



## CLOSING DAY

Okemo is closing for the season on Sunday after 149 days of skiing and riding. The resort reports 32 inches over average snowfall.

Page 19



By Glenn Russell VTDigger

## JILL BIDEN VISITS VERMONT

First Lady Jill Biden visited Vermont last Wednesday, April 5.

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## TULPI SEATS TO BLOOM AT DEPOT PARK

Crowdfunding campaign seeks to improve downtown Rutland.

Page 4

# Solimano honored with industry leadership award

Killington and Pico Resort Partners President and General Manager Mike Solimano has been named a recipient of the 2023 Sammy Leadership award, according to an April 10 news release. The 25th annual award honors innovative, inspiring, courageous, and passionate industry leaders making a difference locally and nationally. Recipients are determined based on nominations by members of the ski and snowboard industry, including many members of the Killington team, who shared their thoughts.

"I am humbled and honored to be

"No doubt Killington's best days are ahead with Solimano at the wheel," said CEO of Powdr Justin Sibley.

recognized by Ski Area Management (SAM) with this award," Solimano said. "The fact that I was nominated by the team here at Killington and Pico makes it even more prestigious and I'd also like to thank the entire management team at POWDR for believing in our vision and allowing Killington and Pico to grow in the right direction."

Some of the attributes that earned Solimano the award included his openness to listening to feedback and enacting real change to improve the experience of working at and visiting The Beast. He is also no stranger to working on the front lines of the resort — often found boot fitting, bussing tables or driving a shuttle bus.

"Mike's da bomb! Killington is a BEAST, in more ways than one and he navigates it well — there are few in the business who could do that with his even-tempered and methodical approach," said one team member.

He's been instrumental in Killington Resort's year-round growth and was the first to propose the Beast 365 pass, which gives guests the option to pay monthly for year-round access to skiing and riding, mountain biking, golf and adventure center attractions.

"Congratulations to Mike Solimano  
Solimano → 2

# New childcare center gets \$94K grant despite concerns

By Katy Savage

The Woodstock Economic Development Commission (EDC) unanimously awarded a new childcare center a \$94,600 grant on Thursday, April 6, despite complaints and an anonymous letter of concern from parents.

EDC chair Jon Spector and other members said the issues in the community haven't influenced the EDC's decision. "In my view that criteria (for awarding the grant) have been met," he said.

The new facility, called The Mill School, will serve up to 17 children, ages 6 weeks to 3 years old in East Woodstock.

Spector said recent survey results show a drastic need for childcare, with as many as 50 families in need, despite the EDC's recent grant approval of \$330,000 to area childcare centers for expansion.

"There is clear demand for these 17 spaces," Spector said at the meeting, adding, "Those issues taking place in the community ... they're unfortunate. I've talked to people on both sides of those issues. I think mostly what people want is to have these issues not discussed in public."

Woodstock parents submitted an anonymous letter to the EDC on March 30, alleging leaders of The Mill School have disparaged area childcare centers and caused disruption in care.

Caroline Olsen, the owner of The Mill School, filed complaints with the state in 2021, alleging Rainbow did not follow protocol for her child, who had a sesame seed and garlic allergy, according to documents obtained in a public records request.

Olsen told state investigators more than once that she wanted the executive director of the Rainbow School fired, Grant → 10



By Paul Holmes

# Skinning brings spring smiles

Two golden retrievers chase turns Easter Sunday at Pico, which closed April 2, now a.k.a. "Hike-o."

# Residents, state decry permit violations at Chester quarry

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

CHESTER — Local residents, affirmed by a state Natural Resources Board decision, say three quarries run by a pair of Connecticut brothers are operating illegally.

Through photos and videos, the citizens have shown sediment polluting a nearby stream, rock fragments blasted onto a roadway and railroad tracks, and noisy hydraulic hammering. Those residents brought their grievances before Chester's Select Board at a meeting March 22.

"I'd be happy if you would just abide by the Act

250 permits and the rules and regulations put forth by our town," said Mike LeClair, who presented a slideshow at last week's selectboard meeting, addressing the quarries' owners. Andrew and Jason Julian — who split time between Vermont and Connecticut — own the three locations in connection with their AllStone Vermont business in Chester and Julian Materials based in Fairfield, Connecticut.

A jurisdictional opinion issued by the Natural Resources Board's District 2 Environmental Com-

mission earlier this month outlined a number of violations, including the fact that two of the three quarries are operating without Act 250 permits.

The Julian brothers' "North Quarry" had an Act 250 permit that expired in 2008, and their "Chandler Road Quarry" lacks a permit entirely, the board found.

The state board also found that the hydraulic hammer used at the site — shown in video footage attached to a backhoe — was not permitted in any Quarry → 5



# Common Good Vermont's extraordinary – and necessary – quest

Over the past three years Vermont has thrived as a national example of doing the right things for our most vulnerable populations, and it's our state's nonprofits that deserve much of the credit.

Combating such perils as food insecurity, inadequate shelter, domestic violence, and other threats many Vermonters experience on a daily basis are just a few of the services essential nonprofits provide. Yet, if they are forced to depend on existing funding sources for their survival, the very mission and vision of these essential nonprofits could be in peril.

This is according to Common Good Vermont, which recently launched an impassioned petition titled "Stop Shortchanging Vermonters," asking organizations, businesses and private citizens to sign a letter urging the State of Vermont to fund the full cost of Vermont's nonprofit services.

Common Good Vermont, founded in 2008, is a statewide organization providing educational resources to increase the capacity of our nonprofits. These services include intensive training for staff at all levels, certification, and other career-related support, serving over 4500 nonprofits. The organization makes it possible for the nonprofit sector in Vermont to share resources, gain skills, and build partnerships that include meaningful collaboration with local, regional and state leaders.

According to Morgan Webster, Common Good's director for the past six years, the organization's mission is to "increase the leadership, accountability, sustainability and advocacy capacity of our fellow nonprofits and allies."

Webster's background includes market-



For the Greater Good  
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

ing and fundraising stints at the Shelburne Museum, Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition and AmeriCorps Vista, as well as a Master's focused on mission-driven management. She is an indisputable expert on how funding challenges affect nonprofits' capacity to achieve outcomes and deliver impact.

An unwavering champion for the staff, volunteers, donors and other advocates that serve and care about nonprofits, as well as for the populations nonprofits serve, Morgan Webster is a realist but is dogged about pursuing solutions.

Following are questions I posed to Webster, followed by her perspectives regarding what led Common Good to launch this petition for support at this time; the challenges all Vermonters face if the nonprofits fail due to insufficient funding; and how Vermonters who care about our most vulnerable residents, can become allies and advocates for the causes that serve them.

**What is driving Common Good's petition to increase support from the state for nonprofits now?**

"The pandemic and economic pressures have aggravated existing challenges for nonprofits, as organizations struggle to retain and recruit workers, keep up with rising costs, and meet increased demand for services," Webster said.

"If government grants and contracts covered full administrative costs associated with services, overhead, and administrative functions," she added, "then nonprofits could focus more on advancing their missions."

To be sure, nonprofits in other states also experience these challenges. "We sit on a national committee of nonprofit associations across the U.S. and these concerns are widespread. However, Vermont has the second most nonprofits per capita in the country, and our state increasingly depends on nonprofits to fulfill critical services statewide.

What are the most pressing threats to Vermonters overall if essential nonprofit organizations cannot continue their services?

"The loss will be felt the most by our most vulnerable community members but when a service is discontinued, the impact is not just felt by the individual," Webster said.

"Because communities may see a rise in homelessness, drug use, and even crime, we all benefit when nonprofits have sufficient support to address these crucial community needs," she added.

What other challenges does underfunding create for the nonprofits themselves?

"Underfunding increases nonprofits' struggles to offer competitive compensation," Webster indicated. "This disparity in pay makes it difficult for nonprofits to recruit and retain skilled employees for what are often demanding positions. They deserve compensation that reflects the value they contribute through their work.

"In addition, navigating complex processes and requirements of contracts, as well as having to fundraise, takes away from the resources organizations can put towards services," Webster added.

Another critical area of need for nonprofit organizations is long-range planning. As Webster explained, "Uncertainty around funding compromises the quality of their services, forcing the organization to focus only on short-term activities. This puts staff in an insecure position, and may cause shifts in programming," said Webster.

**What are the most important benefits to all Vermonters if there is full state support of nonprofit services?**

"Government-nonprofit partnerships that provide nonprofits with the resources they need to implement government policies, programs and services for the public's benefit will ultimately lead to better outcomes," said Webster. "By funding the full cost of services, we ensure that community needs are met, that organizations are supported in their work, and quality jobs are created.

**What steps can Vermonters take to help nonprofits secure sufficient funding to achieve their mission and vision and run effective enterprises?**



Submitted  
Morgan Webster is the director of Common Good Vermont.

"Second, become a well-informed Vermonter who cares," she added. "Read the full report by Common Good about the accomplishments of Vermont nonprofits, the challenges facing the sector, and more about Common Good's work," encouraged Webster.

"Third, become an ambassador for nonprofits in your community," she suggested. "Consider long-term solutions as you go about your everyday lives here."

Given the past three years that our state has been a national example of doing the right things for our most vulnerable populations, it's almost impossible to imagine how such work could go on without the dedication of our nonprofits.

Webster summed it up succinctly: "Vermonters deserve better. Building awareness, convening local conversations, and building relationships with decision-makers are all ways that Vermonters can help nonprofits and those they serve."

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## Solimano: from page 1



By Chandler Burgess, courtesy Killington Resort  
Mike Solimano, president of Killington and Pico

for being recognized for this well-deserved award," said CEO of Powdr Justin Sibley. "As the teams at Killington and Pico know well, he exemplifies the traits and qualities of a great leader day in and day out. All of us at Powdr know it to be true, as well, and are honored to call him a colleague and friend. No doubt Killington's best days are ahead with Solimano at the wheel."

Solimano's career began at Deloitte, where he advanced to become an audit manager before leaving to pursue his passion for the ski industry. He served as vice president of finance and operations for Dynastar North America before joining Killington/Pico in 2001 as vice president of finance.

As president and GM for the past 10 years, Solimano oversees all operational aspects and provides strategic direction for the business. His dedication to improving the culture of the resort and placing a strong focus on guest satisfaction has resulted in increased staff retention rates and continued improvement in net promoter scores.

He is deeply committed to the ski industry, serving on the

board of directors for Killington Mountain School, Ski Vermont, and the National Ski Areas Association. He also actively participates in the community, serving as a board member for the Vermont Electric Power Company and previously as chair of the board for Rutland Regional Medical Center. He enjoys a variety of outdoor sports and lives in Rutland with his wife and three children.

His nominators laude the way he has changed the Killington culture for the better via strong communication and transparency.

Solimano was one of four individuals across North America recognized with 2023 SAMMY Leadership Awards. The other honorees are: Preston Cline, for his safety advocacy at Snowshoe, W.Va.; Nadia Pepin, for being a champion of community run ski areas, CEO, Mont Gleason, Quebec; and Stacey Timmons Ehleringer, a promoter of people at her resort and community, at Sun Valley, Idaho.

All demonstrate the innovative thinking, collaborative spirit, and transparent leadership needed to guide our industry through its next evolution, SAM stated in its news release.

Solimano was one of four individuals across North America recognized with 2023 SAMMY Leadership Awards.





Five tulpi chairs are planned for Depot Park in Rutland in addition to other amenities to welcome folks downtown.

Submitted

# Better Places crowdfunding launches campaign to ‘Reimagine Depot Park’

\$10,000 goal to receive a 2:1 matching grant through DHCD’s Better Places program

Rutland residents will soon be able to enjoy Reimagine Depot Park thanks to a recently launched crowdfunding campaign. The campaign is a initiative by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) Better Places program and led by Come Alive Outside.

“Access to community gathering places is essential to the health, well-being, and prosperity of every family and every community,” said DHCD Commissioner Josh Hanford. “Depot Park will create a rich community gathering place that will enhance the lives of the residents and visitors of Rutland.”

If the campaign reaches its \$10,000 goal by deadline of June 3, “Reimagine Depot Park” will receive a matching grant of \$20,000 from DHCD’s Better Places program.

It was announced April 6 and by April 9 had already raised \$3,775. (For the current tally or to donate visit: [Patronicity.com/project/reimagine\\_depot\\_park#/](https://patronicity.com/project/reimagine_depot_park#/))

Depot Park is located at the intersection of all things downtown Rutland. The train station, downtown shops and restaurants, Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum, Boys and Girls Club, mural and sculpture walks, and Walmart are all within walking distance. The park is home to the Vermont Farmers Food Market in the summer and the annual tree lighting in the winter.

Depot Park is well positioned to become a space where community members want to pass their time. Lack of seating, interactive park amenities and park identification discourage community members from recreating in this park, however, wrote the organizations on Patronicity’s crowdfunding page.

Since May of 2022, Come Alive Outside and the City of Rutland have been gathering community feedback to determine what exactly it would take to make this a space where people in our community of different ages, backgrounds, needs, and interests to feel safe and welcome.

With community support, the group hopes to now enhance Depot Park with the most desired features: seating, art, and a music garden.

“Reimagine Depot Park is about more than putting in some places to sit and something to do in an underutilized space,” the organizations continue on Patronicity. “From the start, this project has been intentional about involving our entire community in giving voice to the challenges and opportunities in Depot Park.”

“Contributions will support installing a music garden, unique seating, and a small table in the park. These features are the first step to making Depot Park a more inclusive and welcoming space for social connection, health, and recreation,” the statement summarizes.

- Phase 1 will include a four functional art pieces:
- 1) Five four-season, weather-resistant tulpi chairs that rotates 360 degrees and can hold up to 400 pounds
  - 2) Music garden that will provide sensory benefits for multi-generational enjoyment
  - 3) Multi-use table with a checker board top offering a welcoming place to play, sit and eat
  - 4) Mushroom hop for kids of all ages

Phase 2 of this project (not funded by the current campaign) will install a friendly fence with signage that identifies the space as a park as well as the guidelines for park use.

“The Recreation Department is excited and fully supports the partnership with Come Alive Outside and the Better Places Program for a vibrant new look for Depot Park. I was able to attend the Community Steering Committee in March to better understand what the community preferred, collect feedback, and overall comments in regard to what structures are going in the park. I am excited for the project to get started,” said Kim Peters, superintendent of recreation and parks.

“For the past year, we have been collecting needs, ideas, concerns, and dreams regarding Depot Park from organizations, businesses, and individuals with a multitude of different lived experiences,” said Arwen Turner, executive director of Come Alive Outside.



Submitted

A rendering of Depot Park in downtown Rutland with tulpi chairs, a music garden, table and mushroom hops for kids.

## KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF



We are stocked with nonperishable food, paper goods & cleaning supplies. Any person in need, please call to arrange a pickup. Donations accepted. Please call Nan Salamon, 422-9244 or Ron Willis, 422-3843.  
**Sherburne UCC “Little White Church,” Killington, VT**

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## MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

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TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

# NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The residents and nonresident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Killington, in the County of Rutland, are hereby notified that taxes assessed by the Town of Killington for the tax years indicated below remain either in whole or in part unpaid, on the following described lands and premises in the Town, to wit:

**PROPERTY 1. Corporacion El Cerrito, Inc. Parcel Nos. 43-022-000, 43-023-000, SPAN No. 588-185-12659. Delinquent Taxes for Tax Years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.** Being Parcel One and Parcel Two as described in the Warranty Deed from Maria Cristina Ugueto to Corporacion el Cerrito Inc., dated June 22, 2016 and recorded at Book 347, Pages 848-849 of the Killington Land Records. Being a parcel of land containing 25.3 acres, more or less, located off U.S. Route 4 in Killington.

