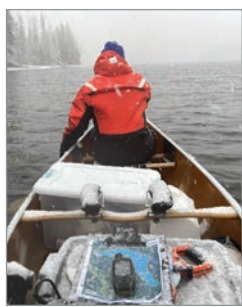




BEWARE TRICKSTERS APRIL FOOL'S DAY IS TUESDAY!

The custom of setting aside this day for playing harmless pranks has been ongoing since at least the Middle Ages!



Courtesy state of Vermont

HELP TRACK ICE-OUT FOR LOCAL WATERS

The Dept. of Environmental Conservation invites the public to report when Vermont's lakes and ponds lose their ice cover (aka "ice-out date"). Tracking over the past 48 years helps scientists monitor the health of local waters.

Page 7



BEARS EMERGE FROM WINTER HIBERNATION

Bears are coming out of their dens so it's time to remove birdfeeders to prevent conflicts with bears this spring.

Page 2

Town of Killington seeks community input on recreation master plan

Three concepts for new pool area to be revealed Tuesday, April 1

The town of Killington Recreation Dept. had previously determined that the town needed to update the outdated recreation master plan. The previous plan was prepared almost 20 years ago, back in 2009. Since then, the town's population has grown placing additional demands on the town's recreation facilities. The current recreation facilities are in need of significant repairs, particularly with regard to the pool and the pool house.

Town staff issued a request for proposal (RFP) and selected the firm of Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) to undertake an assessment of the current facilities and to develop a plan to redevelop the Johnson Recreation Center to meet the future needs of the town. In collaboration with town staff, VIA developed three proposed concepts for the redesign of the Johnson Recreation Center and the repurposing of the existing town hall on River Road for use by the recreation dept.

VIA will present these concepts at a Public Meeting to be held on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building and virtually via Zoom (see town calendar online for link: killingtontown.com/calendar).



By Jerry LeBlond

Sugarmakers celebrated Vermont's sweetest season

Spring Maple Open House Weekend March 22-23 celebrated the first crop of the season as Vermont's sugar makers opened the doors of their sugarhouses and invited visitors in to experience the joys and traditions of pure maple syrup, whether it's the sight of steam rising from the sugarhouse, the inviting aroma of boiling sap, or the rich sweetness of fresh syrup straight from the vat. Many family sugarhouses remain open for business throughout spring.

Killington Resort secures Act 250 permit for new Superstar chair

By Polly Mikula

The days of Killington's Superstar quad are limited. On Sunday, April 13, the resort will hold a final farewell party and removal will begin thereafter. The resort plans to replace the lift with a six-pack high-speed lift, which is scheduled to open in early December.

Killington will celebrate the lift's 38 years of service with a special sendoff party in true Killington fashion.

"We'll be sending off our iconic chairlift the only way we know how: a classic Killington spring party at the K-1 Umbrella Bar. Featuring

live music, free giveaways, and more," the resort stated on its event calendar.

For its final day, Superstar will stay open until 5 p.m. To commemorate the Superstar quad legacy, Killington also introduced a special achievement (27, actually) on its app. One of the tasks is to complete 87 rides on the Superstar Quad this season to honor the year it was built (1987). Those that complete all 27 will be entered to win the first ride on the new Superstar Six chairlift.

Superstar → 13



By Zach Godwin/Killington Resort
The Superstar quad, famous for providing access to skiing into June (pictured) will close April 13.

Pittsfield business owners contemplate challenging new tax

By Brett Yates

On a voice vote, Pittsfield residents approved a 1% "local option" tax on hotel rooms, restaurant meals, and alcoholic beverages on Town Meeting Day. Business owner Katie Stiles, who runs Vermont Farms Catering with her husband Kevin Lasko, told the Pittsfield Select Board on March 20 that she didn't hear about it until afterward.

"To us, it feels like yet another hurdle that we have to present to our customers when we're already struggling to attract them to a place that doesn't have much in terms of infrastructure," she said. "It is something that potentially — at least for our business, because we're dealing with a higher dollar number —

could sway people to not come here."

Stiles seems to be considering her next move.

After news of the tax had reached her, she watched a recording of Pittsfield's town meeting. During the video, Stiles took note of Selectman A.J. Ruben's assertion that

Kuendig described the local option tax as part of an effort to reduce Pittsfield's reliance on property taxes.

the board had already discussed the measure with the town's business community. Last week, an apologetic Ruben admitted that the purported discussion hadn't happened, explaining that at the time he'd mistakenly believed that another board member had reached out to Option tax → 12

Table of contents

Local news	2
State	7
Opinion	10
Puzzles	15
Events calendar	16
Music calendar	19
Arts, dining, entertainment	20
Pets	30
Horoscopes	31
Columns	32
Real estate	34
Classifieds	37
Service directory	38

How Killington became the Beast

Part Three: Key support for a vision

By Karen D. Lorentz

Vermont State Forester Perry Merrill was the first person to see the potential of developing a ski area on Killington Mountain and what it could mean for recreation and the state's economy.

Pres Smith was the second.

Smith's uncle, Preston Leete, who had become an avid skier while at Dartmouth College in the 1930s, had also been intrigued by Mount Snow, and they talked about developing a ski area together.

Smith, often accompanied by his fiancée Suzanne Hahn or uncle, took trips to Vermont and New Hampshire during the winter of 1954–1955, sometimes staying with his parents, who had moved to Rockingham, Vermont, in 1952. With his future bride supporting his desire to get into the ski business, they explored both states, looking for a potential area.

At the behest of Merrill, Smith checked out Killington. He compared snowfalls at Stowe and Mount Snow with snow at Killington and got into “all the practical considerations of lodging, elevation, weather, and transportation,” finally realizing that “of all the places around Vermont and New Hampshire, this place really had the potential,” he told me in interviews for the Killington book in 1988.

He returned to see Perry Merrill and said, “Killington is

fantastic, but how can I work out a deal with the State?”

Merrill had replied, “We’ll lease it to you.”

“You will? But how are we going to get in there?” an incredulous Smith had responded.

Merrill had some ideas on that too. “Don’t worry about that; we’ll go to the Legislature and sell them on the idea of recreation for Vermont. It’s going to be like Europe,” Smith remembered the enthusiastic Merrill saying.

Pursuing a dream

“Looking back, it seems naive to think that you could start with no financial resources, no experience in the ski business, and tackle something like that. But we had the dreams of youth. We didn’t see the obstacles, just a step-by-step process. We thought about Killington in a matter-of-fact way as something we could do, not something overwhelming that we couldn’t cope with,” (the late) Sue Smith told me in 1988.

For his part, Pres Smith had begun to think about operating “a better ski area” when he encountered long lift waits at Stowe. He envisioned having more uphill transportation and more skiing.

“It wasn’t until I got into a methodical review of potentialities of various locations that I began to understand the value

Killington → 37

Bears are waking up; Vermonters should take down birdfeeders

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. (VTF&W) has begun to receive reports of bears coming out of their dens and is urging Vermonters to remove their birdfeeders and take additional steps now to prevent conflicts with bears over the spring and summer.

“Do not wait to take down your birdfeeders and bearproof your yard until a bear comes to visit,” said Jaclyn Comeau, the VTF&W bear biologist. “You need to act now to head off bear conflicts over the spring and summer, even if you have never had a bear visit your property before.”

Bear incidents have been on the rise over the past several years. Officials believe this trend is a result of Vermont’s healthy black bear population learning to associate people and food over multiple generations. Even with a steady increase in the number bears harvested by hunters in recent years—including a record harvest in 2024—Vermont’s bear population has been stable over the past two decades and shows signs of growth over the past five years.

Shorter winters also mean that bears are emerging from their dens earlier in the spring. In recent years bear activity has begun in mid-March. This is roughly two weeks earlier than what is traditionally considered the start of “bear-aware season” in northern New England.



By Everett Marshall, VTF&W

Bear conflicts can get worse quickly if bears learn to target birdfeeders, garbage and backyard chickens as easy sources of food.

“Preventing bears from having access to human-related foods is key to successful coexistence with these long-lived and intelligent animals,” said Comeau. “Bears can be found in every corner of Vermont other than the Champlain islands. Put bluntly, most Vermonters live in bear country.”

The department asks Vermonters to take the following proactive steps for coexisting with bears:

- Take down birdfeeders between mid-March and December.
- Store garbage in bear-resistant containers or structures, trash cans alone are not enough.
- Follow the steps on our web

page for composting in bear country.

- Use electric fences to keep chickens and honeybees safe.
- Request a bear-resistant dumpster from your waste hauler.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- Never feed bears, it is illegal.

“Deep snow may delay some bears from emerging from winter dens until April, but mid-March is the time for Vermonters to prepare for the early risers by taking down our birdfeeders, making sure garbage is secure, and protecting backyard chickens and bees with an electric fence,” said

Bears → 9

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

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.

Polly Lynn Mikula Editor & Publisher
 Jason Mikula Marketing Manager & Co-Publisher
 Lindsey Rogers Marketing/Advertising Consultant
 Pat Wise Graphic Designer
 James Kent Publishers’ Assistant
 Roger Rivera Distribution Manager

Call: 802-422-2399

Write to us:

For news: editor@mountaintimes.info
 For advertising: lindsey@mountaintimes.info
 For events: events@mountaintimes.info



©The Mountain Times 2024
 The Mountain Times • P.O. Box 183
 Killington, VT 05751 • 802-422-2399

mountaintimes.info

GOLD SPONSORS:

SEASON SPONSORS:



UPCOMING SHOWS

NOAM PIKELNY & FRIENDS WITH CAITLIN CANTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH

CHRIS JANSON

HITS INCLUDE:
**BUY ME A BOAT
 FIX A DRINK
 GOOD VIBES
 DONE
 & MORE!**

Saturday, April 5 @ 7PM

From the company that brought you
 Mamma Mia (2019), Shrek: The Musical (2022),
 The Wizard of Oz (2023) & Little Shop of Horrors (2024)

THE PARAMOUNT PLAYERS PRESENT

URINETOWN
 THE MUSICAL

THE AWARD WINNING
 MUSICAL COMEDY

A HILARIOUS AND
 TIMELY SATIRE
 ABOUT GREED,
 WATER SHORTAGE,
 CORRUPTION, AND
 REBELLION. GOOD TO
 THE LAST DROP.

FRI, APRIL 11 @ 7 PM
 SAT, APRIL 12 @ 1 & 7 PM

PARAMOUNT PLAYERS
 community. theatre.

LEANN RIMES

ONE ICONIC VOICE.
 ONE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT.

MONDAY, APRIL 14 | 7:00 PM

GARRISON KEILLOR

"TONIGHT"

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 | 7:00 PM

iLuminate
 THE TOUR

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 | 7:00 PM

DIRTY DEEDS
 THE AC/DC EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 | 7:30 PM

CIRCUS SPRINGBOARD

THURSDAY, MAY 1 | 7:00 PM

DRAGONS AND BEASTS
 MYTHICAL LIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 2 | 7:00 PM

HANK AZARIA
 AND THE EZ STREET BAND

SATURDAY, MAY 3 | 7:00 PM

LITTLE FEAT
 STRIKE UP THE BAND TOUR

MONDAY, MAY 5 | 7:00 PM

An Evening With
Judy Collins

THURSDAY, MAY 15 | 7:30 PM

VERDI'S LA TRAVIATA

THURSDAY, MAY 22 | 7:00 PM

SHAWN COLVIN AND RODNEY CROWELL
 TOGETHER ON STAGE!

FRIDAY, JUNE 20 | 7:30 PM

THE BOB SEGER EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 | 7:00 PM

NEW!

WELCOME BACK MY FRIENDS
 AN EVENING WITH EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 7:00 PM

HIGHER GROUND AND THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE PRESENT

**MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER
 BRANDY CLARK**
 SUMMER & FALL TOUR 2025

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 | 7:30 PM

NEW!

THE CONCERT
 A TRIBUTE TO ABBA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 7:30 PM

25 years of celebrating community and creativity!



30 CENTER ST.
RUTLAND, VT
802.775.0903

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT:



ONLINE BOX OFFICE

PARAMOUNTVT.ORG

Branding
Engage
BE found

Marketing
brought to you by the
MOUNTAIN TIMES

Need help marketing your business online?
It's a complex ecosystem to navigate.
Let us help! (don't worry, it's cheap and easy)
802.422.2399

**I'm not just living—I'm...
Thriving!**

At The Gables, we know that your age does not define you. Discover a vibrant community where individual passions and friendships flourish every day.

Nestled in Vermont's most charming destination, we offer gorgeous residences complete with a full-suite of services to help you embrace life to the fullest. Find your next adventure at The Gables and see how we can support your unique journey.

Dining • Transportation • Housekeeping • Activities • Aging in Place • Pet-Friendly • and more!

Learn more at TheGablesVT.com

The Gables
AT EAST MOUNTAIN
200 GABLES PLACE • RUTLAND, VT

Call Juliana Turcotte to Schedule a Tour 802-770-5275

**Have a startup business idea?
Let's talk.**

**BUILDING SOMETHING GREAT?
LOOKING FOR FUNDING?**

Pitch your startup to **Mose Cassaro**—early-stage startup mentor, VC, and startup accelerator leader.
Email: mose.cassaro@gener8tor.com



StartUp
RUTLAND

gener8tor
STARTUPRUTLAND.COM

CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
of the Rutland Region



By Phillip Belena
Rutland elementary students recently attended an introductory cross-country skiing clinic with the New England Nordic Ski Association's Nordic Rocks program.

Nordic Rocks brings cross-country skiing to Rutland elementary schools

This winter, Rutland's Northwest and Northeast Elementary School students traded snowball fights for ski poles, thanks to the Nordic Rocks program. Administered by the New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA), the initiative introduces children in grades K-2 to cross-country skiing during physical education classes—often for the very first time.

Funded by a Killington World Cup Foundation and Casella Waste Systems grant, Nordic Rocks provides each participating school with enough skis for every P.E. class student. The program uses specially engineered bindings—developed by Lost Nation R&D of Albany, Vermont—that allow children to ski in their own snow boots, eliminating the need for specialized gear. The innovative bindings use a combination of rigid plastic and flexible silicone to fasten regular boots to skis securely.

“Many of these kids would never have an opportunity to try cross-country skiing,” said Rutland PE teacher Bryan Cupoli. “It’s about exposure and about getting them outdoors in winter.”

The Nordic Rocks program originated in the Midwest over a decade ago and was brought to New England in 2015 by Vermont Olympian Andy Newell. Since then, it has expanded significantly, with 61 schools participating nationwide. More than 7,300 students in grades K-6 have benefitted from the program, which includes a five-lesson curriculum covering basic ski techniques, games, and indoor alternatives for inclement weather. NENSA staff, including Youth and Introductory Program Director Mackenzie Rizio, support schoolteachers with little or no skiing background.

“Nordic Rocks provides an introduction in our literal winter playgrounds to a sport that embraces our region’s offerings and traditions,” said NENSA Executive Director Heidi Lange. “It’s about healthy, active lifestyles and the joy of being outdoors in winter.”

NENSA provides skis to schools on an annual basis, and schools keep the equipment as long as they continue to participate in the program. Adjustable bindings allow one set of skis to accommodate children of different ages. NENSA also supplies resources for students and teachers interested in continuing skiing outside of school hours.

“Nordic Rocks is an amazing program that fits perfectly with KWCF’s mission to increase access to winter sports to youth in New England,” said Lynn Boynton, executive director of the Killington World Cup Foundation. “It is inspiring to see the smiles on the kids’ faces as they glide their skis for the first time.”

For more information about the Nordic Rocks program, visit: nensa.net.



By Phillip Belena
Zahara Kuc was all smiles during her introduction to cross-country skiing through the Nordic Rocks program.

How will Trump's push to dismantle the Department of Education affect Vermont?

It's unclear. The state receives about \$490 million from the federal government for education, and more than 40% of staff in Vermont's Agency of Education are paid with federal funds

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday, March 20, calling for dismantling the U.S. Dept. of Education.

What that means for the country — and Vermont — is an open question.

The U.S. Congress created the Dept. of Education, and its dissolution requires the body's approval. The courts have blocked or limited Trump's attempts to shutter other offices in

the federal government, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development.

But the president's declarations have had an immediate impact, and about half of the Dept. of Education's employees are already on their way out either through voluntary resignations or cuts, NPR reported. The downsizing has hit the department's Office for Civil Rights particularly hard.

A White House spokesperson told reporters Thursday that the Dept. of Education would retain some of its responsibilities, including overseeing federal student loans.

More than 78,000 Vermonters have student loan debt totaling nearly \$3 billion, Vermont Public reported last year. Undergraduates at UVM receive almost \$28 million in federal student loans, according to the most recent

data from the National Center for Education Statistics, and Vermont State University students receive nearly \$17 million.

Last week, Anne Bordonaro, who leads the Vermont Agency of Education's work on federal education programs, told lawmakers that core federally funded education initiatives should escape "significant cuts" until at least

Dept. of Ed → 13

House, Senate, gov. differ on education reform

By Maggie Lenz and Nick Charyk on behalf of Atlas Government Affairs consultants

Education reform in Montpelier is finally starting to take shape. After months of plans, counterplans, and more questions than answers, lawmakers have their hands in the clay. Governor Scott's sweeping January proposal set the wheel in motion, calling for major district consolidation, a statewide school choice lottery, and a new funding formula. Since then, the House and Senate have each worked their own approach, and they are not exactly aligned with each other, or with the administration.

That raises the very real possibility of a contentious conference committee in the near future. And without a Democratic supermajority, there will be three parties at the table this time, not two. The House and Senate will have to hash out their differences while keeping an eye on whether the governor will sign or veto whatever deal they are able to land on.

Still, the work is moving.

In the House, the Education Committee is now focused on a proposal to create a School District Boundaries Subcommittee under the Commission on the Future of Public Education. They want a deliberate process, using data and community engagement to come up with recommendations by the end of this year. Alongside that, they are working on proposals for minimum class sizes and debating whether private schools receiving public dollars should have to follow the same rules as public schools. They are not drawing maps yet, but they are setting the groundwork.

Down the spiral staircase in the Senate Education Committee, Senator Seth Bongartz (D-Bennington) is still semi-pushing a proposal that would consolidate Vermont's school districts down to nine. The plan notably preserves tuitioning regions served by Burr and Burton Academy, Lyndon Institute, St. Johnsbury Academy, and Thetford Academy. Bongartz served on the Burr and Burton board for nearly two decades. He has framed the plan as a necessary response to rising costs and financial pressures on the system.

Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale (D-Chittenden Southeast) raised strong concerns in Senate Education last week that rushed consolidation could deepen inequities between districts. As a reminder, she was the sole vote on her committee against confirming Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders earlier this month, a signal of her skepticism about the broader direction of the Scott Administration's proposals

for education reform.

Discussions on Thursday, March 20, in Senate Education got prickly during testimony by the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA). Senator David Weeks (R-Rutland) pushed back on the VSA referring to "private schools" rather than using the term "independent schools," as the schools themselves prefer. It was one of several tense moments in a conversation that felt like a proxy for a deeper disagreement over the VSA's position that any school receiving public funds should be held to the same standards and accountability as public schools.

The VSA has offered an alternative approach: a phased, research-based plan that would finalize district boundaries in 2026, with full implementation by 2029. Their plan includes statewide collective bargaining, school designation reforms, and a clear definition of "small by necessity" to clarify exemptions. It calls for accountability for and oversight of private schools taking public dollars. It appears to have traction in the House and among some members of the

Senate, though Bongartz continues to pull up his redrawn district map during their discussion. His proposal is still on the table, and he is presenting it as some sort of middle ground between the governor and Democrats.

Meanwhile up on the second floor, the House Commerce Committee took the week to consider whether to create a single statewide Tech Center, or CTE district. There was agreement that any changes to CTE governance need to align with the larger governance reforms, and that local high school coordination and transportation funding must be addressed.

Buying down property tax increase to 1%

While the structural debates continue, lawmakers on the third floor of the State House in the House Ways and Means Committee have been scrambling to manage property taxes for the current year. On Friday, March 21, the committee advanced its version of the Yield Bill, which sets the key tax rates that determine how much Vermont property owners pay in school property taxes each year. They are using \$77 million in one-time money to buy down what was expected to be a 6% property tax increase. If all goes according to plan, the average increase should land closer to 1%.

