school can't use its \$25,000 start-up grant from the nonprofit Let's Grow Kids to begin hiring staff.

"The thought was that the school would hopefully be able to go live this summer, and without some degree of certainty, they can't do anything," Selectman Andrew Quint said.

The Select Board did not bring the request to a vote before moving on to other business.





Courtesy Vermont State Police  
Emergency personnel responded to a multi-car crash on I-89 last year. It resulted in at least one fatality.

# Vermont car crash fatalities hit a 10-year high in 2022

By Taylor Slonaker/VTDigger

In 2022, the number of people who died in car crashes in Vermont hit a 10-year high, according to preliminary data recently released from the state Agency of Transportation. Car crash fatalities have risen in Vermont since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, following a significant decrease in 2019. In 2022, there were 77 fatalities, three more than in 2021. Last year marked the highest number of fatalities since 2012, according to the agency.

The 77 deaths in 2022 occurred in 74 crashes, the highest number of fatal crashes since 2006, when Vermont had 77 fatal crashes, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the state Agency of Transportation. In 2022, there were three crashes in which two people died.

Speeding, alcohol and drug use were responsible for many of last year's fatal accidents, according to the findings. Of the 74 fatal crashes in 2022, 57% of operators were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, up from 46% in 2018. The report found 16% of the operators in fatal crashes had Delta 9 THC, the psychoactive chemical part of cannabis, present in their systems, down from 29% in 2021. Seat belt use, or lack of it, appears to be a contributing factor in many fatal crashes. Even though Vermonters' use of seat belts has been steadily climbing since 2020, and in 2022 reached its highest-ever rate at 90%, 63% of people who died in crashes were not wearing seat belts in 2022.

The percentage of drivers and passengers involved in fatal crashes who were not wearing seat belts has been climbing in recent years. In 2020, 58% of fatalities were unbelted, and in 2021 the number rose to 61%. Joyce Pressley, an associate professor in epidemiology and health policy and management at the Columbia University Medical Center, studies trends in fatal motor vehicle crash data.

"There's an association with people committing multiple risky driving behaviors. So if they are impaired, that impairment — especially from alcohol — is more likely to come at night. And if they're impaired, they're less likely to restrain themselves, and they're more likely to drive unsafely and

more likely to speed," Pressley said in an interview. In Pressley's own work, she has been looking at why there was a rise in fatal crashes during the pandemic. "My hypothesis is that the suspension of the high visibility programs in most jurisdictions across the U.S.," due to the pandemic, "contributed to higher mortality," Pressley said. High-visibility programs combine "enforcement, visibility elements, and a publicity strategy to educate the public and promote voluntary compliance with the law," according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Vermont has the highest percentage of people dying unbelted in fatal crashes in the United States, Pressley said. She pointed out that Vermont's seat belt restraint law is classified as a secondary enforcement law for adults. When a police officer spots a driver who's not wearing a seat belt, that driver cannot be pulled over unless he or she commits another infraction. The driver cannot be ticketed solely for driving unrestrained.

One exception is for drivers under 18; the law allows them to be pulled over for failing to wear a seat belt. Thirty-four states allow police to pull over a driver who's not wearing a seat belt without any other violations. Fifteen states, including Vermont, require a second violation before pulling over an unbelted driver. New Hampshire is the only state that does not require the use of a seat belt for adults.

"The fact that you have one of the highest proportions of people dying unrestrained is something that could deserve further examination and consideration by your legislators," Pressley said. Nationwide, there is a focus on initiatives to reduce fatal car crashes. The U.S. Department of Transportation had launched a "Call to Action" campaign to promote public awareness of accident-related deaths.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 31,785 people died in car accidents nationwide in the first nine months of 2022; no national figures are available for the final quarter of that year. Full-year statistics are available for 2020, when 38,824 people died in car crashes, and for 2021, when 42,915 people died — up 10.5% from 2020.

## Cocktails: from page 6

permanent, include: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia. States that signed legislation to allow cocktails to-go on a temporary basis, include: California (expires Dec. 31, 2026), Colorado (expires July 1, 2025), Connecticut (expires June 4, 2024), Illinois (expires January 3, 2024), Maine (expires March 30, 2025), Maryland (local option - expires June 30, 2023), Massachusetts (expires April 1, 2023), Michigan (expires Jan. 1, 2026), New Jersey (TBD), New York (expires April 9, 2025), Tennessee (expires July 1, 2023), Vermont (expires July 1, 2023), Virginia (expires July 1, 2024) and Washington (expires July 1, 2023). For more information visit: [distilledspirits.org](https://distilledspirits.org).

## Auditors: from page 1 and fuel.

The Village also eliminated the paid trustee of public funds position, which costs \$750 a year, after the current Trustee Jill Davies explained her only duty is to write a handful of checks. Next year she said she'll write just three checks. "I propose we don't vote on this article," Davies said. "It takes a couple of hours." The Village voted to not pay the trustee, but opted to make it a paid position in future years. "We don't always have a Jill Davies that's going to be that generous," Khan said. Seton McIlory, who served as chair of the Trustees and William Corson were both reelected trustees with no challengers.

## Housing: from page 5

Lawmakers have already signed off on \$2.5 million to help expand shelter capacity statewide, and are considering doing more. And as part of an omnibus housing bill, S.100, they also are mulling new rules that would prohibit municipalities from using zoning to impede the construction or operation of a shelter. But no proposal — even one pitched by advocates — would build enough to keep everyone off the streets in the short term. The coalition led by Sosin has asked lawmakers for \$40 million to create alternatives to the hotels. That would help convert some congregate shelter settings into non-congregate beds and create 60 new shelter beds and 60 new efficiency apartments, the group estimates. Sosin freely acknowledges that isn't nearly enough to meet demand if the motels are ramped down in any significant way, but she said that's all coalition partners have the capacity to build right now. "There are a lot of constraints to building and operating shelters," she said. "We didn't want a plan that was so ambitious that it couldn't be achieved."

## Harrison: from page 5

other purposes by the committee (without my support). The budget also nixes the governors proposed tax reductions on social security benefits, military pensions and increasing the earned income credit for lower income households. Concern over some of these issues were highlighted in a rare commentary sent to papers by the governor recently. It's likely a good bet that unless changes are made, some of these proposals will see vetoes. It will then be up to the Legislature to consider whether it wants to enact them despite his concerns with override votes. Perhaps if he does another op-ed, he will title it "Off the rails?" Rep. Jim Harrison is the state house representative for Mendon, Killington, Chittenden and Pittsfield. He can be reached at [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](https://harrisonforvermont.com).



## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Internet voting: Good idea, but the risk is still too great

By Angelo Lynn

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

As a Vermont state legislator, one of the most satisfying parts of the job is to craft legislation that solves a problem for a particular group of constituents.

In H.429, legislators crafted a bill that attempts to improve several aspects of the state's election laws, including what was called a "sore loser law" in which the bill limits the ability of a candidate who loses in a primary battle to re-enter the general election as an independent candidate for the same office. But a clause in the bill also makes changes to expand online voting.

This brief aspect of the bill was drafted and passed with bipartisan support and not much controversy for what are good reasons: it sought to make voting easier for a select group of citizens, it was expanded from an existing system, and adequate effort was made to ensure the voting process was secure. And it sought to accomplish what everyone saw as a public good: larger voter turnout via a more convenient process.

But what seems secure isn't always so.

Currently, Vermont towns can send blank ballots to a few select voters — basically military, overseas military and citizens with disabilities who request absentee ballots. All ballots are filled out and mailed back via U.S. postage, with military personnel having a special premium paid service that expresses it back to the states. The new law would allow for military, those with disabilities and voters who request an absentee ballot emailed to them, with also the ability for that ballot to be returned electronically.

Two problems jump to the fore: 1) while the bill suggests a limit to those who can receive an electronic absentee ballot, the language (even though it is restricted under sub-section 2539) is relatively open-ended, meaning a voter who asked for an absentee ballot, declaring they were ill or injured, would likely get one; 2) more importantly, by allowing voters to return their complete ballots online they risk exposing the election to fraudulent votes.

As to the first point, here's the pertinent language of § 2539: "(b) ... In the case of persons who are early or absentee voters due to illness, injury, or disability, if the voter or authorized person requests in his or her application or otherwise that early voter absentee ballots be mailed or electronically delivered, the town clerk shall mail or electronically deliver the ballots; otherwise the ballots shall be delivered to the voter by justices of the peace as set forth in section 2538 of this subchapter." Read it as you will, but the potential is there for a substantial uptick in online absentee voting.

As to the second point, it turns out that hackers are a lot smarter than we think they are, and the potential is there to create a lot of harm.

That finding comes from Susan Greenhalgh, Senior Advisor on Election Security for Free Speech For People, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing election fraud. After years of following online voting, appearing in front of state legislators across the country, writing numerous studies on the issue, and testifying before Congress, Greenhalgh reports that online voting systems "are, quite simply, not secure," nor are the processes that say they aren't 'online voting' but still rely on the digital processing of ballots, such as Vermont's system would under this bill.

But don't take Greenhalgh's word for it. She relies on assessments from federal security agents in four departments: the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the U.S. Elections Assistance

Internet voting → 10

OUR SCHOOLS ARE WOKE!  
CRT IS WOKE! LIBRARIES  
ARE WOKE! LIBS ARE  
WOKE! BOOKS ARE WOKE!



I SEE...  
DEFINE  
WOKE



UH... WOKE...

WOKE IS...



WHAMOND  
Cagle.com



WOKE

UH...  
WOKE IS...



STUFF I DON'T LIKE!



This conversation is woke! By Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons

## LETTERS

## Strengths, culture of KSAR disrespectfully dismissed

Dear Editor,

I want to thank Polly Mikula for her editorial on the public safety issue published in last week's edition of the Mountain Times, it is informative and asks the questions

Our culture  
is based in  
familiarity,  
camaraderie,  
independence,  
and not chain  
of command  
rigidity.

that need to be addressed. As a past select board member (2013-2019) and a relative of two past members of KSAR (three if you include Baloo) I am concerned/dismayed at the developments in KFD's and KSAR's (Killington Fire department, and Killington search and rescue) transfer to a municipal department.

As many of you know, the previous KFD and KSAR, were under a separate corporation, and 100% volunteer. In the interest of

Dismissed → 10

## Thank you, KSAR, for your service

Dear Editor,

My Dad encouraged me to find my voice and my Mom taught me to respect those who serve the public good. So, I would like to extend a hearty thank you to all who have served the public as the Killington Search and Rescue team (KSAR) since 2011 in their capacity as trained wilderness search and rescue team members within the state collaborative network. This has never been a trivial pursuit. They are to be commended for their bravery, dedication and devotion to service as highly skilled volunteers.

Jumping into the heart of the matter, as Drew Clymer, the state search and rescue leader, declared at the town Select Board meeting March 20 that search and rescue ropes are not supposed to be NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) approved because they are too heavy for packing into the backcountry on foot. In addition, and as a matter of public record, he shared that Stowe only began keeping rope maintenance logs this year (2 months ago), and they are the preeminent vertical search team in the Northeast. So, Chief Chris was wrong to impugn

Service → 9

## Stop bullying

Dear Editor,

I attended the Killington Select Board meeting on March 20 and all in all it was a well-attended meeting with people being calm and communicating, until Select Board member Jim Haff turned red in the face. He was abusive and bullied a member of the audience. This seems to be a pattern.

He has, on a number of occasions, just lost it and yelled at people.

It is a very poor showing for this town if a board member can treat people like he does.

Shame on him for being the big bully he thinks is OK. There is no room for bullying in schools. There should be no room for it here at a meeting from an elected official. I call for the board to do something about his behavior. It should not be tolerated, ever.

Please stop his bullying, it does not teach what is right.

Left untouched this will lead to others thinking it is ok to treat others the way Jim Haff does, shame on him and anyone who lets it continue.