**PROPERTY 2. Corporacion El Cerrito, Inc. Parcel No. 44-18-000, SPAN No. 588-185-12754. Delinquent Taxes for Tax Years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.** Being Parcel Three as described in the Warranty Deed from Maria Cristina Ugueto to Corporacion el Cerrito Inc., dated June 22, 2016 and recorded at Book 347, Pages 848-849 of the Killington Land Records. Being a parcel of land containing 31.5 acres, more or less, located off U.S. Route 4 in Killington.

**PROPERTY 3. Charles F. Holland. Parcel No. 29-176A-000, SPAN No. 588-185-11362. Delinquent Taxes for Tax Years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.** Being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Charles F. Holland by Quit Claim Deed from Heather E. Holland, dated October 20, 2015 and recorded at Book 344, Page 762 of the Killington Land Records. Being a parcel of land containing 1.12 acres, more or less, with a dwelling, located at 179 Roaring Brook Road in Killington.

Reference is hereby made to the above-mentioned instruments, the records thereof, the references therein made, and their respective records and references in further aid of these descriptions.

**So much of said lands and premises will be sold at public auction at the Killington Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington, Vermont on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be required to discharge taxes with interest, costs, penalties, and fees unless previously paid.**

Property owners, mortgagees, and lienholders may pay such taxes, interest, costs, penalties, and fees by cash or bank check made payable to the Town of Killington. At tax sale, successful bidders must pay in full by cash or bank check. No other payments accepted. The Town of Killington and James W. Barlow, Esq. give no opinion as to the marketability of title to the above-referenced properties. All properties are sold "as is." Information regarding the amount of taxes, interest, costs, penalties, and fees due may be obtained from Chester Hagenbarth, (802) 422-3243, manager@killingtontown.com.

Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254(b), an owner of property being sold for taxes may request in writing, not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the tax sale, that only a portion of the property be sold. Such request must clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold and be accompanied by a certification from the District Environmental Commission and the Town zoning administrative officer that the portion identified may be subdivided and meet the minimum lot size requirements. If the portion identified by the taxpayer cannot be sold for the unpaid tax and costs, then the entire property will be sold to pay such unpaid tax and costs.

Taxpayers are further advised of their right to have a hearing before the Town of Killington Board for the Abatement of Taxes under the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §1535. Taxpayers wishing to have such a hearing must contact Town Clerk Lucrecia Wonsor to request a hearing.

If this property is your primary residence, you may be able to get help with delinquent property tax and utility payments through the Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP). VHAP can help you avoid tax sale and transfer of your property by paying delinquent property taxes, water and sewer charges, interest, and penalties. You can apply for VHAP online at [vermonthap.vhfa.org](http://vermonthap.vhfa.org). For advice about the program and help completing the application, call Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047. If you apply for VHAP, you must notify your town in writing, and your property will not be sold or transferred while your application is pending.

Dated at Killington, Vermont, this 15th day of March 2023.

/s/ Chester Hagenbarth  
CHESTER HAGENBARTH  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes  
Town of Killington, Vermont

## KSAR asks for equipment back from town

By Katy Savage

Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) wants its equipment back after it was deemed unusable and not up to standard by new Fire Chief Chris Lahart.

KSAR leaders formally requested its climbing equipment, helmets, toboggan and other items in an April 6 email to Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth.

The request came after several KSAR volunteers quit the organization last month, alleging LaHart created a toxic work environment. KSAR members sent a letter to the Select Board in March, asking the town to make KSAR an organization independent of the fire department. Town leaders declined KSAR's request at a meeting last month, forcing KSAR to work with the fire chief. Many KSAR members have refused.

One disagreement between KSAR and the chief was over the use of equipment, which LaHart had evaluated by the city of Rutland. Some of it was deemed a potential liability to the town.

"We just want our equipment back," KSAR leader Murray McGrath said by phone. "They can't use it, so we can."

McGrath said KSAR members bought the equipment, which he estimated was worth \$1,000 or more, through their own funds and fundraisers.

McGrath was unsure what capacity KSAR members would use the equipment. Discussions about how members might move forward or work elsewhere is ongoing.

"We're in limbo," McGrath said. "It's going to take time."

The Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) name belongs to the Town as part of the transition agreement," Hagenbarth wrote in the email. Therefore, any new search and rescue group not associated with the Town will not be permitted use of the KSAR name or logo."

The dust has to settle and we'll figure out what's going on."

But Hagenbarth said KSAR would not be able to form a new organization under the KSAR name. Hagenbarth sent an April 10 email to KSAR leaders, saying the town owns the KSAR name and logo.

"The Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) name belongs to the Town as part of the transition agreement," Hagenbarth wrote in the email. "In addition, the corporation was adamant that the Town continue the use of the names for historical and familiarity purposes. Therefore, any new search and rescue group not associated with the Town will not be permitted use of the KSAR name or logo."

Hagenbarth said the town would verify what equipment may have been purchased by the town.

"The Town will return all equipment that does not meet rescue guidelines as it will not be able to be used by the department," Hagenbarth wrote.

Though KSAR had not requested to use the KSAR name elsewhere, the town manager "put that fire out before we could even start it," McGrath said.



# During Burlington visit, Jill Biden touts White House's investments in education, workforce development

By Sarah Mearhoff/VTDigger

In her first trip to Vermont since her husband assumed the presidency in January 2021, first lady Jill Biden visited Beta Technologies in Burlington on Wednesday, April 5, where she and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona touted the White House's efforts to fund workforce development and technical education.

As she walked into the aerospace developer's hangar, located next to Burlington International Airport, Biden shouted a cheery "hello!" to the Beta employees and interns, students, Vermont lawmakers and press awaiting her inside. When she realized that dozens of Beta employees were eagerly watching from the other side of a window separating their offices from the hangar, she beamed up at them, waving with two hands.

Flanked by Republican Gov. Phil Scott, U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., Jane Sanders (whose husband, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was unable to attend) and Democratic mayor of Burlington Miro Weinberger, Biden and Cardona listened as Beta interns and technical students from the Northeast Kingdom described their hands-on work, as well as the technical training and dual enrollment courses they have taken along the way.

As one Beta intern, Colton Poulin, described his work on Beta's aircrafts to Biden, the first lady peered inside the plane beside her.

"For most people, a high school diploma alone isn't enough to find a great career, but they don't often need a four-year degree to pursue their passions either," Biden said at the hangar. "And as this technology brings changes to so many industries, these kinds of learning paths are more important than ever."

Biden and Cardona also met North Country Career Center students who are learning how to repair electric vehicles and traveled to Burlington for the event.

Burlington was the pair's second stop of the day, having visited Portland, Maine earlier Wednesday as part of a White House tour touting the Biden administration's workforce development efforts.

Also on Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Labor announced a new \$80 million grant program to fund infrastructure-related career training nationwide.

In his speech, Cardona touted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and CHIPS and Science Act, which invested roughly \$280 billion into domestic semiconductor research and manufacturing, as well as the federal government's historic investments to fight climate change, saying this legislation will help spur job growth. "There's a tsunami of well-paying jobs coming, and we need to make sure this generation of students is prepared to ride that wave," Cardona said. "An invisible wall between workforce, higher education institutions and K-12 have resulted



By Glenn Russell VTDigger

First Lady Jill Biden waves to a crowd as she gets off her plane with U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in Burlington.

in systems that allow hundreds of thousands of high school students to graduate every year with no pathway to rewarding careers. Here in Vermont, you're tearing down those walls."

Neither Cardona nor Biden took questions from the media after their remarks.

In his own speech, Welch, too, commended Congress and the White House's recent initiatives on workforce development and climate change, saying the government has moved from "denial" to "attack mode." But, he added, "That was last year. This year, it's about implementation. We've got to do the hard work of doing, and not talking."

Like Biden and Cardona, Jane Sanders also worked in the education field for the majority of her career. And on Wednesday, she said, "I think what we're hearing here is, maybe we need a new model for education in this country."

"We're looking at an education system that was built for the industrial age, quite a while ago," she said. "We're in the technological age now. We have problems in this country, and in this world, from climate change." She pointed to Beta as an

employer on the "cutting edge" of green technology.

Balint, a former teacher, said in a speech that the administration's investments in workforce training will also provide a boon to rural regions like Vermont. To invest in America "really means uplifting rural America," she said.

Scott in his speech harkened back to his own education, when he split his time between college prep courses and technical training. "There was a definite stigma attached, and I was stuck right between those two worlds," he said.

"I think we've all experienced just how important the trades are when we find ourselves in a jam, especially when our car breaks down (or we) have an electrical problem, a water heater leak, or a sewer pipe failure," Scott added.

He then issued a call to action: "Everyone, from teachers and guidance counselors, to parents and policy makers, needs to make a real effort to end the stigma around (technical) and trades training, because these are great careers that present endless possibilities for talented and hardworking kids, like our special guests today."

## Quarry: from page 1

of the quarries' permits.

Two of the brothers' quarries lie along Route 103 in Chester, and the third, the Chandler Road Quarry, sits not far from Route 10 near Dean Brook Road.

Neighbors say the hydraulic hammering, which has gone on six days a week, causes such loud noises that their homes shake. The noise got so out of control, said Sam Melanson, who'd spent 28 years at her Chester home, that she recently relocated to nearby Cavendish to escape the nuisance.

"It was just a peaceful place where you could get away from your trouble," Melanson said in an interview, describing her Chester residence. Once the hammering began, everything changed.

"I would end up crying because it just never stopped," she said.

Residents such as Melanson and LeClair

say they have brought their issues with the quarries to local and state officials' attention since 2020. But at the recent selectboard meeting, board members expressed surprise at the severity of the situation.

"From the presentation that we got, and from all the comments that I've heard from all the people, we've got a serious, serious problem going on here," said Arne Joynas, the board's chair. "(I) never knew these issues existed. And that's not an excuse."

Andrew and Jason Julian, the quarries' owners, spoke at the meeting to address residents' concerns.

"We wanted to make sure we are here tonight to just listen to what's going on," Jason Julian said. But the two brothers did not say if or how they would change their operations, and instead criticized the state Natural Resources Board's findings.

"There are a lot of factual and legal problems with the (board's findings)," Andrew said, adding that his company's lawyers and engineers were working to address the discrepancies.

The brothers also said they had closed nearby roads before blasting, a claim that residents uniformly refuted.

Selectboard members, though expressing thanks for the brothers' presence at the meeting, took a serious tone toward the quarry owners.

"You as the owners have an opportunity to make a nice gesture here," selectboard member Arianna Knapp said at last week's meeting. "You don't have to wait for a lawyer."

Neither Jason nor Andrew Julian responded to an emailed interview request for this story. Voicemail boxes for both brothers were full.

In Connecticut, where the brothers' operations are based, Jason Julian has faced extensive legal troubles related to his business.

An ongoing lawsuit alleges Jason Julian illegally dumped toxic waste and conspired to cover up his actions, CTPost reported. He is also accused of bribing municipal officials to allow his business to dump PCB-contaminated materials on town property, and trials on the allegations are scheduled to begin in April.

Jason Julian faces 16 felony charges, including larceny, bribery and forgery.

The Julian brothers have until April 5 to appeal the Vermont Natural Resources Board's jurisdictional opinion on their Chester quarries, according to Michaela Stickney, an enforcement and compliance officer for the board.





TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

# NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The residents and nonresident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Killington, in the County of Rutland, are hereby notified that taxes and sewer charges assessed by the Town of Killington for the tax years indicated below remain either in whole or in part unpaid, on the following described lands and premises in the Town, to wit:

**PROPERTY 1. Rickev, LLC. Parcel No. 21-022-000, SPAN No. 588-185-10662. Delinquent Taxes for Tax Years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. Delinquent Sewer Charges for Years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.** Being all the right, title, and interest in and to the lands and premises conveyed to Rickev, LLC by Quit Claim Deed of Kevin DellaBianca dated January 4, 2004, recorded at Book 250, Pages 84-86 of the Killington Land Records, and Quit Claim Deed of Frank P. Clukey and Barbara E. Clukey dated May 9, 2005 and recorded at Book 272, Pages 477-478 of the Killington Land Records, and which Rickev, LLC holds under that certain Declaration of Condominium for The Heights at Killington, dated April 12, 2008 and recorded at Book 303, Pages 1-41 of the Killington Land Records, as amended by First Amendment to The Heights at Killington Declaration Dated December 23, 2010, and recorded at Book 321, Pages 292-299 of the Killington Land Records, except the lands, rights and interests conveyed by Rickev, LLC by the following: (1) Warranty Deed from Rickev, LLC to Tighe Mathieu and Lorie Mathieu, dated December 23, 2010 and recorded at Book 321, Pages 315-318 of the Killington Land Records; (2) Warranty Deed from Rickev, LLC to Paul Zackin and Emiko Zackin, dated April 7, 2011 and recorded at Book 323, Pages 321-322 of the Killington Land Records; (3) Warranty Deed from Rickev, LLC to Stefan K. Haselwandter and Elizabeth M. Haselwandter, dated December 9, 2011 and recorded at Book 327, Pages 364-365 of the Killington Land Records; and (4) Warranty Deed from Rickev, LLC to Paul N. Heath and Dianne L. Heath, dated December 9, 2011 and recorded at Book 327, Pages 369-370 of the Killington Land Records. Being a parcel of land containing 11.96 acres, more or less, with improvements, located off Killington Road in Killington.

Reference is hereby made to the above-mentioned instruments, the records thereof, the references therein made, and their respective records and references in further aid of these descriptions.

**So much of said lands and premises will be sold at public auction at the Killington Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington, Vermont on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., as shall be required to discharge taxes with interest, costs, penalties, and fees unless previously paid.**

Property owners, mortgagees, and lienholders may pay such taxes, interest, costs, penalties, and fees by cash or bank check made payable to the Town of Killington. At tax sale, successful bidders must pay in full by cash or bank check. No other payments accepted. The Town of Killington and James W. Barlow, Esq. give no opinion as to the marketability of title to the above-referenced properties. All properties are sold "as is." Information regarding the amount of taxes, interest, costs, penalties, and fees due may be obtained from Chester Hagenbarth, (802) 422-3243, manager@killingtontown.com

Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254(b), an owner of property being sold for taxes may request in writing, not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the tax sale, that only a portion of the property be sold. Such request must clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold and be accompanied by a certification from the District Environmental Commission and the Town zoning administrative officer that the portion identified may be subdivided and meet the minimum lot size requirements. If the portion identified by the taxpayer cannot be sold for the unpaid tax and costs, then the entire property will be sold to pay such unpaid tax and costs.

Taxpayers are further advised of their right to have a hearing before the Town of Killington Board for the Abatement of Taxes under the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §1535. Taxpayers wishing to have such a hearing must contact Town Clerk Lucrecia Wonsor to request a hearing.

If this property is your primary residence, you may be able to get help with delinquent property tax and utility payments through the Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP). VHAP can help you avoid tax sale and transfer of your property by paying delinquent property taxes, water and sewer charges, interest, and penalties. You can apply for VHAP online at vermonthap.vhfa.org. For advice about the program and help completing the application, call Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047. If you apply for VHAP, you must notify your town in writing, and your property will not be sold or transferred while your application is pending.

Dated at Killington, Vermont, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

/s/ Chester Hagenbarth  
CHESTER HAGENBARTH  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes  
Town of Killington, Vermont

## EPA announces \$62.2 million for Vermont drinking water infrastructure upgrades

On April 4, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$62,283,000 for Vermont to fund essential drinking water infrastructure upgrades through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Thanks to the \$6 billion boost from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is increasing the investments available to communities to rebuild the nation's water infrastructure.

