



By Pat Wise

SIGNS OF SPRING

Crocuses bloom on the hill near the Godnick Adult Center.

Page 2



SUMMER CAMP SIGNUPS ARE UNDERWAY

Is your child registered for summer camp? It's time to sign up and take advantage of the area's diverse offerings — from theater to aviation.

Page 14



EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is Sunday, April 9. The region offers egg hunts, sunrise services and more.

Page 17



TROUT SEASON OPENS SATURDAY

Despite lingering snow, Vermont's trout fishing season opens April 8. Fish in the lower valleys and in deep holes for early season success.

Page 23

\$3.475 million sets new sales record for single family home

Mountain retreat was on the market for just 3 days with multiple offers

By Karen D. Lorentz

The most expensive house in Killington sold last week, on March 28, for \$3.475 million after multiple offers, marking the first single-family home in Killington to sell for more than \$3 million.

The previous record was \$2.725 million, noted Kyle Kershner, broker/owner of Killington Pico Realty, who listed the new record home at \$3,250,000.

The single-family home, called Skyward, was built in 2004 by renowned local builder Rick Moore and has never been on the market.

Kershner said, "Skyward is a slopeside masterpiece offering a rare combination of convenient ski access, beautiful mountain views, and luxury amenities."

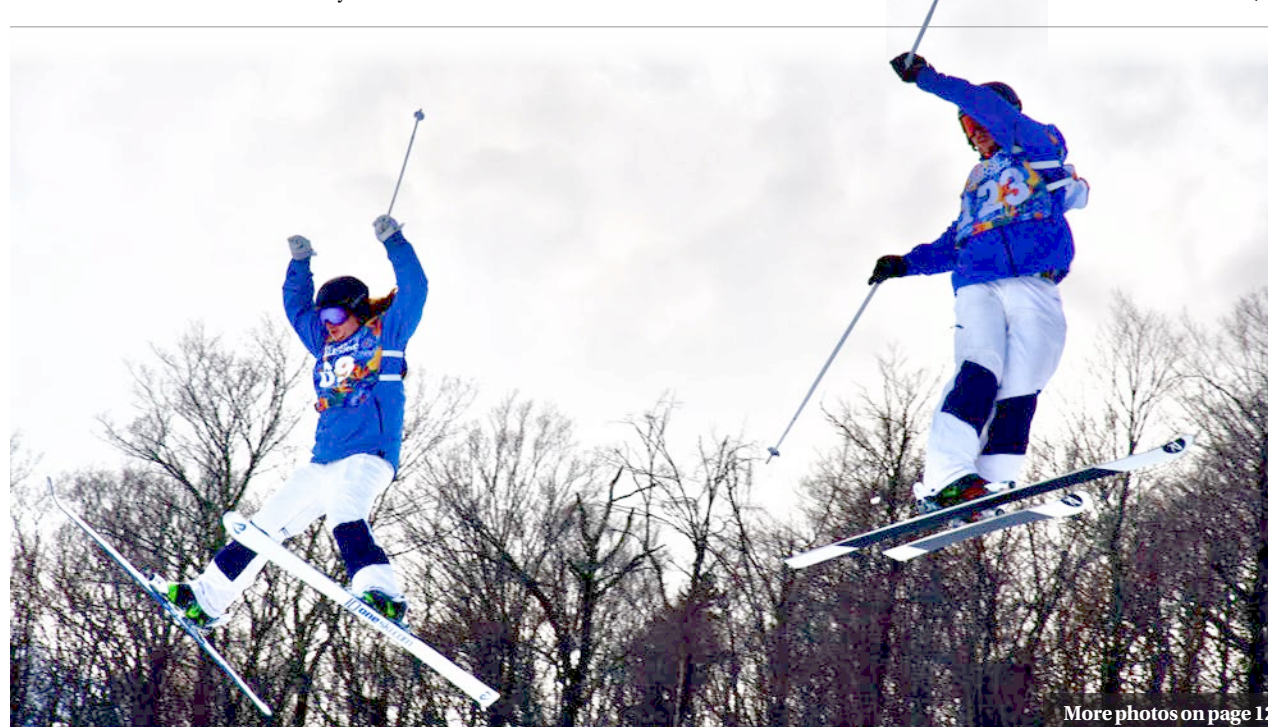
The home features 5,076 square feet of living space on three levels and is located directly on the Great Eastern ski

trail. The main level features vaulted ceilings and walls of windows providing an abundance of natural light and an open and airy feel to the living space, Kershner added.

He noted that modern amenities, high-end finishes, York stone flooring imported from England, reclaimed vintage oak beams, mantels and flooring offered a distinctive warmth and rustic charm that appealed to the prospective buyers. There are three bedrooms and three guest suites and all have their own full bathrooms. The primary bedroom suite boasts a fireplace, a soaking tub carved from a single piece of granite, a glass-enclosed marble shower, and a private balcony overlooking the ski trail.

Amenities include a temperature and humidity-controlled wine cellar; a ski vault and cubby room with heated lockers

Record home → 3



More photos on page 12

By Jerry LeBlond

Soft bumps, sun delight BMMC competitors, spring party attendees

The forecast of rain turned out to be mostly an April Fools joke Saturday, April 1, delighting all at the Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge.

Bill would give state control of property appraisals

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

A bill that would give the Vermont Department of Taxes control of property appraisals passed the House on Wednesday, March 29.

H.480 would require property reappraisals to take place at least every six years and would move the responsibility for those reappraisals from municipalities to the state.

The reimagining of Vermont's property valuation system, which would gradually take effect over the next few years, would bring the state in line with the rest of the country,

the bill's sponsor, Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, said on the House floor on Tuesday.

"No other state in the nation manages reappraisals at the town level," Kornheiser said.

Unlike many states, Vermont does not require towns to update their property values on a regular basis. More than 100 towns have not

"No other state in the nation manages reappraisals at the town level," Kornheiser said.

a dearth of appraisers has delayed the process. And with the real estate market ballooning in the last two years, towns' grand lists — the list of every taxable property in a community — no longer reflect reality.

Currently, reappraisals are trig-

gered when the state determines that the property values on a town's grand list no longer accurately reflect what properties are selling for. The state adjusts for out-of-date property values using the common level of appraisal, or CLA, which adjusts property owners' tax bills to more accurately reflect a property's value. If H.480 becomes law, it would nix the CLA as a trigger for reappraisals.

While the vast majority of towns are now under a reappraisal order,

The legislation leaves much of the implementation for a statewide

Appraisals → 7

New childcare center seeks to open in Woodstock

By Katy Savage

After her child was kicked out of daycare, Caroline Olsen decided to start her own facility in Woodstock.

Olsen, who owns the Nutty Life, an organic plant-based milk company, with her husband Craig Olsen, plans to open her nonprofit, The Mill School, in June in the same East Woodstock business complex that houses Nutty Life.

Olsen said the idea started when one of her children, now 4, was kicked out of Rainbow Playschool in Woodstock last January.

Olsen filed a complaint with the state alleging her child was wrongfully dismissed after she complained that Rainbow failed to accommodate her son's severe garlic and sesame seed allergy. She also said the school was non-compliant with the proper student-to-teacher ratio.

Olsen brought her complaints to the Department of Children and Families last March, which led to a site visit and state investigation. Rainbow was cited for operating out of ratio for two days in April 2022 but the investigation found no wrongdoing with the nut allergy, according to documents obtained through a

New childcare → 10



By Pat Wise

First spring flowers are in bloom in Rutland

Crocuses bloom on the hill near the Godnick Adult Center along Woodstock Avenue. Every year, the Rutland Garden Club plants 1,000 crocus bulbs, which are among the first flowers to bloom.

Proctor to vote on what constitutes a public nuisance

New rules on backyard chickens lead residents to petition for a special vote April 19

Staff report

PROCTOR — Enough chicken owners in Proctor are upset about an amended town ordinance that puts restrictions on owning fowl that they have called for a town-wide vote to decide the matter.

The petition for the vote was submitted to the board with 68 names of registered voters, and on March 13 the select board voted to set April 19 as the date for a special town meeting. The vote will be held from the floor of the Proctor Free Library at 6 p.m.

The amendment to the public nuisance ordinance was adopted by the board Jan. 23 and became effective March 24. The previous rules didn't apply to people keeping chickens in the more rural areas of town.

Previously, the town's rules governing chickens were under the zoning bylaws, amending public nuisance ordinance to include these rules makes them apply to the entire town. Zoning laws are more about guiding development rather than enforcing rules like these.

The Select Board was advised by legal experts that zoning bylaws are not the most appropriate place for these types of rules.

The amendment was the result of individual board members, along with the town manager, receiving complaints about chickens that were not respecting property boundaries throughout town, according to a special town meeting FAQ sheet on the town's website.

In response to these complaints, the Select Board added following rules to it's Public Nuisance Ordinance that did not already exist in the zoning bylaws:

"No livestock, swine or hogs shall be kept within 100 feet of any residence, dwelling house, or street. Livestock pens and yards must be kept deodorized by the application of dried muck, dry earth or some other effective absorbent or disinfectant; provided, nevertheless, that no person, persons, firm, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity shall keep or maintain more than 4 swine or hogs within the limits of the city.

"No fowl or chickens shall be kept on property in such a manner as to cause a public nuisance and the buildings and yards shall be kept deodorized by the application of dry earth or some other effective absorbent or disinfectant. All fowl and chickens kept within the town limits shall be confined in an enclosure, and shall not be permitted to run at large. No more than twelve (12) fowl or chickens may be harbored on a single premises."

The current zoning bylaws say:

"The raising or harboring of livestock, including but not limited to horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, fowl or fur bearing animals shall be prohibited within the residential district unless the owner obtains the written approval of all property owners within one hundred (100) yards of the premises. Accepted agricultural practices are exempt from this section. Common household pets are excepted provided that there are not more than four (4) cats

Chicken ordinance → 7

Neshobe School reviews threat

Staff report

RNESU Superintendent Kristen Hubert sent an email to families Sunday, April 2 notifying them that a threat at Neshobe School was deemed "not credible" as rumors circulated on social media. But Monday morning, Hubert said "new information has been brought to light."

"Neshobe School is still conducting an internal review and investigation into the incidents," Hubert said in her email.

Neshobe serves pre-K to sixth graders in Brandon. School staff learned a student used specific and targeted threatening language against another after saying that they "could blow something up" using a water bottle with a flint attached to it.

The threat to blow something up was deemed not credible by the Brandon Police Department and Vermont State Police. The threat of targeted language was still under

investigation as of April 3.

In both instances, a behavioral threat assessment was conducted to identify, evaluate, and address potential threats to help schools distinguish between incidents where a student made a threat that is not actually legitimate (with no intent to harm) and other incidents in which the student does pose an actual threat of targeted violence.

"In all cases, the goal is to pair the student with proper school and community-based intervention and supports," Hubert wrote.

The school district, which has had a number of threatening incidents, is working with the Brandon Police Department to hire a school resource officer. Tyler Weideman, a former principal at Mill River Unified Union School District, was recently nominated to be the director of safe schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mendon Town Office now open by appointment only

Public officials site harassment

Staff report

MENDON — The Mendon Town Office is now open by appointment only, according to its website.

"Effective March 20, 2023, in an effort to increase Office Security, the Town Office will be open by appointment only," it states.

"The safety and wellbeing of the staff and volunteers that serve the town of Mendon is a priority,"

officials elaborated in an office-changes-statement. "It is our goal to provide a work environment free from harassment, vulgar language, insults, and threats, while continuing to provide excellent customer service to our residents, taxpayers, researchers and visitors.

"The town is frequently encountering person(s) coming into the office who

are very disruptive, with tirades sometimes lasting as long as 30 to 45 minutes, and occasionally coming into the office twice in the same day. These persons(s) involved are using profanity, yelling, making false accusations and derogatory remarks against office staff and community members.

"The Mendon town office
Mendon office → 11



Submitted
This home, called Skyward, built in 2004, broke a record last week. It sold for \$3.5 million after multiple offers, marking the first single-family home to sell above \$3 million in Killington. The previous record was \$2.7 million

← **Record home:**
from page 1

and boot dryers; and a covered hot tub, complete with custom lighting, sound system, retractable canopy and individual towel heaters.

Daniel Pol, associate broker at Killington Pico Realty, was the agent who sold the property. It was on the market for just three days.

Kershner said he listed the property “at 8 on a Friday morning and at 8:12 a.m., the phone rang and by 8:18 a.m., we had our first offer. The prospective buyer called from his ski home at the Yellowstone Club at Big Sky, Montana. His offer was made site-unseen, based on the high-resolution professional photos, videography, and 3-D virtual tour.”

The other three buyers viewed the property in person and all followed through with solid offers, he added.

The responses were indicative of the increasing demand for quality luxury ski-in/ski-out properties, Kershner said. In all the years preceding 2021, there were just 20 sales in Killington over \$1 million, but in 2021 and 2022 alone, there were 20 luxury sales above \$1 million, including three sales in the mid-to-upper \$2 million range.

After lagging other resort towns in Vermont for high-end real estate, Kershner believes that the Killington luxury market has finally attained a “critical mass” and the town now has “a reputation for offering a community of high-end luxury homes.”

Significant demand trend

“This sale is about the demand for luxury, ski-in/ski-out properties,” Kershner observed, adding that, “All 24 of the initial Base Camp at Bear Mountain units have reservations to purchase... These are all positive indicators that there will be significant demand for the product that Great Gulf plans to build as part of the Six Peaks Killington Village.”

Since the Covid pandemic hit in March 2020 and temporarily brought real estate activity to a standstill, the real estate market has rebounded with tremendous demand. That demand was precipitated by several factors, including: short-term rentals (mainly through AirBnB and VRBO); the exodus from the cities of buyers who were interested in Vermont as a safe haven and because working remotely has become increasingly common; and

an enhanced reputation of Killington Resort and the town as a year-round vacation destination, Kershner said.

Resort investments in both winter (new lifts, new trail flow, new lodges) and summer attractions and activities (mountain biking, events, adventure park); the hosting of the World Cup; and the offering of a year-round Beast 365 season pass have attracted more vacationers.

The expansion of Killington Mountain School programs and offering of summer children’s camps run by the town also have contributed to the “hot” real estate market in the Killington area that originally began in 2019, Kershner noted.

“A 2019 VACASA study named the Top 25 markets for buying a vacation rental and listed Killington as No. 2 in the nation. If things keep moving in this direction,” Kershner believes, “Killington will soon be ranked as the number one place to buy a vacation property in the nation.”

While real estate in other areas of the country have begun to slow down a bit, only lack of inventory has thus far limited Killington’s growth.

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VTF&W is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when traveling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving near ponds and wetlands where salamanders and frogs are crossing during their breeding season.

Slow down for frogs and salamanders

Vermont Fish and Wildlife (VTF&W) is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when traveling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving roads near ponds and wetlands that salamanders and frogs cross during their breeding season.

"One of the benefits of checking out amphibian road crossings," says Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff, "is that you can see many individuals and species in a short period and small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year. The spotted

and blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group called the "mole salamanders," because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps, and are rarely seen until the next spring."

Road crossings are also a great way to see rare or otherwise hard-to-find species, which biologists rely on for data collection. For example, the four-toed salamander is rare in Vermont, and its distribution is not well understood. This information is used by Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners

to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers in road construction plans that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to more safely cross roadways.

Groff is encouraging Vermonters to explore their nearby roads and report amphibian road crossings to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form. If you can safely take photos of the amphibian species crossing, please include them.

For more information or to donate visit: vtfishandwildlife.com.

State awards over \$200,000 in Planning Funds to Brattleboro, East Hardwick, West Windsor

West Windsor was one of three towns awarded a grant to create a master plan to better connect the village to Mount Ascutney by enhancing the streetscape, exploring redevelopment opportunities, and improving the economic vitality of the village.

The Agency of Transportation (AOT), the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) announced March 30 that \$258,000 in funding has been awarded to Brattleboro, East Hardwick, and West Windsor through the Better Connections Grant Program, which seeks to towns build stronger communities that are more livable and walkable.

"This collaborative work with our state partners enables Vermont communities to plan and grow in a thoughtful, well-coordinated way to integrate transportation, land-use planning, and economic development decision-making," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn.

"This program's focus on community-driven engagement empowers local leaders to plan transportation investments that are more equitable to all users, improve public health, revitalize communities, and clean our waters," said Housing and Community Development Commissioner Josh Hanford.

Brattleboro will create an action plan to improve the Canal Street Corridor with pedestrian and safety improvements, strengthen connections to their local assets, and incorporate green infrastructure to improve water quality along the corridor.

Hardwick will create a revitalization plan for East Hardwick village that will guide future economic development, land use, and transportation infrastructure investments and provide better connections to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

"This program's focus on community-driven engagement empowers local leaders to plan transportation investments that ... revitalize communities," said Hanford.

4-Hers attend regionals at the Hub CoWorks in Rutland

The 2023 Southwest Regional 4-H Day was held March 25 at the Hub CoWorks in Downtown Rutland.

The annual event showcased the talents of 34 4-Hers from three counties, providing an opportunity for them to demonstrate what they have learned through University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H projects. Along with earning ribbons, the top stage performances, posters, illustrated talks and other category entries also qualified for 4-H State Day, May 6 in Barre.

Entries selected for 4-H State Day in Rutland county:

Illustrated Talk: Anna Campopiano, Mount Holly ("Basic Hoof Care"); Thea Chase, Mount Holly ("Diet of a Healthy Horse"); Chase Stone, Wallingford ("The Horse").

Maker/Tinker: Kayleigh Briggs, Pittsford (over-the-head mask of Jasper, a book character, with laptop presentation).

Photography: Olivia Bullock, Rutland Town ("Aries").

Poster: Kelsey Davis, Clarendon ("Appaloosa Horse Braids"); Paisley Flanders, Clarendon ("How to Saddle a Horse"); Julianna Gouchberg, Clarendon ("Customer Service"); Juliette Michael, Wallingford ("Face Markings of Horses"); Ashlynn Pikkarainen, East Wallingford ("Facts about the Shire Horse"); Brie Pikkarainen, East Wallingford ("4 Basic Gymkhana Horses"); Jenna Pikkarainen, East Wallingford ("Nokota"); Amie Thurston, Clarendon ("Different

Colored Tail Ribbons").

Sewing: Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town (hobby horse).

Stage Presentations (individual): Apple Laraway, Brandon ("Perfectly Loved," song); James Shorey, Fair Haven ("This is Home," song); Aliza Smith, Tinmouth (two entries: "I Know This Now" and "Never Enough," songs); Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town ("I'll Fly," puppetry); Adeline White, Pittsford ("Pulled," song).

Stage Presentations (group): Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town, and Adeline White Pittsford ("Sink Away," puppetry and song); Anna Weideman, Rutland, and Adeline White, Pittsford ("Shallow," song duet); Rutland Performance and Arts Club (members: Kayleigh Briggs, Pittsford; Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town; Anna Weideman, Rutland; Adeline White, Pittsford; "Soldier, Poet, King," song); Rutland Performance and Arts Club (Participating members: Kayleigh Briggs, Pittsford; James Shorey, Fair Haven; Aliza Smith, Tinmouth; Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town; Anna Weideman, Rutland; Adeline White, Pittsford; "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile," song).

Tabletop display: Landon Bullock, Rutland Town ("Horse Grooming"); Olivia Bullock, Rutland Town ("Horse Leg Protection"); Olyvia Rooney, Rutland Town ("Clydesdales"); Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town (two entries: "Horse Breeds Around the World" and "What to Do in Case of a Barn Fire").



By Tracey Stubbins/UVM Extension
4-H Lucia Stubbins, Rutland Town, entertains visitors at the 2023 Southwest Regional 4-H Day, March 25, with her puppet.