Education reform → 7

FROM GROUNDWORK TO GREATNESS

SHOP OUR TRACTOR PACKAGES >>>

JOHN DEERE | UNITED Ag & Turf



TOWN OF KILLINGTON

PARKS AND RECREATION

RECREATION MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING



MEETING DETAILS

DATE: Tuesday, April 1st, 2025

TIME: 6:30 PM

IN-PERSON LOCATION:

Killington Public Safety Building

800 Killington Road,

Killington, VT, 05751

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 835 2417 4323

Passcode: 522348

By Phone: +1-929-205-6099

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83524174323?pwd=u9AYhPouE3au895HQzsrJBG-j7A74Ba.1>

PUBLIC FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON 3 DESIGNS

Please join us for a Public Meeting on the Killington Recreation Master Plan Project. Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) has worked in conjunction with Town Staff and members of the Recreation Commission to develop three proposed concepts for the redesign of Killington's Recreation Facilities focusing on the Johnson Recreation Center and repurposing the existing Town Hall for use by the Killington Recreation Department.

Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) will present the three concept designs, give an overview of the thought process behind the concepts, and seek public discussion /input.



Federal proposals could reshape Vermont's Medicaid program

Key changes may bring steep financial losses and reduced flexibility for state health services

Staff report

Vermont's Medicaid program could face significant restructuring and funding challenges under a series of federal policy proposals currently under discussion. Testifying before the House Health Care Committee on March 21, Ashley Berliner, director of Medicaid policy for the Agency of Human Services in Vermont, outlined how the proposed changes could disrupt services, reduce funding by hundreds of millions of dollars, and strain administrative resources.

High-stakes funding shifts

At the center of the potential changes is a move to reduce or cap federal contributions to state Medicaid programs. Among the most impactful proposals:

- **Reduction in expansion FMAP:** A proposed cut in the federal match rate for Medicaid expansion enrollees from 90% to the state's standard rate could result in an \$80 million annual loss for Vermont.
- **Changes to FMAP calculation:** Adjusting the formula used to determine federal match rates could cost the state around \$18–19 million for every percentage point lost.
- **Limits on provider tax rates:** Capping provider taxes at 3% (down from the current 6%) could eliminate \$104 million in matching funds and potentially force up to \$252 million in Medicaid service cuts unless the shortfall is covered elsewhere.

Some proposals could also impact who receives coverage and how

- **Work requirements:** Imposing national or state-level work mandates for Medicaid enrollees would likely increase disenrollment and churn while adding high administrative costs.
- **Biannual eligibility checks:** Shifting to twice-yearly checks from the current annual review would double the staff workload and likely increase the number of Vermonters losing coverage.
- **Per capita funding caps:** Replacing open-ended federal funding with fixed per-enrollee caps could cost Vermont an estimated \$1 billion over 10 years, limiting the state's ability to respond to changing needs.

Loss of program flexibility

Several proposals threaten the unique structure and flexibility of Vermont's Medicaid programs. A few include:

- **Rescinding 1115 waiver authority:** Vermont's Medicaid program currently operates under a federal waiver that allows a broad mix of services and coverage types. Eliminating this waiver could disrupt the state's entire Medicaid infrastructure, resulting in a roughly \$320 million loss.
- **Ban on coverage for gender-affirming care:** Some proposals would prohibit federal Medicaid funding for gender-affirming services, placing Vermont in a difficult position given its mandate to provide this care. Costs would have to shift entirely to state funds.
- **Elimination of HRSN services:** Removing the federal authority to provide rent and respite support through Medicaid's Housing and Related Social Needs (HRSN) waivers would erase approximately \$20.5 million in planned programming.

Vermont's Medicaid program currently covers a wide range of individuals, including children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities. Optional services such as dental care, transportation, and hospice—often not required under federal rules—are also part of the state's offerings. The state uses various waiver programs to reach additional vulnerable populations.

The Dept. of Vermont Health Access estimates it will know more about the federal government's actions in May or June.



Courtesy state of Vermont

DEC scientist collecting water samples on Molly's Falls Reservoir in Marshfield shortly after lake ice-out in early spring.

Vermont DEC seeks public lake ice observations

As Vermonters patiently wait for spring temperatures, the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) invites the public to report when Vermont's lakes and ponds lose their ice cover. Also known as the "ice-out date," this date marks when lakes or ponds become ice-free from shore to shore. Tracking ice-out dates helps DEC scientists decide when to begin seasonal water quality sampling efforts.

"Keeping track of ice-out dates in Vermont helps us to better understand how climate change impacts our lakes and ponds," said DEC Commissioner Jason Batchelder. "Our scientists can learn about and track statewide and regional

climate trends by using these long-term records of lake ice."

When ice covers lakes, the water below separates into layers based on temperature and density. When the surface ice fully melts in the spring, the heavy

the spring water quality of lakes larger than 10 acres in size," said Mark Mitchell, a limnologist with DEC and Lake Champlain Sea Grant. "Over those 48 years, we have seen trends of earlier lake ice-out dates across Vermont and New England,

which can be a sign of climate change."

Members of the public are encouraged to report lake ice observations

using the DEC's Lake Ice Reporting form.

Many lake communities around the state also hold ice-out contests, usually in the form of a raffle where the winners can receive prizes or cash.

For more information, visit: dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds.

"Over those 48 years, we have seen trends of earlier lake ice-out dates across Vermont and New England," said Mark Mitchell.

cold water sinks, and the water column fully mixes. Water samples collected at this time of mixing show the baseline amount of phosphorus a lake will have available to fuel algae and aquatic plant growth during the spring and summer.

"Since 1977, we have collected information on

Education reform: from page 5

The vote was not unanimous, though. Rep. Rebecca Holcombe (D-Norwich) voted "No," warning that the buy-down amounts to putting property taxes on a credit card without addressing the underlying cost drivers. Rep. Jim Masland (D-Thetford) also voted "No," citing long-term sustainability concerns. Reps. Marty Feltus (R-Lyndon) and Bridget Burkhardt (D-South Burlington) voted "Yes," but expressed deep reservations and called on their colleagues to focus on lasting reforms.

Senate President *pro tem* Phil Baruth (D/P-Chittenden

Three proposals. One veto pen. And a shrinking pool of federal support. This session doesn't need to end with a grand bargain. But it does need to end with some direction.

Central) has promised that the Senate will do its part to protect taxpayers this year, but Senate Finance Chair Ann Cummings (D-Washington) has cautioned that the scope of any buy-down may be limited by federal uncertainties.

Which brings us to the grand finale. The federal picture is bleak and not making things easier. President Trump's

executive order to begin dismantling the U.S. Department of Education has sparked anxiety about the future of federal education funding. With staff already being cut and responsibilities shifting, Vermont lawmakers are keeping a close eye on Washington. If federal funds dry up, the state's budget challenges will only get much harder.

So. Three proposals. One veto pen. And a shrinking pool of federal support. This session doesn't need to end with a grand bargain. But it does need to end with some direction.

The long arm of DOGE reaches into Vermont

By Sarah Lyons, Public Assets

More than 3,000 Vermonters are caught in the on-again, off-again firings and layoffs of federal employees by the Trump administration and the Dept. of Government Efficiency (DOGE). It is challenging to keep track of who has a job and who doesn't, or even of which departments still exist.

During the first two months of Trump's second term, DOGE ordered mass layoffs of federal agency employees. Federal judges reinstated the workers in 19 agencies, including the Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and temporarily paused firings. But uncertainty remains as to whether the reinstatements will hold and how long the pause will last—if, that is, the administration complies with the court orders.

According to the Office of Personnel

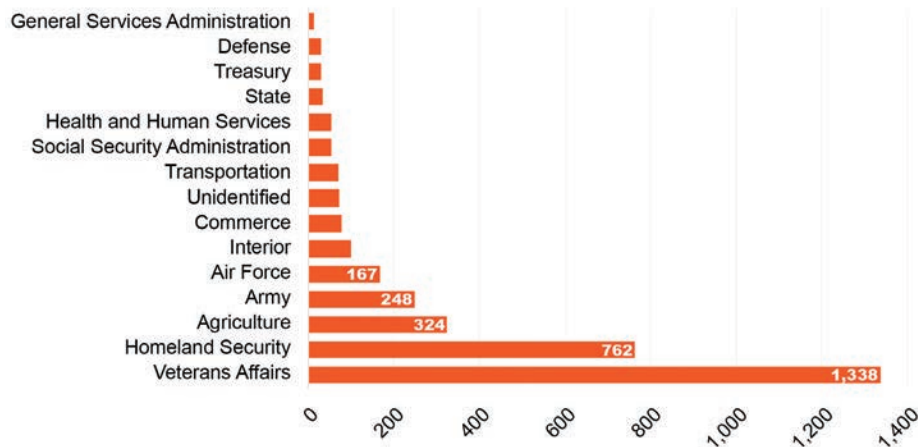
Management (OPM), which oversees the federal workforce, there are over 3,000 federal employees based in Vermont. Of these, roughly 80% are at least temporarily protected under the recent court orders; more than 500 Vermonters work for agencies that did not receive protections.

The largest federal employers in Vermont are the departments of Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and Agriculture. These three agencies account for nearly three-quarters of the state's federal workers and are all protected under the recent court orders.

Notably, the OPM data are not comprehensive. They do not count workers from several federal agencies or departments, including Vermont's nearly 1,500 postal workers, nor do they count agencies with fewer than four Vermont-based employees.

Thousands of Vermonters have federal jobs

Federal employees based in Vermont, by agency, Sep 2024



Courtesy Office of Personnel Management

Chart shows the number of Vermonters employed by the federal government by agency.

March 30 DOCTORS' DAY



Check out more artwork from local schools online

Thank you for your courage & compassion.
You are the ❤️ of our community.

 **Rutland Regional Medical Center**
www.RRMC.org | 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT | 802.775.7111
Healthy You. Healthy Together.

A look at key bills advancing in the legislature

Both chambers in the Vermont Legislature are working their way through the large number of bills that made the cross-over deadline. Cross-over is a deadline we set each year, roughly marking the halfway point of our legislative session. It forces us to finish our work on the bills in our House and Senate committees, which we hope will make it through the entire legislative process and become law. As you'll recall, each bill must be voted on and passed by each chamber before it goes to the governor for his signature.

Policy committees needed to have voted out their bills by Friday, March 14, and the money committees (House Ways & Means & Appropriations and Senate Finance & Appropriations) needed to have reviewed all those policy bills for their fiscal implications and voted them out of committee as of Friday, March 21. Now, each chamber is going through the process of reviewing, debating, and voting on these bills. As a result, we have had rather lengthy floor sessions and anticipate another week of the same as we consider all the policies contained in each bill.

The Legislature continues to work on our top priorities this session: reducing education property taxes, addressing how we can deliver high-quality public education at a sustainable cost, and addressing our housing and healthcare crises. Many other issues are being addressed as well. Some of these issues aren't always profiled by the press, but they bear focusing on. Several such bills have passed the Senate in the last week.

Many of Windsor District's town and village centers have highways running through the center of them. I've had many complaints about excessive muffler noise, and once, when I was in the House, introduced a bill to prohibit muffler modification. This year, Senator White's efforts have paid off, and the Senate passed S.66,

reducing noise pollution and improving our quality of life. The bill tightens state inspections and motor vehicle exhaust standards, prohibiting inadequately muffled vehicles and those mufflers modified to produce more noise. And it requires big heavy trucks to muffle their air compression engine brakes.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

Both measures will be appreciated by anyone who lives on a major road, dines outdoors, or is trying to talk to a walking companion.

Protecting Vermonters' data privacy is of major concern to legislators. We are addressing it in several bills this session. The first to pass the Senate is what we refer to as the "Kid's Code," S.69. The objective of this bill is to protect our Vermont youth from the increasingly addictive social media/app design features and predatory online data collection affecting our teen's behavior patterns and mental health. This bill requires that big tech companies, like Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and Facebook, limit their addictive algorithmic designs, which lead to a pattern called the 'infinite scroll' proving so harmful to those 18 and under. These apps/products are purposefully designed to prey on the vulnerabilities of our young people.

Vermonters are one step closer to having the opportunity to amend our state constitution with Proposal 3 in the 2026 general election. As required by statute, a proposal for a constitutional amendment must pass both Chambers in two consecutive biennia. It did so last biennium. Last week, with a unanimous vote, the Senate sent it to the House for its final vote before Vermonters weigh in November 2026. This proposal would enshrine Vermonter's right to organize and collectively bargain in our constitution.

Alison Clarkson can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) (802) 828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) (802) 457-4627.

Not so "Easy"

Not sure they still sell those "EASY" buttons, but we sure could have used one in the House Appropriations Committee last Friday. In an extraordinary long day, the committee finished a draft on its version of the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The \$9 billion spending plan of state and federal funds has something for everyone to take issue with.

The committee begins in January with a proposal put forth by the governor's administration and then proceeds to hear from various departments, agencies, other policy committees in the House, advocates and members of the public. Going into last week, we had about \$300 million in funding requests over and above what was in the governor's budget plan. And the funny thing was that there were few, if any, recommendations on what to cut from the governor's budget.

Given that revenue projections are established by state economists, every dollar added means a dollar needs to be reduced elsewhere. And that is where it gets messy. We all represent different districts, have different political perspectives and life experiences, which gives us each a unique lens we evaluate each change with.

Late (actually very late) Friday evening the committee came to a tentative 9-2 vote on the package of ups and downs.

I was one of the two "No"s.

I appreciated our chair's effort to work with all of us to try and find that delicate balance of ups and downs for each member, but in the end, I didn't feel comfortable with the total or all the choices we made. And I don't think the governor's team will be either.

However, as a few more adjustments were made over the weekend, I am pleased to say that I was able to get to a "Yes" when the final vote was taken, and the committee advanced the FY26 budget package on a 11-0 vote. It will now go to the full House this week for approval and then on to the Senate.

A major concern of mine had to do with \$20 million that had been previously earmarked for reducing state bonds, some of which the committee utilized to raise current spending in the budget. There were other concerns as well regarding a few new state positions, some of which were addressed. In this era of uncertainty of federal revenues and/or potential for a recession in the next few years, I have a hard time expanding the role of state government. I strongly believe in living within our means. But in the end, we reached a compromise and that is important and the way the process should work.

Although there was a bipartisan vote on the budget, that was not the case with the annual mid-year Budget Adjustment

Act bill. It was vetoed last week over the issue of extra spending and the extension of the winter rules for the hotel program through early summer. Rather than vote on an override, House leaders chose to introduce a new BAA that moved some of the extra spending to the state budget for the next fiscal year but kept the extension of the winter rules for hotel vouchers. As expected, it received preliminary passage on a party line vote and unless amended this week, it is headed for another veto. The administration has offered several compromises on the hotel program, but each was rejected by legislative leaders.

Instead, House leaders apparently chose to bring their case for expanding the hotel voucher program to the public in hopes of applying public pressure on the governor to accept the expansion. It's not going to happen from what I see. It's like the leaders haven't accepted the fact that the political balance at the State House has shifted. However, I am encouraged that at least conversations are now taking place to find common ground.

Without changes to education, Vermonters risk an even larger increase in property taxes next year if there are no surplus funds to artificially lower the rate again.

The other big news of the week may be the advancement of the annual Yield bill, which sets the statewide property tax rate. Gov. Scott proposed utilizing \$77 million of one-time funds to bring down the average statewide tax this year to help with the transition of education finance and consolidation, which they believe will save taxpayers money in the coming years. On Friday, the House Ways & Means Committee did include the \$77 million to bring down this year's rates as proposed, but thus far there has been no movement on an education reform bill. Will it be another "kick the can?"

Without changes to education, Vermonters risk an even larger increase in property taxes next year if there are no surplus funds to artificially lower the rate again.

There are many other bills moving through the State House, but until we get the budget passed the House this week, it is hard for me to get a clear picture of all the issues to give you a better summary of the key ones.

In closing, I remain hopeful that we can find the necessary compromises on the budget bills this week and move forward. If only we had the "EASY" button.

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

← Bears: from page 2

Comeau. "This will help teach bears that our yards and neighborhoods are not good places to search for food, but it will only work if everyone does their part."

Taking these precautions will also help reduce the chance of attracting other wildlife species such as raccoons, skunks and rodents.



Submitted

The VTF&W also asks Vermonters to submit reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting birdfeeders and garbage, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds. Reports can be submitted on the department's Living with Black Bears web page. The data help biologists keep track of bear incidents and provide early interventions to head off conflicts.

"At the end of the day, purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear," said Comeau. "It is also dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it is illegal. If bears are finding food on your property, it is your responsibility to remove that attractant and report a problem before the situation gets worse."

GUEST EDITORIAL

Scott's 'affordability' is not solving problems affordably

By Angelo Lynn

Before Vermonters label Gov. Scott heartless for denying “children, pregnant women, disabled Vermonters, veterans, and those fleeing domestic violence” access to the motel voucher program set to expire on April 1, voters should consider the governor’s position. For the past several terms he has run on the mantra of “affordability,” not aiding Vermonters in need nor addressing their problems.

Among other things, that has meant rejecting legislation that helps build more affordable housing, rejecting innovative efforts to tackle Vermonters’ high fuel costs, and rejecting money for childcare programs that help struggling young families.

So, it is in character that Gov. Scott vetoed H.141, a mid-term budget adjustment act he considered excessive. In that much of the funding he rejected does make living in Vermont more affordable for those in need (young families, for instance), he has a point that Vermont taxpayers can’t afford every good idea proposed. His blanket approach to denying those “good ideas” has earned him solid support throughout the state, though we suspect voters forget all the ideas he rejects and focus instead on what has become his administrative and campaign catchword: affordability.

But like Trump’s MAGA slogan, Scott’s “affordability” has many blind spots and unintended consequences.

His latest rejection is one. In a magnanimous and conciliatory letter to Scott following his veto, the Democratic Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski and Senate President *pro tem* Phil Baruth eliminated \$14.9 million the governor asked for. That funding would have helped build more affordable housing units, helped communities recover from recent flooding, and used \$1.8 million to extend a program that has kept houseless Vermonters in motels during the winter.

The only thing the two Democrats asked the governor was to extend the motel voucher program to the most vulnerable Vermonters. And they did so by asking the Dept. of Children and Families to use “existing funds,” not new funds, to extend the program’s winter weather rules through June 30.

Without the extension, nearly 600 adults and over 160 children could lose their access to motel-based shelter on April 1, with “many more” becoming ineligible in the following weeks.

Scott, however, denounced the extension, calling it a “failed program” that’s too expensive to continue. The program is no doubt imperfect, yet true to form Scott and his team have not proposed any solution.

“We have been asking the governor for four years to develop a plan to transition away from the hotel/motel program and create a long-term solution to homelessness,” said Rep. Robin Scheu, D-Middlebury, Chair of the House

“We have been asking the governor for four years to develop a plan to transition away from the hotel/motel program,” said Rep. Scheu. “For four years, we have received nothing. Instead of working with us on a path forward, he vetoed the BAA.”

Affordability → 15



Real Madness by Dave Granlund, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Vermont energy policy

Dear Editor,

I think about energy a lot. I grew up in a drafty house with cold bedrooms, whereas my best friend lived in a modern, passive solar home that was always comfortable. That contrast put the role energy consumption and efficiency played into clear focus at a young age.

This idea led me to focus on environmental conservation in college and a career in renewables. It also led me to look into the role energy plays in society. Many of our leaders and other great thinkers have discussed the role of energy in society. George W. Bush said, “Keeping America competitive requires affordable energy. And here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world” in 2006.

As we look to address various energy policies, I encourage our leaders to keep these thoughts in mind. Societally, the idea of energy independence is often viewed through the “drill baby drill” lens. But I’d challenge that’s not the solution due to our global

markets. In 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, and global natural gas supplies were disrupted, nearly doubling natural gas supplies in just a month, while at the same time, the U.S. had a surplus of natural gas production.

So what happened? Why didn’t our surplus production insulate us from these spikes? We live in a global market, and many exporters bought up all the U.S. supplies they could to reap the benefits of the high prices in Europe. It’s simple economics: when demand and supply stay the same, the price goes up. With 50% of the New England grid reliant on natural gas, this hit the grid hard. On the other side of the table, we now have an administration threatening to put tariffs on Canadian energy imports. In 2023, over 25% of Vermont’s electricity came from Hydro Quebec. This puts us in a bind with the global markets.

But there’s a path forward to greater energy independence: local energy supplies. In Vermont, we love our local syrup, local beer, and

Energy → 12

Climate initiatives are investments in Vermont’s farmers and future

Dear Editor,

I want you to imagine standing in a field surrounded by 9,000 beautiful, healthy Brussels sprout plants—months of careful planning, hard work, and abundance growing from the soil. But then, in a matter of days, relentless rain pounds the earth, drowning the roots, rotting the harvest, and washing away not just my crops but also my livelihood.

This was the reality for many farmers in the summer of 2023 when an otherwise ordinary storm swept through Vermont. It wasn’t a hurricane or some historic, once-in-a-lifetime storm—it was just another rainstorm in Vermont—except now, even “normal” storms are devastating.