"Every community deserves access to safe, clean drinking water," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "We have an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize America's drinking water systems, support the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of removing 100% of lead pipes across our country, and protect communities from PFAS pollution."

"In the richest country in the history of the world, people deserve to know it is safe to drink their tap water, in their homes, in their schools, and in their communi-

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Sanders (I-Vt.),

ties," said U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who serves on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "That's why I fought hard to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in our last Congress and ensure Vermont got its fair share. I am pleased to see the EPA will be releasing more of the funds from this historic legislation,

a big step toward strengthening Vermont's clean water infrastructure and creating many good-paying jobs in the process. I look forward to seeing these funds implemented as quickly and as effectively as possible so that every Vermonter in every corner of our state can have access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water."

"I fought for improvements to Vermont's water infrastructure in President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and am proud to see these funds come to our state," added U.S. Senator Peter Welch. "I look forward to working with the EPA and our local partners to put this major investment to good use."

"These projects will bring vital resources to our most underserved communities and I'm grateful for the EPA's continued efforts," said U.S. Representative Becca Balint.

By providing significant resources, the Biden-Harris Administration aims to address emerging contaminants like per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in a meaningful way.

The DWSRF allotments to states are based on the results of EPA's 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act, which assesses the nation's public water systems' infrastructure needs every four years. The findings are used to allocate DWSRF grants to states that demonstrate the greatest need.

At the direction of Congress, EPA's 7th Drinking Water Assessment, for the first time included survey questions focused on lead service lines and is projecting a national total of 9.2 million lead service lines across the country.

Of that funding, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will invest \$3 billion in lead service line identification and improvement, \$800 million to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and \$2.2 billion in other critical drinking water system improvements. Additionally, approximately \$500 million will also be available through the DWSRF annual appropriations, established by the Safe Drinking Water Act.



# Pieciak announces \$85M available for investment in housing, climate and social equity initiatives

On Monday, April 10, state treasurer Mike Pieciak stood with state and local leaders in Rutland to announce a substantial expansion of the “10% in Vermont” local investment program. The program authorizes the treasurer to invest up to 10% of the state’s average daily cash balance for economic development in Vermont.

The state’s average daily cash balance has grown substantially in recent years due to increased state revenues allowing the program’s lending capacity to expand from \$39 million to \$100 million. In total, when combined with funds that were not committed from the original program, there is now \$85 million available to support local economic development.

The Treasurer’s Office and the Local Investment Advisory Committee (LIAC) have identified housing, the reduction of Vermont’s carbon footprint, and social equity as lending priorities under the expanded program. Projects in one, or multiple of these areas, will be given funding priority.

“We plan to prioritize areas of need that will have the most significant impact on our economy,” said State Treasurer Mike Pieciak. “I’ve heard from businesses across Vermont that they are struggling to hire workers because prospective workers cannot find housing. The same is true for our hospitals, schools, fire departments and so many other critical community services and it is holding back the full potential of the Vermont economy. I am so pleased that we are able to do our part and bring these resources to help solve our housing crisis.”

The Treasurer’s Office and the LIAC have published an investment policy detailing application guidelines, which is available now on the Treasurer’s website.

To ensure that the program supports economic development, credit facilities will be available at favorable interest rates to nonprofits, instrumentalities of the state, municipalities, or similarly situated organizations.

Applications are due June 1, 2023 for the first round of loans. Treasurer Pieciak and the  
New money for housing → 10

“Projects like Bardwell House show the power of keeping our money local for housing that increases the vitality of beautiful historic downtowns like Rutland’s,” said Treasurer Pieciak.

# A bit of levity



By Rep. Jim Harrison

Recently during a late evening floor session, our committee had the unenviable task of explaining the 258-page budget that touches virtually everything the state does. All 12 committee members took turns explaining their sections, which took over two hours. So, when it was my turn, I started off with: “Madam Speaker, we often start each day in Appropriations with a riddle or joke. Tonight, I was going to tell a time traveling joke...but you didn’t like it.” I couldn’t tell from the look on her face if she got the joke or didn’t approve of my attempt at humor...

What does this have to do with anything you might ask? There are many serious issues we work on day in and day out, including the state budget that impacts a multitude of services and what we all pay to fund them. Life is too short to not get along as people and sometimes a bit of levity interjected can help in that vein. We don’t always have to agree on what bills to pass or how they should be structured, but if we can’t talk, we will never get anywhere.

As of last Friday, 72 bills were passed by the House and 50 by the Senate. Five of those have been enacted into law (mid-year budget adjustment, municipal meeting options, Colchester fire district dissolution, health care regulatory flexibility, legislative oversight of payment reform and case management for disability services). This is the time of session where committees are busy working on bills sent over by the other chamber. Committee priorities not passed by either chamber at this point, typically wait until the next session, unless they can be added onto another bill under consideration.

Other issues of interest:

- This year’s capital construction bill includes money to start the planning of a new women’s prison. Most agree that the facility needs upgrading. However, the ACLU argues that reforms, such as abolition of cash bail, could dramatically reduce the need for a larger prison and reforms should happen first.
- Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky, P/D-Chittenden Central, led a press conference to advocate for decriminalizing small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use. The argument is that prohibition has failed to reduce overdose deaths. The group went on to say that substance use disorder is a medical condition, not a crime, and Vermont law should treat it as such. Given the lateness in the session, action on the proposed decriminalization is not likely this year.

- Legislation prohibiting child marriages (under 18) has passed the House and Senate and will be sent to the governor soon.
- A press report that a private equity firm now owns six Vermont child-care centers that are significantly raising its rates to families, could add a pause in the discussion on increasing state subsidies. The Senate passed bill, S.56, is now being reviewed by a House committee. The legislation is funded by eliminating a child tax credit approved last year and enacting a new payroll tax on wages. Will the new assistance to families up to \$185,000 in income, make it easier for such private equity firms further increase their rates and bottom line?
- The House Government Operations Committee approved a charter change for Brattleboro on an 8-3 vote that will allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections and serve as elected officials in town. A similar measure was vetoed by the governor last year. However legislative leaders may now feel they can override expected objections from the governor this year.
- Scott has signaled he has concerns over a House passed bill, H.230, that would require a new 72-hour waiting period to purchase a firearm that may also have some constitutional issues with its storage requirements.
- The annual transportation bill includes a provision authorizing the Agency of Transportation to design a system that would assess a fee on electric cars based on miles driven.

We don’t always have to agree on what bills to pass or how they should be structured, but if we can’t talk, we will never get anywhere.

And back to a bit of levity, I have the honor of being a self-proclaimed co-commissioner of our State House March Madness competition along with Lt. Governor David Zuckerman. David and I see the world through a different lens sometimes, but we both agree it’s important to have diversions and fun sometimes. During the tournament, I provided periodic updates where participants sometimes got tagged with a nickname by me. One of those on the receiving end was VTDigger reporter Lola Duffort, whom I dubbed “Lucky Lola” in reference to doing well at the start of the event. When she reported on the event for Digger last week, I couldn’t help but notice that she signed the article, “Not so Lucky Lola.”

Rep. Jim Harrison is the Statehouse representative for Mendon, Killington, Chittenden and Pittsfield. He can be reached at [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](http://harrisonforvermont.com).

# Senate advances bill to protect from PFAS and other toxics in cosmetics, textiles and turf

The Vermont Senate, last week, advanced legislation (S.25) that restricts PFAS and other toxic chemicals from cosmetic and menstrual products, and bans PFAS from textiles and artificial turf athletic fields. The vote passed unanimously on April 5 and has headed to the House.

“Thank you to the Senate for the overwhelming support for advancing S.25 to protect the health and wellbeing of all Vermonters. We must stop importing dangerous chemicals like PFAS into our state so we can prevent the harms they are causing up and down the supply chain -- from their production and use to their disposal,” said Lauren Hierl, executive director of Vermont Conservation Voters. “We thank the leader-

ship of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, including Senators Lyons and Williams, and look forward to continuing to push to get this bill enacted.”

Senator Ginny Lyons, chair of the Committee on Health & Welfare, added, “Vermont is seen as a leader in protecting people from the threat of toxic chemicals, which is significant. In this bill we are working collaboratively with other states, while knowing that our steps forward are an example to other states who have not yet acted to remove chemicals from consumer products that can be so toxic and cause so much harm.”

The chemicals banned by this bill – including PFAS, phthalates and formaldehyde – are all linked to numerous negative human

health impacts. Recently, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its first-ever proposal to regulate six of the thousands of PFAS chemicals, affirming that virtually no level of these chemicals is safe for drinking water.

But much more work needs to be done to understand the extent of PFAS contamination in Vermont’s environment and our bodies, and to protect Vermonters from these harmful chemicals.

S.25 targets four different areas of consumer products that are major sources of exposure and environmental contamination:

A list of 14 chemicals and chemical classes from personal care products and period products,

PFOAs → 10



## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Vermont must fix housing deficit

By Laurie Cox

*Editor's note: Laurie Cox is a retired school counselor and longtime Ripton Selectboard member. Besides occasional writing she pursues art, gardening, hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.*

"Can anybody live in Vermont?" asked the two young boys who had been visiting us for a couple of summers in the 1980s. They were here as part of the Fresh Air program, coming to stay with us from Brooklyn for two weeks each July. The first year, they saw our home as "summer camp" and were surprised that we lived here year-round. By that third summer they were 11 years old and starting to take in the scene with more maturity and awareness. They would have looked around and seen virtually no other Black people. Perhaps Vermont looked sort of like a gated community, without an actual gate.

We assured them that anyone was free to come here. They could just get on a bus; they would be welcome. But as the possibility of finding an actual place to live becomes increasingly difficult, who can move to Vermont?

There was a time, maybe when free trade agreements were getting organized under the Clinton administration, when I thought about equalizing opportunity for people around the world. Maybe it would mean those of us who had more would manage with less so that others could have what they needed. I contemplated people living in smaller houses without lots of extra rooms or anything fancy. I could be okay with that.

Until perhaps the 1950s, most houses, whatever their size, only had one bathroom. Most kids shared bedrooms. When did it become almost mandatory to have a bedroom "ensuite"? At the same time, I was contemplating most people having smaller homes so that more people could have actual homes, I looked around. Instead of that vision, so-called "McMansions" were springing up: large, many-roomed houses where maybe 2.5 people lived.

In the ensuing years, the number of people without homes has only grown. Even people who get hired for jobs that pay a decent wage have trouble finding a house they can afford within a reasonable commute. We all know this. One of the state's top priorities is to have more housing for low- and middle-income people, but what kind of magic is needed to actually make Vermont a place where anyone can live?

We talk about increasing the population, the workforce, the children in our schools. Climate refugees, we say, but refugees from where? Do we mean people whose million-dollar homes are washing into the sea, threatened by mudslides and wildfires, or do we mean the people of Mississippi whose mobile homes have been ravaged by tornadoes? How about the people fleeing years of drought in sub-Saharan Africa, or those from Bangladesh or the Maldives threatened by sea level rise? Whom gets to come here? Whom do we welcome? Indeed, who can we welcome and how many?

My home in Ripton is bigger than my husband and I need. It would be great for a family with children, but we want to stay in Ripton, a community we have come to love. Where is the smaller house for us to move to in this town? That's a part of the quandary. People who might want to downsize can't, so houses designed to hold more people end up occupied by only one or two.

Driving into and around Middlebury, I notice the large number of houses which in former years were turned into the offices of lawyers, dentists, real estate agencies and such. What if those buildings returned to being homes, while the current occupants moved to a couple of new office buildings? At the time, the transition from a family home to an office space seemed a good use for a house on Route 7 that was, perhaps, a less desirable location for a

Housing → 9



The American Dream by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

## LETTERS

## Confused about Affordable Heat Bill? Read it

Dear Editor,

There has been a great deal of misinformation circulating around about the Affordable Heat Act. I would encourage anyone who is interested in gaining an accurate understanding of the bill to go online and look up the text of the bill itself. It is readily accessible, and, though long, is written in language that is quite clear and straightforward. It can be found at [legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.5](https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.5).

When I checked it out, I found the Affordable Heat Act to be a remarkably thoughtful and well-crafted bill. It is designed to provide a clear, gradual, and affordable pathway for Vermonters to move away from fossil fuel to cleaner, less expensive, and more economically stable ways to heat their homes.

Equally important, the bill also provides a pathway for fuel dealers whose livelihood has depended on selling fossil fuels to diversify and grow their businesses in a direction more in line with selling cleaner fuels, or installing and servicing cleaner heating equipment — heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, pellet stoves and pellet boilers — while continuing to serve

Heat → 10

## Minimum wage boost needed

Dear Editor,

Last week, on March 29, Vermont senior U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was grilling Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz on the illegal union-busting activities used by that corporation.

Starbucks...  
pays more.

In order to embarrass our senior senator, Schultz shot back that Vermont has a paltry minimum wage of only \$13.18/hour. Starbucks, his company, pays more.

We all know that an individual, never mind a family with children, can't make any headway on such a low wage in today's economy.

The Vermont Legislature should have raised the minimum wage to \$15/hour years ago to keep pace with the actual cost of living.

Now, in 2023, they could at least start there on the way toward a wage that would allow a family a living without depriving their children of the necessities of life in Vermont today.

Geoffrey Cobden,  
Weybridge

## We must have courage to address gun problem

Dear Editor,

At my local school board (of which I am a member) budget meeting last week, a community member asked, "What keeps you (individual board members) awake at night?" At that moment, I wasn't able to find the courage to be candid. The weight of what I wanted to say, my sincere answer, felt too great for me to share with my fellow board and community.

As a father of a 3 1/2-year-old, my genuine answer is an ever-growing list epitomized by names such as Covenant School, Robb Elementary School, Columbine High School and Sandy Hook Elementary School.

We live in a country in which there are no parents, guardians, family members, neighbors, friends or bus drivers who are entitled to drop a child off at school in the morning and be guaranteed that their "see you later" will ring true.

The fact that we live in a country in which no child is safe from gun violence at school — the place where safety is paramount to generate the social, emotional, physical and intellectual vulnerability to open oneself up to engage in the learning process. The fact that we live in a country where we are not

able to agree on the one common thread of any mass shooting — a gun. And to be very clear, the facts demonstrate that guns are the only common denominator. It is not the shooter. It is not their mental health. It is not their race. It is not their religion. It is not their socioeconomic status. It is not their level of education. It's not their gender. It is not their age. It is not their political party. The fact that we live in a country where we have the data to demonstrate this, and, yet, we still do nothing different, keeps me awake.

I am a gun owner. I hunt. I inherited guns passed down from my grandfather. However, I dream of the opportunity to watch those family heirlooms disappear if it meant that my daughter and her generation did not have to inherit the epidemic of daily mass shootings. But that is not the country we live in at the moment. And it will not be until we have the courage to address the real problem: guns.

The realization that the "see you later" I say to my daughter at her school tomorrow may ultimately be a "good bye." This should keep all of us awake at night.

Rob Backlund, Lincoln



## CAPITAL QUOTES

A federal judge in Texas issued a ruling last week invalidating the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the abortion drug mifepristone 23 years ago. If it stands, the ruling would thwart access to the pills and undermine the F.D.A.'s authority to approve and regulate other drugs.