Steve Finer,  
Killington

Editor's note: Finer is a former Killington fire chief.

## 94% expressed opposition to GMNF logging proposal

Dear Editor,

A 45-day comment period on a proposal by Green Mountain National Forest staff concerning logging and other activities in the forest at Telephone Gap ended on March 13. A huge 94% of the official comments regarding logging were against the proposal. According to a preliminary tally approx. 1,280 comments were opposed to the logging in the forest and about 80 in support. Another

This is not  
just a few tree  
huggers on  
the fringes.

13,000 individual signatures were sent in from across the country, as well as organizational opposition from 70 national and regional groups, including the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and 350Vermont. By law the USFS is required to consider the official comments as part of their deliberations on next steps.

This is not just a few tree huggers on the fringes. I

Telephone gap → 10



## CAPITAL QUOTES

TikTok is facing an ongoing security review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and may be banned. TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew was questioned at Capitol Hill on Thursday, March 23 for several hours from the House Energy and Commerce Committee. While the ban has bipartisan support, some are concerned the ban would anger young voters.

**“Largely, Generation Z uses TikTok to communicate, to share information, and it’s a very effective tool used to inform, to mobilize and to build power and build a movement ... Another app will pop up. It’s like cutting off a head, and another will grow back,”**

said **Annie Wu Henry**, a social media and digital strategy expert.

**“There are so many key issues on which Democrats are siding with young people, from abortion rights to gun violence prevention measures to climate action, and a TikTok ban is not going to change that,”**

said **Jack Lobel**, press secretary for Voters of Tomorrow, a group that organizes young voters.

**“The politician in me thinks you’re going to literally lose every voter under 35, forever,”**

Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo** told Bloomberg.

**“(Biden) has delivered a lot for young people, and that’s why our advice to the administration was, ‘This is not the right direction to head on this issue,’”**

said **Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez**, president of NextGen America, a youth organizing group.

## Telephone gap: from page 8

believe the proposal struck a chord on deep public concern about climate change and protection of old forests which keep huge amounts of climate-changing carbon out of the atmosphere.

Telephone Gap is only the latest example around the country of public outcry

over logging old forests. I sense we may be at a pivotal moment in a national effort to bring the US Forest Service policies into accord with today’s challenges surrounding climate change and into compliance with President Biden’s executive order 14072 to protect ma-

ture and old-growth forests to combat climate change.

Thank you to the many citizens who sent comments to the Forest Service concerning the Telephone Gap. This level of public engagement is a great thing.

**Howard Jennings, Bristol**

## Service: from page 8

the character of KSAR by assessing them by a fire department rule book. He exposed himself as a naive new leader in our precious mountain community. We deserve better as tax payers expecting accurate standards of public safety. No, KSAR did not risk our public safety by not using heavy fire standard ropes. Yes, KSAR had good mountaineering ropes checked regularly by certified mountaineering trainers. No, they did not risk our safety by not keeping detailed rope maintenance logs. KSAR had followed common statewide backcountry rescue rope log practice. The entire KSAR team, past and present, deserve better when we assess their contribution to town.

In hindsight, if the town manager had done his job better, he would have spoken with Clymer directly regarding the proper rule book to assess KSAR from the proper state team perspective. Instead, he asked Rutland city, which also did not realize towns must distinguish between urban and wilderness search and rescue skill sets, ropes and protocols.

Frankly, I guess this is why Vermont state pays Clymer to advise towns in developing wilderness search and rescue. It is unique from fire. It is difficult in special ways, and requires specific wilderness and mountaineering skills combined with local terrain experience. It is a collaboration of multiple team members skilled in the art who have honed their teamwork into a smooth operation under long hours over difficult terrain, off the pavement. Specifically, KSAR was a highly respected part of the state search and rescue network, used on regional callouts as needed without hesitation. If KSAR was not functioning prop-

erly, KSAR would not have been called to participate since 2011, and regularly participated in state Search and Rescue trainings.

We are all worse off for LaHart’s lack of an accurate assessment plan and cavalier onboarding techniques. That giant sucking sound you hear? It’s all the present search and rescue skills leaving the room,

resort, after all, and KSAR team members have gone to great lengths over the years to navigate the misunderstandings and misadventures of our town leadership.

In the end, they tried very carefully over the years to make our unique mountain community safer by volunteering their specific skilled service to public safety in the mountains, even if some

We are all worse off for LaHart's lack of an accurate assessment plan and cavalier onboarding techniques.

women and men including specialists who have served as senior volunteer leaders in medical, wilderness and training teams for the benefit of our community. When a medical leader introduced herself to the chief, instead of asking her for a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis about that role, LaHart challenged who had made her leader. It is a matter of public record that she stated she had never been so quickly and completely disrespected in 25 years of her work on medical teams and as a Major in the Army. Chain of command is something she is familiar with; utter disrespect is another thing. Shame on us all for letting this happen — bullying behavior in our midst — and to let her leave along with her KSAR team members without a grateful farewell.

At a minimum, I’d like to ask the powers that be to create a plaque recognizing all members by name who have served as members of KSAR since its formation, including their years of service and specific roles. I ask this be installed in the new public safety building. This is only appropriate because we are a mountain

members of the board or in the town administration didn’t understand as well as the state search and rescue leadership.

Clymer has put us on notice that standing down KSAR now leaves a gap in Vermont public safety. We must remember KSAR’s skilled volunteer service with a grateful heart, and thank them publicly lest we repeat our mistakes and continue to risk the public safety of our Killington community and continue to carve a gap in the state search and rescue public safety. We owe it to each other, our children and the public we host to begin to remedy this situation as soon as possible.

Let’s remember we are a town with strong women alpine heroes amongst our brave male community builders, including our local olympian, Andrea Mead Lawrence, her mother, Janet Mead, who started Pico Mountain, and our Killington World Cup event itself on the FIS Women’s Alpine calendar.

Let’s get back to our roots and reclaim our mountain credibility.

With a grateful heart.  
**Eileen Doohan, Killington**



Dismissed:  
from page 8

the town and the building of the new safety building, it was decided to re-organize to allow for improvements in both infrastructure and management. I support the movement of fire and safety to be under the municipal umbrella, and for there to be a full-time chief. I think this will allow our community to have better safety resources and advance/grow in areas that are challenging for a volunteer department, especially in keeping records.

What bothers me is the level of disrespect shown by the newly hired chief, the town manager, and Jim Haff towards KSAR (and to some degree the KFD) during this process.

1. I see three issues at play here.
2. 1. Records: including call out logs, maintenance logs and certifications.
3. 2. Distinction between competency/experience and certification
4. 3. Management style and respect.

**Records**

This is an area that I can totally agree with our town manager, Chet Hagenbarth. Hagenbarth, in his position of first maintenance operations director and now town manager, has helped our town navigate many issues and updates to services, infrastructure and associated record requirements admirably.

I agree KSAR/KFD could

use additional resources to upgrade all manner of record keeping. This is not to say there are no records, there are, plenty. I would venture to say that what lacks is advanced organization and detail in these records. That is affected by many things, but what stands out would be that we have a volunteer department, so man/womanpower is limited AND the recent move from the old fire station to the new during the pandemic. It was my understanding Chief LaHart was hired to help bring things up to a better standard, and that is a goal we can applaud.

**Distinction between competence/experience and certification records**

This is an area which is greatly in dispute between KSAR (current and past) and Chief LaHart. KSAR has trained for approximately 10+ years in the specifics of wilderness/mountains SAR as well as been vetted by the Vt. State head of SAR. The techniques and equipment greatly differ in most situations from those of urban SAR due to terrain and weather exposure. The equipment is specific to mountain search and rescue, the ready packs are designed to have supplies to do basic first aid, and survival in exposed weather for a minimum of 24 hours, as well as being light enough to move safely and timely through difficult terrain. The same with the other equipment, it is considerably different than

fire department standards, because the condition of use is so different.

Currently there are several organizations that have come into existence to aid in training, equipping, evaluation and deployment of w/m SAR, but as of yet (and I'm sure there will eventually be) a single national standard/organization much like NFPA is for fire. Until that time these groups are sharing "best practices" and improving continually. KSAR has a detailed 28-page Operations and Leadership Manual, that to my understanding, was emailed to Chief LaHart considerably prior to March 10. Among many other things, this document lists the knowledge and performance objectives that must be met by all KSAR members.

Vermont state created the SAR head coordinator position after the unfortunate death of a young man in Middlebury in 2012, revealing the major gap in the state's safety protocols regarding SAR. To be clear the SAR coordinator, under the umbrella of the State Police, oversees, develops and supports all SAR teams in the state. He is literally the top person in the SAR chain of command for the entire state and is tasked with deploying all SAR calls in the state. He does so according to location, skill level and confidence in the team. The current head for VT SAR in the state is Drew Clymer,

and the retired predecessor (founder) is Neil Van Dyke. Both men were leaders in Stowe Mountain Rescue, which is the premier team in Vermont and possibly New England. Van Dyke is a founder of Stowe Mountain Rescue. As Drew Clymer said at the last select board meeting: he considers KSAR one of his top teams, and the state is now short a qualified SAR team in central Vermont.

Chief LaHart's disrespect for the state SAR chain of command is disturbing, he appeared uninterested in anything the head of state SAR had to say at the board meeting. When it came to evaluating KSAR, he chose another fire department with no wilderness SAR experience, rather than look to actual chain of command in SAR.

**Management style and respect**

At this point we come a major crux of the problem. Personally, I have serious doubts that Chief LaHart has had any experience leading a volunteer fire/SAR team. I say this because of the manner in which he started. He and his wife expected people in a totally independent, volunteer department to quickly adapt to his style, new rules, commands without question. Not totally unreasonable in theory, but far more appropriate for a paid professional full-time force than one that is part-time volunteers, most of whom have other full-time jobs

and many responsibilities. Unfortunately, the LaHarts also failed to consider, even remotely, how well these departments worked and have served our community faithfully and SAFELY over the last 60 years and 10 years, respectively.

His style appears to dismantle and disregard decades of work, knowledge and dedication without even considering what strengths they have. What a slap in the face to those who have worked so hard and volunteered so much time and effort. If this was the intention and directive of the town manager and the select board to gut and reform wholly from new cloth, then double shame on them!

As Mikula said in her editorial, change in leadership is a challenge. What makes this situation particularly fraught with problems is we are going from a quasi-democratic (members voted on leaders and major decisions) part-time volunteers (I can't emphasize the words enough) to a system of military rigidity with full-time expectations in a matter of a few months. There is no doubt there are some who would adapt quickly as it may suit their natural inclinations and the previous system did not. That doesn't mean the previous system was wrong, unsafe or unprofessional.

I realize that a large part of the disconnect here may be in a sense cultural. Chris LaHart comes from a military back-

ground with what I consider an extreme rigidity, even for military. Killington is a town of rich mountain history and was developed by strong, independent and, on occasion, headstrong citizens. We have thrived because of a strong sense of community. We rarely worry about formality in names, etc. but generally have great respect for people's accomplishments and leadership. In times of crisis, such as Irene, we move to put our egos in check and work to help our neighbors, to get the job done. Our culture is based in familiarity, camaraderie, independence, and not chain of command rigidity. Have we operated under chain of command? Absolutely, though not to military precision, but rather through basic human respect and the sense of understanding hierarchy.

With that said, could our safety service use a more defined structure? Yes, but that takes time, understanding, and humility from all, especially those at the top. Especially because the services of KFD and KSAR are filled by volunteers, who give of their time and energy on TOP OF the other commitments in life, work and family.

Unfortunately, at this juncture, I see Chief LaHart making no effort to understand and adjust to our culture, and a lot of demanding that we conform to his.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Patty Job McGrath,**  
**Killington**

Internet voting:  
from page 8

Commission (EAC) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST).

