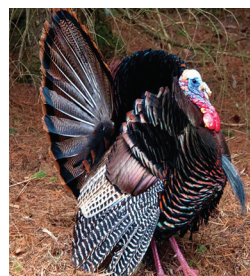




BARN OPERA COMES TO THE HUB MAY 3

The spirited performance troupe known as Barn Opera is inviting the Killington-Rutland community to a unique meet- and-greet plus a concert to be held on May 3, from 6-7 p.m., at The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row in Rutland.

Page 16



TURKEY HUNTING STARTS APRIL 29

It's almost time for spring turkey hunting in Vermont. Youth and novice turkey hunting weekend is April 29-30 this year, and the regular spring turkey season is May 1-31.

Page 18



LIP SYNCH BATTLE RETURNS TO RUTLAND

Wonderfeet Kids Museum is hosting its annual lip synch battle April 29 at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland. The event is returning in person for the first time since the pandemic.

Woodstock discusses new police chief

By Katy Savage

The Woodstock Village Trustees held an hour-long community discussion with a consultant as the municipality seeks a new police chief since Robbie Blish announced his retirement, effective July 16.

The Woodstock Village Trustees and consultant Jim Baker held the first of what are expected to be multiple listening sessions on Monday, April 17 to get feedback from the community.

The Trustees hired Baker for \$13,000 last month. Baker, who had 31 years of experience with the Vermont State Police until he retired in 2009, started his consulting business, JW Leadership Consulting, in Arlington, about five years ago. Baker was chief of police in Rutland city for three years and served as interim commissioner at Vermont Department of Corrections in 2020 for just over a year. He now leads police chief searches across the country.

"I know the lay of the land, I know the playing field," Baker said at the meeting. "I know the people out there who are looking for jobs. I have the benefit of knowing those players and I will work with the manager to screen out the people who meet the qualifications."

So far, Baker said he talked to the department heads in Woodstock, police officers and stakeholders. He's working on a draft advertisement to be broadcast through the New England Chief of Police Association and International Association of Police Chiefs in the month of May.

A number of residents discussed the challenges and opportunities with the police and their wish list of qualities in a new leader. They wanted someone who had a strong technology background who would enforce speeding, develop a community policing model and be responsive to residents.

"I want someone who's going to deal with speeding," said resident Susie Stulz while resident Roger Logan said a list of

Police chief → 2

VSU reverses course on libraries, athletics

By Peter D'Auria/VT Digger

Vermont State University is reversing course on changes to its libraries and athletics programs, putting an end — for now — to a controversial slate of decisions to transform member campuses.

The changes were announced Monday afternoon, April 24, by Vermont State University interim president Mike Smith, who took over the institution after the surprise resignation of embattled president Parwinder Grewal earlier this month.

The university will rescind layoff notices to library staff and will maintain athletics programs at two Vermont State University campuses for at least three years, Smith said during a meeting of the Vermont State Colleges

VSU → 6

Barstow board approves forest preschool

By Brett Yates

A plan to provide full-time, nature-based education to three-, four- and five-year-olds in Chittenden has secured a home at Barstow Memorial School.

The Barstow Unified Union School Board unanimously approved the concept in a special meeting on April 24. Starting in the fall, the recently christened Fox Hollow Forest School will occupy a space currently used as an "intervention room," which will move elsewhere in the building after the school year.

The agreement caps a saga that began in January when local moms Clair Purcell and Kristin Lucas approached the Chittenden Select Board with a proposal to open a preschool on the upper floor of the North Chittenden Grange Hall, a municipally owned historic structure used for community events and weddings. In subsequent meetings, townspeople spoke up to affirm the need for more childcare in Rutland County, but some objected — strenuously at times — to the prospect of losing access to half of the Grange five days a week.

The resistance led Purcell and Lucas to look for a different landlord. Negotiations with Barstow began in the spring.

Barstow already offers 10 hours a week of free pre-K to families served by the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU). The public preschool will continue to operate alongside the new, separate, private program, most of whose instruction will take place outdoors. When summer vacation starts for Barstow students, the Fox Hollow Forest School will remain open, except for a two-week break.

At Monday's meeting, School

Forest School → 3



By John Everett/Killington Resort

Killington Resort's most dedicated

Killington Resort's 100 Days Club inductees for winter 2022/23 (thus far) received hats and posed for a photo in front of the new K-1 Lodge. The ski and ride season continues at Killington seven days a week through May 1 when it will transition to weekend-only operation (Friday-Sunday) on Superstar Quad. As always, it will remain open as long as the snow lasts.

Mission Farm gifted quilt

At a simple service on Easter Sunday, a rainbow of color was unveiled in a dossal behind the altar at Church of Our Saviour at Mission Farm in Killington.

This quilted piece was a gift from a member of the small community that gathers in this special place in the heart of the Green Mountains.



Submitted

The quilt that was unveiled at a service on Easter Sunday hangs behind the altar at the Church of Our Saviour at Mission Farm in Killington. A gift by fiber artist Nancy Daigle.

Nancy Daigle, a fiber artist, offered this colorful piece as a reminder of Easter hospitality which she believes is at the heart of Jesus' message. "We are called as a church to offer radical hospitality and to live into the great diversity of creation. Something very special is emerging at Mission Farm. I wanted to celebrate that through the invitation of color and hospitality."

Mission Farm is in the midst of several initiatives that will open its 180 acres to the broader community. The Mission Farm Bakery is being renovated into a spacious commercial kitchen, and will be available to the community to create commercial food products. On the west side of the church, an amphitheater is being built as an outdoor community gathering space curated by stone wall artist, Dan Snow.

For more information visit: missionfarmvt.org. The doors at the Chapel at Mission Farm, Church of our Saviour, are open all daylight hours, and the trails are always open.

Dollar General now open in Poultney

Dollar General has a new store at 61 Beaman Street in Poultney. DG stores provide area residents with an affordable and convenient store location to purchase household essentials including food, cleaning supplies, paper products, over-the-counter medicines, hygiene products, baby items and more through its mission of serving others. In addition to the national and private branded products customers trust Dollar General to carry, the new Poultney location includes the Company's new stylish, on-trend home décor and an expanded party preparation selection. Normal hours of operation may be found through the Dollar General app.

"At Dollar General, we believe the addition of each new store provides positive economic growth for the communities we proudly serve, and the addition of our new Poultney store highlights our commitment to deliver a pleasant shopping experience that includes great prices on quality products in a convenient location," said Matthew Simonsen, Dollar General's senior vice president of real estate and store development. "We look forward to welcoming customers to our new store and hope they will enjoy shopping at our new location."

To commemorate the opening of DG's new Poultney location, Dollar General plans to donate 100 new books to a nearby elementary school to benefit students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. In partnership with the Kellogg Company, the donation will be part of a planned donation of more than 60,000 books in fiscal 2022 across the country to celebrate new DG store openings.



Submitted

Dollar General plans to donate 100 new books to a nearby elementary school to benefit students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade.



Submitted

Members of the CVFD presented a \$17,095 donation to Mark Flynn, Gilmore's business manager, on April 12

Breakfast cooks up support for Gilmore's Home Center

On the morning of Jan. 15 the Castleton Volunteer Fire Department accompanied by surrounding fire departments responded to a devastating fire at the Gilmore Home Center. In addition to the loss of a business anchor, concern immediately presented as to addressing the loss of income of a number of Castleton and Bomoseen citizens and students employed there.

The Castleton VFD and Association mobilized and were joined by neighboring fire service members to produce a breakfast response from the community. The Castleton American Legion Post 50 hosted and a number of local businesses stepped up to support the efforts via direct monetary and food product donations to cap the heart-warming event. This was truly evidence

of a town and its neighbors coming together for a hometown business. Members of the CVFD presented a \$17,095 donation to Mark Flynn, Gilmore's business manager, on April 12 to offset any remaining employee needs. Gilmore's plans to continue serving as a hardware store and philanthropic anchor to the Rutland County region.

Police chief: from page 1

citations from the police in 2020 showed the department wrote about 1.8 speeding tickets per day.

"In my opinion that's a very low number for the amount of roadway we have," Logan said. "We need to find somebody who has innovative ways of finding strategies for dealing with this."

Logan said he wanted the Village to use more social services and redirect some of the police budget to harm prevention. "We are not a high-crime community," he said.

Several residents said they didn't know the current officers and wanted Woodstock to get back to a community policing model, where officers walk in the Village, check locks at night on businesses and have relationships with the residents.

"It's been mentioned to us several times," Baker said. "In some cases, people may not know the other officers passed the chief and the sergeant. That's a theme we've been hearing."

The Woodstock Police Department provides 24/7 coverage to the Village and is currently budgeted for five full-time officers. The Village has historically had long-serving chiefs with little turnover.

Blish, who was chief of the department for around 11 years, was paid \$91,711 at the time he retired.

The police department's \$1 million budget accounts for 70% of the Village's total budget. The department brought in \$721,370 in revenue last year, according to the budget.

Baker said he's planning to advertise the position for the month of May with a cut off date of May 31 for resumes. He will work with the manager to identify the applicants who have a minimum number of qualifications, then conduct phone interviews and validate resumes with a scoring process.

Baker was asked if he would consider hiring a candidate who's currently employed by the department.

"Absolutely," Baker replied, explaining, "My advice to the town manager was that not putting a process to it is not doing due diligence to find the best possible candidate."

Barnard writer/publicist unclasps velvet rope to reveal adventures as 'Girl on the Prow'

BARNARD—When life hands you lemons ... Hang on for the ride! Sara Widness, a Barnard resident, did just that! She played a pregnant game of ping pong in the psychiatric ward; dressed to the nines on the world's most famous train; baked 18 loaves of bread a day at her East Poultney country store; entertained journalists while dining on risotto draped in gold foil... according to the press release about her new book

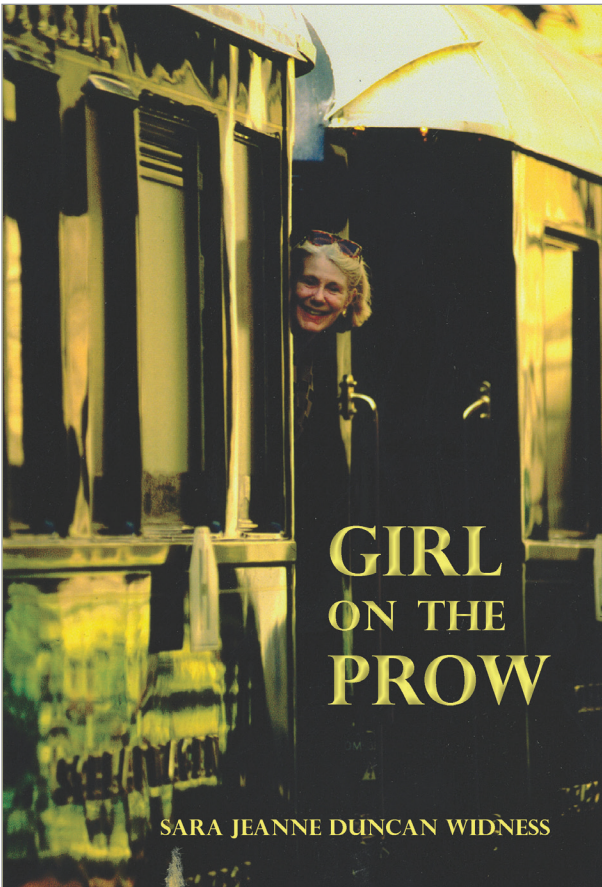
"Girl on the Prow," birthed March 1, 2023. In it she tells her story that includes reminiscences, among many others, of promoting skiing in Vermont in the 1970s; writing up a storm for the Montpelier Times-Argus; and observing humankind while running a bed and breakfast accommodation in Barnard.

The stories trace the trajectory of a fresh-off-the-farm girl from Oregon who cuts her cultural teeth in Europe; works her own domestic theater as a young mother before playing on an international stage (she has visited 64 countries); shelters in place as crises and trauma descend; and, she says, "maybe, just

maybe, is at peace in this tiny village." Vestal virgins deserve adjectives like vulnerable and gullible. Women should run as fast as they can away from these traits. She didn't. At the end of the marathon, her shadows - or most of them - were plunging onto her finish line. Shadows are supplicants, begging her to forgive herself, or to forgive others or simply to accept fate.

Sara Widness did whatever she had to do to put food on her family's table. This included stints as: reporter for a national wire service, lifestyle editor for a daily newspaper, freelance writer for magazines, radio host, proprietor of country store, teacher, publicist for ski resorts and New York-based public relations companies, founder of two boutique public relations agencies boasting world-class clients, and founder and proprietor of a small inn in rural Vermont. She holds an undergraduate degree in English Literature from Stanford University.

"Girl on the Prow" is available for \$19.95 in paperback wherever books are sold and is also available as an ebook for \$4.99.



Submitted

"Girl on the Prow" by Sara Jeanne Duncan Widness chronicles adventures through a lifetime.

Forest School: from page 1

Board Member Susannah Loffredo expressed some trepidation about the arrangement.

"I have concerns how operating two concurrent programs with different curricula and different — for lack of a better word — standards fits in with our equity policies," she said. "It creates two different camps within our building."

"I don't know that our current three- and four-year-olds would really notice that they are there," Superintendent Kristin Hubert replied. "These folks would just be using the building when they use the building, but really the grounds are the majority of what they're using."

The desire to expand upon Barstow's existing pre-K had motivated Purcell and Lucas last year to propose a "wraparound daycare" at the school. When that plan fell through, they developed the Forest School program for the Grange. The idea that Barstow could house side-by-side preschools — one part-time, one full-time — hadn't occurred to them or to Barstow officials at the time, they told

the Mountain Times.

"What we hope is that this will make pre-K in general much more accessible to Chittenden and Mendon and RNESU people as a whole," Lucas said at the meeting. "Right

What we hope is that this will make pre-K in general much more accessible to Chittenden and Mendon and RNESU people as a whole. Right now, a lot of people can't access even the Barstow preschool because of its hours," Lucas said.

now, a lot of people can't access even the Barstow preschool because of its hours."

Act 166 vouchers and private tuition payments will fund Fox Hol-

low's operations. It will also make use of a \$25,000 grant from the advocacy nonprofit Let's Grow Kids to buy furniture and, possibly, to construct an "outdoor classroom" with a "nature play space" on Barstow's grounds. At times, the students will use the school's existing playground as well, but they will not, for instance, use its lunchroom or visit its nurse's office.

The lease agreement, not yet finalized, will likely offer a one-year term with the possibility of a three-year renewal. Fox Hollow will not pay rent, but it will cover the cost of bathroom supplies with a \$500 annual payment.

With 10 of its 20 slots reserved for RNESU families, Fox Hollow plans to open enrollment in June, soliciting applications in Chittenden and Mendon first. It expects to hire teachers and a program director in May. These employees will eventually own the school, which will operate as a worker cooperative.

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

Table of contents

Local news	2
Opinion	8
Puzzles	11
Calendar.....	12
Arts, Dining, Entertainment	16
Pets	22
Horoscopes.....	23
Columns.....	24
Service directory.....	26
Classifieds.....	27
Real estate	28

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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Jason Mikula Marketing Manager & Co-Publisher
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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. 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

OBITUARY



Submitted

Cartoonist Ed Koren

Local New Yorker cartoonist remembered

'Out with his boots on': Friends and colleagues reflect on the vigorous life of Ed Koren

By Paul Heintz/VT Digger

As the son of a dentist, David Remnick spent plenty of time in his youth flipping through the pages of the New Yorker in his father's waiting room.

"Among the most visually recognizable artists of my growing up was Ed Koren," Remnick said. "He was on the cover. He was in the magazine, constantly. He was an artist that a child could understand and yet came from the most adult sophistication."

When Remnick landed at the New Yorker in 1992 — three decades after Koren sold his first cartoon to the magazine — he "made it (his) business to kind of bump into this guy" who'd loomed so large in his mind since childhood.

"And he was as advertised," said Remnick, who has served as editor of the New Yorker since 1998. "He was sophisticated, but he was also immensely generous and sweet and kind and all those things. There wasn't an ungentle bone in his body."

Koren died last Friday at his home in Brookfield. He was 87 years old.

In his final years, as he reckoned with lung cancer and associated health setbacks, Koren could no longer keep the pace he'd set as a surprisingly spritely octogenarian — skiing and cycling throughout Vermont, dancing the night away at weddings, jetting off to Paris and, famously, serving on the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department.

But according to friends and colleagues, Koren still managed to do much of what he loved most — working away in his studio, swapping stories with old pals and spending time with his beloved wife, Curtis.

His final cartoon — depicting Moses holding up the Ten Commandments, with the caption, "Time for an update!" — appeared in the New Yorker the very week he died.

"He went out with his boots on," said the cartoonist and graphic novelist Alison Bechdel. "It's incredible."

James Sturm, a cofounder of the White River Junction-based Center for Cartoon Studies, visited Koren regularly in recent months and recalled the artist trying to offload books from his collection. "You'd pull a few and he'd say, 'Not that one. I might still read that one.'"

Koren's death may not have come as a surprise, Sturm said, but it was nevertheless "heart-wrenching."

Cartoonist Koren → 30

Killington moves forward with development, pending bat noises

By Curt Peterson

Selectman Jim Haff and Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth presented an update on the Killington Forward project at the April 24 Select Board meeting.

Current focus is on two phases of the proposed municipal water system, which is a federal requirement to fund proposed workforce housing, part of the Killington Forward master plan, and sorely needed due to PFAs contamination of some local wells.