**"If courts can overturn drug approvals without regard for science or evidence, or for the complexity required to fully vet the safety and efficacy of new drugs, any medicine is at risk for the same outcome as mifepristone,"**

**said a statement signed by 400 leaders of drug and biotech industries.**

**"Chemical abortion drugs don't provide a therapeutic benefit — they can cause serious and life-threatening complications to the mother, in addition to ending a baby's life,"**

**said a lawyer for the plaintiffs, Erin Hawley.**

**"This is absolutely a test of our legal system's ability to function,"**

**Phil Weiser, the attorney general of Colorado, told the New York Times.**

**"The court's sweeping nationwide relief was especially unwarranted given the balance of harms: If allowed to take effect, the court's order would thwart FDA's scientific judgment and severely harm women, particularly those for whom mifepristone is a medical or practical necessity. This harm would be felt throughout the country, given that mifepristone has lawful uses in every state. The order would undermine healthcare systems and the reliance interests of businesses and medical providers,"**

**the Justice Department said.**

## Here's why the childcare bill should be a top priority

By Angelo Lynn

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

In a legislative session in which the state faces several so-called crises — the lack of affordable housing and affordable childcare, labor shortages, long-term care, climate change, mental health, substance abuse, and more — legislators have two choices: pick priorities to fund or use the shotgun approach and scatter limited funds to each cause. There are pros and cons to both tactics, but we'd argue that some of the crises are best addressed in whole, while progress on other issues can best be made incrementally.

The lack of affordable housing, for instance, could be addressed by regulatory changes that allow the free market to work its magic, rather than depend on state subsidies. That process may take longer to achieve and done in incremental steps, but in the end progress will be more sustainable and certainly less costly to taxpayers.

Creating affordable childcare, on the other hand, will need a more holistic approach. Here's why:

- The average cost of childcare in Vermont ranges from \$12,500 to \$15,000 per infant per year (and higher in many communities). While state subsidies cover part of the cost for most families up to 10 hours per week, that's not enough to allow parents to return to work or to cover the remaining cost of full-time care. No one doubts the high cost of childcare is one reason many young people choose to leave Vermont and raise families elsewhere, adding to the labor shortage and the state's aging demographics.
- Of those families who stay in Vermont,

the high cost of daycare means it often doesn't make sense for both parents to work, so one parent stays home to provide care, while the other tries to make ends meet. This adds to the state's lower labor force (Vermont still has 20,000 fewer workers in the market in 2023 than it did pre-pandemic), which keeps the state's economy from growing as quickly as it otherwise could and puts more Vermont families closer to poverty.

- Current estimates say the state is about 8,000 daycare slots short of fulfilling current need. Obstacles in building that capacity are twofold: families can't afford the high cost and providers don't pay childcare workers enough to attract more applicants.

In short, it's not a problem the market will solve on its own anytime soon.

To get out of the current pickle, the state needs to increase subsidies so families can afford childcare costs, as well as subsidize childcare centers so they can afford to increase the pay of childcare workers. (Regulatory tweaks could also help smaller daycare centers qualify for higher state subsidies as well as improving quality of care.)

This very approach is encapsulated in S.56, a bill the Senate passed last week by a 24-6 vote. The bill injects \$150 million a year of new funding into the childcare sector and includes a 12-week parental leave benefit for parents of their new-born babies.

The bill now heads to House committees for review and inevitable tweaks. It won't be smooth sailing.

While the House is in general agreement on the bill's merits, it will take exception to  
Child care → 9

### ← Housing: from page 8

family. Now, a family might welcome such a location. While other plans and developments are in the works, these are houses that could quickly be resurrected into their previous life as family homes.

Most of us are not keen on change. When I mentioned the need to create more housing in Ripton to a friend, she said "We don't need more people here. I want to live in a place that is not very populated," and I get that. There have been a couple of times where homes built within my vicinity brought new lights in the evening to places that used to be all in darkness. I got used to that change, but initially I chafed at it. "There shouldn't be lights over there!" I would mutter as night came on. So how do we make the changes we need without totally changing the nature of our state? Is it even possible to do both?

I think back to our Brooklyn boys — now grown men: Who gets to live here? I recall reading a short story in a magazine when I was in my early teens. It was about a Black family moving into a home in a midwestern town where they were not welcome, as it was a "whites only" neighborhood, not by cov-

enant but by practice. I knew about segregation in the South but had never realized how this functioned in the rest of the country.

I felt a bit smug, however, living in Seattle where such things didn't happen — or did they? While doing some research recently, I happened upon the fact that between the 1920s and the 1960s, there were many areas of that city with racially specific covenants (or the legacy of such restrictions) on the homes in those neighborhoods. Given its very rural nature, Vermont had few such restrictions during that period when exclusionary practices flourished in other parts of the country. So, yes, anybody could and can live here. But if there is no place to buy or rent, what is the actuality?

Of course, we should welcome people of wealth who no longer want their summers filled with wildfire smoke and their autumns threatened by hurricanes. But let's also find a way to welcome people who might arrive here with nothing but their willingness to work and to have a safe and stable place to live and possibly raise children. They might be just the ones to help our communities flourish in the future.



## ← New money for housing:

from page 7

LIAC will evaluate applications and award investments this summer. The Treasurer plans to announce a timeline for a second round of applications in the fall.

Treasurer Pieciak announced the program's expansion at Bardwell House, a 75-unit apartment building in the heart of downtown Rutland that provides income-sensitive rental housing for Vermont senior citizens. The Bardwell House project benefited from previous financing through the "10% in Vermont" program.

"Projects like Bardwell House show the power of keeping our money local for housing that increases the vitality of beautiful historic downtowns like Rutland's," said Treasurer Pieciak. "Our historically high cash balances, favorable interest rates, and our office's history of prudent lending make it possible to substantially expand the 10% in Vermont program and really move the needle on housing in Vermont."

Pieciak was joined at Bardwell House by members of the LIAC and Heather Starzynski of NeighborWorks of Northwestern Vermont, which has also previously benefited from these local investment dollars as part of their Heat Squad and weatherization work. A large group of state legislators, community members, and representatives from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development were also on hand for the announcement.

Treasurer's Office staff will host a webinar on April 17 at 12 p.m. to provide information and answer questions about the new application process. Additional information, including a link to the webinar and application guidance, is available on the Treasurer's website: [vermonttreasurer.gov/content/cash/local-investment-advisory-committee](https://vermonttreasurer.gov/content/cash/local-investment-advisory-committee).

## ← PFOAs:

from page 7

PFAS from all textiles, including apparel, and PFAS from artificial turf fields.

"Personal care products and period products are applied directly to Vermonters' skin and intimate areas every day," said Marcie Gallagher, Environmental Advocate at the Vermont Public Interest Research Group. "Textiles represent the largest source of PFAS in our landfills, and children are exposed to turf over long periods of time. Every exposure pathway matters, and S.25 takes an important step to stop these harmful products from entering our marketplace."

From production of the chemicals, to their transport, their use in products, and disposal in our landfills, toxic chemicals pose threats to communities throughout their lifecycle. S.25 is an opportunity for Vermont to build on the work done thus far to regulate toxic chemicals, and protect the health and wellbeing of all Vermonters.

For each of these product categories, there are safer and cost-competitive alternatives available – or the chemicals are not necessary in the first place. This bill aligns us more closely with states like California and Washington, and many retailers are also starting to move away from the use of these toxic substances in the products they sell. This bill will require more companies to restrict these harmful chemicals in these product classes.

Kristi Lafayette with Vermont Skincare Co., a Vermont-based brand selling personal care products, celebrated the Senate's passage of S.25. "This policy will help businesses like ours that have already taken it upon themselves to avoid unsafe or questionable ingredients in our products."

For more information visit: [vnrc.org](https://vnrc.org).

## ← Heat:

from page 8

many of their traditional customers.

The bill is charged specifically with providing solutions that accommodate the needs of low- and moderate-income Vermonters and those with an unusually high energy burden — meaning those who have to pay a larger portion of their income on energy costs. Furthermore, it provides that the goals of the bill and the strategies for achieving those goals be overseen by the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC is a non-partisan, public body whose primary responsibility is managing energy costs to the benefit of all Vermonters.

The bill doesn't pretend it can solve all the nuanced issues of Vermont's energy markets and carbon-reduction mandates in one piece of legislation, or that it can do so overnight. Instead, it provides a mechanism and a public process in which those nuances can be fully articulated and addressed over the coming decades, through periodic updates in policy, in a way that is fair and equitable, but which clearly and steadily moves us all in the direction we have to move — toward cleaner, less expensive, and carbon-free energy.

There is no tax associated with the Affordable Heat Act. Instead, it would establish a market structure called a Performance Standard that will encourage fossil fuel businesses to move in the direction of selling cleaner fuels or of providing clean heat services that directly and effectively reduce carbon emissions. It does so by requiring them to retire a specified number of "Clean Heat Credits" each year. A business that sells fossil fuels can retire Clean Heat Credits by including services in their businesses that relate to cleaner technologies, or simply by selling B100 biodiesel as an alternative to #2 fuel oil, or by purchasing the credits outright, if it's unwilling to undertake the former two options. This credit structure is designed to help fuel dealers respond to the reality that fossil fuels are a dead-end option in the long-run, and gives them opportunities to move their businesses in a direction with a positive, cleaner energy future. Only businesses that fail to do so will have to purchase retired

credits outright.

This type of performance standard has been shown to work very well within the market structures businesses are familiar with, while gently nudging the market itself in a direction away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy. The Renewable Energy Standard has been in effect in Vermont since 2017, and has helped make significant incentives available for Vermonters to purchase heat pumps and appliances, and to receive higher returns on produced solar energy by selling credits to their utility — all while responsibly managing rate-payer costs.

Vermonters contribute just as much in climate pollution as most people on the planet — more, in fact, per capita than neighboring states — and there is nothing that exempts us from the responsibility we all have to reduce pollution and to do our part to bring climate change under control. Doing nothing, and suggesting it's someone else's responsibility to address climate change, is to turn our backs on our communities — and our children. We are not going to solve the climate crisis by continuing to burn fossil fuels — in Vermont or anywhere else.

Lastly, it's important to recognize that Vermont's climate pollution reduction obligations are real, and backed by existing Vermont state law — specifically the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020. Without this policy, Vermont has almost no chance to meet its legal obligations to reduce climate pollution 40% by 2030.

This bill is going through a lengthy legislative process. It will need to pass through the House and then go back to the Senate, before going to the governor. Then, a multi-year Public Utility Commission process will begin. Then it will come back to the Legislature for another vote in 2025. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, and to raise appropriate concerns over the next two years.

What is unacceptable — and frankly, irresponsible — is to scuttle the whole thing in favor of a status quo that has done nothing to reduce climate pollution

**Thomas Perry,  
Starksboro**

## ← Grants:

from page 1

according to documents. The complaints led to an investigation and a citation. The state investigation found no wrongdoing pertaining to Olsen's child allergy, according to documents, but Rainbow was cited for operating out of staff-to-child ratio.

Olsen's complaints caused a rift, according to parents in the anonymous letter.

"Now more than a year later, TMS promoters and prospective employees continue to publicly disparage Rainbow verbally and in writing and have pursued multiple regulatory complaints, all thus far resolved in Rainbow's favor," the parents wrote in the letter.

"We are concerned the EDC may be

working at cross-purposes against itself by funding The Mill School," the parents continued.

The parents urged the EDC to refrain from The Mill School from "taking actions contrary to the EDC's mission, including efforts to undermine other area child care centers."

No parents publicly spoke about the issue at the meeting. EDC members highlighted the need for care.

EDC member Todd Ulman said more childcare in the area could help the town grow.

"Personal beliefs have to be set aside because it doesn't help a family with a child that can't find care," Ulman said.

"People will come to Woodstock because

they know they can get the care that they'll need to raise their family and be successful in their careers and home life."

EDC members will distribute funding to The Mill School in thirds. The first third will be awarded when the childcare facility is serving six kids. The second third will when serving 12 and one third when serving 17. The funding is also dependent on The Mill School receiving a license from the state and hiring an executive director that meets state qualifications.

"I know all of you that are involved in childcare are well intentioned," Spector said. "I hope you can either work out your disagreements or ... you can't discuss them more privately."

## ← Child care:

from page 9

the parental-leave section (which could threaten the House's own desire to pass a more comprehensive — and expensive — family-leave program), as well as taking exception to how S.56 will be financed through an 0.42% increase in payroll taxes and eliminating the child tax credit the Legislature passed last year. That credit gives families with kids under the age of 5 up to \$1,000 per child, depending on household income, and is viewed fondly by key leaders in the House.

And once the bill comes out of the House and through reconciliation in Conference Committee, it could face a veto by Gov. Phil Scott, who has said he's opposed to raising any taxes to solve Vermont's problems.

In the bill's journey through the House and reconciliation, we urge legislators to carefully consider Vermont's priorities and focus on the few things the state can afford to effectively move the needle; understanding that the state's budget, as the governor rightly says, can't afford to fix everything. Solving the childcare crisis, nonetheless, should be at the top, and the governor should approve the spending, because:

- We need young parents to set roots, raise families and

become productive workers and employers in our economy. If we can't do that, by keeping those born here as well as attracting new residents, we'll face a continuing downward spiral in our economy.

- Conversely, if we can grow our younger demographic, it helps address our labor shortage, adds vitality to the state's economy, curtails declining school enrollments, and potentially boosts our state college system.
- The solutions are ideally suited for state help. That is, state aid can effectively boost the marketplace to do the right thing, just as it provides for K-12 education and for younger children in some school districts.

In short, while the state faces several legitimate crises, tackling childcare through the provisions of S.56, which Addison County's Sen. Ruth Hardy played a significant role in drafting, stands apart as an effective use of state aid in an environment that won't likely change otherwise. Furthermore, it not only helps Vermont families, but it boosts Vermont's economy and provides much needed help to Vermont's employers. Few bills are as effective in so many ways.



WORDPLAY

'MONEY & FINANCE' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions → 28

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

- ACCOUNTING  
APPLICATION  
BANK  
BANKRUPTCY
- CHECKING  
CREDIT  
DEBIT  
DEBT
- DEPOSIT  
FINANCE  
INQUIRY  
INTEREST
- INVESTMENT  
LOSS  
MONEY  
PAPERWORK
- PROFIT  
RATES  
RECONCILE  
SALARY
- SAVINGS  
SOLVENT  
STATEMENT  
WITHDRAWAL

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions→20

CLUES ACROSS

1. Atomic mass unit  
4. Criticize mightily  
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)  
10. Stand in for  
11. Everyone has one  
12. Brew  
13. Rectify  
15. Popular Dodge truck model  
16. Beef or chicken intestine  
19. Satisfy  
21. Of a particular people or localized region  
23. Movements in quick tempos  
24. Able to pay one's debts  
25. Fleshy bird beak covering  
26. Dueling sword  
27. Helps  
30. Court is in it  
34. Touch lightly  
35. Airborne (abbr.)  
36. Of one  
41. Baked good  
45. Jai \_\_, sport  
46. About aviation  
47. Low oval mound  
50. Rugged mountain ranges  
54. Compel to do something

CLUES DOWN

1. Sharp mountain ridge  
2. Thin, fibrous cartilages  
3. Provides new details  
4. Muscular weaknesses  
5. Ottoman military title  
6. Banes  
7. Horse-riding seats  
8. Arms of a shirt  
9. Narrow path along a road edge  
13. Viper  
14. Disfigure  
17. Variety of Chinese language  
18. Portray in a show  
20. Wrongful act  
22. No (slang)  
27. State of agitation  
28. \_\_ Diego  
29. One point east of due south  
31. 007's creator  
32. The NBA's Toppin  
33. Midway between north and northeast  
37. Examples  
38. \_\_ Gould, actor  
39. The habitat of wild animals  
40. Artful subtlety  
41. Infielders  
42. Keep under control  
43. Herb  
44. Distressed

55. A way to carve  
56. Sao \_\_, city in Brazil  
57. Mustachioed actor Elliott  
59. American Idol runner-up Clay  
60. A way to soak  
61. Car mechanics group  
62. Born of  
63. Time zone  
64. Sea eagle  
65. Even's opposite

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

### How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

### Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on April 12, 1979. I made my film debut in 1994 in an adaptation of a book about women. My popular TV series about teenage angst only lasted one season, but I've had a successful career nonetheless.