Greenhalgh notes these four agencies concluded in a recent risk assessment that "electronic ballot return" is "High" risk, even with security safeguards and cyber precautions in place. The agencies further warn that electronic ballot return "faces significant security risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of voted ballots," and that these risks can "ultimately affect the tabulation and results and can occur at scale," she notes, adding that the four agencies "explicitly recommend voting by paper ballots."

In recent interviews with Greenhalgh this past week, she also reports that vendors selling these online voting systems, including Democracy Live which is the vendor Vermont is working with, too often over-sell the security of their product.

Greenhalgh writes in one extensive report: "From public statements, news reports, press releases and marketing materials it becomes evident that the vendors of these online voting systems have been pitching their systems to state and local officials with potentially false, misleading and/or deceptive marketing claims. These spurious claims have served to counter the scientific conclusion that online voting is dangerously insecure and unsuitable for public elections... There is zero

regulation or oversight of the online voting system vendors, and they have exploited this fact to push their products with false and specious claims," she continues. "Even worse, with no check on these vendors and their deceptive marketing, state officials are misled to believe online voting can be done safely and reliably, promoting laws to allow this insecure practice."

Greenhalgh reports that legislators are also led to believe that because "the tabulation process is not online, the system is secure... (but that) misses the point that the voted ballots, which contain the vote data and original record of voter intent, are sent over the internet and are vulnerable to cyber manipulation. Once that data is tampered with, it doesn't matter how secure your tabulation might be."

Nor is the fact that the return ballots are first made into a pdf, which legislators are led to believe can't be tampered with. Wrong again. Hackers can retrieve and manipulate a pdf ballot with ease, Greenhalgh reports, citing several tests done by universities like MIT.

Greenhalgh provides numerous studies and reports to

"There is zero regulation or oversight of the online voting system vendors,"  
Greenhalgh wrote.

substantiate her position, some of which were noted in a letter sent late last week to Vermont state senators. In that letter, the organizations Common Cause, Verified Voting, Brennan

Center for Justice, Public Citizen, and FreeSpeechforPeople.org all urged Vermont legislators to remove the electronic ballot return provisions from the bill.

We strongly agree. Voting online is a great idea, but it's clear that its security is not yet adequate. We encourage the Senate to thoroughly research this aspect of the bill, understand the assurances from

vendors are suspect (follow the money), and rely on federal intelligence agencies to provide scientific assessments of the risks involved.

The Vermont Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison County, will hear testimony regarding online voting Wednesday, March 29. Hardy has confirmed her committee to review the security of these provisions in the bill thoroughly.

For those looking for more information on the security of internet voting, here are two reports: [tinyurl.com/3cktpv2](https://tinyurl.com/3cktpv2) and [tinyurl.com/5n6h379e](https://tinyurl.com/5n6h379e).



WORDPLAY

'SPRING BREAK' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions → 20

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

- BEACH  
BEVERAGES  
BREAK  
CELEBRATE  
COLLEGE
- CONTEST  
CROWDS  
ESCAPE  
FRIENDS  
MUSIC
- NOISY  
OCEAN  
PARTY  
REFRESHMENTS  
REVELRY
- SEMESTER  
SOUTH  
SPRING  
SUNSHINE  
SWIMSUIT
- TRAFFIC  
TRAVEL  
VACATION  
WARM

### 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.

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

Level: Intermediate

### Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Oklahoma on March 28, 1955. I was in a family singing group as a child and was discovered during a performance at a national rodeo event in college. I have had many #1 country singles in my career.

Answer: Reba McEntire

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 20

CLUES ACROSS

1. Millisecond  
5. Narcotic drug  
11. Accident  
14. Formal submissions  
15. Popular 70s rock band  
18. Discourage from doing  
19. More socially elite  
21. Arid  
23. A way to look  
24. Heroes  
28. A surfer rides it  
29. Potato state  
30. Insect repellent  
32. Cool!  
33. Have already done  
35. Collegiate women's fraternity  
36. To the \_\_\_ degree  
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two  
41. Blood type  
42. Looked over  
44. Language of Cameroon and Chad  
46. Species of armadillo  
47. Touch softly  
49. Part of your upper body  
52. Large, stocky lizards

56. Lack of social or ethical standards  
58. Congressman  
60. Unofficial force  
62. As a result of this utterance  
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Woman (French)  
2. Province of Pakistan  
3. This (Spanish)  
4. Transportation device  
5. Greater in importance or priority  
6. The human foot  
7. Within  
8. Consumed  
9. Respectful Malaysian term  
10. Therefore  
12. Ceased to exist  
13. Type of macaroni  
16. English composer  
17. Wooded tract  
20. Tall, slender-leaved plant  
22. 36 inches  
25. Take too much (abbr.)  
26. Allow  
27. Individually  
29. Journalist Tarbell

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10									
11					12								13						
14									15					16	17				
		18								19							20		
					21		22					23							
					24		25	26	27		28								
					29		30			31		32							
					33		34		35										
36	37	38			39			40		41									
42			43			44			45										
46									47		48								
49					50	51				52		53	54	55					
	56						57		58								59		
					60				61										
					62								63						

31. Bar bill  
34. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_  
36. Not messy  
37. Species that includes reed  
38. Former MLB catcher Ed
40. Northern U.S. state  
43. Wilt  
45. Commercial  
48. Bolivian river  
50. Nursemaid  
51. A car needs four  
53. Guns (slang)
54. American state  
55. Clusters of fern fronds  
57. Body part  
58. A person's brother or sister  
59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden  
61. Of I

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## WEDNESDAY MARCH 29

### 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](http://rutlandfree.org)

### Alzheimer's Research and Treatment Meeting

10-11:15 a.m. The Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Speaker, Heather Maloney, will speak on issues and advancements concerning Alzheimer's disease. Following Heather's presentation and a Q&A session, please enjoy snacks and find out more about the 2023 Rutland Walk to End Alzheimers. Hope to see you there! For more info call 802-363-7009 or email: [jmaverbuck@alz.org](mailto:jmaverbuck@alz.org).

### Learn to Knit, Part 2

1-3 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$30. This class is perfect for those who have recently learned the knitting basics. In this class, we will dive into circular knitting as well as how to combine knit and purl stitches to begin the Simple Sample Hat by La boutique de Jeanne. Preregistration is required. For more info visit: [greenmountainfibers.com](http://greenmountainfibers.com).

### Name That Fish Stew! Cooking Class

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

### 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](http://rutlandmint.org).

### Vermont Symphony Orchestra: A Night at the Movies

7 p.m. Casella Theatre at Castleton University, 45 Alumni Dr., Castleton. Cost is \$10-\$30. A Night at the Movies is a concert featuring a live, 22-piece VSO chamber orchestra accompanying seven stop-motion animation and documentary films with Vermont ties, as part of the 2022 Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. For more info visit: [castleton.edu/calendars/event/vermont-symphony-orchestra-a-night-at-the-movies](http://castleton.edu/calendars/event/vermont-symphony-orchestra-a-night-at-the-movies).

### 'A Home for Meadow Birds'

7-8:30 p.m. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St., Rutland. Martha Leb Molnar—writer, commentator and local author of "Playing God in the Meadow" will present a slide show and lively discussion on the importance of meadows to birds and insects. All are welcome. For more info visit: [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org).

## THURSDAY MARCH 30

### Bone Builders with Mendon

#### Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Town Line 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. Virtual. 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](mailto:amenard@pcavt.org) or 802-498-0603.

### Storytime at Rutland Free

#### Library: 'Eggs!'

10 a.m. Fox Room, 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. Geared towards ages 2-5. [Info@rutlandfree.org](mailto:Info@rutlandfree.org)/calendar-events.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups).

Circle of Parents in Recovery 3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Support group meets weekly.

### 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](http://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](http://pcavt.org).

### Kids' Painting Class

4-5:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$25. Enjoy acrylic on canvas with the artist Dale Bills. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).



**RED BULL SLIDE-IN TOUR**  
FRIDAY - SUNDAY

### Handbuilding With Clay For Kids

4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$50 for the 2 classes. Students will learn to create with clay. After the project is kiln fired, they will learn how to finish the piece. Both classes needed to create a finished piece. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.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: [allevents.in/castleton/k-6th-open-gym-basketball](http://allevents.in/castleton/k-6th-open-gym-basketball).

### Kids and Adults Ballroom Classes

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](http://stone-valley-arts.loxi.io/ballroom-dance-with-patti-panebianco).

### Handbuilding With Clay For Adults

4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$60 for the 2 classes. Students will learn to create with clay. After the project is kiln fired, they will learn how to finish the piece. Both classes needed to have a finished piece. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Killington Women's Club Hosts 3rd Wine Dinner Fundraiser

Registration begins at 6 p.m. The Foundry, 63 Summit Road, Killington. Cost is \$120 per person (including tax & tip). The Greater Killington Women Club (formerly known as the Sherburne Women's Club) is hosting its 3rd Wine Dinner Fundraiser featuring the "Piedmont Region of Italy." The dinner includes four courses plus fabulous Italian wines! Proceeds from this special fundraising event will support our scholarship awards program benefiting local students. Only pre-paid tickets will hold an RSVP spot. For more info, contact the club president Janina at 802-342-8661 or visit: [swcvt.com](http://swcvt.com). This is an adult-only event.

### 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 but rock, folk, blues, Americana: as long as everybody can join in! Please RSVP Bennett at [bennett\\_lovett\\_graff@hotmail.com](mailto:bennett_lovett_graff@hotmail.com).



**SPRING MAPLE OPEN  
HOUSE WEEKEND**

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY



← **Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info) from page 12

## FRIDAY MARCH 31

### 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](http://stonevalleyarts.org).

### Red Bull Slide-In Tour

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Freeride @ Peace Park & Woodward Parks at Killington Resort. Killington is excited to welcome back the Red Bull Slide-In Tour for a three-day extravaganza! X Games gold medalist and snowboard-style king Zeb Powell has assembled a stacked crew to pack up and hit the road for a three-stop cross country trip. Joining Zeb, in the fifth iteration of the tour are Red Bull athletes, Jesse Augustinus, Benny Milam and Grace Warner. Also on the tour, is co-captain, Burton rider and engineer, Maggie Leon and vibey Philly native Alex Caccamo. For more info visit: [killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar).

### All About the Arts

11 a.m.-Noon 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. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://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](http://greenmountainfibers.com).

### Pysanky: Ukrainian Egg Decorating Drop-In Sessions

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](http://normanwilliams.org) or email [programs@normanwilliams.org](mailto:programs@normanwilliams.org) for questions.

### Virtual Owl Friday at VINS

6-7 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Free & Open to the Public; \$10 suggested Donation. Wild at Heart's quest to save species from extinction. This virtual presentation will focus on the burrowing owl recovery project which has built over 6000 artificial burrow habitats and provided homes for more than 2500 Burrowing Owls, and their work establishing captive-breeding protocols for the proposed threatened cactus ferruginous pygmy owl. For more info visit: [events@vinsweb.org](http://events@vinsweb.org).

### That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

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

## SATURDAY APRIL 1

### Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge

Registration at 7 a.m. Fuel TV Lounge (3rd floor of Bear Mountain Lodge) at Killington Ski Resort. The entry fee is \$50 for all divisions. Entry fee does not include a lift ticket. The annual competition will heat up again as amateur 'bumpers' take to the slopes of Outer Limits to battle for a place in the finals. The top 32 men and 16 women will compete in a head-to-head competition for the Mogul Challenge cup. Info@killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar.

### Spring Maple Open House Weekend

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Okemo Valley Chamber Members Participating in Maple Open House Weekend include: Green Mountain Sugar House, Smith Maple Crest Farm, & Sugarbush Farm. Free. It's sugaring season and Vermont maple sugar makers throughout the state invite you into their sugarhouses! Celebrate the 2023 crop as sugar makers teach 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? For more info visit: [vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://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](http://rutlandmint.org/events).