Hagenbarth said bid requests for the first phase have been sent out, with a May 11 deadline for responses.

“There was a lot of interest in the project at a recent ‘pre-bid meeting,’” he said.

Haff told the Mountain Times three sections of the system are included in the first bid, and one section in another bid request that may be sent out as soon as June.

For necessary clearing, trees have been felled in two areas — in the flats behind the Mountain Times office, and about a quarter mile east of that site, on the south side of Route 4. Haff said the work can be seen from the highway.

More trees are scheduled to be cut, but federal funding requires the town to test for the presence of endangered little brown bats in the tree-cutting area.

Current tree cutting preceded an April 14 deadline, after which “bat tests” are required. Hagenbarth said microphones will be installed in May in trees within the proposed cutting areas. Lack of evidence of bat activity would qualify Killington for a three-year permission-to-cut certificate.

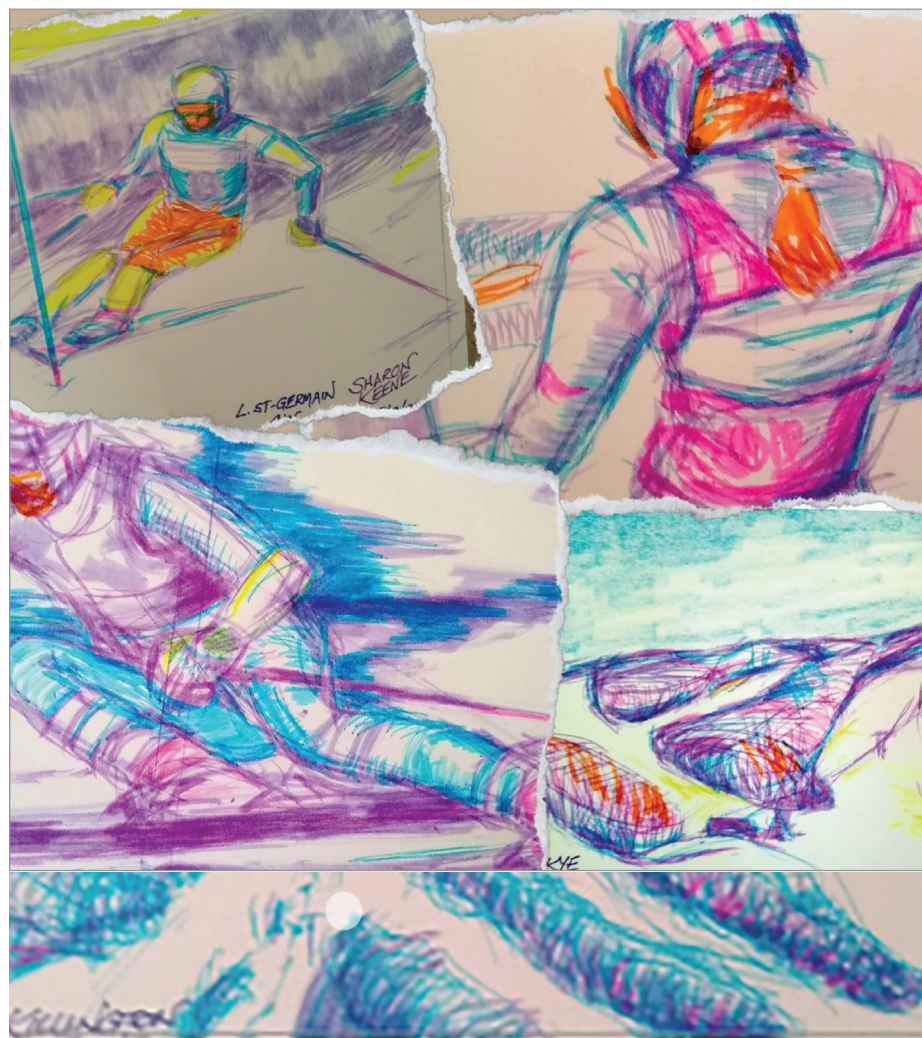
Killington Forward → 6

Local artist donates art to Vermont Orthopedic Clinic in Rutland

Local artist Sharon Keene recently donated several oil pieces and archival prints of her artwork to the Vermont Orthopedic Clinic at Rutland Regional Medical Center on Allen Street highlighting the Killington World Cup race.

One of the eight paintings depicts Mikaela Shiffrin, who grew up skiing in Vermont and is now the most decorated alpine skier in history. Other athletes are also on display to greet visitors at the entrance.

Keene also loaned the clinic five framed oil paintings of the World Cup. Keene is a member of the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland, where her work has been exhibited. She also an avid skier and is a member of Killington Resort’s 100 Day Club.



Illustrations by Sharon Keene

Illustrations of the Killington World Cup race by Sharon Keene were donated to the VOC.

Senate panel advances \$8.5 billion state budget that would end pandemic-era motel housing program July 1

By Lola Duffort/VTDigger

Senate budget writers have advanced their draft of Vermont’s \$8.5 billion budget, which would inject tens of millions of new money into child care, health care and the human services — and end, as of July 1, a pandemic-era motel housing program that thousands currently rely on for shelter.

The bill, H.494, as unanimously amended by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Friday afternoon, would direct significant sums to housing, including \$50 million to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, a fifth of which would be dedicated to building out shelter space for unhoused Vermonters. There’s also \$10 million in one-time money for the Vermont Housing Improvement Program, which gives landlords grants to get vacant and derelict units back online.

There would also be \$26 million for the state’s general assistance program, which helps low-income Vermonters access shelter and other emergency needs. But that sum, which Gov. Phil Scott proposed — and the House agreed to in its first pass at the spending package — will only be enough to shelter about 150 households during any given month, according to estimates from the administration. It would also pay for a revamped adverse-weather program, which funds motel housing on an expanded basis in the winter.

Roughly 1,800 households use the motel

program now — a small fraction of what that figure is intended to cover year-round. Advocates have been pleading with lawmakers to double that sum, arguing that with shelters already full and no ready alternatives, thousands risk having no option but to sleep in tents, cars, and the streets.

Brenda Siegel, an activist and former gubernatorial candidate, has been traveling the state collecting testimonials from those living in hotels, blasting out videos on social media. On Friday, she wrote to legislative leaders, compiling dozens of written statements from those living in motels.

“My wife is in the hospital, she just had brain surgery. Our medication requires refrigeration. I’m a recovering alcoholic and drug user. We will die if we lose our housing,” one motel resident wrote, according to the document compiled by Siegel. “I am homeless due to having a stroke. I’m now in a wheelchair. Without this program my life’s in jeopardy,” another said.

The administration has argued forcefully that the program, which was funded using federal Covid-relief aid — now gone — is simply too expensive for Vermont to sustain on its own. And many lawmakers, particularly in the Senate, have echoed these same arguments, and pointed to the substandard conditions certain motels have offered.

But on Friday, several senators also simply expressed skepticism that vulner-

able people really would find themselves in dire situations without it. Sen. Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden Southeast, said she had confidence that the state would step up.

“The Agency of Human Services isn’t going to allow people who have needs, with support services, whether they’re disabled or whatever — they’re not going to send them out on the street,” she told her colleagues.

“It feels really uncomfortable,” she added moments later. “I’d feel terrible if we thought 1,000 people were going to be put out on the street. But I don’t think that’s reality.”

In an interview after the vote, Senate Appropriations Chair Jane Kitchel, D-Caledonia, also echoed this doubt.

“We don’t know,” she said. “I’ve been around long enough to know that people can be very resourceful.”

If the Senate’s budget construct ultimately makes it into law, new one-time appropriations for housing and shelter construction this year would total about \$100 million, since a mid-year spending package that passed into law last month allocated \$39 million.

As passed out of the House, the spending bill also significantly increased Medicaid reimbursement rates to several service providers. The Senate appropriations panel’s amendment concurred with these changes, and even slightly increased line

items for adult day services and Vermont’s designated and special services agencies. Appropriations for the Vermont State College System were also largely unchanged from what the House recommended.

“I think we placed a heavy emphasis on building a budget that was sustainable,” Kitchel said of her committee’s recommendations.

Scott has adopted an increasingly scolding tone as the spending bill crafted by lawmakers winds its way through the building, pointing to hundreds of millions in new taxes Democrats will need to raise for child care, paid leave, and universal school meals, among other initiatives.

But on one key point Adam Greshin, his commissioner of finance, was gratified: The Senate’s budget sets aside enough money now to draw down federal funds from the trillion-dollar infrastructure package passed by Congress in 2021.

“The Senate’s budget appears to favor realism over fantasy,” he said. “It’s a little late in the session for cartoons.”

But the Senate is also partly relying on a 20% increase in Department of Motor Vehicle fees to do so — which Scott very much does not support.

“On that point,” Greshin said, “the governor is unmovable.”

The bill is expected to hit the Senate floor next week.



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 15th day of March 2023.

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

Killington Forward: from page 5

If "bat noises" are detected during a three-day test period, no cutting can take place until after Nov. 15, affecting the project schedule.

Ideally, second section work could start in September, Haff said. If trees can't be cut till November, it will cause a delay.

"If we don't detect any bat noises, it can give us a two-month head start," he said.

Killington Forward is a "comprehensive, multi-phased plan to develop municipal water structure, rebuild an improved Killington Road, allow for development of Six Peaks Village (on property currently owned by SP Land),

"If we don't detect any bat noises it can give us a two month head start... everything looks like it's moving forward," Jim Haff said.

and lay the groundwork for workforce housing," the select-board stated in a Feb. 8 FAQ piece in the Mountain Times.

Financing totals \$47 million, including grants and a municipal bond. Tax increment financing (TIF) will mean an expected actual surplus of more than \$2.5 million over 10 years, and no increase in local or education taxes.

The Six Peaks development, including 32,000 square feet of commercial space and 239 residential units, will provide enough tax revenue to more than cover Killington Forward Phase I investments by the town.

"Everything looks like it's moving forward," Haff told meeting attendees.



By Peter D'Auria/VT Digger
Vermont State University library shift was set to take place by July 1, and would have eliminated seven full-time positions and three part-time ones.

VSU: from page 1

board of trustees. "I have not hidden the fact that I think these are distractions," Smith said.

"This is a way to put these behind us," he added.

Just weeks ago, the university system was engaged in a controversial initiative to transition campuses to "all-digital" libraries and downgrade athletics programs at its Johnson and Randolph campuses.

The announcements appear to signify an about-face by university administrators, coming just months after the changes were first announced. But Smith was less clear about the fate of the libraries themselves, hinting that some physical books might still be jettisoned through the process of "streamlining the collection."

"I want a message that libraries are for books," he said. "But some books have other ways to access, including digital."

Phil Scott looks to Canada as a source for abortion pill, but Vermont's drug importation plan is stuck in bureaucracy

By Sarah Mearhoff/VTDigger

While federal litigation threatens access to a widely used abortion medication nationwide, Gov. Phil Scott is setting his sights north.

Lawmakers and abortion access advocates are scurrying to craft backup plans as a lawsuit making its way through the federal appeals process could revoke or severely tighten the Food and Drug Administration's 23-year-old approval of mifepristone, one of two medications used in tandem to induce an abortion. (The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday, April 21, temporarily blocked lower court rulings, providing continued access to mifepristone as the legal process plays out.)

Medication is the least invasive and most common method to carry out an abortion nationwide and in Vermont.

Asked about the lawsuit last week, Scott pointed to Vermont's neighbor to the north as a beacon of hope. The Republican has historically supported efforts to expand abortion access and said he was "deeply disappointed" by the fall of Roe v. Wade last summer.

"We are one of three states who have sought to be able to purchase drugs in Canada: ourselves, Colorado and Florida," Scott said at an April 12 press conference. "And so we're just waiting for approval from the feds to do so. Now might be the time when they give us the green light, instead of having us wait at the intersection."

"So there are some alternatives that are maybe unique to Vermont. I think we're going to be OK, but we'll see."

The idea hails from a law passed by the Legislature and signed by Scott in 2018, tasking Vermont's Agency of Human Services with crafting a plan to purchase and import prescription drugs from Canada to Vermont.

The bill was written not with mifepristone in mind, but with lowering prescription drug costs for Vermonters. Nearly five years later, the law has

taken on new meaning, presenting a potential avenue to maintain access to mifepristone in the state.

But importing mifepristone — or any drug, for that matter — from Canada appears to be a long way off. Despite passing the Legislature with

"Maybe the FDA could take an approach like the federal government takes to cannabis, for example, which is federally illegal but not enforced at the state level," Maulucci said.

broad support nearly five years ago, authorization and implementation of the program is stuck in the cogs of state and federal government bureaucracy.

The 2018 bill tasked Vermont's Agency of Human Services with proposing a Canadian drug importation program to the FDA in 2019, and the agency did just that.

Abortion pills → 21

Heat bill approaches finish line

With potentially just three weeks left in the legislative session, one of this year's most controversial bills, the Affordable or Unaffordable Clean Heat bill (depending on your perspective), S.5, cleared the House on Friday after two



By Rep. Jim Harrison

days of contentious debate. The approval in the House was 98-46, with several members absent, signaling an ominous override to an expected veto by Scott.

S.5 now moves back to the Senate to see if they agree with any changes the House made or ask for a conference committee to bridge any differences. The Senate was previously one vote short of being able to sustain a veto of the Governor. However, with changes to the bill in the House, albeit minor,

nothing is assured. Previously the three Windsor County senators supported S.5, while the three Rutland County senators opposed it.

The legislation sets up a system with tradeable credits for heating improvements, such as weatherization, installation of heat pumps and electrical upgrades. It also requires fuel companies to reduce their sales each year (oil, propane, kerosene). The Natural Resources Secretary estimated the program will increase fuel prices by 70 cents per gallon. Some have suggested it could be more, while others indicated it could be less.

To take some of the uncertainty out of the proposal, I proposed a tri-partisan amendment that would have made it clear that fuel prices could not go up more than 20 cents per gallon over the New England average. We offered this amendment in the spirit of assuring Vermonters that their worst fears wouldn't be realized.

I went on to say to my House colleagues, that if you are comfortable that the price impact of S.5 will be minimal, then this amendment should be easy to support. On the other hand, if you believe it will be more and want the bill to pass to allow it to go higher, then you may want to reject this amendment. Unfortunately, the amendment failed to pass.

Even though the legislation, if enacted, goes into effect this year, final rules must still be approved by the legislature in 2025. Rep. Scott Beck of St Johnsbury offered an amendment to move the date of the publishing of the final rules to September of next year to allow candidates in the 2024 general election to talk with voters about it and indicate where they stand. That amendment also failed.

On Friday, Governor Scott issued a statement reaffirming his opposition to S.5. He pointed out that the bill was not a "study" as some have indicated and pointed to language in the legislation: "Effective on passage (now), the Clean Heat Standard is established, and the Commission shall adopt rules and may issue orders to implement and enforce the Clean Heat Standard Program."

While there is wide agreement, we need to find ways to reduce our carbon emissions, Vermont has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of any state and represents just 0.1% of the entire country's emissions. Even the presenter of the bill indicated that the legislation would not impact our weather patterns. And because no other state has implemented such a heating fuel regulatory system outlined in the bill, no one really knows what the impact will be.

As you can probably figure out by now, I voted No on S.5 after the failure of several amendments to modify the legislation.

Other issues of interest:

- The House tax writing committee is reviewing a proposal to increase all personal income tax brackets as well as corporate income taxes to fund the House version of S.56, the childcare assistance legislation. The bill will cost an estimated \$145 million annually and is expected to grow to as much as \$250 million

Harrison → 10

State of Vermont requests help to support growing electric vehicle charging needs

With the growing number of electric vehicles on the road, the state of Vermont is working proactively to find more locations for charging stations. In partnership with Drive Electric Vermont, the state is seeking to identify property and business owners interested in supporting plug-in electric vehicle (EV) charging or providing services associated with the installation and management of charging.

Those interested in partnering with the state can fill out a survey at arcg.is/DDeDT to offer their collaboration. The survey will help identify opportunities for potential charging locations or EV charging services. Survey responses will be shared to facilitate potential partnering discussions between property owners/managers, charging service providers, and installation contractors.

Vermont is a national leader in the availability of public EV charging for residents and travelers. Now, additional investments are needed to boost the availability and reliability of charging as EV adoption grows.

"Vermont must continue

\$2.8 million in Volkswagen diesel settlement funds for public EV charging administered by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development.



\$7 million in State funding for multifamily, workplace, and public charging managed by DHCD with applications anticipated in mid-2023

Most Vermont electric utilities offer programs and incentives for home, workplace, and public charging installations



\$21.2 million in Federal funds available through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program included in the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act managed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation



to be a leader in vehicle electrification," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "To encourage more people to drive EVs, we need to expand the network of public chargers throughout the state."

Several funding opportunities support EV charging in Vermont, including:

"DHCD and AOT are collaborating with other agencies and partners to ensure Vermont has an EV charging network that provides charging options to meet drivers' needs for access to low-cost and reliable Level 1 and 2 charging at home or work, and Level 3 DC fast charging when vehicles need a quick charge mid-trip," said Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Josh Hanford.

"Our team has heard from businesses and EV drivers about the need to increase availability of charging," said Drive Electric Vermont coordinator David Roberts. "We're eager to continue supporting the State and other partners to expand Vermont's charging infrastructure."

GUEST EDITORIAL

Committee work is the 'beating heart' of Legislature

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.

When the House Committee on General and Housing was handed the omnibus housing bill last week, S.100, committee members were eager to contribute to one of the key legislative issues of this session: finding a way to move the needle on affordable housing.

