



EASTER IS SUNDAY

Easter is Sunday, April 20. See a listing of Easter egg hunts and worship services.

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SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES IN THE '60S

Mary Ellen Shaw looks back at 1960s shopping in Rutland.

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EARTH DAY'S TUESDAY

The annual celebration of Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22.

Palestinian man legally living in White River Junction was detained during citizenship interview in Vermont

State Sen. Becca White said she saw a handcuffed Mohsen Mahdawi, accompanied by several masked and hooded men, being put into an unmarked black vehicle just after noon

By Auditi Guha/VTDigger

Masked men in plainclothes detained an Upper Valley resident in Colchester during a scheduled citizenship interview Monday morning, April 14, despite his status as a lawful U.S. permanent resident.

Mohsen Mahdawi's lawyers filed a petition Monday alleging unlawful detention in the U.S. District Court in Vermont.

Judge William Sessions III then issued a temporary restraining order saying Mahdawi cannot be removed from Vermont or the U.S. pending further orders from the court.

Mahdawi, 34, is believed to be detained at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans as of Monday evening.

"The Trump administration detained Mohsen

"He's a green card holder. He's lawfully here. He did everything by the book. He never advocated for violence. In fact, he's always advocated for peace and for dialog and reconciliation," said Helali.

Mahdawi in direct retaliation for his advocacy on behalf of Palestinians and because of his identity as a Palestinian," said Luna Droubi, one of his attorneys, via email. "His detention is an attempt to silence those who speak out against the atrocities in Gaza. It is also unconstitutional."

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), Senator Peter Welch (D-Vermont), and Representative

Becca Balint (D-Vermont) released a statement immediately after the incident, saying: "Earlier today, Mohsen Mahdawi of White River Junction, Vermont, walked into an immigration office for what was supposed to be the final step in his citizenship process. Instead, he was arrested and removed in handcuffs by plainclothes, armed, individuals

with their faces covered. These individuals refused to provide any information as to where he was being taken or what would happen to him. This is immoral, inhumane, and illegal. Mr. Mahdawi, a legal resident of the United States, must be afforded due process under the law and immediately released from detention."

Vermonters detained → 14



Courtesy Killington Resort

Celebration sends off Superstar quad

On Sunday, April 13, Killington Resort said farewell to the Superstar Express Quad with a party at the K-1 Umbrella Bar, featuring free t-shirts at the top of the lift, live music, giveaways, and a photobooth. The lift ran until 5 p.m. for one last ride. The chair will be replaced with a 6-pack early next winter.

Castleton constable hangs up his badge after 53 years

By Maddie Lindgren

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

Not many would venture out into icy water during the middle of winter, but Silas Loomis made it just another day at work. When a car crashed through the ice, Loomis didn't flinch.

"I knew it was going to be a wet one," Loomis said with a laugh.

He took off his gear and braced himself for what was going to occur. Then the ice began to break.

"I knew it was gonna happen," he said. "We

Constable Loomis → 3



Loomis on a police motorcycle.

Submitted

Spring construction begins on Killington Road

KILLINGTON — Construction for Contract 4 of the Killington Water System began Tuesday, April 15, with saw cutting pavement on Killington Road. The contractor, SUR Construction, will start near Ravine Road and work south on Killington Road, according to Abbie Sherman, public works director for the town of Killington. Installation of the waterline pipe could begin as early as Wednesday, April 16, depending on availability of materials. Temporary paving will occur on Fridays. It is anticipated that one lane of travel will be closed in the work areas, maintaining two-way traffic in the remaining two lanes.



DAZED & DEFROSTED

Get Dazed and Defrosted on Saturday, April 19. The Annual Killington spring season sendoff will feature bands' Diggin Dirt and Dirty Water.

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Forging the future: Steve Turner’s crusade to bring back the trades

Steve Turner, 57, a small-business owner with 30 years of experience in the trade of auto and marine upholstery, is on a mighty mission to encourage more participation in the trades, especially by young people who want to work with their hands.



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

In 2017, Turner, a fit and animated then 50-year-old, turned a slogan on a baseball cap — “Bring back the trades” — into a movement that captivated other proud tradespeople. In 2019, he founded Bring Back the Trades (BBTT) as a 501C3 nonprofit with a mission to elevate the appeal, value, and viability of trade careers.

Emphatic that his crusade for the trades is not a criticism of higher ed, Turner acknowledged in a recent interview, “We need college. We need doctors. We need pilots. We need lawyers, we need all of that. But there’s another side to the story.”

For the record, my Italian-born father supported our family through various trades — house painter, wallpaper installer, garment worker, barber. All drew on his extroverted personality and empathetic salesmanship — his Abruzzi-accented English was no barrier. My introverted mother’s superlative talents as a seamstress and home cook were matched by her formidable confidence, especially in teaching 7-year-old me how to deal with bullies.