### Play Date With Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join Wonderfeet staff and Miss Amanda for some free play in the Fox Room. The big exhibits can't travel but we'll plan to have plenty of your other favorite things out and about. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org/calendar-events](http://rutlandfree.org/calendar-events).

### Red Bull Slide-In Tour

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Freeride @ Peace Park & Woodward Parks at Killington Resort. Killington is excited to welcome back the Red Bull Slide-In Tour for a three-day extravaganza! X Games gold medalist and snowboard-style king Zeb Powell has assembled a stacked crew to pack up and hit the road for a three-stop cross country trip. Joining Zeb, in the fifth iteration of the tour are Red Bull athletes, Jesse Augustinus, Benny Milam and Grace Warner. Also on the tour, is co-captain, Burton rider and engineer, Maggie Leon and vibey Philly native Alex Caccamo. For more info visit: [killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar).

### 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 brings together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: [vtfarmersmarket.org](http://vtfarmersmarket.org).

### Crochet Techniques for Knitters

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$40. In this class, knitters will learn crochet basics to enhance their knitting beginning with learning to chain and to single crochet.

### Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

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

### 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](mailto:info@odysseyeventsvt.com).

### Met Opera: 'Falstaff' (Verdi)

12:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Cost is \$23/ general admission. Baritone Michael Volle stars as the caddish knight Falstaff, gleefully tormented by a trio of clever women who deliver his comeuppance, in Verdi's glorious Shakespearean comedy. Maestro Daniele Rustioni takes the podium on April 1 to oversee a brilliant ensemble cast that features sopranos Hera Hyesang Park, Ailyn Pérez, and Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano Marie-Nicole Lemieux, tenor Bogdan Volkov, and baritone Christopher Maltman. Info@ [paramountvt.org/event/met-opera-falstaff-verdi](http://paramountvt.org/event/met-opera-falstaff-verdi).

### Learn to Crochet

1-2:30 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](http://greenmountainfibers.com).



com.

### Learn to Spin

1-4 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave. Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$50. Join Marilyn Brandner, of Mount Nickwackett Sheep Farm and Pride of Vermont, to learn how to spin yarn. Spinning wheels and supplies will be provided. Class is limited to 3 students, so there will be plenty of individualized attention. Cost includes all materials. Preregistration is required. More info: [greenmountainfibers.com](http://greenmountainfibers.com).

### Cancer Crushers Meeting

3-4:30 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Meet in the Fox Room for a Cancer Crushers meeting this Saturday. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org/calendar-events](http://rutlandfree.org/calendar-events).

### April Fool's Day Pork Suppers

4:30 p.m. Pawlet Community Church, 38 VT Rt 133, Pawlet. Cost is \$12 per person; \$6 for children; 5 and under are free. Famous pork suppers hosted by Pawlet Community Church are back again featuring roast pork with gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, coleslaw, rolls, and more including maple syrup ice cream sundaes. For more info call 802-325-3022.

### 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](mailto:info@odysseyeventsvt.com).



← **Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info) from page 13

## SUNDAY APRIL 2

### Spring Maple Open House Weekend

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Okemo Valley Chamber Members Participating in VT Maple Open House Weekend include: Green Mountain Sugar House, Smith Maple Crest Farm, & Sugarbush Farm. Free. It's sugaring season and Vermont maple sugar makers throughout the state invite you into their sugarhouses! Celebrate the 2023 crop as sugar makers teach 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? For more info visit: [vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://vermontmaple.org/mohw)

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10 a.m.-4 p.m. Freeride @ Peace Park & Woodward Parks at Killington Resort. Killington is excited to welcome back the Red Bull Slide-In Tour for a three-day extravaganza! X Games gold medalist and snowboard-style king Zeb Powell has assembled a stacked crew to pack up and hit the road for a three-stop cross country trip. Joining Zeb, in the fifth iteration of the tour are Red Bull athletes, Jesse Augustinus, Benny Milam and Grace Warner. Also on the tour, is co-captain, Burton rider and engineer, Maggie Leon and vibey Philly native Alex Caccamo. For more info visit: [killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events/events-calendar).

### 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](mailto:info@odysseyeventsvt.com).

## MONDAY APRIL 3

### Babies and Toddlers Rock

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

### A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St., Rutland. Free. 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/frontlineworkerssupport](http://bit.ly/frontlineworkerssupport).

### Billings Farm & Museum Opening

#### Day – 41st Season

10a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Enjoy a warm welcome to the season with a free scoop of Vermont-made ice cream at the Farmhouse Scoop Shop. Meet the farm's cows, draft horses, sheep, goats, and chickens in the barns and scenic pastures. Visit the Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, and the 1890 Farm Manager's House featuring the creamery, the kitchen, and in-home innovations that were considered state-of-the-art for the time. Enjoy the StoryWalk as page by page the story unfolds along the pasture fence. Meet the farm's cows, draft horses, sheep, goats, and chickens in the barns and scenic pastures. For more info visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.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 [kimballlibrary.org](http://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.

### Science Pub, 'The Right to Food'

4 p.m. The Taproom, 2551 Rte 30 N, Lake Bomoseen. Free. A discussion on the food equality system, reform and planning in the United States with Molly Anderson professor of food studies at Middlebury College. For more info visit: [marthalebmolnar.com](http://marthalebmolnar.com).

### 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](http://kimballlibrary.org).

### 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](http://namivt.org).

## TUESDAY MARCH 4

### 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](http://rutlandfree.org).

### Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Town Line 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.



## BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM OPENING DAY

MONDAY

### 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](http://tone-valley-arts).

### 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](http://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](mailto:info@odysseyeventsvt.com)

## Celebrate EASTER At Mountain Top!



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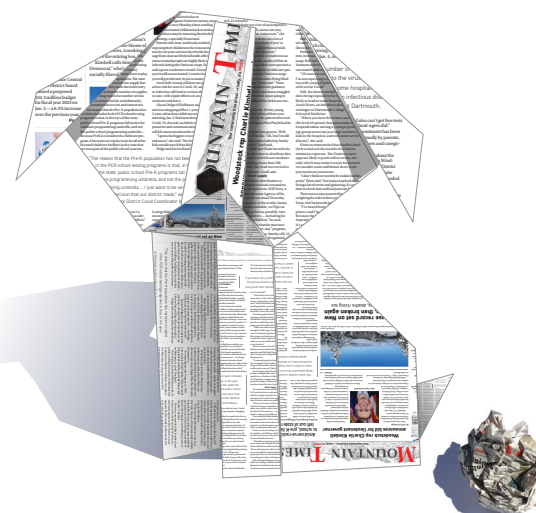
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[MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg  
Have a music scene coming up? Email [djdavehoff@gmail.com](mailto:djdavehoff@gmail.com)

WED  
3/29

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman

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

**QUECHEE**  
6 p.m. The Public House – Lily Welch

**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 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller  
  
5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Duane Carleton  
  
9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Rick Urbani

THURS  
3/30

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

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

**KILLINGTON**  
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

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

**LUDLOW**  
8 p.m. Off The Rails – Bob & Liz

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

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

**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  
3/31

**CASTLETON**  
5:30 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place & Deli – Logan Ann

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Daniel Brown and Silas McPrior

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

6 p.m. Rivershed – Morgan Clark

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

6 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge Start Order Party with DJ Dave

7 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Remember Jones with special guest Minka

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Cuzin It

**LUDLOW**  
8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Live Music

**PITTSFIELD**  
8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Echo Rose Rising

**POULTNEY**  
7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – On Tone Music

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. The Public House – Jacob Green

SAT  
4/1

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Matt Vita's Live Taping Comedy Show

**CHESTER**  
6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Vermont Moonlighters

**KILLINGTON**  
9 a.m. Bear Mountain Base Area – Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge with Music from DJ Dave, Nord Peak 3 and Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

6 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Happy Hour with Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Rivershed – Morgan Clark

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Jim Yeager

7 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – The Idiots

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – BMMC After Party with the Aaron Audet Band

**LUDLOW**  
2 p.m. Okemo's Sitting Bull Lounge – Acoustik Ruckus

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Silas McPrior

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

**POULTNEY**  
6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Andris Berry

**QUECHEE**  
5:30 p.m. The Public House – Resolution Band

**SHREWSBURY**  
3 p.m. Meeting House – Spintuition

**SOUTH POMFRET**  
7 p.m. Grange Theatre – April Fools Improv Night with Valley Improv Troupe and Burlington's Big Boy Sweater Club

SUN  
4/2

**BOMOSEEN**  
5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – George Nostrand

**KILLINGTON**  
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Morgan Clark

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

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

6 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Benefit Iron Chef Competition with DJ Dave

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

**LUDLOW**  
7 p.m. Off The Rails – Karaoke

**PITTSFIELD**  
5 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Trivia

MON  
4/3

**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 – Acoustik Ruckus

**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  
4/4

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

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

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## Rockin the Region with 'Remember Jones'

Remember Jones brings their amazing show back to Killington and the Pickle Barrel Nightclub this Friday to kick off Mogul Challenge Weekend. Remember Jones played the K1 Base Lodge Teardown Party last March and blew me away.



Rockin' the Region  
By Dave Hoffenberg

They made a lot of new fans that day, me included. The band made their entrance that day down a roped walkway and hit the stage, music blazing. They were shortly followed by Remember Jones himself and his co-host Stevie, who's the Ying to his Yang. It's not just about the music, it's a show, a big production. Their music is great to listen to and the show is fun to watch. They ended that day with Joe Cocker's "With a Little Help from my Friends". It gave me goosebumps.

It's one of the best live shows I've seen. I put them in the same category as Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats and Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. Remember Jones himself is a very charismatic front man who I would

liken to Andy Frasco. Remember Jones' website describes him as is a one-of-a-kind soul/pop singer, and bandleader with a throw-vibe and authentic energy, backed and supported by a ensemble of musicians, his music and creative, they have played to count-and sold-out clubs and throughout the United

The Pickle Barrel show not to be missed. They're Minka, a band from Philly, show. Remember Jones said smaller version of them. I listened their stuff and it's quite good. They say to make you move. I believe you'll be moving all night from the music of both bands. Besides social media and all the music platforms, you can find the bands online at their websites: [www.rememberjones.com](http://www.rememberjones.com) and [www.weareminka.com](http://www.weareminka.com).

The Remember Jones show is high energy from start to finish with originals and



storyteller back Often large original atrical events less packed theaters States. is one bringing to open the they're a to some of their mission is to Jones show is high energy finish with originals and

covers. They do funk, R&B, soul and pop. There's something for every-one. Remember Jones loves playing the Pickle Barrel and is looking forward to the show. There will be 8 people up on that stage Friday night.

Remember Jones started this band in 2015 as an 8-piece band but has performed with all sizes, including a 25-piece band. He does everything for the band. He writes all the songs, picks the outfits, organizes the choreography. As I said earlier, it's more than the music, it's a show. When I saw them, they were decked out in pink and black, and he was wearing a bright yellow blazer. You never know what to expect. There's online chats about what he's going to wear on his feet. I couldn't tell you that, but I did see two different outfits from him that day.

His biggest musical influence is Prince, who like him did it all; wrote, played and produced. His musical influences center around big, larger than life front men like Roger Daltrey, Freddy Mercury, Tom Jones and Meatloaf. Another of his was Janis Joplin.

Remember Jones has a new recording out, "Haha Bitch!" which you can get on CD or vinyl. It's a 13-track recording that features "Fat Jeans". He used to weigh an astonishing 400 lbs. That's surprising for me to learn after seeing him last year. About 10 years ago, he lost over 200 lbs. He said the struggle to keep the weight off is challenging. He wrote "Fat Jeans" during Covid when he had to stay home. With this song, he hopes to shed a positive light on loving the skin you're in and send a body positive message to all his fellow people who go through it.