All session legislators, mainly so far in the Senate, had been discussing how to tweak provisions of Act 250 so builders and developers could mitigate some of the more burdensome (and in some cases, nonsensical) restrictions that drive the high cost of building residential units in Vermont. Housing issues, as opposed to land use issues, had also been addressed, including adding over \$100 million in funding for housing programs.

New ideas from different perspectives almost always yield better legislation.

And it should be obvious that such work would be more representative of the people's desires — not the desires of a few legislative leaders.

But despite being a committee whose jurisdiction includes housing, the committee was ultimately denied the latitude to weigh in on any aspect of the Act 250 sections of the bill. Furthermore, it was given a short two days to research, discuss and pass the 62-page bill.

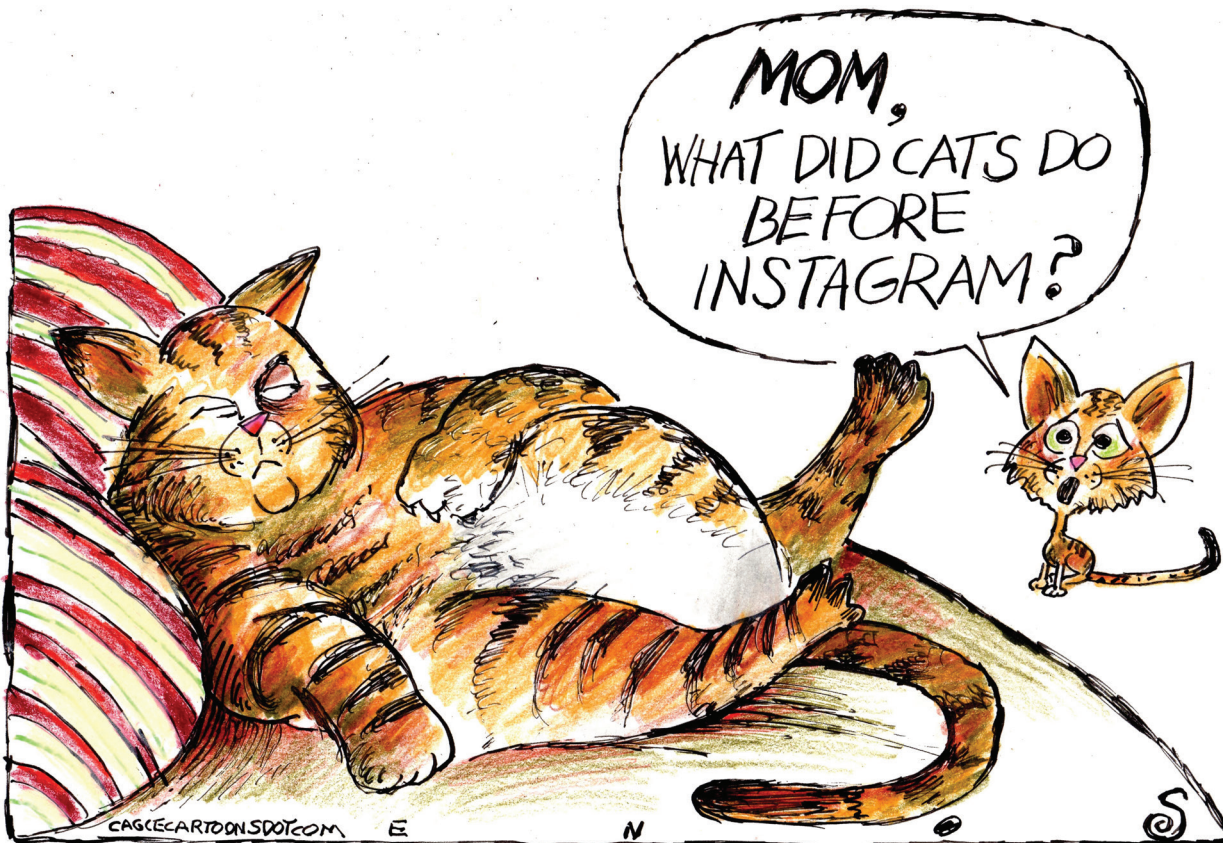
According to a story by Lola Duffort in VTDigger, the bill was passed out of the House committee, 8-4, but not before testy debate on a directive by House leadership that effectively silenced the committee's input on this critical aspect of the bill. Duffort noted that the day before the vote, "Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro, had offered the committee an amendment to introduce three new Act 250 exemptions — one which he said had the votes to pass. But after an hour-long discussion, committee members went into a recess. And when they returned, the chair, Rep. Tom Stevens, D-Waterbury, made clear that Elder's amendment would not be voted upon."

"The portfolio of our committee, at this point in time, does not include Act 250," Duffort reported Stevens saying. He later made clear that, according to Duffort's report, "his directive to steer clear of Act 250 came from House leadership (House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington)." Critics said the move was made to prevent further changes to Act 250 provisions, to which much testimony has been made showing that without minor changes to sections of Act 250 no amount of one-time money will solve Vermont's high cost of housing.

Committee member Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro, wasn't impressed with the leadership's approach. "How much work have we really done with this? This morning was our first committee discussion on this bill that wasn't a walkthrough. Today. And we're being told we have to move it tomorrow. And we're the housing committee," Elder said to his fellow committee members Wednesday, and as reported by Duffort.

To protect some of the work his committee had done, he drafted three specific amendments to ever-so-slightly modify one aspect of Act 250's restrictions on housing (all related to a provision that keeps developers from working on more than 10 residential units within a five-year period within five miles of each other.) The current provision has a perverse impact on some small local builders, impacting their ability, for example,

Committee →10



Before Instagram by Randall Enos, Easton, CT

LETTERS

Let's regulate heating fuels

Dear Editor,

The Vermont Sierra Club supports the passage of S.5, the Affordable Heat Act (AHA). We appreciate the hard work of representatives and senators to move this important policy forward. We believe that the governor must act now to send this proposal to the Public Utilities Commission and don't delay any further in transitioning Vermonters away from dirty and expensive home heating fuels.

We believe that regulating heating fuels, the second largest source of carbon emissions, is a critical step forward in reducing carbon emissions and meeting Vermont's climate goals. We support prioritizing heat pumps and weatherization, as well as changes to reduce or eliminate the use of bio-energy fuels. We applaud the equity mandates in the law and will continue to advocate for an equitable clean energy transition as the program is implemented.

Most importantly we support the AHA because:

Regulating heating fuels, the second largest source of carbon emissions, is a critical step forward in reducing carbon emissions and meeting our state climate

Fuels →10

Thank you to volunteers

Dear Editor,

April is volunteer appreciation month, and Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains wants every person who volunteers for us to know that we appreciate them.

We have more than 4,000 volunteers across New Hampshire and Vermont who give generously of their time and talent to become

We have more than 4,000 volunteers across New Hampshire and Vermont who give generously of their time and talent...

young women of courage, confidence, and character who work to make the world a better place. They are troop leaders, troop helpers and drivers, and Girl Scout Cookie program coordinators and accountants. We are grateful to the new troop leaders who

Volunteers →10

Rutland South Rotary Club is rounding up Roundup

Dear Editor,

Rutland South Rotary Club is doing its part to protect the environment by starting with a roundup of the poisonous weed killer Roundup. They are asking those who have containers of Roundup sitting in their garages, basements, or sheds, empty or with some quantity left, to please bring them to the Vermont Farmers Market, Saturday, May 6, anytime between 10 a.m. 2 to 2p.m. in Howe Center. Rutland South Rotary will have a table prominently displayed with handouts and flyers on how to make a home-made weed killer. They will also dispose of the Roundup for you free of charge.

The primary ingredient in Roundup is glyphosate, and exposure is known to cause cancer, thyroid disease, infertility. It also pollutes our drinking water, gets into our food and kills pollinators.

For more information visit farmersfootprint.us/glyphosate-context-and-convergence/#

Rutland South Rotary

Vermont's education system is a mess

Dear Editor,

The new Career and Technical Education report from outside consultants strengthens the argument that Vermont's education system is a mess.

After over 40 years teaching and helping to plan education reforms around the world, I believe that Vermont's continuing commitment to fixing what's broken in different silos of the system and within those silos will not produce the educated people Vermont needs, no matter which proposals are adopted. The same is true for preschool childhood development, K-12 schooling, and the higher education system.

In every one of these subsystems, we continue to behave like hill farmers with a broken tractor. The challenge for them was to get the tractor going again. It didn't matter that they might have the wrong tractor for their farm's terrain or for the crops they were growing.

For Vermont's preschool children, the discussions and legislation mostly address how to pay staff better and to babysit them. I don't know of any discussions among the

Education →10

CAPITAL QUOTES

The House passed the Affordable Heat Act bill in a 98-46 roll call vote on April 21. The bill moved back to the Senate. The bill has proved controversial, with some saying it will put the state on a path to gradually reduce carbon pollution and others saying it will cause fuel costs to rise. Gov. Phil Scott is expected to veto it.

“We have all received many messages from our constituents asking us to vote no on S.5. Our duty is to them, not to a party line or an agenda. The blowback from passing this bill will be enormous,”

said Rep. **Gina Galfetti**, R-Barre town.

“The fossil fuel industry has profited for too long on the backs of Vermonters. The Affordable Heat Act will help Vermonters save money by switching to more affordable and cleaner heating alternatives, like cold climate heat pumps and home weatherization projects. We applaud the hard work members of the House did to further improve this bill, and we look forward to supporting lawmakers to make sure the bill becomes law this year,”

said **Elena Mihaly**, the VP and state director of Conservation Law Foundation.

“This legislation is a whole lot of vinegar for the people of Vermont as well as the business of Vermont,”

said Rep. **Jarrold Sammis**, R-Castleton.

“Today, the House of Representatives passed S.5, which I believe will have significant impacts on Vermonters by orchestrating a system that will give people two options: pay significantly more in fuel costs or spend thousands of dollars to install electrical heating systems, when most don’t have the financial means to do either. “An initiative with such far reaching financial impacts deserves to be fully debated in a transparent way, with the opportunity for everyday Vermonters to weigh in, and legislators being given the opportunity to improve the bill with amendments. As it is with every piece of legislation, the executive branch should be able to provide input, as well,”

said Gov. **Phil Scott**.

Climate activism in the toilet

By Mike Roy

Editor’s note: Mike Roy is a member of the town of Middlebury Energy Committee, serves on the board of the Climate Action Economy Center of Addison County, and this year is serving as one of 16 Climate Catalysts with the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

What is the carbon footprint of human defecation? This oddball question comes to me as I continue this journey of exploring what I as an individual and what we as a community can do to combat the climate crisis. Unlike choices of what to eat, how to travel, how to heat and cool our homes, what choices do we have in this most basic of human needs?

And how did I even come to consider this question? For most of my life, except in unpleasant moments of septic or plumbing failure, I have been blissfully unaware of what happens to the waste that I flush down the toilet every day.

The question came to me because Middlebury’s Town Energy Committee, of which I am a member, is analyzing the climate impact of various options as the town considers how to replace its current aged wastewater treatment plant.

The current wastewater treatment system breaks down organic material using an aerobic process. On the surface it is a pretty solid choice from a climate point of view. Waste comes in via sewers, or via trucks for septic and industrial effluent. It is spun around, acted on by bacteria, sowed with lime, heated and dried, and out the other end emerges water clean enough to go into the Otter Creek, and bales ready to be applied to farm fields as fertilizer. While it requires almost a quarter-million dollars a year in electricity to operate, it contributes relatively little to greenhouse gas releases. That is because Vermont’s Green Mountain Power supplied electricity has very low carbon content. Sticking with an aerobic process seems on the surface to be the right choice given the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the other options being considered.

Except — for embedded carbon!

Maybe you already know about embedded carbon, in which case skip this paragraph. Embedded carbon, I just learned, is the amount of emissions associated with the production of a material product. Cement and steel are the examples most often cited to explain embedded carbon. Making steel currently is a hugely energy intensive process. Large amounts of fossil fuels are burned to extract and produce it. Cement has a lot of embedded carbon both because it takes energy to make it, and because the chemistry of converting limestone to lime used to make cement, involves releasing lots of carbon dioxide.

Back to Middlebury’s wastewater plant, it turns out that the key ingredient in processing our waste is lime. Middlebury’s plant uses almost 700 tons of lime each year. If you

take into account the embedded carbon associated with the aerobic process of managing our waste, it no longer looks that great from a carbon footprint perspective.

An alternative process based on a machine called an anaerobic digester uses far less electricity, and does not have an embedded carbon problem. It does however have a methane problem. The anaerobic process produces a great deal of methane — methane that is not produced in the current set-up. Methane is even worse as a greenhouse gas than CO₂, trapping heat in the atmosphere at a rate at least 28 times greater than carbon dioxide during the 100 years after it is released. The options under

If you take into account the embedded carbon associated with the aerobic process of managing our waste, it no longer looks that great from a carbon footprint perspective.

consideration for dealing with the undesired methane include: burning it to generate electricity, using some to operate the plant and sending the rest into the electrical grid; using it to operate the treatment plant and heat its

buildings; feeding it to the natural gas grid to replace dirtier fossil natural gas, or even just burning it off. As with so many things, if one sticks to the current centralized model of treating our waste, there are no obvious carbon neutral solutions.

There is a promising new technology called the living machine that uses algae to eat the waste and is carbon negative. It is a technology designed not for industrial-scale waste treatment, but for more localized applications that would obviate the need for a central waste treatment plant altogether. Some think that a decentralized model like this is the future of treating our waste in a way that reduces our greenhouse gas emissions. And yet it is hard to imagine taking this radical step in rethinking how we approach processing our wastewater, in the same way that it is hard to rebuild our housing, transportation, agricultural and manufacturing systems to align with what we need to do to quickly to wean ourselves from fossil fuels.

Deciding about how to treat our waste is only one of the many choices we as a town will confront in the coming years as we decide about how to maintain and build our public infrastructure in a climate emergency. These same challenges surface as we decide about replacing aging heating systems, building or rebuilding roads, and making room for renewable energy production facilities and electrical transmission capacity.

Stepping back from the details of which approach is the best approach from financial, technical and environmental perspectives, I wonder what are the values that will inform this decision. Do we as a town just do what is least expensive financially in the short run? Are we willing to pay more to make good on our commitment to achieving carbon neutrality quickly? As someone who lacks the scientific and technical knowledge required to fully analyze the feasibility of various options, I am also struck

Volunteers: from page 8

stepped up in the last year to form new troops and create amazing opportunities for their Girl Scouts to make new friends, try new things, and explore a world of possibilities. We could not provide the world's best leadership program for girls without the many people who run our activities, take Girl Scouts to new places, and share their skills in fields like engineering, computers, the outdoors,

entrepreneurship, and more.

We know that volunteers wear many hats when they give of themselves to Girl Scouts. No matter which hat you're rocking, volunteers, we thank you for stepping in and stepping up for Girl Scouts everywhere!

Patricia K. Mellor,
CEO, Girl Scouts of the
Green and White Mountains

Fuels: from page 10

goals. The AHA sets in place a performance-based standard that requires regulated entities to take actions to reduce emissions. Requiring real actions to earn credits means there must be concrete, delivered solutions to meet the mandates of the program and provide a pathway for the evolution of the fossil fuel industry in Vermont.

The AHA enshrines in law a high standard for lifecycle accounting of greenhouse gas emissions to ensure that investments in heat pumps and weatherization are prioritized. Studies have shown that prioritizing electrification leads to a faster and quicker reduction in emissions. The use of bioenergy fuels can delay emissions reductions and pull emphasis away from efficiency and electrification measures that have proven results. Through its implementation it is important to prioritize weatherization and electrification, two proven ways to lower emissions and increase the comfort and health of homes.

The AHA includes initiatives to address inequities in

the energy system with the working group and mandates. History has shown that market-based programs result in disproportionate impacts to underserved communities. The AHA helps alleviate these barriers through the equity-working group and mandates that deliver measures to middle- and low-income communities. We strongly encourage the state to look at how to prioritize efficiency and electrification measures in these communities in the AHA as well, as studies show that switching a home from propane heat to a cold-climate heat pump saves the average Vermont homeowner \$900 per year.

Now is our chance to enact and design a clean-heat standard to reduce emissions and save Vermonters money by switching out of costly and volatile fossil fuels. The Vermont Sierra Club supports S.5, the Affordable Heat Act and encourages its passage, and hopes to see the governor follow through on his pledge to meet the Paris Climate Accords.

Robb Kidd, Sierra Club

Committee: from page 8

to convert older, large homes into multi-unit residences.

In an interview, Rep. Elder expounded on his remarks, emphasizing that his goal was to follow a process that would yield the "strongest legislation."

"I'm an interdisciplinary legislator," he said, adding that while he "didn't want to change Act 250 a lot" the committee had heard testimony that clearly showed some changes were needed.

"My style as a legislator is to be a team player on the House floor," Elder continued, "but when the discussion is in committee and it's not being allowed to be considered, I don't hesitate to push back... The committee process is the beating heart of this building; to undercut a committee that has a legitimate jurisdiction is not ideal."

Was this tiff the end of the world? No, said Elder. The bill passed out of committee 8-4 because, overall, it has many good components that will address, in the short-term, housing shortfalls. And the bill still has to go through more House committees, a full House vote and reconciliation with the Senate. That is, there's still time to comment. Meanwhile, other legislators tried to allay the leadership's move by saying it's part of a legislative process, and not the first time such slights have happened.

