



**WHO'LL SKIM, WHO'LL SPLASH INTO KILLINGTON'S POND?**

Killington Resort's annual pond skim is Saturday, April 12. Watch as 100 brave contestants try to make it across the pond — spectating is free and cheering encouraged.

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**LAST RUNS**

Okemo's final day of the season is Sunday, April 13. Pico closed for the season Sunday, April 6, and Sascadena Six closed March 25. But Killington is still open! Superstar Quad (known for its access to skiing in June) will close April 13 this year as it's being replaced with a 6-pack! There's a party to honor its legacy — Killington style.

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**TRUMP TARIFFS TO COST VERMONT \$1B**

Tariffs imposed by the Trump are estimated to cost Vermont households an estimated \$1 billion annually, according to an estimate provided by the state treasurer's office.

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## 'Hands Off!' protests spark crowds nationwide 1,000 protesters lined Route 7 in Rutland in support of democracy

By James Kent

Human rights, supporting veterans, free speech, democratic normalcy, defending the U.S. Constitution, rebuking the dismantling of essential federal services and programs, and sounding the alarm of a tariff policy that over two days destroyed many Americans' retirement and college savings programs. On Saturday, April 5, an estimated 5 million Americans joined in protests throughout the country to send a message to the current president and administration: Hands off! our democracy.

In Montpelier, Vermont's capitol, thousands of protesters have rallied and marched to raise awareness of the current administration's actions since January 20.

Speakers at the Montpelier rally included former Gov. and U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Kunin, U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., Lt. Gov. John Rodgers, Senate Majority Leader Keshia Ram Hinsdale (D-Chittenden Southeast), state Treasurer Mike Pieciak, and other Vermont activists and organizational leaders.

Welch spoke to his concerns about the threats to democracy, deportations without due process, threats to Medicaid and Social Security funding, and the dismantling of federal agencies and departments during Trump's second term.

"This president we have is on a lawless rampage, shredding the Constitution," Welch said. "We are here today standing up for hope and democracy."



By James Kent

Protests → 4 1,000 people gathered in Rutland for the nationwide "Hands Off!" protests on Saturday, April 5.

## Killington Rec outlines plans for new pool and field house Recreation Master Plan aims to meet town's immediate and long-term needs

By Polly Mikula

On Tuesday night, April 1, Killington residents got their first look at architectural concepts for redesigning the town pool and recreation facilities on River Road.

The pool is currently leaking water and the pool/pool house are eight years past their "useful life," according to Steve Nisimblat, who's been on the recreation commission for 18 years and is currently the co-chair of the board. "Since I've been on the board we've been talking about the 'useful life' of this pool and it's now leaking water... like, every day it's leaking."

"The tennis courts have also hit their useful life. We've been told we can't keep resurfacing them," Town Planner Lisa Davis Lewis added.

Despite these immediate needs, Lewis Davis said that the soonest residents could expect a new pool would be 3-5 years and "probably much longer for rest of planned recreation

facility," as the town is anticipating a "phased approach" to the buildout, she explained.

"I think it's really important to understand that this is a long term project," she said. "Nobody's anticipating that we're going to implement this project tomorrow... The idea is to really plan for the future of Killington,"

"Since I've been on the board we've been talking about the 'useful life' of this pool and it's now leaking water... like every day it's leaking," said Nisimblat.

explained Davis Lewis.

The Killington Parks and Recreation Dept., in partnership with Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) and the Killington Planning Commission, has been in the process of a multi-year thorough Recreation Master Plan Study to address immediate needs as well as future needs of the community.

"This initiative aims to identify opportunities  
Rec center → 8

## AOE asks school districts to report compliance with Trump's DEI ban

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

Following a federal order that schools ban diversity, equity, and inclusion-related programs, the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) is asking school districts to submit compliance certifications.

Education Secretary Zoie Saunders told school district leaders in a letter on Friday, April 4, that they had 10 days to submit their certification but also said the agency believed certification required only that districts "reaffirm ... compliance with existing law."

President Donald Trump and his administration have threatened to withhold funding to public schools that fail to comply with the expansive order.

A letter dated April 3 from the U.S. Dept. of Education said that noncompliance with the diversity programming ban could result in schools losing a crucial stream of money meant to support economically disadvantaged students, known as Title I. The letter cited Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in schools based on "race, color or national origin," and also cited a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court Case against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina that restricted affirmative action.

Saunders, in the letter to district leaders, wrote that the  
AOE on DEI ban → 11

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# Gov. Scott and cabinet members tour Windsor County to address challenges, economic struggles

By Katy Savage

In a county still reeling from economic hardship and the aftermath of devastating floods, Gov. Phil Scott and his cabinet came face to face with frustration and hope during a tour of Windsor County on April 7—part of a statewide effort to bring government closer to Vermont’s most vulnerable communities.

Scott and cabinet members from every state agency visited Windsor County as part of the governor’s “Capitol for a Day” 14-county tour, a program he launched in 2018.

“We’re really only going to be successful if we actually see the places, see the people who we represent,” Scott told a gathering of residents and cabinet members at Murdock’s on the Green in Proctorsville, where he started the day.

Cabinet members later split up and visited sites throughout the county, including Hartness Airport in North Springfield to see a \$23.5 million rehabilitation project of the runway, funded by the Federal Aviation Administration. They also toured local farms and businesses like Black Hill Preserves in Windsor and a distillery in Quechee, while engaging with residents on topics like housing development, taxes, public safety, and small business recovery.

However, during a one-hour meeting in Proctorsville, residents voiced frustrations about feeling neglected, particularly following a devastating flood two years ago. At least two local businesses, including a bakery and distillery, remain closed due to extensive flood damage.

Trevor Barlow, co-owner of the former Crows Bakery building now known as Super Roasted, shared his struggles with the ongoing recovery process.

“We got wiped out, it killed our economy down here,” Barlow said.

He said delays in federal FEMA funding, the complexities of securing contractors, and complying with state inspections added to the problem.

Barlow said the bakery building was valued at around \$280,000 but suffered nearly \$700,000 in damage.

“As a person with a background in business, it does not make economic sense [to reopen],” he said. “But it makes a heck of a lot of sense for the community in an area where we’re already struggling to maintain population.”

Rep. V.L. Coffin, R-Cavendish, echoed Barlow’s sentiments, expressing frustration with the lack of follow-through after promises of help. He said people in the tiny village of Proctorsville feel abandoned by the government.

Board, voiced concern about the Trump administration’s directive to ban diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in schools. Sanders pointed out that Cavendish Elementary has become a haven for children with special needs, largely due to its

“The gap between the damages and what we’re able to afford and tackle ourselves is huge ... We’re still trying to work it though and we need to be faster,” said Farnham.

Doug Farnham, the state’s chief recovery officer, said while FEMA is efficient in initial response, its structure is not geared toward helping businesses recover fully. He said the flood was a billion dollar disaster.

“I think we need to go back out and bring more attention,” he said. “It’s partly a resource [problem]. The gap between the damages and what we’re able to afford and tackle ourselves is huge ... We’re still trying to work it though and we need to be faster.”

Some also had concerns about the future of education.

Lisa Sanders, a member of the Cavendish Town Elementary School

inclusive approach.

“Children with special needs have very close knit groups,” she said. “They talked to each other and they learned this is a school where you can really access the services you need for children to thrive and get the best education they can.”

Sanders’ concerns come as Education Secretary Zoie Saunders told school district leaders to submit a letter certifying that they are complying with federal law, known as Title XI, to her office within 10 days.

Jill Briggs Campbell, the deputy secretary of education, reassured

‘Capital for a Day’ tour → 11

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- 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



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By Katy Savage  
As Gov. Phil Scott was inside Murdock’s on the Green in Proctorsville holding a cabinet meeting, some people placed signs out front of the building saying, “Support Science and Education.”

# Chef/owner hospitalized after stabbing at Café Provence; suspect in custody

Staff report

A well-known Brandon chef and restaurateur is recovering after being stabbed Saturday afternoon at his restaurant, Café Provence, in what authorities are calling an attempted murder.

According to the state police, Robert Barral, 71 of Brandon, was attacked at approximately 4:30 p.m. on April 5 by a former employee, Jozef I. Eller, 32 of Granville.

Barral was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center and later transferred to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, where his condition was listed as stable late Saturday.

Following the assault, Eller fled the scene in a white 2017 Ford F-150 with Vermont license plates. Authorities launched a manhunt and warned the public not to approach Eller, describing him as "extremely dangerous."

By 10:10 p.m. Saturday, state police located and arrested Eller in Rochester without incident.

Eller plead not guilty in Windham County criminal court to charges of second degree murder and violating a no-trespassing order. The judge kept the order to holding Eller without bail.

State police say Eller had been previously ordered not to return to the premises. The motive for the attack has not been released. Further details are expected to be included in a court affidavit that will become public following the arraignment.

The Musicians in Schools performances at Rutland schools on April 18, which were expected to include a former colleague of Eller's, remain unaffected by the incident.

Anyone with further information about the case is encouraged to contact the Vermont State Police Rutland



Courtesy VSP

Jozef I. Eller of Hancock was arrested and charged with second-degree murder for the stabbing of Café Provence owner and chef Robert Barral on Saturday, April 5.

Barracks at 802-773-9101 or submit tips anonymously at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit).

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# Nation sees surge in climbing. Will the popularity extend to Rutland?

Steven Lulek has owned the Green Mountain Climbing Center in Rutland for more than two decades, but finding climbers these days is getting tougher, and he's not sure why when nationally the sport is growing

By Jackson Burden, Community News Service

*Editor's note: This story is via Community News Service in partnership with Vermont State University Castleton.*

The Green Mountain Climbing Center is Steven Lulek's brainchild, and for 23 years he's been eager to share his passion for climbing and teach this rapidly growing sport.

Walking into the center, you see mural artwork on each climbing wall with various holds, each sporting a color that corresponds with difficulty, going from five easy holds to nine harder holds.

Depending on when you walk into the gym, you'll see a wide range of diversity with classes of all ages.

Lulek and his wife have owned the climbing gym since 2002.

Competitions and team tournaments are often held for all members. Participants are divided into classes, from 12 and under to high school students to the "fossil class," ages 50-80, who partic-



By Jackson Burden  
Green Mountain Climbing Center Manager Hailey Elliot ascends one of the walls at the Rutland gym.

ipate regularly early in the morning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

In the Midwest, climbing has grown exponentially, creating world-championship climbing events. Lulek has been doing the same for years without much recognition.

"We can't drop a couple hundred dollars on plane tickets and hotels all weekend to fly our kids out to Colorado. It's great if you have the money to do that, but I don't think most of our demographic wants it," said gym manager Hailey Elliot.

But despite his passion for climbing, Lulek said he's been struggling to fill the facility on an everyday basis. He has been relying strictly on his local tournaments and his reliable "fossil" class who are in the gym often.

And recently, business has been slow. While parents take their children to enjoy climbing, they often don't throw on gear  
Rock climbing → 7

## OBITUARIES

## Harry Edgar Moulton, 81

Harry Edgar Moulton passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 29, in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Harry was born on August 12, 1943, in Bath, Maine. Son of William and Marguerite Moulton, Harry's childhood on a small farm with his three brothers, Bill, Wally, and Terry, instilled a fierce determination that would carry him through the joys and challenges of his amazing life.

Harry attended Wentworth College to earn his engineering degree. Later, he served two years in the Navy. In 1963, Harry met Kathy, the love of his life, which led to a 61-year romance filled with love. Together, they raised four children who are the pride of their lives: Ed Moulton, Karyn Perugini (Mike), Kelly Gullotta (Justin), and Kathryn Solomon (Andy).

Harry's work and personal life allowed him to visit and embrace the world. He took special joy in introducing these new worlds to friends and family, especially his grandchildren – Quinn (25), Kendall (24), Murphie (23), Courtney (22), Tate (22), Cameron (21), and Harrison (7).

Still, Harry's true passion was skiing, and this love of skiing is a legacy he passed on to all.

Giving us everything and leaving us with more, Harry will be forever remembered by his



Submitted

Harry Edgar Moulton

wife, children, grandchildren, sisters-in-law (Sylvia Rinaldi, Virginia Pagliaro, and Carolyn Moulton), Madison, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Forever in our hearts and always in our thoughts, we love you, Harry! You will be missed but never forgotten.

A service will be held at Killington Peak on Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Harry's name to Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports are appreciated.

Arrangements are with the Clifford Funeral Home—online condolences at [www.cliffordfuneralhome.com](http://www.cliffordfuneralhome.com).

## Barbara Joan Biathrow, 89

Barbara Joan Biathrow passed away Tuesday, April 1. A private service will be held with family members. A celebration of life will be held this spring in Killington, along with her husband, Henry Biathrow, who preceded her death by only 9 days.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sherburne United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 359, Killington, VT 05751, in memory of Barbara J. Biathrow.

Jo was born on June 10, 1935, in Kingston, IN, to Russell Lowell Brown and Cecile A. (Chambers) Brown.

She is survived by a son, Russel H. Biathrow, 66, of Killington, and a daughter, Deborah L. McGillivray, 64 (wife of Robert F. McGillivray) of Stoneham, Massachusetts, a Sister Donna Atkins, and brothers Robert Brown and Steven Brown, and many extended families.

For 35 years, she worked at Killington Ski Resort, starting in the small restaurant at the base of the slopes and working her way through many roles—from switchboard receptionist to accounting, and working at restaurants on the lower mountain. Then, for the last 20 years, she ran the Peak Restaurant, where her dedication and hard work truly shone.

Jo was a source of love, strength, wisdom and a pillar of her church community. She took great pride in organizing the yearly church dinners for group bus tours, always bringing people together with her kindness

and love.

After retirement, Jo and Henry wintered in Winter Haven, Florida. At the trailer park rec hall, she helped create many unforgettable holiday dinners. She was also a champion shuffleboard player and never missed a chance to enjoy her nightly card games, where her competitive spirit and laughter filled the room. Jo will be remembered for her unwavering kindness, her ability to bring people together, and someone who poured love and care into everything she did. She leaves behind a legacy of warmth, strength, and wisdom that will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us during this difficult time.

An online guestbook can be found at [cabotfh.com](http://cabotfh.com).



Submitted

Barbara Joan Biathrow and her husband, Henry dancing.

## ← Protests:

from page 1

Standing on the podium, Rodgers spoke to what he said were nonpartisan concerns regarding the Trump administration's actions, such as cuts to Medicare and Medicaid and recently imposed tariffs on Canada, which he said will negatively impact Vermonters.

"As a Republican who supports women's rights, the LGBTQ community, local farmers and loggers, our manufacturers and other great Vermont businesses, the free press, the United States Constitution, and the rule of law, I am appalled at what the Trump administration is doing to our state and our country," Rodgers said, according to his notes, provided to VTDigger by a 50501 organizer. "It is time that the Republicans in Congress stand up for their constituents instead of following the will of their president."

Hands Off! protests were not limited to the Green Mountain State capitol. Organized Hands Off! protests occurred throughout the state, including several in Windsor and Rutland counties.

Along Route 7 in Rutland, the crowds begin to form on the west side of the street around 11:30 a.m. Undeterred by the cold rain that came down at a light but steady pace throughout the early afternoon, people continued to file in, extending the line several street blocks until, by last count at 12:30 p.m.,

there were 1,000 people showing solidarity in one common bond: Democracy is at risk, and we will not go quietly into the good night.

And while the signs expressed frustration, anger, and concern, the large gathering was peaceful and in good spirits. Even when a pickup truck decked out in Trump and American flags stopped at a red light to shout at them, protesters in line refused to engage in any violent way. The majority of cars passing along Route 7 displayed solidarity with those in line by honking and waving their support.

Judging by the many signs displayed by the protestors, unelected federal program-slasher Elon Musk was the subject of much of the ire. It was not lost on the crowd that for all the administration's talk of immigrants taking American jobs, the only one taking them by the thousands was the billionaire South African scion of a wealthy family of emerald merchants.

No matter what reason brought people together on Saturday, the message was clear: As long as the Constitution guarantees the right to peaceful protest, people will exercise it. If an administration tries to take those rights away, that's a slippery path to autocracy.

Greta Solsaa and Kevin O'Connor / VTDigger contributed to this reporting.



By James Kent



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Several thousand attended a "Hands Off" rally in Montpelier on Saturday, April 5, part of nationwide protests against President Donald Trump's policies.

# Vermonters urged to protect trails during mud season

As spring returns to Vermont, the Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is reminding outdoor enthusiasts that mud season is in full swing—and with it comes the need for caution and stewardship on the state's hiking and biking trails.

Mud season typically lasts through late May in Vermont's higher elevations, as snow-melt, thawing ground, and seasonal rains leave trails soft, wet, and especially vulnerable to damage. FPR and its partners ask the public to avoid muddy and closed trails until conditions improve to protect fragile ecosystems and prevent long-term trail erosion.

"We encourage the public to get outside this spring, but to avoid closed and muddy trails," said Becca Washburn, FPR's director of lands administration and recreation. "Enjoy the spring sunshine on open trails, like paved and gravel bike paths, and save the summit destinations for summer."

Hiking and biking on soft trails can compact soil, damage plant roots, and increase erosion—making the trails less enjoyable and more difficult to maintain in the long run. High-elevation alpine zones are particularly fragile, home to rare plants that struggle to survive once disturbed.

"During mud season, we remind all hikers to do their part in protecting Vermont's natural landscapes and rare alpine vegetation," said Keegan Tierney, director of field programs for the Green Mountain Club. "Exploring low-elevation, durable surface alternatives helps ensure these environments remain healthy."

Mountain bikers are also encouraged to use extra care. "If your tires leave a noticeable rut in the trail, turn

"If your tires leave a noticeable rut in the trail, turn around and find a durable surface to ride elsewhere," advised Nick Bennette, executive director of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA).

around and find a durable surface to ride elsewhere," advised Nick Bennette, executive director of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA). "Ride responsibly to show our commitment to trail stewardship."

FPR and its partners recommend the following guidelines for enjoying Vermont's outdoors during mud season:

**Check trail status:** Visit resources like Trailfinder.info, the Green Mountain Club, or VMBA's trail updates to learn about your area's current trail conditions and closures.

**Turn around in muddy conditions:** If a trail is soft, wet, or rutted, turning back is the best option for both the user and the trail.

**Seek durable surfaces:** Gravel roads, paved paths, and rail trails are better choices during mud season. Explore other seasonal outdoor activities like paddling, birdwatching, or spring fishing.

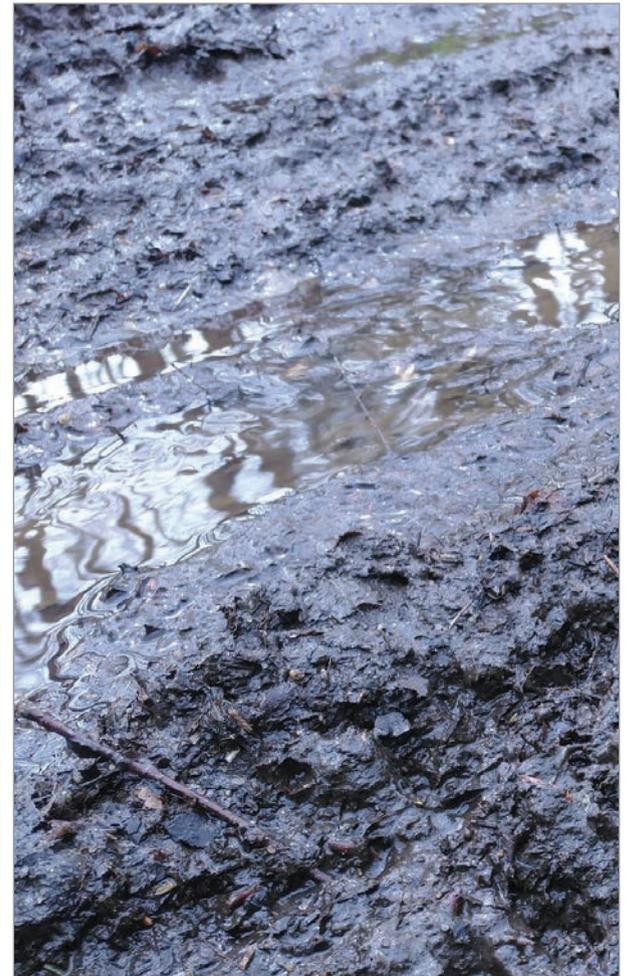
**Avoid alpine zones:** High-elevation areas are sensitive to foot traffic and erosion. Postpone those hikes until drier conditions arrive.

**Respect signage:** Obey posted trail closures and use good judgment even when closures are not explicitly marked.

**Check the weather:** Conditions vary dramatically by elevation. Be prepared with proper gear, extra layers, and alternative plans.

The Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Green Mountain Club, and VMBA thank all trail users for helping to preserve Vermont's cherished outdoor spaces.

For more information and current trail updates, visit: [trailfinder.info](http://trailfinder.info) | [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org) | [vmba.org](http://vmba.org).



Courtesy Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
Vermonters are urged to protect trails during mud season by avoiding muddy, closed, or fragile high-elevation areas to prevent damage and erosion. Instead, enjoy low-elevation, durable surfaces and alternative activities like paddling or birdwatching until conditions improve.

## Fifteen 5-year-olds graduate from Imagination Library Program at Rutland Free Library in celebratory event

With caps on their heads and diplomas in hand, 15 young readers celebrated a significant milestone at the Rutland Free Library as they officially "graduated" from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) program.

Held during the library's 2nd annual DPIL Graduation Ceremony, the event recognized the accomplishments of 5-year-olds who have completed the program. The program mails free, age-appropriate books each month to children from birth until their fifth birthday. As they age out of the program, graduates are encouraged to continue their reading journeys by getting their own library cards.

Families gathered to mark the occasion, cheering on their little graduates as they flipped tassels on handmade mortar boards. The event included coloring activities, refreshments, goody bags, and photo ops with DPIL Committee member Jennifer Bagley, who presided over the ceremony in full academic regalia.

Children living in Rutland City, Rutland Town, Ira, Mendon, and Tinmouth are eligible to enroll in the DPIL and receive free books delivered directly to their homes.

For more information on this event, visit: [rutlandfree.org/imagine](http://rutlandfree.org/imagine). Families in other towns can check availability at [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com).



15 young readers celebrated their graduation from the Imagination Library Program at Rutland Free Library.

## Planners, Board discuss Hartland Town Plan

By Curt Peterson

Select Board chair Phil Hobbie and vice-chair Tom Kennedy made an official visit to the Hartland Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 2. The official topic was tying up any remaining loose ends regarding a complicated transaction — readoption of the expiring 2017 Town Plan to prevent a gap while the planners are refining a new, 2025 Town Plan, which may be ready for adoption in June. The 2017 plan, without readoption, would expire in May.

Everyone left the meeting confident they were ready for a public hearing on the readoption on Monday, April 7.

Hobbie said that by readopting a plan that would be replaced with its successor, “We’re avoiding a gap that would leave the town vulnerable.”

Would-be developers must comply with a current town plan when proposing a project. If there’s no current town plan, no restrictions would apply. Monday’s Select Board meeting was to include a public hearing to discuss the 2017 plan readoption. Hobbie and Kennedy wanted to ensure all statutory requirements necessary for readoption have been met.

“It’s on the record,” chairman Dukeshire responded. “Everything’s been done.”

Unfortunately, Hobbie sent an email out canceling the warned April 7 hearing, explaining, “There were a number of procedural issues that were not addressed correctly ... missed by all the parties involved.”

It’s assumed the problems will be fixed, and the postponed hearing can go forward at a later date, and before the 2017 plan expiration takes place.

### Planning commission seats, votes

There are nine member-seats on the planning commission, but there are currently only seven active members. Planning commission clerk Jay Boeri said the possible number of voting members was unimportant — the number of the active members is seven, and Boeri feels the four present made up the legal quorum on that basis.

To avoid quorum questions, the planners voted to recommend the Select Board reduce the voting members from 9 to 7.

The commission will also petition the Select Board for an increase in its budget to cover the cost of administrative help — Boeri is taking the minutes himself, and the Zoom option is often not working properly. Communication with the selectmen would go through the proposed hiree, smoothing any perceived lack of information.

Hartland Town Plan → 10

Hobbie said that by readopting a plan that would be replaced with its successor, “We’re avoiding a gap that would leave the town vulnerable.”

## How Killington became the Beast

### Part 5: A female ski pioneer

By Karen D. Lorentz

One of the things that made Killington unique was the input and work of women from the get-go.

The 1950s were the era when ski area development and management were the province of men. Few wives of founders participated in decision-making, let alone were incorporators, directors, and officers of the parent company, and also worked tirelessly for a ski area to open!

Sue Smith did. She shared and worked for the vision of Killington her entire adult life.