He's a very positive person. We had a great conversation. He loves connecting with people. He said, "We're a family and all in this together."

The story behind the Remember Jones name is that he shared the same name with another performer. Just to have a little fun, they even shared the same stage. He liked the "Joneses" name plus the many Jones in the music industry like Shirley Jones, Quincy Jones, his musical influence Tom Jones. Now you have Remember Jones and you definitely will remember them.







Submitted

Woodash is high in calcium and can be used to help raise beneficial pH levels of your soil.

## Use wood ash to improve your garden

By Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Wood ashes are a surprisingly useful byproduct of winter heating. In addition to household uses such as making soap or adding traction to driveways, wood ashes can be used to amend your garden and lawn soils.

Wood ash, like limestone, is high in calcium, and can raise soil pH to provide the most optimal plant growth.

The pH of soil is important because it helps make certain nutrients more available for plants to use in the soil. For example, when soil pH falls outside of optimal ranges, critical nutrients for plant growth, like nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium and magnesium, may be less available for plants to take up.

The pH is measured on a scale of 0 (acidic) to 14 (alkaline). An optimal soil pH for most vegetable and berry crops is 6.5 to 6.8. Generally, a 6.0 to 7.5 pH should support most crops. Different species have their own pH preferences, however, so be sure to look up the preferred pH of your plants prior to amending the soil.

Blueberries like acidic soil with a

pH of 4.5 to 5.2, so they probably won't appreciate wood ash. Azaleas also prefer acidic soils with a pH between 4.5 and 6.0. Vegetables such as asparagus, kale and beans need basic soils with a pH between 6.0 and 8.0, while many landscape shrubs and trees, such as dogwood, do best in alkaline soil (5.5 to 6.0).

Before adding amendments, first get a soil test to measure the existing pH of your soils. The test will tell you the pH and offer amendment options.

The University of Vermont Extension Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab offers soil testing. For information, go to [go.uvm.edu/ae-testing](http://go.uvm.edu/ae-testing).

Following your soil test results, you can apply a thin layer of wood ash (remove any large charcoal pieces) on top of your soil. Use an application rate of 15-20 pounds of wood ash (one five-gallon bucket) per 1,000 square feet. One cord of wood will produce approximately 20 pounds of wood ash. For more information, check out: [go.uvm.edu/wood-ash](http://go.uvm.edu/wood-ash).

Moisten the soil prior to applying the wood ash to help it adhere to the soil and

become less airborne. Ash can be irritating, so protect your skin and lungs when spreading it. Lightly water the area to help the ash adhere to the soil.

Make sure that the wood ash you are using contains only untreated, naturally grown wood. Using wood ash that is contaminated by oil, chemicals or plastic can transfer the contamination to your soils. Wood ash from pellet stoves and bonfires also should be avoided.

Wood ash can be added in very small quantities to compost piles, keeping an eye on the pH. Optimal compost pH for microorganism activity is between 5.5 and 8.0. The key is knowing the pH of your compost pile before you add wood ash and spreading a thin layer of ash across the pile (versus dumping it in).

This year, after getting your soil tested, try using leftover wood ashes in your garden and on your lawn. This low-cost soil amendment just might be something you add to your garden to-do list from now on.

*Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension master gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.*

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## Science Pub presents 'The Right to Food'

Sunday, April 2 at 4 p.m.—BOMOSEEN— Molly Anderson, professor of food studies at Middlebury College will present at the Science Pub this Sunday at Taproom at Lake Bomoseen.

Hunger. War. Sustainability. Reform. What if healthy food for everyone were a right instead of something mostly available to wealthier people?

The U.S. is the only industrialized country that doesn't support the right to food, expecting it to be provided by "the market" instead, which is not ensuring everyone's access to healthy food. Professor Molly Anderson has been studying the right to food and how different nations are implementing it. Her work bridges academia, community-based activism and social movements, and is involved in food system reform and planning at the local, state and regional scales.

Science Pub, now in its 13th year, is a free community event, made possible by Friends of Castleton Library. Taproom at Lake Bomoseen is located at 2551 Route 30N in Bomoseen.

For information contact Martha Molnar: [marthalebmolnar.com](mailto:marthalebmolnar.com).

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## Pico celebration:

from page 3

to the Pico women, whom he called “giants in the industry.”

They kept the area going, first Janet Mead who operated Pico during the war after her husband Brad died in September 1942 and she lost her manager, Karl Acker who joined the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Karl married local June Thomas in 1948, and they purchased the mountain from Janet in 1954, but Karl died in 1958 at age 42.

June carried on and installed the first chairlift and cut a trail to the summit, but lacking the financing to install a lift to the top, she sold to Bruce and Verleen Belden and a group of investors in 1964.

Lindholm also noted the attention that Andrea Mead Lawrence with her two Gold Olympic medals in 1952 brought to Pico. The Meads had gone to Switzerland to find someone to operate their ski school. They picked Acker, the best racer in Europe, Lindholm said, noting it was Acker who coached the young Andrea, who still holds the U.S. record for two Alpine Golds in a single Winter Olympics.

Lindholm also noted that he grew up at North Tower, the castle-like home that Brad Mead had designed and his family lived in. It was reached by a steep, half-mile, narrow winding road in Mendon and when Andrea lived there, she and her brother Peter often skied to the bus on US Route 4. While he skied there also, Lindholm noted she became an Olympian and he didn't. That drew some laughter as did his remarks on the early leather ski boots that “stunk.”

### Pico accommodations, Derby

David Wright, a retired builder whose uncle, Grover Wright, was a manager of the Long Trail Lodge, noted that the 1923 Long Trail Lodge which had been built in 1923 by Mortimer



A large crowd attended the history of Pico celebration at Pico's 'Last Run Lounge' on Friday

Submitted

Proctor (who leased the land to Pico) and given to the Green Mountain Club was there when Pico opened.

It was Grover Wright, who had married June Acker, who got the idea to keep it open in winter for skiers and there was a trail to the top of the T-Bar. However, it wasn't built for winter and pipes and people froze, so they went to Proctor to build the Annex or Chalet [across the highway] which is now the Inn at Long Trail (modernized over the years). The chalet was the second ski lodge in Vermont, Wright said, noting it catered to ski clubs that came up by bus or train, when U.S. Route 4 was still just a two lane road. The original Long Trail Lodge burned down in 1958 and there are current efforts to preserve the site.

Wright also spoke about the famous Pico Derby which Karl Acker had started as part of Pico's racing events. Held on Sunset Schuss, racers had to hike up from the top of the T-Bar. The Pico Carnival featured sugar-on-snow and fireworks at the top of

the T-Bar. One year the sled carrying fireworks broke loose and careened down the mountain and right through the fire at the base but did not go off.

### Pico's homegrown son

Karl Thomas Acker was born in 1949 so he grew up with Pico in his front yard as his family lived on the second floor of the Troll Top base lodge and his bedroom faced the Little Pico slopes. He attended school in Rutland and would catch the Vermont Transit Bus to Pico after school. Then he'd ski until the lifts closed and sometimes hike up and run gates on B slope after they closed.

Now a retired ski coach, Acker loves to share stories about Pico, its history, and its people.

He regaled the audience with this tale of being teased by a lift operator and how he got back. Knowing the man, who started the lift's diesel engine, route to the lift, he dug a four-foot-deep hole in the snow, then laid cardboard over the top and covered it with snow. The man fell in.

Another fun story was of his daughter, Karly Acker, an instructor at Deer Valley, while riding a lift being asked if she knew Karl Acker. She noted she was his granddaughter, and the person said she was Muffy Mead, granddaughter of Brad and Janet.

Today, Karl T. Acker enjoys talking to folks on the lifts and for a raffle prize donated a history tour of Pico. That's when people can learn about living at Pico until it was sold to the Beldens in 1964. They'll also learn that it was during the Belden era that Pico became the area of today, with expansion to the summit and the Outpost area and addition of more trails and modern lifts, like the triple chair that replaced the T-Bar on Little Pico in 1980.

For those interested in learning more, the presentation was filmed and may be found on YouTube. Anyone interested in joining the historians is invited to do so.

## 2023-2024 MY PICO K.A. PASS

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Pico  
KILLINGTON, VT



## Wonderfeet Kids' Museum lip sync battle to return to The Paramount Theatre

RUTLAND – Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, Rutland's very own children's museum currently expanding into the Energy Innovation Center on Merchants Row, is excited to finally return to The Paramount Theatre stage Saturday, April 29 at 6 p.m. After two years of a virtual version of the Lip Sync Battle, Wonderfeet is excited to bring this event back to the live stage. Teams of local residents will lift spirits and show off our vibrant community with costumes, music and choreography that have to be seen to be believed.

Past Lip Sync Battles have featured teams from the Rutland City Fire Department, the Regional Ambulance Corps, Rutland Regional Medical Center, and area businesses while the Virtual Lip Sync Battle celebrated the participation of area schools.

This year, competing teams will gear up for a night of determination, sheer talent and fun. Judges award points for accuracy, creativity, and choreography to select a Judge's Choice winner. The audience will participate by text-to-vote to select a winning team for Audience Choice. With much anticipation and preparation, these teams promise to put on a great show and work hard for your votes.

In addition to excitement around the return to a live event format, this year's event celebrates the opening of the new and

expanded Wonderfeet Kids' Museum that will take place in early May (it's been closed through March and April as it completes the move). Audiences will even be treated to a video sneak peak of the new museum and exhibits.

"Whether or not you have young kids who love Wonderfeet, this event is guaranteed to be a fun night for everyone in the audience — and onstage, too. It's about the community celebrating this place that makes Rutland special and doing it in a fun and creative way, the same way Rutland does everything!" said Katye Munger, events and marketing chair for Wonderfeet.

"Wonderfeet was born from our community's creativity and passion. This event just showcases that same energy. We're thankful that so many of our community partners are able to let go of their adult worries and inhibitions and perform with the same reckless abandon that kids do!" said Danielle Monroe, Wonderfeet Kids' Museum executive director.

Team selection is going on now through Monday, March 27. There is still one open spot for an interested business or community group. Interested teams should email Danielle Monroe, [ed@wkmvt.org](mailto:ed@wkmvt.org).

All proceeds from the event benefit Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. For more information visit: [WonderfeetKidsMuseum.org](http://WonderfeetKidsMuseum.org).



# CatSnip: Partnering to prevent unwanted kittens through April

The Rutland County Humane Society and Homeward Bound join forces in April to offer \$5 male cat neuters

PITTSFORD—The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS), Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, and Community Cats Podcast are proud to partner up for a cat neuter-a-thon during the month of April.

All three organizations share a goal of reducing the number of unwanted kittens that will be born between April and October of this year. In 2022, RCHS and Homeward Bound saw a total of 588 community kittens enter our respective shelters.

To get ahead of this annual influx, prevent unnecessary suffering, and free up resources for other life-saving initiatives the organizations will be offering \$5 male cat neuters at the RCHS shelter, 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford, on April 3, 10, and 24 and at the Homeward Bound shelter, 236 Boardman Street in Middlebury on April 1, 22, 28, and 29. No appointment is necessary but all cats must arrive in a secure carrier or trap and should skip breakfast! Drop off in Pittsford is between 9 a.m.-12



noon. No cats will be accepted after 12 noon. Drop off in Middlebury is between 8-11 a.m. No cats will be accepted after 11 a.m. Cash only; exact change required.

Rutland County Humane Society's Executive Director Beth Saradarian shares: "Cats tend to

wander, sometimes from one county to another, so we're excited to partner with our Addison County colleagues to outsmart the Tomcats and reduce unintended breeding in both Rutland and Addison counties!"

For more information, visit: [rchsvt.org](http://rchsvt.org).