But to Elder's point, committee work should be "the beating heart of the building." That's where the nitty-gritty work gets done, where the tweaks and adjustments make better legislation because individual House and Senate members hear from constituents about sometimes egregious impacts that need to be corrected. To stifle that input, particularly in this case, should be called out for what it is: a heavy-handed tactic done for political expediency.

Rather, House leadership should care less about meeting the self-imposed deadlines of a legislative calendar, and pursue a fuller discussion in committees in the knowledge that new ideas from different perspectives almost always yield better legislation. And it should be obvious that such work would be more representative of the people's desire — not the desires of a few legislative leaders.

That point was driven home by first-term Rep. Saudia LaMont, D-Morristown, who told fellow committee members, as reported in Duffort's story, the process made little sense and was deeply upsetting.

"As a person who's experienced homelessness — chronic homelessness — as a renter and a person who serves in the community, the people who we're trying to help here, to falsely vote on something and not know where it's gonna go in the other half puts me in a really gross position," she said.

"I thought as an elected official that I was here to serve people in a way that was going to do things, and I didn't realize how splintered it was. So I guess this is the job, is what I'm being told," she continued. "This is what it is. And this is how it's been done. And that was unbeknownst to me. It makes sense now that our country and our nation and our state and our systems are the way they are and that so many people are underserved."

It's a damning observation. Vermont's House leadership should take note.

Climate: from page 9

by how dependent we are on having access to trustworthy people who can do the math, help frame the options in terms that lay people can grasp, and who are also thinking about the big picture and the long term.

I wish that CO2 were more like poop. When the automobile displaced the horse as our main mode of transportation, one of the many benefits cited was that our city streets would no longer be full of horse manure. If only we knew then that the odorless gas coming out of our tailpipes and our chimneys would put us in our current existential crisis. Modern sewage treatment may be as important to our public health as was the invention of penicillin. There is no turning back from this as a critical piece of our common infrastructure. But we need as a community to be open to new approaches to handling our waste.

More broadly, we must consider the costs to our society of not making good on our commitment to radically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and our production of greenhouse gasses. And to make good on that commitment will require courage, a willingness to take risks, and a collective re-imagining of how we do everything, including, yes, how we approach meeting our most basic of human needs.

Harrison: from page 7

when fully implemented. Additionally, the House version requires that public schools offer full day pre-k for 4-year-olds by 2026. The governor had included \$56 million for childcare in his proposed budget without increasing taxes.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee concluded their work on the state budget for the new fiscal year on Friday. They added the \$22 million increase in motor vehicle fees to their version of the bill. It now heads to the full senate for a vote this week.
- The session's major housing legislation, S.100, continues its review in the House Committee on Environment and Energy regarding the Act 250 language in the bill. Environmental groups want to continue Act 250 review for housing development in 99% of the State, while municipalities and the tripartisan legislative rural caucus are advocating for changes to remove some of the red tape that is seen as a barrier to developing more units. Housing was deemed a priority by legislative leaders and the Governor prior to the session, however continuance of regulatory hurdles could impede getting more homes built.
- In the latest state revenue report, personal income taxes, as well as corporate and sales taxes fell below expectations. Secretary of Administration Kristin Clouser said she is uncertain whether a second straight month of disappointing personal income tax revenues was a trend foretelling a weakening economy, or it was just an aberration. Personal income taxes represent the largest part of the State's general fund revenue.
- Vermont officials are planning to stockpile the abortion medication mifepristone, which has long held FDA approval, but is now under review by the courts.
- Phil Scott is the nation's most popular governor according to a new poll by Morning Consult with an approval rating of 78%. The Governor must be wondering then why his message of not increasing taxes or fees is not resonating as well with the legislative majority.

A lot will be happening over the next few weeks as the 2023 Legislature attempts to wrap up its work. State tuned. Rep. Jim Harrison is the Statehouse representative for Mendon, Killington, Chittenden and Pittsfield. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us or harrisonforvermont.com.

Education: from page 8

plethora of early childhood organizations about the overall development of children before their schooling starts, or of creating a statewide structure that pursues the objectives for childhood development.

I've watched the K-12 system's enrollments decline every year while per-pupil costs increase, and the continually changing tests that measure learning outcomes have obfuscated what I believe is a decline in students' learning.

This decline started well

Legislation mostly address how to pay staff better and to babysit them.

before the Covid excuse came along. The Vermont Dept. of Education's embargo on releasing the 2020 or 2022 test results may be because of the results, not all of which can be explained by Covid.

At the tertiary level, we have watched the multiple reconfigurations of the state college system over the last few years and UVM's continuing upheavals over enrollment levels, hous-

ing, and the leadership's conflicts with students, the faculty, and staff.

Can anyone doubt that changing college names, their organizational relations, what books they have, and the failure of dialogues on different campuses collectively suggest that the system needs a careful long-term consideration?

Ward Heneveld
Enosburg Falls



Submitted
Is today's education effective?

WORDPLAY

SUDOKU

Tick Diseases' Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- ACUTE
ADVOCATE
ALTERNATIVE
ANAPLASMOSIS
- ANTIBIOTIC
ANTIBODIES
ARTHRITIS
BACTERIUM
- BITE
BLACKLEGGED
DIAGNOSES
ERYTHEMA MIGRANS
- EXPOSURE
GRASSES
ILLNESS
INFECTED
- JOINTS
NERVOUS SYSTEM
PETS
REPELLENT
- SYMPTOMS
TICK
TREATMENT
WOODS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →20

CLUES ACROSS

1. It's all over the beach
5. A cirque
8. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
11. Influential report author
13. Satisfaction
14. Recurring only at long intervals
15. Islamic calendar month
16. Neither
17. Gelatinous substance
18. American electronic music producer
20. Old computer system
21. Professional organization
22. Malaria mosquito
25. Not composed of matter
30. It's in the ocean
31. Peyton's little brother
32. French commune
33. Eyelashes
38. Equal (prefix)
41. Quality of little or no rain
43. One who beheads
45. Sung to
48. Influential punk artist
49. Amount of time

50. Polio vaccine developer
55. Abba __, Israeli politician
56. Job
57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
59. Japanese wooden clog
60. Folk singer DiFranco
61. FL city
62. Naturally occurring solid
63. Language of indigenous Asian people
64. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

1. Soviet Socialist Republic
2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
3. Venomous snake genus
4. Uninteresting
5. Straightforwardness
6. Expression of wild excitement
7. Arrange in order
8. East Indian cereal grass
9. Hillsides
10. Bird beak covering
12. Baseball stat
14. Edge of a surfboard
19. Wrapping accessory
23. Express approval
24. Deduce
25. Similar
26. Born of
27. Automobile
28. Obligated to repay
29. Live in
34. Influential journalist Tarbell
35. Set aflame
36. OJ trial judge
37. Scottish town
39. African nation
40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
41. Mimic
42. Frees
44. In slow tempo
45. Sword
46. Related on the mother's side
47. Mars crater
48. Plant of the lily family
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. Hillside
53. Metrical foot
54. Amazon river tributary
58. Adult male human

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am a pop singer born in Michigan on April 27, 1988. I started performing as part of music groups in 2011, and by 2014 I was named an artist to watch. I'm known for my flute-playing abilities and body-positive stance.

Answer: Lizzo

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WEDNESDAY

4/26

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: "Clouds"

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

Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids

Come learn about new graphic novels, talk about your favorites, and maybe create your own. Grades 3 through 6. Children 10 and younger must be accompanied by a caregiver who is 14 or older. For more info visit: adrian@normanwilliams.org.

Playing God in the Meadow: How I Learned to Admire My Weeds

4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. The Woodstock Garden Club and the Norman Williams Public Library invite you to join them for a special event with Martha Leb Molnar, who will present her new book, "Playing God in the Meadow: How I Learned to Admire My Weeds". For more info visit: adrian@normanwilliams.org.

Figure Drawing with Live Model

5-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. 4 weeks \$60 or \$20 per class, Must RSVP. 3rd Wednesday of each month. Enjoy and learn figure drawing with a real-life model at The Chaffee Art Center. Bring own supplies.

Introduction to Clay: Hand Built Vases

5:30-7:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Ln., Rutland. MINT member fee \$75; non-memebrs \$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. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

THURSDAY

4/27

Bone Builders with Mendon Seniors

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

Circle of Parents

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

Storytime at Rutland Free Library: "Clouds"

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

Ukelele Group

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

Drive-up-pick-up Meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. To order, call 802-773-1853 during business hours.

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/support-groups/peer-support.

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.

Same Sun Solar Raffle

4-6 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Cost is: \$65. Be Same Sun of Vermont's guest and see electric everything: cars, trucks, tractors, lawnmowers, jet skis, motorcycles, water heaters and heat pumps. See the future now! For more info visit: paramountvt.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.

Torch Fired Enameling: Earrings

5-6:30 p.m. p.m. The MINT 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Cost: Members – \$75.00; Not-yet Member – \$100.00. In this 90 minute workshop, participants will make a pair of enameled earrings to wear or gift. The process will include choosing or cutting a base copper shape, prepping it for enamel, applying enamel, and torch firing the piece using a mapp gas torch. Participants will finish the earrings by choosing complementary beads, forming twisted loops in wire, and attaching ear hooks. For more info visit: rutlandmint.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-\$112. Ballroom dancing classes for kids and adults. For more info visit: stone-valley-arts.loxi.io/ballroom-dance-with-patti-panebianco.

Introduction to Home Improvement

6-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Cost: Membrs \$200; Non-members \$175. This is a course to engage your hands and your mind learning the ins-and-outs of home remodeling. We will start with a power tools overview, gain an understanding of how to successfully deconstruct and demolish sections of your home, and prepare you for that much desired home update, looking at layout and design. We will explore what you can and cannot do with plumbing and electrical; drywall, plaster and lath removal; cabinets flooring tile and trim work. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

Sip N Dip

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

Bird Call

7 p.m. Herrick Auditorium, Stafford Academic Center, Castleton University Campus. \$10 suggested donation, children free. Bridget Butler, aka Vermont's Bird Diva (a regular guest on Vermont Edition) will help us learn how to easily identify birds by developing observation and listening skills. Coffee, tea and pastries (cash only) will be available before and after the presentation. Presented by Friends of Castleton Free Library. For more info contact: marthalebmolnar.com

An Evening with Breanna Elaine

7-10 p.m. Merchants Hall, 42 merchants Row, Rutland. Cost: \$10. Breanna's music is dripping with plenty of earthy folk sounds, but also has undertones of rock, bluegrass and even punk. She performs a mix of originals as well as a wide array of covers on both guitar and banjo. Comparisons have included singer/songwriter Jewel, as well as legends Alanis Morissette and Stevie Nicks. Breanna is recognized around Vermont and surrounding areas for her unique sound and songwriting talent. For more info visit: eventbrite.com/o/dark-shadows-entertainment.

"Everything Brilliant Thing" starring Jarvis Antonio Green

7:30 p.m. Briggs Opera House in White River Junction. Cost is \$20. "Every Brilliant Thing," starring JAG founder Jarvis Antonio Green, is a heartwarming, immersive one-person show. Caught up in a personal story of parenthood and childhood, confusion and joy, depression and hope, the narrator engages with those around him to create a list of everything worth treasuring in this life—everything brilliant. For more info visit: jagproductionsvt.com.

FRIDAY

4/28

Early Learning Adventures - Arts for the Very Young

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$20 per class or sign up for 4 classes at \$60. Two Sessions by Age: 1 1/2 to 4, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 10:45 am - 12:15 pm, Ages 5 - 8. A high quality picture book is the foundation of each WoodSpryte Arts class. Students enjoy music and movement, science and math, visual art and dramatic play, social & emotional learning and more, all linked to the book. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Adventures with the Arts

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$20 per class or sign up for four classes at \$60. Students aged 2-4 will create an art project (ex: finger painting, drawing, crafting) and visit the land of imagination during Book Nook Discovery! One special book will be used for 2 Friday classes that the art projects will be designed around. And, one free book per student will be given every 2 weeks thanks to our partners at the Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. MUST Pre-Register. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

WoodSpryte Early Learning Adventures

9:30-10:30 a.m. Green Mountain Community School's, Whitney Hall/The Buttery, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Cost is \$12 per class. This spring, Stone Valley Arts is excited to continue our WoodSpryte Arts Early Learning Adventures with art instructor Rosemary Moser. Literacy-based creative learning adventures for the very young! Students read high-quality engaging children's stories, then bring them to life through the arts—visual art, music, movement, drama—as well as activities in science, cooking, gardening, history, social and emotional learning, & more. This week: "The Big Orange Splot"—Mr. Plumbean inspires all of his neighbors—and us!—to create our own dream houses. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

Vintage Market Days of Vermont

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St., Rutland. Cost is \$15. Admission for children under 12 is free. Cash and credit card are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your ticket is good for re-entry into the event all weekend. Vintage Market Days is a unique opportunity for vendors to display their talents and passions in creative venues. It is an upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, consumable yummys, seasonal plantings and a little more. Admission for children under 12 is free. Cash and credit card are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your ticket is good for re-entry into the event all weekend. For more info visit: vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont/index.

All About the Arts

10-11 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St. in Rutland. \$20 per class or 4 classes for \$60 Students Aged 3-5 will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more! Minimum enrollment: 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week. For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org

Machine Stitchery Landscape with Julie Crabtree

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Gallery at The Vault, 68 Main St., Springfield. Cost is \$140. Wooded landscape is created using a simple method with soluble stabilizer, making a sandwich of fibers and threads which is machine stitched and finally dissolved. Adding more texture and detail by the machine, also hand stitching and beads. Bring your sewing machine with ability to drop feed dogs (teeth), darning foot, selection of sewing machine threads in landscape colors, scissors, needles, extra machine needles #90 and an extension cord. Stabilizers, fibers, threads, extra machine threads, hand stitching threads and supplies to create texture, trees, and foliage, and beads will be provided. Materials fee \$14. Two day class 11-4:30. Register by April 22. For more info visit: galleryvault.org.

That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

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

Stone Valley Arts Open Mic

7-8:15 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Poets, storytellers, spoken word artists, writers in all genres are invited to perform your own original work, poems, slam pieces, classics, "minutes" or favorite literary works. Serials and/or excerpts of longer works of fiction and other genres are also appreciated. Moth-style (first person true stories) are always a hit, as are folk tales and other stories. Musicians and singer-songwriters are also welcome. Performers can RSVP via email to reserve a spot at stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com, or a sign-up sheet will be available on arrival for performers.



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 12

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre Presents:

'Going Up the Country'

7:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St. Tickets: \$20 + fees
Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents "Going Up The Country."
The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same
name. Yvonne was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and
who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960s and 1970s into the
lives of native Vermonters and how each group transformed the other.
Play and music written by Eric Peterson and John Foley. For more info
visit: paramountvt.org.

'Every Brilliant Thing' starring Jarvis Antonio Green

7:30 p.m. Briggs Opera House in White River Junction Cost is \$20.
"Every Brilliant Thing," starring JAG founder Jarvis Antonio Green, is
a heartwarming, immersive one-person show. Caught up in a personal
story of parenthood and childhood, confusion and joy, depression and
hope, the narrator engages with those around him to create a list of
everything worth treasuring in this life—everything brilliant. For more
info visit: jagproductionsvt.com.

SATURDAY

4/29

Craft Fair

9 a.m.-3 p.m. 448 Vt Route 7B-N, Clarendon. Free. Join us for our
Craft Fair, just in time for Mother's Day! We will have great gift giving
items available. It's Cement To BE, Jan's Candles, LuLaRoe Leggings,
Sue's Creative Stitches, Brian's Famous Beer Cheese, Caitlin Gates
Artwork, Pelletier's Maple Products, Lori's Jams, jelly, relish, aprons,
Avon, Margaret's tote bags, purses, backpacks, earrings, wood crafts,
Denny's Gnomes, and more. Door prize drawing. We are excited to
have new crafters join us for this event! For more info visit: facebook.com/events/975211403468561?ref=newsfeed

Yoga Prana Shakti Floor Class

9 -11 a.m. 155 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Cost is \$15. Lina Cloffe
Hanson (Parvati) offers an earth conscientious, spiritual, energetic
& physical yoga practice. We meet regularly on Saturdays. In your
Yoga Prana Shakti class, we will mix vinyasa and held asanas
cultivating spirit and mind while working on the improving flexibility,
strength, stamina, body awareness and function of the entire body
all in a compassionate and non-judgmental way. For more info visit:
yogapranashakti.com.

Adventures with The Arts

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Cost is
\$20 per class or sign up for four classes at \$60. Students aged 2-4
will create an art project (ex: finger painting, drawing, crafting) and
visit the land of imagination during Book Nook Discovery! One special
book will be used for two Friday classes that the art projects will be
designed around. And, 1 free book per student will be given every two2
weeks thanks to our partners at the Rutland Free Library. Adult must
accompany children under age 4. MUST Pre-Register. For more info
visit: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Vintage Market Days of Vermont

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St., Rutland.
Cost is \$15. Admission for children under 12 is free. Cash and credit
card are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your ticket is good for
re-entry into the event all weekend. Vintage Market Days is a unique
opportunity for vendors to display their talents and passions in creative
venues. It is an upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market
featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures,
home decor, outdoor furnishings, consumable yummys, seasonal
plantings and a little more. Admission for children under 12 is free.
Cash and credit card are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your
ticket is good for re-entry into the event all weekend. For more info
visit: vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont/index.

Wool to Yarn: Intro to Handspinning.