Susanne “Sue” H. Smith was born in Vienna, Austria in 1933. Her parents, Otto and Maria Anna Hahn, fled Austria and a Europe on the brink of World War II in 1938. In 1980 interviews, Sue recalled her parents’ struggles and the many difficulties they encountered in establishing a new life in the United States.

“In retrospect, my early years influenced and prepared me for life as it was to unfold. I emerged from these formative years with the belief that the opportunities to pursue the American Dream existed and that all things were possible through hard work and tenacity.

“When Pres and I embarked on the Killington venture, it never occurred to me that success might elude us.”

Sue had become enthused about learning to ski as a teenager when she had her first lesson on a nearby Yale University’s golf course. It wasn’t until she attended the University of Connecticut that she took her first trip to the mountains on a college outing club visit to Mad River Glen.

When Sue’s father died suddenly in 1953, she was forced to leave college, but a desire for travel and adventure had already established her career plan. Due to her fluency in foreign languages, Pan American Airlines promised her a flight attendant position on bilingual international routes when she turned 21. In the interim, she began working as a Yale University health department secretary.

She met Pres Smith in 1954 at the Connecticut shore. When he proposed, Sue “had to make a very conscious decision between the lure of seeing the world with Pan Am and the prospect of marriage and an unknown future in Vermont.”

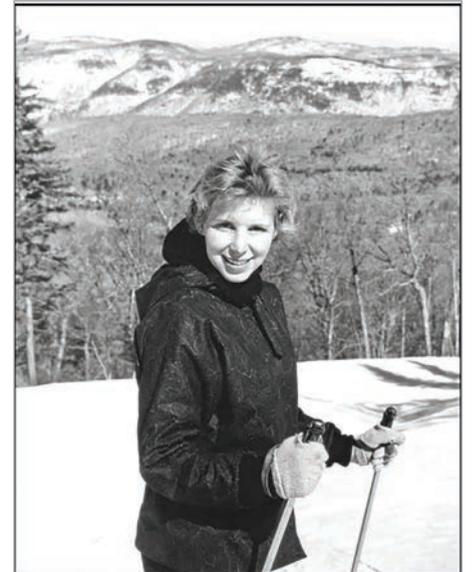
Although she never thought of the Vermont venture as pioneering, she did regard it “as an exciting and adventurous opportunity to share a life together.”

### Early contributions, support

After their marriage at the Yale University Chapel in April of 1955, the couple took a ski honeymoon at Stowe, an experience that cemented the dream of developing a ski area.

While Pres and his uncle Preston Leete intensified their efforts to make further studies of Killington’s potential, Sue had returned to her job at Yale. She was the sole wage earner, and at \$120 a month, funds were less than plentiful!

Another expedition to Killington in mid-May 1955 convinced them that this was the mountain to develop.



Submitted

*Sue Smith was an impressive promoter for the Killington project and a talented and outgoing hostess who could graciously manage home, children, and business details simultaneously.*

In the summer of 1956, Sue joined Pres in Vermont. She found employment in Rockingham, and they moved in with his grandmother May Minor Leete. Sue remembered her as “an extraordinary woman who moved to Vermont at age 85 and fostered our continued perseverance and helped us overcome some difficult hurdles. She lived to be 104 years old and saw the dream become a reality.”

With spare time access to a typewriter and mimeograph machine, Sue cranked out letters and other communications, extolling the virtues of developing Killington. Armed with her “homemade” but impressive prospectus on the Sherburne Corporation’s plans to develop Killington Mountain, Pres Smith pursued investors in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont during the spring and summer of 1956.

Looking back, Sue said, “The direction our lives took was implemented not only by our own fervor and commitment, but the timing was right. During the late 1950s, many more Americans were ready to rediscover the mountains for recreation — this time through the sport of skiing. We caught the wave and rode the crest.”

### First home and office

On their early trips into Killington, the Smiths had met Oren Bates, a Sherburne selectman and representative to the Vermont Legislature.

Excited about the future he saw for the town, Bates allowed the young couple to stay at the old Bates family farmhouse, long since abandoned but the closest dwelling to the mountain.

The Sherburne Corporation bought the Bates farmhouse in November 1956 along with what was thought to be 50 acres (about 70 surveyed acres).

The circa 1860 farmhouse was a primitive  
The Beast → 18

## Pittsfield will reconsider local option tax

By Brett Yates

Following a petition drive led by local business owners, Pittsfield residents will have a chance to overturn the town’s new “local option” tax on hotel rooms, restaurant meals, and alcoholic beverages, which voters approved just over a month ago.

The town clerk verified 47 signatures from registered Pittsfield voters demanding a reconsideration of the recent Town Meeting Day article. In compliance with state law, Select Board Chair Ann Kuendig scheduled a special town meeting for the revote, which will take place on Saturday, May 10, at 9 a.m. at the town hall.

“I think the important thing that we get out of this is that the people have a right to weigh in on decisions that affect their residency, their business, and that’s what has transpired here,” Kuendig said. “I think the discussion will be very good. It will give us another opportunity to explain why the select board is proposing this tax.”

Last month, Katie Stiles, co-owner of the Original General Store and Vermont Farms Catering, and Mark Stugart, owner of the

Clear River Inn and Tavern, voiced opposition to the new tax at a select board meeting. Stiles expressed concern that it could drive away her customers, while Kuendig emphasized its benefits for homeowners, who, by her account, will see a reduction in their tax burden thanks to additional municipal revenue contributed by tourists.



# Dog obedience classes take your dog from ruff to refined

By Pearl Bellomo

Cristina Kumka, owner of the local pet-care service Bow Wow Babysitters, is bringing more opportunities for dogs and their owners through obedience classes hosted by recreation departments.

What began last summer at the Brandon Town Recreation Department continues at the West Rutland Recreation Department, which utilizes its indoor recreational space and outdoor dog park. The next course is planned for May.

“We had really cool, small, personalized classes where people would bring their dogs, bring their issues, and we would solve them. I think all dog issues can be solved with some formalized obedience and reinforcement at home after the classes,” said Kumka.

The \$150 course includes four weekly, one-hour classes that both introduce and integrate obedience skills.

“Each class is a different skill that the handlers and the dogs learn, and then we repeat those skills at the following class, and then I integrate those skills into kind of an obstacle course at the end of each class,” said Kumka, adding that she also covers topics like first-aid for dog ‘parents.’

Participants vouched for Kumka’s effectiveness in helping them achieve their training goals.

Shelley Sayward, who took the West Rutland class in February with her chihuahua yorkie, Lenny, said the course helped them work on recall in busy environments.

“Lenny is definitely a free spirit...we have an excellent bond, but it was important for me to work on things such as recall. Most of the time, he is pretty obedient, but there are times when he has selective hearing. So that’s what I wanted to work on, really having control over him in situations in particular where there are distractions,” said Sayward.

Kumka described a typical class, which begins with clicker training and one-on-one time before the group exercises.

“Just last week, we had dogs on 40- to 50-foot leashes in the room, and their handler would throw a piece of steak across the room, and then they would tell them to come on

a long leash. As soon as they came to their handler and sat right in front of them, they would click their clicker and get a treat,” said Kumka.

Lindley Dannaway, who took the same course in January, made progress training her Anatolian Shepherd, Jack, to walk in the “heel position” or beside her.

She described Kumka as easygoing and adaptable, adding that the dogs’ various skill levels were accommodated.

“She kind of adapted things to where we were at, like what dogs needed, what attention they needed, and what they needed work on. We were all at different experience levels and ages,” said Dannaway.

Sayward echoed this, saying that she appreciated the small class size, which allowed for more one-on-one time, and Kumka’s personality, which “makes everyone feel at ease.”

“[Cristina] is really good at what she does...She brings high energy, but it’s also a relaxed energy that just makes it fun for everybody,” said Sayward.

Aimee Pittrich, director of West Rutland Recreation, said she is glad to be hosting these classes since it has been her goal to “offer something to everybody in the community.”

Partnering with recreation departments proves to be an effective use of space and resources, and it caters to locals through proximity and affordability. Plus, town locals get a discounted rate.

“It’s called dog obedience, but really the owners are the ones that need to be trained, not their dogs, to learn their cues so that you can give your dog the best quality of life and keep everybody around you safe,” said Pittrich.

May classes will be held Mondays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at West Rutland Recreation.

For more information, visit: [bowwowbabysitters.com](http://bowwowbabysitters.com) or email Cristina Kumka at [kumka83@gmail.com](mailto:kumka83@gmail.com).



By Cristina Kumka

A young girl learned basic dog obedience skills at a recent Bow Wow Babysitters class.



By Cristina Kumka

A dog received a lesson in how to stay at a Bow Wow Babysitters training session.



By Jackson Burden

Green Mountain Climbing Center owner Steven Lulek belays a climber.

## Rock climbing: from page 3

themselves, thinking it may be too difficult.

“Climbing gyms have been very explosive, and the success stories are just off the charts. They are everywhere but Rutland,” Lulek said.

Lulek said he has put his blood, sweat, and tears into this business, juggling different side jobs and programs to keep the lights on. “I do corporate team building for the state police. I’m a first aid instructor for Vermont Electric Company, and I teach team-building training for the Spartan race course organization. I also teach at Castleton University. I do all that to keep this place going,” he said.

He hopes to reach Castleton’s college student population by offering affordable prices and a tight-knit community where he strives to open up the gym to new clientele.

“I’m working on creating a ‘Learn to climb’ target program over the next 12 months,” he said.

New climbers can jump into the fun and ascend with other beginning adventurers. They can also talk to a few experienced climbers, like Dave Copock, a 70-year-old gym regular and one of Steve’s prime “fossil” climbers.

“Steve would let us come in early, and for a while, it was just us coming in here early in the morning playing 60s music and stuff. Then other people our age heard about it, and pretty soon, we had a group develop,” Copock said.

Walking through the gym during their competition day setup, Climber Larry Walter stressed how close everyone is with each other, from helping others with challenging climbs to cheering them on through their success.

“It’s almost like a family gym to us,” he said.

Lulek said the gym offers semester-based memberships, broken down into two semesters each for six-month memberships per year, costing \$250 for a total of \$500 for a full year — about \$42 per month. Compared to other climbing gyms in Vermont, adult memberships can cost over twice that, often between \$85 and \$150 a month, which can add up quickly without any special offers or discounts.

The climbing gym is open seven days a week at 223 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland. Everyone from any stage of life is enthusiastically welcome.

For more information visit: [vermontclimbing.com](http://vermontclimbing.com).



Existing site

Courtesy VIA

The Killington Recreation master plans were designed to augment the existing recreation facilities on River Road (shown above). The biggest gap identified was a lack of indoor options.



Concept 1  
Central plaza

Courtesy VIA

The first concept proposed was to locate the new field house over the current tennis and basketball courts and build a central plaza off the south end of the parking lot to welcome campers and guests. The pool house bathroom and field house would be separated, which would decrease efficiencies of services between the two.

← **Rec center:** from page 1

for enhancing and expanding recreational facilities to better serve the community,” said Emily Hudson, the Killington’s recreation director, Tuesday.

“This is a real early stage of sharing ideas so that whatever gets designed is what your community needs and wants,” said Andrea Murray, founder and principal architect of VIA. Murray grew up in Rochester and was a summer camp counselor at Killington rec herself. “It’s fun to be back,” she said, Tuesday. “It looks just the same.”

The public meeting Tuesday had three stated objectives:

- 1) Identify current conditions and trends in Killington Parks and Recreation
- 2) Introduce three potential concepts for revitalizing the Recreation Master Plan Facilities
- 3) Gather public feedback and comments

“The meeting was well attended with about 35 people attending both in person and online,” Hudson stated after the meeting. “Attendees provided insightful comments and helped the project team gain a better understanding of town’s appetite for a project of this size.”

**Growth, future needs**

Hudson said that over the past 10 years the Killington rec dept. has seen a large growth in nearly all its programs.

In 2014 the total rec revenue was just over \$31,000, a decade later in fiscal year 2024 the total revenue was up over \$118,000 — that’s

quadrupled the income, she shared.

“But there’s a huge revenue lost from the months of October-May just because we don’t have adequate indoor spacing to continue to host programming,” Hudson explained in her presentation to the public.

The town’s rec summer camp — the largest revenue driver — is currently limited by a lack of indoor spaces for its campers in inclement weather. The camps always sell out, often within the first week.

“If we had a larger indoor space, we could accommodate more kids, and we could also offer more programming,” Hudson said. “Alongside summer camp, there’s climate driven needs, between our cold, longer winters, and then kind of our crazy summer weather patterns we’ve been seeing. How can we adapt our facilities to meet that? ... Our current facilities are 50 years old, we’re hoping that the roadmap and vision that we create now is going to be the roadmap and vision that’ll take us through the next 50 years, if not longer,” she said.

In addition to the popularity of summer camps, 58% of Killington Elementary School students participate in rec baseball, 76% participate in rec soccer, and 22% participate in rec basketball. For adults, the Killington pickleball club (a new program) saw 14% growth in participation from their first year to their second.

**Planning, ballpark costs**

VIA conducted a site visit in November  
Rec center, cont. → 9



Concept 2  
Pool & field house

Courtesy VIA

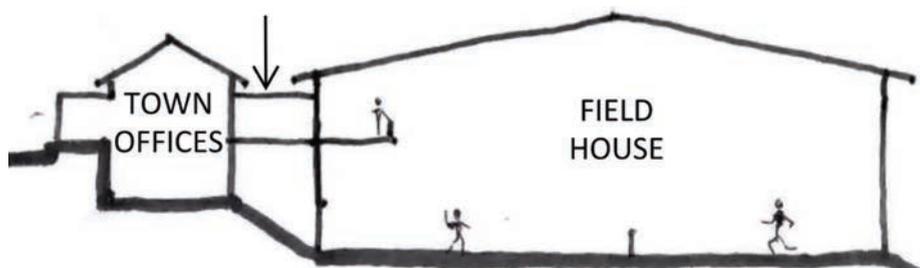
The second proposed concept would combine the pool house and field house bathroom and locker room facilities and allow for two of the three outdoor tennis courts to remain. The soccer and baseball field space would decrease slightly, however, and the former town hall building would not be integrated.



Concept 3  
Rec center

Courtesy VIA

The third proposed concept would integrate all three: the pool house, field house and former town offices to make a “rec center.” It would allow for the tennis, basketball, baseball and soccer fields to remain their current size and would also allow for a small welcome pavillion off the parking lot to welcome guests and campers.



Courtesy VIA

The diagram of the proposed new connection from the town offices to the new field house.

**Rec center, cont.:**  
from page 8

with Enman Kesselring Consulting Engineers and other subcontractors to assess the current facilities and well as obstacles and opportunities within the surrounding area and landscape. They confirmed that the pool, pool house, and tennis courts were past their useful life but that the current town hall has good structures so could be incorporated into the future facility plans, if so desired.

Since 2018 the town has put aside \$75,000 a year in a restricted recreation pool fund.

“For FY 26 we’ll be at \$601,540,” reported Amy Spear, co-chair of the recreation commission.

In five more years, the fund will be up to almost \$1 million.

When asked for a ballpark cost figure, Murray said it’d likely be \$1.5 million to \$2.25 million for just the pool. “It’s a pretty big project. It’s a lot of concrete. It has some serious mechanical systems,” she said. “We have a cost estimator who is going to help us through

this process to get some better numbers,” she added. “We haven’t done that full exercise yet because we really want to home in on the concept you like the best, and we understand that there are variations in each of them, but we can also break each of them into bite sized chunks

... everybody wants to know what it’s going to cost if you were to do everything [including] the field house... you’re probably somewhere between \$10 million to \$18 million. I just don’t know, there are so many variables,” she said.

**The three concepts**

VIA presented three concepts at the public meeting Tuesday. All three included replacing the pool and pool house entirely. “We agree with the assessment that, unfortunately, it’s past this usable life,” said Ellie Krause, VIA project architect. Nothing short of a full replacement can suffice.

All pool configurations in the concepts presented were slightly larger than the current pool with a full 25 meter lap lanes, plus small diving area and splash pad.

All plans also “have the pool house removed from the pool,” Hudson noted. “Because if you’ve ever been on River Road from the end of August through the beginning of June, there’s no bathrooms other than the Porta-Potty and we realized that’s a big need for our community with how many people are walking on River Road, utilizing the fields, the picnics areas, the pavilion... separating the pool house beyond the pool allow us to keep it open longer,” she explained.

New to the rec facility plans is the addition of a field house — an indoor structure for sports, recreation and events year-round. Killington’s field house could be modeled after Shelburne’s field house, the rec commission suggested, Tuesday. Shelburne’s has a of combo turf and hard surface with an indoor walking path around the fields. It is one large open area with nettings to section off areas as needed to create a multi-use space for different size needs — from birthday parties to multi-field tournaments.

Shelburne’s field house is booked solid from 8 a.m.-11 p.m., according to the rec commission.

**Concept 1 - Central plaza**

“The first concept is centered around a central plaza space, a community gathering space, and all of the buildings cluster around that,” explained Krause. “It doesn’t necessarily have to be a hard scape like concrete or asphalt, it could be a lawn space, but it’s an area where people can come together before they head off to their individual activity... It’s a nice central location for campers to gather when they’re dropped off at the beginning of the day and for pickup.”

This concept envisions the pool and pool house being

essentially in the same location as they currently are. Their replacements would be the first phase of construction. Next, the town would renovate the picnic pavilion, add a small addition for rec offices to the back of the current town office building (450 square feet) and build a basketball court between the pavilion and the playground to the north of the pool.

A field house would eventually be built overtop the current tennis courts just off River Road.

Noted upsides to this plan were the ease of phasing the project over time as the buildings are all separated.

Noted downsides to this plan included the field house’s perceived size from the road, losing outdoor tennis and possibly skating rink, and lack of integration/efficiencies with pool house, field house and recreation offices.

**Concept 2 - Pool and field house**

The second concept combines the pool house and field house just below the current tennis courts.

“We talked a lot about how the pool house and the field house have a similar goal and could share facilities and be constructed as one construction project, which would potentially save costs in the long run,” explained Krause. “So in this

concept, the pool house and the field house are combined into one building. They could share the restrooms and the locker rooms. It also creates one primary space ... everyone congregates here at the field house first, and then the rest of the facilities are off of that.”

The pool and the field house/pool house would be the first phase, but could be broken into even smaller components, if desired, she noted. “You could do the pool and the pool house portion of the field house that has locker rooms and an office, and then build the rest of the field house at a later time. But it seems most economical to do it all at once,” Krause said.

Noted upsides of this concept are that two of the three outdoor tennis courts are preserved on the River Road side of the field house and there are financial efficiencies by combining shared facilities.

The outdoor courts would remain where they are currently and the field house would drop down 3-4 feet, Krause explained. “By dropping the field house down a little bit, you decrease the mass of it so it won’t feel so large,” she added.

Noted downsides included no town office addition or integration with that building and smaller field spaces below.

**Concept 3 - Recreation center**

When designing the third concept VIA kept the efficiencies of sharing facilities between the pool house and the field house and also integrated the former town office building.

“In this concept, we envisioned building the field house down lower on the hill with a connection to the town offices, so that you could really create one unified rec center, rather than building smaller pieces across the site,” Krause explained.

“Another thing you’ll note is that the pool is on the south side of the building,” she added, responding to an earlier question from resident Andrew Gieda about the pools location north of the field house, which would potentially blocking the sun from the pool area.

“This plan is connecting community spaces,” Krause said. “From the ... upper level of the town offices there’s like a little bridge that goes across to the field house. There could be a balcony or a viewing area up high so that if your kids are playing tennis down there you can watch, maybe that balcony goes all the way around the field house and it becomes a walking track... there’s a lot of opportunities here.”

The field house would also have a second main entrance at the pool plaza, which would also provide camp drop off space near the pool’s current entrance.

In addition to connecting all community assets, noted upsides include: the pool, all three outdoor tennis courts and basketball court as well as the baseball and soccer fields to remain their full sizes in their current locations. The mass of the building would also be hidden from the road as it would be behind the current town office building and not much taller.

Noted down sides include: a higher upfront cost as phasing couldn’t be broken down into as many parts as easily.

**Public input**

“What we want to hear from you is, ‘yeah, we like the idea of combining the pool house and the field house so they have shared amenities, and we like the relationship of the pool to the rest of the campus — or not,” concluded Krause.

Lewis Davis added, “It’s not like this is pick menu A or B. I think we’re just showing a lot of different elements and where they could be placed and what their function could be.”

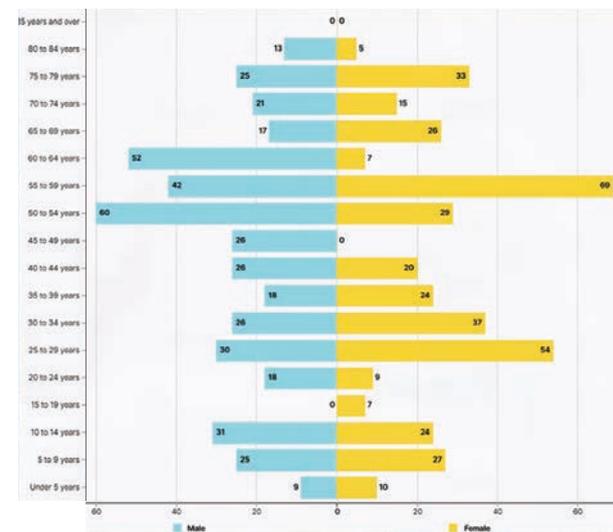
Many residents expressed concern about the pool having to close during the construction of the new facility and asked VIA if it were possible to move the pool to slightly different location so that it could remain open for residents and campers.

VIA responded that it could be possible or construction could be timed at the end of one summer and beginning of another so as not to loose one whole season.

Other members expressed concern over the timing of the project and lack of perceived urgency given the current conditions.

“Whoever built that pool back in whatever year in the ‘70s did a damn good job, because it’s still lasting. Pools are only supposed to last 30 or 40 years,” said Selectman Jim Haff. “But one day you may come and there may be no water in that pool because there are cracks in it, and they have to fill them, they’re filling them every day! ... I would say that you should be moving towards moving the pool to a different section, so you can start getting that going while you still have the other pool... we can’t wait any longer, we can’t sit here for another three to five years deciding if we’re going to put in a swimming pool.”

Hudson is continuing to solicit feedback from community members on behalf of the rec dept. Feedback and comments with regards to the concepts can be emailed to [recdirector@killingtontown.com](mailto:recdirector@killingtontown.com). For more information, including watching the recording of the presentation, April 1, and slides of the three concepts, visit: [Tinyurl.com/KillingtonRecPlan](http://Tinyurl.com/KillingtonRecPlan).



Courtesy VIA  
Chart shows the population of Killington residents served by Killington Rec spans various age groups and genders.

## Treasurer's office reports Trump tariffs will cost Vermonters an estimated \$1 billion annually

New tariffs imposed by the Trump administration April 2, plus tariffs implemented since January, will cost Vermont households an estimated \$1 billion annually, according to an estimate provided by the State Treasurer's Office.

On Wednesday, April 2, the White House announced a sweeping range of tariffs and "reciprocal" tariffs that the administration claims will "free" the U.S. from foreign goods, imposing a minimum 10% tax on all imports, and substantially higher tariffs on major U.S. trading partners, including an additional 34% tariff on Chinese goods.

Economists have raised concern that the tariffs—taxes on foreign goods imported into the U.S.—will ultimately increase prices, which will be passed down to American businesses and consumers.

"Trump's so-called 'Liberation Day' is supposed to free America from imported goods, but in reality, it's just freeing Vermonters from their hard-earned money and hitting low-income individuals the hardest," said Treasurer Pieciak. "Vermonters are already facing an affordability crisis, and the administration just hit Americans with one of the largest tax increases in U.S. history. This will raise costs on families and local businesses and hurt the economy."

While the economic impact of the Trump tariffs on Vermont is difficult to calculate, the Yale Budget Lab, a non-partisan policy research center, estimated the Trump tariffs to date will cost the average U.S. household an additional \$3,800 per year.

For Vermont's 279,612 households, that amounts to \$1.06 billion in additional costs statewide. For comparison, Ver-

mont's property taxes increased by about \$200 million in FY24, while the state's sales tax revenue totaled about \$700 million that year.

Prior to April 2, Trump had imposed a 25% tariff on goods from any country importing oil from Venezuela, a 20% tariff on imports from China, and 25% tariffs on goods from Canada and Mexico. The April 2 tariffs do not affect goods from Canada and Mexico, but they are cumulative with

respect to China, resulting in a total 54% tariff on most Chinese goods.

While the administration claims the tariffs will incentivize domestic production, Pieciak says they will make it harder for small businesses to compete.

"Our office has already heard from local businesses that can't afford this massive tax increase," said Treasurer Pieciak. "This isn't the kind of thoughtful policy that will help grow American industry—it's more of the same chaos and uncertainty we've come to expect from this administration, without concern for the everyday people who will pay the price."