Answer: Claire Danes

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## WEDNESDAY APRIL 12

### All Day Camp at The MINT

8 a.m.-4 p.m. The Mint, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Full week general registration – \$200; Covid impacted full week – \$125; Single full day general registration – \$45; Covid impacted full day – \$30. Join us for an April break like no other featuring daily activities providing a fun and educational experience for children. Bring snacks, water bottles, a brown bag lunch, weather-appropriate outdoor clothing and close-toe shoes. Monday: Fun with Fabric. Tuesday: Egg Engineering. Wednesday: Nature Adventure. Thursday: Spring! Friday: Small Bots. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

### Early Literacy Playgroup

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

### Spring Storytime

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; 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.

### Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class

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

### Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series featuring Sky Blue Boys

7 p.m. Wallingford Town Hall, 75 School St., Wallingford. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. The Sky Blue Boys is a duo that has built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. They have expanded the accompaniment to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added many newer songs including several of their own compositions. They formed the celebrated Vermont bluegrass band Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys in 1972 and have toured and recorded extensively in that context, as well as sitting in on shows and recording sessions for many of the region's top acoustic musicians. Mill River Interact Club will be hosting the bake sale. Info: wallingfordvt.com.

## THURSDAY APRIL 13

### Bone Builders with Mendon Seniors

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

### Circle of Parents

10 a.m. Virtual. Free. 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

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 Storytime

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

### Homeschool Club: Earth Day Activities

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join us in the Fox Room for a variety of Earth Day activities! If the weather is nice we might spend some time outside. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### 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.

### Clean Hands: The Life of Valery Chalidze

12:30 p.m. Jeffords Center Auditorium, Castleton University. Free. A lecture on the life of human rights activist Valery Chalidze by Castleton criminal justice professor Lisa Chalidze. More information on this lecture coming soon! For more info visit: castleton.edu/calendars.

### Knitters Meet-up

2-4 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.

### Crafts for Kids

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

### 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.

### Kids and Adults Ballroom Classes with Patti

#### Panebianco

5-7:50 p.m. Green Mountain Community School, Brennan Circle in Poultney. Cost is \$15-\$12. Ballroom dancing classes for kids and adults. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

### Watercolor Class

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost: \$35. Learn to paint hummingbirds with teaching by Dale Bills. All materials included. Info:chaffeeartcenter.org/adult-classes.

### Film Series at Stone Valley Arts: 'Language Lessons'

7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St., Poultney. A suggested donation of \$5 per person is asked. Stone Valley Arts is hosting a film series expanding its busy schedule of cultural programs for the community. The film series will feature award-winning classic films from 2017-2021, including fantasy, dramas, and comedies. Two films will be shown each month, screenings Friday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a brief discussion. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.



SATURDAY

OWL FESTIVAL  
AT VINSFRIDAY  
APRIL 14

### WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures, 'Sometimes I Feel Like a Mouse'

9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School's, Whitney Hall/The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Cost is \$12 per class. Early Learning Adventures is a literacy-based creative learning adventures for the very young! Students read high-quality engaging children's stories, then bring them to life through the visual art, music, movement, drama—as well as activities in science, cooking, gardening, history, social-emotional learning, & more! This week's theme: "Sometimes I Feel Like a Mouse." Puppets will help us explore and find language for our feelings. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

### Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. Info:rutlandfree.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. Info:chaffeeartcenter.org/kids.

### Neurographic Art: Connecting Science and Art

1:30-3 p.m. The Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$25 for all six lectures (special semester membership). \$8 for single lecture. Mary Fran Lloyd, an abstract artist and promoter of art in Vermont for the past 30 years, will introduce us to Neurographic Art. Russian psychologist Pavel Piskarev created this mindfulness activity in 2014, which connects science with art. Mary Fran will demonstrate and guide us in experiencing this art form. Info:learn.uvm.edu/program/osher-lifelong-learning/olli-statewide/rutland.

### Learn to Crochet

12-1:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Cost: \$20. Join Ruth to learn how to crochet! This class is for complete newbies to crocheting. Participants will begin a simple crochet project in the class to learn basic stitches, terminology, and pattern reading. Info:greenmountainfibers.com.

### Virtual Owl Friday: Owl Research Institute's Great Gray Owls and Tree Snags

6-7 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee and virtual via Zoom. Free & open to the public; \$10 Suggested donation. For six years the researchers at the Owl Research Institute have been studying great gray owls. Not only are they tracking the population with long-term monitoring of nest sites, they are learning more about what types of trees these owls need, mainly large dead trees. These snags are a critical component of forest ecosystems and provide homes for a myriad species but unfortunately these trees are commonly cut down. Join us for this virtual event to learn more about this research initiative from owl biologist, Beth Mendelsohn. For more info visit: events@vinsweb.org.



**Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 12

### 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 15

### 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.

### Owl Festival

9 a.m.-5 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. Queechee. Free and open to public. \$10 suggested donation. Join us for a day of all things owls! Gather with live owls from all over the world, discover their life stories, join in a craft, and play games. Spice up your experience by dressing as your favorite owl! You never know *who* you'll run into. For more info visit: events@vinsweb.org.

### Pond Skim at Killington

Registration: 9-10:30 a.m. Event starts at 11 a.m. Cost: \$15. Take part in the classic pond skim contest. Event features live music lineup, prizes and more. The awards ceremony is slated to take place outside on the K-1 Lodge patio. Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female in each category: Best overall skim. Best costume. Biggest splash-didn't make it across the pond. Best 14 & under overall skim. The Judges' Award. This event is open to both skiers and snowboarders. The first 100 entrants will be allowed into the competition. Info: killington.com/things-to-do/events/events.

### 'Hello Spring' Fair

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Granville Town Hall, Route 100, Granville, New York. Free. A fundraiser to benefit Homeward Bound - the Humane Society in Addison County - featuring specialty vendors and craftspeople. You'll find tasty baked goodies, too, from Baking Memories. We hope you'll bring a little something along for the shelter's animals. Info: homewardboundanimals.org/get-involved/wish-list.

### Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers. Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. Info: rutlandfree.org.

### Winter Farmers' Market

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

### Bird Houses—Build it at The Boiler! The MINT

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Bird Houses - Build it at The Boiler! (Youth) Cost is \$10. Build a bird house using basic woodworking tools. Cut with a chop saw. Make holes with a drill press. Use a power driver. This class is ideal for youth ages 8-12 years old. Pre-registration is required. For more info visit: https://rutlandmint.org.

### Poetry Fun with Children's Author Christy Mihaly

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Join Vermont Children's Author, Christy Mihaly, for some poetry fun! Christy will read one of her books and we'll work on some group poetry and rhyming with fun activities! The first 10 children will receive one of Christy's books! Info: rutlandfree.org.

### Learn to Knit

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Cost: \$20. Join us to learn to create with two sticks and some string! This class is for complete newbies to knitting. Participants will learn to cast on, knit and purl, as well as garter stitch, stockinette stitch, and ribbing as time allows. Info: greenmountainfibers.com.

**Create Your Own Spring Tree!** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. You pick the color scheme, place the blossoms on the branches, and watch it bloom. Info: chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Create a Spring Mandala

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St., Springfield. Cost: \$70. Create a stitchery mandala, learning many hand embroidery stitches, to refresh your memory or add new ones to your embroidery stitches vocabulary. This is worked in the round, finished in a 6" hoop ready to hang or frame as a mandala sampler. All threads, fabrics, hoops, and needles will be provided. Just bring scissors. Materials fee to pay at class, \$18. Register by April 12. galleryvault.org.

### Rutland Railroad Museum & Model Club

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

### Met Opera: 'Der Rosenkavalier' (Strauss)

12 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$27 including fees. A dream cast assembles for Strauss's grand Viennese comedy. Soprano Lise Daviden is the aging Marschallin, opposite mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as her lover Octavian and soprano Erin Morley as Sophie, the beautiful younger woman who steals his heart. Bass Günther Groissböck returns as the churlish Baron Ochs, and Markus Brück is Sophie's wealthy father, Faninal. Maestro Simone Young takes the Met podium to oversee Robert Carsen's fin-de-siècle staging. 4 1/2 hr. run-time.

### 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

### Learn to Crochet

1-2:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Cost: \$20. Join Ruth to learn how to crochet! This class is for complete newbies to crocheting. Participants will begin a simple crochet project in the class to learn basic stitches, terminology, and pattern reading. Info: greenmountainfibers.com.

### Community Chamber Ensemble Recital

3-5 p.m. Old Stone Church, 145 East Main St., Poughkeepsie. Info: stonevalleyarts.org.

### Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

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

### WOH Wrestling - Pro Wrestling in Brandon VT

**Spring Slam with WWE star Fandango** 7 p.m. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq., Brandon. Tickets: \$20-\$60. Live wrestling action and meet and greet with the stars of the ring! 7 matches including women's wrestling and WWE wrestling superstar Fandango, plus the stars of WHO! Info: allevents.in/brandon.

### 'Mr. Destiny' Kicks Off the FOLA Movie Schedule for 2023

7 p.m. Heald Auditorium of the Ludlow Town Hall. Free. See "Mr. Destiny" on a big-screen tv. Jim Belushi stars in this poignant and funny exploration of what-if when Lawrence Joseph "Larry/L.J." Burrows finds himself in an alternate reality where he didn't strike out in the baseball championship game when he was 15. The 1990s movie also features Linda Hamilton, Jon Lovitz, Hart Bochner, and Michael Caine. For information, please contact Scott Stearns at 802-228-3238.

### Cellist Eugene Friesen and singer/songwriter

**Elizabeth Rogers present 'The Beauty We Love'** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Rutland, 117 West St., Rutland. Tickets: \$15-\$20. A special evening of creative music featuring Grammy Award-winning cellist Eugene Friesen and singer/songwriter Elizabeth Rogers. For tickets and more information, visit: https://tinyurl.com/yckbenxx.

## SUNDAY APRIL 16

### 2nd Annual United Way Spring Fun Run

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Castleton University Pavilion, 432 South St., Castleton. Cost: \$20. Your support for the United Way Spring Fun Run 5K benefits all of Rutland County through United Way's community impact grants and targeted impact programs. Your participation helps our Community Impact Grants team to partner with 14 agencies providing funding to 16 different programs. Campaign fundraising dollars also support our targeted impact priorities through Happy Feet, a shoes replacement program and Welcome to Winter, a free hat and mitten program; both of which partner with all schools throughout Rutland County. Info: eventbrite.com/e/united-way-spring-fun-run-tickets.

### Club Square Dance April Showers Dance

1 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, 85 West St., Rutland. Cost: \$8 per dancer plus \$2 Advanced. Dance to caller Matt McGovern at this Club Level square dance. 1-2 pm is Advanced dancing, then 2-4:30 is Class/Mainstream and Plus.

### 'Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project' book signing

1-2 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St. Free. Dr. Jack Mayer will be speaking on "Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project" at the West Rutland Town Hall. His book is a true story of the Polish social worker, Irena Sendler, who during World War II, worked to save the lives of thousands of children during the Holocaust. These events were brought to light years later by a group of students in Kansas and it became known as "The Irena Sendler Project."

### Film Series at Stone Valley Arts: 'Language Lessons'

7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St., Poughkeepsie. A suggested donation of \$5 per person is asked. Stone Valley Arts is hosting a film series expanding its busy schedule of cultural programs for the community. The film series will feature award-winning classic films from 2017-2021, including fantasy, dramas, and comedies. Two films will be shown each month, screenings Friday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a brief discussion. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

### Community Music Jam

6:30-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poughkeepsie. Donations encouraged. Bring your instruments, your voices, and your ideas. We'll take turns, teaching each other new song numbers while keeping it simple. Info: stonevalleyarts.org.

## MONDAY APRIL 17

### 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.

### 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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 **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 13

### 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. Info: rutlandrec.com/godnick.

### Raku

6-8 p.m. Bird Houses - Build it at The Boiler at the MINT. 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 N. Main St., Randolph. Free. Bring your knitting - or other handicraft - and enjoy an evening of crafting and socializing. For all ages and experience levels. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

### Girl Named Tom Trio

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40 + tax/fees. With their distinctive harmonies and heartfelt performances, Bekah, Joshua and Caleb Liechty won the hearts of America while becoming the only group to ever win NBC's "The Voice." In addition to their chart-topping covers ("River," "The Chain," & "Dust in the Wind" among others), GNT writes original music that will almost certainly project them to becoming the best-known harmony trio of their generation. Info@normanwilliams.org.

## TUESDAY APRIL 18

### Stories on a String

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

### 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.

### Children's Indoor Storytime

10:30-11:30 a.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Meets every Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Community Meeting Room. Storytime is offered for children, from infants to age 5, but everyone is welcome. For more info visit: hartlandlibraryvt.org or contact Traci at kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org.

### Alzheimer's Support Group at Community Health

4 p.m. Community Health Allen Pond, 71 Allen Str., Rutland. Claudia Courcelle and her team of care managers will hold their Alzheimers support group meeting. Info@https://www.chcr.org/community-news/alzheimers-support-group-at-community-health-meets-jan-10-in-rutland For more info visit: 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. Kidding Around Yoga (KAY), a style of yoga that was created by Haris Lender, provides an amazing curriculum designed to motivate children to be active, build confidence, and manage the spectrum of emotions that they might experience in their day-to-day activities while encompassing the five branches of yoga in a clear and engaging method. Info@rutlandfree.org/calendar-events.



## 2ND ANNUAL UNITED WAY SPRING FUN RUN

SUNDAY

### Mend, Hem & Sew 101

5-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. Member - \$10; Non-member - \$30.00. Learn how to use a sewing machine and quickly fix, hem and modify all your favorite fashion pieces! In this class students will be focusing on building their skills on the sewing machine by making a reusable shopping bag. An introduction to the features of the textiles lab, different parts of the sewing machines, basic setup. An overview of how to operate a sewing machine. Loading thread, bobbins, material; setting stitch type; moving fabric through the machine. Class instructor: Bee Richter. Info@rutlandmint.org.

### Woodshop Orientation

5-6:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. \$15 members Take a tour through the wood shop and learn how to use some of the more common woodworking tools. Info@rutlandmint.org.