10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. The
workshop is \$20/person or \$15/Billings Farm member. Fee includes
materials. Register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/HandSpinning2023>
Transform the fleece of the Billings Farm Southdown sheep into
hand-spun yarn, as fiber arts educator Tiana St. James explores
methods of spinning, plying, and more in this introductory workshop.
Each participant will have a chance to try spinning on a wheel and
receive a drop spindle and some wool to take home. For more info
visit: billingsfarm.org/events/sheep-shearing-herding.

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, jellie's and jams, maple
products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits,
artisan crafts and more. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

Succulents in Flower Pots: A Collaboration

between Pottery and Stained Glass!

10-11:30 a.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Cost: \$80
Members; \$100 Not-yet members. In this how-to class, participants
will learn the basics of stained glass. You will learn the basics of
creating a pinch pot and glazing it in your own style. Everyone will
go home with a completed piece and the beginner skills to continue
both stained glass and pottery. All are welcome! No prior experience
necessary. Please wear close-toed shoes. This is a two session class
instructed by one of our glass leads, Lisa and one of our pottery leads,
Tiffany. For more info visit: rutlandmint.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.

Machine Stitchery Landscape with Julie Crabtree

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Gallery at The Vault, 68 Main St., Springfield. Cost
is \$140. Wooded landscape is created using a simple method with
soluble stabilizer, making a sandwich of fibers and threads which is
machine stitched and finally dissolved. Adding more texture and detail
by the machine, also hand stitching and beads. Bring your sewing
machine with ability to drop feed dogs (teeth), darning foot, selection
of sewing machine threads in landscape colors, scissors, needles,
extra machine needles #90 and an extension cord. Stabilizers, fibers,
threads, extra machine threads, hand stitching threads and supplies to
create texture, trees, and foliage, and beads will be provided. Materials
fee \$14. Two day class 11-4:30. Register by April 22. For more info visit:
galleryvault.org.

The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking

Class

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

Plein Air Painting or drawing at the Marsh

12:30 p.m. West Rutland Marsh Marble Street boardwalk. Free. Join
fellow artists for an afternoon of painting en plein air – paint nature out
in nature! All are invited to come set up an easel and paint or draw what
we see. Bring your own supplies and don't forget protection from the
weather. To attend sign up here: forms.gle/gY78wwupy36ZvnuBA

Celebrating The Creative Arts Multi-media Art Show

1 p.m. Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St., Brandon. Free.
Your attended children are welcome and there will be a children's
craft table! Admission and refreshments are free but a food shelf item
donation would be welcome. For more info contact: kristenvarian@gmail.com or call 802-779-7909.

Learn to Knit, Part 2

2-4 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland.
Cost is \$30. This class is perfect for those who have recently learned
the knitting basics. In this class, we will dive into circular knitting as well
as how to combine knit and purl stitches to begin the Simple Sample
Hat by La boutique de Jeanne. In order to get through all the skills, we
will knit the baby size. For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

First Annual Art for a Paws

3-7 p.m. Great Hall, 100 River St., Springfield and virtual. Enjoy art,
live music, entertainment, appetizers, beverages, and learn about
the Springfield Humane Society's mission. The event will feature
performances by Uplift Acrobatics, Bill Brink, a "Puppy Kissing Booth,"
and more. During the month of April, original artwork by many talented
artists from sculpture and mixed media to traditional paintings on
canvas, will be displayed in the Great Hall art space. Online bidding
is open at: Go.rallyup.com/art-for-a-paws. For more information visit:
Spfldhumane.org.

Twin State Derby's Vixens take on Roller Derby

Quebec

4-6 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Tickets available
at the door! Adult admission (13+ years old) is \$12. Children ages 5-12,
and veteran admission is \$5. Children under 5 get in free! Food Truck:
Trucking Tacos. For more information: twinstatederby.com/events

Crafts & Critters – Paper Collage Workshop

4-6 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way. Queechee. Cost is:
\$20 general public / \$16 VINS members. Join a VINS educator for
a paint and sip style event! We will be working with paper collage
medium to craft a portrait of this class's model: Chesterland the Harris's
hawk. Draw inspiration from our live avian model, or craft along with a
demonstration piece, all while learning about the unique and fascinating
natural history of the Harris's hawk (also known as the wolf hawk). Also
enjoy some non-alcoholic refreshments! Appropriate for ages 10 and
up. Registration fee covers the cost of refreshments and materials.
For more info visit: events@vinsweb.org contact us at 802-359-5000.

Ludlow Rotary Annual Penny Sale

6-8:30 p.m. Ludlow Elementary School, 43 Main St., Ludlow. Free.
The event of mud season—an evening of fun and seeing friends and
neighbors you may not have seen since last year! Proceeds to fund
high school scholarships and community projects. For more info call:
802-558-0479.

Wonderfeet Kids Museum Lipsync battle

6 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$30, \$35.
The singing may be fake, but the fun is very real! Watch as teams of
your friends, neighbors, local businesses and nonprofits join together
for a night of amazing performances raising money for Wonderfeet
Kids' Museum and their work for the community's kids and families.
For more info visit: paramountvt.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

Theater in the Woods 2023 Fundraiser: 'Dancing at Lughnasa'

7-8:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$15-\$20
Reserve your seats. Featuring the Theater in the Woods directors
as actors, plus some luminaries: Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman,
Helen Gassenheimer, Kate Kelly, Tristan Larson, Devin Rondeau,
Rainbow Squier, Wheaton Squier, Chip Stevens. Please reserve your
seats by clicking this link: <https://rb.gy/hnrub>. For more info visit:
stonevalleyarts.org.

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre Presents:

'Going Up The Country'

7:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St. Tickets: \$20 + fees
Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents "Going Up The Country."
The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same
name. Yvonne was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and
who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960s and 1970s into the
lives of native Vermonters and how each group transformed the other.
Play and music written by Eric Peterson and John Foley. For more info
visit: paramountvt.org.

'Every Brilliant Thing' starring Jarvis Antonio Green

7:30 p.m. Briggs Opera House in White River Junction Cost is \$20.
"Every Brilliant Thing," starring JAG founder Jarvis Antonio Green, is
a heartwarming, immersive one-person show. Caught up in a personal
story of parenthood and childhood, confusion and joy, depression and
hope, the narrator engages with those around him to create a list of
everything worth treasuring in this life - everything brilliant. For more
info visit: jagproductionsvt.com.

SUNDAY

4/30

Castleton Fire Association's Pancake Breakfast

7:30-11 a.m. Castleton American Legion, 378 Route 4A, Castleton. All
you can eat pancakes. Plain, chocolate chip and blueberry. Scrambled
eggs, sausage, coffee and juice. Cost: \$8 adults; \$4 children 10 and
under. Come on down to the Castleton Legion and meet our volunteer
firefighters and association members.

Raku

9 a.m.-2 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Cost: Members
\$275; mon-member \$300. Finalizing the 5-week traditional Japanese
firing process known as Raku with firing day, when we will all convene
and experience the exhilaration and primal nature of fire revealing a
truly unique beauty. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

Vintage Market Days of Vermont

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St., Rutland.
Cost is \$15. Admission for children under 12 is free. Cash and credit
card are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your ticket is good for
re-entry into the event all weekend. Vintage Market Days is a unique
opportunity for vendors to display their talents and passions in creative
venues. It is an upscale vintage-inspired indoor/outdoor market
featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures,
home decor, outdoor furnishings, consumable yummys, seasonal
plantings and a little more. Admission for children under 12 is free.
Cash and credit card are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, your
ticket is good for re-entry into the event all weekend. For more info
visit: vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont/index.

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.

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Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 13

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre Presents:

'Going Up The Country'

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The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same name. Yvonne was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960s and 1970s into the lives of native Vermonters and how each group transformed the other. Play and music written by Eric Peterson and John Foley. For more info visit: paramountvt.org.

Met Opera: 'Champion' (Blanchard)

12:55 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Tickets: \$27.
Six-time Grammy Award-winning composer Terence Blanchard brings his first opera to the Met. Bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green is the young boxer Emile Griffith, who rises from obscurity to become a world champion, and bass-baritone Eric Owens portrays Griffith's older self, haunted by the ghosts of his past. Soprano Latonia Moore is Emelda Griffith, the boxer's estranged mother, and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe is the bar owner Kathy Hagan. Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium for Blanchard's second Met premiere, also reuniting the director-and-choreographer team of James Robinson and Camille A. Brown. For more info visit: paramountvt.org.

Theater in the Woods 2023 Fundraiser: 'Dancing at Lughnasa'

3-4:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultny. \$15-\$20 Reserve your seats. Featuring the Theater in the Woods directors as actors, plus some luminaries: Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman, Helen Gassenheimer, Kate Kelly, Tristan Larson, Devin Rondeau, Rainbow Squier, Wheaton Squier, Chip Stevens. Please reserve your seats by clicking this link: <https://rb.gy/hnrb>. For more info visit: stonevalleyarts.org.

Concert to Benefit My Community Nurse Project

4 p.m. Walker Farm Theatre, 705 Main St., Weston. Free. New Thought Vermont will present the Castleton String Quartet in concert to benefit My Community Nurse Project. Generous donations to my Community Nurse Project are encouraged. The Vermont musicians include Weston resident Peter Miller, Wallingford resident Kathryn Luzader, and Rutlanders Sarah Koon and Marina Smakhtina. Selections by Vivaldi, Haydn and Mozart as well as lighter fare by Joplin, Ellington and the Beatles will be featured. For information call 802-824-3810 or email info@newthoughtvermont.com.

'Every Brilliant Thing' starring Jarvis Antonio Green

7:30 p.m. Briggs Opera House in White River Junction. Cost is \$20.
"Every Brilliant Thing," starring JAG founder Jarvis Antonio Green, is a heartwarming, immersive one-person show. Caught up in a personal story of parenthood and childhood, confusion and joy, depression and hope, the narrator engages with those around him to create a list of everything worth treasuring in this life - everything brilliant. For more info visit: jagproductionsvt.com.

MONDAY 5/1

May Day Slalom

Registration starts at 8 a.m. Killington Ski Resort. Free to enter with a valid Killington season pass or lift ticket. Racing will take place from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., with awards to follow at the Umbrella Bar starting at 2:30 p.m. Compete with your friends for bragging rights or simply find your own limits during our May Day Slalom! Don't miss your last chance of the season to race down Superstar. For more info visit: killington.com/things-to-do/events.

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.

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., 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. For more info visit: rutlandrec.com/godnick.

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.

TUESDAY 5/2

Audubon Poultny River Loop Bird Walk-

7:30 a.m. D&H trail crossing on Main St., Poultny. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland County Audubon Society for a weekly bird & wildflower hike. All are welcome. Slow pace with lots of opportunities for observing and photographing. Expect to be out for about 3-1/2 hours. For more info visit: slatevalleytrails.org/calendar.

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 St., Rutland. Claudia Courcelle and her team of care managers will hold their Alzheimers support group meeting. 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. 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! 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 5 branches of yoga in a clear and engaging method. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org/calendar-events.

Woodshop Orientation

5-6:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Fee: \$15 members. Absolutely no experience is necessary! If you have any interest in woodworking this is the class for you. This class also serves as a prerequisite for using the woodshop at The MINT and for specialized classes. For more info visit: rutlandmint.org.

Circle of Parents in Recovery

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

Learn to Create Top-Notch Veggie Dishes, Cooking Class

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

Have a big (or small) event coming up? Let us know!

Email: events@mountaintimes.info

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED.
4/26

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman

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

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

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.
4/27

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

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

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Tee Boneicus Jones
6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

LUDLOW
8 p.m. Off The Rails – Liz Reedy

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
hosted by George Nostrand

FRI.
4/28

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

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

LUDLOW
8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Super Stash Bros

POULTNEY
6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Breanna Elaine

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Brooks Hubbard

RUTLAND
10 a.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – Vintage Market Days of Vermont with music by George Nostrand and Josh Cote

STOCKBRIDGE
7 p.m. Wild Fern – Acoustik Ruckus

SAT.
4/29

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Bryan McKenna (Jim Breuer's Opener)

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
12 p.m. Bridgewater Corners Bridge – 49th Annual Bridgewater Raft Race

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – John Lyons

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rick Webb

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

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Sammy B

RANDOLPH
7 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Los Lorcas

RUTLAND
10 a.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – Vintage Market Days of Vermont with music by George Nostrand and Josh Cote

SUN.
4/30

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

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

MON.
5/1

KILLINGTON
10 a.m. Killington Resort Superstar Trail – May Day Slalom

6 p.m. Rivershed – Acoustik Ruckus

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.
5/2

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

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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Vermont Comedy Festival founders plan to bring summer Film Fest to the region

Submissions are open for all categories

The guys who brought you the first ever Vermont Comedy Festival this past December are at it again with the first ever Vermont Film Festival. The comedy fest will be an annual thing and the hope for this is to follow the same blueprint. I sat down with founders/comedians Collen Doyle and Matt Vita, on a lovely spring day on the Rivershed patio, to learn about this.

The film festival will run Aug. 23-27 and the idea kind of came from the comedy festival. Vita said, "Collen has done a film festival before and we've both wanted to have one. This dovetailed off the success of the comedy festival. It seemed like the right time to do it."

Doyle added, "We were able to get the trade name for the Vermont Comedy Festival and able to get the trade name to Vermont Film Festival. There's some overlap in branding and marketing and it has a similar feel and design which is getting extremely talented people from all over the country together in

one place so that we're able to network and celebrate each other's work. One of the things I've noticed as a filmmaker is that so often you spend so much time making movies and movies come out, but you don't get a chance to see what other people are doing or get a chance to show those films. Film festivals are a great opportunity to get together, evaluate other people's work, see what other people are doing and have that time to do that."

Pentangle Arts is one partner, and the Woodstock Town Hall Theatre will be the main location for the five days of the film festival. The Little Theater in Woodstock will also be showing films every day. Vita said, "We have some cool events planned like jazz on the water after the screenings, Woolen Mill Comedy Club [in Bridgewater] will be screening the comedic shorts and we'll probably do a comedy show or two because we do that pretty well."

Doyle added, "We're also partnering with First Stop Board Barn [in Killington] to bring an element of outdoor living and outdoor sports/extreme sports filmmaking to it."

Vita said, "We're doing a whole action sports aspect of the festival. Randy at the shop has an outdoor projector so we're going to have a big barbeque party there and show some films. It's going to be super cool. If you're a local dude making ski movies or if you have a

Comedy → 21



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg



credit

Vermont Comedy Festival founders, Collen Doyle and Matt Vita to bring film fest to Vermont

Andiamo! Barn Opera performs live at The Hub CoWorks May 3

The spirited performance troupe known as Barn Opera is inviting the Killington-Rutland community to a unique meet-and-greet plus a concert, being held on May 3, from 6-7 p.m., at The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row in Rutland. Most area residents refer to that location as The Opera House, and next week, Barn Opera's performers will not only take a bow, but applaud, that majestic building's illustrious past.

When Joshua Collier, Barn Opera's ebullient artistic director and acclaimed tenor, visited The Hub earlier this month for a meeting, it didn't take him long to express his reverence for the venue's history. During a break, Collier bounded up the center stairs adjacent to one of The Hub's sparkling glass-lined conference rooms to survey the soaring expanse.

Landing at the top, Collier proclaimed in his booming voice, "The acoustics in here are perfect." That alone inspired Collier and The Hub's team to collaborate on an event that nods not only to The Opera House's history but also celebrates its contemporary revitalization as a commercial space and community center.

Tickets to attend the performance are \$10, available at barnopera.com/tickets. Complimentary refreshments will be available via donation at intermission, but no alcoholic beverages will be available.

The event will include a live performance by a trio led by Collier, who has sung and acted in beloved operas around the world. Joining him will be baritone Nicholas Tocci, who is Barn Opera's associate director, and Brandon resident and Barn Opera pianist Kristen Carr. Together, they will perform songs, well-loved arias, and duets from the Italian opera tradition.

At the event, Collier will also be providing details about Barn Opera's upcoming international education- and performance-project in Italy, dubbed the "Castellopera al Mare," to be held from June 18-July 6, and how Rutlanders can declare "Andiamo" - Italian for, "Let's Go!"

"Barn Opera's board of directors and entire artistic team are so committed to supporting, involving, and welcoming the Rutland County community as a whole. For this summer only, we are offering a \$1,000-per-person reduction in our usual

tuition of \$4,100 for this exciting program," Collier indicated.

Barn Opera's international project this year will be held in Cesenatico, a quintessential Italian beach town on the Adriatic coast, in the fabled Emilia-Romagna region, home to Italy's most celebrated culinary specialties. Tuition for community members includes waterfront hotel accommodation and half board. The program includes daily structured Italian lessons, led by Middlebury College language professor Sandra Carletti, access to rehearsals, and performances in the stunning Teatro Errico Petrella in Longiano of Puccini's beloved romantic opera La Bohème and the comedic opera Gianni Schicchi.

Airfare, local transportation, personal incidentals, and other extras are not included in the tuition price. Cesenatico is accessible by train or car from such major Italian tourist destinations as Florence, Venice, and Bologna.

Joshua Collier not only seeks to grow audience and support for Barn Opera's activities in Rutland County, but to make opera more accessible beyond the area.

"We want to expand our reach as ambassadors for the United States, Vermont in particular, and the operatic medium in general, by providing this unique opportunity for emerging talent and community members, alike," he said.

Net proceeds from the benefit event at The

Hub CoWorks will be used to support Barn Opera's future artistic endeavors, as well as furthering the goal of Barn Opera to provide opportunities for the youth of Vermont to achieve artistic development without socioeconomic division. All donations to Barn Opera are tax-deductible where permitted by law.

Five years ago, Collier, 35, made Vermont his home, bringing along his wife, parents and young daughter.