Earlier this year, Treasurer Pieciak convened a task force to proactively assess the economic impact of new federal action under the Trump administration.

### Vermont's top import partners by country, import volume and tariff

- Canada, \$2,161,935,085, 20%
- China, \$192,413,448, 54%
- Switzerland, \$98,905,945, 31%
- Trinidad and Tobago, \$81,354,805, 10%
- Mexico, \$77,527,704, 20%
- Germany, \$75,810,525, 20% (EU-wide)
- India, \$51,928,666, 26%
- France, \$46,159,798, 20% (EU-wide)
- Korea, South, \$45,650,562, 25%

The Yale Budget Lab, a non-partisan policy research center, estimated the Trump tariffs to date will cost the average U.S. household an additional \$3,800 per year.



Courtesy of Casella Waste Systems

Casella recycling worker with a tablet with an embedded lithium ion battery found in recycling.

## Vermont promotes proper battery recycling as new battery technology poses increasing fire risks

By Greta Solsaa, Community News Service

*Editor's note: This story is via Community News Service in partnership with Vermont State University Castleton.*

In the past decade, rechargeable lithium ion batteries have become ubiquitous in products like smartphones, electric toothbrushes, and electric vehicles, powering Vermonters' everyday lives.

But the new technology has its own challenges, particularly fire safety concerns due to improper recycling, said Josh Kelly, the solid waste program manager for the state's Dept. of Environmental Conservation Waste Management & Prevention Division.

Because of these fire safety concerns, waste management officials in 39 states around the country consider them to be the most difficult kind of waste management material to manage, Kelly said, citing a 2023 study conducted by the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

The Vermont Legislature approved new recycling requirements for rechargeable batteries last year, and now waste management officials are trying to make sure the public is aware of them.

Jen Holliday, the director of public policy and communications for the Chittenden Solid Waste District, said flare ups from lithium ion batteries occur weekly at their

facilities, and workers are trained to quickly extinguish fires.

In 2018, the Chittenden Solid Waste District building in Williston burst into flames after hours, likely from a damaged lithium ion battery. Someone noticed smoke and reported the incident, but the fire damaged the roof and side of a building by the time firefighters responded.

The state does not collect data on fires started by batteries, but Kelly said he is aware of at least five battery-related fires at solid waste facilities in the state since 2023, and there has likely been more.

Todd Ellis, vice president of the national organization Call2Recycle, which partners with the state

to operate the battery stewardship program, pointed to a study from the Environmental Protection Agency that showed there has been a 3,000% increase in battery-related fires across the U.S. since 2013.

Jeff Weld, vice president of Casella Waste Systems, said flare-ups from lithium ion batteries happen weekly at the company's facilities around New England. He said the fires are a major concern because of potential harm to workers and emergency responders and the damage to facilities, equipment and vehicles.

"Whether it's on our trucks or in our facilities, we're seeing more and more of these fires caused by improper disposal," said a vice president for Casella Waste Systems.

### ← Hartland Town Plan: ..... from page 6

The planners also asked for funds to cover legal expenses. Hobbie said by organizational rules, all planning issue attorneys would ultimately be representing and be chosen by the Select Board, who would control and cover the expenses.

Adding to discussion of ways to improve communication between the commission and the Select Board, Kennedy suggested the two bodies meet quarterly to review current status and possible future activities.

Boeri said he is looking forward to contacting the town manager asking for time at an open meeting for discussion of any issues that need consideration.

Hobbie told the Mountain Times the Select Board wants to make decisions with the planning commission, not for them. He is also looking forward to establishing protocol for communicating with the planners. The Hartland Select Board meets on the first and third Monday of each month in Damon Hall at 5:30 p.m.

← **AOE on DEI ban:** .....  
from page 1

federal restriction includes “policies or programs under any name that treat students differently based on race, engage in racial stereotyping, or create hostile environments for students of particular races.”

The letter said that programs highlighting specific cultures or heritages “would not in and of themselves” violate federal regulations.

“We do not view this certification to be announcing any new interpretation of Title VI,” Saunders wrote, adding that the agency’s “initial legal review” determined the federal letter only required the state to “reaffirm our compliance with existing law.”

But guidance from the federal education department seems to restrict a variety of practices, arguing that school districts have “veil(ed) discriminatory policies” under initiatives like diversity programming, “social-emotional learning” and “culturally responsive” teaching.

In an earlier memo, the Vermont AoE told districts to “proceed with their planned professional development and instructional activities.” The memo also cited a March 5 letter written by more than a dozen attorneys general, including Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark, telling schools to “continue to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility among their student bodies.”

The agency said it would host “office hours” this week to answer districts’ questions regarding the federal compliance certification.

At least one neighboring state, meanwhile, has taken a different tack. Soon after the Trump Administration sent states

Soon after the Trump Administration sent states last week’s letter, New York state announced it would not comply.

last week’s letter, New York state announced it would not comply.

News of Saunders’ letter spread quickly on social media. At least one district, Winooski, said it won’t comply with the certification.

“I notified the Secretary that I will not be signing anything,” Wilmer Chavarria, the district’s superintendent, wrote in an email to staff shared with VTDigger. “I also requested that the state grow some courage and stop complying so quickly and without hesitation to the politically-driven threats of the executive.”

Winooski’s school board will address the compliance certification at a regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, according to Chavarria’s message.

← **‘Capitol for Day’ tour:** .....  
from page 2

the community that DEI initiatives remain vital in Vermont and their position with the Trump Administration is that school districts in the state are following federal law.

“[The Trump Administration] is trying to get communities and schools to start making changes to schools that may not be required,” Campbell said. “We don’t think there’s any illegal DEI, which doesn’t actually happen anyway.”

Rocket, a Hartland resident, videomaker and social media personality with a large following, praised the governor for visiting Windsor County, but urged him to do more, explaining some feel the administration is inaccessible and people don’t feel they can speak up.

“People feel they won’t be heard,” he said, adding the state feels divided at times.

“It really feels sometimes when I go through different communities that people are living in different worlds,” he said.



By Katy Savage

Gov. Phil Scott visited Windsor County Monday, April 7, and kicked off the day with a cabinet meeting at Murdock’s on the Green in Proctorsville. After the one-hour meeting wrapped up, he chatted with Jennifer Morrison, the commissioner of public safety.



Submitted

Beavers can wreak havoc on critical dams in Vermont. The state has plans to remove some.

## Agency of Natural Resources considers removing beavers from up to 25 state-owned dams

Two public meetings in April will be held on new dam safety rules, plans to mitigate beaver-induced dam blockages

By Izzy Wagner/VTDigger

Vermont’s Agency of Natural Resources may trap and remove beavers from roughly 25 state-owned dams impacted by beaver-induced debris.

The plan is an effort to comply with new technical standard dam safety rules, which are a product of a state law passed in 2018. They require the state to remove the beaver materials, modify the dam or relocate the beavers, according to a Monday press release.

Some beavers build their own dams, abutting human-made dams, which can restrict the structure’s ability to safely pass flood flows, according to the release. Additionally, the excess water stresses these dams, leaving them more susceptible to damage.

Restoring dams to comply with the new safety rules is expected to lower the water levels of the affected areas, because debris removal allows water to more effectively pass through the dams. Some affected areas include popular recreation spots such as Bristol Pond, according to the release.

Ben Green, chief dam safety engineer for the state’s Dept. of Environmental Conservation, said people have grown accustomed to the higher water levels in places like Bristol Pond caused by years of beaver activity. The lower water levels “may affect recreation” in these areas, Green said.

The Agency of Natural Resources plans to hold two public meetings in April. During the meetings, engineers and wildlife biologists from the departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish & Wildlife will inform the public of the new dam safety

rules and discuss options for bringing state-owned dams impacted by beavers back into compliance. While attendees can ask questions, state officials say the meetings are not public hearings and therefore do not affect the state’s plan.

Green said the state is considering multiple options, including some cases of beaver trapping and killing, to clear up the blocked dams.

In the longer term, the state could modify dams to accommodate beavers, “which has cost ramifications, but is possible,” Green said. The state may also remove some of the dams that may not be useful, allowing beavers to continue living in these areas, he said.

“I do believe that there’s going to be cases of trapping, but that will be only short-term,” Green said. “That’s going to be the only short-term alternative to allow the debris to be cleared and the dam to function the way it was originally designed.”

In place of beaver trapping, organizations such as the Vermont Land Trust have installed beaver flow devices, called “Beaver Deceivers,” in blocked dam areas. These devices are designed to keep water flowing through or around beaver constructions, preventing excess water blockage caused by beaver dams without disrupting the animals.

But Beaver Deceivers “do not provide enough benefit to be a permanent solution” in the case of these significantly underman-aged dams, according to Green.

Josh Morse, a spokesperson for Vermont Fish and Wildlife, echoed Green’s statement, saying nonlethal options such

# Thank you Windsor County

Thank you, Windsor County, for showing up for the Saturday, April 5, Hands Off! Our Democracy rallies. Thousands of you braved the chilly rain to protest on democracy's behalf – in Chester, South Royalton, White River Junction, and Woodstock. People of all ages turned out to protest the Trump administration's handling of our economy, our people, our federal government, and our democracy. Senator Becca White and I attended robust Hands Off! rallies in Chester, South Royalton, and White River Junction. We were so impressed by the passion and creativity expressed in people's signs and chants and inspired by their determination to stand up for our core democratic values. So many of us have felt disempowered by the dismantling of the institutions that support our vibrant democracy. The Hands Off! rallies gave thousands of Vermonters and hundreds of thousands of Americans the first moment to collectively exercise our precious freedom of speech.

In November 2026, America will vote and weigh in on our congressional composition. Hopefully, that election will restore a powerful check to this unmitigated executive outrage. In the meantime, we need to channel former Vice President Kamala Harris: "Courage is contagious" and continue to show up, stand up and speak out.

It is so important during this period of uncertainty that all Vermonters, regardless of gender identity, race, religion, immigration status, or disability, be able to live freely and without fear. The Legislature is taking steps to further protect Vermonters and those who live among us, enabling the industries Vermont depends on—agriculture and tourism in particular. In several measures this session, we are working

towards limiting local law enforcement's ability to cooperate with federal immigration authorities (ICE), protecting immigrants' ability to access housing, and protecting our LGBTQ+ Vermonters.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

Two bills passed by the Senate and now being considered in the House are S.44 and S.127, which reflect these measures. S.44 prohibits any local, county, or private law enforcement agency from agreeing with federal immigration law enforcement (ICE). Only the governor,

in consultation with the attorney general, is authorized to enter into such an agreement. This will help give clarity and consistency to these matters. And S.127 protects immigrants and those not yet citizens from housing discrimination.

In addition, the Senate passed Joint Resolution 15 in March with a unanimous vote. This resolution recommit to the principle that all individuals are welcome here in Vermont and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and that Vermont will continue to stand with our transgender and non-binary family, friends, and neighbors against discrimination.

And, if the federal government further cuts core programs that Vermonters rely on, Medicaid, LIHEAP, transportation, education, and housing supports, the Vermont Legislature will have to act to protect vulnerable Vermonters from devastating impacts to their health, heat, housing, roads and our young people's education. As the federal government withdraws oversight and financial support, the states will need to assume a greater role in many areas.

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

## Advocates urge Legislature to ban guns in bars

On April 3, a coalition of service industry professionals, lawmakers, and gun safety advocates gathered at the Vermont State House to urge the Legislature to approve Burlington's charter change (S.131), which would ban guns in bars and was overwhelmingly supported by 86.6% of Burlington voters in 2025. Advocates are also calling for the passage of H.45, which would establish a state-wide prohibition on firearms in bars.

Senate President *pro tem* Phil Baruth underscored the need for action, pointing to both common-sense gun safety principles and real-life tragedies that have occurred in Vermont.

"As the NRA safety course teaches, guns and alcohol don't mix. Burlington has already experienced a brutal shooting outside a bar, with someone dying and bleeding out on Church Street. In this era of heightened public safety concerns—raised by the governor and others—we're simply saying: let's keep guns out of bars. It's common sense."

This is not a red state versus blue state issue; it's a human safety issue," said McKnight. "Freedom is the ability to go to work or enjoy a night out and know you'll get home safely."

Gun ban in bars → 18

# 'Can you hear me now?'

As expected, Governor Scott vetoed the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) for the second time last Friday, April 4, after House and Senate leaders refused to allow the winter rules of the hotel voucher program to end April 1. Winter rules, which allow more people to stay in hotels at state expense, ended April 1, as agreed to in last year's budget. It reminds me of that old cell phone commercial "Can you hear me now?" The veto was not a surprise by any stretch and the governor took little time to act after the Senate sent the bill to him.

Additionally, Senate leader Phil Baruth, D-Chittenden Central, asked the Legislature's chief lawyer to write a letter questioning the constitutionality of Scott's executive order to take care of the most vulnerable recipients of the current voucher program. In Brynn Hare's letter to Baruth, the lawyer used words like "disturbing trend" and "flagrantly" regarding the governor intruding on the role of the General Assembly. In describing the trend, she referred to the appointment of Zoie Saunders as interim secretary last year, which the court ruled was within the governor's powers. Using the Legislature's non-partisan law office to produce a letter with inflammatory adjectives to make political points should be out of bounds for any legislator, including the Senate leader.

It is now looking like both the House and Senate Democratic leaders are taking the path of further studying education consolidation rather than beginning the process of reducing the 119 districts or 52 supervisory unions that Vermont currently has, in the coming year. The House bill delegates the job of drawing new district map proposal options to a study committee comprised of former superintendents. The governor's plan consolidated down to five districts with school board elections set for the fall of 2026. The House plan anticipates holding off on school board elections until November 2028. This delay is likely to face another "Can you hear me now?" when it reaches Scott's desk later this session. He has repeatedly said it is acceptable to delay reforms that will lower costs and property taxes soon.

The House Ways & Means Committee was expected to vote on the education bill Tuesday, April 8, with changes to the financing formula, including several new non-homestead classifications and a higher per pupil payment to schools than the governor's plan had proposed.

Meanwhile, the respective House and Senate appropriations committees are beginning to look at potential ramifications to the state budget if there are significant federal cutbacks in aid or grants to Vermont. With over \$3 billion in federal funding as part of the \$9 billion state budget, any re-

duction could have serious consequences. The chair of the Senate budget committee has already suggested in one media report that we may have to forgo the transfer of state funds that were earmarked by the House for property tax relief. Some lawmakers have also suggested temporary income tax surcharges!

It is too early to know the full impact of federal budget decisions, but it remains possible that the recent House passed budget for Vermont could be null and void. Any budget, including our own personal spending plans, often contain many "nice to have" as well as "must have" items. If there are significant reductions in overall revenues due to federal cutbacks or a recession, many of the "nice to have" line items may have to go?

### Other issues:

- The House approved H.91, which will eventually shift responsibility for homeless shelters and the hotel program to each of the five community action agencies (BROC in the Rutland-Bennington area). The administration appeared supportive of the approach but concerned about the potential for increased costs to the state.
- The House Corrections and Institutions Committee took testimony on H.191, which would end Vermont's use of for-profit out-of-state prisons and prison services. The measure, supported by the Vermont State Employees' union and others, would increase the cost to taxpayers of housing prisoners and require the building more prisons.
- House and Senate Committees with jurisdiction over energy issues do not appear to be in a hurry to take up any of the governor's proposals to mitigate some of the projected higher costs of laws enacted over his vetoes in the past few years.
- The Senate sent back to committee the legislation that included a repeal of the Clean Heat Standard. Republican lawmakers have proposed repealing the unpopular Clean Heat law that was enacted over a gubernatorial veto two years ago. The future of a repeal this year is uncertain.

I'm afraid we are going to hear a few more "Can you hear me now?" over the next month and a half. When bills are passed without bi-partisan support, someone is not listening (or perhaps choosing not to listen) to find middle ground.

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



By Rep. Jim Harrison

# Vermont's trout season opens Saturday

Vermont's trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 12.

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

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

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

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

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

ten orient themselves facing the current.

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

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

Good also reminds anglers to check the department's website frequently as updates are made to the Trout Stocking page. "This is a great tool for anglers to see what nearby waters have been stocked, as the page gets updated several times per week," said Good.

Click the "See What's Been Stocked" button to stay informed as the spring progresses.

Also, anglers who don't intend to keep trout don't need to wait for opening day to get on the water. Nearly all waterbodies are now open to catch-and-release fishing for trout in Vermont outside of the normal harvest season. Just keep in mind that it is illegal to use any kind of live bait during the catch-and-release season. Only artificial lures and flies are allowed.

Anglers are advised to check the 2025 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations which is available free from license agents, and it is on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website. For any river, stream, lake, or pond not listed in the Index of Rivers and Streams or Index of Lakes and Ponds go to General Fishing Regulations on page 52.

For more information, visit: [vtfishand-wildlife.com](http://vtfishand-wildlife.com).



Courtesy VTF&W

Anglers can improve their chances of success by fishing their fly, lure or bait slowly along the bottom when Vermont's trout season opens on Saturday, April 12.

# Vermonters: Did you know?

## Killington ski legend Jon Lamb dies in accident

Local skier Jon Lamb (63) suffered a fatal accident at Big Sky Resort in Montana on April 2. He was found about 200 feet below the ridge at the bottom of a rock field in the Dakota Bowl, an out-of-bounds area. Lamb was a long-time Killington local. Look for his obituary in a future edition.

## IBOTS set for Houston

Rutland Area Robotics will be making another run at the FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas, after ranking 20th out of 191 teams in New England.

## Poultney Elementary receives \$25,000 CLiF Literacy Grant

Poultney Elementary was one of 14 NH & VT schools to receive \$25,000 in funding to promote, encourage, and improve child literacy and reading.

## 4,200 additional members to the Heritage Family

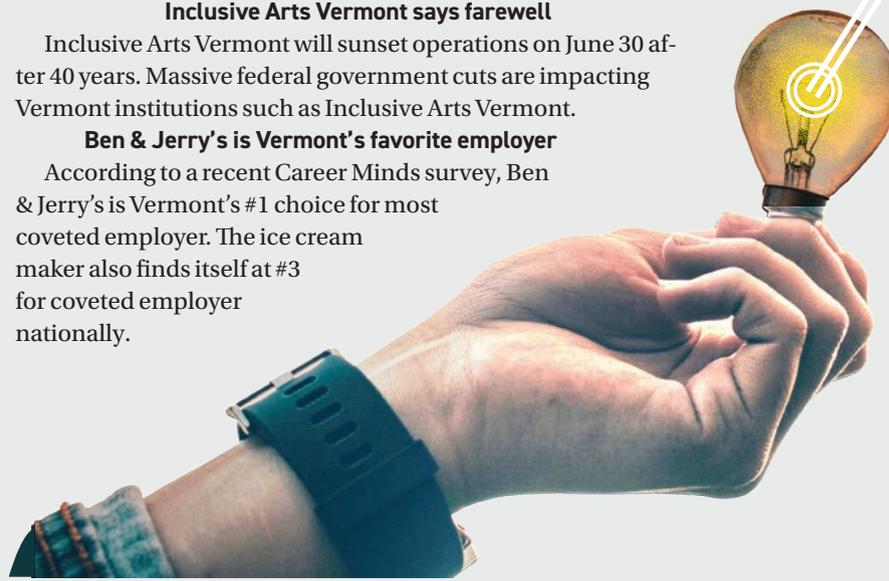
The Tri State Area Federal Credit Union completed its merger with Heritage Family Credit Union (HFCU), adding 4,200 members and staff to the HFCU.

## Inclusive Arts Vermont says farewell

Inclusive Arts Vermont will sunset operations on June 30 after 40 years. Massive federal government cuts are impacting Vermont institutions such as Inclusive Arts Vermont.

## Ben & Jerry's is Vermont's favorite employer

According to a recent Career Minds survey, Ben & Jerry's is Vermont's #1 choice for most coveted employer. The ice cream maker also finds itself at #3 for coveted employer nationally.

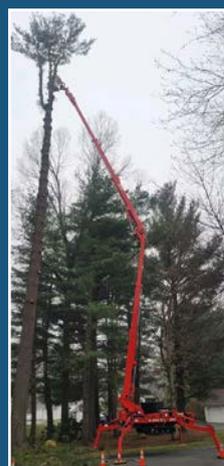


# Bill's Landscaping

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- Landscape Construction and Installation
- Master Gardner Planning and Design
- Arborist Services



## Gardening Tip of the Week



Creating a landscape to include spring flowering trees without the mess to clean up after they bloom is where fruit trees become the star of the show. Fruit trees such as Apple, Pear, Peach, Nectarine, Cherry, and Plum give the Spring Season blooms of many shades with out the mess. They also serve many other purposes besides beauty in Spring. They produce fruit to be harvested at the end of summer, they provide homes for local birds and promote biodiversity by attracting Pollinators and Butterflies. Fruit Trees also help clean the air by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, and help with the health of soil through their roots.



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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Decision-making for Vermont's future

By Seth Bowden

*Editor's note: Seth Bowden, Jericho, is president of the Vermont Business Roundtable.*

Vermont stands at a crossroads. In fact, we've been there for some time. Economic growth, affordability and social equity must converge to create a sustainable and prosperous future, yet the existing conditions of our communities prevent them from doing so.

Increasing demand for services is colliding with revenue constraints for a shrinking share of the workforce. Our demographic makeup — we are old, small and poor — affects our financial and economic sustainability, while the systems and civic design that we have limit our ability to create a future where every Vermonter is better-off, people want to stay here, and people want to move here.

There is an uncomfortable paradox of growth in Vermont. Growth sometimes seems unsustainable: a field we once walked may become homes for families with kids. And yet, absent growth, the schools we fund won't have children to fill them, or enough middle-class workers to fund the care of our aging populations. The economic rationale for being a Vermonter has always been difficult, and is becoming more so, precisely at the time we need more people to make that choice.

A piecemeal approach to lawmaking is the norm in Montpelier, hamstrung by both election and budget cycles. But this moment — as we witness the disinvestment of federal funds and a heightened need for statewide sustainability — requires a change in thinking.

Who holds the comprehensive, integrated and long-range view of our future that wrestles with the paradox of growth?

Vermont's path forward requires a structured and proactive approach that creates an environment of economic vitality as a precondition for community well-being.

Business and community are inextricably intertwined and mutually beneficial. Employers support Vermont's tax base and in turn rely on quality education for our next

The sustainability of these systems isn't just at risk; they are failing.

generations, safe and healthy communities in which to live and housing to support working families. The sustainability of these systems isn't just at risk; they are failing.

Government is not business, but the core function of understanding direction, setting targets and creating action shares similarities. Significant work has already been done in outlining the challenges that Vermont faces. From housing to healthcare, workforce population to education, we understand the barriers that affect communities today. The bigger challenge in a public structure skewed to short-term thinking is picking our heads up and looking over the horizon.

We can wrestle with the paradox of growth or acknowledge that if we don't grow our school and workforce population, the things we are trying to save are not sustainable.

Ultimately, Vermonters want a future where they can affordably call this state home, where quality of life is not a privilege but a standard and where economic opportunities are available for our children, families and neighbors. Our policy priorities must meet Vermonters where they are today, while looking out over the next decade. By embracing policymaking that prioritizes the aspirations of our communities, Vermont can create an integrated vision where sustainable growth is not seen as a compromise of the present, but a way to protect our future. The time to act is now.



Taking Aim at Education by Jeff Koterba, patreon.com:jeffrejkoterba

## LETTERS

### Rural Vermonters define ed equity

Dear Editor,

Equity is meaningless when it is defined by those in power, rather than by stakeholders. Legislators need to keep this in mind as they reimagine Vermont's education system.

Living in a rural area is a social determinant of health, of educational outcomes, and, I would argue, of power. Nearly 65% of Vermonters live in small towns, rural, or remote areas. This means that policies with unique impacts on rural communities affect a substantial majority. Legislators should be quick to consult rural constituents about our experience of the factors that most influence educational outcomes.

If they asked rural folks, this is what they would hear: Retaining our local elementary schools is the most important factor in supporting educational equity.

My family's story illustrates the importance of access to education locally. I live with my husband and two young children in Waterville, which is rural and geographically remote, hemmed in by

Rural ed → 20

### America's Suicide attempt

Dear Editor,

Can an entire country kill itself? We're about to find out. Among all the self-destructive policies being pursued by this administration, I'll focus on the one I spent my entire academic career studying: our medical response to infectious disease.

In 1796, Dr. Edward Jenner created the smallpox vaccine. But now, under Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is preparing to turn back the clock to before the Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution, before the Age of Modern Medicine, and repudiate vaccines. Recently, the top vaccine official at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Peter Marks, resigned. In February, an advisory committee meeting on vaccines at the FDA was abruptly canceled. In response to a measles outbreak in Texas, which has sickened over 400 people, Kennedy has promoted alternative remedies, such as cod liver oil and vitamin A, instead of vaccines. When I visited my doctor last month, she said it was unclear whether flu vaccines would be available

Suicide → 17

### Library funding slashed

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to your attention The Institute For Museum and Library Services Executive Order. Services are threatened.