### Circle of Parents in Recovery

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

### 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

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[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED  
4/12

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

**POULTNEY**  
7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – OpenMic hosted by Danny Lang

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

**RUTLAND**  
5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Duane Carleton

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

THURS  
4/13

**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

7 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

**LUDLOW**  
8 p.m. Off The Rails – Breanna Elaine

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

**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  
4/14

**CASTLETON**  
6 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place & Deli – Ryan Fuller

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – The Joneses

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

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

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Live Music

**LUDLOW**  
8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – DJ Maddy

**POULTNEY**  
7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Moose Crossing

**RUTLAND**  
8 p.m. Taco Fresco – Sammy B

**TINMOUTH**  
5:30 p.m. Community Center – Spring Fling Dance

SAT  
4/15

**BRIDGEWATER**  
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – David Deery (The Edinburg Fringe Festival)

**KILLINGTON**  
11 a.m. K1 Base Area/ Highline Trail – Pond Skimming Competition with music and commentating by DJ Dave and Rick Beda

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – The Joneses

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Pickle Prom: Disco Edition with DJ Primary Instinct

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

SUN  
4/16

**KILLINGTON**  
12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with The Joneses

2 p.m. Roaring Brook Umbrella Bar – Sammy B

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

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

**RUTLAND**  
4 p.m. Grace Church – Organ Recital

MON  
4/17

**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Rivershed – Rob Pagnano

**LUDLOW**  
7 p.m. Off The Rails – Sammy B

8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic

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

TUES  
4/18

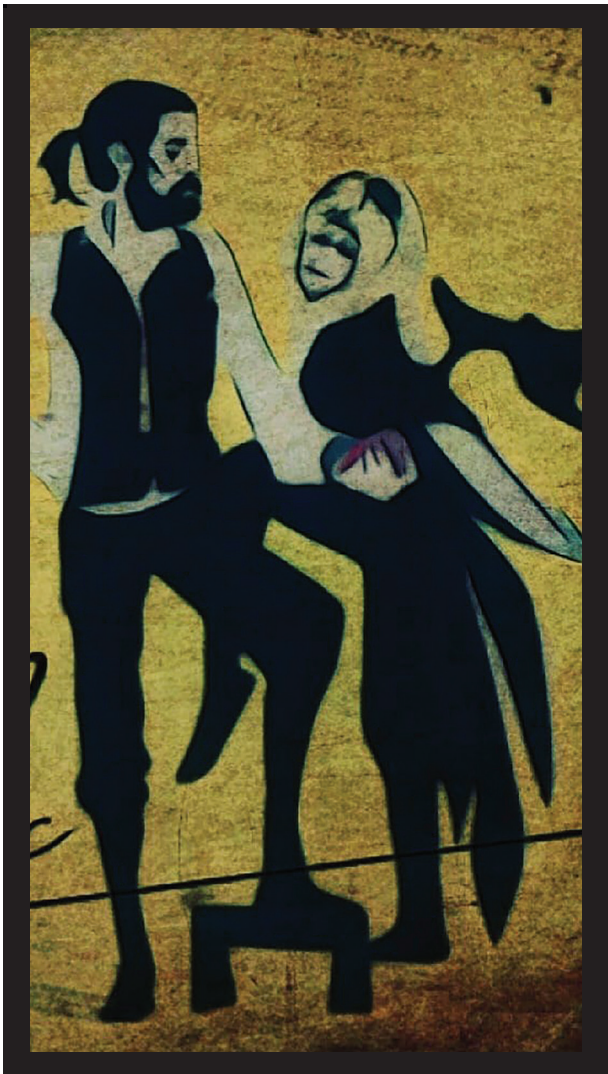
**KILLINGTON**  
6 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

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

**LUDLOW**  
8 p.m. Off The Rails – SINGO

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

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



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# Monkeying around with Hairball at Killington

By Karen D. Lorentz

When you find yourself talking to a monkey and answering his questions, you know that there's still a "kid" in you even if you are a senior!

And that makes it easy to understand why kids gravitate to this puppet named Hairball.

It jokes around with them, often asking if they have a banana for it.

It loves to get smiles from all ages, too. That includes seeing a child who doesn't look happy.

"If I see someone crying, I yell over to them and start up a conversation. I ask them if they have been skiing and things like that. Then if they seem to like me, I might go up to them and give them a high five or fist bump. They stop crying because they forgot what was bothering them. I like to see them smile. It makes me feel good to see them feel better," Hairball explained.

"I wave and have fun talking to kids. People remember my voice, too. They say it's nice and childlike. Maybe that's why kids like me so much," it added.

Hairball gives lots of high fives and fist bumps, occasionally goes snowboarding, and loves to sit on its mom's shoulder. It likes to "monkey" around.

That includes greeting arrivals at Ramshead where "Mom" Laurie Canterbury is often stationed as an ambassador.

Hairball is a puppet with hair that sticks straight up, hence the name. It sports a colorful headband that matches Can-

terbury's, who makes them. She has several as the kids notice if they wear one two days in a row, she said.

And kids do notice Hairball. One family that spent a week at Killington and much money on the vacation that included kids in ski school reported back that all the 6-year-old could talk about for the following week was "the monkey!"

Hairball interacts with adults, too.

"If my mom greets people arriving on a bus, I like to go with her and talk to them. Laurie's gotten pretty good talking for me with her lips closed. One time a lady asked her if she went to ventriloquist school. That was nice," said the monkey.

"Sometimes adults who met me when they were kids growing up skiing at Killington call out 'Hi Hairball.' It's fun to be remembered."

Hairball has an older brother who looks older because it was out in wet weather. Canterbury uses that Hairball for iffy weather because "I don't want my hair to get wet and matted down. She grooms me with a soft brush to keep me handsome," Hairball added.

Hairball also has a younger brother named is Hairy Garcia. It's a tie-dyed monkey in a beaded vest and wire rim glasses. It attends Easter events and the Dazed and Defrosted festival. It likes to see Canterbury give out tattoo stickers that kids and adults put on their faces.

## How Hairball came to be

Laurie Canterbury is from Palmer, Massachusetts, and learned to ski on a small local hill in her teens. She joined the high school ski club and remembers her first ski trip was to Killington where she "fell in love" with the mountain.

Canterbury became a busy RN, and in 1996 joined the



Submitted

"Mom" Laurie Canterbury, pictured here with "Hairball," is often stationed as an ambassador.

Killington Ambassadors, finding it "nice to work in a recreational environment when you have a demanding job. It was a nice change that helped one face challenging work," the now-retired Canterbury noted.

In the late 1990s when there wasn't much snow on the ground one Thanksgiving, Canterbury was assigned to help out at the Ramshead Children's Center as the kids couldn't go out to ski. She brought a monkey puppet with her to entertain the kids and named it Hairball.

Hairball became a regular way to interact with guests for Canterbury, who enjoys helping people and getting kids and adults to smile.

"I might give guests a compliment from Hairball like 'nice jacket,'" she said of her special way of sharing the joy of the sport and Killington.

"The best part about working with Hairball is seeing him turn off tears. I stand back and he'll yell out in his high-pitched voice and say 'hi' and ask questions to redirect a child's attention, so they don't think about what they are crying about. Usually, he can get a smile. If they respond to him, then we move closer, and Hairball will do a fist bump or high five with them."

Ski area mascots usually don't talk so Hairball's ability to talk gets kids interacting with it is special.

"Even adults interact and smile when they see him, and all ages will high five Hairball. Very few people won't interact with him," Canterbury added.

Having found myself looking Hairball in the eye and answering its questions, and having watched him with children, I can see how it's a very special ambassador, bringing a measure of fun and joy to the mountain experience!



Submitted

Hairball, Killington's playful puppet brings joy and laughter to kids on and around the trails at Killington.

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# Wallingford Town Hall concert series presents The Sky Blue Boys

Wednesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.—WALLINGFORD—The Sky Blue Boys, a duo comprised of Willy and Dan Lindner (who formed Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite Plowboys), will perform at Wallingford Town Hall at 75 School St. in Wallingford on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

The duo has built up a large repertoire of wonderful old

ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers.

The Sky Blue Boys have expanded the accompaniment to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added many newer songs including several of their own compositions.

Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. Mill River Interact Club will be hosting the bake sale.

It is only through public support that we can bring musical acts to Wallingford Town Hall,” said Sandi Switzer, town administrator for Wallingford. “Please mark your calendar for Sky Blue Boys on Wednesday and support local live music and Mill River Interact Club.”

For more info, visit: [wallingfordvt.com/community-events](http://wallingfordvt.com/community-events).



## 'Hello Spring' fair fundraiser benefits Humane Society

Friday, April 15 — GRANVILLE— On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., do something nice for your furry, four-legged friends. Come on out to the “Hello Spring” fair at the Granville Hall, 4157 Route 100N, Granville, Vermont.

This is a fundraiser to benefit Homeward Bound, the Humane Society in Addison County, featuring a variety of specialty vendors and craftspeople with great products. Tasty baked goodies from Baking Memoirs will be available.

The event is free, but we hope you’ll bring a little something along for the shelter’s animals. Visit the Homeward Bound wish list at: [homewardboundanimals.org/get-involved/wish-list](http://homewardboundanimals.org/get-involved/wish-list) to donate and enter a drawing for a terrific gift basket.

The event will feature crafts, vendors, food, raffle all to help the furry critters. What more could you want? The Hello Spring fair will be held at the Granville Town Hall located at 4157 Route 100, Granville.

# Theater in the Woods presents Friel’s luminous love letter to his family, 'Dancing at Lughnasa,' at Stone Valley Arts in Poultney

Set in remote County Donegal in Ireland in 1936, Friel’s memory play is placed in the small cottage of the five Mundy sisters, their fallen priest brother, and a wayward Welshman on two days in August at the harvest festival of Lughnasa. Their story is told through the adult eyes of 7 year-old Michael. The isolation — of the family from society, of the characters from each other — is palpable, pervasive, and poetic.

Director Meg Bouchard said, “My guiding question choosing this play three years ago was about family: how can there be so much love and so much pain at exactly the same time? It’s exquisite, and universal. As someone who had moved from the city to Vermont, the play’s isolation drew me. And that was before Covid! We’ve gotten out of the habit of connecting with people, and bringing this play to life after three years of postponement really loads it — it felt

criminal not to get this play on its feet. We had to take it to the dance.”

Theater in the Woods Camp works with dozens of children each summer to experience the transformative power of theater in the magic of the woods. Camp

The great Irish dramatist Brian Friel has been called the Irish Chekhov, “dazzling us with plays that speak in a language of unequaled poetic beauty and intensity,” wrote Vincent Canby of the New York Times.

porary theater repertoire to hone their acting and teaching craft, for the opportunity to play with each other, and to raise funds for the camp. They are joined in ensemble by Helen Gassenheimer, Kate Kelly, Tristan Larson, and Chip Stevens.

Sponsors for this production are Noble Ace Hardware; O’Brien, Shortle, Reynolds and Sabotka PC; Querrey Industrial Services Inc.; Rita Salzman; and Mark and Nancy Foley. The Mountain Times is the media sponsor.

Proceeds from ticket sales support Theater in the Woods Camp, held June 24-July 28 in Middletown Springs.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 students.

Theatre in the Woods Vermont Co. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. For more information, visit: [heaterinthewoodsvt.org](http://heaterinthewoodsvt.org).

directors Meg Bouchard, Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman, Rainbow Squier, and Wheaton Squier present contem-



Submitted  
*Helen Gassenheimer and Wheaton Squier*



Submitted  
*Kate Kelly and Chip Stevens*



Submitted  
*Meg Bouchard and Helen Gassenheimer*



## A tale of two seasons: Okemo to close April 16

By Glenn Heitsmith

Okemo Mountain Ski Resort buttons up its winter business on Sunday, April 16, with a strong snowpack and equally impressive customer satisfaction numbers.

As guest speaker for the April 4 meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club, Okemo GM and Vice President Bruce Schmidt described a “tale of two seasons.”

Snowfall for the season stands at 162 inches, Schmidt told the club, compared to a 130-inch average for this date. The resort will close on April 16 after 149 consecutive days of skiing.

Not bad for a season that opened with 11 trails on Nov. 19 – in time for Thanksgiving, but with little help from Mother Nature. On Dec. 16, an astonishing 27 inches of snow fell, but much of that melted before a couple of modest snowfalls arrived in time for the Christmas holiday week.

Repetitive rain, thaw and refreezes kept snowmakers busy resurfacing the slopes through January and then the bottom fell out on Feb. 4, literally, when the temperature dropped to -25 F, Schmidt said.

But what was tough on skiers was good for snowmaking and the cold temperatures enabled Okemo to open almost all of its terrain by Feb. 8. Just a few natural snow trails remained closed, awaiting more snow.

By March 1, Okemo Ski Patrol had dropped ropes on all 122 trails.

Schmidt pointed to the overall good skiing, “no vaccine checking” and 100% staffing of all outlets, including food and beverage operations, as contributing to improved customer satisfaction.

The resort scored a “2” last year on the “GX” measurement scale. The score this season is up to “34,” he said.

Working closely with the town of Ludlow, Okemo improved its skier arrival process with better directional signage, parking lot management and shuttle bus route to ease traffic flow through town.

Schmidt also pointed to a closer working relationship with the Ludlow Ambulance Service (Okemo’s



Submitted  
Ludlow Rotary Club President Jim Rumrill, left, with Bruce Schmidt, vice president and general manager for Okemo Mountain Resort.

annual contribution was \$38,000) and tighter ties to Springfield Hospital.

Looking ahead, Schmidt verified the need for more employee housing, which it presently offers at a half-dozen locations around town. Okemo also is developing a 10-year master plan to improve its Clock Tower base, including lodge upgrades, replacing one of two A/B quads with a high-speed lift, phasing out fuel oil-fired air compressors and developing off-site parking with shuttle service to Bixby Field, about two miles away.

Snowfall for the season stands at 162 inches, Schmidt told the club, compared to a 130-inch average for this date. The resort will close on April 16 after 149 consecutive days of skiing.

In two years, Okemo plans to offer a rental program to deliver ski gear “directly to your condo,” Schmidt said.

Also on the radar, Okemo is closely monitoring the new Killington Six Peaks Village project that will host

about 1,500 new residents in 200 condos and townhomes, homesites and two 85-acre ski-in ski-out sites. Much of the new traffic from Killington’s project is expected to travel through Ludlow.

For the short term, Okemo skiers next year will note “expanded space” near the Black Ridge Triple chairlift where some trees were recently removed. A new low energy bluetooth connection through The MyEpic cellphone app will capture ski pass data, enabling skiers to ditch their RFID cards.

Club President Jim Rumrill thanked Schmidt on behalf of Vail Resorts “Epic Promise” and Okemo Mountain for nearly three decades of support for the Youth Exchange Ski

program that offers nearby Rotary’s International Exchange Students a ski weekend in Vermont.

The Ludlow Rotary Club meets on Tuesdays for lunch at DJ’s Restaurant. Contact any Rotarian for more information.

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## Back Country Café

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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.



## Soup Dog

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# Future of Vermont action team launches youth opportunity initiative

The Future of Vermont action team is launching a state-wide youth opportunity initiative, facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, to embark on a deep engagement process to draw input from youth, community members, parents, advocates, municipal leaders, educators, school administrators, business owners, policy experts, and others to identify strategies and action to advance youth opportunity, aspiration, and community connection.

In 2021, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) built The Vermont Proposition which outlines a bold proposal to set our state on a trajectory toward success,

"Please join a forum in your region to share your ideas for how we can best create opportunities for youth to have hope and aspiration for the future!"  
said Joyce Judy.

vitality, and prosperity for the next 30 years based on input from thousands of Vermonters. A diverse group of 20 leaders convened and facilitated by VCRD, known as the Future of Vermont Action Team, have been further defining and implementing the 10 elements of the Vermont Proposition.

The Vermont youth opportunity initiative emerged through the Vermont Proposition effort and was identified by the Action Team as a transformational opportunity that will make an impact and lay a strong foundation for the implementation work of other Proposition areas ahead. A youth opportunity advisory group of statewide leaders and youth members has developed a statewide engagement process and will review findings and make action recommendations following feedback.

Starting April 20 in the Upper Valley region, then May 23 in the northwest region, and continuing in different regions across the state — with support and guidance from the advisory group — the Vermont Council on Rural Development will convene, manage, staff, and facilitate a series of community forums, youth forums, and stakeholder interviews to understand the current landscape of policy and program initiatives and to gather input and ideas to strengthen, support, and advance opportunities for Vermont youth.