Hartland board appoints acting town manager

By Curt Peterson

Hartland Finance Administrator Martin Dole was appointed as acting town manager Monday, April 3, after Town Manager David Ormiston was placed on paid leave last week.

Dole, who has been finance administrator for five years, will temporarily hold both positions while the necessary adjustments are made following Ormiston's suspension. Michelle Rielly, Dole's assistant in the finance office and the wife of Select Board member Jim Rielly, has agreed to invest additional hours needed to help him cover both posts.

Martin Dole was born in Vermont, and has lived in the state most of his life. He and his wife Anita moved to Hartland in 1990, and have two sons – Spencer, 28, and Brandon, 24, who both attended Hartland Elementary School.

"I am humbled by this appointment," Dole told the Mountain Times. "I enjoy both jobs, so I look forward to whatever the future brings."

Before joining the Hartland staff, Dole was controller at Gateway Motors in White River.

Dole's appointment eases a lot of



Martin Dole

general anxiety that began when Town Clerk Brian Stroffolino read a statement to the Select Board condemning an individual town employee for unacceptable behavior towards fellow employees, referring to the now-suspended Town Manager David Ormiston.

Stroffolino's accusations inspired a rash of posts from residents, some of whom had themselves experienced

what they considered disrespectful treatment by Ormiston.

Phil Hobbie, the Select Board chair who has carried the ball through much of the transition, told the Mountain Times, "I'm feeling tired and worn out, but am relieved that we finally seem to be on the 'other side' of this issue."

He is still busy doing things behind the scenes that he can't talk about publicly, and the board and entire town staff are responding to small things as they come up, such as calls people had expected to be returned by the previous manager, but were not noted anywhere.

"We are just apologizing and promising to take care of whatever matter is involved, as soon as possible," Hobbie said.

Hobbie said he doesn't know the approximate increase in hours to be required of Rielly.

"We just have to leave much of the details involved in adjusting to his new situation to Martin," he said. "We're all still getting used to things, and I am so grateful that the town staff is stepping up to do whatever is needed to help with the transition."

Moving Day

Moving Day in the world of golf often refers to Saturday's third round play at the annual Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta Country Club. This is often when top players move

into contention for Sunday's final round for the championship.

In legislative circles, last week could have just as easily been referred to as Moving Week for the major pieces of legislation under consideration heading into the final third of the session.

In the House, the annual transportation bill, the capital projects construction bill, the education property tax yield bill, and the annual appropriations bill for the FY24 state budget, all passed. The Senate



By Rep. Jim Harrison

approved a major new childcare bill and a housing initiative. Now they will be going from the House to Senate or vice versa for consideration and possible changes. All will be in the mix in the final weeks of the session.

Arguably, the only bill that must pass each session is the state budget. Everything stops on July 1 if a new budget hasn't been signed into law. H.494, the annual appropriation legislation, the budget, was approved by the House on a 111-38 vote, enough of a margin to override a gubernatorial veto, should one occur. And perhaps planning for such, leadership has already notified members to keep June 20-22 open for a potential veto session.

For the first time in recent memory, the bill came out of the House Appropriations Committee on a split vote (8-4) instead of being unanimous. On Wednesday, March 29, Governor Scott held a press conference criticizing the increased level of spending and failure to retain \$150 million in reserve funds he proposed for required state matches to federal infrastructure grants.

The Democratic majority, led by Speaker Krowinski, countered with their own press briefing proclaiming, "Vermonters, we have your back," referring to increases in various government support services.

The administration originally proposed a budget with an 8% increase in ongoing base spending to maintain existing services, increases in state employee wages and benefits, pension contributions and \$50 million in new childcare support.

The House budget ups that to a nearly 12% increase in base needs. The budget also includes one-time increases for startup costs for the House's proposed family leave program, housing investments, support for those in the hotel voucher program and additional funds for childcare.

The House also approved increases in motor vehicle and operator license fees by approximately 20% to the tune of \$22 million annually.

Scott is vehemently opposed to the new fees, arguing that his budget proposal negated the need for them. Proponents of the increased fees maintain that many have not increased since Phil Scott was elected in 2016 and needed to keep up with inflation. Furthermore, the new revenue will be needed for state matches to federal grants that had already been spent by House budget writers.

Another major area of contention between the legislative majority and the Governor is the new taxes required to pay for the Senate's childcare bill, which is significantly more generous than his proposal and is funded by repealing last year's child tax credit and adding a new payroll tax. Under the Senate plan, families up to \$185,000 in income would get help paying for childcare, with the lowest income families getting it free.

Other issues of interest:

- The House approved a major expansion of Vermont's bottle deposit system. Concerns were raised that it would increase the cost of products, like juice, wine, and bottled water to cover handling fees paid to redemption centers and sending trucks around the state to pick up the containers and get them to

Harrison → 7

Bills make their way to crossover

What an intense and productive two weeks it has been in the Vermont Legislature. Crossover is largely finished, and with it, the passage of many bills from one chamber to the other. Getting this much work, representing the first half of this 2023 session, presented on the floor in each chamber meant we had very long floor sessions rich with robust debate.

In addition to the policy drama of negotiating the last pieces of important bills, the Senate experienced a personal drama as Sen. Ram Hinsdale, the only pregnant Senator in recent memory, had to be taken to the hospital, where she'll be until her baby is born sometime in the next few weeks. This meant some of us had to step in to present the bills she was to have reported.

The Senate passed on to the House many of its top priority policy bills which address a range of issues: Housing S.100, childcare S.56, ranked choice voting S.32, divesting from fossil fuels S.42, the Pact labor bill S.102, an update to our discrimination and equal pay laws S.103, a sheriff oversight and reform bill S.17, reducing violence in our communities S.4, to miscellaneous agriculture, education, judiciary and transportation bills.

I presented three of these bills on the Senate floor this past week: the housing, divestment and labor bills. The housing bill S.100 known as the HOME (housing opportunities made for everyone), balances Vermont's need to build more housing with protecting our undeveloped environment. This bill promotes denser development in areas designed to grow, in our designated downtowns and village centers which have the infrastructure (water, sewer, transportation). It allows for multi-family housing in all neighborhoods and up to five housing units per acre in areas served by water and sewer. In appropriately served smart growth areas it allows for many more priority housing projects which are exempt from Act 250. The bill invests close to \$90 million in workforce and middle-income housing, in



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

the renovation of vacant, blighted, or non-code compliant rental units, in creating accessory dwelling units, in mobile home parks (homes and infrastructure), and in expanding our successful home-sharing opportunities across the state. It creates a new eviction rescue fund to help tenants stay in their apartments, and it creates a rental housing revolving loan fund to support new rental units for middle-income households. Finally, the bill asks that the study on Act 250 currently being done by the natural resources board include a review of the housing development triggers for Act 250.

With S. 42, the divestment bill, Vermont finally takes a step toward divesting its pension funds of fossil fuels. It does so in a thoughtful phase in fashion in a process negotiated by our treasurer, the Vermont pension investment commission, the environmental community, and the Legislature. It's important that Vermont be consistent in both our policy and our investments. We shouldn't be using state funds to support activities we are trying to phase out. Our Global Warming Solutions Act sets goals for reducing the state's carbon footprint through our emissions. However, our carbon footprint is also in our investments – and this bill puts us on the path to decarbonizing them as well. The bill asks for a review of what fossil fuel investments are held in our pension funds and establishes shorter and longer term goals for a divestment process. The Treasurer supports this work as the bill makes clear divestment is only to take place if it is financially prudent and consistent with sound fiduciary practice.

S.102, the PRO Act (Protect the Right to Organize) bill, gives more Vermonters the opportunity to join or form a union. It allows agricultural and domestic workers to organize, prohibits captive audience meetings (meetings at which an employee is required by the employer to listen to religious or political speech) and it allows for majority sign-up, or the card check – a more democratic method for employees to organize a union.

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

Vermont House advances stricter regulations on private schools taking public tuition

By Peter D'Auria/VTDigger

Vermont House lawmakers advanced legislation to tighten regulations on private schools that educate students paid for with public money, including a provision that would limit those schools' ability to turn away publicly-funded students.

The House voted Wednesday afternoon, March 29, to give preliminary approval to H.483, a bill that would strengthen anti-discrimination measures, place a moratorium on new independent school approvals, and make it nearly impossible for independent schools to reject publicly-tuited students.

The legislation was written to underscore Vermont's "core values, such as inclusion and freedom from bias and discrimination in admissions, educating our students close to family and home, and responsible and transparent use of taxpayer dollars," said Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, the chair of the House Education Committee, who reported the bill Wednesday.

Under the proposed legislation, independent schools — aka private schools — would need to affirm that they would comply with state anti-discrimination rules and would be subject to more oversight from public school officials.

The bill, which is up for final approval in the House Thursday, also would limit tuition payments to within 25 miles of Vermont's border and would place a moratorium on new independent school approvals after Aug. 1. Most of the other provisions would take effect in July.

But the bill's thorniest provision is one that would effectively bar private schools from turning away students whose tuition was paid with public money.

Mill Moore, the executive director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association, said Wednesday that his organization had largely been shut out of testifying about the legislation. Moore said he had reached out to the committee "over and over" asking to testify, to no avail.

"We have been excluded all the way down the line," he said.

The organization opposes key aspects of the bill, including the moratorium on new school approvals and the open enrollment mandate. Moore used the example of a casual skier seeking public tuition to attend a ski academy.

"If there was an open admissions requirement," he said,

"the school would not be able to say to that student, 'Sorry, you would be a fish out of water in this environment, where everybody has a passion for winter sports competition, where everybody works out daily, and everybody is out there on the mountain training daily.'"

The bill passed out of the committee March 17, with language that would ban "an admissions process for publicly-tuited students that includes interviews, entrance exams, academic history, required campus visits, or consideration of ability to pay for any costs or fees."

But last week, the committee approved an amendment — one that would allow schools to weigh whether prospective students were in "good standing" at their previous school.

That language, which was based on a model policy from the Vermont School Boards Association, would have allowed an admissions office to consider a student's academic record and attendance record, as well as whether they had been suspended 10 or more times in the past year.

A day after the committee approved that amendment, however, Vermont's Office of Racial Equity sent a letter opposing it.

Allowing schools to consider students' academic, disciplinary and attendance records "would have foreseeable disparate outcomes on students of color, students with disabilities, and especially students of color with disabilities," the office wrote.

On Tuesday, the committee approved a final amendment, one without the "good standing" language, which the full chamber approved Wednesday.

The revisions have also drawn attention to the School Boards Association's model policy. Sue Ceglowski, the executive director of the School Boards Association, said the organization planned to revise the document after the Office of Racial Equity's letter.

"We have removed the model policy from our website and it is under review," Ceglowski said, noting that the organization's guidelines had always had language barring discrimination.

"We're very committed to acknowledging and disrupting any inequitable practices, acknowledging biases and creating inclusive multicultural school environments," she said.

The bill's thorniest provision is one that would effectively bar private schools from turning away students whose tuition was paid with public money.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife has reclassified the northern long-eared bat as endangered, Vermont habitats protected

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's reclassification of the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered status went into effect Friday, March 31.

In Vermont, the northern-long eared bat received a state endangered status in 2011 due to rapid and drastic declines caused by the deadly fungal disease white-nose syndrome. It received federal threatened status in 2015 after the disease had spread throughout the Northeast, but not the entire range of the species.

Following white-nose syndrome's expansion across the U.S. and Canada, the northern long-eared bat has experienced similarly dramatic population declines throughout most of its range. In Vermont, this once-common species of mature forest habitats has declined by 98% in the underground hibernation sites where it overwinters.

The reclassification may impact the buffer distances around known northern long-eared bat hibernacula and roosts in Vermont. "The federal reclassification will mobilize additional resources for northern long-eared bat conservation and recovery," said Vermont biologist Alyssa Bennett.



Submitted
The northern long-eared bat has been reclassified as endangered.

To pay for child care, state senators propose killing child tax credit

By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

To pay for another expansion of the social safety net, Democrats in the Vermont Senate are proposing axing an anti-poverty benefit they only just created last year.

The tax-writing Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday evening, March 22, advanced an amended version of S.56, the session's major child care bill, with a financing mechanism. All five Democrats present voted in favor, while the lone Republican on the committee, Sen. Randy Brock of Franklin County, voted against. (Sen. Mark MacDonald, D-Orange, was absent.)

To fund the bulk of the price tag, lawmakers are leaning on a payroll tax. But to bring down the cost of that new levy, the panel is recommending repealing Vermont's new child tax credit, which gives \$1,000 per child 5 and under to families making \$125,000 or less.

The latest figures from the Legislative Joint Fiscal Office estimate the parental leave and enhanced child care subsidies contemplated in S.56 would cost roughly \$160 million starting in 2025, the first full year of operation.

A natural growth in revenues to the state's general fund from existing taxes could be applied to \$49 million of the cost, but to fund another \$32 million of the proposal, the Senate Finance Committee's amendment would repeal the child tax credit. The balance would be funded through a payroll tax, split between the employer and employee, with workers contributing a quarter of the cost.

The child tax credit was billed by its champions in the Vermont House last year as a progressive anti-poverty measure that also took aim at the state's demographic woes. It was modeled on the federal tax credit that Congress temporarily expanded to \$3,600 per child 6 and under during the pandemic and which was credited with lifting millions of children out of poverty nationwide.

But the Senate was always more hesitant about the proposal and its costs. It initially suggested a much slimmer package — and one that sunsetted the tax breaks after three years. (The final bill negotiated between the chambers took out the sunsets.)

"This committee tried to sunset all the tax (credits) because we were concerned about an economic downturn and needing some of that money," Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, the finance panel's chair, reminded her colleagues Wednesday. "We failed."

The committee's new proposal has been met with concerns from administration officials and some on the left. Craig Bolio, Gov. Phil Scott's commissioner of taxes, has pointed out that, based on preliminary data, the poorest families have thus far been the greatest beneficiaries of the tax credit. Tax returns processed for this filing season through March 21 show that nearly 40% of tax credit claimants make so little that they already qualify for child care subsidies without a co-pay.

In written testimony, Stephanie Yu, president and executive director of the left-leaning Public Assets Institute, echoed Bolio and argued that while aggressive investments in child care were necessary, they did not need to come at the expense of other supports.

"Even when they're not paying for child care, families earning the average wage in Vermont cannot meet their basic needs," she wrote. "While child care is a big expense for families that use it, there are many other costs associated with children, including housing, food, and clothing that cannot be met at Vermont wage levels."

As advanced by the Senate's Health and Welfare Committee last week, S.56 also removed work requirements from the state's child care subsidy program.

But administration officials raised concerns that removing them would imperil the program's federal match, and the finance committee's amendment reintroduces them.

Senate passes bill forcing municipalities to allow denser housing

Legislature stops short of reforming Act 250, for now

By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

After a widely predicted floor fight did not materialize, senators last Friday came together, and, by a vote of 27-2, passed a wide-ranging housing bill intended to ease regulatory barriers to building.

Initially put forward in an attempt to make major changes to Act 250, Vermont's landmark land-use law, and to force municipalities to allow denser housing in areas served by critical infrastructure, the bill, S.100, now largely only does the latter.

Those local changes, however, would not be minor. The "Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone," or HOME bill, would effectively ban single-family zoning, allowing duplexes anywhere that currently only permits single-family homes. In areas served by water and sewer, tri- and four-plexes would also be allowed, and municipalities would also need to allow at least five units to be built per acre.

But Gov. Phil Scott's administration, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the business community, and

home builders have also been clamoring for significant revisions to Act 250, arguing that the 50-year-old law has stymied desperately needed development.

Fierce debate in the chamber's committee rooms has mainly focused on the so-called "10-5-5" rule. Act 250 review is triggered when someone attempts to build at least 10 units of housing within five years and a five-mile radius, and the bill initially sought

to increase that threshold to 25 units.

But a key constituency — environmentalists — have been adamantly opposed to the state-level reforms contemplated in the original bill. And they pushed lawmakers to delay any changes until reviews of Act 250, already commissioned by lawmakers, come back next year.

Following revisions in the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, the bill that advanced out of the chamber Friday does agree to the 25-unit threshold — but only in certain designated areas. And just as significantly,

that new 25-unit threshold would sunset in 2026.

But those areas only total about 41 square miles statewide, according to the administration. And for those calling for significant revisions or exemptions to Act 250, that's not nearly enough.

"I think that reforms to Act 250 aren't allowed in 99.7% of Vermont and that it's a little Pollyanna-ish to think that we're going to address our housing problems by only focusing on 0.3% of Vermont," said Josh Hanford, Scott's housing commissioner.

Those on both sides of the issue had spent the week furiously lobbying for and against a floor amendment expected Friday from Sen. Thomas Chittenden, D-Chittenden Southeast. That amendment would have re-introduced the 25-unit threshold for all towns with zoning regulations, which would have covered a little over half of the state. It also would have sunsetted after three years.

But by Friday, what was expected to be a close vote gave way to surrender. The bill's lead sponsor, Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden Southeast, who had initially sought the new 25-unit threshold statewide, offered her own amendment on the floor — to turn Chittenden's

Housing density → 36

The HOME bill, would effectively ban single-family zoning... In areas served by water and sewer ...municipalities would also need to allow at least five units to be built per acre.

← Appraisals: from page 1

reappraisal system up to the tax department. A series of reports, mandated by the bill, would allow the department to recommend changes in the reappraisal system and to create the process for appealing property valuations. The department would also be tasked with coming up with new categories for properties that are homesteads, which are primary residences, and non-homestead.

In explaining the bill to her colleagues, Kornheiser highlighted that national statistics show low-income people and people of color often have their properties overtaxed and undervalued at sale.

"This bill addresses a systemic piece of the wealth gap," she said.

Dissenting voices

Not everyone sees the transformation of Vermont's reappraisal system as a welcome change. Lisa Wright, president of the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association, said the group opposes the state takeover of reappraisals.

"We're kind of astounded," Wright said, "that this thing seems to be moving like a runaway freight train."

While the association's members generally support regularly scheduled reappraisals, Wright said, problems arise with state encroachment on local control.

There's no substitute for "boots on the ground" appraising, she argued, fearing that state officials appraising from their desks could produce unfair, "regressive" property valuations.

According to Wright, the state's property valuation and review division, which would handle the new system, is "already overburdened" and struggles to recruit the staff it needs.

"Why would the state have any easier job recruiting those people?" she asked.

Though Wright stressed some of her critiques were her own and not the association's, she believed many of the group's members share her views on H.480.

Unanswered questions

The bill faced opposition on the House floor from representatives who said it was too vague, especially regarding the to-be-determined property valuation appeal process.

"There's just a few too many questions that are unanswered for me," said Rep. Butch Shaw, R-Pittsford. "The biggest question is, what's going to happen in the appeal process?"

As a longtime lister, Rep. Mark Higley, R-Lowell, said he opposed taking away local control and placing power in the hands of state assessors.

"These assessors, they don't know the towns, they don't know the townspeople," he said.

Higley also took offense at the bill's findings regarding bias in assessing.

"To say that U.S. property owners of color are statistically more likely to have their properties overvalued during appraisals conducted for taxation purposes — not in my 28 years," he said. "This is a terrible bill. And I hope we vote it down."

But Rep. Scott Beck, R-St. Johnsbury, a member of the tax writing committee that drafted the bill, urged his partymates to support the legislation.

"We need to move toward something that is more steady, more reliable, that people have more confidence in, and this is a step in that direction," he said. "We don't have all the answers today as we stand here. We're going to learn a lot of things. But we need to start moving toward a system that works better than what we have now."