The March 23 Manchester Journal quoted Starr LaTronica, the director of Brooks, about the cuts to essential library services, including staffing, purchasing large print books, and inter-library loan service. (Vermont's 228 libraries shared 95,000 books last year.)

The Institute is the largest source of federal funding for all libraries and museums.

Ed Surjan, director of the Manchester Community Library, is quoted, as is Erica Shott, director of the Dorset Library. Dena Marger, a librarian in Dummerston, also expressed the discontinuation of the Summer Reads Program as "devastating"

The American Library Association called this order an "assault" and "short-sighted"

Please call U.S. Sen. Welch at 202-224-4242, Sen. Sanders at 202-224-5141, and Rep. Balint at 202-225-4115 to express your opinion of this Trump chaotic order.

Kathryn Adams, Rutland

### Where is Phil Scott?

Dear Editor,

I was at the Hands-Off rally in Montpelier on Saturday. It was an amazing display of solidarity and showed the determination we need to oppose what's going on in our nation's capital. The size of the crowd gave me hope that we are at the start of a true resistance movement that will thwart the billionaires and fascists that are currently in control of our federal government. I heard many excellent speeches, inspiring and necessary. There was one topic that I hoped would be addressed by at least one of the speakers, but I didn't hear it: Where's Phil Scott? I couldn't stop thinking about it. So, when I got home, I wrote the speech that I would have given if I had been on the podium this past Saturday:

"The Democratic Party is united in its opposition to Donald Trump, but every time a Democrat, like me, stands up, exactly no one is surprised. However, opposition to Trump should not be a partisan issue. He is destroying our democracy. He is destroying our

Where's Scott? → 17

## CAPITOL QUOTES

Trade wars and stock woes  
Ever since President Trump announced implementing significant tariffs on nearly every country except Russia, Americans have watched their 401Ks, investment portfolios, and children's 529 college funds dwindle as the stock market negatively reacts to the President's trade war. People on both sides of the aisle wonder where it's all headed.

“Every country is freaking out. The American stock market is in decline. Now, we're in the second week. Where do we go from here?”

said Senator **Ted Cruz** on his podcast on Monday, April 7.

“I believe [Trump's] been poorly advised by his advisers about this trade situation—and the formula they're applying,”

said billionaire GOP mega donor and Home Depot founder **Ken Langone**.

“I'm getting all kinds of reactions from businesses, farmers in Wisconsin that are highly concerned about what's happening. So, those are the facts; all I can really do is report the reality to the administration, let them know how these actions are impacting my constituents,”

said Republican Senator **Ron Johnson**.

“What Trump is doing is illegal and another step toward authoritarianism. In pushing his tariffs he usurping the power of Congress and abrogating existing agreements under 'emergency' provisions—when there are no real emergencies,”

said Senator **Bernie Sanders**.

“We have many, many countries that are coming to negotiate deals with us, and there are going to be fair deals,”

said **Donald Trump** on reactions to his unilateral tariffs.

## COMMENTARIES

### House panel offers education path

By Rep. Peter Conlon and Rep. Charlie Kimbell

*Editor's note: Rep. Peter Conlon, Cornwall, is the chair of the House Education Committee and Rep. Charlie Kimbell, Woodstock, is the ranking member of the House Ways & Means Committee.*

On Friday, March 28, Vermont's House Committee on Education voted out its much anticipated “Education Transformation” bill, echoing but not copying many of the shared goals with Gov. Scott. The proposals contained in the bill are potentially sweeping changes to our current school system to be enacted on a deliberate and sustainable pace. It is a responsible and realistic plan.

Unfortunately, Gov. Scott has already criticized the plan as being just another study, despite the many shared goals and concepts. It is so much more than that.

Change can be exciting and stoke the imagination. Change can also be chaotic and destructive, confusing motion with accomplishment. The House proposal embraces change and transformation but at a pace that can actually be achieved without crippling our public school system and leaving kids behind. It is hard work that needs to be done carefully and methodically.

Change can be exciting  
and stoke the imagination.  
Change can also be chaotic  
and destructive, confusing  
motion with accomplishment.

#### New district boundaries

First, instead of the five huge school districts proposed by the governor, the House plan empowers a group of retired school superintendents and business managers with broad knowledge of Vermont's current system to propose new school districts. The five-member panel will review the existing structure, the historical development of those districts as well as the geographic and programmatic needs, and recommend three versions for the Legislature to consider in 2026 with a minimum of 4,000 students in each district.

#### Class sizes

Second, the plan proposes to achieve cost efficiencies and improved student experiences by establishing class size minimums for public and approved independent schools that

Education path → 16

## Fear and loathing in Putney

When the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and the Vermont Dept. of Economic Development's Community Recovery and Revitalization Program pool their resources and commit to spending \$536,000 per apartment to build a 25-unit mixed-income development, the last thing they want to experience is an obstacle.

From my perspective, the Wilco Tango Foxtrot moment should have manifested itself in an obstacle years ago when the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust proposed spending more than \$13 million in public funds to build the 25-unit Alice Holway Drive Project in Putney.

The cost of the project didn't raise any eyebrows because the running narrative, driven by the agencies and authorities that fund the for-profit developers that execute the non-profit missions, is that the cost of housing is rising. A single apartment now costs in excess of \$500,000 to build.

This narrative is simply not true. The private sector is building apartments for \$200 per square foot, but the housing industrial complex machine has created the illusion of truth by repeating the claim that affordable housing is expensive to build—so expensive that an apartment with a yard, a garden, a



**The Accidental Activist**  
By Stephen Box

pool, a garage, an ADU...

The time for an appeal of the Alice Holway Drive Project was three years ago when it was first put in motion. The nature of the appeal should have been the large investment of public funds with such a small return.

But nobody blinked at the price tag; after all, it's public funds!

Two neighbors filed an appeal of the proposed project, but it was based on land-use issues

and meandered through the appeal process for three years before being dismissed. The neighbors argued that the project should have been reviewed under the state's Act 250 law and that the project's density would violate local zoning regulations.

Earlier this year, the Vermont Supreme Court upheld the Vermont Environmental Court, clearing the way for the project.

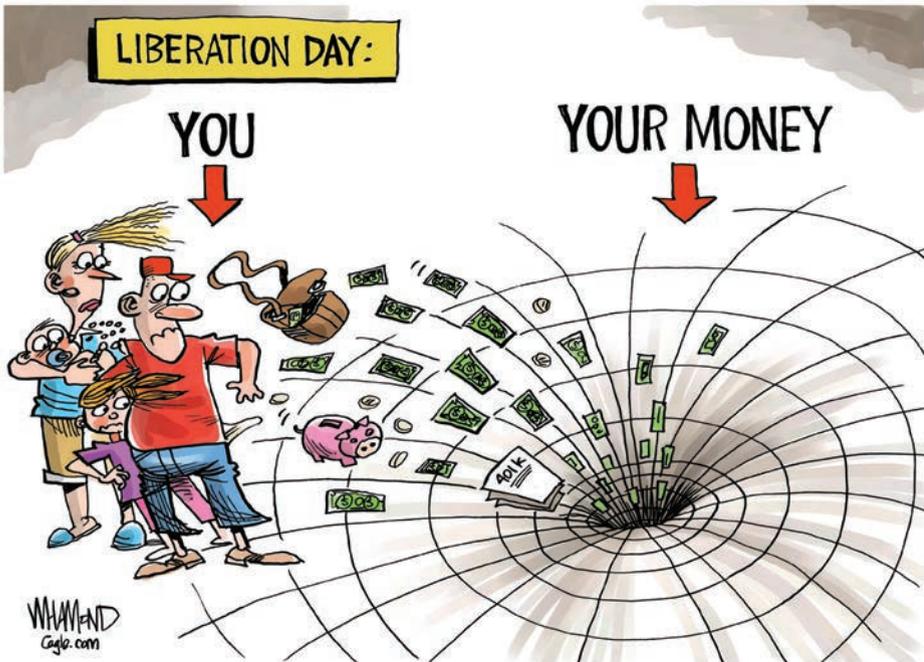
#### *Ka-Ching!*

Since then, the land use appeals reform proponents have pointed to the three-year-long appeals process as an example of how “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.”

Ouch!

Fear and loathing → 16

**CARTOONS**



Liberation Day by Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons



Economic opportunities. by Arcadio Esquivel, Costa Rica



Waiting on the perfect wave

A Democrat waits for a perfect wave by Bruce Plante, PoliticalCartoons

**Education path:**  
from page 15

are supported by research and that fit the Vermont scale. While Gov. Scott's proposal looks at student teacher ratios of 25:1, the House proposal seeks class size minimums of 12-18, depending on grade.

**Updating buildings**

Third, several sections of the bill address facility needs by resurrecting state aid for school construction. Many bond votes to build new schools have failed in recent years due to the high costs and the lack of state aid. The proposal establishes a process to prioritize projects to receive aid, extending 20% towards annual debt service payments and another 20% if the project helps achieve the "newer and fewer" idea to achieve the efficiencies mentioned above. Now we just need to come up with the millions to make it a reality. Achieving school-size scale would be hard without funding the program.

**Prioritizing public schools**

Fourth, the proposal changes the landscape for towns that pay tuition to other public or approved independent schools, prioritizing public schools in Vermont and abutting states and limiting independent schools to ones that have traditionally

served in place of public schools, such as the four historic academies. This keeps tax dollars in Vermont and concentrates those dollars on the schools that mainly serve public school students.

**Uniform policies**

Lastly, the proposal seeks to improve statewide systems and governance, such as establishing a uniform school calendar and graduation requirements, as well as uniform data systems. But it also reaffirms the role of the State Board of Education as an independent, rule-making organization for public education and the duties of the Agency of Education to execute the policies.

Any one of these changes would be huge on its own. That is why the House Committee on Education put into place realistic expectations of what could be achieved, particularly after taking testimony from the people who would have to enact the changes. Some parts of the proposal will be controversial as is natural with any sweeping change. The bill will now go to the money committees for the crucial funding piece to support these policies.

There will likely be additions and changes along the way, but this is a great start.

**Fear and loathing:**  
from page 15

"While appeals are valuable in certain cases, they also drive up costs, affecting every homebuyer, renter, and builder in Vermont. When the project involves public money, appeals also drive up costs for taxpayers."

Elizabeth Bridgewater of Windham & Windsor Housing Trust reported that the appeals process added \$2 million to the project's cost, or about \$80,000 per unit.

There was no mention that the units started at a half million dollars each pre-appeal.

If there is to be any weeping and gnashing of teeth over the cost of this project, it is not due to the appeal but to the "illusion of truth" that is applied to the "that's how much housing costs" claim made by those that "have no financial skin in the game." (Callback to the dismissal of the neighbors by the reform proponents)

The fact that public figures can get up in arms over the cost of the appeal and ignore the project's overall cost is an abdication of fiduciary responsibility.

How can so many agencies and authorities partner with so many non-profits and for-profits and not get a handle on the true construction cost?

Mom-and-pop developers, who provide 80% of Vermont's affordable housing, somehow manage to buy the same building supplies, hire the same crews, and

produce housing at a fraction of the cost. Yet, the wagons circle the Alice Holway Drive Project in Putney to defend the indefensible.

There is no excuse or justification for

using public funds to build apartments that cost a half-million each and then cry that the appeals process is driving up costs.

using public funds to build apartments that cost a half-million each and then cry that the appeals process is driving up costs.

It's a red herring.

Publicly funded housing costs are high because that's what leadership is willing to pay.

Vermont State Leadership claims that appeals reform will "add to Vermont's housing stock more quickly, make affordable housing even more affordable, and give taxpayers a better return on their housing investments."

I propose that public funds be put in the hands of those producing affordable housing at a rate of 4 to 1 over the housing industrial complex machine and at one-tenth of the cost. This would add to Vermont's housing stock more quickly, make affordable housing even more affordable, and give taxpayers a better return on their housing investments!

"Meaningful reform" of the appeals process is a red herring, a distraction from the real issue, which is the need for "meaningful reform" of the housing funding process that overspends and underproduces.

← **Battery:**  
from page 10

Lithium ion battery fires are caused by thermal runaway, a chain reaction that happens when a battery is damaged, causing the battery to heat up to about 700 degrees in a matter of seconds, Weld said. Lithium ion batteries should never be placed in trash or normal recycling bins because they are often full of flammable materials, spreading fire that is not easy to extinguish, he said.

“Our biggest goal at the start of every day is to get all of our people home safe to their families, and whether it’s on our trucks or in our facilities, we’re seeing more and more of these fires caused by improper disposal,” Weld said.

**Battery stewardship**

Vermont remains ahead of the curve with battery recycling. Vermont was the first state in the nation to pass a single-use alkaline battery stewardship law in 2014, requiring manufacturers who sell those batteries to pay towards managing battery waste. The state continues to be a leader in the U.S. on pounds per capita of batteries recycled, Ellis said.

“Vermont has been a leader in stewardship laws and regulations and batteries are really no different,” Ellis said. “Vermont is leading the charge on how to safely handle these products and get them recycled in the U.S.”

Since the battery stewardship program went into effect in 2016, Kelly said single-use battery collection has increased significantly, but rechargeable battery collection has remained steady at a relatively low level, according to data collected by Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

In July 2024, the state passed Act 152, the Vermont Primary Battery and Rechargeable Battery Product Stewardship Law, amending the battery stewardship program to include rechargeable and damaged and defective batteries, and banned all batteries from the landfill. Kelly said the hope is that rechargeable battery recycling will increase in the state with the updated law and increasing public awareness.

Right now, Kelly said Vermonters can recycle single-use batteries and small rechargeable batteries that are not embedded in products at a solid waste district or local battery drop-off location. The 2024 amendment also initiated a study on how to best manage large and embedded lithium ion batteries like electric vehicle batteries and powerwalls at end of life, said Kelly.

As part of the update to the Battery Stewardship Program, the state is also implementing an extended producer



Mixed recycling at a Casella facility.

Courtesy of Casella

responsibility program set to take effect Jan. 1 2026, which will require companies that sell rechargeable lithium ion batteries as well as single-use alkaline batteries in Vermont to pay a percentage toward management of battery waste.

“It shifts the paradigm and says producers are going to have a seat at the table for their waste and some role and some responsibility,” Kelly said.

Damaged lithium ion batteries should be stored separately from each other to prevent a flare up, and battery fire is best contained by materials like sand or kitty litter rather than water because of the high temperature of the fire, said

Breanna Franzoni, program manager for the Rutland County Solid Waste District.

Landon Wheeler, deputy director of the Vermont Dept. of Public Safety’s Division of Fire Safety said the division recommends that Vermonters follow manufacturers instructions from the start to the end of a battery’s life. New technologies have often posed new fire safety concerns, but the public has learned new approaches to mitigating risks, and the same can be done with rechargeable lithium ion batteries, Wheeler said.

“Over the last 200 years, there’s always been a new item that’s entered into a household. It was candles, and then it was whale oil that was used for lighting, and then it was natural gas, and then it was in electricity,” Wheeler said. “Throughout time, all of those new technologies have come with their own risks.”

Beyond fire safety concerns, proper recycling of batteries decreases unnecessary waste and allows a variety of elemental, valuable metals like nickel, cobalt and manganese to be recovered and used again in new products, said Holliday, with the Chittenden Solid Waste District.

“There are some really important components in batteries that are scarce, and we want to get them recycled so the material can get used again,” Holliday said.

Weld said he believes that once awareness is raised about proper recycling and fire safety practices for lithium ion batteries, Vermonters will follow suit to protect their environment and their community from fires.

“I think that Vermonters want to do the right thing, but if they don’t know what that right thing is, then that’s where we run into these sorts of challenges.”

← **Where’s Scott?:**  
from page 14

economy. And he is actively undermining our national security. These should not be partisan issues. There is currently no Republican Governor, Senator, or Representative who has the courage and integrity to loudly, boldly, and vigorously stand up to our mad king. It is past time for our governor, Phil Scott, to resist this administration forcefully. Any Republicans who speak out against this travesty do so with a special kind of authority as they are not Trump’s political opposition.

I would remind you that Trump and Scott are on the same team.

Vice President J. D. Vance recently visited Vermont for a ski weekend. That was an excellent opportunity to send a strong message to the administration in Washington. Instead, our governor welcomed him to our state while hundreds of Vermonters lined the streets to protest his arrival. Why? Is Phil Scott afraid of the president’s ire? Should we be afraid? That is exactly what the president wants. He wants us to be afraid. Trump revels in our acquiescence. The longer we take to speak up, the more powerful he becomes, and the harder it will be for us to resist. We need to be strong now. We need to be defiant now. We need to be really, really loud now.

In recent weeks, we have seen the capitulation of major universities and top law firms and, with his deafening silence, our Governor, Phil

Scott. This is how fascism gets its way. Yes, bravery is hard, but weakness will be our undoing. Phil Scott can choose his own words, but we demand he oppose the administration’s cruelty in Washington in the strongest possible terms. We demand he oppose its recklessness in the strongest possible terms. We demand he oppose its outrageous corruption in

Yes, bravery is hard, but weakness will be our undoing.

the strongest possible terms, and we demand he oppose the systematic undermining of our rule of law in the strongest possible terms. We are in the middle of a national emergency.”

Phil Scott frequently reminds us of how he is the governor of all Vermonters—All of us. Well, Phil, we need you now. We’ve never needed you more. Where are you? Why aren’t you here, with us, right now? Please join me: Where’s Phil Scott? Louder, please: Where’s Phil Scott? Louder again, so he can really hear us: Where’s Phil Scott?”

I dearly hope I never need to give this speech, but unless we hear from our governor soon, I’m ready.

**Larry Satcowitz, state Representative serving the Orange-Washington-Addison District (Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph, Roxbury), ranking member of the House Environment Committee**

← **Suicide:**  
from page 14

this fall, when I typically get vaccinated because my lung condition makes me more vulnerable to infections.

The implications of not having access to vaccines are dire. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that during the 2023-24 flu season, the flu vaccine prevented nearly 10 million “flu-related illnesses.” In any given year, as many as 52,000 people in the U.S. die from influenza, and that’s with a vaccine. When there’s

no vaccine, the number of deaths will be far higher. And if we get an avian influenza outbreak? All bets are off as to how many will die. Kennedy has said that the current outbreak of avian influenza in poultry farms should just “burn itself out,” which was also proposed by some for human victims during the COVID-19 pandemic under the first Trump administration. Moreover,

To use a medical analogy, one could say that Trump and his administration are a kind of cancer on the body politic.

massive layoffs and cuts to HHS mean that we will be woefully unprepared, even less so than during Covid-19, should an avian flu outbreak occur among humans. Especially concerning is that development of vaccines and other treatments for pathogens, including the family of coronaviruses that caused Covid, were abruptly

halted even though they were on the verge of important discoveries. Millions upon millions of people could die. I’ve spent my career studying the Black Death, or plague, which killed an estimated 50 million people in Europe in just a few years, between 1347 and 1353. Could a modern pandemic kill that many?

Under current conditions,

I’d say yes. While I’ve greatly enjoyed studying the Middle Ages, I sure as hell wouldn’t want to live through them. We’re about to do something unprecedented among developed countries: reject the benefits of modern science and medicine. Third World countries, which have no choice but to do without, must be looking at us and scratching their heads.

To use a medical analogy, one could say that Trump

and his administration are a kind of cancer on the body politic. There are two ways to deal with cancer. One is to allow the cancer to spread and eventually kill the body. The other is to cut it out, which in a democracy means removing elected officials through the ballot box or by the constitutional means of impeachment.

We must step back from the edge and save ourselves before it’s too late.

**John Aberth, Roxbury**

## ← The Beast: .....

from page 6

affair, lacking electricity, central heat, and insulation.

Walter Morrison recalled, "Some of us wanted to burn it down, but I think it was Pres who said let's clean it out and see if we can't save it."

Camping out on the lawn, the early directors did just that. With the milk shed made habitable, the Smiths lived there until the main part of the house was fixed up. [Smith killed 23 porcupines in a month's time inside the house that winter.]

Sargent recalled "the surprised look on Sue Smith's face the day that Pres walked into the living room with a chainsaw. He cut a hole in the floor for heat to come up from the furnace that we had just installed."

The unpretentious farmhouse became a hub of activity in 1957, serving as home to the Smiths and lodge to the Sargents, Morrisons, and whoever else happened to come up to help carve a work road to the mountain or clear the first ski trails and lift lines.

The farmhouse also served as the first office for the Sherburne Corporation. Sue had recalled, "It wasn't exactly impressive. Once a man came to see about employment and was shown into the combination home and office. The children were being readied for bed, and a naked baby crawled into the room, and then the mud-caked men, returning from work on the mountain, began to strip."

She laughed as she recalled that Hans Thorne never came back. Had he been more favorably impressed with the Killington operation, the Swiss ski instructor might never have gone on to found Magic Mountain in Londonderry, Vermont.

### A great first lady

Sue Smith continued to play a significant and varied role in the development of Killington. She supported the vision both conceptually and practically, sharing the vision and serving as the sole wage earner until Killington got off the ground.

While Pres was busy cutting trails or installing lifts, she took the phone calls and handled myriad business details, including stock purchases and transfers. Even after the mountain was open for skiing, she continued to host the many potential investors Smith would bring home.

Sue was indispensable in helping to launch Killington. She stocked the first ski shop, did the bookkeeping chores, served food in the base lodge, and when someone ran out of supplies or needed a chainsaw fixed, she ran those errands.

She began the first "lodging bureau," operating it out of the farmhouse with part-time help, and was instrumental in the formation of the Killington Ski Club. She also served on community boards and committees and often accompanied her children on the racing circuit in the United States and Europe.

An incorporator of the Sherburne Corporation, Sue served as a board director and secretary and as corporate secretary from 1956 until her death in 1995. In this capacity, she oversaw stockholder-related matters and details for the all-important annual meetings.

An avid skier and world traveler, she was interested in guiding the direction of Killington's future, and through her active participation, she contributed to the direction of the ski area and ski company. She was one of Vermont's great pioneering "first ladies" of ski area development and the longest at 40 years of service.

Mary T. Sargent, wife of Joe Sargent, was another of the five original incorporators and board members of the Sherburne Corporation. Like Sue Smith, she helped Killington through her graciousness as a hostess and her promotional work on behalf of the new venture. An avid skier and mother of four, she remained active on the Board of Directors until the company's sale in 1996, bringing another perspective to its decision-making process.

One example of the significant influence these two women had on Killington's development occurred when they nixed their husbands' suggestion to construct the Snowshed Lodge at the top of Snowshed versus the base. The ladies prevailed, noting it would be impractical with the parking area down below!

Next week we'll explore the Catch-22 situation and continued perseverance that helped the founders overcome some difficult hurdles and finally open Killington.

"In retrospect, my early years influenced and prepared me for life as it was to unfold. I emerged from these formative years with the belief that the opportunities to pursue the American Dream existed and that all things were possible through hard work and tenacity. When Pres and I embarked on the Killington venture, it never occurred to me that success might elude us."



Submitted

Advocates petition the state Legislature to ban guns from bars.

## ← Gun ban in bars: .....

from page 12

Service industry professionals spoke about the risks posed by firearms in nightlife settings and the urgent need for legislative action.

"As a bar manager, my focus is making sure people enjoy their night out and get home safe. But bartenders and bouncers are not cops—we're not trained to enforce gun restrictions. Guns and alcohol don't mix. Alcohol impairs judgment, and a firearm only increases the risk of violence. That's a fact. Burlington voters passed this charter change in 2014, and we've waited long enough for the Legislature to act," said Max Pogacar, bar manager at Frankie's in Burlington.

Burlington City Councilor Becca Brown McKnight reinforced the widespread support for the measure and called on lawmakers to act.

"Nearly 90% of Burlington voters—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and Progressives—sent a message loud and clear that guns don't belong in bars. This is not a red state versus blue state issue; it's a human safety issue," said McKnight. "Freedom is the ability to go to work or enjoy a night out and know you'll get home safely. The Legislature has the opportunity to show courage, stand with the people of Vermont, and enact this common-sense gun safety law—not just for Burlington, but across the state."

Business owners also spoke about the dangers of mixing firearms with alcohol.

"As a bar owner, my number one priority is the safety of my employees and patrons," said Mike Dunn, owner of T. Ruggs Tavern in Burlington's Old North End. "My team is often called upon to break up fights or de-escalate situations, but if a gun is involved, the risk of harm increases dramatically. What might normally be resolved with words or security intervention could quickly escalate into something far more dangerous. There is simply no reason for someone to carry a firearm into a bar, and it's time for the Vermont Legislature to approve Burlington's charter change and keep guns out of these spaces."

Jen Kimmich, co-founder of The Alchemist, also shared a deeply personal perspective on the issue.