I’ve been an organic farmer for 16 years, with the mission to grow nutritious food to feed my community. I cared for the soil, nurtured biodiversity, and worked in rhythm with the land. But no amount of careful stewardship can

hold back the rising tide of climate change. When extreme weather wipes away farmers’ harvests, when climate change fuels extreme storms, small-scale farmers—especially small growers working in harmony with the land—face devastating losses. They lose their incomes and often bear the financial risk alone, with little safety net. When crops fail, local healthy products don’t reach markets, and neighbors and families lose access to fresh, local food. Rural economies shrink if small farms go under, and good agricultural jobs disappear. We risk losing much of what makes Vermont a wonderful place to live.

If we do not address these vulnerabilities, work to reduce emissions, and set up safeguards now, we will have a food system dominated by large-scale industrial farming. The only farms that will survive will be those that depend on

Farmers, future → 12

CAPITOL QUOTES

Defense lapse

It was the war plans group chat heard around the world. The Atlantic journalist Jeffrey Goldberg received a request to connect on the encrypted messaging app Signal from a user named "Mike Waltz" (possibly the Trump administration's national security adviser) on March 1. Goldberg was later added to a group chat called "Houthi PC small group" with several other members who appeared to be top administration officials, including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Vice President JD Vance, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and CIA Director John Ratcliffe. According to Goldberg's claims, the group chat discussed sensitive operational information on upcoming air strikes in Yemen.

"It's 'the highest level of f*-up imaginable. These people cannot keep America safe.'"**

said Navy veteran **Pete Buttigieg** on TikTok.

"Only one word for this: FUBAR. If House Republicans won't hold a hearing on how this happened IMMEDIATELY, I'll do it my damn self,"

said Army veteran and Rep. **Pat Ryan** (D-N.Y.) on X.

"The administration is addressing what happened, apparently, an inadvertent phone number made it onto that thread. They're going to track that down and make sure that it doesn't happen again,"

said House Speaker **Mike Johnson** downplaying the seriousness of the critical security failure.

"Jeffrey Goldberg is well-known for his sensationalist spin. Here are the facts about his latest story: 1. No 'war plans' were discussed 2. No classified material was sent to the thread. 3. The White House Counsel's Office has provided guidance on a number of different platforms for President Trump's top officials to communicate as safely and efficiently as possible,"

said Press Secretary **Karoline Leavitt** on X.

How appeals drive up housing costs

By Secretary Lindsay Kurrle

Too often in Vermont, popular and necessary housing construction is derailed, delayed, or diminished by a small number of folks abusing the appeals process who have no direct skin in the game and are reluctant to welcome new neighbors. While appeals are valuable in certain cases, they also drive-up costs, affecting every home-buyer, renter, and builder in Vermont. When the project involves public money, appeals also drive-up costs for taxpayers.

The Alice Holway Drive Project in Putney is an example of all those things. Windham & Windsor Housing

Trust and Evernorth are working to build 25-units of mixed income apartments there. Funders include the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and the Vermont Dept. of Economic Development's Community Recovery and Revitalization Program, all of which fund projects with taxpayer dollars.

The housing project is within walking distance of the Putney Community Garden and Putney Farmers' Market. It's in a Designated Village Center. It will offer residents access to public transportation and nearby amenities and services. And, according to Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, "deed restrictions are put in place to ensure that the mission of affordability remains permanently".

The Alice Holway Drive project has been in the works since March 2022 and is expected to finally break ground this spring after delays largely attributable to four appeals filed by two Putney residents. The Vermont Supreme Court rejected their fourth and final appeal in November 2024 clearing the way for construction.

Elizabeth Bridgewater of Windham & Windsor Housing Trust tells the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, while there have been substantial design changes to simplify construction and save money, legal fees and increased construction costs during the three year delay raised the hard construction budget by over \$2 million. That's about \$80,000 more

Half measures or minor tweaks will be insufficient. Meaningful reform of the appeals system is needed immediately.

per apartment today than it would have cost had the project not sat idle for three years due to appeals.

Other changes during that time also increased costs; most notably, construction loan interest rates have more than doubled. Once again, an increase that could have been avoided had this project broken ground in 2022 instead of 2025. Today the overall price tag for this 25-unit mixed income housing development now sits at

\$15.4 million.

It is completely unacceptable to allow two people to deny dozens of others housing while simultaneously reducing the impact of investments made by all Vermont taxpayers.

This is not just a Putney problem. The outdated appeals process championed by some is worsening the housing crisis by denying Vermonters homes in the throes of a crisis, eroding the impact of taxpayer

It is completely unacceptable to allow two people to deny dozens of others housing while simultaneously reducing the impact of investments made by all Vermont taxpayers.

dollars designated by lawmakers to build affordable housing, and discouraging private investment without which Vermont cannot achieve its housing goals.

Consider the numbers: According to the Statewide and Regional Housing Target Report, the Windham Region (which includes Putney) needs 2,500 to 3,700 additional homes by 2030. Fighting for three years to block 25 units is no way to get there.

It's undeniable that Vermont needs more housing options. We need them for young people just getting their start, families with school-aged children, older people looking to downsize, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, workers who drive our economy, and people who want to move here and share the Vermont experience with us.

Lawmakers are understandably focused on education finance reform, but that can't be at the expense of housing. Inaction will waste even more taxpayer dollars and prolong our housing crisis instead of solving it. Half measures or minor tweaks will be insufficient. Meaningful reform of the appeals system is needed immediately.

Governor Scott's PATH for Vermont housing proposal outlines several strategies that would create more housing. Here is what we are proposing when it comes to appeals reform:

- Reduce frivolous appeals by requiring appellant to show how their property is affected by the alleged violation of land use regulation or comprehensive plan.
- Raise the threshold for petition appeals from any 20 people to 20% of the municipality.
- Require Superior Court to hear residential housing appeals within 60 days.
- If court rejects appeal, appellant may be liable for up to \$50,000 of developer's legal fees.

I urge you to contact your legislators today. If we can make meaningful appeals reform we can add to Vermont's housing stock more quickly, make affordable housing even more affordable, and give taxpayers a better return on their housing investments.

← Energy: from page 10

local cheese, so why not show love to local energy? Vermont has a thriving energy economy, with many companies offering solar energy storage and supporting local hydro facilities; some would love to offer wind if it were allowed. They provide jobs to our friends and neighbors in many forms: excavators, electricians, carpenters, accountants, project managers, marketers, truck drivers, warehouse managers, and so many more. Whereas imported fuels provide jobs elsewhere.

Having spent a decade in the renewables industry and as chair of the board for Renewable Energy Vermont, I won't tell you there's no cost. Transitioning our economies is always an investment. The original power grid and roads were costly, but they greatly benefited us. Renewables and energy storage provide that, too. It's not just about climate change; it's

energy independence and resilience for our state. For every project we install, we insulate our state from the fluctuation of the global supply chain. Yes, there's an upfront cost, but many of

It's not just about climate change; it's energy independence and resilience for our state.

these systems are financed with long-term agreements that offer a stable price for 25 years, no matter what happens globally. Now, will the companies who install and own these make a profit? Yes, because that's how you run any business. But they won't ship these electrons overseas because it's more profitable.

These systems are also distributed energy generation resources. They're all over the state in houses, libraries, businesses, town halls, local fields, and rivers. These distributed resources again provide security to our

state through the nature of the decentralized resources. If one system goes down due to an extreme weather event or, god forbid, a bad actor, the others often stay operational. When the grid

goes out, these systems can also provide backup power when paired with energy storage.

As our Legislature debates the future of renewable energy policy, the question can't just be about what's cheaper or more affordable today.

America is the world's Number One producer of oil and gas, but we still face the volatility of the markets. We need to think about the long term, the value of investing in our local economies, and the stability of our energy costs for all our citizens. Again, we support local syrup, beer, crafters, and many other local industries. Let's also support our local energy providers for a more resilient and energy-independent Vermont.

Paul Lesure, Hinesburg

← Farmers, future: from page 10

chemicals and excessive tillage and produce emissions that harm ecosystems and human health. This will intensify climate feedback loops until these farms can no longer survive in extreme climate conditions, and our entire food system will collapse.

How we farm, protect our land, and respond to climate change directly impacts the social determinants of health—the conditions that shape how we live, work, and thrive. Food, in my opinion, is the most essential determinant of all, and begins with how we protect our environment. If we ignore the climate crisis, our farms and communities will deteriorate. We have an obligation – and an opportunity – to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and move our state to more clean, local, energy-independent resources. In doing so, we must do our part to mitigate the high cost and deeply consequential risks

of ongoing, insufficient efforts to cut planet-destabilizing pollution.

We need a government of compassion, not austerity. We need lawmakers and Governor Scott to be forward-thinking and recognize what is at stake. We need real solutions – not rhetorical support. The well-being of Vermont's farmers, families, and future generations is on the line.

Vermont committed to climate resilience with the Global Warming Solutions Act, a landmark law that holds the state accountable for reducing carbon emissions and protecting communities from climate impacts in a just and cost-effective way. This law is critical to ensuring a future where farmers can withstand extreme weather, local food systems remain strong, and we all do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We do not need Bill H.289, which has been

introduced in the Vermont House of Representatives and seeks to reverse our climate progress and gut the Global Warming Solutions Act — essentially continuing to punt on essential climate solutions.

If Vermont retreats on climate action – when state leadership is more critical than ever as President Trump doubles down on fossil fuels – the result will be failed crops and increased economic instability. That reality directly threatens the health of every Vermonter who relies on clean air, stable weather, and a secure food system. We must not let that happen — far too much is at stake. We must protect our farms, food, families, and future. That is why I am calling on legislators to reject this harmful bill and instead focus on building a regenerative food system and renewable energy economy.

Jaiel Pulskamp, Worcester



Courtesy Town of Pittsfield

Pittsfield business owners, including Katie Stiles and Mark Stugart, are considering challenging a new 1% local option tax on hotel rooms, meals, and alcohol, arguing it could hurt their businesses and that the town misrepresented consultations with them.

← Option tax: from page 1

business owners.

"I wish we would've," Ruben said. "It was a mistake on my part."

Stiles asked whether the revelation of Ruben's unwitting misrepresentation could invalidate the vote on the basis that his claim may have swayed townspeople to support the tax under the false belief that the town had consulted local business owners and hadn't heard any objections. But Chair Ann Kuendig told her that the vote would stand. By Kuendig's account, only an error on the town's written warning for the meeting could call the vote's legality into question.

Ruben also pointed out that Mark Stugart, the owner of the Clear River Inn and Tavern, had attended Pittsfield's town meeting, where he had spoken against the new tax. Even after hearing this perspective, "the town overwhelmingly voted in favor of it," Ruben said.

Stugart joined Stiles at the board meeting. There, he objected to the tax's narrow focus on restaurants and hotels, arguing that other businesses should share the burden. Under Vermont law, a local option tax can also take the form of a sales tax.

"My suggestion would've been, let's do it for everyone," Stugart said.

Ruben noted that, by targeting rooms, meals, and alcoholic beverages, the town had sought to take aim at tourists specifically. But Stugart disputed the notion that restaurants attract a significantly higher share of out-of-towners than retail establishments do.

Stiles requested details on the process for mounting a petition for a chance to overturn the town's vote. According to the Vermont Dept. of Taxes, challenging a local option tax requires signatures from 10% of a municipality's eligible voters.

A Select Board can also refer an article to repeal a local option tax to the Town Meeting Day ballot. In Pittsfield, board members

indicated a willingness to reevaluate the tax at the end of the year, based on its impact upon municipal revenues and upon local businesses, and to recommend rescission or expansion.

"October, November is when you should come and talk to us about it," Selectwoman Joyce Stevens advised Stiles and Stugart.

Stevens owns the Swiss Farm Market. She supported the board's decision last fall to bring the local option tax to the voters.

"We discussed it, and I said it wouldn't

"October, November is when you should come and talk to us about it," Selectwoman Joyce Stevens advised Stiles and Stugart.

be that big of an impact on me and my business," she recalled.

According to Vermont Public, 2025's Town Meeting Day saw "at least a dozen" municipalities consider enacting local option taxes, which supplement the state's existing taxes on consumption. Kuendig described the local option tax as part of an effort to reduce Pittsfield's reliance on property taxes, alongside the Select Board's increased focus on winning grants.

"What we've been trying to do over the last three years is to diversify our revenue streams," Kuendig said.

But Stiles observed that the board's plan wouldn't work if businesses responded by fleeing town.

"Were we to leave Pittsfield and go to a different place, that property tax burden would then just fall back to people," Stiles said.

Stiles and Lasko, a chef, moved to Vermont from New York City in 2014 to operate the Pittsfield Original General Store, where they also run a seasonal fine-dining restaurant called the Backroom on Fridays and Saturdays.

← **Dept of Ed:**
from page 5

the 2026-2027 school year. In fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Education received \$493 million in federal funds, more than 90% of which it passed on as grants. Through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the state receives more than \$68 million annually, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides another \$37.5 million for Vermont's schools, Bordonaro said, among other streams of federal dollars. However, Bordonaro did not address how changes in Washington could impact state-level positions. More than 40% of the Agency of Education's staff members — 73 employees — were paid using federal funds in fiscal year 2024, according to the agency's annual budget book. Vermont has already lost some education-related funds, including \$1.7 million in USDA grants that in part supported schools' local food purchasing. The chairs of Vermont's

education committees, Sen. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, and Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, both said they had not received communications from the Agency of Education regarding the executive order. U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., spent time in the State House on Thursday, March 20, to discuss the federal impacts on the state budget. In an interview, he called Trump's then-prospective order "unconstitutional," characterizing the move as "pulling the rug out from underneath an important element of our educational system." Welch said he's all for making the Dept. of Education "less bureaucratic," but he argued the administration's actions go well beyond an attempt at good governance. "This is an illegal part of the illegal rampage that Trump is on. I mean, he has no authority to destroy by fiat an institution that was created by an act of Congress — with Republi-

can and Democratic votes, by the way," Welch said. He predicted the courts would halt the department's dismantling, but not before "so much damage" is done by the president's orders. In a statement released after the order was signed, Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., a former middle school teacher, decried the action, calling it "an absolute abandonment of our kids." "We have to fulfill our promises to them and to make it possible for every single kid to reach their fullest potential. And without the Dept. of Education, we can't provide the resources they need," Balint said in the statement. "Schools are a lifeline for so many families; this will mean schools won't be able to provide our kids with the basics." Trump's directive is not without precedent. Former President Ronald Reagan also sought the Dept. of Education's abolishment, a move that ultimately failed to garner favor.

← **Superstar:**
from page 1

The \$12 million lift replacement project is part of \$32 million in capital improvements to be completed over the next two seasons. "While we know spring skiing and riding will look a little different this year, this \$12 million investment will elevate the guest experience for decades to come," said Mike Solimano, president and CEO of Killington Resort. "We're still committed to hosting the longest ski season in the East and will stay open as long as Mother Nature allows." The K-1 Gondola will operate daily through May 11, providing access to North Ridge and the Canyon. After May 11, Snowdon Triple and lifts in the Canyon will run Friday-Sunday, as long as conditions allow. Bear Mountain lifts are expected to operate until mid-to-late April. And the Snowdon Six Express and Ramshead Express Quad plan to remain open through April 20. **The process, permits** The quad removal process is expected to take approximately six weeks. Killington aims to complete much of the work on snow, utilizing grooming tractors to access terrain that traditional construction vehicles cannot. While Superstar Trail will be closed during this time, other trails in the area will remain accessible via Launch Pad. The full project timeline is estimated to be eight months, with the new lift scheduled to debut in early December 2025. Elaine McDevitt, land use review board technician for the District 1 Environmental Commission, issued Killington Pico Ski Resort

Partners LLC its Land Use Permit amendment to begin the transition, on March 24. The permit "specifically authorizes the replacement of an existing 3700-foot Superstar Quad Chairlift with a 6-place carrier chairlift along the same centerline and length. More specifically, this permit authorizes the deconstruction and removal of the existing lift and associated buildings; new construction of lift towers and top and bottom terminals; installation of a carrier integrated maintenance structure and stand-alone generator; and associated site grading and drainage improvements." Construction hours (including helicopter operations) shall be limited to official sunrise to official sunset, the permit further states, with blasting hours limited from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The permit also states that the resort must remove the existing tower located within the riparian zone by flush cutting the metal tower and pecking the concrete so the top of the concrete is below ground surface. Additional precautions must also be taken during Bicknell's Thrush nesting season (from May 1 to Aug. 15). During that time no tree cutting or removal is allowed, the resort must use double blast matting, restricting helicopter flights to the area between the lower elevation staging area (the existing resort parking lot adjacent to the bottom terminal) and the top terminal of the Superstar lift and along the Superstar lift line; and use an excavator in lieu of a helicopter to deliver and pour concrete, wherever feasible.

NIGHT RUNS AND FAMILY FUN

Hit the slopes after dark on illuminated trails for all levels

- Discovery Zone and beginner trail with free carpet area
- Firepits, live music, and warm refreshments for après-ski
- Special weeknight pricing





Pico

GET STOKED.



Next season is only months away! Plan ahead and score the best deal on a season pass for unlimited skiing and riding next season at Pico Mountain.

WORDPLAY

FINANCIAL TIMES WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| ACCOUNT | APPRAISAL | BUDGET | GROSS | LIABILITIES | PERCENTAGE |
| ACCRAUAL | ASSETS | DEPRECIATION | INCOME | MARGINS | PROFIT |
| ALLOCATION | BALANCE | DIVERSIFY | INTEREST | MARKET | RATE |
| AMORTIZATION | BOND | EQUITY | INVEST | NET | STOCK |

Affordability:
from page 10

Committee on Appropriations. "For four years, we have received nothing. Instead of working with us on a path forward, he vetoed the BAA over three more months of shelter for people who have nowhere else to go."

Since Rep. Scheu's statement, Scott thought better of his stance and agreed with Democrats to allow families with children to remain housed in the program, but not so for pregnant women, disabled veterans or those fleeing domestic violence.

The governor's decision to reject most of the motel program isn't without political consideration. He's popular largely because the public has bought into a mistaken aura: that's he's been a good leader by virtue of saying no to spending. Scott knows the motel program isn't popular with a majority of voters, and it's a way for him to show he's tough on keeping Vermont "affordable" by denying a pittance of spending.

The far more difficult challenge, of course, is to solve problems affordably. That he has done so little to lead the state in solving its many challenges, and yet remained so popular, is what Democrats in the Legislature find so frustrating. But until voters recognize the difference between "solving problems affordably" and an "affordability agenda," Scott can toss the most vulnerable Vermonters out in the street while too many Vermonters continue to applaud.

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in New York on March 28, 1986. I attended an all-girls school in Manhattan from age 11. Since releasing my debut album in 2008, I have won multiple Grammy Awards and have become known for fashion stunts. In 2018, I starred in a remake of a movie made popular by Barbra Streisand.

Answer: Lady Gaga

CROSSWORD PUZZLE Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS	word	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
1. State in southwestern India	51. A phase of the heartbeat															
4. Pashto	52. Northern Ireland county															
10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)	53. An independent ruler or chieftain	12	13	14			15									
11. Supervised release from prison	54. Pacific sea bream	16		17				18		19 20 21						
12. Greeting	55. Commercial	22					23									
14. Type of drug	56. Azure	24				25		26		27						
15. ___ Sagan, astronomer	58. Doctor of Education				28		29			30						
16. Every year	59. Protected oneself against loss	31	32	33		34			35		36					
18. Nasal cavities	60. Car mechanics group	37			38			39								
22. Nova __, province	CLUES DOWN	40				41			42		43 44 45 46 47					
23. In an inactive way	1. Pastes for filling crevices	48			49					50						
24. Cream-colored root	2. Acquire	51								52						
26. Nervous system disease	3. Heralds									54		55				
27. Guitarist Clapton	4. News group				53											
28. Three came to see Baby Jesus	5. Exact copies									56			57	58		
30. Lebowsky's nickname	6. Particles													59		60
31. Play a role	7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena															
34. Not fresh	8. Tempted															
36. Where golfers begin	9. Midway between north and east															
37. Negatives	speaking															
39. Wild goat	21. Imperial Chinese currency															
40. Releasing hormone	12. Slotted, hinged metal plate															
41. Makes up	13. South American hummingbird															
42. Fastens	17. Neither															
48. Exists in large numbers	19. Walk with confidence															
50. A connecting	20. Omit when															
	35. Makes a trade															
	38. Sleep															
	41. Not moving															
	43. Popular drink: Pina ___															
	44. Potential benefits															
	45. A place you can get stuck in															
	46. Ancient Greek City															
	47. Chalcedony															
	49. Rover															
	56. Digraph															
	57. Investment vehicle															



SUDOKU Solutions → 30

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

WED
3/26

S.E.A.T. Exercises

9-10 a.m. (Wednesdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853.

Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays) The Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal. 908-783-1050.

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Road, Woodstock. \$15 or \$30 for three classes. Yoga class for seniors. wisepines.com/events.

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. (Wednesdays) Hartland Public Library, 135 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar or 802-436-2473.

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

3:30-4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Women in Business Mixer

5-8 p.m. The Mad Rose, 42 Center St., Rutland. Free for Downtown Rutland business owners/employees, \$25 others. Connect and engage in structured discussions and casual networking with women business owners in the Downtown Rutland community. Refreshments provided; registration required. downtownrutland.com/womeninbusinessvents.

Meet Greta Solsaa: VTDigger's Southern Vermont Reporter

5:30-7 p.m. The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. VTDigger hosts an informal community event introducing Greta Solsaa, its Southern Vermont reporter. Meet Greta, a Rutland native, discuss local issues, and share ideas for regional coverage. Refreshments provided. Registration required. eventbrite.com/e/meet-greta-solsaa-vtdiggers-southern-vermont-reporter-registration-1270585648879.

Endangered Alphabets, Cultural Erosion, and the Future of the Written Word

6 p.m. Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St., Brandon. Free. Writer and woodcarver Tim Brookes explores the impact of digital technology and globalization on endangered writing systems. Featuring carved script displays, the discussion examines how language and culture intersect in a rapidly changing world. brandonpubliclibrary.org/events.

Watercolor Wednesdays

6-7:30 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$25. Join artist Caitlin for a relaxed watercolor workshop. Materials provided. Attend multiple sessions in March for a gift certificate bonus. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Beginner & Intermediate Line

Dancing Lessons
6-8:30 p.m. Springfield Vermont Recreation Center, 139 Main St., Springfield. \$15 beginner, \$10 intermediate (\$5 if attending beginner). Learn line dancing with beginner lessons from 6-7:30 p.m., followed by improver/intermediate lessons from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Outside food and non-alcoholic beverages permitted. Wednesdays through May 21, except April 23. copperheadlinedancing.com.

Cold Case Files: The East Middlebury Murders of 1935

6:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. State Archivist Tanya Marshall and Investigator Kris Bowdish revisit the infamous 1935 East Middlebury murders, unraveling intriguing details and revealing recent discoveries in one of Vermont's most sensational cold cases. rutlandfree.org.

Film Screening: 'Just Getting By'

6:30 p.m. Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium, Depot St., Ludlow. Free. View the new documentary "Just Getting By," directed by Bess O'Brien, exploring the daily struggles and resilience of low-income Vermonters. A Q&A session with O'Brien follows the film. Attendees are encouraged to bring donations for a food collection supporting Black River Good Neighbors. Hosted by Fletcher Memorial Library, Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, and Mount Holly Town Library. 802-228-8921 or fmlnews.org.

Folk and Roots Concert

6:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10 adults, \$5 seniors/students. A benefit concert for the West Rutland School Music Department featuring Westside Roots Band with Phil Henry and Mitch Barron. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Film Screening: 'Mickey 17'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. A sci-fi thriller about a disposable employee sent to colonize an ice world, only to be regenerated after each death with most memories intact. Rated R. playhousemovietheater.com.

THURS
3/27

Intermediate Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853.

Survivors Support Group

10 a.m.-noon. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Fliers are available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick.

Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323.

Communication Skills Class

10-11:30 a.m. (Thursdays through April 24), Bugbee Senior Center, 262 No. Main St., White River Jct. Learn how to improve communication, reduce stress, and build healthier relationships. This course is led by Jeanne Childs. Sign-up required before the first session. 802-295-9068 or email hello@bugbeecenter.org.

Chaffee: Artery

Noon. (Thursdays) Adults. Connect and create with others. \$10-\$20. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

**MARSH LIGHTS
IN CONCERT**

FRI. @ 7:30 P.M.



Ukelele Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Thursdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Attendees will play a collection of sheet music. All levels welcome, ages 12+. Must pre-register by Wednesday at noon. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Woodstock & Vermont Trivia Game

1:30-2:30 p.m. Woodstock History Center, 26 Elm St., Woodstock. Free. Part of the Anti-Cabin Fever Series, this interactive, low-key trivia game focuses on Woodstock and Vermont history. Participants score their own answers, emphasizing learning over competition, with a prize for the top scorer. woodstockhistorycenter.org.

Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. (Thursdays) Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295.

Mandala Painting Workshop

5:30-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$25. Enjoy a mindful and relaxing experience with Mandala Dot Art, tea, and treats. This guided workshop explores creativity, self-expression, and the history of the Chaffee Art Center. All supplies included. Pre-registration required. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Queer/2SLGBTQIA+ Book Club: Romance and Fiction (18+)

6-7:30 p.m. Rutland County Pride Center, 106 West St., Suite 1, Rutland. Book club focusing on queer fiction and romance novels, providing a welcoming space for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and allies (18+). rutlandcountypride.org.

'Hamlet' in Concert

7-9 p.m. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, 45 Alumni Dr., Castleton. \$10. VTSU's Theatre Arts Program and Castleton Wind Symphony present Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in a unique concert format, blending theater and music for a fresh take on the classic tragedy. vermontstate.edu.

Film Screening: 'Mickey 17'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. A sci-fi thriller about a disposable employee sent to colonize an ice world, only to be regenerated after each death with most memories intact. Rated R. playhousemovietheater.com.

**NOAM PIKELNY
AND FRIENDS**

FRI. @ 7:30 P.M.



← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 16

FRI
3/28

Senior Café

10-11 a.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 US-5, Hartland. Free. Monthly gathering on the first Friday for unprogrammed social time with refreshments. Technical support appointments available by request. Transportation assistance may be arranged through Volunteers in Action. admin@aginginartland.org or via@mahhc.org.

Bone Builders

11 a.m.-noon. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class that focuses on weight training and balance exercises to improve strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. A place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Movement For Life with Melissa Cox

1:30-3 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Refer to website for details. Melissa Cox (ACSM-GEI) presents a discussion on the importance of physical activity for aging adults, covering strength, balance, endurance, and cognitive functioning. Participants will engage in movement exercises. Part of the Spring 2025 OLLI program. learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland.

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class, \$10 for students, \$12 for RRMC employees and family. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

'13 Reasons To Quit Being A Pirate': One-Act Comedy

6 p.m. Jennifer Bagley Theater, Mount St. Joseph Academy, 127 Convent Ave., Rutland. \$5 adults, \$2 students and seniors. MSJ's Shoestring Theater presents a one-act performance of the comedy "13 Reasons To Quit Being A Pirate." msjvermont.org.

ANNUAL DRIVE-UP RABIES CLINIC

SAT. | 1-3 P.M.



Film Screening: 'Snow White' (PG)

7-9 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$12. Disney's live-action remake of the 1937 classic comes to the big screen. pentanglearts.org.

Live Reggae with Organically Good Trio

7-10 p.m. The Little Theatre, 54 River St., Woodstock. Boston-based Hammond organ band Organically Good Trio brings reggae-infused grooves to Woodstock, featuring Paul Wolstencroft (Slightly Stoopid), Tommy Benedetti (John Brown's Body), and Van Gordon Martin (Dub Apocalypse). Local blues-rock trio The Freeze Brothers will open. eventbrite.com/e/pressure-drop-a-night-of-reggae-blues-with-organically-good-trio-tickets-1218636999069.

Film Screening: 'Novocaine'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Man who feels no pain fights for the girl of his dreams. Rated R. playhousemovietheater.com.

Marsh Lights in Concert

7:30 p.m. Old Firehouse, Mountain View Road, Tinmouth. \$20. Vermont acoustic quintet Marsh Lights performs original progressive bluegrass and folk songs from their new album, "Cover the Water," featuring vocalist-songwriter Colby Crehan. tinmouthvt.org.

Noam Pikelný and Friends

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$35.75-\$51.80. Renowned banjoist Noam Pikelný, a founding member of Punch Brothers and Grammy-winning musician, brings his masterful bluegrass sound to the stage. paramountvt.org.

SAT
3/29

38th Annual Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championships

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Lamoyille Union High School, 736 VT-15, Hyde Park. Vermont's official selection tournament for national chess invitations, open to K-12 students who are Vermont residents or enrolled in Vermont schools. Chessboards, pieces, and clocks provided. Pre-registration required by March 23; no walk-ins allowed. vermontchess.org.

Love Your Peaks Breast Cancer Fundraiser

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Killington K-1 Lodge, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Boarding for Breast Cancer (B4BC) hosts Love Your Peaks, featuring a ski-style poker run, raffles, silent auction, live music, and tribute ride, supporting breast cancer prevention and survivor programs. Register online to participate. b4bc.org. killington.com.

Vermont Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Shop local produce, crafts, and goods every Saturday through May 10, 2025. vtfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. See an operating HO scale model railroad set up and displays of hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and more. facebook.com/p/Rutland-RailwayAssociati on-100066761013097/.



PICO SEASON PASS HOLDER APPRECIATION PARTY

SAT. @ 11:30 A.M.

Pico Season Pass Holder Appreciation Party

11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Pico Mountain, 73 Alpine Dr., Killington. Free for pass holders. Pico Mountain thanks its season pass holders with a free slopeside lunch featuring burgers, hot dogs, salads, and desserts. Enjoy live music from Duane Carleton in the Last Run Lounge at 1 p.m. and enter a pass holder-exclusive raffle at 4 p.m. picomountain.com.

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. (Saturdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Annual Drive-Up Rabies Clinic

1-3 p.m. Rutland High School Parking Lot, 22 Stratton Rd, Rutland. \$15. Dr. Philippa Richards of Kedron Valley Vet Clinic offers drive-up rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats. Pets must be restrained (dogs on leashes, cats in carriers), and owners must bring proof of prior vaccination. Cash only. Hosted by WSA Humane Society. 802-672-5302.

Just Do the Damn Thing! Poetry & Art Workshop

2:30-4:15 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Upstairs, Rutland. \$10-\$30. Bianca Zanella of The Paper Poet leads a playful workshop exploring joyful imperfection through writing, meditation, and creative expression. Participants will confront perfectionism and embrace artistic freedom. All materials provided. Pre-registration required. kaleidoscopeartsupplies.com.

Rollerderby: Vixens vs. Mass Attack

4-6 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$5-\$15, free for children under 5. Twin State Derby's Vixens face off against Mass Attack Roller Derby in a high-energy bout. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. twinstatederby.com

Alice Howe and Freebo in Concert

7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 320 Route 5 South, Norwich. \$20. Award-winning Americana singer-songwriter Alice Howe performs with acclaimed musician Freebo, featuring songs from her chart-topping folk albums. Sponsored by Roots & Wings Coffeehouse. sevendaystickets.com/events/alice-howe-and-freebo-3-29-2025.

Film Screening: 'Snow White' (PG)

7-9 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$12. Disney's live-action remake of the 1937 classic comes to the big screen. pentanglearts.org.

Film Screening: 'Novocaine'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Man who feels no pain fights for the girl of his dreams. Rated R. playhousemovietheater.com.

← Calendar:
from page 17

CPR/AED/FIRST AID CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION

SUN. | NOON - 2 P.M.



SUN
3/30

Pancake Breakfast

7:30-10:30 a.m. Castleton American Legion, 378 Route 4A, Castleton. \$4-\$8. All you can eat breakfast, including pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice. Proceeds benefit Castleton Volunteer Fire Association and community. 802-236-0203.

Guided Hike on Glen Lake Trail

8 a.m. Bomoseen State Park, 22 Cedar Mountain Rd., Bomoseen. Free. Join a guided all-day hike from Bomoseen State Park to Half Moon Pond State Park, covering diverse terrain with a lunch stop at Half Moon campground. This moderate-to-challenging hike is not recommended for beginners. Dress in layers and bring water, snacks, and a bag lunch. To register, contact hike leader Caitlin Gates. caitlin.s.gates@gmail.com.

CPR/AED/First Aid Certification & Recertification

Noon-2 p.m. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Lane, White River Junction. \$130. Certification and recertification course for CPR, AED, and first aid training, offering updated emergency response protocols. Participants must complete a 2.5-hour online course one week prior. Computer access required. uvac.captyn.com.

Film Screening: 'Novocaine'

2 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Man who feels no pain fights for the girl of his dreams. Rated R. playhousemovietheater.com.

Film Screening: 'Snow White' (PG)

3-5 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$12. Disney's live-action remake of the 1937 classic comes to the big screen. pentanglearts.org.

Champlain Philharmonic Spring Concert Featuring Diana Fanning

4 p.m. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St., Rutland. \$5-\$15. The Champlain Philharmonic presents a vibrant concert featuring legendary pianist Diana Fanning performing Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3." The program also includes works by Vermont composer Patricia Julien, Manuel De Falla's "Ritual Fire Dance," Borodin's "Symphony No. 3," and music set to the animated film "Two Balloons." Tickets available at the door (cash/check) or online. champlainphilharmonic.org.

MON
3/31

Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323.

Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. This week's film is "Arthur's Whisky," starring Diane Keaton. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

TUES
4/1

Line Dance Classes

5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays) Bradford Methodist Church, 186 N Main St., Bradford. \$10. Easy line dancing at 5:30 p.m., perfect for novices, followed by a 6:30 p.m. beginner-level class. All ages welcome. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No need to register in advance. jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com.

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class, \$10 for students, \$12 for RRMCA employees and family. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

Rutland Area Toastmasters

6-7:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesday) Courcelle Bldg, 16 North St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening, and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org.

Film Screening: 'Women's Adventure Film Series 2025'

6:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$5. Presented by Vermont State University, Randolph Recreation Department, Gear House, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective and Playhouse Movie Theatre. playhousemovietheater.com.

ONGOING

Film Screening: 'Single Use Planet'

March 26-28. Virtual event. Free. Stream the animated documentary "Single Use Planet," narrated by Peter Coyote, exploring connections between public health, plastics, and government policy. Donations support local arts. Hosted by Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts. sustainablewoodstock.org/event/single-use-planet-film-screening/.

2025 Annual Student Exhibit: An Artful Adventure

Through April 4. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Opening day event on March 8. Celebrate young artists from Vermont schools and homeschoolers as their work is displayed in a professional gallery setting. Featuring a variety of artistic disciplines, including visual arts, theater, culinary, poetry, and music. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Call for Art: 2025 Artist Member Show

Submission deadline: April 1. Stone Valley Arts invites artists to submit up to five works in any genre, including painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, and jewelry. Accepted artists will be notified by April 6. Artwork drop-off: April 12-13, 12-4 p.m., or by appointment. The exhibition runs April 26-June 8. At least one piece must be for sale. Submit at tinyurl.com/SVA25. Membership required; renew at tinyurl.com/SVA26. stonevalleyartscenter@gmail.com

Cooking Classes at Mission Farm

Check website for classes and registration. The Kitchen at Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Learn to cook, host an event, or teach a class in Mission Farm's open kitchen space. missionfarmkitchen.org.

Fierce Females Pop-Up Exhibit

Through April 5. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate Women's History Month with Fierce Females by Finnie Trimpi, a collection of 61 portraits honoring inspiring stories and collective strength. artistreevt.org.

MUD (Season) Exhibit

Through April 19. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate the arrival of spring with Artistree's annual MUD (Season) Exhibit, showcasing 2-D and 3-D works from 60+ local artists inspired by Vermont's seasonal transition. artistreevt.org.

'Waitress'

Through April 13. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$27-\$97. This Broadway hit, featuring music by Sara Bareilles, follows Jenna, a pie-making waitress who finds the courage to change her life after an unexpected pregnancy. Directed by Carol Dunne. northernstage.org.

UPCOMING

Call for Entries: 'Unbound Vol. XIII' – A Celebration of Book Art

Submit up to three works by April 5, 2025. Artistree Community Arts Center & Gallery, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$30. Artists and writers from VT, NH, and New England are invited to submit pieces for "Unbound Vol. XIII," showcasing both traditional and unconventional Artist's Books, as well as 2D and 3D book-inspired art. Exhibition runs April 25-May 24, with awards given for People's Choice and Curator's selections. artistreevt.org/unbound-vol.xiii-cfe.

Cedar Mountain Farm Summer Camp

June 23-27, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Cedar Mountain Farm, 225 Pavillion Road, Hartland. \$350. A hands-on farm experience for ages 8-12, featuring livestock care, gardening, and activities like tie-dyeing, flower pressing, and making butter and ice cream. Registration closes March 28. cedarmountainfarm.org.

CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC SPRING CONCERT FEATURING DIANA FANNING

SUN. @ 4 P.M.



[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
3.26

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Open Mic hosted by Liz Reedy

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW
6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

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

QUECHEE
6 p.m. The Public House – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

LONDONDERRY
7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel & Catnip John

LUDLOW
6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

POMFRET
6 p.m. Rumney Barn – Quincy Saul Research + Development

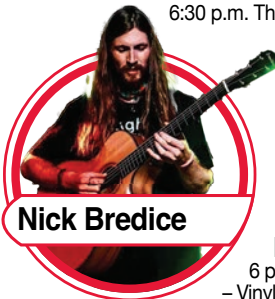
POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUECHEE
6 p.m. Public House Pub – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

SOUTH POMFRET
7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

WOODSTOCK
7 p.m. Ottawaquechee Yacht Club – New Roots



Nick Bredice



Jenny Porter

THUR
3.27

BOMOSEEN
6:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom - Trivia Night

BRANDON
5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Nelson

CASTLETON
7 p.m. Casella Theater – Hamlet in Concert

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary

6 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Trivia with Sunset Entertainment

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Reprise

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



FRI
3.28

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

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Cammy Errington

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Music by Cooper

7 p.m. Casella Theater – Hamlet in Concert

CHESTER
6:30 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – Arthur Buez

SAT
3.29

BOMOSEEN
5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – James Joel

BRIDGEWATER
8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with Headliners Tony Sykowski & Connor Dixon

CASTLETON
7 p.m. Casella Theater – Hamlet in Concert

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown and Nick Bredice

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Rhys Chalmers

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

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

6 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Rick Webb

6 p.m. Rivershed – Hitch

7 p.m. Casey's Caboose – Tboneicus Jones

7 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

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

7:30 p.m. The Foundry – Daniel Brown

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Pop Rocks

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

QUECHEE
5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with Peter Concilio featuring Bob and Grace

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Collin Nevins

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Kowalski Brothers

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room - Livin' in The Blues with Em & Nat

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

8 p.m. Angler Pub – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

KILLINGTON
1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Liz Reedy

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Rhys Chalmers

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

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

3 p.m. Still on the Mountain (Outdoor Patio) – Apres Ski with a Live DJ

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Jamie's Junk Show with special guest opener Jenny Porter & Krishna Guthrie

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Public House at the Summit Lodge – Rambletree

6 p.m. Rivershed – Hitch

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Rhys Chalmers

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Ally & Adam

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet Band

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Pop Rocks

LONDONDERRY
3 p.m. Black Line Tavern at Magic Mountain – Sammy B

LUDLOW
9 a.m. Okemo's Sunburst Six Bubble Chair – Lift Line Dance Party with DJ Dave

2 p.m. Okemo's Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with Dustin Marshall

2 p.m. Okemo's The Bull – Ryan Fuller

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Arthur James

6 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with No Signal

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Moose Lodge – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE
7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington & Tuff Luv

WOODSTOCK
6:30 p.m. Ottawaquechee Yacht Club – Brooks Hubbard



Krishna Guthrie

SUN
3.30

CASTLETON
2 p.m. Casella Theater – Hamlet in Concert

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredice and Sammy B

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Scott Forrest

2 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Extra Stout

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic Night hosted by Liz Reedy

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

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

LUDLOW
11 a.m. Okemo's Solitude 43 North Restaurant – Sunday's with Sammy B

1 p.m. Okemo's The Bull Patio – Gordon Turrisi

QUECHEE
2 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with Sleeveless Tease feat. Narah Sparks

RUTLAND
9 p.m. CJ Suds South – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE
7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem



MON
3.31

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

5 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Tboneicus Jones

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with John Lackard

6:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Fistful of Artists

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Rhys Chalmers

LUDLOW
5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night hosted by Indigenous Entertainment

RUTLAND
7 p.m. Angler's Pub – Trivia hosted by Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE
5 p.m. Wild Fern – Bow and River

WOODSTOCK
6:30 p.m. Ottawaquechee Yacht Club – Bluegrass Etc. Jam with Ben Kogan

TUES
4.1

PITTSFIELD
7 p.m. Town Hall – Open Jam

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Center Street Alley – EDM Night with DJ EG, DJ Sims and Sunset Dreamz

To make channeling Bruce Springsteen look EZ, Hank Azaria needed to put in the work

When Hank Azaria and his EZ Street Band perform at the Paramount Theatre, audiences will become a part of the celebration

By James Kent

No adult enjoys hitting those milestone birthdays, and when Emmy-Award-winning actor Hank Azaria saw his 60th birthday approaching last year, he opted to do something to cheer himself up. Calling it a “gift of joy” to himself and his friends, Azaria decided to throw a birthday celebration. As part of this occasion, Azaria conjured up a wild idea: he’d perform at the party as one of his musical idols, Bruce Springsteen.