H.480 involves a one-time appropriation of \$50,000, Kornheiser told her colleagues. But for the most part, the changes proposed in the bill would be paid for with the money the state typically pays to municipalities to conduct reappraisals.

The bill passed on Wednesday by voice vote and next moves to the Senate.

← Chicken ordinance: from page 3

and /or dogs over six (6) months old harbored on an individual premise in the residential district. Chickens are permissible in the residential district as a common domestic animal, but roosters are not. No more than 12 chickens may be harbored on a single premise in the residential district."

Farms are exempt from these rules.

While the ordinance references all livestock, it's the section that amends the rules about keeping chickens that concerns most residents, according to Carrie Covey, who circulated the petition calling for the vote.

Covey is a former selectwoman, herself, and keeps chickens at her home.

In addition to being hard to enforce, it also is too over-reaching, she told the board.

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department is effectively the town's animal control officer, so they'd be responsible to respond if there's a complaint filed — something that has not worked very well for the existing rules, residents told the board.

For more information visit the town's website: proctorvermont.com.

← Harrison: from page 5

recycling centers. The state's largest waste management company also warned that it would increase the costs of recycling in the state. Proponents of the measure believe it will increase return rates of additional beverage containers.

- A new school construction bill gives \$16 million to Burlington, which is half of the \$32 million reserve in the PCB remediation fund to help them with their new high school. An amendment offered by Rep. Matt Walker, R-Swanton, that would have Burlington pay back those funds if their lawsuit was successful against Monsanto, was voted down after House Education and Ways and Means Chairs announced their opposition. Walker argued that the funds being appropriated to Burlington were paid for by taxpayers in every community and should come back to those who paid them if Burlington recouped their money through their lawsuit. (The amendment sounded like a no brainer, but leaders thought otherwise.)

- The Senate approved S.32, which would institute ranked choice voting in the state's presidential primary next year. A Vtdigger report on the topic likened it to going to the ice cream stand and having a backup choice if your preferred flavor was not available.
- The House approved legislation, H.483, which would prohibit independent schools from being selective in their admissions process if they accept public tuition students.
- Legislation that would nearly double legislators' compensation as well as add health care and childcare benefits, remains under consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In closing, along with fellow golf fans, I look forward to watching the Masters this coming weekend. I also wish all that celebrate a very Happy Easter and Passover.

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

GUEST EDITORIAL

Why aren't they listening to you?

By Jonathan Spiro

Editor's note: Jonathan Spiro is the former president of Castleton University. He lives in Rutland.

You may not have heard of Deloitte. But with over 400,000 employees and annual revenues of \$59 billion it is the largest professional services network in the world and the third largest private company of any kind in the entire United States. In early 2021, an official with Deloitte sent a 20-page report titled "The Hybrid Campus" to several high-level administrators of the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS), including the chancellor and the chair of the Board of Trustees. The thesis of the Deloitte report was that universities should take advantage of the Covid shutdowns and quarantines to create "fully hybrid" campuses that would permanently digitize "everything an institution offers, from academic advising, to courses, to career services."

It may be a coincidence that if universities go digital, outside consultants like Deloitte stand to make a fortune. But it is not a coincidence that over the past two years, the VSCS has wastefully spent millions of taxpayer dollars attempting to impose the Deloitte blueprint onto the unwilling campuses that comprise the VSCS (Lyndon, Johnson, VTC, and Castleton University). First, they pondered creating a virtual university in one fell swoop by closing the dorms and eliminating intercollegiate athletics at Castleton. Those efforts were stymied, so now they are trying a more gradual approach by closing the libraries as we know them and hauling away the books.

Their pretext is an unsubstantiated claim that firing the library staff will save the system \$500,000 a year. But I suspect that their primary goal is not to save money. After all, in the last two years, they have accepted millions of dollars from the legislature and created scores of new positions in the central office, many of whom are paid well over \$100,000 a year. If saving money is their goal, consider the fact that President Grewal is paid \$270,000 a year (plus a free house) (and a free car). The librarians he fired "because we must save money" earn \$40,000 a year (no free house; no free car).

So why—in the face of universal outrage—are they arrogantly determined to throw out the books whether or not it saves money? Because the VSCS is a guinea pig in their plot to create a hybrid university, complete with e.books, remote instructors, and virtual classrooms. I have no objections to online learning per se. Indeed, I was known at Castleton for enthusiastically embracing technology in my classroom. So I recognize that there is a place in higher education for a digital university. But that place is not in Vermont, for the obvious reason that online learning—contrary to the claims of the "experts" at Deloitte—is not what our students need in order to thrive. Equally importantly, there is the insuperable obstacle that a number of quasi-respectable institutions (University of Phoenix, Western Governors University, Liberty University) have already achieved dominance in the hybrid world by investing billions of dollars in technology and in national advertising campaigns. They are decades ahead of us, and any consultant who claims that we can catch up does not have the interests of Vermont's taxpayers at heart.

By the way, the Deloitte executive who circulated the report in 2021 advocating that "everything" a university offers should be digitized? She is now the influential vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the VSCS. (This is the place, dear reader, where you gasp). She is also chair of the Board's EPSL Committee, the powerful group that oversees educational policy and student activi-

One day...

students will read about the Deloitte-ization of Vermont as a case study in how to destroy public education.

VSCS → 11



Hunting for Real Eggs by Jeff Koterba, patreon.com:jeffreyykoterba

LETTERS

Reduce carbon footprint

Dear Editor,

On Monday, March 20, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its latest assessment on climate change, drawing on the findings of hundreds of scientists throughout the world. The assessment details the devastating impacts of rising greenhouse gas emissions, including destruction of homes, loss of crops, and fragmentation of communities.

Animal agriculture is responsible for at least 15% of manmade greenhouse gas emissions, including nitrous oxide from animal waste piles, methane from ruminant digestion, and carbon dioxide from burning forests to create animal pastures.

In an environmentally sustainable world, meat and dairy products in our diet must be replaced by vegetables, fruits, and grains, just as fossil fuels are replaced by wind, solar, and other emission-free energy sources.

Our supermarkets offers a rich variety of plant-based meat and dairy products. It enables each of us to reduce our carbon footprint, even as we improve our health and reduce animal cruelty.

Mario Vincelette,
Rutland

Fourth-grade student from Florida seeks information about Vermonters

Dear Editor,

I am a fourth-grade student in Miami, Florida. Our class is learning about the United States, and I will be teaching our school about the state of Vermont. At the end of April, I will create a display board for our school social studies fair that I hope will make you proud. Although I have gathered facts about your state from books and websites, I think that I can receive the best information from the people who live there. This is why I'm writing to you.

I am hoping that you would be willing to send me some items to help me learn more about the best and unique things in your state. You might consider sending items such as postcards, pictures, family stories, state folklore, souvenirs, newspaper articles, or any other unique items that would be useful or show your state pride.

Here are a few questions:

- What first brought your family there?
- What does Vermont

Info on Vt → 10

Keep Lake Bomoseen herbicide free

Dear Editor,

I was born and have lived in Central Vermont all of my life. I have been swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing on many local lakes as well as on nearby Lake George in New York. I raised my son here—in and on these lakes. This lake [Bomoseen] is one of Vermont's most important assets. We all cherish this lake. Four generations in my family have cherished this lake. I have noticed the changes in some of our waters. Many of our lakes are not as clean as they once were. Lake Bomoseen is now one of the cleanest. Many of the lake residents are using Lake Bomoseen as a source of their drinking water.

Lake George and Lake Bomoseen are among the cleanest lakes in this area. Lake George has made it known publicly that they will not resort to using herbicides in their lake.

Vermont is supposed to be an environmentally conscious state. That is why so many people move here. But it seems that many times the reasons end up being lost in the shuffle to maintain the lifestyle amenities of the extravagant home and urban lawns that they were used

Herbicides → 10

Not a good way to lead a team of dedicated volunteers

Dear Editor,

In the past few weeks, I have sensed several red flags in interactions of Mr. Lahart with the volunteers he was hired to lead. Here are a few:


- Mr. Lahart's claims to have received little information besides a box from KSAR. But others have said he was emailed information, including the KSAR Operations manual.

- Mr. Lahart, in dealing with KSAR—a group with their own chain of command and a fair degree of autonomy for well over eight years—expected the group to be able to instantly adapt to rigid military standards, without any real personal interaction or introduction. (This in comparison to the treatment afforded an inactive member of KFD who was personally contacted by Mr. Lahart and asked his concerns and suggestions, and given much information on Mr. Lahart's expectations.)

- Mr. Lahart's description of events of the meeting where his "guests" were introduced is greatly in dispute by all KSAR mem-

Leadership → 10

CAPITAL QUOTES



Donald Trump was arrested Tuesday, April 4 in New York City following a grand jury indictment announced by New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg last week for charges connected to a hush money payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels. He was expected to face 34 felony charges but will not be handcuffed or put in a jail cell, and will not have his mugshot taken. Trump was offered to be arraigned over Zoom, but opted for a highly publicized booking in Manhattan, according to the Rolling Stone.

“As you know and as I’ve personally witnessed my entire life, my father is a warrior. He will not let this sham indictment stop our mission to Make America Great Again! Our movement will prevail — just as we’ve prevailed after every other vicious attack,”

said **Donald Trump, Jr.**

“It’s kind of a Jesus Christ thing. He is saying, ‘I’m absorbing all this pain from all around from everyone so you don’t have to,’

a **law enforcement official** told Rolling Stone.

“People like Marjorie Taylor Greene, who is known to spread misinformation and hate speech, while you’re in town, be on your best behavior ... New York City is our home, not a playground for your misplaced anger,”

New York City Mayor **Eric Adams** said in a speech directed at Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green (R-GA), who was holding a rally for Trump.

“Very unfair venue. With some area that voted 1% Republican. This case should be moved to a nearby Staten Island — would be a very fair and secure location for the trial. Additionally, the highly partisan judge and his family are well known Trump haters,”

said **Donald Trump.**

DCF loses 30 out of 30 appeal cases; where’s the outrage?

By Emerson Lynn

Editor’s note: Emerson Lynn is editor emeritus of the St. Albans Messenger.

In 2018 the Vermont Parent Representation Center [NPRC] delivered an analysis of Vermont’s child protection system showing the system was deeply flawed, that children were taken from their parents for unsubstantiated reasons, and that parents were placed on a registry without the proper protocols.

The report was received with a shrug of the shoulders. Nothing happened.

The NPRC has since added to its research a report titled “The Substantiation Project,” which is an analysis intended to “test one of the most significant powers granted to state government: the power to substantiate [formally determine as guilty] a person for child abuse or neglect, and therefore place the person’s name on the Vermont Department for Children and Families [DCF] Child Protection Registry.”

It’s a stunning report. Outrageous, in fact.

The report can be summarized in one example: To test the system, the VPRC Substantiation Project accepted 30 appeals from people who had been judged by DCF as guilty of child abuse or neglect and whose names had been placed on the child protection registry. The appeals were not pre-screened, and no appeal was denied.

The result?

Every single one of the 30 appeals was reversed. Every one. 100%.

That’s not just astounding, it’s proof positive that the system is broken, that it needs changing. Vermont has more than 25,000 people whose names are on the registry, which is like one out of every 20 Vermont adults. How many should be? Why don’t more people appeal?

NPRC’s report shows why. It took almost three years for the tiny non-profit organization to go through the 30 appeals. It’s a process that would cost anywhere from \$10,000

30 cases were reviewed and then reversed; common sense says that is the tip of the iceberg.

to \$50,000 per appeal. Most Vermonters cannot afford the cost. And because so few people challenge the process, it’s not seen as a problem. There is no political motivation to force change. To the outside world, it’s a problem that doesn’t exist. And, for that same outside world, it’s a problem people don’t want to acknowledge, like corrections issues in general. Or mental health.

It’s an issue because anyone on the registry is basically unemployable. And, obviously, if they are falsely charged, the family’s children are also affected. It is an issue of what is just and what is not. For those 30 who had their guilty charges reversed, they obviously feel wronged. Justifiably. They were.

This social justice issue has finally attracted the interest of legislators. A bill, H.169, has been introduced to change “child abuse and neglect investigation and substantiation standards.” It also “changes the procedures for an individual to be placed on the Child Protection Registry and to petition

Vermont has more than 25,000 people whose names are on the registry, which is like one out of every 20 Vermont adults... anyone on the registry is basically unemployable.

for expungement from the registry.”

The bill is not intended to tilt the advantage from DCF to potential child abusers. In a recent letter to the editor, William Young, former Commissioner of Social and Rehabilitation Services, which is the precursor to DCF, confirms that the system that now exists is broken and that H.169 is essential to correct it. Mr. Young was in that role for 18 years and knows more about the issue, and the department’s inner workings, than almost anyone in Vermont.

When a former DCF commissioner warns about how broken the system is, that should be incentive enough to act. Or to at least pay attention and ask questions.

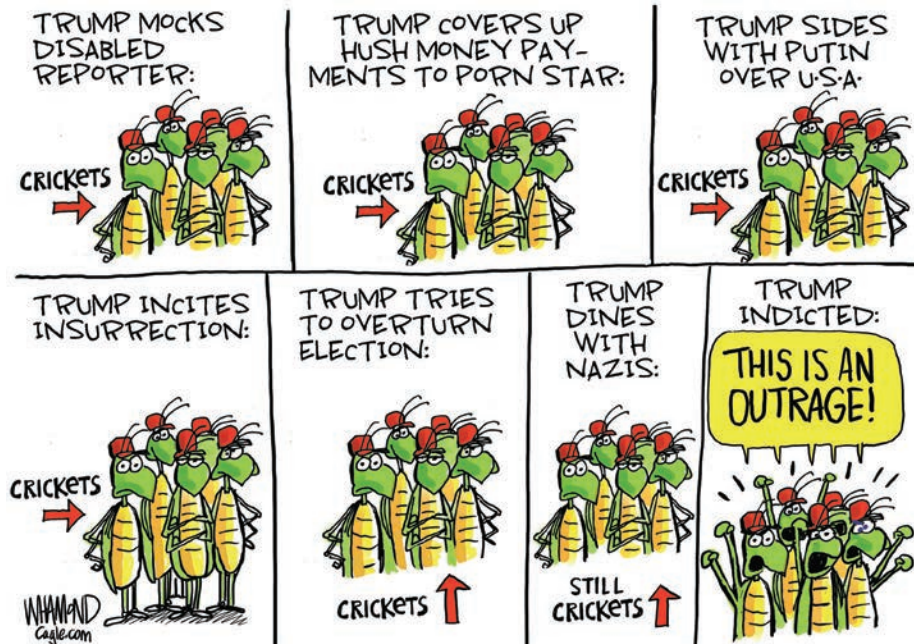
The bill’s proposed changes include a better alignment of the rules and regulations that guide the department’s operation. It intends to make sure investigations are “thorough, unbiased, based on verified evidence, and adhere to due process.”

It’s a given that DCF is critical of the legislation. The report points out the weaknesses of the existing system. But, in truth, the legislation should make DCF’s job easier and less fraught with expected legal challenges. It should increase the level of transparency, which the department desperately needs, and it should make DCF a better place to work. [Currently, the department is operating at diminished staffing levels, which makes the employees’ jobs more difficult and less satisfying.]

No one doubts the need to address child abuse and neglect. The state, through DCF, opens roughly 3,000 cases annually and finds a third of them guilty. Obviously, those children involved in cases of abuse and neglect need to be protected. But the best way to address the issue is to make sure the system is fair, that it makes sense, that the cross purposes are addressed, and that it is as transparent as legally possible.

H. 169 is a vital step forward and should be supported. What we have now does not work. It is unjust and highly unprofessional. It would be an outrage to allow it to continue. The convictions in 30 cases were reviewed and then reversed; common sense says that is the tip of the iceberg. Why are we waiting, and why is it not at the top of our legislators’ agenda?

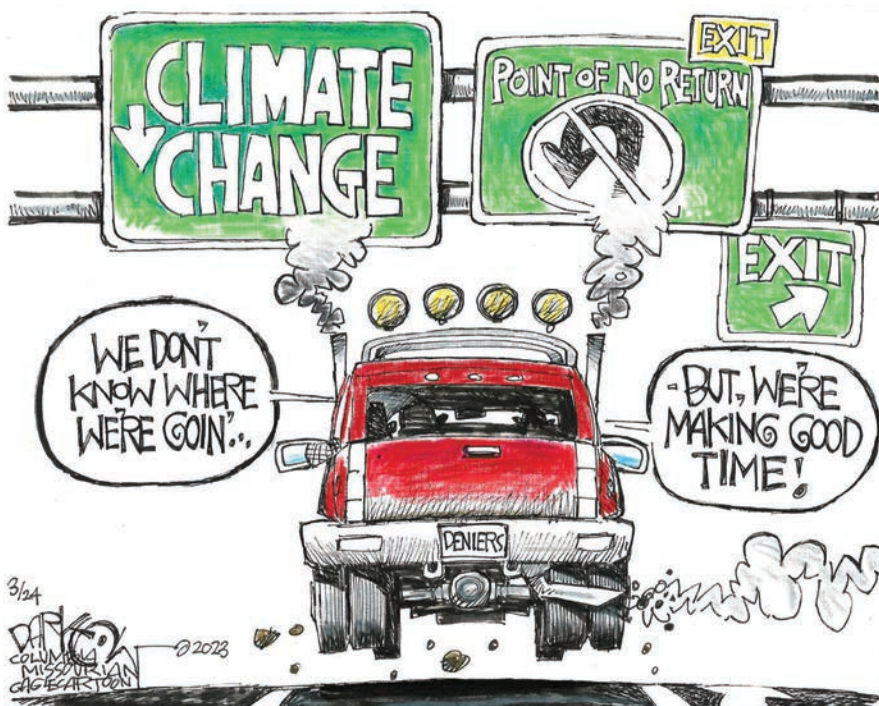
CARTOONS



Nothing but Crickets by Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons



Indictment Fingerprint by Bill Day, FloridaPolitics.com



Point of No Return by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

New childcare:

from page 1

public records request.

"It was determined that the program was nut free upon enrollment, and continued to be nut free, and did make modifications related to the sesame and garlic allergy," Licensing Field Specialist Bridget Sheldrick wrote in a June 2022 email.

Attempts to reach Leah Titus, the director of Rainbow Playschool, weren't successful.

Olsen said her issues with Rainbow are ongoing, but she wanted to turn her negative experience into something positive.

"We want to create a place where everybody is welcome and we can accommodate everybody," Olsen said.

Olsen has been holding childcare in her home for her three children, ages 4 months old, 2 and 4 with nanny Amanda Barry, a former Rainbow School employee, since last January.

"It's not ideal for us because we're using that as our office, too, sometimes," Olsen said.

Olsen said her issue with Rainbow is a symptom of a larger problem. If children are difficult to handle,

they risk being kicked out because childcare centers have long waiting lists.

"There's a mentality, I think, in childcare centers right now where we don't care about your child because there's 50 other parents on the waiting list and so we don't have to deal with this, with you, because we can just fill your spot with somebody else," Olsen said.

Devin Workman, a special educator at the Prosper School, started bringing his child to Olsen's house last July after running into a similar situation. His child was kicked out of Bridgewater Community Center after 21 days. Workman said his daughter had separation anxiety and cried during the day.

Workman, who runs the Windsor Central Supervisory Union summer program, said he was suddenly informed via email that his child wouldn't be able to return to daycare. Workman brought his daughter to work with him until he met Olsen in an online group chat.

"I always joke about that — we're the misfits," Workman said. "All of our kids have been kicked out of childcare."

Bridgewater Community Childcare Director Kristiana Birmingham declined to comment on Workman's dismissal, citing privacy reasons.

"I would need written permission from his family to speak about any child," she said.