# Billings Farm & Museum Opening Day - 41st Season

Enjoy a warm welcome to the season with a free scoop of Vermont-made ice cream at the Farmhouse Scoop Shop. Meet the farm's cows, draft horses, sheep, goats, and chickens in the barns and scenic pastures. Visit the Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, and the 1890 Farm Manager's House featuring the creamery, the kitchen, and in-home innovations that were considered state-of-the-art for the time. Enjoy the StoryWalk as page by page the story unfolds along the pasture fence. Meet the farm's cows, draft horses, sheep, goats, and chickens in the barns and scenic pastures. For more info visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).



Submitted

A child greets a baby calf at Billings Farm and Museum.

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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

### 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.



## Inn at Long Trail

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

M	S	E	C		O	P	I	A	T	E		
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Guess the album cover: Cindy Lauper: "She's So Unusual"

## SUDOKU

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



# Rutland Cobra gymnasts excel at state championship

## Diamond team defends title for third consecutive year

Cobra Gymnastics wrapped up their four-month competitive season with success at the Vermont State Championships on March 18-19 in Bellows Fall, Vermont. In total, 361 gymnasts competed in 13 different levels over the weekend, all hoping to achieve individual and team state titles.

Cobra continues to compete under the USA Gymnastics Xcel program and hosts five levels of competitive gymnastics. This is Cobra's 11th year with a competitive team, led by owner and founder, Shelby Barsalou.

In individual event and all-around awards, Cobra girls captured 30 state titles throughout the weekend.

The Cobra Diamond team, consisting of the most experienced gymnasts at Cobra, retained their team title for the third year in a row with a team total of 109.825.

While Regal Gymnastics Academy of Essex captured all other team wins, the Cobra Xcel Bronze team set a team record score of 114.95 to capture second place in a field of seven Vermont teams. The Xcel Silver team also captured second place with a record setting score of 114.425 in a field of seven.

The Xcel Gold team captured a close third place with a 109.625, just .35 shy of second place.

For some athletes, a stellar performance is rewarded with a spot on the regional Vermont team or all-star team. These athletes must place in the top seven spots, regardless of age, to attain this honor. Seven Cobra gymnasts qualified for the Xcel Regional Championships May 19-21 in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

Coach Barsalou explained, "It's a goal of most athletes to qualify for Regionals. It's a celebrated event full of talented athletes."

Hazel Mabey of Wallingford qualified from the Silver team, while Amelia Gibbs of Brandon and London Febbie of Londonderry qualifies from the Gold team. Ma-leah Jones of Rutland Town, Karena Kuehl of Rutland, Nadia Tarbell of Danby and Mia Harrington of Danby qualified from the Diamond team.

Tarbell, an eight-year member of the Cobra team, is Cobra's first senior graduate. "To maintain a private sport such as gymnastics throughout the exciting activities and schedules of high school is an achievement. We've been honored to have Nadia with us for so many seasons; she's a diligent athlete, beautiful performer and kind teammate," Barsalou said.

*For results visit [mountaintimes.info/cobra](http://mountaintimes.info/cobra).*



By Team Photo, courtesy Cobra Gymnastics



By Team Photo, courtesy Cobra Gymnastics



By Shelby Barsalou




By Shelby Barsalou

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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](http://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 Skitchewaung Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997  
 \*Open by appointment only. [spfldhumane.org](http://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**  
 4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829  
 \*(By appointment only at this time.) Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m.  
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Max—4-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black with white. Max is a happy-go-lucky pup whose favorite place in the world is with his people. He does great with dogs and cats.



Naya—6-year-old. Spayed female. German Shepherd dog. Black and tan. Shepherd lovers, meet Naya! She loves everyone she meets and greets you with a happy tail wag. She is smart and likes to learn.



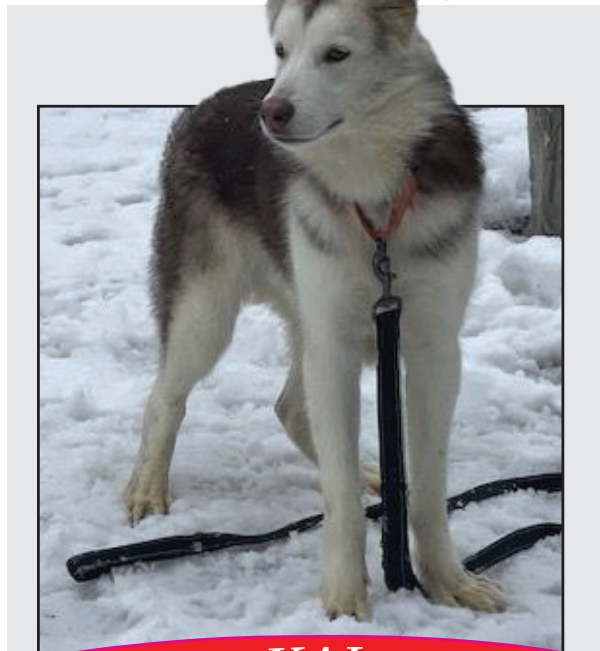
Carlos—9-month-old. Male. Cattle dog mix. Brown/white. Carlos would love to live with another dog. He has lived with other dogs and cats and was fine.



Winston—4-year-old. Neutered male. Pitbull/boxer mix. Brindle with white. This cutie loves butt scratches. He loves learning!



Spazzy—3-year-old. Neutered male. American. Black and white. Spazzy is a mellow boy, with an easy-going disposition.



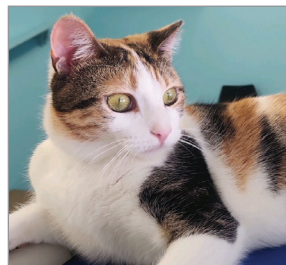
**KAI**

Kai—9-month-old. Male. Siberian husky. Red and white. Kai is a sweet boy who loves other dogs. He would prefer an active family.

All of these pets are available for adoption at  
**Rutland County Humane Society**  
 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT • (802) 483-6700  
 Tues. - Sat. 11-5 p.m. for adoptions  
 \*(By appointment only at this time.)  
 Closed Sun. & Mon. • [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org)

## Rutland County Humane Society's working cat program

Everyone knows cats are experts at napping but do you know they're also hard workers? They're natural rodent deterrents, and they love their jobs! If you have a farm, stable, warehouse, factory, greenhouse, nursery, winery, distillery, junkyard, storage facility, repair shop, or retail store, and you have a problem with rodents, our working cat program might be the solution. Cats in the program are spayed/neutered and have at least rabies and distemper vaccinations. These cats are those who aren't socialized enough, or have other limitations, preventing them from being placed for adoption in a home environment. There is no adoption fee for our working cats but a donation is greatly appreciated.



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# Cosmic Catalogue

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## Aries

March 21 - April 20

A long journey has ended for you and now it's time to cool off and reflect on things. As your focus turns to home, family and your domestic life for the next two months, you can expect changes in this area of your life. If you're considering making a move in this department, this week could bring exciting developments or yield really hopeful results. If in doubt about how to move forward, reflection and feeling your feelings will help.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

This week may see you pull back your energy a bit and opting to pay more attention to your spiritual life. It's also possible you just need a holiday! Either way, if you can press pause in some way, shape, or form, your soul will thank you for it. Now that Pluto is in your relationship zone, the call to connect more deeply with others is likely. First, you have to figure out who you are and what you want.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

There's a lot of joy to be had for you this week, as Mercury and Jupiter join forces in your fun zone. Love, happiness and children will likely be a part of the picture. So if you're in dire need to let your hair out and enjoy yourself, the Cosmos is giving you a green light. With family firmly in focus for you now, make those you're closest to your priority now. As corny as it's become, live, love, laugh!



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Brace yourself! Things are changing for you in bold and exciting ways! Venus, your patron planet, fuses with unexpected Uranus this week. You might be willing and able to make a move after a period of being stuck or stagnant. Consider sprucing up your image or doing something a little bit out of character for you. The key to making this work is actually not giving a damn what anyone else thinks. That is true freedom!



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

If you don't bury your head in the sand about your financial situation, it's quite possible that you're in a better position than you think. If you do happen to be in a bind, then help is at hand to help you arrive at a solution. One thing is for certain, if you don't take action, one way or another, things won't change for you. A friend, group or community may just be in the position to offer what you need or vice versa.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

The weight of the world has been lifted from your shoulders. There is some solace to be had in that. I'm not here to say it's all over, but you've got some reprieve, so take it! Do more of what you enjoy. Cut yourself some slack. If you just need to rest and be, then that's what you need to do. Remember you're a human being, not a human doing! Also, sprinkle a little sugar on your life this week too.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Your stars are still great! I've been saying this a while now. This week, Mercury fuses with Jupiter in your 11th house of luck and friendship. Good news may arrive via a friend or colleague. Your money sector gets fired up for the first time in two years and Pluto begins a process of enlightenment for you. Don't be surprised if you feel yourself merging into new social circles, your life perspective shifts as well as discovering new desires.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

It's no good to stay in your head about a relationship issue in your personal or professional life. Libras have a tendency to do that. Thanks to Mercury and Jupiter joining forces in your partnership zone, have a conversation about your goals for the future. Show initiative and get back on the same page as each other. Working as a team is how you work best. So you need to ask yourself, why do you think you can do this alone?



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Are you ready for your next spiritual awakening? Have you even recovered from your last one? What can I say, the train has left the station and there's no getting off now. All you can do is brace yourself and enjoy the ride for whatever it turns out to be worth. Just don't get stuck in your head about it. Take things one day at a time. It's all you can do.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Welcome return to energy and Amojito is likely as Mars arrives in Cancer for the first time in two years. You might feel motivated to embark upon a fitness goal or tackle a challenge you've been avoiding for a while. Tuesday will be extra energetic for you, so spend a little time considering what goals and desires you'd like to work on over the next two months. Under the supportive influence of Saturn, you'll be amazed by how much you can achieve.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

It's now time for you to get out of the shadows and move toward the light. You've been burrowing for long enough, which is fine, but the weather has changed now. As Mars moves through Cancer for the next two months, you get the chance to look at the big picture perspective on all things about life, spirituality and your vision for the future. What is it that you really want? Put the dream in your heart and make it happen.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

A jolly joining between Mercury and Jupiter in your money zone may bring a nice boost financially. At the same time, as Mars settles into your fun zone, it might be high time you enjoyed yourself a little bit more. Is it possible to take the perspective of making fun, joy and living your best life your priority? If not, then why not? Work and play don't have to be mutually exclusive. Your whole life can be more joyful if you choose it.

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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.



## Renovation v. demolition

As this week begins, it should be quite clear we are in a fundamentally different cosmic landscape. For some, the personal experience will be cathartic and transformative. For others, it will barely be a blip on the radar.

What we are now will set the tone for the next 20 years. Nothing stops where it starts, so start noticing what has begun in either subtle or obvious ways. Notice what you say yes to, when in reality, you'd rather say no to. Notice what collective ideologies you're being manipulated to buy into, when in reality, your soul

tells you they're false. Notice where there is worship at the altar of the new, with no reverence to what has come before.

There is a strong urge in the collective field to burn everything to the ground and rebuild better. Better for whom though? Whom benefits? Who prospers exactly? There is no doubt that some parts of society need to be rebuilt, but there is a fundamental difference between a renovation and a demolition. There may be a part of your own life this applies to too. Can you think of an example where throwing the baby out with the bath water was a good thing? Nope, neither can I!



Cosmic  
Catalogue  
By Cassandra  
Tyndall

## Superpower: Perspective is everything

I have no tolerance for pain. I am thin-skinned and weak-kneed. Whenever I experience mental, emotional, or physical pain, I want out, ASAP. When younger, I looked to and expected others to heal me. Though a great backup resource, outward is no longer where I look.

Fortunately, I have the tools to maintain holistic wellness inside me. I think of it as a built-in toolbox meant to open and use.