"We strongly support the banning of guns in bars," said Kimmich. "Last summer, our friend and beloved community member was killed outside Red Square after being targeted by another bar patron who was carrying a gun. A lot of lives were destroyed that night, including the life of the mother who decided to take that gun out with her."

Laura Subin, of GunSense Vermont, added, "It's time for the Vermont Legislature to not only approve this charter change but also extend this vital protection statewide. Our progress on gun safety laws must continue, and we urge lawmakers to prioritize public safety and take immediate action to reduce gun violence across Vermont."

Advocates emphasized that this is not a political issue but a necessary step to protect Vermont's hospitality industry, its workers, and the public from preventable violence.



Submitted

Sports Illustrated ran this photo of Sue Smith, Mary Sargent, Pres Smith, and Joe Sargent, dubbing the youthful entrepreneurs "The Killington Kids." The Glades area [North Ridge] is in the background. Winter 1958-59.



Submitted

← **Beavers:**  
from page 11

as Beaver Deceivers “won’t meet the engineering standards that DEC has.”

Brenna Galdenzi, president of Protect Our Wildlife, said the state’s history of trapping to manage human-beaver conflict will not serve as a long-term solution unless beavers are trapped and killed “close to extinction levels.” After periods of trapping, she said new beavers will eventually inhabit these areas if the environment is suitable.

“This constant trap, kill, repeat loop, it doesn’t work,” she said.

The issue of poor dam infrastructure “is not all about beavers,” Green said. Rather, he said, beaver activity is one aspect that the Agency of Natural

Resources will need to address in order to improve public safety and bring state-owned dams back

owned dams has some challenge with [maintenance], so that’s something we need to get control of.”

Brenna Galdenzi, president of Protect Our Wildlife, said the state’s history of trapping to manage human-beaver conflict will not serve as a long-term solution unless beavers are trapped and killed “close to extinction levels.”

into compliance with the DEC’s new safety rules.

“Many of our dams are over 50 years old. Many of them were designed and built under what would now be considered sub-standard specifications and requirements,” Green said. “Roughly one in five state-

**Public meetings**

At the two public meetings, scheduled for April 8 in Montpelier and April 10 in Middlebury, the Agency of Natural Resources expects to answer questions from attendees and write a response to their input, to be published by June 1.



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

**TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 24, CHAPTER 117, V.S.A. AND THE TOWN OF KILLINGTON ZONING REGULATIONS, THE KILLINGTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025, AT 800 KILLINGTON ROAD IN KILLINGTON, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WILL BE TO ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TOO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING:

**Application SPR25-12 by Killington Mountain School, seeking Site Plan Approval for the redevelopment of the former Mogul’s property to construct a 12,000 sf Athletic Center for Killington Mountain School.**

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR MATERIALS ARE REQUESTED TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE TOWN OFFICES AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING FOR REVIEW BY ALL PARTIES.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD  
TOWN OF KILLINGTON

*Participation in the hearing by adjacent property owners is a Prerequisite to the right to take subsequent appeal.*



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

**TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD  
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**Application 24-62 by GG Killington LP and Killington/Pico Ski Resort Partners, LLC**

Asking to amend previously approved lot’s C-I, the Killington Grand Parking Lot (collectively known as the Resort Parking Project), and stormwater management pond located to the north of the Resort Parking Project along Killington Road. These changes are required to minimize and/or avoid wetland and buffer impacts as required by State DEC Wetlands Program due to new regulations put in place after original Town permit approval

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR MATERIALS ARE REQUESTED TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE TOWN OFFICES AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING FOR REVIEW BY ALL PARTIES.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD, TOWN OF KILLINGTON

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## ← Rural ed: from page 14

a deep valley that prohibits any east-west travel. Whether I choose to drive north or south as I leave home, it's nearly 40 minutes to a big grocery store. In an emergency, our 911 calls go to the Williston State Police barracks, 50 minutes away. We have minimal access to daycare, and no extended-day options for preschool. Without any closer full-day alternatives, we sent my daughter Mara to a private preschool that cost my entire full-time income. It was the only available option along our regular commute and required her to spend almost two hours in the car every day.

Without a clear plan for cost savings, all we can confidently anticipate is that closing schools is damaging to children, communities, and equitable access.

Despite the excellent staff, appealing curriculum, and lots of time outdoors, Mara struggled with her daily routine when she commuted to school. She fought hard

against going every morning. Once there, she frequently required exceptions to the rules and one-on-one attention. She had a runny nose year-round, and her sunny disposition was lost to moody fatigue. Anticipating Mara's transition to public kindergarten, her teachers were concerned, offering to plan and advocate by calling, writing letters, and even visiting Waterville Elementary School in-person. They told me that no classroom teacher would be able to give her the on-demand attention and behavioral intervention she'd required. This suggested to me that Mara would need

extra support, including personnel resources that would cost the district money.

But this year, the transition to a local school changed our lives. Mara enjoys class and

dresses herself each morning enthusiastically; she hasn't required any dedicated staff support during the school day. Now embedded in our local community, she delights in seeing school staff at the Waterville store, town dance, and trick-or-treating. We can now carpool with local families when we're in a pinch and find time for short social visits after school. I think that Mara's educational success is largely the result of cutting out almost two hours of daily commute, and because we are building stronger and deeper relationships knowing these connections will last a lifetime, even outside school walls.

Our story echoes what I hear from my rural neighbors, the rural school community, and in the consensus platform of the Rural School Community Alliance. The reason why our towns are small, why our school is relatively small, and why we can't afford to lose it is because of our rurality. Between extreme winter weath-

er, transportation barriers, and daily responsibilities, we often teeter on the edge of what we can reasonably accomplish in a day. A bright spot in the daily grind is the way our school supports our students, and the committed involvement of parents and community members is only possible because our school is accessible to us at the end of our daily commutes. The presence of an accessible elementary school is exactly what we need to equitably meet the unique educational needs of rural children.

Let's revisit the difference between equal and equitable. As we know, equal means "the same." Equitable means "fair and reasonable," implying a proper balance of conflicting interests in a way that accounts for differences between groups.

People's perspectives on educational equity are likely, and understandably, centered on their individual experiences. To my ear, it sounds like Vermonters who

live in densely populated areas assume educational equity means offering equal

Act 46's district consolidation and associated small school closures. Nationally,

Equitable means fair and reasonable, implying a proper balance of conflicting interests...

programming options, such as foreign language classes or athletic teams, at all school locations. On the contrary, many rural Vermonters see access to local educational opportunities as far more important than any particular program or resource. Since most Vermonters live in rural and remote areas, our perspectives ought to be a substantial driver of policy; while state-level standards are important, it is not fair or reasonable to require everyone to achieve them in the same way despite regional differences.

The cost of education is critically important. But per-pupil costs in Vermont's unified union districts increased after

researchers have found no consistent correlation between cost and quality in relation to school size.

In fact, once the cost of transportation is factored in, school closures don't produce the savings anticipated. Vermont data from recent school closures also bears this out. Without a clear plan for cost savings, all we can confidently anticipate is that closing schools is damaging to children, communities, and equitable access.

Rural voters have the right to demand equitable distribution of educational access. From the horse's mouth: There should be no forced consolidation of Vermont's community elementary schools.

*Katie Grenon, Waterville*

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**WED**  
4/9

### DMH Conference: Revitalize Mental Health

7:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Killington Grand Resort Hotel, 228 East Mountain Road, Killington. This full-day Vermont Department of Mental Health conference brings together professionals, educators, advocates, and peers to explore evolving mental health practices, innovation, resilience, and youth wellbeing through keynotes, breakout sessions, and networking. [mentalhealth.vermont.gov](http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov).

### 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](http://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](http://wisepines.com/events).

### Diabetes Support Group

1-2 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Wed.) RRMC Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. [chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group](http://chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group).

### Parkinson's Exercise Programs Anniversary Open House

1-2:30 p.m. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Lane, White River Junction. Free. Celebrate one year of PEP with a facility tour, instructor meet-and-greet, and sample class focused on strength and mobility for those with Parkinson's. [uvacswim.org](http://uvacswim.org).

### Cribbage for Adults

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

### Bone Builders at the Chaffee

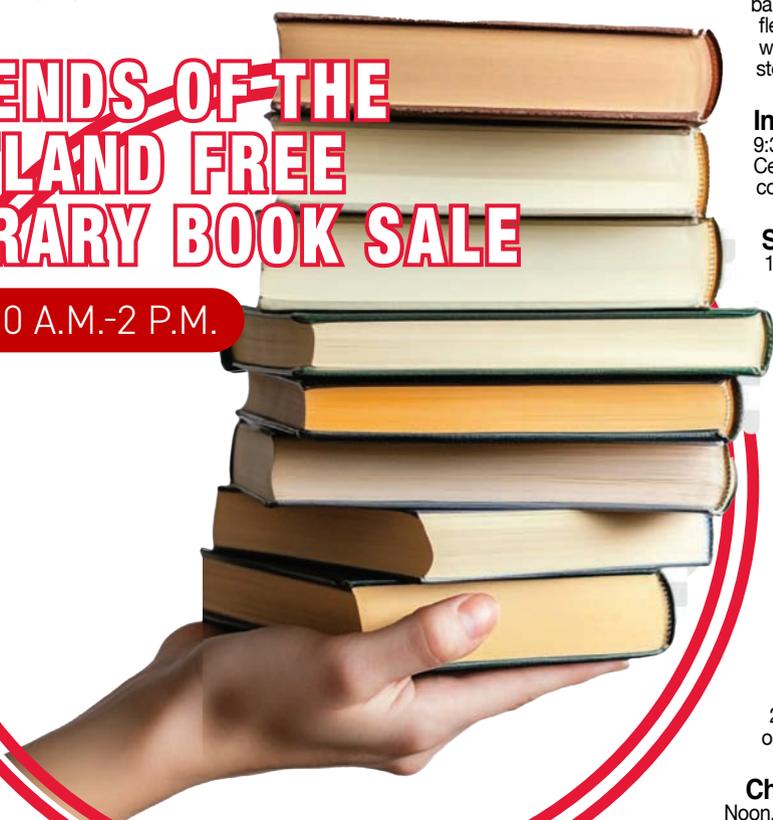
3:30-4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Wednesday) Community Health Castleton, 261 Route 30, Castleton. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. [chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group](http://chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group).

## FRIENDS OF THE RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

FRI. 10 A.M.-2 P.M.



### Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

5:30-7:20 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St., Poultney. Join instructor Patti Panebianco for a joyful evening of ballroom dance with East Coast Swing at 5:30 p.m. and Salsa at 6:30 p.m. [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org).

### 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 with 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](http://copperheadlinedancing.com).

### Joyce Thomas Poetry Reading and Book Launch

6:30-7:30 p.m. Castleton Free Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. Free. Celebrate National Poetry Month with a reading, book launch, and signing of *Some Things in This World* by longtime Vermont poet Joyce Thomas. [castletonfreelibrary.org](http://castletonfreelibrary.org).

### The Marines and Navy in the Revolutionary War

7-8 p.m. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St., Hartford. Free. Historian and Revolutionary War reenactor Leo Tucker presents on the role of the Marines and Navy during the Revolutionary War, hosted by the Hartford Historical Society. [hartfordvhistory.com](http://hartfordvhistory.com).

### Film Screening: 'Becoming Led Zeppelin'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Documentary of the legendary rock group. PG13. [playhousemovietheater.com](http://playhousemovietheater.com).

**THURS**  
4/10

### Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

9-10 a.m. (Thursdays) Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$10. No-weights, low impact workout combines principles from ballet, tai chi, and physiotherapy to restore flexibility and balance. Bring a mat and water. [dianes.essentrics@gmail.com](mailto:dianes.essentrics@gmail.com) or [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org).

### Intermediate Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. [rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://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](http://rutlandrec.com/godnick).

### Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site).

## KILLINGTON POND SKIM

SAT. @ 9 A.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](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site).

### Play Bridge!

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

### Soup Bowls for Hunger

4-7:30 p.m. Rutland High School Cafeteria, 22 Stratton Road, Rutland. \$20. The 19th annual fundraiser includes soup dinner, basket raffle, and silent auction to benefit local food shelves; seatings at 4:45 and 6:15 p.m. [soupbowlsrutland.org](http://soupbowlsrutland.org).

### Green Drinks: Amphibian Crossing Training

6-7 p.m. Virtual. Free. Learn how to become a volunteer amphibian crossing guard with Ben Fletcher of the Hartford Salamander Team and help protect migrating frogs and salamanders. [sustainablewoodstock.org/event/green-drinks-amphibian-crossing-training](http://sustainablewoodstock.org/event/green-drinks-amphibian-crossing-training).

### Women's Circle

6-8 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. A social and learning space for women and gender expansive individuals 18+, with time for connection, discussion, and light refreshments. [socialtinkering.org/womenscircle](http://socialtinkering.org/womenscircle).

### Film Screening: 'Becoming Led Zeppelin'

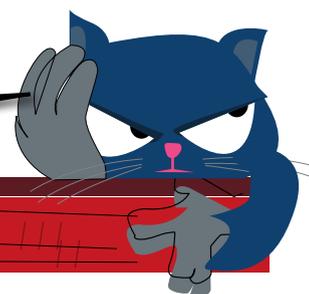
7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Documentary of the legendary rock group. PG13. [playhousemovietheater.com](http://playhousemovietheater.com).

Calendar →23

Got news?

Email us:

[editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)



← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info  
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**FRI**  
4/11

**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.

**Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Donation. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and rare finds; all proceeds support library programs and collections. rutlandfree.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.

**Banjo Dan's Songs of Vermont**

1:30-3 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8. Dan Lindner shares original songs inspired by Vermont's history, legends, and landscapes, along with the stories behind the music as part of the OLLI Spring 2025 program. Register at 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.

**The Color Palette in Art, Design & Life**

5:30-7:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. Enjoy a free talk exploring color in art, design, and everyday life, with doors opening at 5 p.m. and light refreshments provided. chaffeeartcenter.org.

**Paramount Players Present: 'Urinetown'**

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25-\$35. This award-winning satirical musical takes on capitalism, environmental collapse, and bureaucracy with sharp wit and outrageous humor. paramountvt.org.

**Dance of Hope**

7-8:30 p.m. Chandler Music Hall, 71 N Main St., Randolph. Free. Donations appreciated. The Ugandan youth ensemble Dance of Hope performs a vibrant, family-friendly show celebrating resilience and cultural exchange, concluding their residency with local schools; coincides with the student art show "Brushstrokes for Wellness." chandler-arts.org.

**Alice Di Micele in Concert**

7-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St., Poultney. Free. Americana/folk artist Alice Di Micele performs a free concert celebrating nature, healing, and connection through song, marking the opening of Stone Valley Arts' 2025 season. stonevalleyarts.org.

**Film Screening: 'The Penguin Lessons'**

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Steve Coogan stars in this PG-13 dramedy about a man's transformation after adopting a penguin during Argentina's political upheaval. playhousemovietheater.com.

**SAT**  
4/12

**Killington Parks Spring Send-Off**

All day. Timberline Park, Ramshead at Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Free with pass or lift ticket. Celebrate the season with a skier and snowboarder jam session, competitions on new park features, and free food and raffle prizes from YETI and Burton; registration required. killington.com.

**Pie for Breakfast**

8-11 a.m. Middletown Springs Elementary School, 15 School House Road, Middletown Springs. \$10 adults, \$5 children 5-12. Mountain Times yummy alert. Enjoy all-you-can-eat sweet and savory pies with coffee, tea, or juice at this annual fundraiser for the Middletown Springs Public Library. middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

**4-H Horse Knowledge Contests: Hippology & Quiz Bowl**

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Rutland High School, 22 Stratton Road, Rutland. \$5. 4-H members compete in Hippology and Quiz Bowl contests to test their horse industry knowledge; open to juniors (ages 8-13) and seniors (14+). go.uvm.edu/2025horsecontests.

**Billings Backyard Flavorful Fungi Workshop**

10-11:30 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$25. Mycologist Melany Kahn leads a hands-on cooking workshop with wild and cultivated mushrooms; includes a copy of "Mason Goes Mushrooming." billingsfarm.org/billings-backyard.

**CHS Paper Flower Workshop**

10 a.m.-Noon. Cavendish Community Library, 573 Main St., Proctorsville. Free. Create paper flowers and Easter favors in a community workshop open to all ages and skill levels, hosted by the Cavendish Historical Society. margocaulfield@icloud.com.

**Friends of the Rutland Free Library**

**Book Sale**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Donation. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and rare finds; all proceeds support library programs and collections. rutlandfree.org.

**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.

**Killington Pond Skim**

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Killington Resort, Slope side of K-1 Lodge, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Free to spectate. Killington's annual spring Pond Skim is sold out for participants, but spectators are encouraged to attend this lively event featuring outrageous costumes, big splashes, and live music. Awards at 2 p.m. on the K-1 Lodge patio. killington.com.

**Wildlife ER**

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$5 (free for members). Learn how wild bird rehabilitators treat injured birds and meet ambassador animals during this family-friendly program; admission to the Nature Center is not included. vinsweb.org.

**Vermont Pregnancy & Baby Expo**

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Rec. Community Center, 16 North St., Rutland. \$5. Explore 30+ vendors, giveaways, door prizes, and more at this family-friendly event; VIP admission begins at 10 a.m. Sustainable Eats Food Truck on-site. vtnaturallyyourchildbirth.com/expo.

**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-RailwayAssociation-1000667610130977.

**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.

**Paramount Players Present: 'Urinetown'**

1 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25-\$35. This award-winning satirical musical takes on capitalism, environmental collapse, and bureaucracy with sharp wit and outrageous humor. paramountvt.org.

**Learn to Knit**

1-2:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. \$25. A beginner-friendly class covering knitting basics including casting on, knit and purl stitches, and simple patterns; materials available for purchase. greenmountainfibers.com.

**Wayne Thompson Pop-up Exhibit Reception**

3-6 p.m. The Gallery at Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate the life and artwork of Wayne Thompson at a special pop-up exhibit honoring his creative legacy and deep community connections. artistreevt.org.

**Opening Reception: Color My World Photography Exhibition**

4-7 p.m. Focus - A Vermont Gallery, 23 Elm St., Woodstock. Free. Meet photographers Loren Fisher, Ron Lake, and Bob Wagner at the opening of a vibrant exhibition featuring colorful imagery from around the globe; light refreshments provided. focusvermont.com.

**Bingo Night at Bridgewater Grange**

6:15-9 p.m. Bridgewater Grange #284, 129 Route 100A, Bridgewater Corners. Doors open at 5 p.m. for an evening of bingo with concessions available; all are welcome. facebook.com/groups/90556951117.

**Paramount Players Present: 'Urinetown'**

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25-\$35. This award-winning satirical musical takes on capitalism, environmental collapse, and bureaucracy with sharp wit and outrageous humor. paramountvt.org.

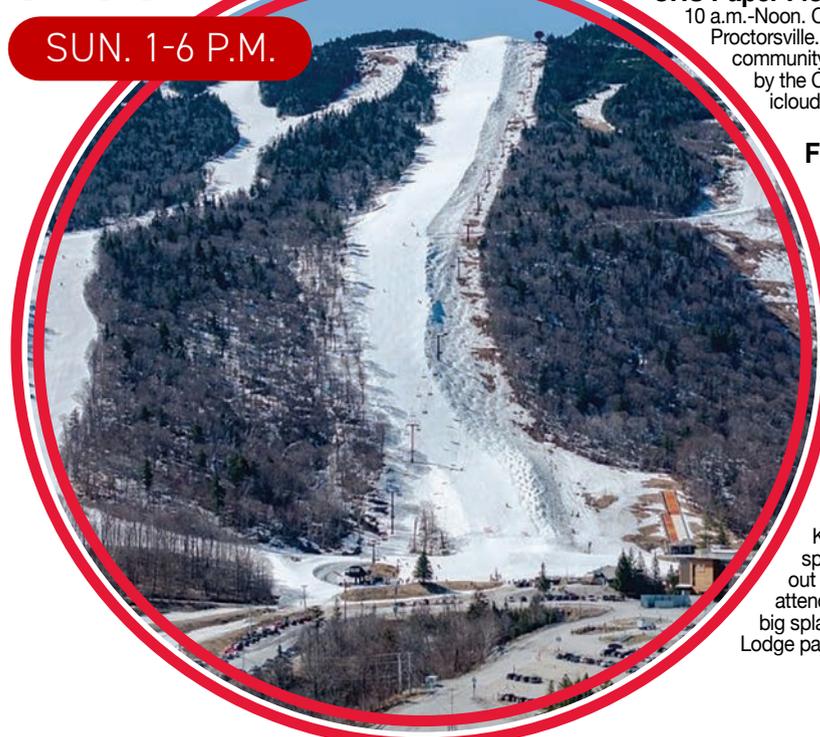
**Film Screening: 'The Penguin Lessons'**

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Steve Coogan stars in this PG-13 dramedy about a man's transformation after adopting a penguin during Argentina's political upheaval. playhousemovietheater.com.

**SUN**  
4/13

**SUPERSTAR CLOSING PARTY**

SUN. 1-6 P.M.



**Meg Munger Benefit: Basket Raffle & Spaghetti Dinner**

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Rutland Recreation Community Center, 134 Community Dr., Rutland. \$5 admission, \$15 dinner. Support Meg Munger and her family in their fight against Multiple Myeloma with a basket raffle (drawings begin at 1 p.m.) and spaghetti dinner from 2-4 p.m.; extra raffle tickets available for \$2 per sheet. (802) 683-5756 or (802) 342-6855.

**Superstar Closing Party**

1-6 p.m. K-1 Umbrella Bar, Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. Free with pass or lift ticket. Celebrate the final day of the Superstar Express Quad with live music, giveaways, and a photobooth on the deck; lift spins until 5 p.m. killington.com.

← **Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info).....  
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# LEANN RIMES LIVE IN CONCERT

MON. 7-9 P.M.



## Pine Hill Partnership Annual Meeting

5-6:30 p.m. Courcelle Building, 16 North St. Ext., Rutland. Free. Hear updates on trail work, future projects, and funding plans for Pine Hill Park. Soup and chili served. [pinehillpartnership.org](http://pinehillpartnership.org)

# MON

# 4/14

## Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://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 "The Last Showgirl," starring Pamela Anderson. [sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday](http://sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday) or 802-422-9765.

## LeAnn Rimes Live in Concert

7-9 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$79-\$99. Grammy-winning country and pop sensation LeAnn Rimes takes the stage for an unforgettable night of powerhouse vocals and chart-topping hits. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

# TUES

# 4/15

## Handcraft Gathering

2-4 p.m. (Monthly, 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, Library St., So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. [abbottmemoriallibrary.org](http://abbottmemoriallibrary.org).

## 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](mailto:jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com).

## Alzheimer's Support Group

4-5 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. [chcr.org](http://chcr.org).

## 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 RRMCM employees and family. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. [vtwestiebest@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://toastmasters.org).

## Gather Together with Social Tinkering

6-8 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. An inclusive all-ages community social with games, puzzles, and activities; participants are welcome to bring instruments, crafts, or games to share. [socialtinkering.org/gathertogether](http://socialtinkering.org/gathertogether).

## 'Rescuing Capitalism: Vermont Shows a Way' — An Evening with Will Patten

6:30-8 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Vermont author Will Patten discusses his new book on democratic capitalism and how Vermont businesses offer a model for solving environmental and social challenges. [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz).

# ONGOING

## 'A Man of No Importance'

April 11-13. Briggs Opera House, 5 South Main St., White River Junction. \$15-\$30. This heartfelt musical by Terrence McNally, Stephen Flaherty, and Lynn Ahrens follows a Dublin bus conductor who finds purpose and connection through community theatre while grappling with a personal secret. [theaterengine.com/venues/281](http://theaterengine.com/venues/281).

## Arantza Peña Popo's Visual Journalism

April 11-May 30. JAM - Junction Arts & Media, 5 S Main St., White River Junction. Free. Explore full-color comics journalism by Arantza Peña Popo, blending reporting with visual storytelling to illuminate themes of queerness and belonging; includes projected works and original art on display. [junctionartsandmedia.org](http://junctionartsandmedia.org).

## 'The Children'

Through April 12. Northern Stage, 76 Gates St., White River Junction. \$25-77. In the wake of a nuclear disaster, three scientists must face the past and weigh the cost of survival in this suspenseful drama by Lucy Kirkwood. [northernstage.org](http://northernstage.org).

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

## Opening Weekend Trout Tournament

Saturday April 12- Sunday, April 13. The Hilltop Tavern, 829 Arch St., Pittsford. Fish Vermont's rivers, brooks, creeks, and streams for a chance to win cash and prizes; weigh-in by 3 p.m. Sunday. Must register in person. [thehilltopavern2023@gmail.com](mailto:thehilltopavern2023@gmail.com).