Birmingham said the childcare center has 30-40 families on the waiting list.

Bridgewater is currently licensed for 14 children and is in the process of expanding to accommodate another 24 kids by December.

"I know a lot of people who still go to that childcare and they're very happy," Workman said. "I don't want to downplay that."

But, spots are limited.

"I have colleagues who haven't been able to come back because they can't find daycare," he said.

Workman will be part of the three-member board at the Mill School, to include Ol-

sen's husband and a third non-parent. Like Olsen, Workman said the new facility will accommodate students deemed difficult.

"Our mission of being able to support any and all kids, especially with my background in special ed — that's important to me as an educator and as a parent," Workman said.

Barry, who is in the process of taking over managerial responsibilities, has never led a childcare center, but has worked with children for 15 years. She's a licensed level one instructor, currently working on educational requirements to become level two certified.

"Amanda is very creative," Workman said. "They're often doing field trips and projects — things she doesn't necessarily need to do to be a nanny."

Olsen estimates it will cost about \$220,000 to open the new facility. She won a \$15,000 Startup Woodstock competition and she's seeking a \$90,000 grant from the Economic Development Commission. She has a \$12,000 pot of money for families in

Olsen estimates it will cost about \$220,000 to open the new facility. She won a \$15,000 Startup Woodstock competition and she's seeking a \$90,000 grant from the Economic Development Commission.

need of financial aid.

"Caroline is a total powerhouse," Workman said. "I feel optimistic and hopeful with her being the head of the ship here."

Olsen and Workman have been promoting the new facility through word of mouth. So far, there are 44 kids on the waiting list.

"We joke around that you need to tell the childcare facility you're pregnant before you tell your family so you're on the list and ready to go," Olsen said.

The Mill will be able to accommodate 17 children, ages 6 weeks to 3 years old, with a director and four full-time staff. Olsen said starting pay for teachers is \$20 — higher than neighboring child care centers, which pay teachers \$17 an hour to start. It will cost parents \$84 a day for students — about \$15 higher than other area providers.

"Our tuition is based on a break-even point," she said.

Olsen, who has a finance background, will be the business manager and substitute teacher when needed. "Because of our higher pay, we've attracted enough staff to come work for us," she said.

The future school, in the Mill business complex in East Woodstock, is a former artist's gallery. Olsen plans to make minor renovations to the open-concept space to install a small kitchen and bathroom. There will also be a separate room for infants.

The Economic Development Commission awarded Bridgewater Community Childcare, The Community Campus, Rainbow Playschool and Woodstock Christian Childcare \$330,000 in grants last January after an application process. The investment is expected to bring another 80 daycare spaces for infants through 5-year-old children.

The EDC is scheduled to meet again on April 6 to vote on awarding Olsen the grant.

← **Herbicides:**
from page 8

to. Not only do they want their laws urban, but they also want urban waterfront areas that are weed free as well. However, they often lose sight of the most important thing which is clean, pristine, environmentally safe water. Because without that they have sabotaged the reason for it all.

The herbicides and pesticides applied in and around the lake all end up in the lake. And anyone with a sense of intelligence knows that the consequences of this is very detrimental to the water quality. Most of those who are adamant in applying these chemicals do not reside here. Nor have the understanding to be able to cherish and appreciate the importance of preserving this water for not only our present use, but for that of future generations. Thousands of pounds of chemicals have been dumped into some of the local lakes within the last few years in hopes of eradicating the Eurasian milfoil. The Lake Bomoseen Association (LBA), the Lake Bomoseen

Preservation Trust (LBPT) and the Dep. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) all say these chemicals are safe and are pushing to apply them without consideration for all of us who only wish to be able to live and enjoy clean water.

One yearly treatment of these chemicals is not adequate. This process must be repeated every year. They maintain that these chemicals have no harmful effect, when in actuality, no one really knows what the long term effect may be. This treatment is also very expensive. What will be the outcome of repeated exposure to these chemicals years from now? What is it going to take to make these organizations see that this is our right as citizens of this state? Clean water is a right and we all have a right to have clean water. Our rights are being abused and violated. This lake belongs to the people of the state of Vermont. I believe this is unconstitutional and not what we stand for in the state of Vermont. Sincerely,

Linda Olson Carrington Brown, Castleton

← **Info on Vt:**
from page 8

- produce to export?
- What is your favorite part of living in Vermont?
 - What do people do for fun?
 - What animals live there that we may not find anywhere else?
 - Favorite Vermont food recipes or dishes?
 - Favorite team sports in Vermont?
 - What kind of food

ingredients does Vermont produce?

I will need to gather all of the information by the second week of April. You can mail these items to my school with the address below. I really appreciate your help!

Isabela DeRosa, Mrs. Cordovi, 4th grade, The Cushman School, 592 NE 60th St. Miami, FL. 33137.

← **Leadership:**
from page 8

bers present. Many took umbrage with Bob G. and Whit, whom were there as part of an evaluation (of equipment according to Mr LaHart's rebuttal). Mr. LaHart repeatedly referred to Bob G. as a founding member of KSAR without acknowledging there were actually three other founding members in the room who had been on the team and training continually after Bob G. quit eight-plus years ago due to conflict with the KFD.

• If chain of command is so essential, why is Leslie LaHart, an administrative assistant introducing evaluators? Most people would be confused at this, especially since the team already knew the guests personally. Mr. LaHart said he knew they were meeting so he wanted to inspect while they were there. Did he ever consider to inform the team ahead of time, or was it a surprise inspection designed to put their backs in a corner? Jen asking their qualifications in evaluating KSAR and/or its equipment is a very reasonable question, especially in light of the fact the police chief is not part of any SAR team, and Bob G. has not been on the team in many years. Bob G. reportedly replied "you don't need to know." Mr LaHart can say they were cordial, but that doesn't negate the fact the team was treated more like army grunts. I believe being "cordial" in manner yet insulting in context is the definition of passive-

aggressive.

• Why did Mr. LaHart insist on evaluation by another fire department when in fact there is state leadership in SAR, Drew Clymer as mentioned before? Is chain of command only applicable when he deems fit? I personally witness Mr. LaHart's and [Select Board member] Jim Haff's total lack of interest in anything Drew Clymer had to say in the recent Select Board

exhibit traits of bullying or sexism do not admit to such actions. In the end, none of the team was interested in firefighting. They are all volunteers and doing both would double the time commitment involved, not realistic, and totally illogical if he expects them to obtain higher certification levels in SAR.

• Why did Mr LaHart in his rebuttal of KSAR, attack former KFD fire Chief Gary

tal damage. A 4-6 person KSAR team could easily do this in less time and more responsibly with a litter and wheel, as they are trained to do. What would the purpose of Mr LaHart's "show of force" be? An ego boost? Is the wasted time and energy of our volunteers worth his pride? Did he ever consider money and manpower factored into previous protocols?

* It is apparent from the closing of his rebuttal of KSAR's letter in the Mountain Times that he considers the previous KSAR (and KFD?) a clubhouse/clique and nothing more. Just, wow! I believe many in this town supported the move to a municipal dept., but didn't expect such rude excoriation of the previous departments and leadership. I'm not in denial that our volunteer fire department has its issues in its culture. The reality is that all organizations do, even professional ones. It is volunteer, so almost by definition it has a social aspect to it, not to mention a system of members voting on issues. They are there for camaraderie as well as providing a public service. By the tone of his letter Chief LaHart is not giving them the tools to do the job to improve but rather just delegating the work and demanding it be done. They need leadership and the tools, not fire and brimstone.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Job McGrath, Killington

Many in this town supported the move to a municipal dept., but didn't expect such rude excoriation of the previous departments and leadership.

meeting, despite the fact he is designated by the state, under the authority of the state police to oversee all SAR operations in Vermont.

• Mr. LaHart claims to be neither a bully, nor sexist, yet three different women on KSAR spoke before the board of their experiences and feelings of being dismissed, that only women were skipped over when asked about wanting to be firefighters. Others on the team corroborated this. They weren't ever claiming they were denied an opportunity and couldn't sign up, they were speaking to the fact they were treated differently — less valued. In his own words: he told the men in the team to "reign her in" when referring to a female team leader. In my experience, people who

Roth? Because the team complimented his leadership? A seriously unwarranted and adversarial reaction.

• Mr LaHart also mentioned in his letter that he is "proactive" and unlike the mutual support when needed under previous leadership, he will call out the entire organization on every single call, regardless of the situation. While this sounds good on paper, what does it mean in action? Will he be calling out Engine 1 and trailer for the ATV to answer a call on the Bucklin trail, with all volunteers, for a broken ankle 2 miles up the trail? for Deer Leap? The ATV will provide no significant benefit in time or safety on either trail. It will however waste resources and cause significant environmen-

← **VSCS:**
from page 8

ties. She also chaired the search committee that hired Parwinder Grewal to be the President of Vermont State University. They imported him from Texas (where Deloitte is headquartered) and he is the man who announced that he is firing the librarians and discarding the books.

Let me be clear that I am not accusing anyone of doing anything illegal or even unethical. To the contrary, all the members of the Board of Trustees are public-spirited citizens who give generously of their time and do not profit financially from the Board's decisions. Furthermore, Deloitte executives have every right to join the Board and lobby for their views. My point is not that anything unethical has occurred. My point is that they are plunging into a disaster because they have imbibed the "hybrid" Kool-Aid from the corporate world. They have the right to do that. And we—the members of the tax-paying public—

have the right to oppose their scheme to build a Brave New World here.

One day, if books still exist, business students will read about the Deloitte-ization of Vermont as a case study in how to destroy public education. What can we do?

1. If you are an alum, decline to donate money to your alma mater until the Trustees affirm that future students can have the in-person, face-to-face education they need and deserve.
2. If you are a legislator, support Senator Collamore's bill that directs the VSCS to keep the libraries open.
3. If you are on the Board of Trustees, resist the administration's propaganda; challenge their made-up statistics; and put the needs of our students ahead of the interests of the third largest company in the country.

← **Mendon office:**
from page 3

is a municipal building, while the office is open and we are unable to prohibit anyone from entering. According to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), there is currently no law on the books in Vermont which would prohibit a person from speaking in a public space.

"Town cannot ban an individual(s) from entering the building, therefore, the only way to combat the verbal assaults is to close the office completely, allowing entry by appointment only — as was the case during the Covid pandemic.

"The Town is currently working with an attorney to seek a better solution to this problem. Any updates to this policy will be publicized through The Town of Mendon website, Facebook, and FrontPorch Forum."

The board is planning to meet with an attorney on April 6 for more advice on how to handle the situation.

The decision to close the office except for appointments only was made at the March 13 board meeting. While that decision didn't require a vote, the motion to seek an attorney's advice did. It passed unanimously.

For more information and future updates to the policy visit mendonvt.gov.



Courtesy town of Mendon FB

Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge; a spring party, a worthy competition

The annual Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge held Saturday, April 1, delighted crowds with soft bumps, a great party and even some unexpected sunshine! The much anticipated spring event at Killington Resort features amateur bumpers who take to the slopes of Outer Limits (the longest, steepest mogul run on the East Coast) 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. Speed and quality/difficulty of jump tricks are taken into account when each run is judged.



Photos by Jerry LeBlond





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WORDPLAY

'Letter writing' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions → 28

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

ADDRESS	DRAFT	MEANING	PLUME	SHEET
CARD	EMAIL	MESSAGE	POSTAGE	STATIONERY
COMPUTER	ENVELOPE	PENCIL	SCROLL	TEXT
CORRESPONDENCE	FILES	PENMANSHIP	SEALED	WORDS
DISCOVERY	LETTER	PENPAL	SECRET	

How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New Jersey on April 6, 1969. One of my first movie roles was in a “Halloween” franchise film. I’m particularly known as a comedic actor, but when I joined the Marvel franchise, I got to take on a superhero role.

Answer: Paul Rudd

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions→ 28

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Colas
7. Single-celled animals
13. The rear car of a train
14. Endangered
16. It cools your home
17. Helper
19. “The First State”
20. More aged
22. Partner to cheese
23. Type of wrap
25. From a distance
26. Satisfies
28. “Dallas Buyers’ Club” actor Jared
29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
30. Cooking utensil
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
33. Able to perform
34. Big man on campus
36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
38. Porticos
40. Alban and Peter are two
41. Gets up
43. Humble request for help
44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
45. Unhappy
47. Hint or indication
48. A way to plead
51. Digits

53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Jewish calendar month
56. Author Gore
58. Peacock network
59. White poplar
60. Promotional material
61. A period of calm
64. Take too much
65. Emit energy
67. Something you can take
69. Mended with yarn
70. Inconsistent
- CLUES DOWN
1. Calm down
2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
3. One who pretends
4. Hang glide
5. Distinctive practice
6. Mariner
7. Peaks
8. Queens ballplayer
9. Geological times
10. Twofold
11. Atomic #13
12. Tranquillizing
13. Metric weight unit
15. Indicates
18. Unwanted rodent
21. Partly cooked with hot water
24. One who can be recommended

	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				64		
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

26. Resembles a bag or pouch
27. Midway between south and southeast
30. Sets up for a photo
32. California white oak
35. More (Spanish)
37. After B
38. Decorated tea urn
39. Island
42. Car mechanics group
43. Wordplay joke
46. Cut a rug
47. Prickly plant
49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
50. European buzzard
52. Influential linguist
54. West African languages
55. Siskel’s partner
57. Skinny
59. Oblong pulpit
62. Consumed
63. Small, mischievous sprite
66. Powerful lawyer
68. Indicates position

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Your preview to the region's 2023 summer camp options



How to help children have memorable summer camp experiences

As hours of sunlight increase, thoughts may turn to summer vacation. For many children, summer vacation wouldn't be the same without camp.

Adults may have their own fond memories of going to summer camp when they were children because of the opportunities it presented to be independent and meet new people. Campers often bond over shared experiences, whether they are planned activities or unexpected "disasters" like a rainstorm washing out a canoe trip. That is why so many parents choose to carry on the summer camp tradition when they have their own children.

However, some kids may not be ready to jump right into the summer camp lifestyle. Such youngsters may need extra reassurance and support to make the most of their time at camp. The following are some tips for making summer camp an enjoyable experience.

Plan ahead

Families can visit the camp in advance and get a lay of the land. Knowing what to expect in terms of facilities and

activities can assuage some anxiety. It also will help campers hone in on what to pack and what to expect over the summer.

Try many new activities

Summer camp is about expanding boundaries and interests. Campers should sign up for many activities, including those that normally may be out of their wheelhouse. A camper may be pleased to learn that a new craft activity or a sports game piques his or her interest.

Connect with fellow campers in advance

If the camp has a social media presence, follow the camp's posts and connect with other like-minded campers even before they arrive. Talking with others who share similar interests can help campers feel more comfortable about meeting up once they arrive at camp.

Develop a rapport with camp counselors

The saying "you only get one chance to make a first impression" extends to campers meeting camp counselors. When campers interact with counselors for the first time,

they should be outgoing, polite and open to new ideas. Counselors will appreciate easy-going campers and could be good resources of useful information, such as how to score an extra dessert at mealtime.

Follow the safety rules

While campers may spread their wings a bit at summer camp when not under the watchful eyes of parents, any mischief should not come at the expense of safety. Campers should stick to the safety protocol so that camp is not memorable for the wrong reasons.

Change another camper's experience

A camper who recognizes a fellow camper is reserved and shy can invite that person to come sit with other friends at meals or to participate in an activity. This can help build a lasting friendship and make camp that much more enjoyable for someone in need.

Summer camp season is on the horizon and campers can take several steps to foster memorable and fun experiences along the way.

Summer camp by the numbers

Summer camp is a rite of passage for many children. Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA.

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years, according to Statista.

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year, according to the American Camp Association.

1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions, according to the American Camp Association.

50%: The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500, according to CampMinder.

58%-63%: The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively, according to American Camp Association.

200-300: The average number of campers served each session, according to CampMinder.

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs, according to CampMinder.

79%: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment, according to CampMinder.

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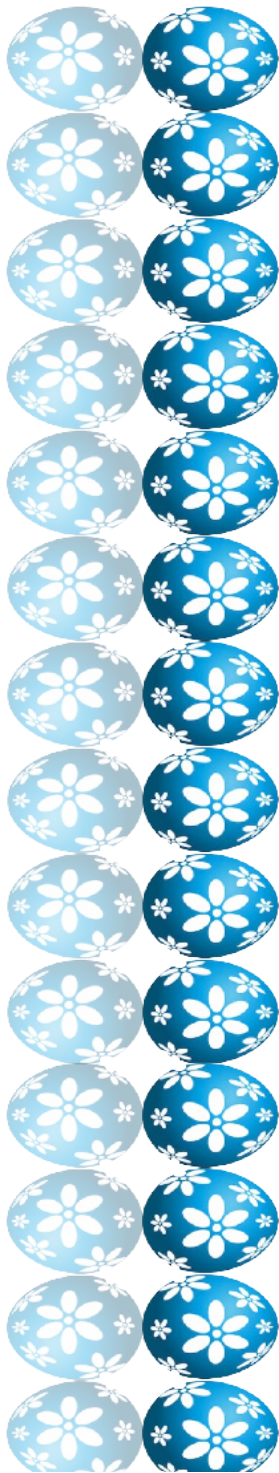


Catch the sunrise at the top of Killington Easter morning

Community breakfast, then an egg hunt with a few youth season passes follows

Sunday, April 9 — KILLINGTON — What better way to start off Easter Sunday than with the Sunrise Service? Then watch the kids as they search for treats left behind by our local Easter Bunny, including an opportunity to win a youth season pass! Easter Sunrise Service is set to begin at 6:30 a.m. at the Killington Peak Lodge. Load the K-1 Express Gondola from 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 a.m. The service is free and open to all, but space is limited to 200 guests and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis (so get there early). There will be no pre-registration. Immediately afterwards the resort will host a community breakfast. (Note: Easter Sunrise Service at the Peak Lodge is weather dependent. If there are weather challenges on Easter Sunday, the service will be moved to the K-1 Base Lodge.)

After the service and breakfast, an Easter Egg Hunt (for ages 14 and under) will be held at the new K-1 Lodge starting at 8:30 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., a toddler-friendly (ages 4 and under) Easter Egg Hunt will also take place at the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar (near K-1 Lodge). We kindly ask that each participant only collect a maximum of 15 eggs each to allow more guests to participate. Some of the eggs will be filled with more than candy—lucky egg hunters could find a youth season pass to Killington Resort or Pico Mountain!





CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

66 South Main St. • Rutland, VT • Msgr. Bernard W. Bourgeois • 802-773-6820

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 6 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 p.m.	GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7 Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m. Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.	HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 8 Mass of the Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m.	EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9 Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
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Killington Sherburne United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

Maundy Thursday Service April 6
at 6 pm

Easter Service April 9 at 9 am

Killington Little White Church
on Route 4



Grace Congregational United Church of Christ

8 Court St., Rutland, VT • 802-775-4301 • gracechurchvt.org • @GraceChurchVT

Rev. Tyrrell M. Hanley, Pastor | Alastair Stout, Minister of Music

Maundy Thursday Service April 6th • 7:00 PM	Easter Sunday - Easter Sunrise Service April 9th • 6:00 AM Ashcroft-Billings farm, 731 Creek Rd, Rutland Town
Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 7th • 7:00 PM Good Friday Passion Readings	Sanctuary Service 10:00 AM Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Bagpipes and Handbells



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 21+ Wines by the glass  Chef owned

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802.422.4030
ChoicesVT.com
Thurs-Mon 5-9PM
Brunch Sundays
11am-2:30

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Tavern & Restaurant Dining

— 12 VT Craft Brews On Tap! —

Join us for our Delicious Easter Buffet
Sunday (April 9th) in The Barn.
Reservations Required.