For Azaria, known worldwide for his vocal work on “The Simpsons” and recognized for his many film and television performances, just doing a passable imitation of “The Boss” would not do. No, to convince his friends and family that he could do more than just an impression of Springsteen, Azaria went to work. He methodically underwent a rigorous training process for six months leading up to the event to surpass expectations and turn in a believable Bruce Springsteen that could hold up under scrutiny.

When doing voice work, Azaria said he doesn’t do vocal preparation. “I reject process because the way I make sounds is so odd, and doing something ‘properly’ doesn’t work for me,” Azaria said during a conversation with the Mountain Times. “But with singing like Bruce, I had no choice but to learn proper techniques. Bruce has such a specific rasp to his voice that if I didn’t do it properly, I’d damage my voice.”

Singing isn’t something Azaria has a background in. He didn’t sing in the school chorus; there were no garage bands in his history. Azaria has had to sing as characters on “The Simpsons,” and he did sing in his Broadway performance in “Spamalot,” but becoming Bruce Springsteen is taking things to a whole new level of performance.

“Speaking as a performer, it’s been a long time since this old dog has learned any new tricks,” Azaria said. “But this is the most obsessed I’ve gotten with a performance in my life.”

There will be surprises and improv moments for the audience, so anyone who comes out to the Paramount next month is sure to be in for a fantastic evening.

A performance with a benefit

As Azaria’s debut birthday performance approached, he realized attendees might want to bring him gifts. Azaria has had a passion for charity work over the past 35 years of his career, most focused on education efforts. Five years ago, he and his wife started the 4 Through 9 Foundation to channel those various efforts into an efficient way to make a difference. Instead of gifts, Azaria asked guests to consider donating to the foundation.

On Birthday Game day, Azaria surprised himself by feeling something he never felt in all his years in the entertainment industry—nerves. “I felt like I was having a full-blown anxiety attack.”

But the reaction to Azaria’s uncanny performance as Bruce Springsteen, backed by musical friends who have since become Azaria’s EZ Street Band, proved so positive that Azaria realized

this would not be a one-night-only performance. His efforts generated \$30,000 for the 4 Through 9 Foundation. And with that, a new idea was born: take the show on the road.

Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band: An evening to celebrate and GIVE back

Azaria and his cleverly named band (a nod to Bruce Springsteen’s E-Street Band) have done several shows, including the Stone Pony, and are doing a small tour this spring to spread the joy. All net proceeds from these shows will go to the 4 Through 9 Foundation, so people who come to the show will not only be in for a great evening but also support a worthy cause.

When Azaria hits the stage at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland on May 3, it will mark the very first time he’s visited the Green Mountain State.

“I’ve been all over New England and spent a good deal of time in Maine, but

this is the first time I’ve ever been to Vermont,” Azaria said.

Azaria and his band have learned 30 Springsteen songs and will vary the set list (a good dozen or so songs for every show). In between songs, Azaria (performing in character) will tell some fun stories about his life. There will be surprises and improv moments for the audience, so anyone who comes out to the Paramount next month is sure to be in for a fantastic evening.

No one is as surprised as Azaria was at the strange turn of events that led him on this new journey of discovery. Before the idea of singing like Springsteen came to him, the last thing on Azaria’s mind was any type of singing career. “But,” he said, “If you are considerate enough to consider yourself, you can find new avenues to investigate.”

And that’s the takeaway: age is just a number, and you’re never too old to learn new things and challenge yourself. Azaria took on a challenge, and it’s been rewarding in many ways. And on May 3, you can come to the Paramount and feel the inspiration of Bruce Springsteen channeling out of Azaria and the EZ Street Band.

Tickets for Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band are available at paramount-vt.org.



Submitted
Award Winning performer Hank Azaria will take the stage at the Paramount Theatre on May 3 with his EZ Street band, performing Bruce Springsteen songs and telling stories about his life.

Love Your Peaks cancer fundraiser at Killington

Saturday, March 29 at 9 a.m.—KILLINGTON— Killington resort hosts Boarding for Breast Cancer’s (B4BC) Love Your Peaks fundraising event, supporting breast cancer awareness, prevention, and survivor programs. Participants are invited to register, fundraise, and dedicate a day on the slopes to promote a healthy, active lifestyle as the best means for breast cancer prevention. Activities include a ski-style poker run, silent auction, raffles, and live music. A tribute ride will take place at 2:45 p.m. from the top of the K-1 Gondola. Registration is open now, and volunteers are welcome.

Love Your Peaks events are part of a nationwide initiative organized by B4BC, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to providing education, prevention, and survivor support programs for young people since its founding in 1996. Funds raised during the Killington event directly support educational outreach, young survivor wellness retreats, and ongoing efforts to encourage active lifestyles as a strategy for breast cancer prevention.

Event schedule:

- Poker run registration: 9-11 a.m., B4BC tent (K-1 Lodge patio)
- Silent auction: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., K-1 Lodge (3rd floor)
- Pink poker run: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Resort-wide
- Awards: 1:30 p.m., B4BC tent (K-1 Lodge patio)
- Raffle: 2 p.m., B4BC tent (K-1 Lodge patio)
- Meet-up for tribute ride: 2:30 p.m., B4BC tent (K-1 Lodge patio)
- Tribute ride: 2:45 p.m., Top of K-1 Gondola
- Live music: 2:30-5:30 p.m., K-1 Lodge (3rd floor)
- Silent auction closes: 3 p.m., K-1 Lodge (3rd floor)
- Second raffle: 4:30 p.m., K-1 Lodge (3rd floor)

For more information, visit: b4bc.org.



Killington hosts the B4BC Love Your Peaks breast cancer fundraising event on Saturday, March 29

Submitted



Courcelle SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are available to all Rutland County High School Seniors

Applications can be found at your school guidance counselors office, or online at pegtv.com



APPLY TODAY!

pegtv.com 802-747-0151

Legendary pianist Diana Fanning headlines Champlain Philharmonic spring concert

Sunday, March 30 at 4 p.m. —RUTLAND— The Champlain Philharmonic returns to Grace Congregational Church for its spring concert series featuring acclaimed pianist Diana Fanning. Celebrating its 21st season, the orchestra welcomes Fanning, who will perform Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3—the same piece she performed in the Philharmonic’s inaugural concert two decades ago. Fanning, renowned internationally for her solo and chamber performances, brings deep musicality praised by critics for her “rich spectrum of subtle colors and tonal nuances.”

Continuing its tradition of showcasing Vermont com-

posers, the program will premiere “Among the Hidden,” composed by Patricia Julien, a professor at the University of Vermont. The concert also includes Manuel De Falla’s spirited “Ritual Fire Dance,” Borodin’s rarely performed Symphony No. 3 (completed by Alexander Glazunov after Borodin’s death), and a special performance accompanying the animated short film “Two Balloons,” which tells a touching love story of two lemurs.

Tickets (\$5-\$15) are available at the door (cash or check only) or online.

For more information, visit: champlainphilharmonic.org.



Courtesy Champlain Philharmonic

The Champlain Philharmonic will perform at Grace Church in Rutland on Sunday, March 30.

Bill's Landscaping

GREEN MOUNTAIN DIVISION LLC

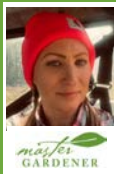


Services Offered

- Tree Removal
- Trail Building
- Onsite Firewood Processing
- Onsite Sawmill Services
- Landscape Design and Consultation
- Landscape Construction and Installation
- Master Gardner Planning and Design
- Arborist Services



Gardening Tip of the Week



The benefits of creating a multipurpose landscape such as an edible landscape has benefits where the pros out weigh the cons. Given Vermont's vast hardiness zones due to mountains and valleys, the Blueberry Bush is a secure fit to consider. Blueberry Bushes are a cold hearty shrub that offer many varieties that provide greenery all summer, pink and white flowers in late spring, fruit for summer, and vibrant colors of yellow, orange, and red for an Autumn finish. They are versatile and can be used as borders, privacy, and decorative for the front of your home. Not only do Blueberry Bushes give back to us, they give back to nature.



802-503-3787

Licensed and Insured

Bridgewater | Killington | Woodstock | Barnard | Plymouth and surrounding towns

Chris Janson brings high-energy country music to the Paramount Theatre

Saturday, April 5 at 7 p.m. —RUTLAND— Country music star Chris Janson will take the stage at the Paramount Theatre for a one-night-only concert packed with chart-topping hits, heartfelt storytelling, and undeniable energy. A Grand Ole Opry member and multi-platinum artist, Janson is known for his dynamic live performances and signature blend of rowdy fun and emotional depth.



With five No. 1 singles to his name—including “Buy Me A Boat,” “Fix A Drink,” “Good Vibes,” and his recent chart-topper “All I Need Is You”—Janson has carved a place for himself among country music’s most consistent hitmakers. He’s also been recognized by the CMA and ACM Awards

for standout songs like “Drunk Girl,” which earned critical acclaim and a nomination for CMA Song of the Year. Two of his best-known tracks, “Buy Me A Boat” and “Drunk Girl,”

were honored by the Nashville Songwriters Association International as Songs I Wish I’d Written.

Praised by Rolling Stone as “a live legacy in the making,” Janson is known for electrifying performances that channel his passion for the outdoors and love of real-life storytelling. The harmonica-playing multi-instrumentalist has become a staple on major festival stages and national tours, connecting with audiences through a mix of high-octane anthems and reflective ballads.

Please note: Tickets for the April 5 concert range from \$85 to \$110 and are selling fast.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: paramountvt.org.

Courtesy Chris Janson

Country music star Chris Janson will perform high-energy hits and heartfelt stories at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland on April 5, with tickets ranging from \$85 to \$110.



Welcome to Godnicks
Vermont's Largest Furniture Store

March Madness Liquidation Sale

3 Floors Packed with Deals!
Up to 50% Off Storewide.

Look for the **Red Tag!**



Godnicks
Grand Furniture

In business since 1927
Known for Quality, Service & Integrity

Godnicks Grand Furniture is a family-owned quality Furniture, Mattress, Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Home Office and Accents store based in Rutland, VT.



259 N. Main St., Rte. 7, Rutland, VT | 775-7000 | Open Mon.-Sat. 8:30-5:30, Sunday Hours 11-4
www.godnicksfurniture.com

GREEN MOUNTAIN ROCK CLIMBING CENTER

INDOOR

[www.VERMONTCLIMBING.COM](http://www.vermontclimbing.com)

Open:
Mon thru Fri 3-9
Sat & Sun 12-5

RUTLAND | 802-773-3343 | 223 WOODSTOCK AVE, RT.4



Courtesy AppleTV+

Beware of drum lines. "Severance" wrapped its mind-bending second season last week on Apple+.

'Severance' concludes its second season with an intense showdown between innie, outie, and a nefarious corporation

If you haven't watched either season of AppleTV+'s "Severance," this review probably isn't for you. Let this serve as a warning and opportunity: If you haven't yet watched "Severance," why on earth would you want to read on and spoil the fun? If you haven't dipped into the wild world of "Severance," with its second season finale having aired last week, now is a perfect time to catch up on the phenomenon and experience it for yourself. So stop reading and start streaming!

Although "Severance" seemingly takes place in some alternate dystopian reality from ours, the basic concept is relatable to anyone with a job. We've all fantasized about leaving the stresses of work life back at the office or not bringing the baggage of home life into the workplace. The premise of "Severance" is a mysterious and nefarious conglomerate called Lumen, which offers a procedure that severs the worker into two parts. What happens at work stays at work, and vice versa.

The first season of "Severance" came off as a dark comedy that grows darker and stranger with each subsequent episode. The main protagonist, Mark, played by Adam Scott, is our everyman. We're introduced to him at his workplace,

a bizarre corporate amalgamation of Future meets Past aesthetic. The atmosphere at Lumen is rigid, stifling, and a mixture of '50s-'60s architecture and some form of vague futurism. Mark and his three fellow macrodata refiners (all on what Lumen refers to as the "severed" floor) are comprised of the overconfident Dylan (Zach Cherry), the persnickety rule follower, Irving (John Turturro), and the rebellious newcomer, Helly (Britt Lower.) Lording over them is the malevolent Harmony Cobel (Patricia Arquette) and her second-in-command, Mr. Milchick (Tramell Tillman.) The acting in all areas of this show is superb, and watching new facets of each performance take shape is part of the fun in "Severance's" first season.

By the end of "Severance's" first season, Mark and his office mates (known as "innies") have become too curious about what the outside world is like, who their "outies" are, and what the hell it is they do at/for Lumen Industries. The clues laid out during "Severance's" first season drop plenty of breadcrumbs, but as the show wound down to its fantastic S1 climax, it was clear the answers would have to wait for a second season.

Screens & Streams →26



Screens and Streams

By James Kent

BACK COUNTRY CAFE

GREAT BREAKFAST & BRUNCH
EGGS • OMELETTES • PANCAKES • WAFFLES
7 MINUTES TO K-1

MAPLE PRODUCTS FOR SALE

MTWTF: 7-12 | SAT, SUN: 7-1
TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE
923 KILLINGTON RD. 802-422-4411

KEEP ROLLING

SUSHI YOSHI
CHINESE GOURMET
HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE

Mid-way up Killington Access Rd.
Open for Indoor Dining, Take-Out and Delivery
vermontsushi.com • 802.422.4241

HIBACHI | SUSHI | ASIAN

Serving Locally Sourced Craft Beer and a Range of Shareable, Casual Foods Inspired by Local Farms

Open Wed-Sun at 4pm

(802)342-5469
135 Mountain Green Resort bldg 3.
133 E Mountain Rd
vermontcraft.net

A modern approach to the classic American Steakhouse.

Join us for an inviting, upbeat atmosphere, featuring thoughtfully crafted food made with the highest quality steaks & chops, fresh seafood, and seasonal produce.

southsidesteakhouse.com
 (802) 772-7556
 170 S Main Street, Rutland, VT



Indulge your taste buds



Killington Wine Bar

At Killington Café and Wine Bar, we believe that wine tasting should be a journey of both enjoyment and learning, all within a relaxed and inviting setting. Inspired by some of the best boutique wine bars across the country, we're passionate about making fine wine accessible to everyone. Whether you're a

seasoned connoisseur or a curious newcomer, our diverse selection and knowledgeable team are here to guide you. killingtonwinebar.com, 802.353.6423.



Inn at Long Trail

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Casual dining at Rosemary's Restaurant. Visit innatlongtrail.com, 802-775-7181.



Vermont Craft

Vermont Craft is a lively bar and restaurant located in the Mountain Green Resort in Killington, serving locally sourced craft beer and a range of shareable, casual foods inspired by local farms vermontcraft.net (802) 342-5469



Killington Market

Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches,

hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.



Liquid Art

Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La

Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain. liquidartvt.com, (802) 422-2787.



Lookout Tavern

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



Back Country Café

The Back Country Café is a hot spot for delicious breakfast foods. Choose from farm fresh eggs, multiple kinds of pancakes and waffles, omelets or daily specials to make your breakfast one of a

kind. Just the right heat Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellini, VT Craft Brews, Coffee and hot chocolate drinks. Maple Syrup and VT products for sale. Check Facebook for daily specials. 802-422-4411.



Mountain Top Inn

Whether staying overnight or visiting for the day,

Mountain Top's Dining Room & Tavern serve delicious cuisine amidst one of Vermont's best views. A mix of locally inspired and International cuisine – including salads, seafood, poultry and a new steakhouse menu - your taste buds are sure to be satisfied. Choose from 12 Vermont craft brews on tap. Warm up by the terrace fire pit after dinner! A short drive from Killington. mountaintopin.com, 802-483-2311.



Sushi Yoshi

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

www.vermontsushi.com 802-422-4241.



Choices

Upscale casual and family friendly Choices Restaurant & Rotisserie has been a Killington, VT favorite for over 35 years. We offer a 40-item menu

that features fish and seafood, hand-cut steaks and fillets, sandwiches and home-cut fries, and house-made fettuccine. Try an item from our Rotisserie menu that includes chicken, tri-tip steak, and stuffed pork with prime rib on most weekends. Join us at our wraparound bar with 20 wines by the glass, signature cocktails, and craft beers. Finish off your dining experience with our baked in-house desserts. choicesvt.com, 802-422-4030



Sugar and Spice

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/ or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch

they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832.



SouthSide SteakHouse

Southside provides a modern approach to a classic American steakhouse. Join us for an inviting, upbeat atmosphere featuring thoughtfully crafted food made with the highest quality steaks & chops,

fresh seafood, and seasonal produce. We offer dinner and drink service in our dining room, bar & lounge, and on our seasonal patio, weather permitting. 802-772-7556 southsidesteakhouse.com

LOCAL PEOPLE. LOCAL SERVICE. HOME COMFORT ALL SEASON LONG!

- **HEATING - Boilers, Furnaces, Space Heating**
- **Heat pumps**
- **Water heaters**
- **Generators**
- **Smart Home**
- **Fuel Stops**
- **Fuel storage tanks**
- **Propane & Fuel Delivery**
- **Tank monitoring**
- **24/7 Emergency Service**

Call us now at 866-395-7220

MAPLE SUGAR & SPICE VERMONT

Come to our sugarhouse for the best breakfast around! After breakfast, check out our gift shop for all your souvenir, gift, and maple syrup needs. We look forward to your visit!

Dine-in or Take-out available.

Serving Breakfast & Lunch
7a.m. - 2p.m. daily

Check out our menu online!

Sugar & Spice Restaurant & Gift Shop
Rt. 4 Mendon, VT
802-773-7832 | www.vtsugarandspice.com

LIQUID ART RESTAURANT

ESPRESSO | GALLERY | COCKTAILS

WINE DINNER
APRIL 2ND 6PM
5 Courses
Italian themed \$110 ++

RESERVATION REQUIRED

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER
MONDAY 8AM - 3PM
THURSDAY & FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM
SAT - SUN - 7AM - 9PM

KILLINGTON, VT • 802-422-2787 • LIQUIDARTVT.COM

'Watchmen #1' – A comic that took me 35 years to appreciate

I've owned "Watchmen #1" since the day it came out, or close to its release date in September of '86. It's spent most of its life bagged but not boarded. The spine is still crisp, as are the edges. It lies relatively flat, and the color seems good. Maybe slightly dimmer.

I think I've been lugging this thing around since "Oprah" premiered during the Reagan administration and the Iran Contra hearings. Maverick and Goose, Bueller and Aliens heralded the big screen. And it was Halley's Comet and the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster in our upper atmosphere.

Before, during, and after my high school years, I purchased comics from a monthly subscription service called Westfield Comics. Us collectors thought #1's and specific issues would be worth something sometime in the distant future. If I was able to keep them out of the rotting attic box I fashioned, I may one day find myself sitting on a gold mine as a proud owner of the next big collector issue like "Superman #1"

or "Amazing Fantasy #15" (Spidey's first introduction). So I bought Watchmen #1.

I barely remember it being delivered, but as time passed, I felt I should get to reading the thing because there was already a growing buzz about it. But I never did. And if I'm being honest, "Watchmen" never quite landed with me. I didn't get it. I couldn't get past the cover and the flip-through. The pages seemed boring, even cheesy. Not exciting enough for this die-hard Spidey fan.

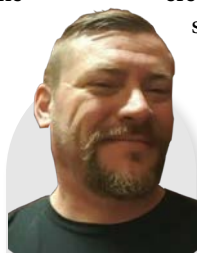
Over the years or decades, I began a slow realization that "Watchmen" served as a sort of springboard for alternative comic narratives and independent publishing, similar to the ways punk and grunge did for music. It was like Nirvana's "Nevermind," pushing cookie-cutter template models out in exchange for new ideas, new stories told from challenging human perspectives. The characters were darker, more complicated, and troubled. These heroes were not the squeaky cleans

of Superman, Spiderman, Captain America, etc. It's not like Spidey didn't have his fair share of daily life troubles. And Batman was certainly known for his brooding shadow-lurking, as was Daredevil and Hulk's tortured anger. But this comic was on another level.

The "Watchmen" narrative became the gateway comic for others who sought to challenge conventional comic book storytelling and hero conception. Thirty-five years later, after finally having read the graphic novel, is when I began to see the draw.

This comic, adorned on the cover with a happy yellow smiley face, came smeared with a bloody bullet hole between the eyes. Set in an alternative 1985 where the existence of superheroes—especially the godlike Dr. Manhattan—have changed politics, science, and society, leading to a U.S. victory in Vietnam, Nixon's extended presidency, the Cold War, technology like electric cars, and a media dominated by paranoia, and sensationalism rather than traditional superhero worship.