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

## 'Sylvia'

April 4-13. Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret. \$35. A heartwarming comedy by A.R. Gurney about a man, his dog, and the chaos that ensues when midlife reinvention meets a talking pup named Sylvia. Directed by Matthew Robert. [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org).

## The Vermont Palette: VPS Members' Exhibition

April 11-May 22. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. Presented by the Vermont Pastel Society, this exhibition invites artists to explore Vermont's diverse landscape through pastel, pushing creative boundaries and embracing new expressions. An opening reception will be held April 26 from 2-4 p.m. [vermontpastelsociety.org](http://vermontpastelsociety.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](http://northernstage.org).

# UPCOMING

## 'Unbound Vol. XIII' — A Celebration of Book Art

April 25-May 24 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. Awards given for People's Choice and Curator's selections. [artistreevt.org/unbound-vol.xiii-cfe](http://artistreevt.org/unbound-vol.xiii-cfe).

## Rutland Youth Theatre Presents: 'Mary Poppins'

May 9-10. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$12-\$15. Enjoy three performances of the beloved Disney musical featuring local youth. Showtimes: Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

## Race Around the Lake

May 18 from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Silver Lake State Park, 250 North Road, Barnard. \$15-\$50. Join BarnArts for a 10K run or 5K run/walk followed by lunch, live music, and an awards ceremony by the lake. Virtual race option available. Proceeds support BarnArts Youth Programming. [barnarts.org](http://barnarts.org).



## BLUES DUO

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# [MUSIC Scene]

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

**WED**  
4.9

**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

**SOUTH POMFRET**

1 p.m. Grange Theatre – Sylvia: Love and Laughter Unleashed, A play by A. R. Gurney

**THUR**  
4.10

**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

**KILLINGTON**

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

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

**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

**POULTNEY**

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

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

**RUTLAND**

6 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe – Trivia Night

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

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

**WOODSTOCK**

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – The Preacher & The Teacher

**FRI**  
4.11

**BOMOSEEN**

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

**CASTLETON**

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Music by Cooper

**KILLINGTON**

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Stevey Burke

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Krishna Guthrie

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

7 p.m. Vermont Craft – Nick Bredice and Liz Reedy

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Carl Anton

**POULTNEY**

7 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill – Alice Di Micele: On Tour From Oregon

**QUECHEE**

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – John Lackard

**RUTLAND**

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – Sylvia: Love and Laughter Unleashed, A play by A. R. Gurney

**WEST RUTLAND**

7 p.m. American Legion – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

**SAT**  
4.12

**BRIDGEWATER**

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with Headliner Mike Celona



Liz Reedy

**KILLINGTON**

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Stevey Burke

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Zach Yak

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Tboneicus Jones

7 p.m. The Foundry – Carl Anton

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Pickle Prom with the Yacht Lobsters

**LUDLOW**

2 p.m. Okemo's Clock Tower Base Area – Apres Afternoons with Jester Jigs

2 p.m. Okemo's The Bull – Apres-Ski Party with Nick Bredice

7 p.m. The Killarney – Nick Bredice

**QUECHEE**

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Krishna Guthrie

**RUTLAND**

5:30 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller

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

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – Sylvia: Love and Laughter Unleashed, A play by A. R. Gurney

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**WOODSTOCK**

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Gully Boys

**SUN**  
4.13

**BRIDGEWATER**

**CORNERS**  
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Sammy B

**KILLINGTON**

1 p.m. Superstar Umbrella Bar – Nick Bredice

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

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

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

**LUDLOW**

1 p.m. Okemo's The Bull (Outside on Patio) – All-Request Apres-Ski Dance Party with DJ Dave

5 p.m. Okemo's Clock Tower Base Area – Epic Passholder Appreciation Party with music by the Tom Pretty's

**RUTLAND**

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

**SOUTH POMFRET**

3 p.m. Grange Theatre – Sylvia: Love and Laughter Unleashed, A play by A. R. Gurney

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**MON**  
4.14

**KILLINGTON**

5 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Tboneicus Jones

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

**LUDLOW**

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

**RUTLAND**

7 p.m. Angler's Pub – Music Bingo by Sunset Entertainment

**WOODSTOCK**

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

**TUE**  
4.15

**PITTSFIELD**

7 p.m. Town Hall – Open Jam

**POULTNEY**

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

**RUTLAND**

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



Nick Bredice

## 35 years through thick and thin, ups and downs, moe. is still jamming



Rockin' the Region  
By Dave Hoffenberg

moe. is celebrating an impressive 35 years in the biz. They're coming to the Flynn in Burlington on April 19; tickets are still on sale. This is their first time back there in 20 years.

They'll be performing some of their greatest hits and songs from their new album, Circle of Giants, which was released in January.

moe. debuted in the mid-90s, in the wake of the Grateful Dead. They've stayed strong in the ever-changing jam scene. In the past

five years, they've shown resiliency with bass player Rob Derhak's recovery from cancer, the pandemic, co-founder and other guitarist Chuck Garvey's remarkable recovery from a life-altering stroke, and then, sadly, last May, Derhak lost one of his son's Eddie, to suicide. Many bands paid them a tribute. Dogs in a Pile covered one of their songs. Andy Frasco and the U.N. began their set at Northlands with moe.'s "Happy Hour Hero." Frasco stepped in at Northlands when moe. had to step down.

"That was awesome to see, but you can imagine that was so hard for us," said moe. guitarist Al Schnier. "That really rocked our worlds. It's still hard to conceive of. You can't go around it; you have to go through it. It's not something you get over; we just have to learn to live with it. That

weekend there was all this stuff coming from the stage, from all of our peers. It was awesome, and to get that love back goes a long way."

moe. → 31



Submitted

moe. is celebrating 35 years in the music scene.

# For Record Store Day 2025, one of the region's top shops will deliver a variety of unique vinyl records for music lovers to enjoy

By James Kent

Saturday, April 12—RUTLAND — For music lovers, vinyl collectors, and early risers alike, Record Store Day 2025 is more than a Saturday—it's a celebration. This year, it lands on Saturday, April 12, and downtown Rutland's Mountain Music, located at 5 Center St., will open its doors at 8 a.m. sharp to welcome the eager crowd.

Owner Meshach Tourigny has been involved with Record Store Day (RSD) since 2013 when he hosted his first event from his former location inside the Diamond Run Mall. More than a decade later and firmly rooted in his downtown spot since 2018, Tourigny plans on selling 150+ exclusive RSD titles, drawing in crowds that will begin lining up a good hour before opening.

"Some years, we've had 40 or 50 people waiting when the doors open," said Tourigny. "I think this year is going to be one of the big years."

A special 7-inch vinyl release of a Taylor Swift and Post Malone collaboration could generate interest beyond the normal RSD crowd. Tourigny secured 25 copies of this limited edition and said it would likely be gone within the first hour of business. So, if you are looking for this exclusive Swift merchandise or other RSD specials, it's best to get in line before 8 a.m.

In addition to the Swift/Malone single, Tourigny was excited about other highly anticipated titles, including:

- Post Malone's Nirvana tribute release
- A Thin Lizzy alternate take of their iconic "Jailbreak" album
- Reissues of the first three "Harry Potter" soundtracks
- Limited singles from Charli XCX and Billie Eilish
- The usual fan-favorite Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia Band box sets

For those less interested in RSD ex-

clusives and more into the crate-digging experience, Mountain Music will offer 25% off all used records on Record Store Day—and throughout April. "That's where we make most of our margin," Tourigny admitted. "RSD releases have razor-thin profit margins, and we always have leftovers. But we've gotten better at ordering what our customers actually want."

Customers looking for interesting and rare vinyl will spot some tasty crate finds as they dig. Tourigny mentioned a rare Beatles "Butcher Cover" from their "Yesterday and Today" U.S. album release showed up no more than a week ago. It sold straight away. And on his shelf behind the counter was an original 1979 Mobile Fidelity (MOFI) pressing of the Grateful Dead's "American Beauty." Original MOFI pressings are sought after by record collectors.

In addition to vinyl records, Mountain Music sells used equipment, including turntables, receivers, and speakers. So, if you want to participate in all the Record Store Day excitement but don't have something to play records on, Mountain Music can set you up.

Mountain Music has become a staple of Rutland's downtown scene—part record shop, listening room, and cultural hub. Tourigny has shaped the store around his passion for music. "It's what I love," he said, "and I get to share that with others."

So, if you're hoping to score something rare or just want to be part of a community celebration of music, plan to arrive early. Doors open at 8 a.m., but the line will likely form long before that. Make sure to review the list of exclusive Record Store Day 2025 titles at [recordstoreday.com](http://recordstoreday.com) ahead of time—remember, not every store gets every title, but Tourigny does his best to stock what his customers want.

Record Store Day may get bigger every year, but at Mountain Music, it's still about community, discovery, and the joy of putting the needle on the record.



By James Kent

Mountain Music owner Meshach Tourigny held copies of two Record Store Day titles he'll sell on Saturday, April 12: Thin Lizzy's alternate takes of their album "Jail Break" and a live Rage Against the Machine album.



By James Kent

A Taylor Swift / Post Malone 7" single release could be a sought after item on Record Store Day.



Submitted

## Ugandan youth ensemble Dance of Hope brings cultural exchange and celebration to Chandler Music Hall

Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m.—RANDOLPH — The Chandler Center for the Arts will welcome Dance of Hope, a youth-based ensemble from Uganda, for a free public performance at Chandler Music Hall. The performance culminates a three-day residency with students from five area schools: Tunbridge, Chelsea, Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield.

Known for its dynamic choreography and peer-led approach, Dance of Hope introduces audiences to Uganda's rhythms, stories, and cultural heritage. Their work reflects themes of resilience, healing, and opportunity—many of the performers come from communities deeply affected by poverty and conflict. The group has earned international acclaim for its ability to connect young people through music and dance, using performance as a powerful tool for unity and understanding.

Founded in 2010 by Ugandan musician and UNICEF youth ambassador Chinobay, Dance of Hope is part of the World Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports vulnerable communities through the arts and education. This event marks the first stop on their 2025 U.S. tour. Chinobay previously served as tour manager for Zimbabwean supergroup Mokoomba during their 2024 school residency with Chandler.

In tandem with the performance, Chandler will also host the opening of its student art show, Brushstrokes for Wellness, in the gallery space. The exhibit features artwork by students from across the region and focuses on art as a form of emotional expression and healing.

"In these divisive times, it's more important than ever to have kids connect with people from outside their culture," said Chandler Executive Director Chloe Powell. "These early, positive experiences help shape more open-minded and empathetic individuals."

The performance and exhibit are free and open to the public. Donations are welcome to support Chandler's growing youth arts programming. Registration is encouraged at [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org) to ensure admission.

For more information, visit: [chandler-arts.org](http://chandler-arts.org).



By Bwette Daniel Gilbert

The Youth-based ensemble from Uganda Dance of Hope will share their rich cultural traditions at the Chandler Music Hall on Friday, April 11.



Submitted

Alice Di Micele will perform a free concert on Friday, April 11 to kick off the 2025 season at Stone Valley Arts.

## Stone Valley Arts kicks off 2025 Season with music, exhibits, dance, and more

POULTNEY — Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill is launching its 2025 season with a vibrant lineup of music, visual art, dance, and literary events throughout April. With offerings for all ages and interests, the center invites the community to reconnect with the arts and one another in a dynamic, welcoming environment.

The season opens with a free concert on Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. by acclaimed Americana/folk musician Alice Di Micele. Hailing from Ashland, Oregon, Di Micele brings decades of experience and a deeply personal connection to nature, emotion, and healing through music. With 17 albums to her name, her rich vocal range and genre-blending style—infused with jazz, soul, funk, and rock—have earned her a devoted following.

Visual arts take center stage later in the month with the artist member show, opening with a public reception on Saturday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit features works by over a dozen local artists and will remain on display through Sunday, June 8. Gallery hours are on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

April is also Jazz Appreciation Month. Stone Valley Arts will host a free Jazz Café concert on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m., featuring regional musicians and the West Rutland School's Westside Jazz Combo under Zach Hampton's direction. The Jazz Café offers an intimate space for audiences to enjoy live jazz in a relaxed, community setting.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Stone Valley Arts is collaborating with Poultnery Poetry Downtown, placing local poems in shop windows around town. A Literary Open Mic will be held at the center on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. The Poultnery Poets Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 1–3 p.m. for those looking to write or share poetry in a supportive environment.

Music lovers are invited to the Community Music Jam on Sunday, April 13, from 4–6 p.m. This acoustic jam welcomes all genres—bluegrass, folk, blues, Americana—and encourages participants to take turns sharing songs and learning from each other in a laid-back setting.

Movement-based offerings round out the month, with the return of ballroom dance classes led by instructor Patti Panebianco. Classes began on Wednesday, April 2, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. and continue weekly through June. The first class is free and covers a variety of ballroom styles, including East Coast swing, salsa, foxtrot, and rumba.

Starting Thursday, April 10, from 9–10 a.m., Essentrics Stretch and Strength classes with Diane Sullivan will be held weekly. Based on the method developed by Miranda Esmonde-White, this no-impact workout blends elements of ballet, Tai Chi, and physiotherapy to improve flexibility, posture, and overall well-being. Classes are \$10, and participants are asked to bring a mat and water.

For more information about all upcoming programs, visit [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org).

## Entertainment Rewind

### Entertainment Events This Week in History:

- April 10, 1970: Paul McCartney announced the breakup of The Beatles, marking the end of an era in music history.
- April 12, 1961: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space aboard Vostok 1, a significant milestone that inspired numerous works in science fiction and film.
- April 15, 1966: The Rolling Stones released their album "Aftermath" in the UK, notable for being their first album to consist entirely of original compositions.



Rolling Stones "Aftermath"

### Notable Birthdays This Week:

- April 9, 1939: Michael Learned, American actress renowned for her role as Olivia Walton in "The Waltons."
- April 9, 1903: Ward Bond, American actor known for roles in "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Searchers."
- April 10, 1932: Omar Sharif, Egyptian actor famed for his performances in "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Doctor Zhivago."
- April 12, 1940: Herbie Hancock, influential American jazz pianist and composer.
- April 15, 1933: Elizabeth Montgomery, American actress best known for her role in the TV series "Bewitched."



Elizabeth Montgomery

### Top Movies Released This Week in History:

- April 10, 1952: "Singin' in the Rain," a musical comedy starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds, premiered and became one of the greatest

musicals ever made.

- April 13, 1964: "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," a satirical black comedy directed by Stanley Kubrick, was released.
- April 15, 1994: "The Crow," a dark fantasy action film starring Brandon Lee, was released posthumously after the lead actor's tragic on-set accident.

### Top Albums Released in History This Week:

- April 9, 1969: Bob Dylan released "Nashville Skyline," showcasing a shift to a country sound.
- April 10, 1970: Elton John released his self-titled album, featuring the hit "Your Song."
- April 10, 1978: Jethro Tull released "Heavy Horses," continuing their folk-rock explorations.
- April 10, 1989: The Cult released "Sonic Temple," marking their mainstream breakthrough.



Bob Dylan's Nashville Skyline

### Most Popular TV Shows This Week in History:

- April 9, 1979: "Dallas," the prime-time soap opera, introduced the character J.R. Ewing, becoming a cultural phenomenon.
- April 14, 1980: "Magnum, P.I.," starring Tom Selleck, premiered and became one of the most popular shows of the 1980s.

### Best-Selling Books This Week in History:

- April 1961: "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee topped best-seller lists, later winning the Pulitzer Prize.
- April 1990: "The Stand" by Stephen King saw a surge in sales following the release of its uncut edition.

### Notable Quotes from This Time Period:

- April 12, 1961: "Poyekhali!" ("Let's go!") — Yuri Gagarin, at the launch of Vostok 1, becoming the first human in space.
- April 10, 1970: "I have no future plans to record or appear with The Beatles again." — Paul McCartney, announcing the band's breakup.



Apollo 13

## Funding available to support arts and social cohesion projects in Vermont

The Vermont Community Foundation has announced a new funding opportunity for arts-based projects to foster community belonging, social cohesion, and collaboration across the state. Recognizing the critical role the arts play in enhancing mental and physical wellbeing, the Foundation offers grants to support events and initiatives in the visual, performing, musical, and literary arts that bring people together in positive and lasting ways.

Founded in 1986, the Vermont Community Foundation connects donors with the causes they care about and supports communities across the state. Each year, the Foundation and its partners invest more than \$60 million in Vermont, working toward a vision where every resident can build a secure and fulfilling future.

In a time marked by polarization, isolation, and rapid change, the arts provide a powerful avenue for connection. When individuals come together to create, perform, and experience art, they build trust, empathy, and shared purpose. The Foundation's latest grant program seeks to amplify this impact by supporting projects that strengthen Vermont's communities through meaningful engagement.

Nonprofits, schools, libraries, and other cultural and community organizations are invited to submit Letters of Interest (LOI) for funding consideration. Proposed projects should emphasize social interaction, inclusion, and collaboration—core components that contribute to a strong sense of belonging.

Grants typically average \$7,500, with awards of up to \$12,000 available for projects of varying scale and scope. Funding is made possible through a Vermont Community Foundation fund-holder and is aligned with the organization's broader mission to improve health and wellbeing while narrowing the opportunity gap that affects many Vermonters.

Letters of Interest will be accepted between April 3 and May 8, with a submission deadline of 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 8. Submissions must be made through the Foundation's online grants platform at [vermontcf.org/for-nonprofits](http://vermontcf.org/for-nonprofits). Organizations selected to advance to the next round will be invited to submit full applications and notified of their LOI status by May 22.

For complete details and to submit a "letter of interest", visit: [vermontcf.org/funds/arts-social-cohesion](http://vermontcf.org/funds/arts-social-cohesion).



By Terry J. Allen

Organizations such as the Vermont Community Foundation provide additional funding for projects like the Civic Standard Theater Project (pictured).



By Kriss Radder/Brattleboro Reformer

Students learned the science behind the music at a Musicians in Schools program demonstration in Guilford in 2022.

## Vermont Symphony Orchestra brings the science of music to Rutland schools on April 18

By James Kent

RUTLAND — Students at three Rutland-area schools will get a firsthand look—and listen—at the joy of live music when the Vermont Symphony Orchestra’s Musicians in Schools program visits Rutland Northeast Primary School, Rutland Northwest Primary School, and Rutland Intermediate School on Friday, April 18.

These special performances will feature the VSO’s brass trio as part of the orchestra’s statewide education outreach program designed to inspire young learners through the power of music. Each show blends musical performance, instrument demonstrations, audience participation, and narration that ties directly into STEM principles—offering a fun, educational experience designed especially for students in grades K-6.

“It’s an educational program that mixes musical performance with how instruments work,” said Elise Brunelle, executive director of the VSO. “The focus is on combining the science of music to highlight STEM principles, like physics and math.”

Brunelle, who joined the VSO in 2020 after 17 years as managing director of Cape Town Opera in South Africa, will lead the VSO in celebrating its 90th anniversary this May. Under her direction, the Musicians in Schools program has expanded to reach more than 2,500 students annually and will grow even further in 2025.

The VSO sends out three different ensembles—brass, woodwinds, and strings—each joined by a narrator or actor who helps tie the music into fun storytelling. April’s Rutland visit will feature the brass trio, including trombonist Bear Irwin, trumpeter Glendon Ingalls, and French horn player Ron Wold.

“We call it brass, but lip reed is the real name,” said Ir-

win, who retired from teaching music in Vermont public schools in 2015 and now enjoys bringing his expertise into school gymnasiums and cafeterias across the state. “There’s a lot of STEM designed into it, how the vibrations work, and the change of tone and pitch.”

Irwin, who once served as band director at Rutland Town School, emphasizes the sincerity and enthusiasm he sees in young audiences. “The students are so genuine. There is no pretense there,” he said. “I don’t think one could be reasonably successful in education in public schools without having a good time with young people.”

Students can expect to hear familiar tunes like “When the Saints Go Marching In,” “Amazing Grace,” “Over the Rainbow,” and the “Star Wars” cantina band theme while learning about the mechanics of instruments and how sound is created.

Brunelle said the most rewarding part of these visits is watching children light up with curiosity. “A lot of them have never seen these instruments up close,” she said. “How a flute works or a trombone works—their eyes light up. That’s what I love. And with music programs getting cut at schools, kids don’t always get to experience these instruments. I feel a deep responsibility to share that.”

In addition to the Musicians in Schools program, the VSO provides free concerts for seniors and operates multiple chamber groups like the Jukebox Quartet. “Between concerts and educational programs, we have 90 other events,” Brunelle added. “It’s a good and busy time to be in Rutland County.”

For more information about the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and its education programs, visit: [vso.org](http://vso.org).

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seasoned connoisseur or a curious newcomer, our diverse selection and knowledgeable team are here to guide you. [killingtonwinebar.com](http://killingtonwinebar.com), 802.353.6423.



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# VSO's Jukebox Quartet demonstrates music's relevance with a rocking performance

By James Kent

RUTLAND—On a night when earlier in the day the Vermont Symphony Orchestra announced its federal funding had been eliminated, the VSO's Jukebox Quartet proved why music and art matter and why losing it would be a profound loss to American culture and society no billionaire can affix a price tag to.

An up close and personal opportunity to see four of the finest classically-trained musicians in the state of Vermont take on the rock & roll and heavy-metal offerings of Led Zeppelin, Nirvana, Tool, and Van Halen, proved quite a draw on Friday, April 4 at the Paramount Theatre. The crowd seated on stage were not your average classical music enthusiasts. They were young kids, adults wearing concert t-shirts, and other inquisitive souls who had never attended a classical musical performance before. Prior to the show, there was a curious buzz of excitement at what a Heavy Metal Strings program even meant.

Twelve-year-old Ethan Moore, a Led Zeppelin fan, traveled to the show with his mom from Londonderry to attend the performance.

"In Vermont, you have to make an effort to culture your children. And it was an agreeable thing because it was rock," said Moore's mom, Sara Niklas, when asked why they traveled 45 minutes to the Paramount Theatre.

Moore was not the youngest in attendance. An even younger rock fan, a girl named Brooke, had a front-row seat to the performance and was seen rocking out with hands flashing in the air throughout the one-hour set.

And those Led Zeppelin fans in attendance wouldn't have to wait long to experience the translation from electric instruments into string. The Jukebox Quartet, comprised of violinists Brook Quiggins-Saulnier and Joana Genova, Stefanie Taylor on viola, and John Dunlop on cello, kicked off the evening with a transformative edition of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir." The familiar song set the tone for the night, and it was fun to look around at the faces awash in giddy delight as they experienced hearing a song so familiar yet arranged and performed in a way they had not previously comprehended was possible. And that was very much the intention of the host and curator of the Jukebox series, Matt LaRocca. Disorienting and reorienting is the goal of the Jukebox Quartet. They want to introduce new audiences to the possibilities and accessibility of classical music by presenting modern music in a way that removes perceived distance from those who may think classical is not for them.

The following selection was an eye and ear-opener for me. I am a person who can admit to not being the target market for heavy metal, and Tool isn't a band I have much familiarity with. However, after the quartet's performance of Tool's "Forty Six & 2," maybe



By James Kent  
A young rock enthusiast named Brooke posed with a fun and sassy violinist, Brook Quiggins-Saulnier, after the JukeBox Quartet's performance at the Paramount Theatre on April 4.

I could be a fan. It was exciting and energetic, and when it was over, I whispered to my wife, "Wow." Again, LaRocca and the Jukebox Quartet defied my expectations or whatever preconceived notions I may have had about hearing a classical interpretation of a Tool song.

LaRocca introduced the quartet's next piece with a brief history of its composer, Dimitri Shostakovich, a life filled with political struggle and tragedy. While Shostakovich's "Quartet 7, Movement 3" is more of what an audience might consider a classical piece, as LaRocca reminded those in attendance, it is every bit as metal as Tool. LaRocca wasn't kidding. Shostakovich can rock.

One of the highlights of the night came a couple of pieces later, when Quiggins-Saulnier, who has now forever been dubbed "the fun and sassy one" of the gang of four, plugged in her violin for a masterclass solo performing Eddie Van Halen's, "Eruption." Well regarded by rock enthusiasts as one of the all-time great guitar solo pieces, Quiggins-Saulnier tore the song up on violin with a furious demonstration of guitar pedal work. Forgive the overused term "amazing," but that's the only word to describe it.

The next stand-out moment in an hour filled with stand-out moments was Dunlop's solo performance of Judah Adashi's "My Heart Comes Undone." Dunlop utilized a loop pedal to build layer upon layer of cello, creating the illusion that a full cello quartet was on stage performing the piece. Watching Dunlop create a soundscape from one instrument and a piece of electronic equipment was jaw-dropping. I don't know what the audience at the Paramount Theatre was expecting out of the evening, but I guarantee they didn't know that was coming, and it was a dazzler.