Joanne Pearson Gary Hall

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MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

Celebrate EASTER At Mountain Top!



photos Joanne Pearson

Join Us Sunday, April 9th, for our Delicious Easter Buffet in the Event Barn!

Seatings starting at 11:00am.
Reservations Required. Visit our website
to view our full buffet menu.
\$48/Adult • \$21/Child 2-12

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MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5

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.

Spring Story Time

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St. Ludlow. Free. Story Time is the perfect opportunity for children and caregivers to make new friends, practice early literacy and language skills and have fun! Each week features stories, songs and hands on art or STEM activities. Best suited for ages 5 and under. FMLkidsVT@gmail.com.

Introduction to Clay: Hand Built Vases

5:30-7:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. MINT member fee \$75; non-members \$100. In this class, we will channel that spring energy into making some vases to hold the first wildflowers of the year (they are on their way, we promise)! This is a beginner friendly class, Tiffany and Caitlin will provide instruction and support every step of the way. This project will use slab building, coils, and pinch pot techniques. We will also go over tools and texture. We encourage you to be as creative and adventurous as possible. This is a great introduction to clay, the pottery studio, and the world of ceramics. Info@rutlandmint.org.

Letterpress for Beginners

5:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Member Fee: \$15; non-members \$25. This beginner class will get your foot in the door of the Letterpress shop. In order to work independently in Letterpress you will need this foundational course. Info@rutlandmint.org.

Name That Fish Stew! Cooking Class

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

Wild Woods Music Song Circle

7:15 p.m. Godnick Adult Center in Rutland. Free. Music lovers, singers, players of acoustic instruments, and listeners are welcomed. The atmosphere of the circle is easy-going and encouraging to beginners or anyone developing their interest in music. This is a good place to break-in that new instrument or to play a well used and loved one. For further information, call Jack Crowther at 802-775-1182 or e-mail Gus Bloch, song circle leader, at gusbloch@gmail.com.

THURSDAY APRIL 6

Coffee & Conversation: Sexual Assault in Rutland County

8-9:30 a.m. PEGTV, Howe Center, 1 Scale Avenue, Rutland. Free. "Coffee and Conversation" is being presented as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. A panel discussion, featuring representatives from local agencies, will give a general overview of sexual assault in Rutland County, what prevention efforts are currently happening, and discuss what more can be done. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Please R.S.V.P. by calling (802) 775-6788 or by email at info@nscvt.org.

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 or 802-498-0603.

Storytime at Rutland Free Library: 'Rain!'

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

Toddler Story Time

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 ukulele together. Must pre-register: chaffeeartcenter.square.site or call 802-775-0356.

Drive-up-pick-up Meals

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

Knitters' Meetup

2-3 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Attention all knitters! Come and meet with other knitters in the library. Info@normanwilliams.org.

Circle of Parents

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

NAMI Connection Peer Support Group

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



BABY FARM ANIMAL CELEBRATION

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.

FRIDAY APRIL 7

Bird Walk

8 a.m. Audubon Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail Poultney. Free. Park downtown and meet where the rail trail crosses Main St. near the Poultney Pub. This is an easy 3-mile bird walk open to all. Hoping to see lingering winter birds and early spring arrivals. For more info contact birding at rutlandcountyaudubon.org

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. This spring, Stone Valley Arts is excited to continue our WoodSpryte Arts Early Learning Adventures with art instructor Rosemary Moser. Literacy-based creative learning adventures for the very young! Students 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! This week: Seven Eggs—Lots of different kinds of creatures lay eggs, but we'll paint with eggs! For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

Baby Farm Animal Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Cost for children 4-15 \$10; Adults 16-61 \$17; Senior 62+ \$15; Children under 4 are free. Activities: See chicks, ducklings, and turkey chicks. Pet lambs and goats. Meet Jersey calves, piglets, and bunnies and learn all about the animals and how they are cared for on the farm. Plant an heirloom seed in a peat pot for your own garden. Create a paper handprint bunny craft to take home. Wagon rides, lunch options, Wicked Awesome BBQ Food Truck, Fork in the Road Food Truck, Farmhouse Scoop Shop, New England Dairy's Mobile Dairy Bar. Find local, Vermont products and unique treasures, and gifts for all ages including adorable baby farm animal plush stuffies in the museum gift shop. Some vendors to be available on specific days. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

All About the Arts

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. 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.

Learn to Crochet

12-1:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$20. Early spring arrivals. For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

Hawk on the Walk

3-3:30 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. What's that shadow moving between the trees? Keep your eye to the sky on the Forest Canopy Walk while our Harris's hawk is out for a free-flight adventure! Held on the Forest Canopy Walk. This program is weather dependent. For more information, contact us at info@vinsweb.org or 802.359.5000.

HAWK ON THE WALK FRI, SAT & SUN

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 18

First Friday Pottery Social-BYOC

6-7 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Cost is \$5. Please join us in The MINT Pottery Studio for an evening of making and socializing. Brandy will be hosting this event, showing us how to press natural materials into clay to make beautiful textures. You must be a MINT member to attend and have some experience with clay. Info@rutlandmint.org.

Virtual Owl Friday: Teton's Poo-Poo Project

6-7 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Free & open to the public; \$10 suggested donation and virtual via Zoom. Each year thousands of animals that prefer dark, narrow spaces for nesting and roosting become entrapped and die in vertical open pipes found in vault toilets, the self-contained restrooms found in many of America's wilderness areas. Teton Raptor Center's Poo-Poo Project was created to address this problem by covering vault toilet ventilation pipes with affordable and durable screens that prevent wildlife entrapment without restricting airflow. Since 2013 the Poo-Poo Project has distributed more than 18,000 Poo-Poo Screens to more than 640 partners. For more info visit: 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.

SATURDAY APRIL 8

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.

The Woodward Wind-down

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration: 3rd floor Ramshead Lodge. Free. It'll be a day full of stoke, with a fun jam session for snowboarders & skiers of all ability levels followed by lunch in the park. Join the Park Crew as they move through Peace Park, sessioning multiple features with a chance to get swagged out from our friends at Burton! Info@killington.com.

Sugar and Spice Annual Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. Sugar and Spice, 2563 US Rte 4, Mendon. Free to All Children. Get out those baskets and join us for our Annual Egg Hunt. Rain or shine. Always a good time. For more info contact: 802-773-7832 or owner@vtsugarandspice.com.

Kid's Pottery Club

10-11 a.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. \$10-\$15. This session we will be hand building gnomes! We will use pinch pot, and texture techniques to create wonderfully unique little sprites who can brighten up your garden. Info@rutlandmint.org.

Baby Farm Animal Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Cost for children 4-15 \$10; Adults 16-61 \$17; Senior 62+ \$15; Children under 4 are free. Activities: See chicks, ducklings, and turkey chicks. Pet lambs and goats. Meet Jersey calves, piglets, and bunnies and learn all about the animals and how they are cared for on the farm. Plant an heirloom seed in a peat pot for your own garden. Create a paper handprint bunny craft to take home. Wagon rides, lunch options, Wicked Awesome BBQ Food Truck, Fork in the Road Food Truck, Farmhouse Scoop Shop, New England Dairy's Mobile Dairy Bar. Find local, Vermont products and unique treasures, and gifts for all ages including adorable baby farm animal plush stuffies in the Museum Gift Shop. Some vendors to be available on specific days. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

Winter Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Ave., Suite 92, Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers' market 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.

Great Brownsville Community Church Easter Egg Hunt!

10 a.m. Tribute Park, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Road, Brownsville. Free. This fun-filled Easter egg hunt will continue until all 1,500 eggs are found! Each egg will contain a treasure or two special to youngsters! For more info visit: facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch or contact bcchurchvt@gmail.com.

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.

The Great Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Killington Elementary School. Free. Kids will get the opportunity to get their picture taken with the real Easter Bunny, design their own baskets, and participate in an Easter egg hunt. Parent volunteers will be needed to assist in hiding eggs and providing supervision during the egg hunt. Registration for this event will act as a sign-up sheet indicating you'll be attending. To keep this activity free for participants, we'll be accepting plastic eggs and candy donations at the Town Office until April 5. For more info visit: killingtonrec.com.

Easter Egg Hunt at Vermont State Fair Grounds

12 p.m. Vermont State Fair Grounds, Main St., Rutland. Come take part in the Easter egg hunt and enjoy food, bounce house, prizes and more. For more info visit: ermontstatefair.org.

Intro to Jewelry Making & Tool Training

12-4 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Cost: members \$65; non-members \$95. This 4-hour class provides the fundamental skills and materials knowledge you'll need for future projects in jewelry and metalsmithing. This beginner's class is for anyone interested in the art of metal smithing to use in jewelry making or in any fine metalworking project or application. This tool training is required before members can use the Jewelry Studio (all equipment including hand tools). Info@rutlandmint.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.

SpringFling and The "Snowmelt" Slush cup

12 p.m. Jackson Gore Base. Free. The return of our Slush Cup, with live music from the band Sly Richard, prizes, a luau theme, BBQ and more! There will be registration opportunities at both the Clock Tower base area and Jackson Gore base area Saturday starting at 7:30am. Get ready to dress up and send it across the pond! Don't forget that the fun continues after the Slush Cup at Après Afternoons at Jackson Gore where the luau theme will carry on 2pm-5pm with more music, games, and fun for everyone. We can't wait to see you there! Info@okemo.com.

Intro to Mosaics: Flower Pots

1-4 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Cost: Members - \$75; Non-members \$90. This is a two-part class. In the first session you will learn about preparing your flower pot substrate, different types of adhesive and will build your mosaic design. In the second session you will learn how to address irregular or sharp edges in your tesserae, finish and grout your pot. No prior experience necessary. Info@rutlandmint.org.

Fixing Your Mistakes

1-3 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave, Suite E, Rutland. Cost is \$30. Join Amanda to learn some skills for fixing the inevitable mistakes we all encounter in our knitting. You'll learn to tink back individual stitches, insert afterthought lifelines, rip back multiple rows and put stitches back on the needles, pick up dropped stitches, change a knit to a purl or vice versa. If there is time and interest, Amanda will demonstrate how to drop a group of stitches to reknit a section (very useful with lace or cables). For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

Hawk on the Walk

3-3:30 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. What's that shadow moving between the trees? Keep your eye to the sky on the Forest Canopy Walk while our Harris's Hawk is out for a free-flight adventure! Held on the Forest Canopy Walk. This program is weather dependent. For more information, contact us at info@vinsweb.org or 802.359.5000.

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.

SUNDAY APRIL 9

Easter Sunrise Service and Egg Hunt

6:30 a.m. Peak Lodge, Killington Resort. Free. Easter Sunrise Service is set to begin at 6:30 a.m. at the Killington Peak Lodge. We will load the K-1 Express Gondola from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 6:15 a.m. The service is free and open to all, but space is limited to 200 guests and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no pre-registration. Both adults and children will need a (complimentary) ticket to the event. Join us immediately afterwards for a community breakfast! After the service and breakfast, starting at 8:30 a.m. join us for an Easter Egg Hunt (ages 14 & under) at our new K-1 Lodge. At 9:30 a.m., a toddler-friendly (ages 4 & under) Easter Egg Hunt will also take place at the Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar (near K-1 Lodge). Some of the eggs will be filled with more than candy—lucky egg hunters could find a youth season pass to Killington Resort or Pico Mountain!



SPRINGFLING AND THE "SNOWMELT" SLUSH CUP

SATURDAY

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.

MONDAY APRIL 10

Babies and Toddler Rock

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

A Community of Parents

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

Killington Bone Builders

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



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Owl Festival

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VINS

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Advanced Ticket Sales
Walk-ins Welcome


Join Us For Virtual Owl Fridays!
APRIL 7 & 14 / 6 PM TO 7 PM



For Details & Registration Visit:
VINSWEB.ORG

VINS NATURE CENTER
149 NATURES WAY / QUECHEE, VT / 802.359.5000

 **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 19

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.

Hawk on the Walk

3-3:30 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. What's that shadow moving between the trees? Keep your eye to the sky on the Forest Canopy Walk while our Harris's hawk is out for a free-flight adventure! Held on the Forest Canopy Walk. This program is weather dependent. For more information, contact us at info@vinsweb.org or 802.359.5000.

Raku

6-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Cost: Members \$275; non-member \$300. During this five session class, we will take a deep look at the traditional Japanese firing process known as Raku. This unpredictable and intense process will definitely leave you wanting more! This is a five-session class. Info@rutlandmint.org.

Knit Night

6 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 North 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.

TUESDAY APRIL 11

Stories on a String

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

Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

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

What's on Your Nightstand? The Not-A-Book-Club Book Club

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. This is NOT the usual book club. We chat about books you are reading, the books you've loved, and the books you've always wanted to read. No required reading! Info@normanwilliams.org.

Writers Group

1-2 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Do you want to keep a journal? Write a novel? Pen some poems? Meet other writers? Join the weekly writing group at Norman Williams Public Library! Info@normanwilliams.org.

Woodstock VT Film Series: 'Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song'

3 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Cost is \$12-\$15. A deep-dive into the eponymous iconic hymn, "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song," chronicles the life of legendary musician Leonard Cohen, whose poetry evolved into a successful career as a singer-songwriter. His story is told here by those who knew and loved him. The film spotlights the writing, recording, and singing of the song "Hallelujah" and its ever-evolving lyrics, performed here by a multitude of artists, including Bono, Rufus Wainwright, Bob Dylan and k.d. lang, a song that's been sung everywhere from weddings and funerals to Coachella and movie soundtracks. info@billingsfarm.org.

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids!

3-4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Graphic novels use a combination of art and text to tell stories. They may feature adventure, history, biography, science, fiction - any story worth telling! Come learn about new graphic novels, talk about your favorites, and maybe create your own. For more info or to sign up visit: monica@normanwilliams.org. or visit: normanwilliams.org.



Alzheimer's Support Group at Community Health

4 p.m. Community Health Allen Pond, 71 Allen Street, Rutland. Claudia Courcelle and her team of care managers will hold their Alzheimers support group meeting. For more information visit: chcr.org/community-news or members.rutlandvermont.com/events/calendar. For questions call: 802-465-2255.

Chess Club

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

Yoga with Emma (for Kids!)

4:30-5:15 p.m. Fox Room Rutland Free Library 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Yoga with Emma! A safe environment where we will imagine, create, dance, play, explore and be free in our bodies. Come be apart of the journey. Please bring an open heart and your smile. We will have some yoga mats available for use. Emma Weatherhogg is trained in "Kidding Around Yoga" (KAY), which is a style of yoga that was created by Haris Lender, ERYT 500, RYT, YACEP. KAY provides an amazing curriculum designed to motivate children to be active, build confidence, and manage the spectrum of emotions that they might experience in their day-to-day activities while encompassing the five branches of yoga in a clear and engaging method. It is SO much fun! Info@rutlandfree.org/calendar-events.

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.

The CEDRR Business Show

5-7 p.m. Rutland Recreation Community Center Cost: \$5. After a 3-year absence, the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) is excited to bring back its annual Business Show. Rutland Region's largest and most comprehensive gathering of business-to-business and business-to-consumer networking. This event is sponsored by Community Health, Cape Air, and M&T Bank. For specific questions, please contact Chrispin White at chrispin@rutlandecconomy.com or 802-770-7066.

Recite! Poetry Sharing Evening

5:30-7 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Recite! - an open mic poetry event, monthly on the 2nd Tuesday, at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to participate - bring a poem of your own or one from a favorite poet to read and share, or simply listen and enjoy. At the end of this class you will walk away with either the perfect gift or your new favorite set of mug! This is a four-session class. Info@normanwilliams.org.

Mug Making with Morgan

6-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Cost: Members \$175, Not-yet Members \$200. Use the potter's wheel in our pottery studio while you make your own one-of-a-kind drinking vessels. This class is an intermediate class and experience on the potter's wheel is preferred. Info@rutlandmint.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.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
4/5

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman

QUECHEE
6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilco

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

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

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

THURS
4/6

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

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

KILLINGTON
5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

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

LUDLOW
8 p.m. Off The Rails – Rick Clogston

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

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

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

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

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

FRI
4/7

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place & Deli – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

CHESTER
6 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Fundraiser for John Blair with music by Moon Hollow and Friends

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rob Pagnano

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Chris Pallutto

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

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

POULTNEY
7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. The Public House – Bobby Sheehan

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Krishna Guthrie Band with End User

SOUTH LONDONDERRY
6 p.m. New American Grill – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Chris Pallutto

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – The Idiots

LUDLOW
12 p.m. Okemo's Jackson Gore Base Area – Spring Fling and "The Snowmelt" Slush Cup

8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Paint Band

POULTNEY
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Jenny Porter

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. The Public House – Ethan Lawrence and Co

SUN
4/9

KILLINGTON
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Liz Reedy

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

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

LUDLOW
7 p.m. Off The Rails – Karaoke

MON
4/10

KILLINGTON
5:30 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
4/11

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

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

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



LUDLOW
8 p.m. Off The Rails – SINGO

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

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

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



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SATURDAY



SAT
4/8

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

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Charlie Nadler

The Okemo Slush Cup is back

Saturday, April 8 at 12 p.m.—LUDLOW—It's the moment you've all been waiting for: The Okemo Slush Cup is back this Saturday, April 8 from noon-2 p.m. featuring live music from the band Sly Richard, prizes, a luau theme, BBQ and more! There will be registration opportunities at both the Clock Tower base area and Jackson Gore base area Saturday morning starting at 7:30 a.m.

Get ready to dress up and send it across the pond!

Don't forget that the fun continues after the Slush Cup at Après Afternoons at Jackson Gore where the luau theme will carry on from 2-5 p.m. with more music, games, and fun for everyone.

Head to Jackson Gore for a fun-filled spring party.

For more information visit: Okemo.com.



Submitted

A young skier makes his way across the slushy water pool during a previous Slush Cup. Slush Cup returns this weekend at Jackson Gore, Okemo.

Archeologist speaks about GMNF Telephone Gap

Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m.—CHITTENDEN—On Tuesday evening, April 11, Sarah Skinner, M.S., Archeologist for the Green Mountain National Forest, will present a program for the Chittenden Historical Society on heritage sites of historical interest within the Telephone Gap area.

The Telephone Gap project encompasses the towns of towns of Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon, Pittsfield, Pittsford, Rutland Town, and Stockbridge. Most of

the town of Chittenden is within this project.

The Society will meet at the Chittenden Grange Hall located at 3 Lower Middle Road in Chittenden at 7 p.m.

This program is free, handicap-accessible, and open to the public.

There will be refreshments served for this event.

For more information or for any questions, please contact Karen at 802-483-6471.

Virtual Owl Friday presents Teton's Poo-Poo Project

Friday, April 7 at 6 p.m.—QUECHEE—Each year thousands of animals that prefer dark, narrow spaces for nesting and roosting become entrapped and die in vertical open pipes found in vault toilets, the self-contained restrooms found in many of America's wilderness areas. Teton Raptor Center's Poo-Poo Project was created to address this problem by covering vault toilet ventilation pipes with affordable and durable screens that prevent wildlife entrapment without restricting airflow.

Since 2013 the Poo-Poo Project has distributed more than 18,000 Poo-Poo Screens to more than 640 partners in all 50 states as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada.

The event is free and open to the public; \$10 suggested donation.

Join in for this virtual event to learn more

about this ingenious conservation effort and how you can help. For more information, contact us at 802-359-5000 or visit: vinsweb.org.





Courtesy VTF&W

Anglers can improve their chances of success by fishing slowly along the bottom when trout season opens on Saturday, April 8.