Through many performances since 2018, Collier has driven Barn Opera's upward trajectory, boosting its production capabilities, audience experience, artistic vision and performer compensation. Its first production - of Puccini's Madama Butterfly - sold out in just three days, astounding skeptics who said Collier wouldn't sell more than a handful of seats. Since then, he has raised more than a half million dollars for his organization.

"Barn Opera is thrilled to be partnering with the Hub CoWorks," Collier stated. "We look forward to continuing to forge and strengthen community connections across town lines."

The Hub CoWorks space, which is now growing in popularity, attracting tech-startups, small businesses, educators,

Andiamo → 19



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

Joshua Collier not only seeks to grow audience and support for Barn Opera's activities in Rutland County, but to make opera more accessible beyond the area.

JAG's Founder Jarvis Antonio Green takes the stage for comedy 'Every Brilliant Thing'

Upper Valley theatre brings a Black queer lens to a hilarious, immersive one-person show

April 27 to May 14—WHITE RIVER JCT— JAG Productions is opening its new one-person comedy, "Every Brilliant Thing," starring Jarvis Antonio Green, April 27 at Briggs Opera House in White River Junction.

Green is JAG's founder and producing artistic director. This is his debut as an actor in a JAG show.

The show will run through May 14. It is the final theatrical event of its seventh season.

"Every Brilliant Thing," by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, is a one-person play that's at once funny, heart-warming, and uniquely immersive. Told in collaboration with the audience, the play is about the healing power of joy, centering around a man caught up in his own personal life story. From the innocent wonder of childhood through the disillusionment of young adulthood, the man is faced with his mother's depression and his father's insensitivity.

Needing desperately to spread hope and positivity to his dear parents, he creates a list of everything that has the power to make one happy. This list, full of gratitude and reverence for all life's colors, starts as small as a single post-it note, but grows exponentially into a delightful decades-long obsession.

The Guardian calls the show "one of the funniest plays you'll ever see about depression—and possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop ... There is something tough being confronted here—the guilt of not being able to make those we love happy—and it is explored with unflinching honesty."

JAG selected this play as part of its mission to serve as an artistic sanctuary for Black creatives in the American theatre, to catalyze compassion, empathy, love, and community through the lens of the Black experience.

"Every Brilliant Thing" was also chosen because of its fascinating potential to positively affect the audience. While the script's themes tug on the heartstrings and tickle the funny bone, it's Green's engagements with audience members that will ensure every performance is completely

one-of-a-kind.

Not to worry — it's not anxiety-inducing fare like your average interactive improv show. Instead, the interplay between the protagonist and those in the seats is warmly embedded in the roots of what makes live theatrical experiences sacred.

It's a give and take, in which artist and art lover are unified in moments of deeply relatable epiphany. In short, brilliance shall ensue.

Regarding his personal connection with the play, Green said, "About six months ago, I woke up and completely lost my life force.

It turns out it was depression. After several weeks of trying different medications, fre-

"As the dust settled, I asked myself, 'What does little boy Jarvis want? What will bring him the most joy?'" Jarvis said.

quent visits to my therapist and psychiatrist, and countless phone calls with friends and family, I finally reached the other side. Thank God.

"As the dust settled, I asked myself, 'What does little boy Jarvis want? What will bring him the most joy?' And without any hesitation, the answer was obvious — little boy Jarvis wanted to return to his first love, the stage. So, for the first time in my JAG career, I will not be behind the scenes but smack in the middle of center stage where I truly belong," he said.

"What an honor it is to heal while doing your life's work and with this piece. In a typical JAG fashion, we are bringing spirituality and ritual to the work, so come and be open for change and prepared to be moved and challenged," Jarvis concluded.

JAG Productions is quickly gaining a regional reputation among theatre lovers and Black arts leaders. Artists and audiences routinely flock to JAG's shows from all over Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as Boston, Baltimore, New York City, and more.

For more information and tickets, visit: jagproductionsvt.com.



'Going Up the Country' performed in Rutland

Friday-Sunday April 28-30—RUTLAND—Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre, a nonprofit theater group located in Rutland, will present the world premiere of "Going Up the Country." The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same name. Performances of this play with music will be held this weekend on Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m.

Next weekend shows will be Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 7 at 2 p.m.

Performances will be held at the We Rutland Town Hall Theater located at 35 Marble St. in West Rutland. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased with cash or check at the door

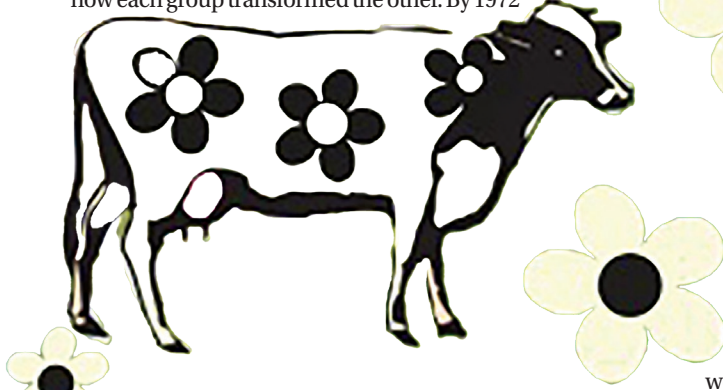
or in advance at paramountvt.org.

Yvonne Daley was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960s and '70s into the lives of native Vermonter and how each group transformed the other. By 1972

thousands of hippies and folks who identified with counterculture values were living in Vermont.

The story unfolds over a decade, and is performed by six actors, three men and three women, portraying different characters. The play features some well-known figures such as Ben and Jerry and Bernie Sanders. The play and music were written by Eric Peterson, former artistic director of Old Castle Theatre Company in Bennington, and John Foley, one of the creators of the Broadway hit musical, "Pump Boys and Dinette."

Kimberlee Moyer is the director for the production. When Moyer read the play, it stirred up many memories from her past. Moyer said, "I believe the audience will be members of the older generation as well as younger people who want to make a change in the world we know now."





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Spring turkey hunting starts April 29

It's almost time for spring turkey hunting in Vermont. Youth and novice turkey hunting weekend is April 29-30 this year, and the regular spring turkey season is May 1-31.

"The youth and novice turkey hunting weekend provides an excellent opportunity for experienced hunters to teach young or new hunters how to safely and successfully hunt wild turkeys," said Chris Bernier, Vermont's wild turkey biologist.

To hunt turkeys on April 29 and 30, a youth must be 15 or younger and must have completed a hunter education course and possess a hunting license, a turkey hunting license and a free youth turkey hunting tag.

The youth or novice must be accompanied by an unarmed licensed adult over 18 years of age. Shooting hours for the weekend are one half hour before sunrise to 5 p.m. Landowner permission is required to hunt on private land during youth-novice turkey hunting weekend.

The youth or novice may take one bearded turkey on the weekend and two bearded turkeys in the regular May hunting season.

Shooting hours during the May 1-31 turkey season are one half hour before sunrise to 12-noon, and two bearded turkeys may be taken.

A shotgun or archery equipment may be used to hunt turkeys. Shot size must be no larger than #2.

A successful hunter in Vermont's spring turkey seasons must report their turkey within 48 hours to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. This can be done at a local big game reporting station or online at vt-fishandwildlife.com.

Last year, youth and novice hunters took 627 and 33 turkeys, respectively, during the April weekend hunt and hunters took 5,589 gobblers during the regular spring season.

"Combined with the 908 turkeys taken during the fall season, hunters harvested in excess of 140,000 servings of locally sourced, free range turkey meat in 2022," added Bernier.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife's 2023 Turkey Hunting Guide is available on their website at this link: tinyurl.com/3kku7xyc.



By John Hall, VTF&W

Vermont Fish and Wildlife re-established our native wild turkeys when it released 31 wild birds from New York in 1969 and 1970. Today, Vermont has an estimated wild turkey population of more than 45,000.

First annual Art for a Paws held, Saturday

Proceeds benefit the Springfield Humane Society

Saturday, April 29, at 3 p.m.—SPRINGFIELD— Head to the Great Hall in Springfield this Saturday from 3-7 p.m., to enjoy art, live music, entertainment, appetizers, beverages, and learn about the Springfield Humane Society's mission, present state, and future.

"We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves," the Springfield Humane Society states.

The Springfield Humane Society is dedicated to improving the quality of life for animals by providing protection, compassionate care and adoption services for homeless animals in the Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Springfield, Weathersfield, Weston, and Windsor areas of Vermont. Through public education, we advocate for a humane community by promoting responsible pet ownership and prevention of cruelty to animals.

The Humane Society is a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on the generosity of donors to further its mission.

The event on Saturday will be held in-person as well as live-streamed and feature performances by Uplift Acrobatics, Bill Brink, and more! Light appetizers will be provided by local businesses including: The Springfield Food Co-op and Sheri's Place. The event will also feature a "Puppy Kissing Booth!"

During the month of April, original artwork by many talented artists will be displayed in the Great Hall art space in Springfield (enter from the Pearl Street side) and online bidding is open at: Go.rallyup.com/art-for-a-paws. There's truly art for everyone, from sculpture and mixed media to traditional paintings on canvas.

For more information visit: Spfldhumane.org.



By Pauline Catling
Wild Leek (foliage)



By Craig K. Hunt
False hellebore



By Kevin England
Wild leek (bulb)

State health officials warn Vermonters about mistaken wild leeks, ramps

False hellebore is a poisonous lookalike

If you are outdoors foraging for wild leeks, also known as ramps (*Allium tricoccum*), health officials want you to be sure you don't mistake the ramps for a poisonous lookalike plant called false hellebore, pronounced faals heh-luh-bor.

The young leaves of American false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) can resemble the edible ramps now making their springtime appearance. However, false hellebore contains poisonous chemicals called alkaloids, and eating it can make people very sick. In most cases, people who have eaten false hellebore need to go to the hospital.

"This is not a poisoning you should treat at home," said Sarah Owen, state

toxicologist with the Dept. of Health. "If you think you have eaten false hellebore, call the Northern New England Poison Center right away. You could develop a serious heart condition that requires immediate medical attention."

Symptoms of false hellebore poisoning include severe nausea and vomiting, which often move on to slow heartbeat and low blood pressure. Other symptoms may include slowed breathing, weakness, dizziness, numbness and tingling, and sweating.

State officials urge Vermonters who harvest wild ramps to make sure they know how to identify them. The leaves of ramps are flat, grow directly from

the ground, and are generally found in rich upland forests. Ramps also smell strongly of onion. False hellebore leaves are pleated in appearance, grow from a stalk in floodplains, marshes and swamps, and do not smell like onion.

If you may have eaten false hellebore, do not wait for symptoms to appear. Call the Northern New England Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. You can also chat online at nnepc.org, or text "poison" to 85511. If there is a medical emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Learn more about false hellebore and how to recognize it at: healthvermont.gov/environment/chemicals/poisonous-plants-vermont.

Andiamo: from page 16

and community groups, was once the site of a celebrated concert venue known as Ripley Music Hall. According to the Rutland Historical Society, the original edifice, built in 1868 by William Y. Ripley, was destroyed by arson in 1875. His son, Edward, rebuilt it in 1882 and renamed it Ripley Opera House.

For decades, The Opera House served as a landmark cultural center for the Rutland region, hosting concerts, lectures, and social gatherings. Historical documents indicate that even then, the upper area of the space had excellent acoustics. Via a public-private partnership between CEDRR (Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region) and MKF Properties, led by Rutland native and avid community supporter Mark Foley Jr., The Opera House was gloriously refurbished over the past three years, officially opening in November 2022.

On May 3, opera tenor Joshua Collier, baritone Nicholas Tocci, and pianist Kristin Carr will once again fill that magnificent space with delightful music, in a literal and symbolic salute to Rutland's history while also celebrating its unlimited potential for the future. After all, the acoustics are perfect.

For more information visit: Barnopera.com/tickets; rutlandvermont.com.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: lizdimarco-weinmann.com.



Courtesy Castellopera.com
Collier, artistic director

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some of the food that's on the menu. Free shuttle and take away and delivery options are available. mogulssportspub.com 802-422-4777.

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Killington Market

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Liquid Art

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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.



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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.



Comedy:

from page 16

cool edit from this season of you shredding, submit that, it could get on the screen."

506 On The River Inn (West Woodstock) is also an ongoing partner of the the festivals.

Just like with the comedy festival, they plan on having people immerse themselves in the area.

Vita said, "A lot of these film festivals you go to, there's not a lot of hang. You go and just consume the film. Some positive feedback we got from the comedy festival is people got to experience Vermont. People who had never skied before got to go skiing. They got to feel the love of the local community. We want to do the same thing, but in the summer."

Doyle added, "We're not in the largest metropolis but we're in what I would consider the quintessential Vermont area. In the summer you have access to hiking, swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, mountain biking and more. If people are here for 4-5 days, they feel like they have an authentic Vermont experience."

After the comedy festival, comedians who had never met each other are now touring together. They got to see fellow comedians perform, which was never possible before this. Vita and Doyle hope the same thing will happen with the film festival. "When you're out, you're crossing paths in various local businesses. You're

deepening those connections. Hopefully those relationships are something people can go out and use," Doyle said. "If some of these filmmakers can collaborate on each other's films, we would consider that a big win."

When Collen Doyle started the Woolen Mill Comedy Club, nobody thought of the area as a destination for comedy but after doing the comedy festival, they solidified the WMCC and this area as a premiere destination for comedy. He said, "Similarly like with the work we're doing with the film festival, it's solidifying this area as a destination for film."

Many major movies and TV Shows are claiming to be in Vermont but they're not shooting here like "Wednesday" on Netflix for example.

Doyle explained, "There's a certain level of prestige that's associated with the brand of Vermont but they're not contributing to our economy." This festival will.

Doyle continued, "This is a great opportunity for people to network. Our goal is to foster deep and meaningful relationships with people who participate and hopefully that helps as a springboard to their career. If you have a great Indie film, the number of routes that film can go to get eyes on it are sometimes limited. You can make a good movie but unless it's purchased by a distributor, you're not going to be able to see that film. With a film festival it's a highly curated set of films that often you wouldn't get a chance to see, especially to see that many great films in a short amount of time. It will be rewarding to see these, especially on a big screen. Nobody makes movies so you can watch it on your cellphone. Pentangle has a 360-seat theatre with a state-of-the-art projector. You're going to be able to see the movie as it was meant to be seen."

Matt Vita said they're hoping to get a financial backer/partner to come in so they can offer a cash prize to the best film with the stipulation you have to use it to produce something in Vermont and come back to screen it next year.

For more information visit: vermontfilmfestival.com. Submissions are open to all in any category, including: Best Feature Film, Best Short Film, Best Director, Best Performance, Best Documentary, and Best Action Sports. Films must have completed post production in the last 24 months to be eligible. Submissions are limited to one short film and one feature film per individual entrant. The regular deadline for submissions is April 30; the late deadline is June 5. For more information on submissions visit: filmfreeway.com/TheVermontFilmFestival.

Doyle explained, "There's a certain level of prestige that's associated with the brand of Vermont but they're not contributing to our economy."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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SUDOKU

< PUZZLES page 11

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Abortion pills: from page 7

But come 2020, the FDA changed its rules for such proposals. According to Scott's spokesperson Jason Maulucci, "The bar was already very high, and the FDA changed the rules and made it even higher."

Vermont's application was deemed by the FDA to be incomplete. Since then, it has remained dormant.

Rachel Feldman, a spokesperson for the Agency of Human Services, pointed the finger at the feds on Tuesday, declining to speculate on "why things with the federal government would take this amount of time."

"No matter what, we continue to move forward, working with other states, building coalitions, working with these coalitions to continue to find solutions for Vermonters," she said. "So, again, I cannot speak to the federal process, but we are working in accordance with the law here in the state of Vermont to ensure that we are keeping the ball moving."

In reality, the ball is in Vermont's court now.

In the nearly three years that have elapsed since the FDA updated its rules, the Agency of Human Services could have amended and resubmitted its application. But according to Maulucci, the agency has opted not to "because all the money and effort that would go into that application is a very labor-intensive process."

Instead, the administration has opted to "wait and see" how the feds respond to the two other states, Colorado and Florida, which submitted their applications to implement similar programs.

"It's kind of been on the back burner for (the Agency of Human



Gov. Phil Scott

By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Services) because of the limbo that the FDA has put the other states in," Maulucci told VTDigger. But the mifepristone case "has provoked the governor into asking us to look back into this and refresh the conversation."

Colorado's effort to establish a Canadian import program dates back to 2019, and the state submitted its latest proposal to the FDA in December, according to a press release from Gov. Jared Polis's office. Florida's proposal has sat dormant, awaiting FDA action, since November 2020.

"When the governor was saying

(on April 12) that the feds should move on this, he was broadly referring to the fact that they haven't responded to any of the three states at all," Maulucci said.

In a letter sent last fall, U.S. Sen.

"We can control how we respond to Vermonters with the tools that we have, and we're nothing if not ingenuitive and creative," Feldman said.

Marco Rubio, R-Fla., chastised the administration for "fail(ing) to provide (Florida officials) a substantive update since November 2021."

Florida Agency for Health Care

Administration officials "have attempted to reach out to the FDA for months but have received no additional requests for information or a timeline since a meeting in May 2022," Rubio wrote.

The FDA's Office of Media Affairs declined to comment Friday in response to repeated requests from VTDigger.

"It is frustrating," Maulucci said.

"Like with a lot of things, federal government moves slowly, and it's across two administrations, too. It started under the Trump administration, now under the Biden administration."