In this realm, writer Alan Moore
Off the Shelf → 26



Off the Shelf
By Patrick Wise

**MOUNTAIN TOP
RESORT**

**SUNDAY
APRIL 20, 2025**

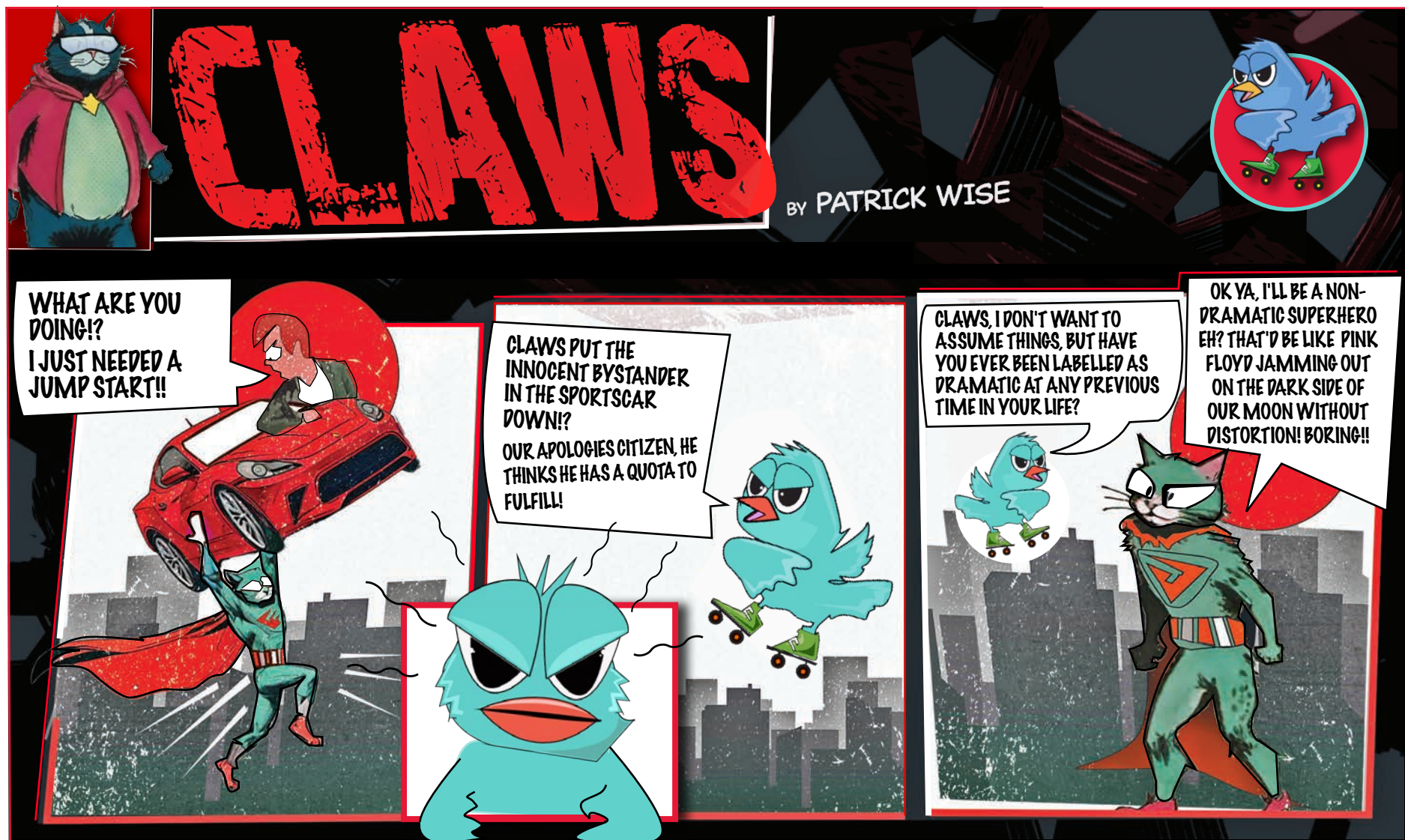
Easter Brunch
— at Mountain Top —

**BUFFET MENU
IN THE
EVENT BARN**

\$48/ADULT - \$21/CHILD
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
ALCOHOL / TAX / GRATUITY NOT INCLUDED

Join us for our annual Easter Brunch in the Event Barn with one of Vermont's best views!

802.483.2311 | mountaintopresort.com





LOOK OUT TAVERN

KILLINGTON VERMONT'S
BEST FOOD + DRINK KIDS MENU

HOMEMADE SPECIALS	STEAK BURGERS
BEST WINGS	CHILI
SANDWICHES	BBQ RIBS

**EV SUPERCHARGERS
RENOVATED GAME ROOM**

**8 LOCALLY CRAFTED
BEERS ON DRAFT**

**POUDLY SERVING
LOCAL BEERS
FROM FIDDLEHEAD**



SCAN TO ORDER

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.
2910 KILLINGTON ROAD | 802-422-LOOK | LOOKOUTVT.COM

← **Screens & Streams:**

from page 23

Three long years have come and gone since “Severance” completed its first nine episodes. Finding the right story arc to satisfy viewers was one reason for the delay; a prolonged writer’s strike was another. Finally, “Severance” returns, and it suffers no sophomore slump. While the second season is less a dark comedy and more dark sci-fi drama, it is no less satisfying than Season 1. In many ways, it is more gratifying as the story delves deeper into Lumen’s history, and the show gives us answers while continuing to create more mysteries to work out and solve.

Thematically, “Severance” takes a deeper look into the self and asks heavy philosophical questions. Is a severed person two distinct individuals with two separate lives, or is there some connectivity to the personalities with traits that will always cross over? Those blurred boundaries get a full exploration in S2’s 10 fantastic episodes. In a season finale, a prolonged back-and-forth of video messages between Mark’s innie and outie is as thought-provoking as it is entertaining.

As for the quirkiness that made S1 such a hit with audiences, some of that quirkiness is gone. There is no egg bar or defiant jazz sequence, but S2 offers goats—lots of goats devour feculence and a drumline dance routine for the ages. Mr. Milchick, who in the early scripts was nothing more than an assistant but quickly transformed into something much more due to the brilliance of actor Tramell Tillman, gets a more profound arc this season as he takes over for Harmony Cobel. While Mr. Milchick appears to be towing

the Lumen line, there are subtle cracks in his obedience, and one wonders how long Mr. Milchick will be able to project that false smile into Season 3.

Patricia Arquette’s Harmony Cobell, who finds herself on the outs with Lumen this season, disappears for long stretches of episodes. She makes up for what she lacks in regular appearances with an essential stand-alone episode late in the season that reveals an understanding of Lumen’s past and Cobell’s role within the Lumen ecosphere. Arquette is so great at playing a Lumen devotee that you’re never sure what side she’s on, even as she appears to be turning against them.

At the end of Season 1, the innies learn about their outer selves in ways that set up new complexities this season. Revelations about Helly’s outie provide intriguing moral waters for her to navigate, and a growing romance with Mark’s innie will set up a chain of events that will have viewers on the edge of their seats during Episode 10’s nail-biting 76 minutes.

There is so much I cannot reveal about “Severance” to avoid spoiling it for those who insist on reading these words but have not yet seen the show or started/finished Season 2. Series creators Dan Erickson and Ben Stiller promise it won’t be another three years before the third season drops. Thank goodness. I don’t think I can wait that long.

Both seasons of “Severance” are now streaming on AppleTV+.

James Kent is the arts editor at the Mountain Times.

In theseason finale, a prolonged back-and-forth of video messages between Mark’s innie and outie is as thought-provoking as it is entertaining.

← **Off the Shelf:**

from page 26

created his brave new vision. He argued that comics require more imagination and active participation from the reader than watching a movie. He stated that, “Comics are closer to poetry than to film. You can control how the reader experiences time in a way that film simply cannot.” Artist David Gibbons’ design perfectly complements that pacing and symmetry as viewed in the unique visual structure, in which the use of color suggests a heightened sense of alt-reality. There was a strict adherence

to structured 9-panel paneling and the use of repetition and symmetry to maintain a strong sense of pacing.

These are the types of cues I look for in art, design, film, and music. I crave a thoughtful approach to the bending and shaping of elements redistributed in a manner to communicate a mood. So, with this relic sitting in my collection, “Watchmen” reminds me of when comics were evolving, a testament to the power of design and storytelling but, most importantly—craft. It stands

as a challenge. Maybe if I’d given it a chance earlier, I’d have understood why it resonates so deeply. For now, I’ll continue to examine and take inspiration from its style to incorporate into my own design each week, as well as in “Claws.” See the repetition and stricter adherence to panel shape and size in this week’s 3-panel, Episode 9.

Pat Wise is the graphic designer at the Mountain Times and creator of the “Claws” comic.

killington **ATM** **LOTTERY**
market

GROCERY
MEATS, PRODUCE & SEAFOOD

**beer and wine
DELICATESSEN**



**Baked Goods & Breads
Pizza ~ Maple Syrup**

SUN-THURS
6:30 AM - 10 PM

FRI & SAT
6:30 AM - 11 PM



TAKE-OUT CONVENIENCE:
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

2023 KILLINGTON ROAD



Submitted
DC’s Watchmen #1, released in 1986 and created by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, forever changed the landscape of comic book storytelling. With its complex characters, gritty narrative, and groundbreaking design, it pushed the boundaries of what comics could be.



Courtesy The Foundry

The Greater Killington Women's Club will host its 5th annual wine dinner fundraiser at The Foundry, with proceeds supporting local student scholarships.

Greater Killington Women's Club to host 5th annual wine dinner fundraiser

Thursday, April 3 at 6 p.m.—KILLINGTON—The Greater Killington Women's Club will host its 5th annual wine dinner fundraiser at The Foundry, featuring a four-course Mediterranean-themed meal paired with select wines. The event begins with registration at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person, including tax and tip, and all proceeds will support the club's scholarship & awards program for local students.

The Scholarship & Awards program provides two \$1,000 annual awards to graduating high school seniors from Killington or Pittsfield—the Sherburne Academic Scholarship and the Pat Zack Community Service Award.

Space is limited to 40 guests, and tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All attendees must prepay to reserve a spot. Guests may RSVP through Evite at evite.me/mSkcmhN2RU or the event's Facebook page. This is a 21+ event, and spouses, partners, friends, and guests are welcome to attend.

For more information, email gkwcvct@gmail.com or visit: gkwcvct.org.

Inn at Long Trail

McCGrath's Irish Pub

Open Daily at 11:30

LIVE MUSIC
FRI & SAT AT 7:30
CURRAGH'S FANCY

MON AT 6:30
FISTFULL OF ARTISTS

#1 Après MTB/Hike DESTINATION

Rte. 4 between Killington & Pico
802-775-7181
innatlongtrail.com
Rooms & Suites available

YANKEE SURPLUS

25% off your next purchase

Mention this code **25YS25** to receive the discount.
Cannot be combined with any other promotion

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

15 West St. Rutland, VT Expires on: April 30, 2025

KILLINGTON CAFE & WINE BAR

Killington Café & Wine Bar

There's nothing like us on the mountain. From handcrafted dishes to perfectly paired wines, we're redefining the apres-ski vibes.

Also serving Sunday Brunch 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Start your day right with brunch that's anything but basic!

Open
Thursday 5-10 | Friday 5-10 | Saturday 1-10
Sunday Brunch 11-4 | Dinner 4-8

We take reservations

(802) 353-6423
DM us on Instagram: [@killingtonwinebar](https://www.instagram.com/killingtonwinebar)

CHOICES

RESTAURANT & ROTISSERIE

Dine in or take out:
2820 Killington Rd
802.422.4030
ChoicesVT.com

In-house made pasta, breads, and desserts
 21+ Wines by the glass Chef owned

Open 6 nights a week
(Closed Wednesdays)
5:00 - 9:00 PM

Come to historic **Downtown Rutland** to discover more dining, shopping, art and scenery

MURALS • SCULPTURE TRAIL • EVENTS • KIDS' MUSEUM • LIVE THEATRE & MORE!



VERMONT'S PREMIER MENSWEAR DESTINATION

Quality menswear and exceptional customer service for three generations



DOWNTOWN RUTLAND, VT

Monday - Saturday 9AM-5PM
(802) 773-7760
www.mcneilandreedy.com



Eat—Angler Pub

Local Pub with the Vermont Angler theme. Sit, relax and enjoy a cold one inside our pub or out back on our revamped outdoor patio. Play some pool, darts or corn hole and listen to some good music with good food.

Treat—The Pies the Limit Bakery

The Pies the Limit Bakery in Rutland, VT, is a specialty bakery run by Mary, who comes from generations of great cooks. Order ahead from our menu or stop by to see what we have available!



Drink—Speakeasy Cafe

Quirky cafe with an array of coffees, breakfast sandwiches, and baked goods, plus Wi-Fi.



DIVINE



"A BOUTIQUE FOR THE SENSES"

25 CENTER STREET, DOWNTOWN RUTLAND



ALISON MCCULLOUGH
Real Estate

Home *Sweet* Home

Real Estate • Real People • Real Results

802.747.8822

www.alisonmcculloughrealestate.com

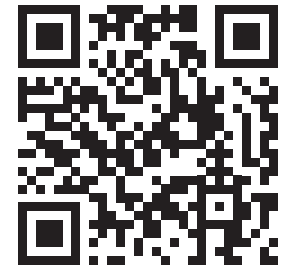
29 Center Street, Downtown Rutland





DOWNTOWNRUTLAND.COM

DOWNTOWN RUTLAND VERMONT



The Gymnasium

The Gymnasium offers a supportive fitness environment for all members, whether beginners or those continuing their fitness journey. Located in Downtown Rutland, Vermont, it provides clean, safe spaces and high-quality equipment. Members can take advantage of various in-person and online classes—such as yoga, strength training, and cardio—along with an online video library for workouts at any time. Knockout Fitness

Training is available for boxing skills and overall fitness, with the first session free for newcomers. With 22 cardio machines, a complete Cybex strength circuit, and free weights, members can create their ideal workout. Various membership options and day passes are also available.

*Learn more at thegymnasium.net
Located at 11 Cottage Street in Downtown Rutland*



By Shandi Marie Photo



Thoughtfully made TOYS that inspire creative play!

Stop in or shop online



wildkindtoys.com
31 Center Street
Downtown Rutland



MURALS • SCULPTURE TRAIL • EVENTS • KIDS' MUSEUM • LIVE THEATRE & MORE!

For the latest on new businesses, event information, and downtown news, visit

DOWNTOWNRUTLAND.COM |

Solutions From page 15

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

Rutland County Humane Society

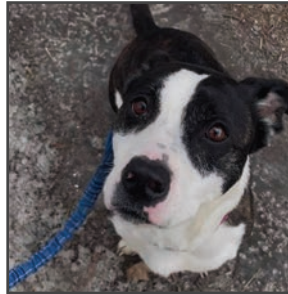
765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT
 (802) 483-6700
 Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org



Mischief—1-year-old. Spayed female. Pitbull terrier.



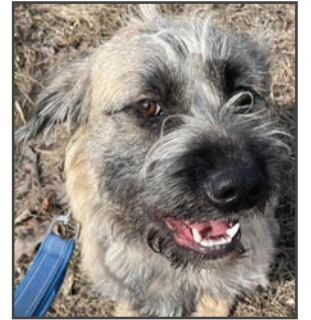
Tucker—1-year-old. Neutered male. Pitbull terrier.



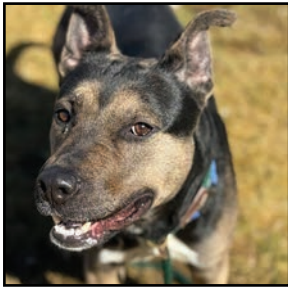
Jamba—5-year-old. Spayed female. Basset hound/pitbull terrier.



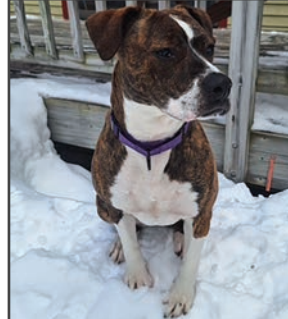
Stella—9-month-old. Spayed female. Pitbull terrier/husky.



Nellie—9-month-old. Spayed female. Terrier.



Rocky—3-year-old. Neutered male. Pitbull terrier husky.



Emma—1-year-old. Female. Terrier.



Lady—11-month-old. Spayed female. Coonhound.



Chuck—adult. Male. Hamster.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society
 4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829
 *By appointment only at this time. lucymac.org

Oakley is an energetic and playful 2-year-old mixed breed dog

Springfield Humane Society
 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997
 *Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org

Some of a litter of 12 puppies looking for loving homes!

Eat Shop
Drink Local

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.

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

OPEN
 MON. - FRI. 10am - 6:30pm & SAT. 10am - 5pm

Grooming by appointment | 802-773-7636

GET PUBLISHED
EMAIL US:
editor@mountaintimes.info

Cosmic Catalogue

Rhythms of return



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

Like Nature, nothing in astrology is linear. Much like life, really. The process of change rarely happens in a straight line. It's messy. It's one step forward and two steps back. Sometimes, it's two steps forward with just one step back.

Sometimes, these circular rhythms are frustrating. Just like how it was to be age 9 in the backseat of your parent's car, asking, "Are we there yet?" You're impatient, excited, or bored, just wanting the next phase of whatever it is to begin.

Then, there are times when the opportunity to circle back to something offers the chance to be sure. It can often take more than one time to end a relationship. An old flame may circle back into your life, and while the stroll down Memory Lane is nice, it's not going anywhere.

The chance to do something over can also be the chance to do something better. A second chance can truly be a blessing. It can be a real lifesaver!

We are at the precipice of the new, kind of like glowing on the metal on the edge of a knife. It's exciting and impulsive. There's an element of danger. Some of us can't wait to launch into the new. At the same time, others cannot wait to circle back. Regardless, we all need to get used to the new eventually.



Aries

March 21 - April 20

The week marks a combination of closures and new beginnings. If you are confused, overwhelmed, or uncertain, you're exactly where you should be. It can be painful to let go of what you thought you wanted, though that pain can only increase your desire. You're about to learn to surrender and accept what you never thought possible for you – the dreams you're meant to have rather than those you settled for.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

You may have reached a point in your life where you really just don't care anymore. If your soul is longing for something, anything other than where you are, then embrace that. You also need to be willing to change your mind about what you once said you wanted. Goals and aspirations change, and you need to change along with them. As new dreams and desires arise, you'll have new horizons – literally or metaphorically, to chase.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

You're getting your fire back when it comes to your creative and romantic life. If the flames of inspiration get you carried away, then that's perfect for you. You don't have to have it all figured out. Trust in your intuition, and soon enough, you'll find something or someone worth committing to. Allow yourself to have the happiness and joy you've so longed for. A "fool's rush in" attitude might be just what you need for a while.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

You tend to err on the practical side of certainty. You avoid taking a step until you know the ground before you are firm and stable. What if you allowed yourself to take a step without knowing what was beneath your feet? Would it be bad if you allowed a free fall for a while? You're being sent a message now to trust in the unknown and the untested. It's wild, magical, and right where you need to be for now!



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

Real security, both financially and emotionally, comes from when you're willing to surrender control. You can't analyze every little aspect of life despite how much you try. All you can do is your best effort and know that one way or another, the rewards will come. You get what you choose to look for. Look for the negative, and you'll get that. Think good, and it will be good. At the same time, don't be naive but do find a way to trust.