As a younger woman, desperately unwell with physical and mental unwellness, I met with every health professional I could. "We can lessen your pain with medicine, but we cannot fix you." This honest but devastating truth shook me to my core. I assumed doctors could fix everything. With all options closed off to me, I looked in the one direction I had not considered before. Inward.

Fix myself? What an absurd thought. I was not a health professional. How could I possibly fix my mind and body? But now, after decades of practice, inward is where I look first.

It is wicked fun to fix yourself.

After all, if I have this internal toolbox, I must be designed to use it.

### The aging process

The glances stopped somewhere in my 1950s. I was surprised at how much a part of my life they had become. Those admiring

glances of complete strangers. Male strangers. I felt a twinge of sadness at the loss. Like buying my last box of tampons at menopause. It meant the end of an era.

Aware that beauty and physical attractiveness can impact one's level of self-value, I knew I had a choice to make. I could linger in sadness over what was lost, or embrace what the second half of my life would offer. Intellectually, I knew it was silly to spend time and energy worrying about my age. After all, if I was stuck in the past, I would miss what was ahead. But intellect and feelings do not always align. Not wanting age-related sadness to take root, fester and grow, I knew it was time to open my internal toolbox and rid myself of any negativity related to the aging process.

First things first. I acknowledge my feelings. Feelings are real so that makes them  
Funologist → 30



The  
Funologist  
By Sandra Dee  
Owens



Courtesy of Sandra Dee Owens

Snow Swimming can be great for well-being.

## Owls on the nest

Among the very earliest signs of spring are the strange caterwauls of the barred owls that haunt our woods:

"Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" Their hooted conversations, thrown back and forth through forests all over New England, signal the territory disputes, nest-site advertisement, and pair bonding that begin the breeding season. That these predators of the nighttime are especially vocal now, with snow still covering the ground, seems odd. But owls do everything on their own timeline.

Many owl species are most active either at night or just around dawn and dusk and have adaptations that help them to see in low light conditions. With small rodents burrowed in tunnels under the snowpack, owls in late winter and early spring also use their tremendously sensitive ears to locate prey. This gives them not only a hunting advantage over other birds of prey at this time of year, but the ability to start raising a family before the competition for hunting grounds gets steep.

Establishing those hunting grounds is crucial for an owl to ensure their pantry will be well-stocked for the arrival of hungry young mouths. Territorial boundaries are decided with what amount to shouting matches of hoots and wails, until one party decides to move on. The calls also function to reconnect members of a mated pair, who likely spent the winter in separate areas. Getting started with this task early means that those owl species that do not build their own nests – notably great horned owls – get the first pick of last year's constructions by other birds such as common ravens or red-tailed hawks. It is not uncommon for a raven family to return to an old nest in spring, only to find large, talon-sporting squatters inside.

By the end of March, most owls in New England have eggs in the nest. Depending on the species, incubation takes four or five weeks, and is mostly done by the female. The

male's role is to supply her with food, to stock up for when the eggs hatch, and to help defend the nest from predators. Though not much will tangle with an adult owl, the eggs and hatchlings are at risk from countless dangers. Weasels and raccoons can climb into the nest to eat the eggs, and a young owl tumbled from the nest may fall prey to a bobcat or a coyote.

An owl's growth is astonishingly fast, and hatchlings reach their parents' size in a matter of weeks. A freshly laid great horned owl egg weighs about 50 grams, hatches after five weeks, and the owlet puts on about 30 grams each day for the next four weeks. It will fledge, or leave the nest, another two weeks after that, at which point it weighs about 1,100 grams, but cannot yet fly. In this "brancher" stage, the young owl may look clumsy or helpless to the human observer, but it will continue to receive food and protection from its parents.

It will take its first real flights in another week or two, so that at the tender age of eight weeks, the young owl is well on its way to independence. But even after the young are all able to fly, their parents remain in the area taking care of them, dropping off prey items, and will not actively chase their young off to establish their own territories until late August or September.

Smaller species of owls mature even more quickly. The northern saw-whet owl hatches from an 8-gram egg, incubated for four weeks, and grows into an 80-gram, fully-feathered flyer just over four weeks after that. (This does mean that a two-day-old great horned owl is already larger than a northern saw-whet owl will ever grow!)

It is a special treat to catch a glimpse of an owl family out and about in spring. The young ones, even when roughly the same size as their parents, are identifiable by that halo of downy fuzz they may still have, and a wide, curious stare as they learn about the woodland world under the watchful guidance of their parents.

Anna Morris is an environmental educator at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. 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 Anna Morris



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# Having a ball

In 1977, Hall of Fame baseball player Reggie Jackson was traded to the New York Yankees, signing an unprecedented \$3 million deal for five years. The trade was all the buzz in the MLB, but was particularly strong in the Northeast where fans live and die for their respective sports teams and players.



The Movie  
Diary  
By Dom Cioffi

The slugger solidified his reputation as one of the game's greats by winning the '77 and '78 World Series with the Yankees, on the heels of having won three straight World Series with his former team, the Oakland A's. His late-season antics earned him the nickname "Mr. October," a moniker that he still carries today.

I was 11 years old in 1977 — a gangly kid who had good hand-eye coordination and fast feet. I loved all sports, but baseball was my favorite. I loved to play the game, watch the game on TV, and collect the cards. (In fact, I still have my assemblage of baseball cards in the attic, having lugged them around throughout my life.)

I played in the local rec leagues, loving the camaraderie and competition. But it was the impromptu neighborhood baseball games after school or during the summer break that really appealed to me. We had a community of athletically-minded young boys ready to compete, so the games were plentiful throughout the year. We played football in the fall and basketball in the summer, but baseball was our year-round activity — even when there was snow on the ground.

For baseball, we'd use either a wiffleball or tennis ball depending on the number of kids available. Wiffleball was the best option for low numbers, whereas tennis ball was more suited when each team had four or more kids (the reason was that a tennis ball traveled much further, so you had to have more than one outfielder to make it viable).

I loved these games and looked forward to any opportunity to play them. Most of the other kids in the neighborhood felt the same, however, a few were indifferent and had to be coerced. I remember two brothers who we'd corral into playing when we were desperate for numbers. Neither was particularly coordinated or interested, but we didn't care as long as the game got played.

I loved Reggie when he played for the A's, but when he jumped to the Bronx Bombers in New York, I was not happy. Why? Because

I was a Red Sox fan.

Vermonters are generally forced to choose between New York and Boston franchises when deciding who to root for. And once you choose, the alternative team becomes your nemesis. Our neighborhood was split equally between Red Sox and Yankees supporters and many times, this delineation was how we chose teams.

I honestly had nothing against the Yankees, and in fact, admired their winning ways, but one kid in the neighborhood made it impossible for me to root for them.

This kid was a Yankees fanatic. He knew every player in every position. He could recite stats and schedules on a whim. And he was well-versed in the history of the game, which meant that he knew how historic the Yankees record was when it came to World Series Championships.

But what really made it unbearable was that this kid was also the best athlete in the neighborhood. He was better than everyone and he knew it. And instead of being humble about his hierarchical position, he shoved it down our throats. He was loud, ostentatious, and overbearing and I loathed him for it.

It's because of this kid that I drifted toward the Red Sox and started to build contempt for the Yankees. And since I

was rooting for the opposing local team, I was almost always in his crosshairs. I remember him chanting Reggie's name whenever he'd hit a homerun over the neighbor's bushes. He'd round the bases yelling "Reggie, Reg-gie!" and I'd stare at him with disdain.

While we lost touch many decades ago, I still think about this kid whenever the Yankees start to make headway during an MLB season. I imagine he's still an obnoxious

fan today — yelling, screaming, and carrying on like an overbearing winner.

This week's feature is "Reggie," a documentary about the legendary baseball player that delves into the athlete's unique stature in the game. The film not only reviews his prowess on the field, but also examines the perverse racism that he had to endure while becoming one of the game's greatest players.

Historical footage is combined with contemporary interviews to create a robust picture of a complicated but dedicated man.

Check this one out if you love baseball or are intrigued by the decades where the game grew into the modern business that it is today.

A nostalgic "B" for "Reggie," now available for viewing on Amazon Prime Video.

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at [moviediary@att.net](mailto:moviediary@att.net).



Courtesy Killington Resort

KMS mogul legend Hannah Soar trained on Killington's Outer Limits, among other legends.

## Outer Limits is where legends are made

My skis twist underneath me, wiggling through the moguls like a snake might find its way through an obstacle course of river rocks. It almost feels like they have a mind of their own, which obviously the R&D guys back at the production plant have worked very hard to achieve.

My body merely follows along for the ride at this point. I can feel my feet, diving downward on the backside of the mogul. Almost like I am pointing my toes and waiting for my heels to catch up with the rest of my body. It's not awkward, more like a rocking motion underneath me as I dive my tips into the trough of the moguls and then pull my toes back up again with the muscles in my shins and front of my ankle.

I can feel my ankles getting tired; I haven't had a reason to do top to bottom runs down Outer Limits all year. But today was the day to do this and so here I am.

Lapping SkyPeak Quad with some local mogul legends. The sky is blue, the stoke is high and you can hear the laughter ringing off the chairlift as we tell stories of ski seasons gone by.

My knees press tight against each other, not risking a quick separation for the imaginary judges for anything. Well, I guess the legends of OL count as judges. I certainly don't want to embarrass myself in front of them by any means. So I keep moving, my knees together while my feet fly in every which way they need



Livin' the Dream  
By Merisa  
Sherman

to. My feet are quick, my body is steady.

I am not a zipper skier, I never have been. My turns have always been too round, too slalom, too ski instructor like to enjoy the straightness of the zipper and the willingness to compress my spine. It's not my style and I have enough disc problems, although damn, do I love to watch those guys. I'm a bit more ... eh, I cannot think of a word, but I'm not a

bumper in the traditional sense of the word. I just love variable terrain.

My femoral ball jams into my hip socket on a particularly deep trough and I cringe a little bit at my mistake. I reach deep inside to pull myself back out of the hole and take a deep breath as I float a bit on top of the next mogul. I have to focus here. There is too much going on, the lines aren't regular enough to phase out mentally and the snow is just too thick to not pay attention to every movement.

There is nothing quite so "Killington" where our best take each other on and a full winner takes all the glory event...I love to watch the hot dogs show off while I drink a round in my best old school outfit.

So I focus on my femurs, the movement from my knees to my hips. That beautiful rotary motion that pivots a flat ski. I'd been focusing too much on carving through the

Living the dream → 30



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## ← Principals of the year: from page 1

students come to her office every morning to do announcements.

“I’ve really been able to get to know the kids on a personal level,” she said. “I want kids to have a positive experience. I feel like these little guys need a lot of TLC. I treat them like my own. I have high expectations for them. I’m firm but fair. I love them to death but I also hold them accountable.”

Olsen was proud to see one of his leaders be recognized.

“You can go a long time in your profession and maybe not be recognized for good work,” Olsen said. “It’s nice that she got recognized for the great work she does everyday.”

The VPA honors 4-6 principals a year.

Each is chosen based on a number of criteria, including how they shape a vision of success for students, create a hospitable climate for education, cultivate leadership in others, close the opportunity gap, improve instruction and manage people, data and processes.

“It’s the people who best represent those standards,” Nichols said.

Alexander was named The Henry Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the Year, much to her surprise. “I’m surrounded by really great leaders in Vermont,” she said.

Alexander started her education career in Germany in 1989, where her husband was stationed for the Army.

“I worked wherever he was stationed and wherever was available,” she said.

Alexander, who grew up in Vermont, moved back in 2004 and became a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Castleton Elementary School in 2006. She became principal of Lothrop in 2015.

“She’s so deserving of the honor, she’s incredibly humble,” said Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Superintendent Kristin Hubert.

“I’m surrounded by really great leaders in Vermont,” Alexander said.