Asked whether Vermont and the FDA have recently communicated on the matter, Maulucci said he did not believe so.

Asked the same question, Feldman said, "I'm not sure that it would be prudent to speak about communications occurring during any type of proposal and approval process like this."

Whether Vermont could even get mifepristone under an approved importation program depends largely on how the Texas lawsuit, which will likely return to the U.S. Supreme Court, is decided. If FDA approval of the drug is pulled wholesale, that could jeopardize importation. But even then, Maulucci said, the Biden administration has latitude in enforcing any nationwide bans.

"Maybe the FDA could take an approach like the federal government takes to cannabis, for example, which is federally illegal but not enforced at the state level," Maulucci said.

Mifepristone or not, Vermont's importation proposal remains in limbo nearly five years after legislators passed the bill nearly unanimously. According to the proposal Vermont submitted to the FDA in 2019, the program could save Vermonters an estimated \$1 million to \$5 million in prescription drug costs per year.

Asked if the situation was frustrating, Feldman said "maybe it's not the best timing."

"We can control what we can control, and what we can control is our submission. We can control our conversations and our partnerships," Feldman said. "And we can control how we respond to Vermonters with the tools that we have, and we're nothing if not ingenuitive and creative."

Pruning highbush blueberries

By Vern Grubinger

Blueberries are a popular backyard fruit. Once established, they will provide lots of delicious, healthy berries for many decades with proper care.

To succeed with blueberries, plant winter-hardy varieties and maintain soil pH between 4.5 and 5.5. Mulch every few years with several inches of wood chips or sawdust. Apply a non-nitrate source of nitrogen fertilizer in early spring, irrigate as needed and use netting to exclude birds.

What's also important, and frequently overlooked, is annual pruning. Late winter to early spring is a good time to prune.

Pruning is essential to maintain the vigor and yield of blueberry bushes. It promotes larger fruit, shapes the bush so it is easier to harvest and helps avoid insect and disease problems.

Pruning may be overlooked because the benefits are in the future. You don't see

them quickly. Another reason is that bushes with lots of leaves and quite a few berries may seem just fine, but without a well-pruned blueberry bush for comparison, it's hard to see the benefits of pruning.

Early in life, blueberries don't need much pruning. In years one and two, remove all flower buds by rubbing them off or cutting off the shoot tips. This directs the plant's energy into cane growth.

Starting in year three, remove all twiggy or low-growing canes, and leave only two or three of the strongest, well-spaced new canes produced the previous year. In subsequent years, continue to remove all but two or three of the newest canes produced, leaving only upright, strong canes with space between them.

Different varieties produce different numbers of canes each year, so they vary in
Blueberry → 29

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Rutland County Humane Society



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Neutered male. Lab mix.
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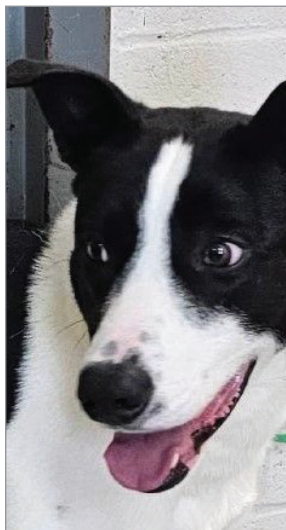
Clifford—4-year-old.
Neutered male. Shepherd
mix. Brown/white. Clifford
is people-oriented and
eager to please.



Willow—5-year-old. Spayed
female. Bloodhound.
Black/red. Sweet Willow is
very affectionate.



Koda—6-year-old. Spayed
female. Retriever mix. Tan.
Koda may be the girl for
you if you like active pups!



Bo—2-year-old. Neutered
male. Terrier mix. White/
black. Bo is always on the
move and loves to go on
adventures.



Baguette—10-week-old.
male. Shepherd/Pitbull
mix. White with black.
Baguette is a very sweet,
playful little pup!



Mabel—7-year-old.
Spayed female. Domestic
shorthair. Black. Mabel
will be your little shadow.
She loves to be brushed
and purrs sweetly.



Marshmallow—13-year-
old. Spayed female.
Domestic shorthair.
White/black. She doesn't
like other cats, and would
love to be the center of
affection.



Stella—2-year-old.
Spayed female. Domestic
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Cosmic Catalogue



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Aries

March 21 - April 20

Some real progress regarding all things cash flow and finance is — just not right now. First, you've got a few hurdles to jump through and yes, that will include delays, mishaps and miscommunication. A breakthrough that almost eventuated, didn't. Have faith that your current position isn't your future and is likely to change sooner than you think. Give it a few weeks for the planets to weave some magic.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

It doesn't matter if you're in love with your job or not, it's always wise to put your feelers out for the next opportunity. This could be within your organization or outside of it. Maybe you'd benefit from taking a step back from your overall life and look for areas where you can change or improve? Thinking things through on a deeper level can help you shift perspective and get you closer to figuring out which opportunities are worth seizing.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

There's some really sweet energy in your relationship zone right now, thanks to love goddess, Venus. Your powers of attraction are pulling in all the right support and making connections with other people just feel so much easier. While there may be a few mishaps along the way, you'll be amazed by how quickly you can smooth things out together. Make "teamwork makes the dream work in professional and personal partnerships your motto now.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Planets move in and out of your sign every year, it's nothing new. However, it's your sign where all the cosmic action is at the moment — are you feeling it? Feelings of uncertainty, restlessness and curiosity are all hallmarks of the moment. Things might be moving at a pace you don't prefer. Instead of exhausting yourself trying to figure out the answers, just enjoy the questions for a while. Things will work themselves out.



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

You probably have a whole lot of unanswered questions right about now. This could be about your study or travel plans, or your big picture perspectives on life. While frustrating to not have the answers, sometimes marinating in the questions are part of the process. Real and meaningful change rarely happens in an instant — it's a process. The beauty of your current position is that the delays you're experiencing now will ripen into magnificent opportunities, so be patient with yourself.



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

You could be hungry to satiate your desires now. What are your desires, exactly? Well, this could be an important question too! Do you want to have more fun? Spend more time with children? Do more of the things you don't have time to do? Prioritize joy just as much as you do work — related tasks and in short space of time, it will become easier for you to discover what makes you come alive with joy!



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You're torn between your desire to be social and your need for rest. It's not my job to tell you what you should do, but the stars suggest living it up a little bit now if you can. Catch up with friends. Buy that little trinket or treasure you've had your eye on. Spoil yourself. Your time for hibernation will arrive in a few weeks. Live it up now before you need to recharge. I guess I did just tell you what to do!



Libra

September 21 - October 20

So much of your current astrology is about going after what it is that you really want. Maybe it's a career path. Maybe it's a relationship situation. It could also be about your money, wealth and abundance. It can be a little anxiety inducing for you to make these kinds of decisions, but one thing I can promise you — if you don't make that choice, someone else will do it for you, then you may no longer have a choice.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Life probably feels relentless for you at the moment. Active Mars in your busy zone is setting a punishing pace. Eclipses in your domestic and career areas have turned things on their head! All the while, Pluto is prompting you to reveal a new layer of who you are. While it may not feel like it just yet, but your star is beginning to rise! But first, you have to take a risk and back yourself!



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Eclipses are always a funny time for you and that's even more the case this time around. If you've been asserting yourself more than usual, no doubt you've ruffled some feathers. If you've been placid, then by now, it's likely you're frustrated or angry. It feels like you're in a situation where it's probably better to ask for forgiveness than it to ask for permission. What ever it is, strike while the iron is hot.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

It feels like forever now that I've been making relationship-type posts for Scorpio and all the highs and lows and everything in between. You've been on a long journey of discovering authentic partnership, sans the drama. Now is another focal point in the storyline. You might need to reflect on the lessons you've learned as well as the ones that continue to repeat until you learn them. Problems not fixed get bigger.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

The Cosmos has thrown you some curve balls that have prompted some really big questions. What is the meaning of life? What do I want to learn? What are my daily rituals and routines that support these questions? Life may feel a little heavier than you're used to right now, but the method in the madness is about you getting clear about what is important and what isn't. The road may be winding but the journey is worth it.

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



Learn to trust your gut

Much has changed since last week. We exited the fiery inferno of Aries season under a cloak of darkness and entered the serene pastures of Taurus. Though this time around, they don't look to be the fields of green and skies of blue to which we are accustomed.

There's a lot of confusion, instability and change. So much so, it can be hard to tell what's real and what is an illusion.

The space weather reminds me of sage wisdom my grandmother would share with me, "Iways trust your gut Cass, because the



Cosmic
Catalogue
By Cassandra
Tyndall

mind can play tricks on you." The pathway to trickery, manipulation and control comes through the mind, not feelings.

The trouble is way too often to be aware when something feels off, unethical, immoral or even plain illogical, but still, the powers of the web of which we are all entrapped are more sophisticated than ever, detaching us from our feelings and actual reality.

The sky serpent is as ravenous as ever, demanding to be fed. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, then it is a duck. Don't let some alleged intelligence attempt to surpass your own.

Clover: Flower or weed?

Call it a flower or call it a weed – clover is a plant everyone knows. Who hasn't idled away an hour hunting for a four-leaf clover, hoping for good luck?

A member of the legume family, clover is common in lawns and fields, in disturbed sites, and along roadsides. Of the world's 300 clover species, none are native to the north-eastern United States, although 19 species exist in New England, including the familiar white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and red clover (*T. pratense*). European settlers introduced clover as a cover crop and high-protein livestock forage, and the plant has become widely naturalized throughout the region.

Clover, also known as trefoil because of its three-part leaflets, has become an important food source for a variety of wildlife. Large and small mammals, partridge, grouse, and other birds consume the plants, which are high in protein. It is a top nectar plant for bees, butterflies, and moths and an important food source for caterpillars. Clover is a mainstay of many other insect diets, including the green lacewing, which also eats aphids and other garden pests.

White clover, also called Dutch clover or creeping clover, is a favorite among pollinators, since the shallowness of its floral tubes make the nectar easily accessible. It's also the clover species most likely to produce leaves divided into more than three leaflets; some white clover plants have a rare recessive gene that causes them to produce extra leaflets.

Four-leaf clovers traditionally represent faith, hope, love, and luck. They are as rare as one in 10,000. Even rarer are clover leaves divided into more than four leaflets. The record holder is a 56-leaflet clover found in Japan.

Elusive as four-leaf clovers are, some people have a penchant for finding them. A Wisconsin woman, Gabriella Gerhardt, holds the Guinness World Records for finding the most four-leaf clovers (887) in eight hours, as well as the most (451) in one hour, and she is waiting for confirmation of two more records: the largest collection of six-leaf clovers (1,437) and the largest collection of seven-leaf clovers (209). Her clover collection contains 75,000 specimens and

counting.

White clover grows in patches from one root system and spreads into mats – which you've probably noticed if you've tried to pull it out of your lawn. So, if you find one four-leaf clover, you are more likely to find more in that spot. Look carefully at the roots and you'll see tiny nodules, which contain bacteria that take atmospheric nitrogen and fix it into a form the plant can use. Sitting atop a 2- to 4-inch-long stalk, each small flower head is a cluster of 40 to 80 tiny flowers, or florets, which are white and often tinged with pink. The rounded leaflets have a slight notch and a white or light gray V-shaped mark.

Red clover, the state flower of Vermont, grows 8 to 30 inches tall, with rounded, pinkish-purple flower heads and long leaflets bearing a faint greenish V. Bumblebees (with longer tongues than honeybees) have no trouble working the deep florets. Even in dry periods, red clover is a great nectar producer through summer and into autumn.

Two other clover species common in our region are *T. arvense*, or rabbit-foot clover – named for the fuzzy, pinkish-white or grayish flower heads – and *T. hybridum*, or alsike clover, so called after a town in Sweden. The Northeast also has three species of hop clover, named for its bright yellow blossoms, which droop and turn rusty brown as they age, resembling dried hops. *Trifolium dubium*, *T. campestre*, and *T. aureum* are fairly common, according to Arthur Haines, senior research botanist at the Native Plant Trust. Each has several common names, so many amateur botanists are content to refer to them all as hop clover.

Despite its benefits to wildlife and agriculture, there is a downside to this introduced plant. While clover does not present a serious ecological threat, botanists point out that it does present competition for native plants, and several *Trifolium* species are known to invade natural areas in some parts of the U.S. outside of the Northeast.

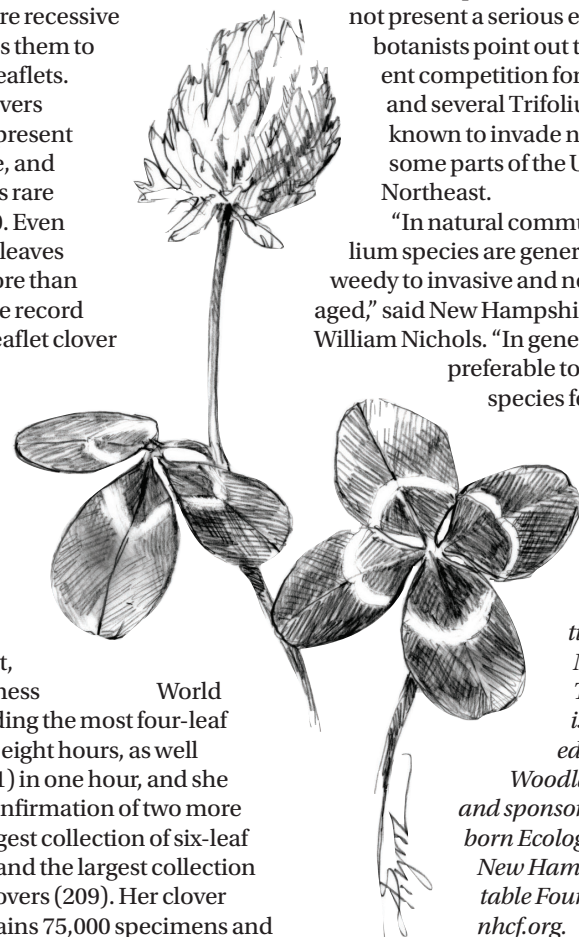
"In natural communities, *Trifolium* species are generally considered weedy to invasive and not to be encouraged," said New Hampshire state botanist William Nichols. "In general, it is always preferable to promote native species for wildlife."

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

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The Outside
Story
By Laurie D. Morrissey



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A commanding performance

In 1984, my high school basketball team had one of the best records in the state. My teammates and I had been playing together for years, so we were a well-oiled machine. We also had a diverse set of players that covered all the needed attributes for a championship team.

I was a tall, thin guard who had a knack for diving into the fray and then dishing off to one of the big men for an easy bucket. I was also a good shooter, although I was repeatedly criticized for not shooting enough.

I loved every aspect of basketball, and I had my father to thank for that.

My father had been a basketball referee for 30 years, so I grew up around the game. I tagged along with him to high school and college events throughout my childhood, reveling in watching him command over a game with an astute authority.

I could tell, even at a young age, that my father was good at what he did. Coaches challenged him, but he never backed down. And he certainly didn't take disrespect from players or coaching staff lightly, having seen him eject many over the years. But I also noticed that whenever we'd return to gym where there had been a prior conflict, he never held a grudge.

My days of attending games with him dissipated once I started playing more competitively. When I reached the high school level, I wondered if he'd ever ref one of my games, but I knew there was an unwritten rule that it wasn't proper to ref when a relative was competing.

That changed during my senior year when, due to a scheduling conflict, my father was forced to preside over one of my mid-season games.

The event was at our home gym, which was packed to capacity due to our increasingly impressive record. I was always nervous before tip-off, but the pressure was intensified knowing that my father would be on the court with me.

I vividly remember two moments from that game. The first was when I took a jump shot from the baseline and, as I was releasing the ball, a defender caught my hand, forcing the ball to carom off the side of the backboard.

It was clearly a foul.

I looked next to me on the baseline and in astonishment my father was standing there with the whistle in his mouth, but he never called the foul. He looked at me with

a strange glance and then pressed forward with the game. (On the way home, he sheepishly admitted that he blew the call because he was focusing on my shooting technique and not the defender.)

My second memory happened later in the game. After having been fouled taking a shot, I walked to the line and waited. My father announced that it was a two-shot found and then turned and handed me the ball. And in the split-second that he did that, he quietly uttered, "I bet you make one out of two."

I remember being completely dumbfounded that my father would say that to me in that moment. And of course, I dinked the first attempt off the side of the rim before making the second one. I just shook my head in disappointment while he laughed.

I only remember a few other sporadic moments from that glorious season, with many revolving around the championship game that we unfortunately lost.

We had been the number one seed going into the tournament and made it all the way to the finals before getting upset by another high school that was located only a few miles away from my home. It's tough to lose a championship game, but it's especially tough to lose to a team that encompasses a bunch of guys that you've known for years.

My father went on to ref several more years before dying on a cold February night in 1989. Ironically, he passed away while refereeing a basketball game in front of a capacity crowd.

I still have a photograph of him in my office - he's standing on the court in his refereeing gear, basketball in hand, looking ready to command over another game.

This week's feature, "Somewhere in Queens," is the story of an Italian father whose son is the star of his high school basketball team. But while the father revels in his son's accomplishments, the son struggles to fit in.

Written, directed, and starring Ray Romano, "Somewhere in Queens" is obviously a personal project derived from his own experiences. Romano is at his best, delivering a poignant portrayal of a complicated man who's trying to do the best for his family.

Give this one a shot if you love stories about ethnic families and the dynamics that we've all faced while coming of age. It's a solid drama, but there's plenty of that classic Romano humor mixed in for color.

A commanding "B+" for "Somewhere in Queens," now playing in theaters everywhere.