"We need all Vermonters operating to their full potential. This begins by helping Vermont youth know, explore, and imagine what is possible. We all play a role in helping youth around us — friends, students, coworkers, family, and community members — thrive and succeed," said Joyce Judy, Community College of Vermont president and member of both the Future of Vermont action team and youth

Youth opportunity →28


## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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## SUDOKU

< PUZZLES page 11

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



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# Following Fran: What makes the life of an artist?

By Elsie Lynn Parini/Addison County Independent

There was a moment when Fran Bull decided to be an artist:

“I remember sitting on a commuter train back in the ’70s, traveling from Setauket, Long Island, to New York City,” Bull explains in her online biography. “I was in my late 20s, a person of many interests, still living in the question of my life. As the landscape scrolled by, a great shift happened in me. The gods of fate and decision-making had boarded that train and when I disembarked in New York I had committed to a life in art.”

And thus was born the life of an artist. It is a span that has crossed time and space, grown and expanded to encompass various styles and various people, including one very special one.

Growing up in New Jersey, Bull remembers spending Saturdays and summers taking children’s art classes at the Newark Museum. “I fancied myself a ‘modern’ artist,” she says, recalling time she spent with her best friend in a basement making drawings and oil paintings.

Bull expanded her palette at Bennington College, where she graduated in 1960 with a major in music, with two subsequent degrees in textile design and an M.A. from NYU in art and art education.

“In the ’80s I enjoyed New York gallery representation working within the Photorealist movement,” Bull’s bio continues. “My art evolved away from this constrained, exacting way of working and veered in a more personal direction — I needed to tell other stories through art. I needed to address other persistent questions: Who are we human beings? What is our purpose in the universe? Why have we made such a mess of things? What is art’s purpose — can it heal? Can art illuminate and thus transform?”

To pursue these new pressing questions, Bull made the move to Brandon in 1999 and opened a gallery space called Gallery in the Field.

“I was a fool rushing in,” Bull said. “I had no idea. But it was a life-long dream and we had so many wonderful moments.”

A decade later, Bull’s life partner Robert Black moved to Brandon too and “got into it with Fran,” as he says.

“We really were and are asking, ‘How does art bring community together?’” summarized Black, who has been an architect for over 40 years, and also wears the hats of photographer, artist, teacher and professional facilitator.

“Fran is famous,” Black said, in only the way a partner can.

“Well, I was in ‘multi’ there for a while,” she retorted, referring to her earlier years as an artist. “I was in disguise... When I was first exhibiting, I died a thousand deaths. Those were long, arduous months of work and I would be a wreck.”

What Bull has come to learn through her own work with Jungian therapy was a “letting go.”

“What I had to learn was every day to do things for real life — you know sit down or boil potatoes — to really live in real life,” explained Bull, who is now in her mid-80s. “Little by little I made breakthroughs — without judging I was in touch with myself as much as possible. It’s a journey.”

How do you get to that place where you trust what’s emerging from you as an artist?

“I have no idea,” Bull said with a delighted laugh. “Now, I make something, say here’s my work, and maybe it will speak to you.”

“It’s like the series of brick photos I did where I took pictures of bricks on brick,” Black added. “The wall was uniform but different. As an artist can I put myself out there for people to see and take the lumps...?”

Perfection is not the goal.

On the contrary, in fact. If you were lucky enough to see “We’re all at a party called life on Earth,” an art installation at the Jackson Gallery in the lower level of Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, you know what Bull and Black (who together go by the name of FROBERTAN) are up to these days.

More than just showing the work, the couple aims to educate and engage too. Through workshops, multi-media talks and programming, FROBERTAN try to open people to the world through art.



By Steve James/Addison Independent

*Fran Bull poses in her studio in Brandon, where she’s been creating since 1999. Her journey as an artist has taken her far and wide, through many media and to many countries. Most recently, Bull has been working with her life partner Robert Black (under the combined name of FROBERTAN) to educate and connect people around the world.*



# Rutland County Humane Society



ZEMMA

Zemma's job title is professional snuggler and she is very serious about her job!! Zemma is a 2-year-old sweetheart. She loves other dogs, and food, but people are her real passion. She enjoyed her visit with 15 elementary kids, lots of pets and face licks! Zemma is heartworm positive so has to stay in Vermont. We cover the cost of her treatment. For more information call 802-885-3997.

This pet is available for adoption at  
**Springfield Humane Society**  
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\*Open by appointment only. [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org)



JOY

I'm a 6-month-old spayed female. I have a cleft lip that has been fixed! I'm a sweet gal who loves attention and affection and I love children who will play gently with me. I love snuggly naps too.

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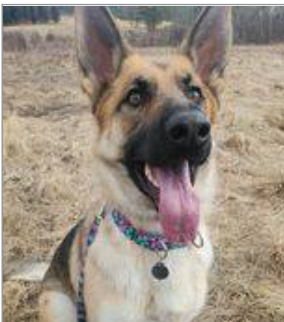
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Buddy—3 ½-year-old.  
Neutered male. Lab mix.  
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boy sure does live up to his  
name and will be your (not  
so little) buddy.



Sasha—1-year-old.  
Spayed female. German  
Shepherd. Black/tan. Sasha  
is a large Shepherd, but she  
is still a puppy at heart.



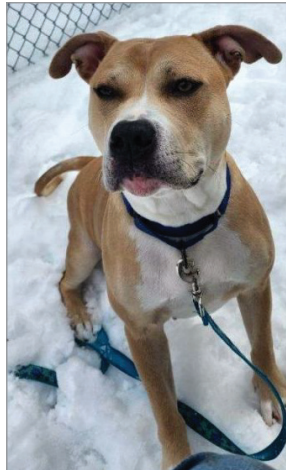
Clifford—4-year-old.  
Neutered male. Shepherd  
mix. Brown/white. Are you  
looking for an enthusiastic,  
active, and very smart pup?  
Well, Clifford is just that!



Willow—5-year-old.  
Spayed female. Blood-  
hound. Black/red. Blood-  
hounds make great family  
pets. They are very affec-  
tionate. This is definitely  
true for Willow!



Bo—2-year-old. Neu-  
tered male. Terrier mix.  
White/black. It's not a co-  
incidence that "Bo" rhymes  
with "go!" Bo is always on  
the move.



Wanda—1-year-old.  
Female. Bulldog mix. Tan  
and white. Wanda is one of  
those dogs who wakes up  
every day and decides that it  
is going to be her best day!



MARA

Mara—3-Month-Old. female. Terrier mix. Tan  
and white. Meet Mara! She is a very sweet, playful  
little pup!

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

## Spring cleaning? The animals at RCHS love old bedding!

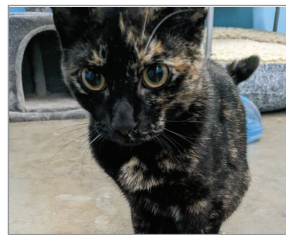
Now that the weather is (hopefully!) getting nicer, many people clean out closets and do some spring cleaning. If you find old bedding or towels, please think about bringing them to the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS). They make great bedding for the animals and keep them cozy and comfortable while they're here. The animals especially love blankets, quilts, fleece and towels. Please no fitted sheets. Thanks for your continued support and for thinking of the animals!



Koda—6-year-old.  
Spayed female. Retriever  
mix. Tan. Are you looking  
for an active pup to add to  
your family? Koda may be  
the girl for you!



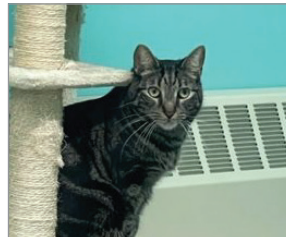
Bear—3-year-old. Neu-  
tered male. Domestic short-  
hair. Brown tabby. Bear is a  
quiet but very sweet boy.



Glenda—4-month-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic  
shorthair. Torti. A sweet  
kitty looking for a new lov-  
ing new home.



Margaret—3-year-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic  
shorthair. Black and white.  
Easygoing and content  
describe her best. She is a  
sweet, laid-back lady.



Diesel—2-year-old.  
Neutered male. Domestic  
shorthair. Brown tabby.  
Diesel is a bashful guy who  
would prefer a quiet home.  
Loves ear scratches.



# Cosmic Catalogue



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## Aries

March 21 - April 20

A friend of mine recently said to me that she hadn't really been feeling the boons that Jupiter in Aries has to offer. Is this the case for you? This is the thing when you live in a magical universe is that the gifts do show up, just not in the way we thought. Just because the gift turns up as a seed rather than a blossoming flower doesn't mean it wasn't given.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

No doubt, for a while now, you've been questioning and considering new life philosophies. This week a eureka moment of sorts may arrive as your star, the Sun, fuses with generous Jupiter. New wisdom and insights can be had. A new pathway could unfold that you couldn't foresee or predict. It's an exciting time as the world opens up for you. Chances taken now can manifest in exciting ways, especially professionally. A little self-belief can take you a long way now.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

A love and connection cycle arrives this week thanks to Venus in Gemini. You may discover that other people rise up to offer their support and that your general relations just feel better. Speaking of love, your star Jupiter fuses with the Sun in your Happiness and Romance Zone. Some of the most joyful moments are on offer for you now. Make an effort to simply be happier and you'll notice everything around you just gets better.



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Venus leaves your sign this week, not to return for a year. Jupiter, not seen in over a decade, arrives next month and will stay for a year. One door closes, another door opens, right?! You'll get the chance to reflect on these phases, to get to know yourself better and tap into your desires. The recent offerings, while seemingly gone, will soon reappear and better than before. Use the meantime to prepare yourself to make good on some opportunities for real progress.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

Lucky star Venus arrives in your career zone this week, prompting questions about your professional and life direction. Is this what I want? Am I satisfied with the way things are headed? Are my efforts resulting in the compensation I need and deserve? Big questions! Compromises between short term success and long-term progress may be required. In either case, analyzing things may help you to realize you're in a better position than you think.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Desire is an interesting concept. Some people act on it while there are also the people who seem to not know what they want exactly. This week, a lucky fusion in your home zone will help you create a spark of possibility from which all other desires can spring from. Have faith in just one thing and you'll be amazed by just how that one thing will ricochet throughout other areas of life too.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Venus arrives in your sign this week which will make the things you want, want you! Also, a really fortunate fusion takes place in your Luck Zone. Thus, it's likely that good things are going to arrive via friends or fate. Make the most of social opportunities to be seen in your best light. Extend yourself to others if need be. Soon, your time to step out from the spotlight and reassess will arrive, so make hay!



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

A new and more optimistic outlook in love is possible for you this week, as the Sun and Jupiter join forces. You may be able to see things beyond the here and now. When it comes to relationships of all kinds, you are at your best when your ideals and your vision of the future align. This week all of the above and more is possible for you. Your only challenge is to be able to believe it to receive it.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Venus' arrival in Gemini and your fun zone signals cosmic permission for you to have more joy and happiness in your life. Simply put; sprinkle a little sugar! This will help relieve any heaviness or uncertainty you've been feeling too. More time enjoying hobbies or pastimes, more time with children or more time with a romantic interest will make for memories that will keep you thriving when those hard or cathartic moments make their presence felt again.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

New opportunities regarding a professional pathway or your big life desires are likely to open up for you this week. This is ideal timing, especially if you were questioning whether your recent efforts were producing rewards. Most of the time, good opportunities are always arriving. The real question is whether you have the ability to recognize them. Just because something doesn't look how you expected, doesn't mean it's not the thing.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

A glimmer of hope arrives from all your efforts, hard work and toil you've been going through so far in 2023. You may finally begin to realize the spoils of your efforts, or, if you've not been doing your best, then the cosmos may make some problems bigger. You're in a cycle of excellence. Apply yourself if you want the results you say you want. For the next month, go hard or go home and see what you can achieve.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

The simple things in life are often the best. Now that Venus has arrived in your home zone, you'll find your happiest and most joy – filled moments will simply be at home and with those you love. If you've been meaning to spruce things up, Spring clean or improve your family dynamics, you've got the stars outside to do so. Committing to the simple things will help you define what is important to you.

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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.





## Try and fail

Careful what you wish for, because you just might get it. I'm sure that's a phrase you're familiar with. This week, agreeable Venus shifts signs from where she's strong, stable and secure to where she's adaptable, curious and more easily influenced. Sure, the social mood may become lighter and more fluid, but are you actually thinking about the things you want or just going with the flow?

You see, Venus is an influential star in 2023 as she'll be retrograde in the Northern Hemisphere Summer. Thus, your "why not?" attitude now could soon become a question of "why did I?"



Cosmic  
Catalogue  
By Cassandra  
Tyndall

Also this week, the annual meeting of the Sun and Jupiter signifies a new cycle of faith, optimism and possibility.

This may also remind you that more often than not, you have to move beyond the above mentioned stable and secure into a state of "why not?" for anything to actually happen! In Aries, the sign associated with the initial spark, you're encouraged to follow your instincts, even if you do not know where the path will lead. Follow your faith, even if you wonder whether it's working. Follow the way forward, even

if you're doubtful of its outcome. Better to have tried and failed than to have never tried at all.

## The amazing bird egg

I'm often tempted to peek at the eggs inside a phoebe's nest when the parents leave it to forage for food. I've picked up a fallen robin's egg shell and admired its delicate color and smoothness. I've marveled at the primal determination of the chick that pecked its way out of an egg to become a full-fledged owl, avocet, or eagle.



The Outside  
Story  
By Laurie D. Morrissey

Helen MacDonald, author of the books "H is for Hawk" and "Vesper Flights," put this fascination into words. At a falcon breeding research center, she held a falcon's egg close to her mouth and made soft clucking noises – and heard the unhatched chick peep back.

"I spoke through the shell to something that had not yet known light or air, but would soon take in the revealed coil and furl of a west-coast breeze ... in one easy glide at 60 miles an hour, and spire up on sharp wings to soar to see the distant, glittering Atlantic. I spoke through a shell and wept."

I have not held a conversation with an egg, but I believe it to be a wondrous object – thin-shelled and light, yet surprisingly strong; porous, yet waterproof. It is one of nature's marvels, perfectly adapted to supply virtually all the needs of the avian embryo.

Evolutionary biologist Mary Caswell Stoddard investigates eggshell structure and function at Princeton University. "The most amazing thing about birds' eggs is that they are remarkably diverse – in color, patterning, size, and shape – even though they all have the same purpose, which is to protect and nourish the chick until it hatches," she said.

The avian egg comes complete with nutrients, minerals, antimicrobial proteins, and water. It needs only two things from the outside: air (it absorbs oxygen and discharges carbon dioxide through microscopic pores in the shell) and parents to keep it warm and turn it occasionally so the embryo within doesn't stick to the shell membranes.

Amazingly, the shell is strong enough to resist fracture from the outside, yet delicate enough to break from within when necessary.

I remember childhood egg and spoon races. We took off with our wobbly cargo hoping to reach the finish with eggs intact. Inevitably, there were a few dropped eggs. I assumed they broke because they were weak. I was wrong.

"The eggshell is one of the fastest-forming biomaterials in nature. The calcium carbonate shell typically forms in under 24 hours," Stoddard explained. The eggshell's strength comes from calcium-containing

minerals, including one that comprises osteopontin, a protein also occurring in bones.

Although a chicken egg is only about 1/100 of an inch thick, and brittle enough to crack when dropped, an egg standing on end is strong enough to withstand compression. If you squeeze it lengthwise it is almost impossible to break, because the arch shape at the ends distributes the force evenly. Studies have shown the chicken egg's compressive strength to be 100 pounds, the ostrich's more than 1,000.