Nirvana's "In Bloom," arranged by Quiggins-Saulnier's husband, Kyle Saulnier, was the second-to-last piece of the evening, and, again, it was a transformative experience that brought the on-stage crowd to a

Quartet → 43

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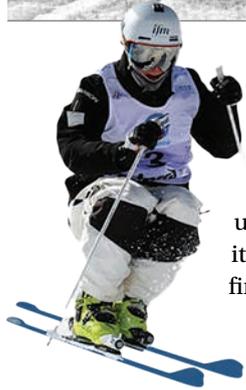
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# Top bummers awarded at Killington's BMMC

Staff report

Killington's annual Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge was Saturday, April 5. Amateur bumpers took to the slopes of Outer Limits in challenging weather conditions to battle for a place in the finals. The top 32 men and 16 women earned a change to compete in a head-to-head competition for the Mogul Challenge cup.

The top finishers were placed in a bracket and pairs of competitors ran the dual course with a sudden death format—only the winners remain.

Awards were be presented to the first, second and third place overall men's and women's competitors.

The purpose of the Mogul Challenge is to recognize technical superiority and athletic ability. Contestants were judged for their turns and line (60%) quality and variety of well-executed turns while staying as close as possible to the fall line, air (20%) the quality of upright aerial maneuvers executed spontaneously in the fall line, and speed (20%).

### Overall individual results

Women: Sofia Robinson took first place with a time of 25.36 plus points for style (turns/line and air/jumps) for a total score of 69.94. She was followed by Rachel Setareh who finished with in 26.97 seconds and scored 69.16. Molly Vance finished third of 35 women finishers with a time of 26.86 and a total score of 63.98.

Men: Kalman Heims took first place with a time of 18.21 earning a total 77.78. He was followed by Myles Frendel with a time of 19.53 and 75.13 points. Then PJ Ricci took third of the 102 men finishers with a time of 20.85 seconds and 72.65 points.

### Dual champion results

Women: Sofia Robinson again bested the women's field in the dual bracket competition. She beat Rachel Setareh in the finals. Allegra Miccio (who finished fifth individually) took third in the dual format besting Kate Larkin in the consolation round (Molly Vance, who placed third in the individual contest, lost to Larkin in the first round).

Men: Kalman Heims again also bested the men's field in the dual bracket competition. He beat Myles Frendel in the finals. James Garland (who finished fourth individually) beat PJ Ricci to secure third place in the dual championship.



By Jerry Leblond  
The Bear Mountain Mogul Challenge on April 5 saw Sofia Robinson and Kalman Heims win the women's and men's overall titles, respectively, while both also triumphed in the head-to-head dual competition.

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Courtesy How Creative Group  
Jam Rock Band celebrates 35 years of music on April 19 at the Flynn in Burlington.

← **moe.:**  
from page 24

In conversation, Schnier discussed many things, including his love of the Buffalo Bills and skiing. Schnier and his wife bought a place in Stowe a few years ago.

"I love the town, love the mountain, and the skiing is some of the best in the Northeast. I skied a ton. This winter has been a banner year; it's been spectacular. The people are great; we've met so many awesome people in town," said Schnier.

This year, Schnier was a ski patrol volunteer at Stowe, the birthplace of Ski Patrol.

"I've been patrolling for about 10 years now, but first there. It's a little different from the Mom and Pop places in the Adirondacks, where I learned to patrol and came up doing it. Stowe is legit patrolling. It's busy, and there's a lot of incidents. There's so much history. It's a legendary

ski patrol, and it's cool to be a part of it," said Schnier.

Looking back at moe.'s impressive 35-year span, Schnier felt fortunate for the longevity.

"It's crazy; we never planned for this to be a career. We started playing music together because it was something we enjoyed doing. We got together and did it all the time. I equate it to being in a bowling league with your buddies. We never thought we'd be professional bowlers. We just bowled because it's what we liked to do in our free time, or like skiing, you did it in your free time. You didn't think you'd compete or be on the U.S. Ski Team. Then that career happened. We went from playing house parties to playing bars, and we were doing really well and started traveling around. It started encroaching on our lives, and we thought maybe we should do this. Taking that leap of faith when you're 25 years old, to forgo everything to quote, unquote, make it your

career, and to count on it for your income, your future, and all that is a little bit scary, but also the best time of your life to do something like that. We bought a van, moved into a house together, and started playing 300 shows a year. Here we are 35 years later, and it's awesome. These guys are like my brothers. We've been through so much shit together, good, bad, and otherwise. Our kids all grew up together, and we still really enjoy what we do. We have a great time on the road with each other. I can sit up with these guys at 2 a.m., enjoying a nightcap and laughing till it hurts."

The band's enjoyment is evident on their faces when they play. And they've passed that joy and their musical genes down to their kids. Schnier's son Ben is a multi-instrumentalist and plays in several bands in Burlington,

with his main band being "Blueberry Betty." Derhak's daughter Emma is also pursuing music with a band in Portland, NH.

"She's sat in with us a bunch of times," said Schnier. "She's a great singer."

To say Schnier loves all of this is an understatement.

"Our music brings so many people together, and it does some good in the world. It's something positive, and we're just bringing people together. Our fans are forming bonds with one another, creating families, falling in love, and getting married. Long after the band goes away, and nobody gives a shit about us anymore, those things will carry on, and that's the most amazing thing."

This tour has moe. going back to their roots, playing many places they played years ago. Schnier said moe. plans to dig into the archives of songs they played years ago.

"We figured why not? You only get one 35th Anniversary."

The band's enjoyment is evident on their faces when they play.



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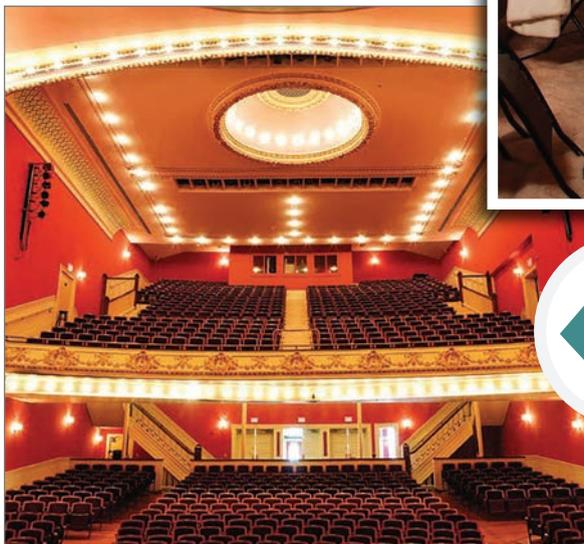
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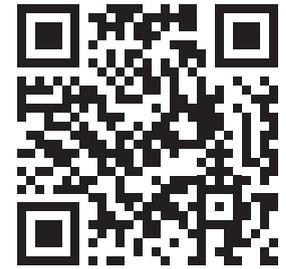
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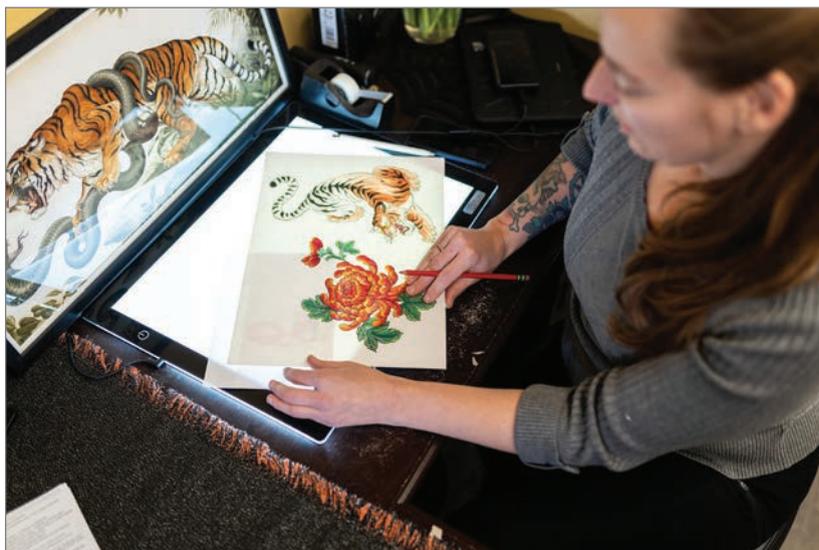
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# Uncharted waters: 'White Lotus: Season 3' is a captivating portrayal of life, death, and power

By Ellie Trinkle

Warning: This review may contain spoilers of the show "White Lotus" for those have not seen the series, or its most recent season.

HBO's hit series "White Lotus" has captured the attention of audiences worldwide with its stunning visuals, class commentary, and dynamic soundtrack. Season 3, whose finale premiered this past Sunday, is no exception. Creator and director Mike White continues to keep audiences on their toes, and while there was a noticeably slower pacing throughout this season, the finale brought everything together, revealing how quickly power can shift when other people begin to take hold of it.

Fans of the show know the structure of "The White Lotus" has stayed relatively consistent across seasons; groups of upper-class white people come to stay at an exclusive resort, and throughout their week-long vacation, their security in their wealth and identities are put into question. Last season, White took viewers to Sicily, Italy, to explore themes of sex, exploitation, and betrayal. In the finale of Season 2, Tanya McQuoid (Jennifer Coolidge) fatally died when she jumped off a boat in an attempted escape, crediting White with a successful upping of the ante from the previous season. For White, this new "White Lotus" season left an audience wondering what he could do to top the last season.

Though slower in pacing, Season 3 provides a tantalizing portrait of how money and power are tools that reinforce abuse, displacement, and manipulation, as well as how they cause physical and metaphorical deaths. This season is set at a White Lotus Resort in Thailand that focuses on wellness. Working at the resort are general manager Fabian (Christian Friedel) and security guard Gaitok (Tayme Thapthimthong), whose crush on coworker Mook (Lalisa Manobal) will force him to reexamine how he exercises power. Sritala (Lek Patravadi) is a retired entertainer now the head of the resort, and her American husband Jim Hollinger (Scott Glenn) may be suspiciously tied to one of the guests.

Staying at the resort, we have the Ratliffs—father Timothy (Jason Isaacs), mother Victoria (Parker Posey), oldest son Saxon (Patrick Schwarzenegger), daughter Piper (Sarah Catherine Hook), and youngest son Lochlan (Sam Nivola)—a family from North Carolina who seemingly "have it all." But, in typical "The White Lotus" fashion, we soon learn that this is far from the truth; Timothy is secretly coping with financial ruin, Victoria cannot imagine a life without wealth, Saxon is obnoxious, Piper wants to be as far away from her family as possible, and Lochlan just wants to keep everyone together. By the end of the season, each member of the family has been forced to reconcile with their status and overall identity.

Childhood friends Jaelyn (Michelle Monaghan), Kate (Leslie Bibb), and Laure (Carrie Coon) blissful reunion begins to unravel as they begin to learn more about one another's complex adult lifestyles. The three women also befriend health manager Valentin (Arnas Fedaravius), whose lines between business and pleasure are continuously blurred.

There's Chelsea (Aimee Lou Wood), whose overly optimistic outlook appears to clash with her older boyfriend Rick's (Walton Goggins) standoffish demeanor. Rick frequently leaves Chelsea alone, prompting her to befriend Chloe (Charlotte Le Bon), who lives up the hill from the resort with her older husband, Gary (Jon Gries). Only when we meet Gary do we realize he is Greg from

seasons 1 and 2. When we last saw Greg, he was leaving his wife Tanya McQuoid in Italy, only for her to find out he was trying to kill her and inherit her wealth.

Also returning this season is Belinda Lindsey (Nataasha Rothwell), who worked in the Hawaii White Lotus in Season 1. Belinda is on a White Lotus exchange program, and when she recognizes Greg, she begins to grow suspicious. Her son Zion (Nicholas Duvernay) also comes to visit and ends up helping her navigate the mysterious and possibly dangerous situation with Greg.

This season differs thematically because it draws inspiration from its location in Thailand. Buddhism parallels the characters' lack of self-awareness, serving as a warning that greed can be disillusioning and karma always comes back around. Though a few characters claim to be aligned with their spirituality, we slowly watch them regress when material wealth tempts them.

Another powerful element in this season is water, which is frequently used to symbolize themes of death and rebirth. Some characters start to experience a "re-

birth," or a newfound sense of self, while others experience a "death" of their egos and preconceptions about the world around them.

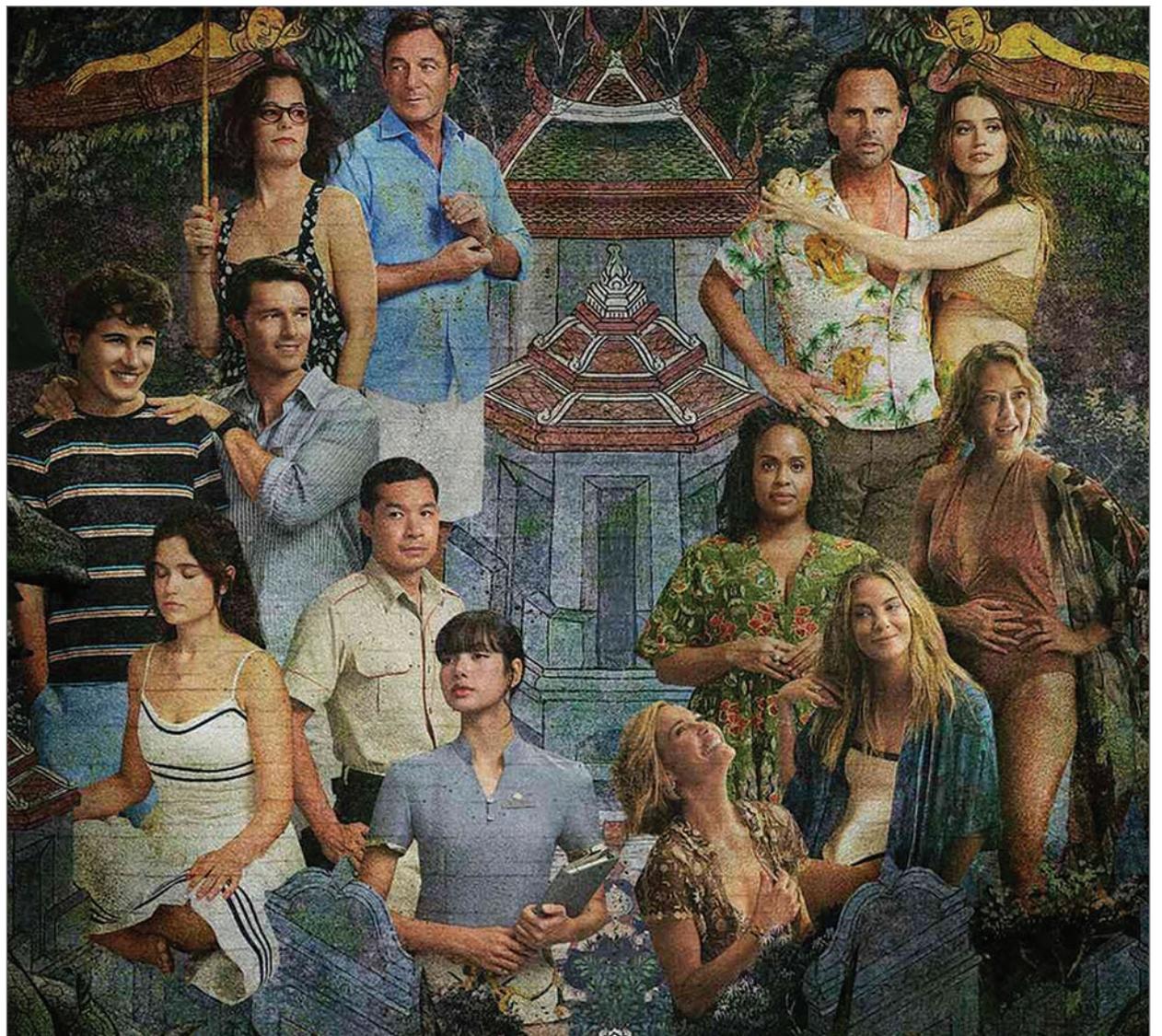
The finale toys with these ideas, showing some people

who die (as per typical "The White Lotus" finales) and others who let parts of their identities "die." While this may seem more underwhelming compared to the other finales, this one embraced its location and used it as a framework for how we can think about wealth, life, and ourselves. Further, White uses water this season to experiment more with his techniques. Scenes where water becomes its own character, guiding or rejecting the choices being made, are some of the most memorable moments of the entire season.

There is so much more that can be discussed about "The White Lotus" Season 3, but I'll hold off to avoid spoiling too much for those who have yet to

finish/watch the season. This season was slower in pacing and less satisfying in its ending, for my taste, but one thing is abundantly clear; White has asserted his position as a thoughtful filmmaker comfortable with "testing the waters" and he's here to stay.

Though slower in pacing, Season 3 provides a tantalizing portrait of how money and power are tools that reinforce abuse, displacement, and manipulation, as well as how they cause physical and metaphorical deaths.



Courtesy Warner Discovery

"White Lotus" completed its third season on Sunday, April 6.

# A journey back to '83 through the lens of Frank Miller's 'Daredevil #191'



**Off the Shelf**  
By Patrick Wise

When I was 12 years old, a new wave of artists emerged in the '80s. One artist in particular, Frank Miller, stood out. Why'd he stand out? He was a comic book punk rocker and visionary who broke the rules. It was through his work on Batman and Daredevil, his creation of the new Elektra character, seen first within the pages of "Daredevil #168" and of course, his creation of "Sin City"—(aka—"Frank Miller's Sin City")

) popularized by the 2005 American neo-noir crime anthology film directed by Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller, based on Miller's comic book released in 1992.

How did Miller break the rules? Return to 1983 and take a peak at "Daredevil" and Miller's cover for "DD #191"— a comic that will forever remain a safe haven within the inner folds of my favorite comic memory banks. Here, Miller defied conventional illustration and adopted almost a noir/caricature approach. He was pioneering a new path forward, breaking away from the linear illustrations of old while leaning heavily into a loose abstraction, asymmetric artistic perspective, where flourishes of color were as important, if not more so, than the structural guiding law of line. In breaking that law, Miller's exaggerated character compositions, odd-shaped bodies, and facial and background details consistently portrayed his style throughout the book.

His pages were built on intense, hard-core, razor-edged comic book noir. The chaotic distorted images created a tension with which he played like musical jazz, allowing tension to be felt as much in display as with the tension in his dramatic story birthed deep in the underbelly of big city back alleys. The characters communicated a heavier

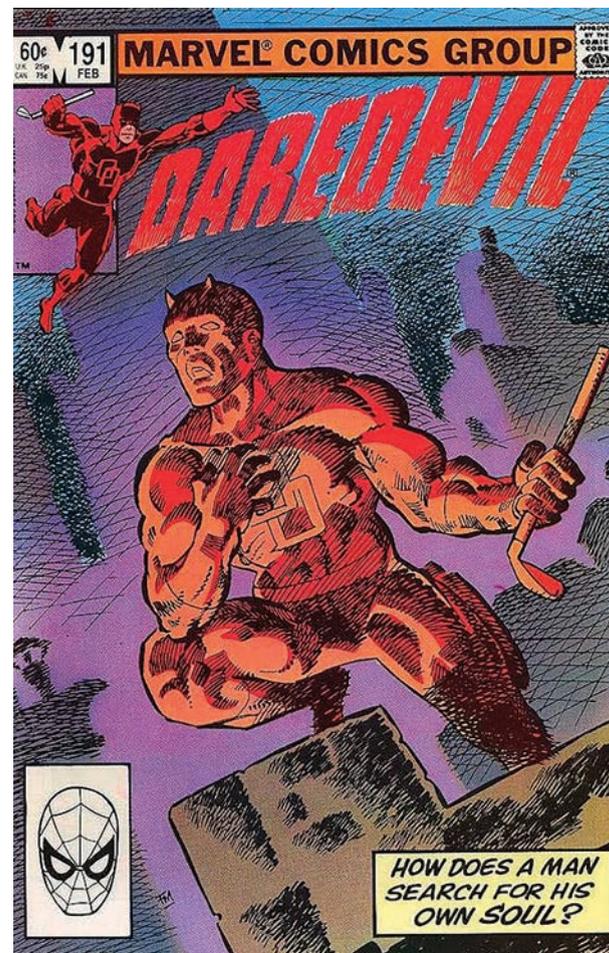
vibe within the lives of my old favorite characters. The action flew off the pages.

I read "Daredevil #191" on one of those cold, quiet 1983 winter nights. It must have been 2 a.m. As usual, I was up with a reading lamp tucked in the sack with a stack of comics and a fizzing Coke on the nightstand. The house's creakings and crackings—a nostalgia reminiscent of yesterday's smell of burning leaves. I remember the world outside, frozen in silence, stark white smoke billowing out of the second-story chimneys. Save for the occasional hum of a late-night car passing by, the sound of the promise of escape in comic book lore lived in silence, setting forth a fitting arena for the loud, unabashed, shocking pages of Frank's creations to become all the more prevalent.

Journeying back to my 1983 memory banks, I remember that I would have walked to Kehoe Corner Market earlier in the day to grab a comic, a candy bar, and a soda for a dollar down. That's probably where I got "#191." Or maybe it was Mr. C's Seafood market on Route 7. Either way, the memories of the change in comics, attributed explicitly in my mind to one Frank Miller's "Daredevil #191" will not be forgotten.

Miller's "Daredevil" was darker, grittier, and more introspective than anything I'd seen before. It was raw and, at first, almost asking for discomfort from the reader. The lines were rough, the shadows stark, and the emotion - palpable in a way that felt alien to me. It was easy to keep turning those pages. The way the visuals conveyed tension, the hero's flaws, and the brutal world Miller inhabits was unlike anything I'd experienced in comics. That night, under the dim light of my bedside lamp, comics made another great leap into the recesses of my imagination, all due to one unknown Rock visionary who broke all the rules. Today, many artists, comics, film, pulp fiction, and beyond can trace some of the inspiration

and creative freedom back to Frank Miller, whose work helped pry open the door to a vast, untapped landscape of storytelling possibilities.



Submitted

In 1983, Frank Miller's Daredevil #191 helped break traditional comic book rules, revolutionizing the genre.





# Cosmic Catalogue

## The time to know what you want is right now



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

The astrology of 2025 thus far has brought its fair share of challenges. Old wounds from the past, long forgotten and assumed healed, resurfaced. In turn, this brought desire into question.

It can be a humbling experience for it to dawn upon you that maybe you no longer want what you once did. Thus calling into question the very essence of everything. If I no longer want this or that, then what do I want? Is what I want even available to me? And if I get it, what's to say that my desire was misguided or somehow would be taken from me?

Do I play it safe and err on the side of caution? Do I keep my desires, wants, and dreams small, just in case? Is it better not to go after what I want because the pain of possible loss is too great? Is it better just to follow the crowd, stay small, and play it safe?

All these questions and more will arise this week. It's time to awaken from your slumber and put your armor back on. While the battle won't arrive for a little while yet, you'll need to be ready. Those who can be certain beyond logic are those who'll forge ahead while everyone else will be left behind. Define your desire.

### **Aries** March 21 - April 20

This isn't the week to think you're home and hosed and go back to the plans you had from 2024. Soon, you'll get the chance to start, just not yet. For now, you need to take a very slow pace, or you could get yourself caught up in some kind of delusion. That said, sometimes a delusion is what it takes to get you through. Heed the advice of a key person in your life; they are slowing you down for a reason.

### **Leo** July 21 - August 20

Life has been happening in the shadows for the most part this year. Either things aren't moving in the direction you wanted, or you've been forced to face the shadows within—or both. This week gives you the chance to rest, recharge, and make some important decisions. Do you address what needs to be addressed, or do you just delay the inevitable outcomes? If you want the promised blessings, don't avoid looking within yourself and correct what needs to be corrected.

### **Sagittarius** November 21 - December 20

A stuck or stagnant situation involving your home and family will show signs of shifting. That being said, the journey is not yet over. Decisions still need to be made either due to a change of circumstances or you no longer want what you once did. It may take some time to decide, but commit to it once you do. A lot of people in your life have their own ideas of what you should do, but the choice is ultimately yours.

### **Taurus** April 21 - May 20

Is doing what you're doing in your best interest? If you think about it, is it possible that perhaps you're attempting to seek approval, validation, or trying to fit in with the right people? You are probably thinking quite differently about a lot of people in your life right now, and it's possible some aren't cutting the mustard. If that's the case, be honest about it, or you'll only create a rod for your own back. You need to come first in this.

### **Virgo** August 21 - September 20

You've arrived at the inevitable fork in the road. Do you do what you've always done or choose to do something different? Can you choose hope and possibility rather than logic and chance? This isn't an easy feat for you, but if you want all kinds of relationships in your life to get better, then this is a mission you must accept. Surrender to that which you cannot control, and you might end up with something better than you could have imagined.