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Creating the life of your dreams starts from the bottom and not the top. It's your home and family life that will be your greatest source of inspiration now. Domestic relationships, your dream home, or a sea change are all available to the extent you are willing to commit to what you want. The foundation of your life is the well from which all your worldly desires spring from. The magic you seek is found at home, not your external achievements.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Your dreams, hopes, and wishes are just that until you choose to believe in them. Eventually, you have to give up the need to know and constantly seeking new information and input. Right now, you're being asked to step forward into everything you ever wanted but never truly believed that it could happen to you. Surrender isn't about giving up or giving in; it's about allowing only the best to happen to you.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

Some people say that the fairytale Sera is over, but not for you. A new cycle of fantasy, romance, and magic will sprinkle dust over all your relationships. Your mission now is to let down the walls that have guarded you from everything you've ever wanted in love. If the walls that were once your palace have now become your fortress, commit to burning them down. The embers they create will spark a fire that can last a lifetime.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

It's easy to forget that the sum of life is found in its parts. It's not so much about the big wins, events, or goals. True happiness and inspiration come from our day-to-day life. Real change and transformation happen when we choose to do the little things differently. It occurs when you open up to curiosity and the unknown. When you can add magic and inspiration to the otherwise boring and mundane things, life becomes...magical and inspirational.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

People throw around the word "surrender" a lot, including myself. Do you really know what it means, though? Do you think it means give up? It doesn't. The word of choice in that instance would be resignation. Surrender is different. It's letting go of the outcome but still applying every effort you can to achieve it. It can be confusing. When it comes to your career, consider whether resignation is the path or simply surrendering to what you can't control.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Disillusionment with your current lot in life is possible. Being overworked and unappreciated is doable up to a point. You're reaching that point and faster than you may have thought. If you're longing for, yearning for, something more out of life, then your mission now is to seek it. It may take some time to find the answers, and you may not even find them. That said, the process you're now going through is just as important as the outcome.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Energetic and financial boundaries may become an issue now. If your energy is leaking, take note of that. Caution may be required regarding just how much and to whom. Under the right circumstances, the more you give, the more you'll receive. That said, don't just give in order to receive. Give because that's who you are. Don't give just to take back; it will eventually come back to you. Trust in abundance, and abundance will trust you.

Empowering you to lead a divinely inspired life.

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

RUTLAND'S PREMIERE YOGA & PILATES STUDIO



TRUE YOGA
VERMONT

22 WALES STREET, RUTLAND

Go online to see our full schedule:
trueyogavermont.com

@trueyogavt



LIMITED TIME
INTRO SPECIAL:

\$10 FOR 10 DAYS
UNLIMITED CLASSES

SCAN CODE LINK:



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WHERE THE KILLINGTON ACCESS RD MEETS US-4
2363 US-4, KILLINGTON | 802-558-0547 | KBCKBC.COM | KILLINGTONBOOTCAMP@GMAIL.COM

Red and silver: A tale of two maples

In early spring, a reddish haze appears in the woodlands. With most deciduous trees still dormant, the red maples are living up to their name. Their awakening buds lend color to a gray landscape and signal that spring is coming. I love watching the steady progression of red as I look out my window. A few weeks after the buds redden, they will break into flower, offering bees and insects a critical early source of pollen and nectar.

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is one of the most common native trees in eastern North America. Often called swamp maple, it thrives in wet areas such as bog edges and wetland margins. For this reason, it's sometimes considered a "sister species" of silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), a flood-tolerant species common along rivers. However, several characteristics set these two apart.

The reason red maples are so widespread and abundant is that they are generalists. They can establish and grow in a wide range of habitats and site conditions, from urban settings to upland forests to swamps. They are medium-sized trees that are relatively fast-growing and typically reach 40-70 feet. They prefer moist, acidic soils, although they can do well in the compacted soil of urban parks and neighborhoods.

The buds, flowers, emerging leaves, and twig stems are red. Even the fruit, the two-winged samara nicknamed "spinners," is tinged with red. Though the leaves become

green soon after emerging, it isn't long before the red returns: they are among the first trees to show autumn colors, turning red again as early as mid-August.



The Outside Story
By Laurie D. Morrissey

"Some of the most beautiful silver maple forests I've ever seen are in the St. John River Valley of northern Maine," Rogers said.

Red maple is increasing in abundance in the Northeast, and its ability to live in a variety of conditions makes it likely to be a "climate winner." These are resilient species that will continue to do well in the future. "It provides critical ecosystem services like pollinator benefits, wildlife habitat, and soil nutrients from leaf litter, as well as maple syrup and other traditional forest products - so it's a very important tree species for our northeastern forests and beyond," said Nicole S. Rogers, landowner outreach forester with the Maine Forest Service.

Because red maples can adapt to diverse growing conditions and climates, they are likely to become more valuable for syrup production. According to maple scientist Abby van den Berg, they may help ensure the industry's resiliency. Though red maple sap has a lower sugar concentration than sugar maple sap, it produces copious amounts, and its flavor is nearly indistinguishable from that of sugar maple sap.

Silver maple also breaks buds early in spring. Stands of silver maple, which can survive weeks-long seasonal flooding, often dominate floodplain forests, with their arching branches forming a dense canopy above a ground cover of sensitive fern, ostrich fern, and other herbs growing in the

The Outside Story → 35



As sweet as can be

Not a week goes by that I'm not yelling at my son about eating snacks in his bedroom. Initially, I wasn't opposed to the idea, but after years of finding stale and rotted food underneath his bed and behind his furniture, I finally put my foot down (getting fresh wall-to-wall carpeting installed also prompted the dictate).

Nevertheless, whenever I enter his room, I still discover the remnants of his discarded feasts (his subtle attempts at hiding his activities are not impressive). Hard candy is one of his biggest weaknesses, particularly Jolly Ranchers and Life Savers. I didn't think this generation was familiar with these confections, but my son seems to have a constant supply on hand. Personally, I'm not a fan. There was a time many years ago, but I don't think I've put a Life Saver in my mouth in over three decades.

Recently, I was at a business meeting where a safety director gave a presentation that mentioned Life Savers, boasting that the candy was developed after a man lost a child to choking. Apparently, the man was so

distraught about the senseless loss of his son that he vowed no other child should die in a similar way. Therefore, he created a candy with a hole in it, so if a person were choking, they could still get air into their lungs.

I had never heard this claim and was fascinated by the story. Part of me actually felt terrible, given that I had accosted my own child for simply having the candy in his possession.

As I was driving home from the meeting, I started contemplating whether a candy lodged in someone's throat would be less harmful if it contained a tiny hole. Something told me that it was an unrealistic claim. When I got home, I jumped online and started to research the assertion. It didn't take long to discover the truth.

In reality, a candy maker, Clarence Crane from Cleveland, Ohio, created the idea for Life Savers in 1912. The loss of a child did not prompt the idea, nor was Crane looking for a solution to choking. He was in the business of making chocolate, but he faced a problem:

The Movie Diary → 39



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

Killington's summit: Where the mountain whispers back

I had ridden bikes all day with a couple of friends. In my memory, it was one of my friend's birthdays, and we were working on her goal of being able to ride Yo Vinny. Not without putting a foot down because that section of ladder around the big rock would always be tight. But at least getting over the fear of that big open rocky drop area right before you cross Great Eastern. It was a big day for my friend.

But it was the first anniversary of my dad's death, and after a day with friends full of forced laughter and real, I needed a moment. And so that last gondi ride of the day, I said goodbye to my friends and headed up the black metal staircase for that 5-10 minute technical walk to the actual summit of Killington, where lies the second oldest exposed rock in the world and in 1763 the place where the state received her name, Ver-Mont.

Working at the bike shop for a few summers as a beginner bike tech, I cannot tell you how many times I repeated that exact phrase to tourists from around the world. I don't know how many of them actually took me up on the walk, but they all seemed appropriately impressed by the age of the rock.

It is around 900 million years old. That is older than the Rockies, the Himalayas, and the Alps. Formed by glaciers over a billion

years ago, it now serves as this hidden moment just off the K1 Gondola. If you had never looked, you would never have noticed the little trail and staircase that winds you around over Catwalk to the peak, but when you do, I find that your whole perspective of the mountain kind of changes.

And so I walked along that narrow path, through the tight pine trees, over rocks, and that awkward wooden staircase that is so precarious come wintertime when it is filled with ice even on days when there is no ice to be seen anywhere. A little bit further, you can finally see the rock itself, the true summit of Killington and Rutland County sprawled beneath your feet. It's majestic, our very own Sistine Chapel—a place where we can talk to our gods or just let the wind caress our faces.

There's nothing like it. I have sat on the top of a lot of mountains, especially ones throughout Vermont, and there's something different about Killington. Maybe it's the age of the rock that makes me feel more connected to the earth than anywhere else. Perhaps it's the Calvin Coolidge State Forest below, making the urban world seem further away than other peaks I've summited. Maybe it's just that Killington is my forever home, a place with so many memories of my dad and my family.

While the peak is also a quiet place for
Living the Dream → 33



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Carl Linnaeus: Father of taxonomy

By Andrea Knepper / Extension Master Gardener / University of Vermont

Rudbeckia hirta. Solanum lycopersicum. Acer saccharum. Have you ever seen these names on plant tags or seed packets and wondered where they came from? We can thank Carl Linnaeus for taxonomy, the study of categorizing and naming organisms, and binomial nomenclature, the precise, two-termed naming system we use today.

Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish professor, scientist, and doctor born in 1707. From a young age, Linnaeus was fascinated by the plants growing in his father’s garden.

At the time, plants were scientifically named in Latin by describing their features. These names were often long and described multiple unique plant traits. Linnaeus was determined to learn as much as possible, sometimes neglecting his formal studies.



The youthful Carl Linnaeus. This delightful sculpture can be seen in the Heritage Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Sculptor: Robert Berks

Carolus Linnaeus
 Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) is regarded as the Father of Taxonomy. Botany. The Swedish biologist is best known for creating a system to classify organisms based on the number of reproductive parts. His system brought order to the scientific plant system. Linnaeus also helped establish a universal system for naming living organisms known as binomial nomenclature. Each organism is named using words for the first word (genus), combined with a second word (specific epithet), names that p...

By Bronislaw Drozka

Linnaeus began studying medicine when he was 19 years old. Notable naturalists and botanists of the time noticed his interest and ability. They invited him to become a botany teaching assistant at Uppsala University. During his 20s, Linnaeus continued to study, travel, and collect specimens.

While traveling and collecting detailed information on the natural world, Linnaeus completed his medical degree, practiced medicine, and became a professor of botany.

Linnaeus proposed a system to classify and describe these specimens by sorting and relating them to other known organisms. He first described this system in his 1735 work, “*Systema Naturae*.”

According to this initial system, plants and animals were sorted into a kingdom, class, order, genus, and species. These categories are ranked from most general to most specific. This is why we use the genus and species names to precisely identify organisms.

Over time, scientific discoveries have expanded this system to include the ranks of the kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. Discoveries have required the addition of kingdoms to include non-plant and animal living things, like bacteria, fungi, and single-celled organisms.

We call this system of giving scientific names binomial nomenclature. “Binomial” means two names, and “nomenclature” means naming system. Scientists italicize the two terms in a scientific name. The first is the genus, which is always capitalized. The second is the species.

Plants that are a specific variety have an additional name after this. For example, *Rudbeckia hirta* var. *hirta* is the black-eyed Susan native to the eastern United States, while *Rudbeckia hirta* var. *floridana* is a variety native to Florida. Sometimes, the variety name will appear in quotations instead.

Home gardeners can use scientific names to confidently obtain the exact plants they need.

One year, when selecting seeds for my garden, I was excited to see huckleberry seeds. Thinking about my travels on the West Coast and experiences with huckleberry jam and pie, I ordered the seeds.

I planted the seeds and was truly disappointed by my results. I had to add a lot of sugar to make the jam palatable, and the flavor was quite different. When I looked more closely at the seed packet, I noticed that the botanical, or scientific, name was actually *Solanum scabrum*, not the *Vaccinium ovatum* I was hoping for.

Next time you spot an interesting plant, take a closer look at its scientific name. This detail can ensure you get exactly what you expect. Thanks to Carl Linnaeus, we have a universal language to connect scientists and gardeners around the world.

← Living the Dream: from page 32

reflection and thought, an opportunity to experience the world as it once was and always has been (as long as you keep your back to all the manmade towers), it is also a Mecca. Everyone should make their annual trip to the peak to remind themselves that Killington isn’t just a resort but an ancient mountain filled with secrets to explore and learn. A mountain that deserves our respect and awe, even as we fly down her beautiful sides.

I took Team PomPom to the peak this past weekend and even they realized that this was something special. They sat and looked out at the view. Let’s be honest: silence isn’t their strong suit, and they had many stories to tell me about how some of them had been there in the summer and how cool it was to be here in the winter. How much higher we were than anyone else who was getting off the gondola, and if I had ever climbed the fire tower? No comment.

It never fails to impress people, this

beautiful summit that we have. It even scares many of them, thinking that they will fall off the frontside. I’ve seen folks slip on the spur trail down to Coop’s in the summer; I have even tried to ascend the spur

I have sat on the top of a lot of mountains, especially ones throughout Vermont, and there’s something different about Killington

in the winter in my ski boots without traction. It was not one of my smarter choices in life, but we eventually made it safe and sound without uprooting any trees being used for life support.

Whatever the season, the summit of

Killington is magical. Whether you hit the light just right for the last chair or an early up for sunrise during a blowing storm, or just take a quick jaunt to celebrate an amazing inversion, the beauty never seems to diminish in this most sacred of all places. It is the greatest place to reconnect with nature—and yourself.

Merisa Sherman is global real estate advisor, town official, and Coach PomPom. She can be found on socials @Female-SkiBum or at Merisa.Sherman@Sothebys-Realty.com.



The summit at Killington is a perfect spot for reflection and introspection.

By Merisa J. Sherman

KW VERMONT
Luxury

PEAK
PROPERTY GROUP

IDEAL PROPERTIES CLOSE TO
KILLINGTON, OKEMO OR WOODSTOCK!

HOMES | CONDOS | LAND
COMMERCIAL | INVESTMENT

802.353.1604
VTPROPERTIES.NET



PRIME KILLINGTON LOCATION-RARE & UNIQUE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY on 2+ Acres! This iconic property was formally the beloved Pasta Pot & later the world-record holding Dream Maker Bakers. The restaurant has held a permit for 99 seats indoor. The property affords indoor & outdoor RIVERSIDE seating. Endless potential here right off of high traffic, scenic VT US Route 4 in the heart of Killington. Bring your ideas & schedule your tour today! \$700K



TURNKEY IN WOODSTOCK. Totally renovated in 2019. Gorgeous 3 bedroom/ 1.5 baths open concept cape cotemporary. Move right in. You should see this gem abuts Woodstock Middle & High School. The backyard is wonderful. Sweet seasonal views Zoned Residential & Commercial. \$599K



Marni Rieger
Broker
802.353.1604

William Spanos
802.345.0693

Lindsay Cimadon
860.681.9302

DIRECT ACCESS FROM YOUR DOOR TO VAST SNOWMOBILING TRAILS, VASA ATV & MTN BIKING TRAILS! 3 Bed/2 Bath open concept, private retreat close to Killington for world class skiing. Perfect primary home or short term rental investment. \$420K



Okemo Harry's Café
Turnkey Restaurant on 1 Acre. Plus 4.5 acre lot attached. The restaurant features 70 seats total with 8 seats at the bar. All equipment works including new coolers & ice machine. Renovated in 2018-Heat, Plumbing & Electrical. Successfully operated for 35 years. Plenty of parking. Possibilities abound! Motivated Sellers.



New Low Price 329K

Marni@PeakPropertyRealEstate.com
1995 Route 4, Killington VT
59 Central Street, Woodstock VT

Celebrating 35 years!



Ski Country REAL ESTATE



www.skicountryrealestate.com | Email: info@skicountryrealestate.com | Office: 800-877-5111

Hemlock Ridge Condo

Come check out the only unit for sale in the Hemlock Ridge Community!

This recently renovated **3BR, 2BA** condo is conveniently located within minutes to the Killington Access Rd. with area restaurants, shops and nightlife.

Relax in this private and tranquil setting after unwinding after a day outdoors. Ample storage for all of your outdoor gear.

Strong rental history.

Offered at \$499k

Call to schedule your showing today!



Lenore Bianchi
802-345-2785



Chris Bianchi
802-353-6109



Megan Charlebois
802-558-3846



Patrick Bowen
802-558-6929



Pat Linnemayr
802-236-0854



Michelle Lord
802-417-7897



Katie McFadden
802-356-6100



Carolyn Bianchi
617 504 4439

The Outside Story:
from page 32

rich, silty soil.

“Some of the most beautiful silver maple forests I’ve ever seen are in the St. John River Valley of northern Maine,” Rogers said. These forests harbor countless species, including rare and endangered reptiles such as wood, spotted, and Blanding’s turtles. The cerulean warbler, which has declined steeply over its entire range, is closely associated with these forests, and the soft wood of silver maples is ideal for cavity-nesting birds such as barred owls and common goldeneyes. Unfortunately, large intact floodplain forests have become uncommon. Only fragments of floodplain forests remain in areas where they were once extensive. Often these tracts of land are converted to agriculture or over-run by invasive species.

While red and silver maple have much in common, they are easily differentiated. Silver maple trunks often divide into separate

stems close to the ground. The leaves of both species are silvery underneath, but they differ in size and shape. Red maple leaves typically are about 4 inches in diameter and three-lobed, while silver maple leaves are about 6 inches in diameter and have five deeply cut lobes. Of all our native maples, red has the smallest samara (less than an inch long), and silver has the largest (2 inches long). In fall, silver maple leaves usually turn yellow.

As I watch the red maples redden, what I appreciate most about this harbinger of spring is their hue. But then, I’m not a bee!

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

Are You Ready to Purchase a Home?
Make the Local Choice—Contact Kerry!



Kerry Mazzariello
VP Mortgage Origination

kmazzariello@bennbank.com
802.445.7990 • NMLS #216188
143 Woodstock Ave., Rutland

TheBankofBennington.com

Scan to
connect
today



The Bank of Bennington™

Your Money Stays Here, Works Here,
and that Makes a Difference.™



KILLINGTON PICO REALTY

Just Listed

www.1645AustinHillRoad.com

Rochester. 4BR/2BA home on level, double lot in desirable Great Hawk development. Thoughtfully updated, including new porch, deck, standing seam roof, windows and siding. Winter mountain views.

Offered at \$489,000



TELEMARK VILLAGE
Unbeatable Kent Pond Location



228 Telemark Road, C1, Killington \$599,000

- Two-bed, two-bath unit Wood burning fireplace and vaulted ceiling in the living room
- Low condo fee; amenities include outdoor pool & tennis courts
- Minutes from Killington resort, nestled in the woods along Kent Pond
- World-class mountain bike trails are just outside the door on the Basecamp, Gifford Woods and Sherburne trail networks



**Killington Valley
Real Estate**

802.422.3610 killingtonvalleyrealestate.com

Bret Williamson, Broker/Owner

Judy Storch, Broker | Gary Thompson, Broker | Cathy Quaglia, Broker
Walter Findeisen, Broker | Doug Quatchak, Realtor | Laura Derderian, Realtor

2814 Killington Rd.
802-422-3600
www.KillingtonPicoRealty.com



Kyle Kershner
Broker/Owner



Jessica Posch
REALTOR®



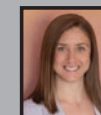
Daniel Pol
Associate
Broker



Jane Johnson,
ALHS, ASP(r)
REALTOR®



Edward Herson
Lic. Assoc.
R.E. Broker



Krista Mosher
REALTOR®



John Humphreys
REALTOR®



Prestige Real Estate of Killington

Exclusively Killington!

Pinnacle B11



- 1-bedroom/1-bath
- Located near resort base
- Gas fireplace
- Pool/hot tub
- Mountain views

\$299,000



Base Camp at Bear Mountain

Construction begins Spring '25
Lock in a prime location now!

- 3000+ square feet
- 4-bedroom 4-bath
- 2-car heated garage
- Ski in/ski out
- Bear Mt ski trail views
- Starting at \$2,900,000



2922 Killington Road 802-422-3923
www.prestigekillington.com



ACS DESIGN BUILD
802.457.3995
ACSDesignBuild.com

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
GENERAL CONTRACTING

Incorporated 1982

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



Four Seasons

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Mountains Make the Best Neighbors



Exquisitely Renovated 2 Bedroom Walkout at Mountain Green



Merisa J. Sherman, Managing Broker
Resort & Second Home Property Specialist, ABR®
802.345.0487 | Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com
@MerisaJSherman_Realtor

GIVE YOURSELF EVERY ADVANTAGE.
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

← Beast:
from page 3

of Killington with Rutland and Woodstock already built up on either side and roads coming into Sherburne from several directions. Perry Merrill telling me that the mountain and location were good was the start. I went through the steps, catching up.

“When I put the details on paper and analyzed them, I realized this was huge potential, and it all began to seem a little ambitious to me. Skiing would be 600 feet higher than the lift on Mansfield! Before I started, I realized Killington would be bigger than Stowe if I made it. It was all beginning to seem a bit awesome, but I had nothing to lose and everything to gain,” he recounted.

Because there were many people who came into the picture who realized that, it made Smith “short on credibility and long on enthusiasm.” But undaunted, he knocked on doors in Boston and New York, looking for investors. He was turned away. Money was a problem, and his uncle dropped out of the venture, leaving Smith to go it alone. Finally, in August 1955, a friend in Hartford gathered a group of businessmen for Smith to see.

The Sargent connection

The Hartford meeting didn’t work out at first. After Smith’s enthusiastic presentation, the insurance executives turned to a young Joseph D. Sargent and asked his opinion. Due to his considerable ski experience, Sargent had been invited to the meeting in place of his boss. But he had bluntly told them, “If you’re trying to start a business, it’s not the way to go about it.”