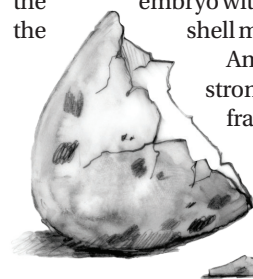
The shell also has the ability to change over time. It is hardest when first laid, and its strength decreases as the chick extracts calcium for its development. It is weakest just before hatching begins.

One of the characteristics Stoddard studies is egg shape. "Owls tend to lay round eggs, while hummingbirds lay elliptical eggs, and many shorebirds lay pointy eggs," she said. She has shown a relationship between flight ability and egg shape. "In general, better fliers tend to lay eggs that are more elliptical or asymmetric. We do not think that egg shape changes during flight, or that certain egg shapes are more aerodynamic. Instead, we hypothesized that flight behavior is related to other aspects of a bird's body plan (like width of the pelvis), which may ultimately influence the egg-shaping process."

Mark E. Hauber, author of "The Bird's Egg," also reports variation in shell thickness. "Parasitic eggs [such as those of brown-headed cowbirds] are typically thicker in the shell than similarly sized non-parasitic eggs," he said. "They also have specialized crystalline boundaries of the shell matrix; either or both of these together make the parasite's eggs stronger." This strength may help when a cowbird lays her egg while perching on the edge of an unprotected nest.

Eggshells have been the subject of much research in the biological, chemical, and engineering sciences, largely due to the commercial importance of chicken eggs. I'll leave it to researchers to crack the secrets of the avian egg, while I simply continue to admire this amazing natural wonder.

Laurie D. Morrissey is a writer who lives in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



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## Airing it out

I started playing competitive basketball when I was in the fifth grade. That was the first year where the elementary schools in my town (of which there were many) formed a league for intramural play. I competed for Dana School, which was located a few blocks up the road from where I lived.

I started walking to and from school when I was in the second grade. Back then parents didn't think twice about letting their children walk to school, but nowadays you'd be at risk of losing custody of your kids for something so neglectful. I used to think it was an oppressively long walk, but whenever I go back to my hometown and drive by that area, I'm shocked at what a short distance it actually was.

Dana School had two of every class, from kindergarten up to sixth grade, which meant there were 12 classrooms in the three-story brick building. There was also a small gymnasium that doubled as the school lunchroom and assembly hall. The flooring was covered with synthetic tiles, which were perfect for rolling out lunch tables, but horrible for playing sports on.

When the school announced that it was forming a team, I convinced my parents to sign me up. I was a rambunctious kid, so I was keen to get involved in an activity that kept me moving. I also had a basketball hoop in my driveway, which made me semi-skilled at the activity.

I must have proven myself capable during preseason because I remember being thrilled that I was picked as one of the starters for our first game. I was confident, proud, and ready to compete.

Unfortunately, it turns out that I was not prepared for the spotlight.

For some reason, the intensity of a strange kid trying to take the ball away from me while my coach, father, and friend's parents were on the sidelines yelling overwhelmed me.

I must have lost or thrown the ball away several times because I remember deciding mid-game that being the guard who dribbled the ball up the court was suddenly not for me. I became obsessed with taking the ball out of bounds, because if I took the ball out of bounds, I was off the hook as the dribbler.

The problem was that no one else on the team could dribble and since my coach had designated me to do it, he was perplexed at

why I was suddenly bailing on my responsibility. He cajoled me to resume my role, but I wasn't listening.

During halftime, my coach pulled me aside and gave me a short lecture about my performance. I remember him being firm and direct, but also a bit confused. More than anything, he just wanted me to perform.

As I walked onto the court for the second half, I glanced at my father who was obviously waiting for me to make eye contact. In the split second I looked at him, he made a hand gesture that said, 'Get your act together!'

At that point, I was coming unglued inside. I wanted to run out of the gym or hide under the bleachers, but instead, something inside of me got mad.

The next time I touched the ball I dribbled with offensive intent instead of defensive fear. And it worked. I didn't wait for the defender to corner me; I went at him with intensity and conviction.

I'm not going to say I never turned the ball over again, but I did learn an important lesson about digging deep to overcome a fear.

Not long ago I was going through boxes of old photos and found an album from the 1970's. I opened it up and flipped through the pages and eventually found eight or nine action shots from that fifth grade basketball team. I had forgotten that the photos existed so I studied them with careful attention.

There were a couple with me shooting and a few team shots, but the one that really hit home was the image of me dribbling down with a look of purposeful

intensity on my face – and my defender one step behind me. I smiled, knowing that the picture had captured a well-earned moment of success.

This week's feature, "Air" starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, captured an epic and worthwhile moment of success in the history of the basketball sneaker.

You wouldn't think a film about a college basketball player signing a sneaker deal in the 1980s would be worthy of two hours of your time, but it's true. "Air" is a fantastic story, a well-crafted film, and a huge amount of fun to watch. Affleck and Damon are on-point throughout, with Affleck's directing skills also being on full display.

Check this one out if you love (or loved) the '80s.

A slam dunk "A-" for "Air," now playing in theaters everywhere. Got a question or comment for Dom? Email him at [movied diary@att.net](mailto:movied diary@att.net).



The Movie  
Diary  
By Dom Cioffi



## Celebrating a 30th birthday in the woods

I was turning 30 and I wanted to wake up in the woods. Of course, that meant that my dad was going to want to come with me, but he had never been actually camping before and certainly not winter camping. We would find out the next morning that he had never slept in a sleeping bag and had gotten lost several times in the mummy bag we had bought him for further adventures. In fact, the last time he had slept outside was back to back with a fellow soldier during basic training. This experience would be a little different.

My mom dropped off my dad, the BF, my 8-year-old cousin, our golden retriever Vespi and myself at the trailhead and we quickly strapped on our snowshoes and headed out into the wilderness. Of course, unbeknownst to us, little kid snowshoes aren't really made for actual backcountry adventures and we laughed the entire way in as she kept slipping out. The fact that she was carrying her own backpack full of gear made it even more hilarious as she had never been camping either.

We were heading out to Tucker-Johnson Shelter on the Long Trail. A classic leanto in the Appalachian style that has since burned to the ground and been rebuilt. But for a while there, it was our favorite little sneak into the woods and hideaway for the night. A quick jaunt into Maine Junction, where the Long Trail and Appalachian Trails meet for their congruent 100 miles, and then just a little further north and there you are, hiding in the backcountry while still being in Killington.

First you have to cross these cut log walkways that carry you away from Route 4 and back into the woods. This first part actually lines up with the Catamount Trail before breaking away into this glorious open area. Well, not a field or anything, but the trees open up enough that it would be perfect for a few turns if that's what you were into. But in winter, it's just stunning. The noise from the road fades away and the silence has you feeling like you've walked for miles.

In the summertime, the path is well marked and windy, but in the winter we were following our instincts and the sometimes not quite so visible white blazes of the AT, which, due to all the snow, were now somewhere around our knees rather than up at eye height. So it was good to have an 8-year-old with us to find the marks.

Megan was excited but my dad was just plain nervous. I mean, that's valid. Going winter camping for the first time at age 60. It's funny. We should have spent more time worrying about the 8-year-old being warm enough, but she was like an inferno throughout the night. Over the years, I have become a firm believer that most of the time kids are only cold because we tell them we should be.

My dad, on the other hand, was pretty close to miserable even though he would never admit it. He got tangled in his mummy bag and almost fell off the top level of the bunk bed in the middle of the night and his face in the morning was one of someone who never quite stopped shivering even though he had a -15 down sleeping bag we had bought him for just this occasion.

He so wanted to be an adventurer, but could never quite get past his flatlander routes to really make the transition. He was in full ski clothes, a beautiful DNA outfit in browns and greens that was an elegant transition from his constant red jackets. But man, was he absolutely miserable in the woods, trying to keep his game face on because his daughter wanted to wake up in the woods on her 30th birthday.

It was worth it. Every moment. We had bribed my dad with a beef stroganoff dinner over the camping stove but even the warmth of the dinner wasn't enough to make him never want to go winter camping with the BF and me again. I am pretty sure my dad ever went camping again - in fact, he never even talked about camping again and probably worked hard to black this experience out in his mind since every time we brought it up to laugh he would somehow find an excuse to leave the room. The rest of us had an absolute blast, being awakened by the warming light of a beautiful sunrise in the middle of the woods only a few miles from civilization. It still ranks as the best birthday I've ever had and I'll always be grateful to my dad for braving the elements on a late March night so that I could wake up in the woods for my 30th birthday.

Merisa is a Killington resident, KMS coach, bartender and Realtor with Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty. She can be reached at [femaleskibum@gmail.com](mailto:femaleskibum@gmail.com).



Livin' the Dream  
By Merisa  
Sherman



Submitted  
Dad, Megan, Vespi and Merisa Sherman celebrate a birthday outside at Maine Junction.



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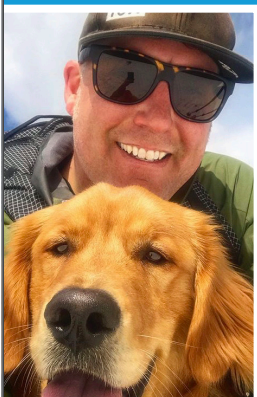
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## EPA honors Efficiency Vermont as 2023 Energy Star Partner of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 1 office and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) honored 11 New England companies and organizations, including Efficiency Vermont, as Energy Star partners for their outstanding leadership in promoting energy efficiency and tackling climate change, according to a news release March 28.

"As we accelerate historic efforts to address climate change, public-private partnerships will be essential to realizing the scale of our ambition," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "I applaud this year's Energy Star award winners for working with EPA to deliver a clean energy future that saves American consumers and businesses money and creates jobs."

"Across New England forward-leaning companies are taking the lead and reducing their environmental impact, cutting energy costs and proving that efficiency can help save money and protect our environment," said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. "We thank these New England Energy Star partners for their leadership. By using less energy, we can reduce carbon pollution and fight the effects of climate change and reduce local air pollution and reduce public health impacts, especially in communities that have been overburdened by environmental impacts."

For more than 30 years, EPA's Energy Star program has sup-

ported the transition to a clean energy economy by fostering innovation, jobs, and economic development, while protecting public health. Energy Star certified products, homes, buildings,

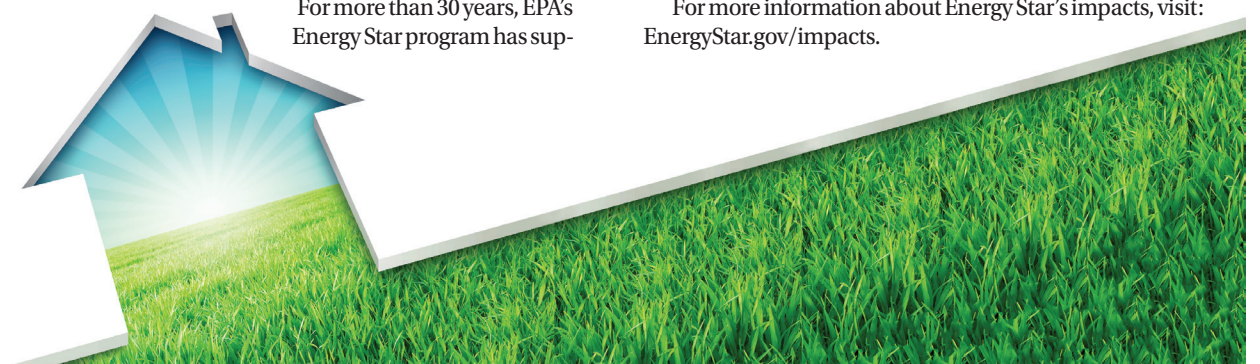
and plants helped save American families and businesses more than 520 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and avoid \$42 billion in energy costs in 2020 alone.

In Vermont, Efficiency Vermont, a state energy efficiency utility, increased incentives for low- and moderate-income households in the Home Performance with Energy Star program and rolled out a social media campaign that increased subscribers and Facebook

followers. Efficiency Vermont has been a Sustained Excellence winner for 8 years.

Energy Star is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, providing simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions. Thousands of industrial, commercial, utility, state, and local organizations rely on their partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deliver cost-saving energy efficiency solutions. Since 1992, Energy Star and its partners helped American families and businesses avoid more than \$500 billion in energy costs and achieve more than 4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions.

For more information about Energy Star's impacts, visit: [EnergyStar.gov/impacts](http://EnergyStar.gov/impacts).



### Your opportunity:

from page 20

The first public forum will take place on Thursday, April 20 at Oxbow High School in Bradford, from 6-7:30 p.m. and will invite all community members of the Upper Valley to join the conversation.

The second forum will take place in St Albans and cover the Northwest Region of the state on May 23. Dates for additional forums throughout the state will be released in the coming weeks with extensive outreach efforts in each region and will also be available at: [Future-ofvermont.org/youth-opportunity-initiative](http://Future-ofvermont.org/youth-opportunity-initiative). Online surveys will be made available to gather additional state-wide input from education experts, business leaders, youth, parents, and community leaders over the period in which convenings are ongoing.

Following the gathering of extensive input from thousands of Vermonters, a summary report will

"We need all Vermonters operating to their full potential. This begins by helping Vermont youth know, explore, and imagine what is possible.

We all play a role in helping youth around us — friends, students, coworkers, family, and community members thrive and succeed," said Joye Judy, Community College of Vermont president.

be shared with the Youth Opportunity Advisory Group who will review findings and develop a set of concrete policy or program recommendations to deliver back to the Future of Vermont Action Team by December 2023 for next steps and implementation.

VCRD Community Engagement and Policy Director and Initiative Lead Jenna Koloski said, "We have the opportunity in Vermont to craft a narrative of hope, aspiration, equity, and potential for all youth around the state. This initiative will seek input from Vermonters of all walks of life to identify concrete action that we can take today to help all

youth realize their vision for the future — we are excited to see the bold, actionable, and practical ideas that emerge through this work."

For more information visit: [Future-ofvermont.org/youth-opportunity-initiative](http://Future-ofvermont.org/youth-opportunity-initiative).



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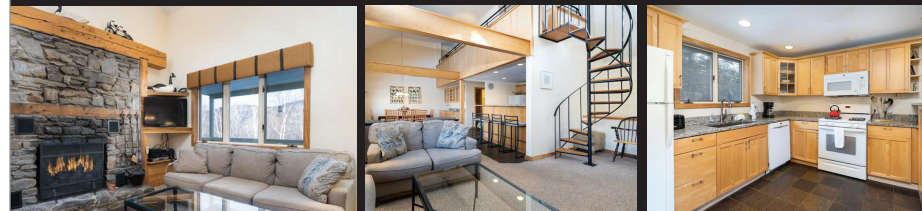
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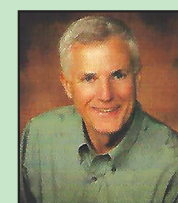
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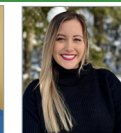
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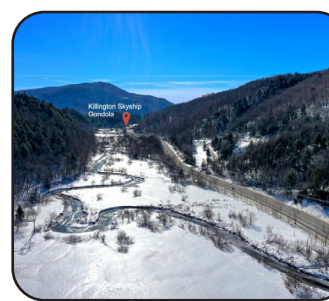
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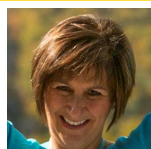
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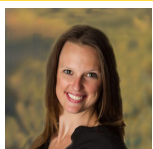
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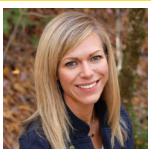
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