The Movie
Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Spring activities are in full swing

I lay in my bed, the sun shining through the windows and turning our nighttime fortress into an unavoidable brightness. The heat is off, but the weather hasn't quite warmed up yet and I really don't want to get out from underneath the covers until the sun has actually warmed up the house.

But that's not really why I am taking these extra warm up minutes. It's a beautiful day and honestly, I am lying here trying to decide what to do today. Beyond work, that is.

I am still working on cleaning out my garden beds and prepping everything for mulch before the bulbs get too overwhelming. The lack of wind beating on the side of my house means that Kent Pond or Colton Pond or Woodard Reservoir might be stunningly flat this morning and I certainly don't want to miss that. But that also means it would be the perfect day to take that one section of lawn that seems to always defeat me. But it hasn't rained in a few days, making it the perfect day to head down to Pine Hill Park or the Sherburne Trails for a trail run or a few strokes of the pedals. But the sun is out, so maybe I should just grab my ski boots and head up to the mountain for a few runs. I'm sure someone else might even be thinking about golfing in this weather, but that's not something I personally enjoy so at least I have eliminated one activity from the list. And it's technically still mud season, so the hiking trails are closed so that helps out with the decision making as well.

It's a Vermont problem, or more accurately, a Killington problem since we're the only ski area really open at this point. April. It's probably the most exciting, most confusing month of the year as everything that has laid dormant for the past few months of winter finally comes back - and it does so with a vengeance. Like we are being punished if every day we don't do as many things as possible.

The fear of missing out is real. The skiing will probably be perfect this afternoon, but the water is like glass this morning. How will I have time to run my errands, take care of my home and do all the real world things that need to happen while not missing any of the greatness that the Killington lifestyle has to offer.

It always amazes me that now is when visitors stop visiting. There is so much going on that the restaurants and bars start to close down because people are too busy being outside to want to go inside for dinner. We haven't been eating until 9 p.m. because I don't even want to start cooking until the

sun goes down at 7:30 p.m. I don't want to miss a minute of the beautiful spring days - especially when the rain only stops at 4 p.m. Then you have to try and squeeze everything into only a few hours.

It's overwhelming sometimes, living in this dream world mountain playground. There is too many choices for greatness, sometimes causing the paralysis that is me unable to get out of bed for a lack of decision making. Some days I am almost hopeful that it is windy or rainy, eliminating at least one or two of the options from the list. If it's muddy, we can't use the trail systems, so hiking and biking and trail running are out of the picture, but then we could always just bike along River Road and go check out Thundering Brook Falls.

As a child, I loved summer because it meant I could wake up and do whatever I wanted that day. I would put my shoes on in the morning and not come home until dinnertime and then head back out again after that. That's the life that I've always sought to recapture. A life structured around the outdoors, where forests of trees and earth were my friends and a float on the water in my canoe was a part of life, rather than something I yearned for.

We all joke about the phrase, come for the winters, stay for the summer - but I really think it's the springtime that convinces us never to leave. The daily triathlons of our choosing, the realization that there is more adventure here than one could handle in a single lifetime.

It's all here, in Killington, in Vermont, in this little dream town nestled in the very center of the Green Mountains. And honestly, I couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

Except that I am still in bed, trying to decide what springtime adventure I am going to do today.

Merisa is a long time Killington Resident, KMS Coach, Bartender and Realtor at Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty. She can be reached at femaleskibum@gmail.com.



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By Merisa
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Merisa Sherman enjoys Colton Pond.

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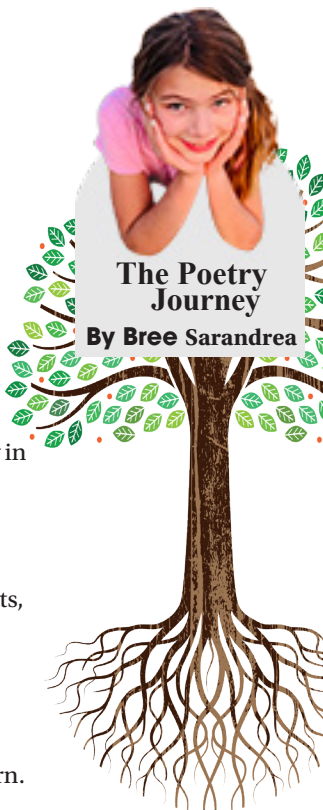


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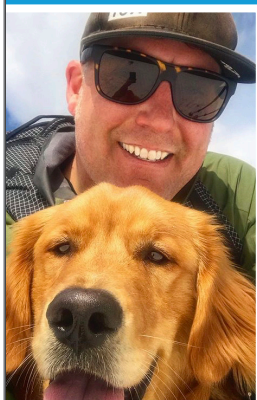
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Tulip mania: Facts about tulips

By Deborah J. Benoit

It's finally spring (never mind any snow still on the ground). Daffodils have emerged, their buds anxious to open. Soon tulips (*Tulipa*), perhaps the most anticipated flowers of spring, will grace front yards and town squares.

Tulips are so plentiful that sometimes we take their presence for granted. They're common flowers, but how much do you really know about them?

Many people assume that since tulips are associated with Holland, they originated there. They're actually descendants of wildflowers native to Central Asia. The word "tulip" is derived from the Persian word for turban.

Around 3,000 years ago, they were being grown in what is now Turkey. Today, the tulip is Turkey's national flower.

In the late 1500s, tulips made their way to Europe as a gift to a botanist at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. By the 1630s, tulips were being grown commercially in Holland, and hybrid varieties were being developed. The new and exotic flowers were a favorite of the well-to-do.

Along with an increasing demand for tulips, prices grew. During a few years in the 1630s, speculators drove the contract price of the rarest varieties to extremes, eventually reaching a fever pitch with certain bulbs selling for as much as a craftsman might earn in a year. That bout of "Tulip Mania" came to an end in 1637 when prices outpaced contract buyers' willingness to pay.

Some of the most sought-after varieties that helped fuel Tulip Mania had striped or streaked petals, a condition referred to as "broken." It wasn't until nearly 300 years later that scientists had the technology to discover that the broken coloration of the petals was caused by a virus (tulip breaking virus aka tulip mosaic virus) transmitted by aphids.

After the drastic drop in the price of tulip bulbs and the end of contract price speculation in 1637, commercial growing of tulips continued to expand. Holland is still recognized for its production of tulips and remains the world's

largest producer with about 3 billion bulbs each year.

Today, there are over 3,500 named tulip varieties that come in a wide selection of colors and shapes. While they can be grown from seed, to do so would take 7-12 years to flower since a bulb must be formed first.

Growing tulips from bulbs is quick and easy. Just plant in the fall and enjoy flowers the next spring.

Perhaps the most difficult part of growing tulips is choosing which tulips to grow. Pick one color or several. Tulips come in warm colors ranging from white, cream and yellow to pink, red and orange.

Flowers are available in the readily recognizable egg shape, along with ruffled or fringe-edged petals, pointed petals and single or double varieties.

Tulips bloom for about a week. If you'd like to extend the

time, plant several types, including early, mid-, and late-spring bloomers.

While tulips are a perennial, they may fail to bloom after the first year. Sometimes the bulbs fall victim to hungry squirrels. Sometimes it's the result of unfavorable conditions.

Tulips prefer sun or partial shade and well-drained soil. The bulbs will rot in soggy soil. After flowering, leave foliage until it dies back on its own to allow the bulb to store nutrients for flowering the following spring.

For more information on growing tulips see go.uvm.edu/tulips.

It won't be long before tulips are blooming in gardens all around us. While it's too late to plant bulbs for this year, there's plenty of time between now and fall planting to choose the perfect tulips for your garden.



Submitted

Looking Back at sales and selling people.

DEC pauses construction projects in lakes during spring fish spawning season

During the spring fish spawning season, the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds Vermonters that permitted lake encroachment construction projects (like shoreline stabilization or projects that disturb the lakebed) in public lakes and ponds are typically not allowed from March 15 to July 1.

Examples of lake encroachment construction projects that are not allowed during this period include adding fill in the water for shoreline stabilization (such as riprap or seawalls), boathouse reconstruction, or dredging.

Examples of projects that can potentially move forward during this time frame include installing docks, floats, rafts, buoys, and regular repairs or maintenance to existing encroachments.

"Vermont's public waters offer us many benefits from clean drinking water and recreation to outstanding fish and wildlife habitat," said from DEC Commissioner John Beling. "By pausing permitted projects during the spring fish spawning season, we can help support the health and breeding success of fish populations statewide."

Any project that proposes work at, below, or beyond mean water level of public lakes or ponds may require a Lake Encroachment Permit.

The mean water level is the average height of a water body over time and often marks where plants no longer grow. DEC

staff will continue to accept and review permit applications in the spring spawning season. After July 1, permitted construction projects may resume/begin.

"From northern pike to smallmouth bass, thousands of eggs develop and hatch between March 15 and July 1," said

Fish Program Manager Maureen Lynch, department of fish and wildlife. "Protecting and promoting fish populations mean not only a healthy aquatic environment but also healthy wildlife populations, a healthy tourism economy, and a quality of life for those that value our state's fisheries."

When reviewing Lake Encroachment permit applications, DEC staff examine any impacts to habitat, water quality, recreation, and other uses. Permitted projects must minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.



Submitted

During the spring fish spawning season, the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds Vermonters that permitted lake encroachment construction projects (like shoreline stabilization or projects that disturb the lakebed) in public lakes and ponds are typically not allowed from March 15 to July 1.

← **Blueberries:**
from page 21

in how much pruning they require. When a blueberry bush has reached full size in about eight years, it ideally will have 15 to 20 canes of all different ages.

Old bushes should not have a lot of old canes. These reduce yield because thick, older canes need more leaves to support fruit growth than they did when they were young. They also make it difficult for new canes to emerge and thrive, which is needed for sustained production.

If you don't know the age of the canes, a rule of thumb is to remove canes before they reach one inch in diameter. These are usually gray with lichen growing on them.

If you've fallen behind in pruning, it's time to remove several "dinosaur" canes per plant to create space for younger canes. Up to one fifth of all canes can be removed per year without yield loss. Berry numbers will be reduced, but fruit



will be larger on younger canes and more space and light will benefit new canes that emerge.

Regardless of their age, it's always good to remove dead, damaged or diseased canes, along with any that stick out too far sideways or grow very low to the ground. If two canes are growing very close together, one should be removed, so they don't compete.

Try to open up the plant canopy. If it's dense in the middle then air and light can't get in, leading to high humidity. That promotes diseases and also provides comfort for the insect pest called spotted wing drosophila.

Use by-pass pruners to cut canes off as close to the ground as possible. High pruning cuts do not stimulate new canes to emerge from the crown.

Instead, weaker side shoots will grow. Try not to leave any stubs.

Pruning every year, or every other year, really pays off in the long run. Your blueberry bushes will thank you —with plentiful berries.

By Vern Grubinger

Annual pruning is needed to maintain high yields of large blueberry fruit.

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Cartoonist Koren:

from page 4



By Kevin O'Connor/VTDigger

Ed Koren didn't autograph his books so much as draw in them.

"He was so open about the process of dying, and he brought laughter to that process, and he never shied away from what was going on," Sturm said. "I just found that very instructive. This is how I want to face the inevitable, as well. His example was a gift — not just as a cartoonist, but as a person moving through this world."

Writer and journalist Jonathan Mingle visited Koren last fall and took a tour of his studio, where the artist walked him through his method. "You could tell he hadn't lost any of the glint and gleam in his eye for any part of that process," Mingle said.

Nearly half a century younger than Koren, Mingle was part of the multigenerational network of friends Ed and Curtis cultivated and socialized with over salon-like dinners in Brookfield. And though they worked in different fields, Mingle said, he recently realized that Koren had been "a stealth mentor."

"There are certain people in your life who, over time, you realize that being around them is so nourishing," Mingle said. "I just came away from every dinner or conversation or encounter with Ed feeling buoyed in some way."

Like Remnick, many of Koren's friends knew of Ed long before they knew him — and that could be intimidating, at least at first.

"I was pretty, you know, star-struck by meeting him," said Bechdel, who first encountered Koren well into her own career, when she succeeded him as Vermont's cartoonist laureate in 2017. (The ceremony involved the literal passing of a crown made of evergreen boughs.)

"This is someone whose work I'd read pretty much all my life," Bechdel said. "It was kind of wild how open he was and how friendly and encouraging — and, especially as a lesbian of a certain age, I'm always nervous people are going to be homophobic or something, and he was so not that at all."

The two became fast friends and would spend time together in his studio whenever possible. "I just loved talking comics with him," Bechdel said. "That was just such a

massive gift from the cartooning gods."

Decades earlier, the cartoonist Tim Newcomb had a similar introduction to Koren.

Early in Newcomb's career, in the mid-1980s, his work appeared in a Montpelier show alongside that of more established artists, such as Koren.

"I was just crosseyed to be in this show with this famous New Yorker cartoonist, and he couldn't have been nicer," Newcomb said.

Over the years, they and their families became close, vacationing in the Caribbean and spending Thanksgivings together. When Newcomb was feeling discouraged, he said, Koren would call or write and tell him to keep his chin up. "Ed was such an enthusiastic mentor," Newcomb said.

He remains in awe of Koren's work — populated by fuzzy, furry, toothy, nosey characters not dissimilar to the artist himself and, more often than not, based on those he'd observed in his native Upper West Side or his adopted home of Vermont.

"Ed, more than any cartoonist I can think of, had his own style," Newcomb said. "You can see a Koren cartoon from across the room and there's no doubt."

His work, according to Bechdel, "is so idiosyncratic, so beautiful, so unlike anything that anybody else does. How he gets that effect was always so fascinating to me. His lines aren't even lines. They're like these little insect trails or something."

Koren was "one of the most distinctive cartoonists that the New Yorker ever produced — right up there with (Charles) Addams, (James) Thurber and Roz Chast," said Bill McKibben, the writer and environmental activist.

"He was the last, in a sense, of the great New Yorker cartoonists of his generation, and of that kind of unironic, un-stylized, just really funny gag cartoons," McKibben said.

"He could make me laugh every single time. What was greatest about them was there was always something generous and kind about them, too. It was people comically trying to do their best."

McKibben was just 21 when he joined the staff of the New Yorker and met Koren. "He was incredibly kind to me from the start," McKibben said. "If there was ever a person who exemplified the word 'mensch,' it was Ed in every way."

Koren also "had an edge," Bechdel said. "He did not suffer fools. When he saw bullshit, he would call it, and I loved that about him."

He would, undoubtedly, have poked fun at the posthumous praise piled on him and saccharine remembrances such as this.

"Everyone's talking about how sweet he was, but he could also be a bit of a curmudgeon — a winking one," Mingle said. "He knew it and he played it up."

In Vermont, where Koren moved full-time in 1982, he was known for his many small — and sometimes not-so-small — generosity. He offered up countless drawings for T-shirts, mugs and posters to help community organizations raise money.

When Sturm helped establish the Center for Cartoon Studies, Koren was quick to

lend his support. At a fundraiser he and Curtis held for the center — featuring a shredded coconut cake resembling a Koren character — Sturm observed the masses approaching the cartoonist.

"There were so many people who were, like, 'Thank you for drawing that T-shirt for us,'" Sturm recalled. "There were just

so many people touched by his work and touched by him."

When Remnick sought to acquire a

Koren drawing and insisted on paying him a fair price, the editor said, Koren insisted that Remnick instead cut a check to a Vermont school that had suffered damage in Tropical Storm Irene.

Longtime friends, such as the New Yorker writers Mark Singer and Calvin Trillin, accumulated many a Koren illustration over the years, often as a thank-you note or to celebrate a birth, a marriage or another decade of life.

"I realized the other day I have something by Ed in practically every room of the house," Trillin said.

Singer met Koren in 1974 when the former joined the New Yorker staff. They hit it off right away and spent time together in New York and then Vermont — often running on the roads around Brookfield.

"Ed never stopped moving," Singer said. "It was painful at the end when he was forced to slow down because he needed to be up and about every single day. So it was cross-country skiing, running, hiking. He did it for all the fitness benefits, and I think also as an antidepressant."

Singer described Koren's marriage to Curtis as "far and away the wisest thing he ever did." Koren had been married before and had two older children, Nathaniel and Sasha. But in his 50s, after moving to Vermont, he and Curtis had their only child, Ben.

"He used to piss and moan, 'I'm too old'" to be a father again, Singer recalled. "But he found out that he was not too old."

According to Singer, Koren wanted nothing more than to live long enough to attend Ben's white coat ceremony upon matriculating at medical school this fall. "I grieve that Ed missed out on that," he said.

"I thought Ed would live forever because of how fit he was," Singer said. "Ed only slowed down toward the very end, and I give Curtis enormous credit for that, because he was happy. Ed was surprised by that happiness, I think. I really do."



By Andrew Nemethy

Ed Koren's vocal Siamese feline, "Catmandu," prowls on one of the illustration tables Koren used to draw in his Brookfield studio in 2014.



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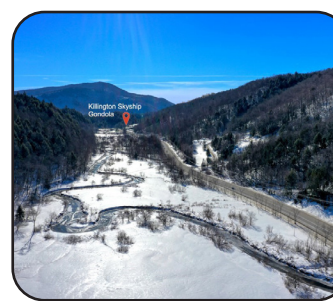
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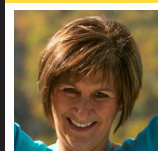
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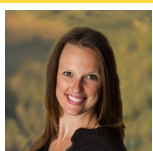
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