Vermont Trout Season opens April 8

Saturday, April 8 —STATEWIDE—Vermont's trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 8.

Despite lingering snow cover in some areas of the state, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. says anglers can still have fun and be successful early in the season if they keep a few strategies in mind.

"Just like any other time of year, anglers fishing early in the spring should adjust their tactics based on conditions," said State Fisheries Biologist Shawn Good. "Trout will become more active with warmer water temperatures. If you can find a good location and present your bait or lure without spooking the trout, you'll have a good chance of catching a few fish, and enjoy a nice day outside."

Good adds that finding a small to medium low-elevation river or stream that is not too murky from spring runoff can be key. Trout are coldblooded and may be slow to bite especially with low water temperatures, so it is important that they can also see your bait, lure or fly.

Larger baits can often be more effective for enticing early-season trout into biting. Spin-anglers should try nightcrawlers, egg imitations, or bright colored spoons and spinners. Fly anglers may find success in the early season by drifting large, more visible flies such as wooly buggers, streamers, or San Juan worms along the bottom in slower pools and runs.

Trout will often hold close to the bottom in the deeper areas of streams during high flow conditions to conserve energy. Choose locations and tactics that allow you to fish using a slow retrieval right along the bottom. Focus on deep holes behind current breaks created by big boulders, downed trees or log-jams where trout may be resting. If possible, approach the hole from downstream as trout will often orient themselves facing the current.

While Vermont offers excellent and diverse fishing opportunities for wild trout, stocking also occurs in many lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers where wild trout populations are low or absent. This generally happens in April and May each year once the ice has melted and following spring runoff.

"Early in the season, like on opening weekend, you'll probably have more success if you focus on waters known to hold wild trout," said Good. "Despite unpredictable weather during early spring, each year anglers report catching impressive trout during opening weekend."

Focus on deep holes behind current breaks created by big boulders, downed trees or log-jams where trout may be resting.

Good also reminds anglers to check the department's website frequently as updates are made to the Trout Stocking page. "This is a great tool for anglers to see what nearby waters have been stocked, as the page gets updated several times per week," said Good. Visit this link: anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/FishStockingSchedule.aspx and click the "See What's Been Stocked" button to stay informed as the spring progresses.

Anglers who like to fish and release their catch don't need to wait for opening day. Nearly all waterbodies are now open year-round to catch-and-release fishing for trout in Vermont. Check the 2023 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations which is available free

from license agents, and it is on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website at: eregulations.com/vermont/fishing.

A helpful overview of the fishing regulations can be found at: vtfishandwildlife.com/new-2022-fishing-regulations-overview.

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Ask a master gardener: Why you should embrace moss

By Nadie VanZandt

Do you spend a lot of effort to get rid of the moss you find in your lawn? Knowing the benefits of moss may convince you otherwise.

Mosses belong to the bryophyte group of the plant kingdom. At 450 million years old, they are the oldest recorded living plants on earth and are found on every continent.

Mosses differ from the usual flowering plants. While they have stems and leaves, they lack roots, flowers or seeds. Instead of roots, mosses have rhizoids, whose only function is to anchor the plant to a substrate. In place of flowers, they have sporophytes, which are small stalks ending in tiny pods filled with spores, not seeds.

Mosses reproduce naturally through spores dispersed by the wind but also can be reproduced manually by transplanting.

Incredibly hardy, mosses survive harsh conditions including fires, intense winds and very cold temperatures. They thrive under blankets of snow.

Mosses get all their nutrients from air and water through their leaves, so don't need fertilizers. Moss leaves absorb ample amounts of water that they slowly release into the ground and air. In addition, their anchoring rhizoids tether them to surfaces preventing them from washing away, ideal for erosion control.

Like all plants, its plant tissues store carbon, which helps reduce carbon dioxide in the air. As moss does not grow in areas with high air pollution, it's a good indicator of air quality.

Moss offers a healthy habitat for wildlife. Many beneficial insects live inside or under moss, providing a source of food for many amphibians, reptiles and birds. Some birds use moss to build soft nests for their hatchlings. Another interesting benefit is that moss offers an ideal moist breeding site for the fireflies that enchant our summer nights with their twinkles.

Mosses grow in all soil types in shade, partial shade and sun. Sun-tolerant moss

can grow in alkaline soil with a pH above 7.0 while most mosses found in dense shade prefer an acidic soil pH between 5.0 and 5.5.

Growing moss is likely to transform a neglected damp, shady area into a charming element in your landscape.

You will need to source moss that grows in a similar light condition and soil type as your target area. You can purchase it, or better yet, find local naturally occurring moss to transplant from your own yard or from a friend's property.

First, check your soil pH to determine whether it needs to be adjusted. If needed, acidify the soil by spreading some elemental sulfur (according to packaging instructions) before planting.

Clear the area of weeds and debris. Compact the soil by using a tamper or by walking over it. Then, lightly etch the compacted soil with a cultivator or tine hoe.

With a flat tool, such as an old kitchen spatula or masonry trowel, scoop up sections of existing moss with enough soil to protect the rhizoids. Tear sections into pieces, spread these evenly over the prepared area and press into the soil. Limit traffic for a year and keep the area moist with regular watering until the moss takes hold.

Don't let this initial watering chore deter you from growing moss. Once established, moss can tolerate drought.

Moss is relatively low maintenance. No mowing, aerating or fertilizing is required. You only need to weed and keep clean of debris. Just pull a weed, pat down the surface and place a piece of moss over the bare spot. Hand pick litter or use a leaf blower on a low setting to scatter dead leaves away.

While softening your carbon footprint, you can upholster your problem site with a lush natural velvet.

Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Panton.

Moss offers a healthy habitat for wildlife. Many beneficial insects live inside or under moss, providing a source of food for many amphibians, reptiles and birds.



Mosses belong to the bryophyte group of the plant kingdom. At 450 million years old, they are the oldest recorded living plants on earth and are found on every continent.

Submitted



Outfitting your tackle box properly can make a big difference when it comes to wrangling your next trophy catch.



Photo courtesy of Lindsey Rogers
Jacob Prior shows off a succesful catch from last season.

Get off on the right foot, prepare your tackle box

Recreational fishing is enjoyed by millions of people. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that there was an 8% increase in anglers between 2011 and 2017. Expenditures by anglers nationwide rose 2% during the same time, from \$45 billion to \$46.1 billion.

As more people stay closer to home, they're eager to engage in hobbies that are fun and accessible but still promote social distancing. Fishing checks each of those boxes. Prospective anglers who are eager to get into saltwater or freshwater fishing should know that the right gear is essential. For fishing enthusiasts, that gear starts with a rod and reel. Afterward, it is important to fill a tackle box with other essentials.

- Extra fishing line: Lines get snagged, torn or snapped when reeling in a great catch, so extra fishing line is essential.
- Extra hooks: The traditional J-hook can snag many types of fish, but some anglers like a French hook. No

matter which hook you prefer, make sure you have a variety of sizes on hand so you can switch if need be.

- A set of fishing pliers: Purchase pliers specifically made for fishing. Most come in aluminum so they will not corrode due to the elements. Also, if you're using braided fishing line, be sure the pliers have a cutter made for cutting braid.
- Bobbers in various sizes: Bobbers, also called floaters, help anglers know when a fish is biting. Round clip-on bobbers are popular and widely available. Slip bobbers will slide up and down the line, enabling anglers to get the hook into deeper water.
- Sinkers: The yin to the bobber's yang, sinkers are weights that help weight down a worm or artificial lure to reach the right level to attract fish.
- Fishing regulations/ruler: A variety of rules govern when and where you can fish. Also, you'll need to know which size fish are keepers and which need to be tossed

back. Keep a regulation ruler in the tackle box to avoid fines.

- Pocket knife: Keep a sharp knife for cutting lines and bait. Reserve a special filet knife for cleaning fish.
- Selection of lures: Research which fish you're angling for and then purchase a variety of appropriate lures. Some lures will attract a wide array of fish.
- Stringer: A stringer is a device that is used to hold several caught fish through their gills. It anchors to land and the other end with the fish placed in the water to keep the fish alive until you're ready to pack up and go. It's a good alternative to a cooler or bucket filled with water.
- Fishing license: Many conservation or fish and wildlife departments require a license for fishing for anglers of a certain age. Be sure to have it on hand or you may be susceptible to fines or other penalties.

A tackle box with the right gear can help novice fishing enthusiasts get off on the right foot.



Hammond Cove Shooting Range opened April 1

The Hammond Cove Shooting Range in Hartland opened on Saturday, April 1, at 10 a.m.

The range operates under rules set by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. Range users must sign in with an onsite range safety officer and have a valid Vermont hunting or fishing license or be the guest of someone who does.

Before using the range, shooters are urged to review

the range rules on Fish & Wildlife's website: vtfishandwildlife.com.

The range is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as all state and federal holidays.

"Anyone who is going turkey hunting this spring will benefit from patterning their shotgun at the newly installed shotgun section of the range," said Dylan Smith, the facility

and lands coordinator for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "It allows users to pattern their shotgun out to 50 yards so they can better understand their effective range."

"We recently filmed an instructional video on how to pattern a shotgun. Understanding how your gun performs is a vital part of being an ethical hunter," added Smith. The video can be seen at: [Youtu.be/TZF2xDsnjz4](https://youtu.be/TZF2xDsnjz4).

Resort passes on sale for next season

Killington Resort & Pico Mountain season passes for the 2023-2024 season are on sale at a discount through June 22.

"Killington is a mecca for year-round adventure with mountain access spanning all four seasons," said Killington Resort and Pico Mountain President and General Manager Mike Solimano. "We're excited to embark on the multi-year Six Peaks Village project starting this summer, and skiers and riders can expect to find additional parking options

by next season. On hill, great skiing and riding will remain our top priority, but the new K-1 Lodge will continue to be a destination in and of itself." In addition to mountain access, pass-holders earn discounts on world class food and beverage, lodging, lessons, bring-a-friend tickets and so much more. And as part of our commitment to Play Forever and Nokian Tyres' commitment to helping save the world's winters for tomorrow's generations, we will plant a tree for every season pass sold.

Bike camp registration now open

Registration is open for Killington Resort's summer 2023 youth bike camps.

The Beast's downhill mountain bike camps are day camps available in three- and five-day sessions. Youth camps are open to ages 7-17 years old of all ability levels. Based out of Snowshed lodge, all camps run from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. daily, with lunch included. We offer 9 sessions beginning in late June and running through the end of August. If you book a session now and wish to switch to a different week, you may do so at any time through June 1 (while availability lasts). Please note the week of July 3 we will only be offering a three-day camp option, July 5-7. We also have a recurring youth fall session, which gets you instruction all six Saturdays from Sept. 2 through Oct. 9.

As much as these camps are about leveling up your skills on the trail, they offer so much more. Campers build confidence in themselves, learn life skills and grow as an individual, all while having the time of their lives! Youth bike camps are expected to fill quickly for summer 2023, so secure your spot before they sell out.



Submitted

A young biker prepares to hit the trails.

Interstate wildlife violator compact helps deter poachers

Anyone thinking of violating Vermont's fish and wildlife laws should know that they cannot just hunt, fish or trap in another state if their licenses are revoked. Vermont is one of 48 states belonging to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC), which recognizes fish and wildlife related license suspensions of member states.

Any person whose license privileges are suspended in one compact member state will have his or her licenses suspended in all other compact member states, according to a news release March 28. The IWVC assures that in participating states, nonresident violators will receive the same treatment as resident violators.

A violator who fails to comply with the terms of a citation issued in a participating state also faces the possibility of suspen-

sion of their wildlife license privileges in the other member states until the terms of the citation are met.

The goal of the IWVC is to improve enforcement of hunting, fishing and trapping laws through the cooperation of law enforcement units in member states.

"Belonging to the IWVC provides an added deterrent to Vermonters who might be tempted to violate fish and wildlife laws at home and then expect to hunt, fish or trap in other states or vice versa," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Chief Game Warden Col. Justin Stedman. "Also, being a member state ensures bad actors from other states cannot come here to violate our fish and wildlife laws."

For more information visit: Vtfishandwildlife.com.

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Vermont Everyone Eats program comes to a close

Innovative pandemic meal program ends, gives rise to new local initiatives

After 32 months, seven program extensions, and over 3.6 million meals distributed, the Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) pandemic relief program ended on March 31.

Between August 2020 and March 2023, VEE has benefited tens of thousands of Vermonters by providing economic stabilization for independent restaurants, strengthening their relationships with farmers and food producers, and contributing significantly to statewide anti-hunger efforts during a time when food insecurity hit record highs.

With its unique cross-sector approach engaging local restaurants in providing prepared meals with Vermont ingredients for community members in need, the Vermont Everyone Eats program leveraged over \$46 million in federal Covid-19 relief funding.

According to Elizabeth Schuster, environmental economist, VEE's multiplier effect—recirculating a single federal dollar across multiple local businesses—has likely catalyzed as much as \$66 million in additional local spending.

At the start of the Covid-19 emergency, state agency representatives, local and regional anti-hunger advocates, and economic development organizations established this innovative, wide-scale, multi-sector emergency response.

"The extraordinary impact of Vermont Everyone Eats was made possible by unprecedented collaboration among various entities across the state. The value of a multi-sector approach in efficiently combining efforts and resources informs a compelling model for future efforts," said Amanda Witman, communi-

cations and stakeholder engagement coordinator for Vermont Everyone Eats.

With multiple state and federal benefit programs ending or decreasing, and the economic challenges of the pandemic still lingering, it is a difficult time for many individuals and businesses. But the successes of VEE are spurring local partnerships to develop new ways to address community needs and creatively driving conversations around what comes next.

"Vermont Everyone Eats' Covid-19 efforts are coming to a close, but the innovation is still a-going strong," said VEE Task Force member Stephanie Bonin. "VEE showed us that our impact can be huge when we come together to meet our collective needs. I am excited to keep restaurant entrepreneurs, chefs, and staff in the food security conversation, because we are a powerhouse for change."

The VEE Task Force, in partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation, has funded several local initiative pilot projects to carry forward elements of the VEE model. The VEE momentum is also fueling other initiatives in communities across the state. Some examples:

Senior Solutions, Chester Helping Hands, and Springfield Family Center are collaborating to provide restaurant meals as a supplemental option for existing Meals on Wheels recipients in areas of Windsor County.

The Giving Fridge, a Middlebury-based initiative launched in December 2020, will continue to distribute donation-funded meals via automated refrigerators and heated food lockers.

New Moon Catering in Burlington continues to raise funds through their business and recently received ARPA funding that will allow them to continue offering free meals in partnership with a local cafe.

Vermont Farmers Food Center has launched Rutland County Eats, a VEE-inspired program that will distribute 200 meals per week after VEE ends, funded by an online market where additional prepared meals are sold to the wider community. (See story below.)

The legacy of the VEE program continues through these and many other efforts.

For more information, visit: vte-everyoneeats.org.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Vermont Everyone Eats provided nutritious meals to Vermonters in need of food assistance as well as a stabilizing source of income for Vermont restaurants, farmers, and food producers. Vermont Everyone Eats was funded through a contract provided by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Com-

munity Development to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), made possible by over \$46 million in federal FEMA funding supplemented with a \$1.3 million allocation from the state legislature, and advised by a statewide task force including perspectives from restaurants, economic development, and hunger relief advocates.



Courtesy of VFFC

The Everyone Eats program leveraged over \$46 million in federal Covid-19 relief funding.

VFFC announces 'Spread the Love' extending crucial food assistance after Vermont Everyone Eats ends March 30

RUTLAND — The Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) program, a federally-funded, pandemic recovery initiative created to help restaurants, farmers, and eaters through the economic challenges of the Covid pandemic, ends March 30, 2023. Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) has served as the Rutland County hub for the program since August 2020.

To fill the gap, VFFC is launching Rutland County Eats, a local initiative to continue the Everyone Eats model of free meal distribution for food insecure Rutland County residents. VFFC has secured grant funding through Rutland Regional Medical Center's Bowse Health Trust to continue a restaurant-prepared meal distribution program for Rutland County.

The number of meals

that VFFC can distribute through this new program will be dependent on additional funds raised through community support of the "Spread the Love" campaign.

The last public Everyone Eats drive-thru was Thursday, March 30 at the Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St. in Rutland. The partner locations at Revive Church in Poultney and the Neshobe School in Brandon also had their last drive-thru on Wednesday, March 29.

The Rutland County Eats community supported meals program will continue to generate income for Rutland County farmers through the purchase of local food and for area restaurants and caterers who are paid to prepare the meals for food insecure residents. The fundraising efforts for this program

are supported by Southeastern Vermont Community Action and include: A percentage of online sales generated through VFFC's online market. Look for the red "Spread the Love" heart to know that a purchase is going back to the community.

"Pay-It-Forward" donations where community members "Spread the Love" by making a donation through the VFFC website which will purchase a meal for a future Rutland County Eats participant.

"Spread the Love" donation jars located in participating restaurants and businesses in Rutland County.

For more information about all of the local food access programs at Vermont Farmers Food Center visit: vermont-farmersfoodcenter.org.

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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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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

	P	E	P	S	I	S		A	M	E	B	A	S	
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SUDOKU

< PUZZLES page 13

9	7	3	8	6	2	4	5	1
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1	6	8	9	3	5	2	4	7
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GUESS THE ALBUM
Weezer - Blue Album



Photo Courtesy of Andrea Knepper

Freshly harvested microgreens can be used for salads and sandwiches, as a garnish for dishes or added to smoothies for a nutritional boost. Spring is the perfect time to start incorporating these powerful greens into your daily meals.

Brighten the winter with microgreens

By Andrea Knepper

What could be better than fresh greens during the dreary winter months? What if you grew and harvested them yourself?

Growing microgreens in your home is easy, cost-effective and satisfying. All you need is some soil, seeds and a sunny spot.

Microgreens are immature plants that can be ready to harvest in one to two weeks. They are nutrient-dense with some varieties having up to a 40% greater concentration of some micronutrients according to researchers at the University of Maryland. Any seeds can be used for microgreens, but

because they are harvested at an early stage, they should be untreated and organic.

Plants that are quick to sprout are good options for microgreens. Radishes, broccoli, cabbage, broccoli, peas and sunflowers are popular choices as are the spicy flavors of mustards, basil and cilantro. Microgreen blends also are available from most seed suppliers.

To get started, find a container. Take-out containers, plastic produce containers, cardboard juice cartons and seed-starting trays will all work.

Choose a light, indoor potting soil or seed-starting mix. Put about two inches

of the soil in your container.

Spread your seeds over the soil. The seeds should form a dense layer but not cover each other. Loosely cover the container with its lid or an unsecured layer of plastic wrap. Or lightly cover the seeds with more soil.

Use a spray bottle to mist the seeds thoroughly. Keep the soil moist until the seeds sprout.

When the seeds have sprouted, remove the cover. New seedlings need at least four hours of direct sunlight. Grow lights can be used if you don't have a windowsill or counter that receives enough sunlight.

Microgreens will be ready to harvest when they have one set of true leaves. Seed leaves, or cotyledons, are the first to develop after the seed sprouts.

Keep tending your seedlings until more leaves appear. These leaves will look different. They are the true leaves and will resemble the adult leaves of the plant. Your microgreens are now ready to harvest.

You can plant new seeds over the clipped stems. Lightly cover the seeds with fresh potting soil, and repeat the process for another harvest.

Give your microgreens a wash, and they are ready to enjoy. Add fresh microgreens to salads and sandwiches. Use them in place of lettuce in tacos and burgers. Garnish dishes or blend into smoothies for a nutritional boost.

Microgreens can be stored in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Just make sure that they are completely dry before storing.

For a guide to growing microgreens, visit: go.uvm.edu/microgreens.