“I was the person running all over the neighborhoods. They had to bring me to school an hour ahead of time to get the energy out of me,” said Turner.

Turner’s side of the story is as prosaic as it is profound. He gestured with his hands and chuckled, as he explained,

“I was the person running all over the neighborhoods. They had to bring me to school an hour ahead of time to get the energy out of me.”

It’s easy to see why Turner’s expressive personality might be considered frenetic in a child, but it’s that exuberance that makes him compelling as an eloquent evangelist for the trades.

For over three decades, Turner has observed the disparity between the demand for skilled tradespeople and their dwindling numbers. The decline of vocational training within educational institutions posed a significant threat, Turner said, not only to individual livelihoods but also to the fundamental operations of communities.

Resolute in his zeal to unearth education opportunities
Bring back the trades → 12



Submitted
BBTT founder, Steve Turner, stands proudly with one of his finished upholstered pieces.

Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company acquires Grafton Village Cheese Company

New chapter aims to preserve legacy and boost Vermont’s artisanal cheese industry

GRAFTON — Grafton Village Cheese Company, a long-standing icon in Vermont’s cheese industry and subsidiary of the Windham Foundation, and Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company in South Woodstock announced the sale of Grafton Village Cheese to Vermont Farmstead. The transition, announced Monday, April 14, marks a strategic union between two brands committed to preserving Vermont’s artisanal cheesemaking tradition.

Financial terms were not provided. The sale was made by the Windham Foundation, which had operated Grafton Village Cheese Company (GVCC) for more than 50 years as part of its broader mission to support rural economic and cultural development in Vermont.

Grafton Village Cheese → 4



Courtesy Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company
Grafton Village Cheese head cheesemaker Mariano Gonzalez and Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company President/COO Kent Underwood posed with a dairy cow.

← Constable Loomis: from page 1

pulled him out of there by the hair on his head and saved him, but let me tell you, the water was cold. We were all fortunate that night.”

For a little more than half a century, luck may have played a role in Loomis’ career, but his passion, instinct and strong ties to his community were what truly established his legacy. Whether he was rescuing someone from icy waters, cruising through town on his police motorcycle, or helping deliver not one, but three babies on the side of the road, Loomis became a local legend in his time.

Now that he is retiring after 53 years, he looks back on a career built on unbreakable commitment to his people.

A life built on service

Loomis was raised on a farm in Hydeville and has resided in Castleton his entire life.

“Right here,” he replied when asked where he was born and raised. “Down the road where Paul’s Pizza is. We owned the east end of the track, where the old Bomoseen Raceway was.”

A worthy lesson from his dad started his law enforcement career early.

“You owe more to your town than just paying taxes,” he said, reciting his dad’s words.

The phrase stuck, driving him to a life of public service.

But his service was not just a commitment to Castleton. Loomis served 40 years in the military, beginning with the U.S. Naval Seabees during the Vietnam war and later transitioning to the Army National Guard.

During his time in the military, he was deployed to several destinations like Kuwait and Iraq. After experiencing a series of injuries, including two significant traumatic head injuries, a broken neck and back, and a hip injury, he retired as sergeant major.

“I’m like a walking threat to metal detectors,” he said. “At the airport, you have to warn them in advance.”

The constable position, originally a one-year term, was proposed to Loomis by community members encouraging him to run. “We had it as a one-year term at the time, so you ran annually. We wound up having it become a two-year job because you’re not getting very much done in a year,” Loomis said. “If you want to be a constable and get things done in your town and get trained, you require more than a year.”

The weight of the badge

Over the years, Loomis has watched and dealt with nearly every situation possible in a small town. From cracking homicide cases to settling custody disputes over everything from pets to boats, he has been a presence people can trust.

“Custody of children, custody of animals, custody of the boats, the ATVs,



Courtesy of Vermont Public via the Community News Service
Castleton Constable Si Loomis poses outside his cruiser in 2019.

the campers. Custody of everything,” Loomis said.

But things can go badly in a hurry. Loomis remembers how this work affected his personal life.

“I’ve witnessed a lot over the years. A lot of fatalities, and a lot of motor-vehicle crashes. There’s some things I’ll die with. Sometimes it hasn’t been very pleasant,” Loomis said. “I coached football for years, and I have arrested some of my old football players, and some of my buddies I have known for years.”

With this type of work, being exposed to things you will never forget is inevitable. But there will always be the highs that make policing worth it. In the summer, he was the only constable in the state to ride a police motorcycle.

“It was the best community policing and public relations you could ever have,” he said, pointing out it allowed him to meet people in a fashion that a police cruiser could not.