Sargent, who, at 26, was a year older than Smith, had also grown up in West Hartford, but the two had not met before. Sargent had just married in June and didn’t have much money to invest in such a venture.

While he was very much interested in the project, he thought that the plans that Smith had developed “for a million-dollar ski area with three mountains with lifts and a cabin car were grandiose,” and he told him so.

“After the meeting with the big wigs, the movers and shakers of the Hartford financial community with whom I was thrilled to be in the same room, I talked with Pres alone. Pres asked if I was interested, and I said “No,” Sargent recalled in 1988.

“Why not?” Smith had prodded.

“Because it is a colossal enterprise. It’s a \$100,000 deal and way beyond my means. If you want to do it on a shoestring, come back and we’ll talk. Pres just said, ‘Well, no; thank you anyway.’ To him, \$100,000 was the shoestring!”

After his time in the service, Joe Sargent had gone to work in Hartford for Conning and Company as an investor/analyst and soon became a general partner (and eventually CEO and Chairman of the Board). It was at Conning and Company, an investment research firm and member of the New York Stock Exchange specializing in advising insurance companies on investments, that Sargent honed his analytical and financial skills.

Because his parents were active sportsmen, Sargent had become an avid skier and outdoorsman. He skied for school teams and competed in both Nordic and Alpine events while at Yale. He also participated in the Dartmouth Winter Carnival and had skied Tuckerman’s Ravine. Summers were often spent hiking in the northern woods of Wisconsin or mountain climbing in New England and out West. His was a lifestyle that attested to an affinity for the outdoors and the mountains from an early age.

While still in college in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Sargent worked as a ski patrolman at Stowe and also patrolled at Mohawk, where he met Walt Schoenknecht. Avid skier that he was, Sargent had used his life savings of \$2,000 to purchase two shares of stock in Schoenknecht’s Mount Snow venture.

Asked in 1988 what influence the legendary Schoenknecht might have had on him and his decision to become a partner in Killington, Sargent called Schoenknecht “an interest generator.” But from Sargent’s point of view, “There was a missing piece at Mount Snow — the all-important financial means and strategy.” As a stockholder, Sargent could see from the financial reports that the area wasn’t earning sufficient returns to finance expansion.

It was that concern that Sargent brought to bear on the Hartford meeting. He recognized the value of the vision that Smith had presented, but more significantly, he was also convinced of the importance of having “all the pieces of the pie fit together in order for the project to succeed.”

Sargent knew he didn’t have the money to back a big, three-mountain complex, complete with a European cabin lift. However, he was interested and thought the project would be feasible if a company with stockholders were formed and the plans were scaled down for the first year.

In October 1955, Smith returned to see Sargent. In talking with Smith, Sargent sensed a kindred spirit and a similar desire to have the ski area run as a profitable operation. Sargent agreed to talk to friends in Hartford, and he also gave Smith the names of potential investors.

The “Beast of the East” was born from the right stuff: great mountain potential, state encouragement via Perry Merrill’s vision, and founders who loved skiing but could see — and agree on — the importance of operating a business, not a hobby.

Next week, we’ll meet more key players who would make Killington’s debut possible in 1958 despite the challenges along the way.

The “Beast of the East” was born from the right stuff: great mountain potential, state encouragement via Perry Merrill’s vision, and founders who loved skiing but could see — and agree on — the importance of operating a business, not a hobby.

Employment

FARM INTERNSHIP: Farm and Wilderness is hiring farm interns for this season, position is April-October, housing provided. Full job description and application on our website. Contact julie@farmandwilderness.org.

KMS DORM SUPERVISOR Join our dynamic residential community where you’ll mentor aspiring student-athletes, helping them balance their athletic dreams with academic excellence. Room and board included, this is a live in position. Full job description on our website. Contact jobs@killington-mountainschool.org.

SEASONAL WORK WANTED. Kelly’s Snack Shack, Wallingford, VT is looking for a full time. Line Cook for a seasonal snack bar. Please apply at kellyssnackshack05773@gmail.com.

For Sale

FOR SALE IN KILLINGTON. Thule bike rack, carries 4 bikes- \$150. Saris bike trainer- \$35. Yakima roof rack system with kayak carrier- \$150. Stihl electric lawn mower (without battery)- \$35. Bernie at 978-697-6676 or biobern@me.com.

Real Estate

KILLINGTON PICO REALTY Offering professional buyer and seller representation in Killington and the surrounding communities since 2013. Looking to sell? With our unique marketing plan, your property will be promoted in print and online. Ready to buy? Our full-time Realtors have special training in buyer representation to ensure you have a positive buying experience. Call us today to learn more. 2814 Killington Road (next to Choices Restaurant). 802-422-3600 www.KillingtonPicoRealty.com.

KILLINGTON VALLEY REAL ESTATE Specializing in the Killington region for Sales and Listings for Homes, Condos, Land, Commercial as well as Winter seasonal rentals. Call, email or stop in. We are the red farmhouse located next to the Wobbly Barn. PO Box 236, 2281 Killington Rd, Killington. 802-422-3610, bret@killingtonvalleyrealestate.com.

KW VERMONT LUXURY (KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY). Specializing in listing and selling Homes, Investment Properties, Condos, Land, and Commercial Properties in the Killington, Okemo and Woodstock Areas. Our Killington office is located at 1995 US Route 4, Killington. Contact us anytime for all of your real estate needs. Free Market Consultations. Marni@PeakPropertyRealEstate.com or 802-353-1604.

PRESTIGE REAL ESTATE OF KILLINGTON, 2922 Killington Rd., Killington. We’re different. We only deal with Killington real estate, the town we love and call home. We concentrate on only one thing: property sales. And we do it well. Our focus allows us to spend more time understanding your needs — either as a buyer or as a seller of Killington VT real estate. Specializing in the listing & sales of Killington Condos, Homes, & Land. Call 802-422-3923. prestigekillington.com.

SKI COUNTRY REAL ESTATE 335 Killington Rd., Killington. 802-775-5111. SkiCountryRealEstate.com — 9 agents servicing: Killington, Bridgewater, Mendon, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Stockbridge, Woodstock areas. Sales & Winter Seasonal Rentals. Open Monday-Saturday: 10 am — 4 pm. Sunday by appointment.

VERMONT REAL ESTATE COMPANY. Our goal is to cultivate a culture where agents are always prompt, honest, reliable, and professional. We value the relationships we build and view every home sale as a step towards a deeper relationship with our clients. We pride ourselves on our commitment to a higher standard, with a mission to raise the bar of the expected level of service. Tucker Adirondack Lange. 303-818-8069 or email tucker@vtreco.com.

PUBLISHER’S NOTICE: All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise “any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.” This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Services

BEAUREGARD PAINTING, 30 years experience. 802-436-1337.

ELECTRICIAN FOR HIRE. Contracting or service. Call Jim at Leighton’s Light and Power 802-356-2407.

MASONRY. BRICK BLOCK STONE. New construction. Repairs. Call or text free estimates 802-431-3829

MOUNTAIN BREEZE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC specializing in home caretaking, house-keeping and grocery service. 802-770-4129. mountainbreezepropertymanagement.com.

SNOW SHOVELING roofs, walkways, etc. 802-558-6172.

For Rent

KILLINGTON OFFICE SPACE! 300 square feet of dedicated office space, plus bathroom, kitchen, and storage for rent. Office is on the second floor of the Mountain Times newspaper building located at 5465 U.S Route 4 on the flats Quiet, professional working environment must be maintained. Willing to renovate to reflect the needs of your business. Some office furniture can be provided. Option for premium signage on Route 4 available to help promote your business. If interested, please email jason@mountaintimes.info or call the office at 422-2399.

STORAGE UNIT RENTALS AVAILABLE! 5’X10’ and 10’X20’ \$75.00- \$150.00 per month. Garage Bay For Rent \$2,500.00 per month plus heat. 125 Valley View Drive, Mendon 802-855-8113 paquettepropertymanagement.com.



FULLERTON PROPERTY SERVICE

WE’RE HIRING:
FULL-TIME & SEASONAL(HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDENTS - GREAT SUMMER JOB) PROPERTY MAINTENANCE POSITIONS AVAILABLE IN SOUTH WOODSTOCK,VT!

WE ARE SEEKING HARDWORKING, RELIABLE INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN OUR TEAM IN FULL-TIME AND SEASONAL ROLES. RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, SUCH AS LAWN MOWING, WEGED WHIPPING, MANUAL LABOR, SNOW PLOWING, SANDING, SHOVELING, AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION (EXPERIENCE PREFERRED, BUT WE ARE WILLING TO TRAIN THE RIGHT CANDIDATE).

APPLICANTS MUST BE TEAM PLAYERS WITH A CLEAN DRIVER’S LICENSE. WE OFFER COMPETITIVE PAY AND PAID HOLIDAYS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW, PLEASE CALL US AT 802-356-2486 OR E-MAIL FULLERTONPROPERTYSERVICE@GMAIL.COM.



CREATIVE WOOD FLOORS & MORE
Chris Messer, Owner
 Interior/Exterior Painting Install Refinish
 Floors/Windows/Doors/Siding
 Decks/Tile Work/Carpentry/Pressure
 Washing/Stonework
802.345.8916
Fully Insured | Free Estimates
 christophermesser71@yahoo.com



CONTACT US
(802) 342-5599
 chris@evergreenpropertycare.com
 www.evergreenpropertycare.com

- Repairs & Renovations
- Handyman Services
- Seasonal Maintenance
- Property Management
- Landscaping
- Emergency On-Call Assistance




Professional Service, Professional Results
 For All Your Plumbing & Heating Needs
 Specializing in Home Efficiency & Comfort
24 Hour Emergency Service
(802) 353-0125



MOUNTAIN LUMBER & HARDWARE
 KILLINGTON, VERMONT

OFFERING EXPERTISE & VISION FROM START TO FINISH




NEW BRAND, NEW NAME, SAME SERVICE AND QUALITY
802-422-3469
 MOUNTAINLUMBERVT.COM

Imprint of: **Goodro Lumber**



PLUMBING + HEATING
 Professional Service You Can Trust
802-770-8088 LICENSED & INSURED
www.JWplumb.com

RMG Stone Products Inc.
 Natural Stone



Quarried and Manufactured in Vermont

802-468-5636 RMGthinstone.com thinstone@rmgstone.com



ICO ELECTRIC
 Serving Vermont's residential electrical needs

802-779-6790
 lmh0520@gmail.com
 Clarendon, Vermont

Licensed & Insured



WATER WELLS PUMPS COMPLETE WATER SYSTEMS HYDRO FRACKING GEOTHERMAL

East Poultney, VT 05741
802-287-4016
parkerwaterwells.com

Plumbing and Heating, Inc.
Michael J. Belanger
 Residential/Commercial/ Backflow Testing

VT Master Plumber
 Serving Central VT
802-797-8292

Green Mountain Water Treatment Co.
 Iron & Sulphur Removal • Water Pressure Tanks • Water Softeners
 UV Light Systems • Arsenic & Radon Removal

FREE ESTIMATES
 Jeffery L. Leonard, Proprietor
 Professional Service Since 1983

Professional Solutions to your Water Quality Problems
(802) 236-0426

WASHBURN & WILSON AGENCY, INC.
 144 Main St. • P.O. Box 77 • Bethel, VT 05032
 Providing Insurance for your Home, Auto or Business
 Short Term Rentals • High Value Homes
Free Insurance Quotes

Call Mel or Matt **802-234-5188**
www.washburnandwilson.com



THE KILLINGTON GROUP
 REAL ESTATE SERVICES

#1 RENTAL AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE IN KILLINGTON FOR 45+ YEARS

- VACATION RENTALS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- CLEANING SERVICES

KILLINGTONGROUP.COM
 KILLINGTON ROAD - (802) 422-2300

K&N Kitchen and Bath Design, LLC

- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Flooring
- Hardware
- Plumbing Fixtures
- Installation

Kelly & Nick | 802-245-4474
 125 Valley View Drive, Mendon, Vermont
 kndesigns125@gmail.com



(802) 775-2552
www.EMPORIUMVT.COM
RUTLAND, VT

PREMIUM CIGARS • LOOSE TOBACCO • ROLLING SUPPLIES • HOOKAH • SHISHA • E-LIQUIDS • NIC SALTS • VAPES • COILS • POD MODS • BOX MODS • TANKS • PAPERS • CONES • WRAPS • SEEDS • GRINDERS • TRAYS • BAGS • STORAGE • HAND PIPES • WATER PIPES • BONGS • GLASS & SMOKING ACCESSORIES • LIGHTERS • TORCHES • 510 BATTERIES • DAB RIGS • E-NAILS • VAPORIZERS • INCENSE • CANDLES • TAPESTRIES • APPAREL • GIFTS • AND SO MUCH MORE



Regular & Specialized Cleaning Services, for residential and commercial properties

- Carpet Cleaning
- Tile and Grout
- Upholstery
- Water Loss
- Appliances
- Wood floors
- And so much more!

Steam Cleaning



Red Duck
 REFUSE & RECYCLING
 "We Refuse No Refuse"

Year Round • Seasonal • On-Demand • Bulk Pick-Up
 Residential Trash Pick Up Service to fit your needs

Serving all your cleaning and refuse needs since 1998. Call Today: 802-422-2230

Ski slower, love longer

Hello readers! I'm Uncle Matty, here for your help, but please be advised to swim at your own risk. I am not a doctor, therapist, lawyer, or man of the cloth. My professional certifications are limited to slinging cocktails and umpiring. If you have serious medical, financial, legal, or faith-based questions, please seek more appropriate help.

I am guilty of making many questionable life decisions. The hope is to pass along my hard learned wisdom so that my mistakes are not replicated. For so many reasons, it may be difficult to ask for advice, whether it be from close friends or relatives. So, if you have nothing to lose, why not ask Uncle Matty?

For the first few columns, I have solicited questions from friends and family.

Uncle Matty,

My husband and I are both avid skiers and hikers, but he is considerably faster and refuses to wait for me to catch up with him. I am usually left to ski or hike alone, meeting him either at the lift (sometimes he just laps me) or a summit, rarely having the shared experience that I was hoping to enjoy with my partner. He just wants to go as fast as possible, while I prefer to go slower and enjoy the experience (yes, there's a whole separate conversation in there that we won't discuss, and certainly not with you). How can I get him to slow down?

Anonymous

P.S. For the last time, please close your shades when you're at home!

Dear Anonymous,

I can relate to your problem, having been there myself, on both sides of the equation (usually the slow poke).

I don't ski much these days because my gouty big toe is a wild card, and I also suffer from high arches (dancer's feet) which makes for excruciating pain when stuffing my bent dogs into the medieval torture device more commonly known as a ski boot. So, I'm not much help there.

But there is nothing (other than golf) that I enjoy more than a good stretch of the legs in the woods, especially in the company of a lady-friend.

The first time that I met Ingrid, she beat me out of three beers, two pickled eggs, and a shot of Jaeger in darts. Without so much as a grin. I was immediately smitten.



Ask Uncle Matty
By Matt Anderson

During the days and nights that we spent together, when not hustling darts or going to underground arm-wrestling matches (she was small, but strong-great odds), we would explore The Green Mountains. Ingrid was a hiking machine, a 90-pound billy goat, and she wore the cutest little frown while grunting her way up a trail. Of course, I couldn't keep up with her. And after hanging out with her for a few weeks and living on a diet of her homebrew, pâté and sausages (homemade!), my gouty big toe was throbbing, and I could barely walk. She would be hundreds of feet above me, yelling down "Beiel dich, fetter Arsch!". So adorable.

After a few hikes, I decided to try and slow Ingrid down so that we could spend more time together talking (she had fascinating stories about lugging kegs on her tiny hips through the Biergarten wearing necklaces of Thuringer). I knew that because she was so petite and burned so much energy climbing that she had to constantly refuel, so I made sure to pack her beloved liverwurst and onion sandwiches, with extra mustard, along with the knockwurst and beer, in my backpack. I foolishly believed that my little manipulation had worked. Ingrid did double back a few times to stop her low blood sugar shakes, as I had planned, to throw down some Braunschweiger and scarf from her growler. But she seemed resentful. Usually, when she called me her big "Warmduscher" it had a sweetness to it, but this last time it sounded hurtful. I think that she knew that I had manipulated her and was resentful.

Soon after, Ingrid packed up her dart cases and moved back to Milwaukee. I follow her on Instagram, watching her make pâté and liverwurst. She also has an Only Fans account that specializes in sausage shaming, but I don't subscribe. I think she's doing well, having recently gotten sponsored by Düsseldorf mustard.

Be honest with your husband, he'll probably appreciate that you still enjoy his company, and it may even bring you both closer together. But let him rip a few runs on his own, too. If that doesn't work, start feeding him sausage and pâté until he gets the gout. That'll slow him down.

← Movie Diary:..... from page 32

chocolate sales plummeted during the summer months due to the heat. Crane needed a product that wouldn't melt, so he turned to peppermint candy as an alternative.

At the time, most peppermint candies were imported and came in square-shaped mints. Looking for a way to stand out, Crane sought the help of a local pill manufacturer who used a special machine to create round tablets with a hole in the center. The resulting shape resembled a life preserver, a widely recognized symbol of safety (especially following the Titanic disaster that same year). This inspired Crane to name his new mints "Life Savers."

Despite his creative idea, Crane lacked the facilities to mass-produce Life Savers. In 1913, he sold the formula and rights to a businessman named Edward Noble for just \$2,900. Noble saw the potential and made a key marketing move by packaging the candies in foil-wrapped rolls instead of the standard cardboard tubes, keeping them fresh and easy to carry.

Noble also revolutionized candy sales by placing them near cash registers in stores, which is still a common marketing tactic today known as "point of purchase." He aggressively advertised Life Savers as the "candy mint with the hole," the brand quickly took off.

Initially, Life Savers only came in a peppermint flavor called Pep-O-Mint. Over time, new flavors like Wint-O-Green, Butter

Rum, and the famous "Five Flavor" fruit mix were introduced. The brand expanded significantly, becoming one of America's most iconic candies.

Today, Life Savers remain a beloved candy, known for their distinctive shape and variety of flavors. What started as a simple idea to create a heat-resistant mint became one of the most recognizable sweets in history.

This week's feature, "Snow White," wanted to be sweet. Its goal was to be sweet. It tried really hard to be sweet. But in the end, it just wasn't sweet.

There was a time when I rooted for Disney. I deeply loved and appreciated the enterprise (I was even one of the original visitors to Disney World in Florida when it opened). But the once-grand company has lost its way, and it's painfully apparent with its newest release.

The only good reason to attend this film is if you have kids in tow. Younger viewers won't see through the choppy storyline and uninspired performances. Sure, there's some admirable CGI, but no amount of special effects can make up for a lackluster storyline... something Disney was always the master of.

A sour "C-" for "Snow White," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



GREAT SELECTION

Commercial Carpet Plush Stainmaster Carpet
No Wax Vinyl Flooring Carpet
Luxury Vinyl Tile Hardwood Floors

THE CARPET KING OF VERMONT

INSTALLATION & REPAIR • FULLY INSURED • REFERENCES AVAILABLE

245 Marble St., West Rutland, VT • 802-438-2077 • Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-4



CONN'S TREE CARE & LAND MANAGEMENT

Tree Care | Tree Pruning & Planting
Woodlot Management | Deep Root Fertilizing
Invasive Species Control | Spring Cleanup

Bill Conn ISA certified arborist NE-0792AU
Rutland, VT | (802)-282-2299
connstree@yahoo.com



Heat Pump Cleaning

Valcour Enterprises LLC

Specializing in cleaning, servicing, and maintaining heat pumps for clean and healthy air quality.

Eric Valcour-Owner
valcourent@gmail.com | 802-246-7430



VISION BUILDERS

Custom Homes & Renovations

Free Estimates | Fully Insured | All Calls Returned

- Preventative Maintenance
- Siding
- Framing
- Structural Repairs
- Decks

Eric Schambach | (802) 342-6026 | visionbuildersvt.com



BUDGET BLINDS
Style and service for every budget.

JUST ANNOUNCED: SALE EXTENDED!

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE SALE!
Our Biggest Event of the Year!

802-417-0020
Call or Text for details and to schedule a FREE in Home or Business Consultation.

We are your local trusted resource



BE THE BEAST.



25/26 Beast 365 passes go on sale April 1. Enjoy 365 days of fun at Killington and Pico, our best perks and benefits, and an Ikon Base Pass included, with the option to **upgrade to a full Ikon Pass**. Plus, when you pay in full, you're invited to **ski and ride this spring for free!**



BE THE BEAST