By Andrea Knepper

Microgreens are ready to harvest when the seedlings have leaves that resemble the adult leaves of the plant.

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Rutland County Humane Society



PERCY

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

This pet is available for adoption at

Springfield Humane Society

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

*Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



SHAYLA

I'm a 6-year-old (adorable) spayed female hound and husky mix. I need to be only pet in home. I've lived in a few homes throughout my life. I was recently spayed. I've made lots of people-friends and have had lots of walkies and spend lots of time cuddling with the humans. I'm a happy gal. My tail is always wagging! Plus, I'm known to smile. My favorite treats and favorite people make me smile. I'm 100% and most definitely a very happy go-lucky dog. If you'd like to learn more about me or would like to meet me (and hopefully take me on a walk exploring things outdoors!), give my people-friends here a call today!

This pet is available for adoption at

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society

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

*(By appointment only at this time.) Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.

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



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Max—4-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black with white. Max is eager to find his people. Max does well with dogs and cats.



Winston—4-year-old. Neutered male. Pit Bull/boxer mix. Brindle with white. Winston knows how to "sit," "stay," "shake," and "down." Winston has lived with cats and did fine.



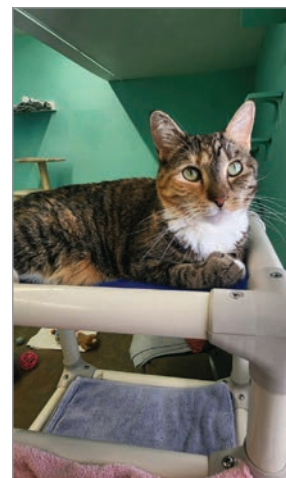
Naya—6-year-old. Spayed female. German shepherd dog. Black and Tan. Naya loves everyone she meets and greets you with a happy tail wag.



Ranger—9-month-old. Male. Siberian husky. Silver and white. Ranger is a sweet and friendly boy who is ready for his next adventure!



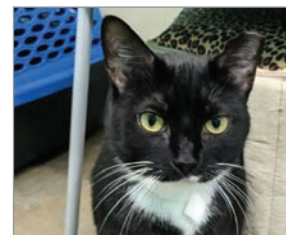
Wanda—1-year-old. Female. Bulldog mix. Tan and white. Wanda is wiggly, bouncy, and she is happy to be around everyone she meets.



Zoey—5-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic medium hair. Brown torbie w/ white. Zoey is a sweet purring lap-girl and is good with other cats.



Diesel—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic short hair brown tabby. Diesel is a bashful guy who would prefer a quiet home.



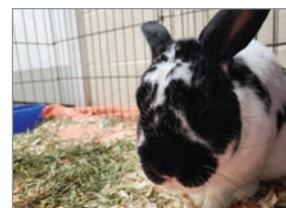
Margaret—3-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Short hair. Black and white. Margaret is a sweet and affectionate lady who will follow you from room to room.



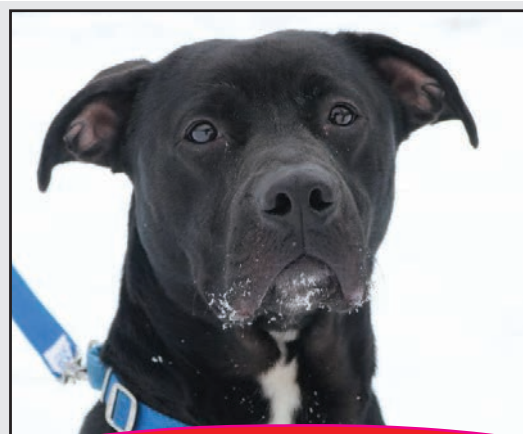
Precious—1-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Short hair. Grey tiger. This sweet, young lady is very social and loves to follow you around.



Stella—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic short hair. Dilute torti. Stella is a confident kitty who is a little particular about her requirements for her new home.



Spazzy—3-year-old. Neutered male. American. Black and white. Don't let his name fool you, Spazzy is a pretty mellow boy, with an easygoing disposition.



NITRO

Meet Nitro—1-year-old. Male. Lab/Pit mix. Black. Nitro loves to learn. He knows "sit," "wait," and "down" and can "shake" with both of his paws.

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

Rutland County Humane Society hosts a neuter-a-thon

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. 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 two locations. The first location is the RCHS shelter, on April 3, 10, and 24 and the second location is at the Homeward Bound shelter, 236 Boardman St. 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. to noon. No cats will be accepted after 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. Help spread the word about this great opportunity!

Cosmic Catalogue



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Aries

March 21 - April 20

The next two months are going to be all about your cash flow and expenditure. You may be considering making a bold move with money, especially if Jupiter has been providing the boons he promises. Your expenses and overheads could be getting out of hand too! Whatever happens this week, think very deeply about it. Leave no idea or option unexplored. Consider all scenarios. It's an exciting time for you, just avoid going all in head first and making an impulsive move.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Your career is in focus this week and over the next two months too. You might be ready to consider putting out your proverbial feelers to see what other options are available for you professionally or in terms of your overall life direction. Profound insights are available if you slow down enough to recognize there are actually other options available to you. The way things are now don't have to stay that way. In fact, they can't and they won't.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

While you still have the chance, it would be recommended to fine-tune your schedule, because very soon, things are likely to get a little bit haywire! You've already taken on more than you can probably chew in terms of your obligations, so a proverbial spanner in the works is the last thing you need. Speaking of chewing, if your health, fitness and wellness rituals could use a little care and attention, now is a good time to do a Spring clean of sorts.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

I'm sure it must have been a Taurus who coined the phrase, "buy it cheap, buy it twice". You know good quality when you see it. Now that Mercury is in your sign for the next couple of months, it's time to know the quality of your own nature a little more. Rather than focusing on the beauty around you, spend more time thinking about the beauty that's already within you. Be sure to share it too! You've got something wonderful to offer!



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

You may have changed your mindset around what travel looks like for you over the past few years. If you had to delay a trip, adventure or a study pathway because of pandemic related chaos, chances are you can put those options back on the table. Now that some time has passed, it's possible that you want different things than you did before, and that's OK. Your world view has changed, because the world has. Let your choices reflect that.



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Mercury in Taurus is a wonderful time for you! With your sector of fun, pleasure and joy in focus for two glorious months, how can you make plans to reduce your work commitments and make more time for doing more of what you love with whom you love? Otherwise, what's the point in working as hard as you do if you don't get to enjoy it! The cosmic pressure is off you now, so live it up a little bit - you've earned it.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

How much time does thinking about money take up rent free space in your head? Is it a case of if I buy that, will I have enough for this? If I can just earn this much, then I'll be free to do this or that? This week, challenge yourself to live in a reality where you swipe the card or make the transfer and don't even give a second thought to whether there's enough to cover it, because you trust that there is.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

Mercury in Taurus isn't a fun time for you in general. It's time to think about your fears, phobias and anxieties. This could be relationship related worries or concerns you have financially, especially around debts or investments. Take the time to have a good look at what you own, earn and owe. Chances are, once you face the dragon head on, it's actually more frightened of you, than you are of it. The process of cleansing and renewal begins now.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Your thoughts turn to your domestic scene this week as Mercury enters your Home Zone for the next two months. Be prepared for a slower pace at home, with a little bit of chaos thrown in too! A relocation or renovation is possible or the need to declutter and reorganize the domestic details is likely. Your changing personal priorities may require a new rhythm or routine at home. Also, be honest about what you really do and don't want out of family life.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Life seems to move at a pace that goes by faster and faster each year. When was the last time you got to connect with a friend and just talked for hours? When was the last time you had free time available for friends without having to schedule them in or check your availability first? If you had to think about that, then chances are, it's been too long. Start making your friends, groups and communities a priority if you want to be happier.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

What do you believe to be true about relationships? Thoughts become things and over the next couple of months, you'll get the chance to fine tune what you think about partnership. If you're not happy with things, you'll need to rethink those thoughts. You may discover you're willing to make a deeper commitment or in some cases, ready to cut ties with certain situations. Only you know what's right for you, but it would be wise to take your time and think things through carefully first.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Adjustments to your daily rituals is likely with an extended focus of Mercury for the next two months. This fine-tuning period may help you realize what's missing in your day - today life. Maybe you want more time in the day to simply just be. If that's the case, start tweaking things to make room for a slower pace, more pleasure and beauty as well as more quality time indulging in the little things. Reading, writing and studying are also emphasized!



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

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Don't be impulsive

The sky has been on regular programming for a while now, but that all begins to change now that it's April. Communication, planning and logistics planet, Mercury, enters Taurus – an annual occurrence. This year though, rather than spending three-ish weeks there, we get two months of mayhem, thanks to the trickster heading in reverse later in April.

Mercury, also a money planet, likes to move fast. Think of how many millions of financial transactions have taken place all over the globe since you've been reading this horoscope! Taurus is also about money, but not so much about

money itself, but the things that money can buy; the roof over your head, the food in your belly as well as the treats and trinkets that make life beautiful. Needless to say, in the next couple of months, things are going to get tricky when it comes to money. In general, I find Mercury in Taurus to be an expensive time. This period is likely to be exceptionally so. With that in mind, take your time when it comes to cash. Rather than making impulsive moves, think about it a while. Can you make your life increasingly beautiful in other ways? Can you slow down enough to savor the beauty that's already around you?



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

High School: Remembering the little things

If you went to school in the Rutland area chances are your school yearbook is on the website of the Rutland Historical Society. Looking at it online allows you to visually reconnect with your high school days.

I sit at a breakfast table weekly with some classmates and this often results in a "verbal reconnect" with those days. Three of us in the group graduated from Mount Saint Joseph Academy (MSJ) back in the 1960s and we all loved our high school days.

Sometimes it's the little things and not the big events that make the best memories. Let's take a look back and maybe our high school memories will evoke some fond memories of your own.

In the '60s the first floor of MSJ was for the business students. College prep students were on the second floor. It was like two different worlds with two different sets of memories.

My friend, Anita, who was a student in the business section, reminisced about helping out in the school office during the day. She felt really lucky when she was told that she would be needed there for the entire day. Keeping up with her class assignments was still required but she loved every minute of her experience in the "real" business world. MSJ knew how to pick a "good worker" as Anita went on to a successful banking career.



Looking
Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

My cousin, Betty, was also in the business section. She had "the honor" of collecting attendance slips. She recalls that one teacher always placed his slips in one hand of the Blessed Mother's statue. Betty could just grab them on the way by and no classes were disturbed!

One of my memories is good for a laugh as long as I don't mind laughing at myself! For some reason I decided to take a course in

Looking Back → 35

Bring in the bird feeders – and other ways to avoid bear-human conflict

It is a question I face each year as March winds into April: when to take down the bird feeder. Our avian feeding station is basic: a single run-of-the-mill hopper, which I fill with a local mix of seed that seems to keep the winter flocks of chickadees and nuthatches happy. Occasionally, a blue jay or two drops by. Sometimes a few crows or a couple of turkeys linger below the feeder, cleaning up whatever has fallen to the ground.

It's always tempting to leave the feeder up just a bit longer, especially during this time of year when migratory birds are making their way back north. If the seed is there, perhaps those birds, still in their winter plumage, will pause in their travels. But as those birds move north, the bears who have spent the colder season hunkered down in the local woods are also emerging. And they are hungry.

"Spring is one of the leanest times for food," said Andrew Timmins, game programs supervisor and acting bear project leader for the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. "If the previous fall had a good beechnut or acorn crop, the bears feed on leftover hard mast once the snow has melted. But we had essentially none of that last fall, so the bears will be waiting for green vegetation to emerge."

In the meantime – before the grasses green up and the new leaves form on poplar and white ash – bears will be searching for other food sources. And when humans provide those food sources, even inadvertently, that leads to trouble. That trouble usually ends badly for the bear. You've likely heard the saying, "A fed bear is a dead bear," and there's a sad truth in that: bears that become habituated to sourcing their food from the human environment generally end up being killed, either by collisions with cars as the bears try to access human neighborhoods, by property owners who choose to shoot a bear rather than remove or protect the attractant, or by Fish & Game officials left with little

choice.

"Once a bear starts breaking into houses or vehicles, it's a pretty solid line in the sand. We can't allow that behavior," said Timmins. "But there's a lot we can do to prevent that."

He names three main factors driving bear-human conflicts: unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and unprotected chickens. Humans can, Timmins noted, address or correct each of these. Garbage should be secured in a garage or outbuilding – or the basement if that's the only option. Dumpsters should have locking metal tops to keep bears out. To control odors, add an old towel doused with ammonia to garbage receptacles. Pet food should also be secured, and barbecue grills cleaned regularly.

The best way to protect chickens is to keep them inside an electrified fence set at 4,000 to 5,000 volts. (And, for the record, bears aren't the only wildlife that will readily dine on unprotected poultry; bobcats, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, weasels and others also get into chicken enclosures.) Fish & Game offers short term loans of electric fencing to homeowners – both to demonstrate its effectiveness and to allow people time to purchase their own fencing.

Among the simplest means of avoiding bear-human conflict is simply bringing in the bird feeders. For good. Until next winter.

"Feeding birds during the day and taking the feeder in at night never works," said Timmins. "Bears will just figure out when it's available and will start coming during the day. It's also impossible to clean up all the spilled seed underneath that feeder; there will be enough remnants on the ground to attract a bear."

Timmins encourages people to pack up their feeders by March 15 in the southern part of the state and April 1 farther north. I resisted the urge to buy one more package of bird seed and took my feeder down last week. While I'll miss watching the birds gather to eat right outside my window, I know they'll find wild food to sustain them – just, I hope, as the bears will this spring.

Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is the associate editor for Northern Woodlands. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology

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Story
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Edge of disaster

I was lucky enough to grow up in a neighborhood that bordered a municipal park. I could walk out my front door, hop on my bike, and be at the park in less than two minutes.

The park encompassed several acres and included tennis and basketball courts, a baseball diamond, a playground with a slides, swings, and jungle gyms, and our town's largest public pool.

I spent most of my free time at this park, palling around with friends and getting into minor mischief whenever possible. In the winter, however, the area became barren since most of the available activities didn't function well under a deep blanket of snow.

I actually enjoyed roaming around the park when it was empty. In the winter, I'd traverse the grounds looking for inquisitive things to explore. And when I got really daring, I'd hop the fence and scout around the empty pool.

During the summer months when the pool was open, I was always loitering, so much so that I knew all the lifeguards by name. My mother told me as long as I took swimming lessons I could go to the pool whenever I wanted. And as much as I hated those early morning lessons, I knew they were my key to a summer of freedom.

The pool had two giant diving boards. One was a low-dive that sat a few feet off the ground and the other was a high-dive that sat about 15 feet above the waterline. We called this high-dive the tower.

The tower was intimidating for most kids, myself included. It took me several years before I'd do anything except jump off it. Eventually, however, I got up enough nerve to dive. And with lots of practice, I worked my way up to a 1 1/2 somersault, which became my self-imposed limit. I'd seen other kids attempt more difficult dives and I'd seen how infrequent their success was.

However, at one point a friend convinced me to try a backwards flip off the tower. The dive didn't seem that intimidating on paper, but I had a mental block when it came to throwing my body off that height without any visual cues to reference.

I'd watch my friend pull off this dive dozens of times; he made it look easy. He even told me the secret to doing it, which involved overriding everything your brain

says about survival.

Eventually, I got up the nerve to try it and to my shock, it turned out to be really easy. In fact, it was so easy that I started doing it all the time. I'd climb the tower ladder, walk out to the end of the board, turn around, balance my toes on the edge, and then throw myself backwards into the air. After that, gravity took over.

This particular dive also encompassed an air of exhilaration, likely caused by the odd backwards flipping motion that the body experiences.

Unfortunately, I got so relaxed with this dive that I stopped taking the proper precautions. One day I nonchalantly walked out to the end of the board, turned around, and threw myself off. For whatever reason, on this attempt I caught too much air, flipped quicker than normal, and banged my head against the edge of the board before awkwardly tumbling into the water.

When I hit the water and surfaced, I put my hand to my throbbing head. When I pulled it away, my hand was covered in blood. The lifeguard on duty jumped in and pulled me to the side of the pool, after which they called my mother. (Nowadays the pool would have to be emptied and sterilized, but back then they just waited for the blood to dissipate.)

Due to my negligence, I ended up with eight stitches across my scalp and a raging headache for a couple days. I never attempted that dive again, but every time I drive past that pool, I don't think about the countless wonderful memories, I only think about that failed dive.

This week's feature, "Somebody I Used to Know" starring Alison Brie ("Mad Men"), doesn't constitute a failure, but it's

also not a rom-com worth remembering.

Brie portrays Ally, a young businesswoman whose career gets shut down unexpectedly forcing her to return to her hometown to reevaluate her life. In the process, she runs into her ex-boyfriend and his fiancé, which opens up a multitude of wannabe comedic moments.

Brie is definitely a talented actress, and while this film didn't give her the best material to work with, it did allow her to shine in a starring role. Check this one out if you need a good date-night movie or are simply in the mood for relationship nostalgia.

A semi-authentic "C" for "Somebody I Used to Know," now available for viewing on Amazon Prime.

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



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



By Dave Hoffenberg

Winning this year's Iron Chef at Killington's Sushi Yoshi was first time competitors Erica White and Nevin Perry from Riverside. All teams had to use Taylor ham and maple syrup. The winners made a Joe "Croquer" Madame Taylor pork roll and Gruyere on hibachi-ed sourdough with Bechamel, torched parm and sunny egg served with maple bourbon sweet potato pork hash and Arlo maple cookies.

Rivershed crowned Iron Chef champion

After a 5 year hiatus due in part to Covid, the incredible Iron Chef Competition returned to Sushi Yoshi, Sunday, April 2. This year's charity event benefitted Joe Ceccacci and his dog Arlo who were involved in a car accident on the Pass this past December. Judges were DJ Dave, KO, Joe, Bud and Maggie. Teams included: Bear Mountain Bar, Shore Thing Ski House, Liquid Art (with the youngest competitor ever Bree Sarandrea), Farrell Distributing, The Deli at Killington, Rivershed and the Killington Block Party.

Rivershed, competing for the first time ever, were crowned champions. The trophy will be proudly displayed at Rivershed and they now have bragging rights for a year. We look forward to next year's event in the spring of 2024.

Locals chefs compete on hibachi tables

We didn't have time to practice so this first time was going to have to be the best time. Well, you don't get to really practice anyways because it's not like you can go in and use the hibachi tables while no one is looking. The only experience you can garner is from watching the hibachi chefs themselves cook a meal or by entering the Iron Chef competition at Sushi Yoshi almost every year since it's begun.

Of course, it's hard to focus on the cooking part when they're lighting onions on fire and trying to throw zucchini pieces into your mouth. Or that one guy who could toss an egg into his grand bonnet after making it dance on his spatula. That was pretty neat and definitely something beyond my skill level. I'm more at the toss the vegetables around with the spatula and a knife kind of person.

But this past weekend, we got to cook on the Hibachi grills in a winner takes all competition and raise money to relieve some of the medical bills for a good friend and his adorable dog, Arlo. And so the community gathered to watch some of the best (and worst) amateur chefs in the community try their skills on the flattop — which is not as easy as some might think.

The middle is hot. I mean really hot. So hot that if you don't pay attention, you'll be burning the whole thing before you've even noticed you had food there. Then the outside is warm, not hot at all, so if you try to actually cook something out there, it's going to take forever and you won't get your dish finished within the 30 minute time frame.

I love this event. I am a foodie. I certainly am not a chef by any means. But I love trying

my hand at this grille, the pressure of the time clock and the crowd cheering you on. It's less about the final product as it is about trying to make something special and unique while entertaining the crowd.