### **Capricorn** December 21 - January 20

Much of the time, it's not so much what you say but the way you say it that either lets you get away with saying what's on your mind or lands you in hot water. This week, it would be wise to bite your tongue even though it will be tempting to let it all out. A bright idea can be a good thing, but once shared, it may not be so bright. Keeping your cards close to your chest, especially regarding a career matter, would be wise.

### **Gemini** May 21 - June 20

You're working so hard right now as Saturn continues to keep you under the pump. Fortunately, your attitude has been optimistic and the blessings have been arriving. This week may bring a flash of insight or turnaround regarding a professional matter or a life direction issue. Romance is in the spotlight; people from the past may reappear, but it is best not to go down roads you've already traversed. You haven't come this far just to come this far. Not everyone is who they say they are.

### **Libra** September 21 - October 20

This week you'll realize that something has got to give. How long can you continue what you're doing and expect things to change? Usually, things will change when you do. A turning point of sorts will arrive, and all that you've been grinding away at will finally come through for you, or not. One way or another, you're going to have to make a choice that works for you, either in love or in business, or possibly both. Work smarter, not harder.

### **Aquarius** January 21 - February 20

Everything that has been stuck around money will start to become unstuck this week. That's not to say that everything will be dandy, but you can most certainly expect some much-needed progress. The information, the intel, or the insight you need will help you make the right choices. It may take some time to see some movement with money, but things are most definitely moving in the right direction. All the hard work you've been doing is finally starting to pay off.

### **Cancer** June 21 - July 20

You've been through the gauntlet and then some so far this year. Soon it will all be over. That doesn't mean avoiding the question you need to ask: "What are you going to do from here?" Hoping, wishing, and praying are one thing, but miracles tend to happen when you take action. It is better to have done something and lost than to have done nothing and continue to wonder. Think of your future self and not how you feel right now.

### **Scorpio** October 21 - November 20

Your romantic and creative life has been nothing short of arduous and confusing. Just when you get to the point where you're considering dropping the towel, things shift. Do you go back and do what you've always done, or do you do something different? The real question might be just how much things can really be different. Some battles are worth winning, while others are best to walk away from. This week, you'll decide what is worth your time, energy, and attention and what is not.

### **Pisces** February 21 - March 20

Life has been a case of one step forward and two back recently. This week, you can finally start to move forward again, albeit the speed will be slow. You've figured out what you want and the details about how to get it. Sometimes, deciding is the most challenging part; however, once that's done, the rest is a case of following through. Whatever you choose to do this week, you must commit to it. Consistency is the key to success.

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

## Early bird gets the nest

As the frost line retreats northward in the early spring, its withdrawal is often closely followed – and occasionally preceded – by the arrival of our most common flycatcher: the eastern phoebe. Depending on where you live, you may already have one nesting above your front door.

Have you ever wondered why these small, onomatopoeic birds arrive weeks before the other flycatchers, such as eastern wood pewees, eastern kingbirds, and least flycatchers? Why do phoebes pursue the cold so closely instead of giving the warmer weather a few weeks to get comfortably settled in? By riding Winter's coattails, they risk the inevitable backslides into freezing temperatures, which, for a phoebe, can range from minor annoyance to deadly depending on the severity and duration of the cold.

One possible reason for the phoebes' early arrival is that it allows them to track the oncoming spring and start breeding as soon as conditions turn favorable. Eastern phoebes are short-distance migrants, with most individuals wintering between the Gulf Coast and mid-Atlantic states to return to their breeding grounds quickly. Soon after their arrival, they locate suitable nest spots and begin the nest-building or renovating process. But they generally take a leisurely approach to this work, drawing it out over a few weeks. Moreover, females typically delay laying their first egg for 7 to 14 days after finishing the nest.

This extensive and consistent lag between their arrival and the laying of the first egg suggests that the birds almost always arrive weeks before they need to in order to catch optimal nesting conditions. Therefore, while being able to respond quickly to favorable conditions could play a role in their breeding ecology, another variable may be more important in shaping the timing of their arrival: the phoebe's unusual nest-site requirements.

Eastern phoebes are rather particular about a prospective nest location's attributes. They like a flat surface on which to build the mud foundation of their nest, but it can't be too damp, or the mud base won't adhere properly. They prefer a roof sitting just a few inches above the top of the nest opening and, ideally, walls on three sides of the nest for protection. It's best if the nest is atop a sheer wall with no nearby vegetation and close to an open area for foraging. In short, they want the

perfect "nook."

Before people built bridges, barns, houses, and other structures that phoebes have adopted for nesting in the past few hundred years, potential nest sites were very limited. Most natural nest sites are protected rocky outcrops, especially along streams and rivers. This rarity made nest sites a hot commodity in the phoebe real estate market, and the resulting competition for suitable locations may have been the driver of their early migration habits. The timing of their spring arrival would thus be a compromise between competition for nest sites (the early bird gets the nook) and their physiological and energetic limits for tolerating the cold weather and lack of high-quality food (the too-early bird gets the hook).

As is often the case in science, one question can lead to another. We might ask: why are phoebes so restrictive in where they nest? Why limit themselves to something that is relatively rare across the landscape?

One likely reason is the risk of nest predation. Eggs and nestlings are prized delicacies for a host of other animals. Raccoons, crows, jays, and rat snakes are prime nest predators; even mice, squirrels, and deer will go out of their way for a nest meal. In a world of would-be egg thieves, a safe nest spot is of paramount importance.

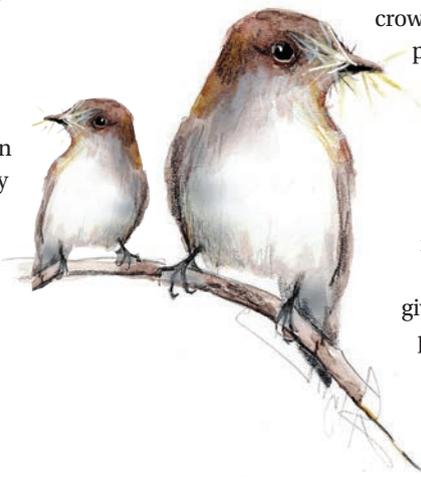
The features that make a given nest site attractive to a phoebe are exactly those that make it safe from predators. A roof a few inches above the top of the nest and the presence of walls make detection and access very difficult for aerial predators such as crows, jays, and hawks. Being situated in or above a sheer wall without nearby vegetation makes access by terrestrial and arboreal animals challenging. Many of these anti-predator traits also help protect the nest from inclement weather and buffer it from extreme temperatures.

As spring comes north, look for phoebes doing the same. Though they may be a common sight in our yards and parks in the spring and summer, when we begin asking questions about their migration and nesting behavior, it becomes clear that our tail-bobbing neighbors are far from commonplace.

*Loren Merrill is a writer and photographer with a PhD in animal behavior, wildlife ecology, and physiology. 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.*



**The Outside Story**  
By Loren Merrill



## Two sides to every story

My wife and I rented our first apartment from an elderly couple right after we graduated from college. The space consisted of three rooms and a bathroom squeezed into a renovated attic above the main house. It was a relatively cozy spot; however, the ceilings were sloped, which meant I would always knock my head against them if I got too close to the sides of the rooms. The rent was \$365 a month, with all utilities included.

We have many wonderful, shared memories from that time that we often comment on: My wife learned to cook her first meals in the tiny kitchen. I began my career as an illustrator in the living room, drawing sketches of our life together. And I taught my wife how to properly field a baseball in the backyard.

At the time, I was working my first (and last) job in sales. And because of the type of sales job it was, I wore suits to work every day. My wife (who was still my girlfriend at the time) was helping people with their tax returns and waitressing at local restaurants. I much preferred her tax work over the waitressing because she never smelled bad when she was doing the financial stuff.

For weeks after she started her first waitressing gig, I never mentioned the awful stench she picked up while hanging around the restaurant kitchen (anyone who has waited knows how pungent that smell can be). Finally, after one particularly odorous night, I broached the subject after she climbed into bed. In the kindest tone I could muster, I informed her of the lingering issue. Within seconds, she was out of bed and in the shower. From that day forward, there was never a shift where she didn't shower minutes after arriving home.

My son is now waitressing while he attends college and he's discovering the same issue. He works at a Mexican restaurant, and while the food he brings home after his shifts is absolutely delicious, he still smells like crap. Thankfully, he can't stand it either and makes it a point to jump into the shower after arriving home.

Regardless of the smell, my son is making pretty good money, which he enjoys. He'll come home with a handful of money and slap it on the table, proudly announcing the final tally. I'll then scoop it up, grab my phone, fire up my banking app, and transfer the corresponding amount into his account bank account. Unlike me (who always wanted cold, hard cash in my pocket), my son prefers to have his savings digitized.

Recently, he called complaining about

his manager. My son apparently asked for his birthday off but never received it. When he complained to his manager, the middle-aged man curtly told him to "buck up and deal with it."

My son was taken aback by this response and immediately called me to complain. I listened intently to his argument and then carefully worded my response. "I get that you did everything right when requesting the time off," I stated, "but sometimes you have to suck it up when things don't go your way. That guy has a business to run, and you opting out of a busy shift puts him in a serious bind."

My son kept returning to the fact that he did what he was supposed to do but still did not get his way. I assured him that this would not be the last time that happened. Whenever a situation like this occurs, I put some space between the event and my attempt at really driving my point home, which is what I did in this case. When he arrived home after his shift, still upset that he didn't get the requested time off and was berated in the process, I sat him down and launched into my explanation.

"The world is not black and white," I told him. "You can fight that point, but you'll only get more upset." I then explained, using several examples, that I dredged up from my own life, where I experienced the same situation. I framed my arguments and the arguments that were opposed to me just to show my kid that there's more at play in human interaction than your side of the story.

This week's feature, "Long December," explores this same theme while highlighting that the world doesn't have to be a binary place.

A struggling musician winds up another year in his tiny apartment, with a wife and newborn baby constantly reminding him that his life may not turn out like he planned.

I love a solid, low-budget film with a bunch of unknowns that manages to hit a chord, which is what "Long December" did. This film doesn't highlight the once-in-a-million storyline but rather points out that you can miss out on your dream and still end up satisfied.

Check this one out if you're in the mood for a solid little film with a poignant message. Being a fan of mellow, folk music won't hurt either.

A melodious "B-" for "Long December," now available to rent on Amazon Prime.

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



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi



# Return of the rookie class

It had been years since we were all together. A decade and a half since we had all been scattered to the wind, each of us going our own direction, traveling wherever the wind may take us. To Colorado, to DC, to Toronto, to California, to Okemo.

They had all been rookies together, ski patrol rookies. Together, they suffered through rookie training, which included OEC here at Killington. A few weeks early in the season where the rookies train without their crosses under the sharp supervision of two senior patrollers. They run sleds, practice lift evacuation, and run more sleds, this time down Mouse Trap. They spend some time inside and then come back out to run more sleds, this time down East Fall. But still in their civilian kits.

Only once they've completed the training are they allowed to follow along behind a real patroller. But they still don't get a cross. While the fanny pack of important lifesaving items comes early, the cross must be earned. Back when the BF became a patroller, they had to follow three codes before they were supervised for three codes. It was only then they got their cross.

Those guys were inseparable that winter, which is, I am sure, the point of a rookie season. Our winter was filled with way too early wake-up calls and finished with a barbecue and a thousand-dollar Thursday. While they might have been super serious during the daytime hours, wrapping up more skiers and riders faster than almost any other ski area in the country, Happy Hour was theirs.

I've honestly never been so jealous of something in my whole life. Watching the creation of this amazing rookie class from the outside, I felt lucky just to be there. I was never going to be a patroller, but I keenly felt the loss of the Killington School for Ski Instructors, which had been the transformational experience during the Pres Smith years. I didn't have that. Like so many wonderful programs at Killington, it went by the wayside during ASC.

But here they were—young kids from all over the country finding their way to Killington to start their ski bum journeys. Honestly, they would have stayed forever if the world had been different and they could afford to. At the time, they could have made more money flipping burgers at MacDonald's, yet here they were, saving lives and limbs. It was hugely destabilizing.

You don't notice those kind of things until the end of

the season. Mid-season, all you see is the glory of the cross and the teamwork that comes with it. Even looking in, I could see the hard work these guys put in. They went through all the Sudoku and crossword books, sitting in the top shack waiting for codes (this was before everyone had cell phones and stuff). We still have his map with all the patrol codes somewhere—I love teaching Team PomPom the Mountain Ops names for all the patrol shacks.

It's also the hardest part about living in Killington. In our twenties, this community seemed magical. We had our ski school friends (both adult and kid side), our ski patrol friends, our ski shop friends, our restaurant friends, etc. Everyone comes to Killington in their 20s if they want to be a serious East Coast ski bum. It's the place to try it out, live in a ski house, and refuse to let go of the college lifestyle. It's awesome.

Then they grow up. Or they max out their credit cards. Some might even make the journey west. Either way, most young employees tend not to stay in Killington too long. It's

the unsustainable nature of the beast. Everyone wants to have a ski bum year, but most walk away after only a taste. Because it's hard to make ends meet. It's hard to stay when ... ahhh! So many things. Housing, Wages, lack of upward mobility, wages ... anyway, they move on with their lives.

The transient nature of the sport leaves those of us who chose to stay a little bit lonely sometimes, missing the families that we made in our 20s. Before this past weekend, I hadn't shredded the mountain in a large group of adults in quite a long time. We were seven strong, and it was awesome. It was powerful. And it was a harsh reminder of how many folks we've met but how few have stuck around. How many friends we've had and lost along the way, all to the harsh realities of life.

But the BF and I remain. We love this place—the mountain—the way her trails wrap around so beautifully. How well they ski, whether you slowly manipulate the edges with precision or rip GS race turns down the middle. There's a magic in these hills. It's what draws everyone so close in the first place. I just wish they could stay.

Thanks for coming to visit, boys! Let's not wait almost two decades for the next one xoxo.

*Merisa Sherman is a longtime Killington resident, global real estate advisor, and Coach PomPom. She can be found in the mountains or at Merisa.Sherman@Sothebys-Realty.com.*



## Living the Dream

By Merisa Sherman



Submitted

## Aging in Hartland tackles senior loneliness

By Curt Peterson

Aging in Hartland's energetic administrator, Lindsay Schandel, is very busy "rebooting" the non-profit organization's "Friendly Visitor Program," connecting volunteers with local seniors who are experiencing the pain of loneliness. The goal of the program is to link adult visitors with seniors, just to talk, or read, or play games, or share memories—the visitors will have no agenda beyond helping their hosts feel less lonely.

Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers will tell you that some older residents fill their lonely time with endless TV watching, or long daytime naps. AiH hopes the friendly visits will become a bright moment in the monotony of loneliness.

The program had been running successfully before the pandemic, which forced managers to cease visits temporarily. Like many other Covid-related interruptions, restarting the Friendly Visitor Program has been deprioritized while other, more basic services were reinvigorated.

Schandel has been plugging the program in the AiH newsletter and asking community nurses for referrals of potential hosts, resulting in three pairs of prospective volunteers with three lonely seniors.

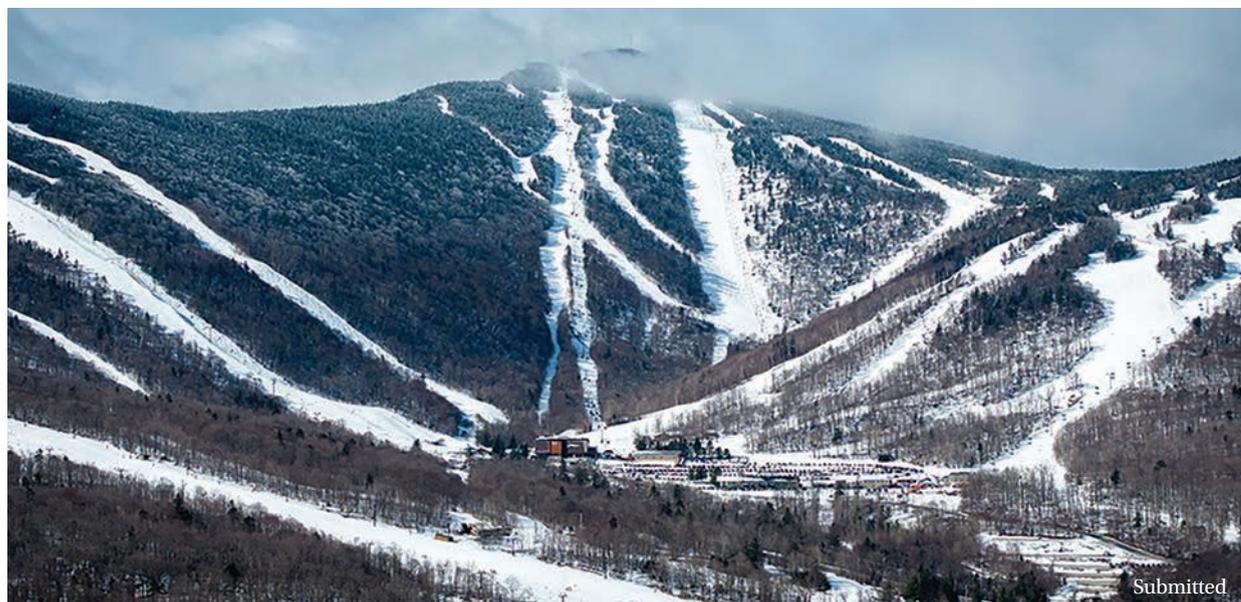
"All the volunteers have been women so far," Schandel said. "We know there are senior men out there who would appreciate someone to share memories and stories with, so we need some male volunteers to sign up."

"Any adult who can schedule regular, reliable visits is a perfect candidate. Middle school students who are looking for community service opportunities are also very welcome, but they would be accompanied by an adult during visits," she added.

"We haven't yet organized an actual Friendly Visit," she said, "only because the participants in each pairing are still working out mutually convenient scheduling."

Schandel has years of experience managing various non-profit organizations, and feels this important work with seniors is "right up her alley." She also has a "side hustle" selling herbal remedies and treatments as "Z Botanical" that might be familiar to area residents.

Residents wishing to participate either as volunteers or as visited hosts, should contact Schandel at admin@aginginhartland.org, or leave a message at the AiH phone: 802-674-4118. For visitors there is a simple, required background check, processed by Senior Solutions.



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**← Quartet:**  
from page 31

state of joy. It was hard not to imagine that if Kurt Cobain could have been there to hear his work translated into strings by these four talented musicians, he wouldn't have had a smile on his face.

The night ended where it began, with Led Zeppelin. Young Ethan Moore would get his reward with a brilliant rendition of "Stairway to Heaven." It was the perfect way to end a perfect night, sending the audience home satisfied. There is much going on in the

country and world today, but all of that was forgotten for a brief moment in time. What was left in the memories of those at the Paramount last Friday night: music has value and meaning, and those gifted enough to bring that importance into our lives should not be forgotten. They are worth far more than the money lining a billionaire's pockets. Please support the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. We need them around as much as they need us.



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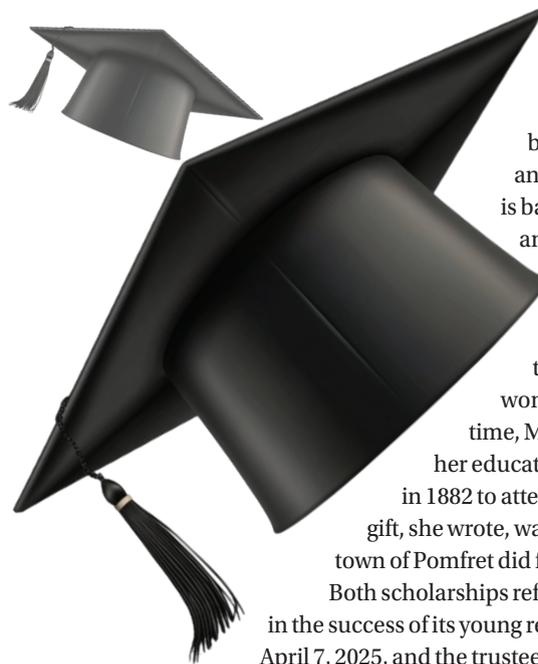


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## Pomfret trustees announce scholarships for Woodstock High School graduates

POMFRET — The Pomfret Trustees of Public Funds have announced the availability of two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors of Woodstock Union High School. These scholarships, rooted in Pomfret's history and commitment to education, are open to students residing in Pomfret who plan to pursue further education.



The Mabel E. Vaughan Educational Trust Fund, established in 1961, awards a scholarship to an outstanding and promising graduate selected by the Woodstock High School faculty and the School Board chair. The selection is based on a student's character, ambition, and academic achievement.

The second scholarship is made possible through the Avis M. Keith Fund, which was created in 1945 to support the educational pursuits of Pomfret women. In a heartfelt letter written at the time, Ms. Keith credited the town with enabling her education through a scholarship she received in 1882 to attend Randolph State Normal School. Her gift, she wrote, was made "in appreciation for what the town of Pomfret did for me many years ago."

Both scholarships reflect Pomfret's long-standing investment in the success of its young residents. The application deadline is April 7, 2025, and the trustees encourage all eligible students to apply.

Residents interested in contributing to these funds to support future students are invited to contact the Trustees directly.

For more info. or questions, contact the Pomfret Trustees of Public Funds at [pomfretvt.us](http://pomfretvt.us).



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Ian Quinn

Submitted

## Upper Valley Aquatic Center welcomes new head swim coach and receives grant for accessibility improvements

The Upper Valley Aquatic Center (UVAC) in White River Junction made two significant announcements this spring: the hiring of Ian Quinn as its head swim coach and the receipt of a \$24,999 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to improve accessibility at the facility.

Quinn, who previously served as associate head coach at the University of North Carolina Asheville, brings extensive experience in competitive swimming and a passion for athlete development. His leadership is expected to elevate UVAC's swim programs and strengthen the center's commitment to excellence across all levels of training.

In addition to this leadership transition, UVAC has also been awarded a significant grant through the Reeve Foundation's

National Paralysis Resource Center. The \$24,999 Quality of Life grant will fund the installation of automatic doors at UVAC, enhancing accessibility for individuals living with disabilities and creating a more inclusive environment for all community members. "This grant will help ensure that our facility is welcoming and accessible to everyone in the Upper Valley," said UVAC Executive Director Joe Major. "We are deeply grateful to the Reeve Foundation for making this project possible."

UVAC, a nonprofit organization, continues to serve as a premier aquatic and fitness center in the region—supporting community health, competitive excellence, and inclusive access for people of all ages and abilities.

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



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# Cabot Creamery is added to the roster as the official grilled cheese of the Red Sox

Cabot Creamery, a proud farmer-owned cooperative known for its award-winning cheddar and commitment to community, is excited to team up with Fenway Park as a sponsor and concession vendor this season. The two organizations share an award-winning legacy of bringing families together, making memories and celebrating time-honored traditions for over a century.

The Boston Red Sox and Cabot are iconic representations of New England. Marrying America's favorite pastime with the best cheddar in the U.S. is a grand slam opportunity that Cabot had to be a part of, the company stated.

"As a farmer-owned cooperative, collaboration is at the heart of everything we do," said Kelly Littlefield, director of brand experience at Cabot Creamery. "This partnership is a true celebration of our New England heritage and the power of community. Our hardworking team is proud to share our delicious products with the home team!"

The grilled cheese sandwiches include fan favorites like Cabot Sharp Cheddar — melted to perfection on beautifully crusted bread. Guests can try the delicious lineup on Jersey Street throughout the season including:

Classic gourmet grilled cheese made with Cabot pepper jack and Vermont sharp cheddar cheese served on sourdough bread with kettle chips.

Pimento grilled cheese made with Cabot pimento cheese spread and Cabot shredded sharp cheddar cheese served on sourdough bread with kettle chips.

Traditional grilled cheese made with Cabot American cheese melted on sourdough bread served with kettle chips.

Additional enhancements like tomato, bacon and pulled pork can be added upon request. Menu items are subject to change throughout the season.

"The Boston Red Sox are proud to partner with Cabot Creamery," said Troup Parkinson, chief marketing and partnerships officer, Boston Red Sox. "Just as Fenway Park has been a gathering place for generations of fans, Cabot has been a household name in kitchens across the region for over a century. We are thrilled to bring the iconic flavors of Cabot cheddar to Fenway Park to offer fans the best grilled cheese New England has to offer."

Cabot Creamery is a certified B-Corp that's been making award-winning products with love, pride and purpose for over a century. The high-quality milk produced by the Cabot farm families throughout New England and New York is crafted into dairy products including cheese, butter, Greek yogurt, sour cream, dips and other specialty products.

*For more information visit [cabotcreamery.com](http://cabotcreamery.com).*

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Courtesy Cabot

*Cabot Creamery has partnered with Fenway Park as a sponsor and concession vendor, offering delicious grilled cheese sandwiches made with their award-winning cheddar, celebrating New England heritage and community.*



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