The community’s constable

One of the most fulfilling aspects of his job was his time spent at Castleton-Hubbardton Union School following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut.

“People stopped me on the street and asked why there weren’t more law enforcement officers at the school. So, I started traveling up there and wasn’t reimbursed, which was fine. I did that for maybe four-and-a-half years,” he said.

Loomis stayed involved, ensuring the safety of children, teachers and parents, which just sums up the kind of person he is. “That was one of my more rewarding experiences,” he said.

He also seems to be there for people in their most vulnerable moments. He recalls aiding with the delivery of three babies on the side of the road, which was both unexpected and hectic.

“They were on their way to the hospital but didn’t make it in time. Luckily for me, I didn’t have any hair on top of my head, so they couldn’t trip it out while yelling and calling me names,” he said with a laugh.

When asked what he would miss the most, Loomis did not hesitate.

“The camaraderie among other law enforcement officers, the citizens of Castleton and court system personnel. This town has more good people than bad,” he said.

Castleton Police Chief Peter Mantello, who has worked closely with Loomis throughout the years, will always have high regard for him.

“We’ve always had true respect for one another, you know, and we’re both military. I would consider him an older brother,” Mantello said.

He also commended Loomis’ persistent dedication. “He has been dedicated to the community. He has shown his generosity towards them. He has shown sympathy. He empathizes with many of the folks here. He really was the guy who looked out for the elderly and checked on them, especially because he certainly knew their families throughout the years,” Mantello said.

Respected in his final chapter

Unfortunately, time has a way of catching up with people, even the most loyal. When asked what he is looking forward to following retirement, he simply said, “Being a human being.”

“You know, I am the town’s longest-serving elected law enforcement officer, I think in its history. And I believe I have the right to live as a human being again,” Loomis said.

Loomis will leave behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to his community. “The nice thing about a constable is that a lot of people don’t pay attention to them, but they know their town. They know how it breathes, how it functions. And you have to walk that line — between politics and duty. Sometimes, you just have to do what the statutes tell you to do,” Loomis said.

After taking a moment to reflect on his career, he summed up his experience in a few words.

“Dedicated, loyal and straightforward. Never quit, never give up and never surrender,” he said.

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McNeil & Reedy's long legacy as Rutland's local prom shop

By James Kent

RUTLAND—When Long Trail School junior Allston Kent told his dad the date of his annual school prom, his father knew it was time to visit the twins in downtown Rutland.

The twins, of course, are the second-generation owners of McNeil & Reedy, Jim and John McNeil. McNeil & Reedy is a men's clothing store that's been meeting Rutland men's clothing needs for the past 69 years and is a prom season specialist. According to Casey McNeil, Jim's son and a third-generation part of this storied Rutland institution, people come from all over Vermont and out-of-state to get their prom needs met. Why? It all comes down to price and service.

"What makes us unique in the marketplace is we stock every price point. We have your entry-level suit that would be perfect for a prom guy, all the way into a custom-made, high-end suit for your wedding day, or for a business suit, and then everything in between. We're an affordable option or a higher-end option for those who want it," said Casey.

In Allston Kent's case, Long Trail School holds a prom for the entire high school each year, so this was the third season he came to McNeil & Reedy for a fitting. With his height and size changing year over year, the option that made the most sense for him was a prom suit rental.

No matter which McNeil, Casey, Jim, or John, each works with their respective prom customer to determine the option that makes the most sense for their needs.

"I think it's helpful to have someone guide you through the process because it's usually the first time a student or kid has worn a suit or tuxedo," said Casey. "And we help guide them through the price point. So, for example, if you go to two proms, buying a suit may make more fiscal sense. That might be more affordable. And, if you're going to one prom, sure, rent it because kids are gonna grow regardless."

McNeil & Reedy offers one of the largest selections of prom suit options in Vermont and also offers on-site tailoring.

"If someone grows an inch between the time they get measured to the time they go to prom, we can lengthen the pants for them,"

said Casey. "Some guys now want to show their ankles for prom, so we can raise the pants up a little, but we do it all right here, which differentiates us from shopping online."

While rentals may be a great option for the one-and-done prom goer, Casey said some kids attend multiple proms, have a wedding to go to in the summer, or might even want to wear their prom suit for graduation. In those instances, buying a suit makes the most economic sense. Casey joined his father and uncle in the McNeil family business five years ago after a career in financing. However, he's been around the store all his life, and all he learned over the years came back with ease. Noting the trends in the past several years, Casey said that many kids are buying suits these days or coming in for specific parts of their outfits.

"Maybe we'll sell a tie to one kid who already has a suit and needs the tie to match his date's dress. They can buy a jacket here because they already had the pants, or maybe they could be purchasing an entire suit."