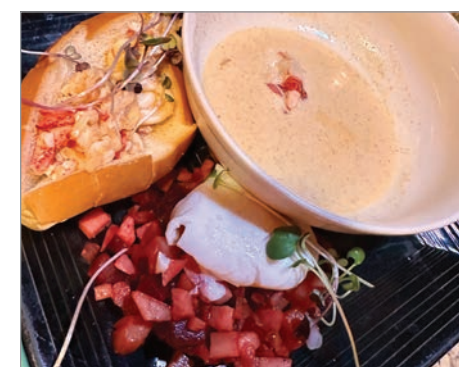
This year, the BF drove halfway to Maine, where he met his dad for the lobster handoff. As in lobsters so fresh that they were out of the water for 7 hours before we surprised everyone by dumping them unceremoniously onto the hibachi table to die. We put them in the middle, right over the hot spot and then covered them with fresh maple sap and an upside down pot.

That's right. Steamed in Maple Sap. One of our ski buddies generously donated a bunch of his beautiful maple sap so that we could steam the lobsters, bringing out a crazy maple flavor

Living the dream → 35



Livin' the Dream
By Merisa Sherman



By Merisa Sherman

Sushi Yoshi Iron Chef entry from Team Killington Block Party made a maple lobster roll, Taylor beet hash with maple poached egg and lobster bisque.

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Living the dream: from page 33

that. It was banging and honestly, I never want to use water for lobster again. This was magnificent and we used homemade maple butter to toast the rolls.

The second ingredient was Taylor PorkHam Roll that New Jersey folks seem to love so much. We made a golden and red beet hash with that and then topped it with an egg that the BF poached in the maple sap. Egg poached in maple sap. That was something I had never heard of before we literally decided to do it at the hibachi table.

Finally, we threw together a quick lobster stew, similar to the one from the Jordon Pond House in Acadia National Park. Using chunks of the lobster tail, cream, sherry and a little paprika made for a simple yet amazing dish.

One of my favorite parts was watching the BF dismantle those lobsters with ridiculous speed and precision. He definitely proved his Maine roots that night. He was fast and impressive to watch. It would have taken me the entire 30 minutes to get all

four lobsters shelled.

Because we just made it. With 9 seconds to go, the BF placed the last maple sap poached egg on top of the Taylor Beet Hash and I threw on the micro greens. We had made it. We managed to steam lobster, make and plate three dishes on the hibachi grill in 30 minutes. I don't know how we manage to do that every time. It always amazes me how somehow it all comes together at the last minute.

It's a crazy evening, with frantic teams trying to throw down the best they can think of while cooking on something that they've never get to. In a town full of restaurants, it's always fun to push the limits of imagination and creativity, while trying something bizarre. It's honestly one of my favorite events of the year — and we've already started planning our dishes for next year!

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, bartender, KMS coach and local realtor. She can be reached at femaleskibum@gmail.com

Looking Back from page 32

home economics. That was not a normal choice for a college prep student. I have no idea what I was thinking! It didn't take me long to figure out that I should stick to academics. One of our projects was making a skirt. We hemmed our skirts by hand. When the bell rang and I stood up to go to my next class I found that I had stitched the skirt to my school uniform. I had to pull out all the stitches and get a note from my teacher, Mrs. McGarry, explaining why I was about 20 minutes late for my next class.

Thank goodness my friend, Anita, is a skilled seamstress. She has hemmed many items for me over the years. I never got any better at that task than I was back in the '60s. Eventually I gave up trying. Thank you, Anita!

School clubs were a big part of a student's life. The choices were numerous. In fact my mother asked me if there

were any clubs I didn't belong to. Most of them met at night and for some reason my mother was usually the driver for me and my friends. I remember my mother asking, “Doesn't anyone else's mother know how to drive?”

But there was one club I didn't belong to and it wasn't by choice. It was the Glee Club. I was denied because I couldn't carry a tune. I wanted to join because my friends belonged. I even offered to lip sync. That request was denied. I was persistent enough to try out every year and Major Pelton kept telling me my voice hadn't changed. I guess that was the “standard reason” even if you were a girl and a changing voice is a “boy thing.” When your voice sounds like “nails on a chalkboard” you have to be denied.

What clubs could you belong to back then? Just name your interest and there was a club waiting for you. Among our

choices at MSJ were: French Club, Latin Club, Science Club, National Honor Society Club, Business Club, Public Speaking Club, Future Teachers Club, Future Nurses Club, Music Club, Glee Club and the Varsity Club.

Add in all the sports that one could participate in and there was no way a student could be bored “back in the day.” There were also opportunities for students to be in plays and the school band.

Our education was well-rounded and there were plenty of ways to have fun as we learned.

Even if you chose not to be an active participant in sports or the band being an observer was equally fun. The bleachers were full at all sporting events and being in the audience at a school play was always a fun experience.

As they say, “Those were the days!”



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Lawmakers propose taking \$20 million from child care to buy manufactured homes and provide services to unhoused Vermonters

By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

A last-minute amendment tacked on to the Vermont House's \$8.5 billion state budget bill, H.494, would re-allocate \$20 million set aside for child care to house and provide services for certain unhoused Vermonters now living in hotels.

A pandemic-era program housing about 2,800 people experiencing homelessness in hotels ran out of federal funding March 31, and advocates have been working furiously all session to convince lawmakers to use state funds to prevent thousands from losing their shelter. They were partially successful: A mid-year spending package that passed into law earlier this month partially extends funding through June 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

But the advocates' larger ask — for \$72 million to keep the program going through next year, as well as \$40 million to expand shelter capacity — has largely fallen on deaf ears.

In his budget proposal, Gov. Phil Scott had recommended spending \$26 million on the motel program, enough to provide vouchers in the winter months, but not year-round. And until last Wednesday, House Democrats had made clear they were not interested in substantially improving on Scott's opening offer. A draft of the state budget that the chamber's appropriations committee had largely buttoned up on Friday included the same figure for motel housing, plus \$3.75 million to expand shelter capacity and \$2 million for housing support grants.

But by an 8-3 straw vote, with all



By Natalie Williams/VTDigger

Manufactured homes at a park in Berlin in August. Rep. Theresa Wood, D-Waterbury, told her colleagues that there are over 300 vacancies in manufactured home parks right now.

Republicans present in opposition, the budget-writing panel on Wednesday morning blessed a new amendment, which would add an extra \$20 million to that total. Half would go to supportive services, the other \$10 million would go to manufactured housing, commonly known as mobile homes, for people in motels who meet new eligibility criteria.

House Human Services Committee chair Rep. Theresa Wood, D-Waterbury, who crafted the amendment, told the appropriations panel that there are over 300 vacancies in manufactured home parks right now. At \$40,000 a piece, she said, \$10 million could buy an estimated 250 manufactured homes.

That's enough to re-house just a fraction of those currently living in motels — a fact Wood herself appeared to acknowledge.

"This is not going to solve the entire housing crisis that we're in," Wood said. "I want to make that perfectly clear to members around this table and to the people watching today. But I felt really like we had to consider something else."

A majority of Vermonters in a recent poll said they wanted to see the motel program extended, and there are no viable alternatives ready to shelter those who will exit this summer. But the program is deeply unpopular with the administration and lawmakers, who see it as a massively expensive stop-gap that does little to address root causes of homelessness.

A section heading in the amendment is titled "Plan to end hotel and motel program established during the Covid-19 emergency," and Wood stressed to her colleagues Wednesday

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Housing density

from page 7

proposal into a study.

"I can't deny that this could probably lead to some really good infill projects,"

said Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale of her colleague's proposal, before adding that she also couldn't guarantee that it wouldn't lead to a larger project on a "hillside or in a view scape but it's really important to an entire community."

"And something like that could really set back our ability to have a conversation about advancing stronger smart growth and more housing in the coming years," she said.

Chittenden accepted Ram Hinsdale's amendment, which essentially nullified his. And in his floor speech to his colleagues, he repeatedly stressed that, despite his desire

for more aggressive deregulation, he still strongly supported the underlying bill.

"I regret taking away any of the applause that is dedicated to and should be given to S.100," he said. "This is a great bill. I look forward to supporting it."

Brian Shupe, the executive director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council,

said after the vote that the environmental group was "pleased" by the outcome.

"We're especially pleased that the Chittenden amendment was not added to it," he said. "That was a great concern to us and we think the Senate did the right thing to replace that with a different amendment that looks at that issue as part of a larger study that's underway."

The bill next heads to the House.

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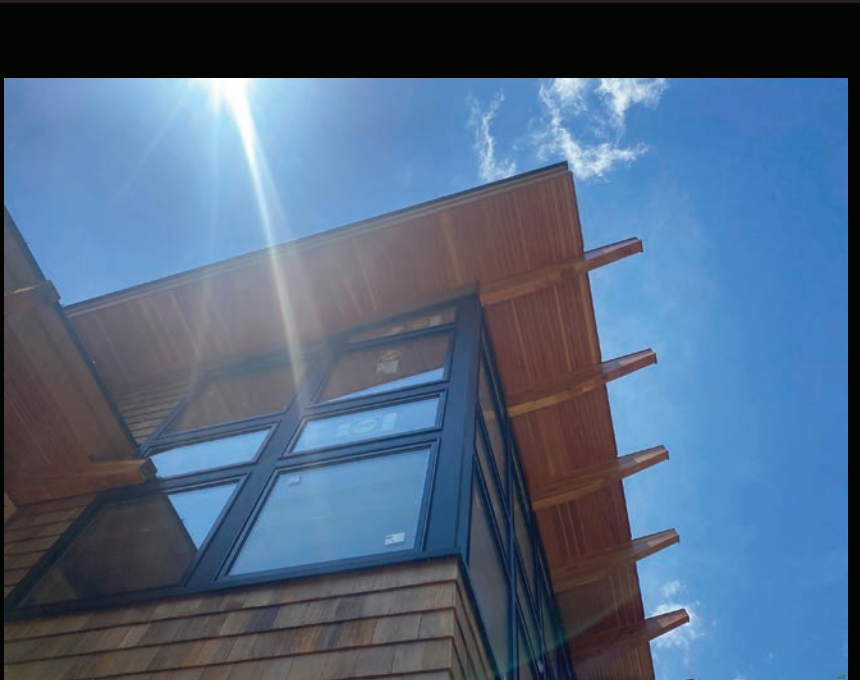
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Auditor finds problems with elderly homes

State Auditor Doug Hoffer released a new audit March 29 examining the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living's performance inspecting long-term care homes housing vulnerable older Vermonters. The audit found that across seven years DAIL, as the department is called, was not performing annual facility inspections as required by law and rarely used enforcement tools to address the problems they found.

"Protecting the most vulnerable Vermonters is one of state government's most sacred duties," Hoffer said. "To put it plainly, DAIL's efforts to ensure Vermonters living in assisted living and residential care facilities are safe have not been good enough. Inspections may have been interrupted during the height of Covid, but our review found systemic problems going back years before that."

Vermont has three kinds of long term care homes – nursing homes, assisted living residences, and residential care homes. Nursing homes are subject to federal oversight, while assisted living and residential care facilities are only subject to state regulation. The audit focused on the latter two types of facilities.

Hoffer added: "One of the most important things we learned in this audit is that DAIL responds much quicker and uses enforcement tools more frequently in nursing homes than when the exact same problems

53% detected substantial noncompliance, meaning the facility's noncompliance risked residents' wellbeing, or, in the most severe instances, the facility caused or was likely to cause serious injury, serious harm, impairment, or death.

are found in assisted living and residential care facilities. This doesn't make sense since Vermonters living in all three types of facilities are classified as vulnerable."

Notable findings in the audit include:

- Of the 691 inspections DAIL conducted during the audit period, 53% detected substantial noncompliance, meaning the facility's noncompliance risked residents' wellbeing, or, in the most severe instances, the facility caused or was likely to cause serious injury, serious harm, impairment, or death.
- DAIL failed to inspect facilities as often as required by law; as a

practice, they strove to inspect each facility every two years, but statute requires annual inspections. In fact, as of March 2, 2023, 11 facilities had not been inspected since 2018.

- When DAIL found problems that could cause injury or death, they revisited the facilities to verify that the problems were corrected, but it took them between 54 and 125 days to do so. For the next most severe deficiencies, DAIL did not follow up at all more than half the time and took between 35 and 148 days to go back when they did.

"I've had family members in long term care facilities, so I know how important this work is," Hoffer said. "Family members count on the state to make sure our peace of mind is not unfounded. Audits can make for dry reading — to humanize it Vermonters should ask how they'd feel if it was their mother or father or grandparent in a facility that went years without inspection, or that repeatedly failed to meet safety requirements. I know Vermont can do better."

For more information or to read the full 51-page report visit: auditor.vermont.gov.



Mobile home investment:

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that this was "important."

"This is the first time I believe that you will see anything in writing that says 'end the Covid-era motel-hotel program,'" she told the appropriations panel.

Still, for advocates, the new money represents progress. "We are encouraged to see a commitment of funding to create a bridge to housing for Vermonters experiencing homelessness," Anne Sosin, the interim director of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition, said in a statement. "However, much work still needs to be done to avoid a crisis of more than 2,000 of the most vulnerable Vermonters becoming unsheltered."

She added that the group looked forward to "collaborating on a plan that reflects the best evidence and lessons from other states in coming weeks."

The new, one-time \$20 million appropriation for unhoused Vermonters will come out of a \$92 million line item that was initially set aside in the budget for child care. It's unclear how much that will impact policy conversations around early childhood education — the figure was meant to be a placeholder, since the two chambers are still a long way away from negotiating a final package and price tag.

Though the Democrats' approach to the motel-hotel program had, until now, largely mirrored the administration's, Scott has made clear that he is strongly opposed to the larger budget bill, which includes broad expansions to social spending that would require new taxes. On Wednesday, his press secretary, Jason Maulucci, said that the governor was opposed to this latest amendment as well.

"From an administrative standpoint, we would need to analyze what of these funds we could get out the door and whether (the Department for Children and Families) would have the staffing capacity to manage it," Maulucci wrote in an email. "Limiting additional supports of this broad nature to this population could also slow down the flow of funds to individuals experiencing homelessness."

The budget is expected to hit the House floor Thursday.

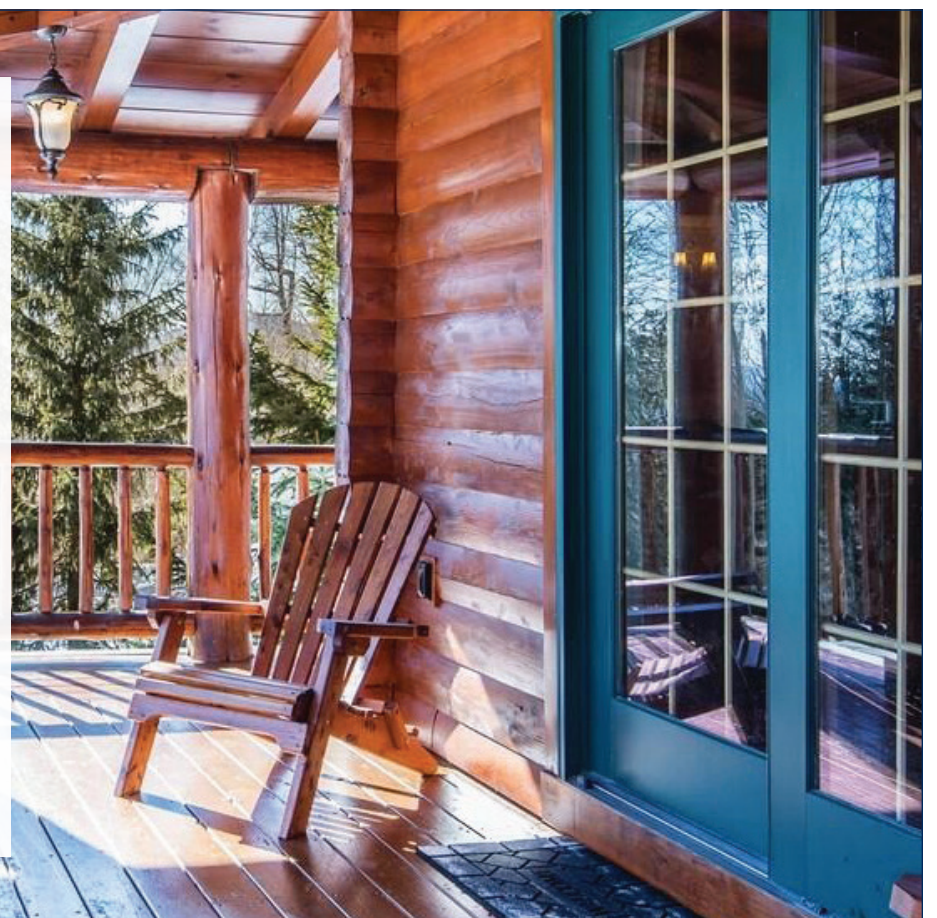
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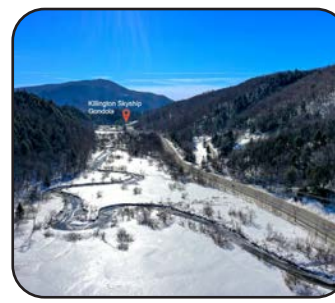
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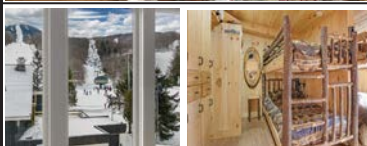
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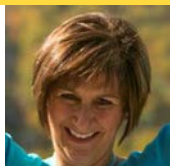
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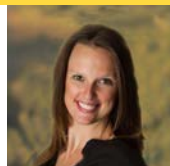


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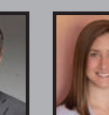
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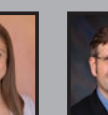
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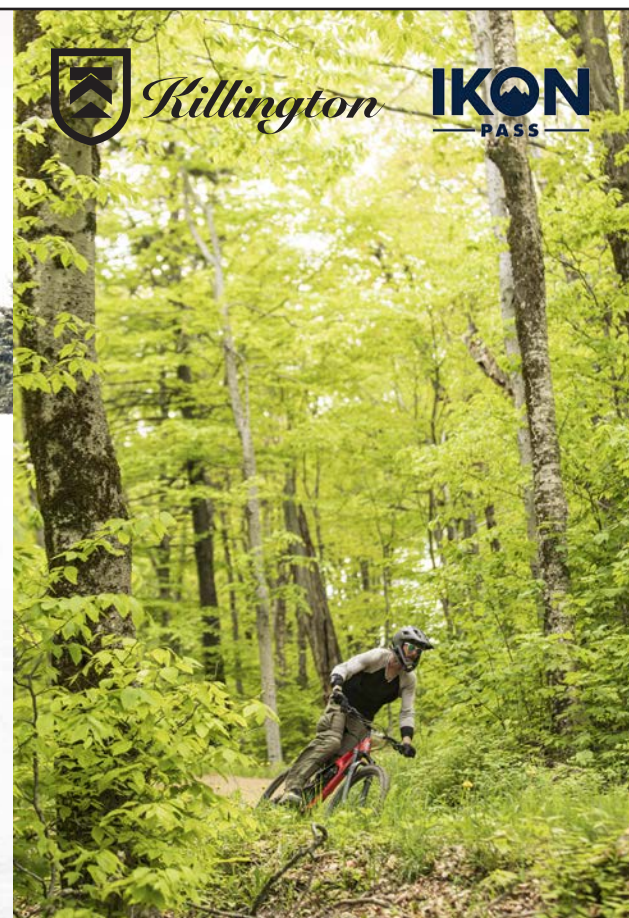
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