Hubert, who knows Alexander personally and professionally, nominated Alexander for the award and filled out a lengthy nomination letter, lauding Alexander’s calm nature and collaborative leadership abilities.

“Although Debbie would be the first to celebrate her administrative assistant, nurse, teachers, and paraeducators, it was her ability to manage chaos with an eye on student outcomes that both helped steady the ship and also calm the waters,” Hubert wrote in the nomination. “Debbie creates a school climate and system that is driven by a sense of calm, clear purpose, and collective efficacy: together, as a team, Lothrop School’s staff and students know that they can and will find success.”

Alexander’s also a “champion of leading for equity,” Hubert wrote.

“Debbie is deeply reflective and transparent, encouraging and supporting her staff and fellow administrators to follow suit, as she consistently examines biases and systemic failures that plague our schools and supervisory union,” wrote Hubert. “She is a ‘champion’ in every definition of the word... a champion for students, for outcomes, for schools, and for the promise of Vermont education.”

The Robert Pierce and National Association of Secondary Schools Vermont High School Principal of the year award went to Chris Young of North Country Union High School in Newport, while the John Winton Vermont Middle Level Principal of the year was Susan McKelvie of the Folsom Education & Community Center in South Hero.

The principals will be honored at the VPA Leadership Academy awards banquet at the Killington Grand Resort on Aug. 1.

Coloutti will also be honored in Washington, D.C. by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.



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## Four area towns receive planning grants

Ludlow, Brandon, Cavendish and Hartford awarded planning grants

Four municipalities in Rutland and Windsor Counties were among 29 towns awarded planning projects totaling \$598,997, Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development announced, March 24.

The money will fund a range of projects around the state intended to stimulate economic development, grow housing opportunities, and ensure adequate public infrastructure.

"Municipal Planning Grants help communities connect the dots by funding the tools and resources they use to plan ahead," Gov. Phil Scott said in the news release. "From data gathering to outreach and design, planning is an essential component for infrastructure investments we need to make."

### Ludlow

Ludlow was awarded \$18,571 to create a housing action plan by collecting and analyzing data, identifying needs, researching implementation tools, and listing priority actions to address the area's severe housing needs and gaps. The total project cost is \$20,635.

### Brandon

Brandon was awarded \$23,760 to partner with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission on a project to expand an interactive map of the region's cultural, historical, and recre-

ational assets to facilitate local tourism and support connected communities. The total project is estimated to cost \$26,400.

### Cavendish

Cavendish was awarded \$15,552 to update its capital budget and program to include new 2020 town plan goals, recognize changes in existing conditions, and ensure that budgets reflect capital improvement priorities. The total project cost is estimated to be \$17,280.

### Hartford

Hartford received \$18,000 to update the town plan's economic development chapter, conduct extensive public process to develop a vision, goals, strategies and actions for a strong local economy. That total project cost is about \$20,000.

Since 1998, the Municipal Planning Grant program has provided over \$14 million to 237 cities and towns. For information on all 29 projects, visit: [accd.vermont.gov](http://accd.vermont.gov).



## Rebuke: from page 2

"Parties have different expectations," he said. "Everybody can't be on the same page. If people don't get the answer they want, they feel hurt."

Hobbie said the Select Board hasn't ignored complaints about the town

manager.

"Since last May we have developed an employee evaluation system dealing with employee relations," he said, "in part because of reported tension between David and managers of town departments. An outside human relations consultant helped us complete our reviews. In November we reviewed results with David. In February, I followed up with department managers and they reported there had been some improvement in their relations with him."

Ormiston didn't confirm any specific conversations with the board or past reviews regarding his relationship with employees.

When asked about an alleged public disagreement with a highway department employee in which he was said to be "explosive" and accused of "firing, then rapidly rehiring" the employee, Ormiston said, "There is much more to that issue than portrayed —people are missing the other side of the story."

During his time in the office, he said, he feels the town has moved forward significantly.

"I haven't tried to change the town," he said. "I love Hartland and its people, but there are aspects of town government that need to change to reflect today's demands. Historically, issues could often be settled over a cup of coffee. Statutes require we do things more formally, more professionally."

He cited an example. Town commissions have previously submitted prospective appointees, usually rubber stamped by the Select Board. Ormiston has advertised commission openings and created an application to help the Select Board consider appointees according to statute.

This kind of change ruffled some feathers, he said.

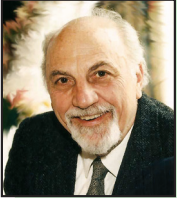


"I'm not trying to pick fights or create tension," he said. "Tension just makes the job harder. Another person in this position will

make the same decisions, ruffle the same feathers. I don't sugar-coat the facts when informing people. I speak directly, and honestly."

At a March 27 special meeting to discuss Strofolino's accusations, six residents offered comments before the board went into executive session. Stacey Bradley, the board of listers chair, said their office enjoyed a "very good working relationship" with the Ormiston. Another resident called for immediate action against the town anager, citing no personal experience with him. Daniel Gottsegen, says he lost a 200-year old stone wall and several trees during a drainage project, and accused Ormiston of withholding information and documents, and of treating him dismissively. Two more recounted personal mistreatment by Ormiston.

Exiting executive session, Phil Hobbie reported that no decisions had been made.






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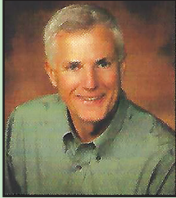
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## Funology:

from page 24

important.

As a visual person, I like to imagine unhelpful or negative feelings as invisible creatures. I call them 'The Gremlins'. Left unchecked, these wraiths of Doubt, Fear, Worry, and Should (to name a few) join forces, foment, and grow. They derail personal growth, making me feel stuck.

What am I feeling?

Years ago, I began a practice that helps me shift my mind from being emotionally 'stuck' to moving 'forward'. I call the practice, 'what am I feeling?' It is purposeful and effective.

When alone, I state out loud for my ears to hear the name of every negative feeling (gremlins) I feel. They come up and out in layers. Fear, the most powerful of the gremlins, is always lurking at the bottom of the pile. This frees my mind, body, and spirit of their presence. I have more room to listen to my wild voice now, instead of the gremlins.

### Facing forward

The next step is a simple, easy one that helps me shift (or pivot) into that "forward" state of mind. In my mind's eye, I keep an imaginary dial. It is a round, white dial like an old transistor beach radio. This "mind's eye" dial has two settings, "Stuck" (top dead center) and "Forward" (one click to the right). Whenever I hear the gremlins clamoring for dominance, I close my eyes and picture the dial. Reaching forward (I



By Sandra Dee Owens

Illustration called "Personal Freedom" inspires many interpretations.

like the physical manifestation of actually reaching forward), I grasp the dial. Then, with gusto and a bit of drama, I flip the switch from "stuck" to "forward." This physical form of mindfulness puts me in the driver's seat and the gremlins in the back seat.

Now, I am in the correct position.

Next, I took a little time to ponder and observe the differences between youth and my current age. I thought about the shiny, taught, rosy skin and complexion of youth that naturally attracts. The human race depends on that attraction. But my older skin, hair and body were less watchable now. Less noticeable, less—visible. With this honest assessment of the natural process of aging, I suddenly realized the second half of my life was going to be great. I could do what I wanted

without being noticed. I had gained a superpower; I was invisible.

I couldn't wait to test it out.

A few months later, I was out for a late autumn run in the South End of Boston and reached a popular, shoreline beach. Though I had no bathing suit or towel, I really wanted to swim. Running to the water's edge, I stripped to my skin and walked into the water. I was barely noticed (pun intended). Keeping an eye out, I saw a few casual looks my way that drifted off with no more interest than if I was a floating seagull. My heart skipped with joy. I was an elder! Attracting less attention and being given a wide birth.

What a gift!

Perspective really is everything.

For more information about Sandra Dee Owens visit: [sandradeeowens.com](http://sandradeeowens.com)

## Living the dream:

from page 25

bumps, lost in a flow that feels like paddling a canoe across a white capped lake. This isn't that — but it's close. You have to move your femurs away from you and then pull them back in, lots of energy coming through the hip sockets as you manipulate the ski down and out of the troughs.

I've got myself back together. I'm like a duck. Smooth on the top and paddling like hell underneath. My upper body stays focused on the fall line, my shoulders looking straight down the zipper while my skis swing underneath me and my body compressed like an accordion with each breath. My poles, obviously too long for the bumps on Outer Limits, replanted just a bit further outside the line than the Legends.

I tell myself every year that I should get some shorter poles for spring bumps on the Glacier, but I never remember. My sister uses kid poles, hers are so short and I always felt like I would forward onto my face if I ever used poles shorter than 46 inches. I love the feel of my big flower baskets as they drag behind me, almost like a third leg sometimes. I know, it's a bad habit. But it's my bad habit and everyone has to have a little steaze, right?

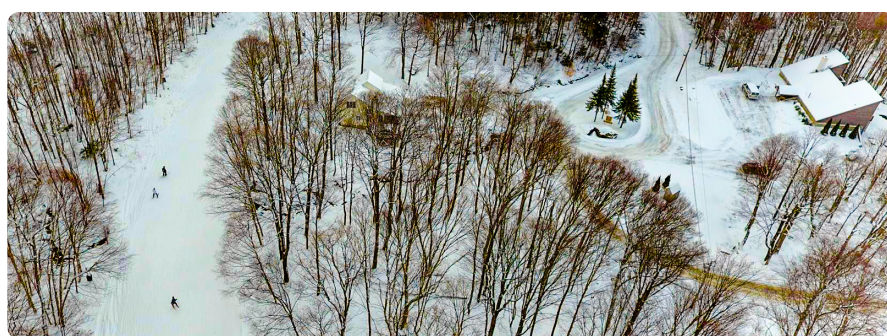
I wish the OL chair was running so I could hear the heckling on my very Alpine turns in these big moguls. But that chair will be running this weekend, with the tailgating running in full force as the Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge takes over the resort (or at least the entire South Side).

There is nothing quite so "Killington" where our best take each other on and a full winner takes all the glory event. I've never had the courage to put myself out there, but damn do I love to watch the hot dogs show off while I drink a round in my best old school outfit. I'll see you all at the bottom, cheering on all the challengers. Because you know: Outer Limits is where Legends are made.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, a KMS coach, bartender, and local realtor. You can reach her at [femaleskibum@gmail.com](mailto:femaleskibum@gmail.com).



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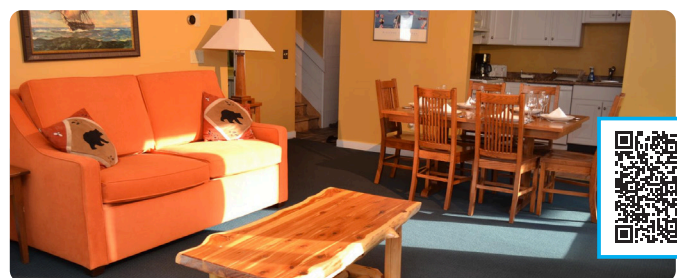
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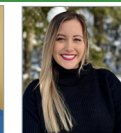
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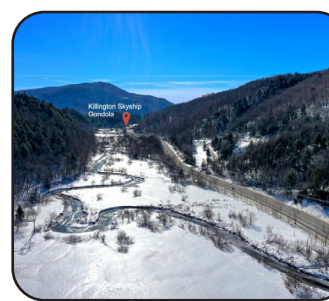
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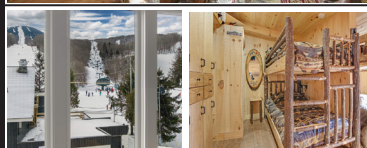


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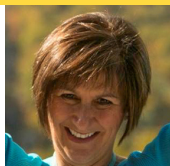
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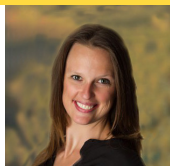


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