Allston's sizing didn't take long. After going through the process twice already, he had a strong idea of the type of suit he wanted, the color, and the pattern. He and Casey reviewed tie color options, and after Allston tried on a sample jacket for size, his order was written up, and he was on his way, all set for next month's prom.

While Allston got his rental early, Casey stressed that there was plenty of time for people to come in and get outfitted for prom.

"I suggest trying to come in at least two weeks before a prom," said Casey. "That gives us enough time to turn it around. Because prom is also the kickoff of wedding season, it gets busy for us. We can turn it around faster, say, a week or the week of if need be, but we prefer two weeks if we can have it."

As a bonus for all prom suit rentals and purchases, McNeil & Reedy provides a free custom-designed t-shirt. This year's shirt features a design from Kinsey H. Designs featuring McNeil's 1950s Chevy truck.

McNeil & Reedy is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit mcneilan-reedy.com.



Long Trail School junior Allston Kent reviewed suit color options with McNeil & Reedy's Casey McNeil on Saturday, April 4.



Casey McNeil took Allston Kent's measurements to ensure the perfect pant length.



Allston Kent tried on a sample jacket to make sure the measurements were correct.

← Grafton Village Cheese: from page 2

"This is a pivotal moment for both companies," said Kent Underwood, president and COO of Vermont Farmstead. "By combining the strengths of Vermont Farmstead Cheese and Grafton Village Cheese, our goal is to create a dynamic company that honors the unique identities of each brand. We aim to optimize operations and marketing while continuing to produce cheeses that reflect the highest standards of craftsmanship."

Commitment to tradition and community
GVCC has long been known for its award-winning aged cheddars and its deep connection to Grafton. Vermont Farmstead officials say that commitment will

continue as well. "Vermont Farmstead will be a wonderful steward of the GVCC brand," said Curt Alpeter, outgoing CEO of Grafton Village Cheese. "They're committed to retaining cheese-making in Grafton and maintaining the values and craftsmanship our customers trust."
Both companies emphasized that there are no plans to change the distinctive qualities that make each brand unique. The Grafton name will remain, and its historic roots in Vermont cheesemaking will continue to be a guiding principle for the combined company.

Shared vision for Vermont's dairy future

The acquisition reflects a shared passion for Vermont's agriculture and a vision for a thriving future for local dairy farmers. "We remain committed to our quality, to our local dairy farmers and cows, and to the community spirit that have distinguished both companies," Underwood added. Founded out of a community effort to save a local farm, Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company has quickly earned a national reputation for excellence. The company produces a wide range of artisanal cheeses and has emphasized sustainable land stewardship and animal care since its inception. The Windham Foundation will continue its mission in Grafton, including support for the Grafton Inn and other local initiatives. For more information, visit: windham-foundation.org.

Hartford High receives national recognition as Special Olympics Unified Champion School

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION — Hartford High School received national recognition on Tuesday, April 8, as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, joining a distinguished group of only seven schools in Vermont to earn the honor.

The school was presented with a National banner award during a ceremony ahead of its Unified Basketball game against Rutland High School, another nationally recognized Unified Champion School. The event, held in the Hartford High gymnasium, celebrated the school's commitment to inclusion, advocacy, and respect through Unified sports and activities.

'We just can't put it into words'

Athletic Director Jeff Moreno shared the impact of the award during the ceremony. "What this means to us and our community and our students and our school, we just can't put it into words," Moreno said. "We're really proud of the banners that we put in this gym — this one, without question, is the one we could be and should be the most proud of."

Hartford High met all 10 standards of excellence required for National Banner recognition from Special Olympics. These standards include offering inclusive sports, promoting youth leadership, and fostering a school climate that promotes acceptance and inclusion for all students.

Driven by student leadership

While the school's achievement reflects a broad collective effort, much of the momentum behind the initiative came from recent graduate Maggie Lane, who was deeply passionate about bringing Unified programs to her school. Her commitment helped transform the school's culture and helped build strong partnerships between students with and without intellectual disabilities.

Part of a growing movement

Hartford High joins over 60 Vermont schools in the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program, which uses inclusive sports, youth leadership, and whole-school engagement to build more accepting school communities. The program's success is evident throughout the state, particularly during the Vermont Principals' Association's Unified Basketball season. This varsity-level sport brings together athletes of all abilities from 20 schools for competitive games and community-building events.

Tuesday's banner presentation highlighted the impact of inclusion in athletics and beyond — a message embraced by both the Hartford and Rutland communities.

For more information about Unified Champion Schools, visit: specialolympics.org.



Hartford High School received a National Banner from the Special Olympics on Tuesday, April 8.

TIF isn't a tax on you, here's what it is

This week, we will explain the "tax" in Tax Increment Financing (TIF), clarifying what the "tax increment" is, how funding flows and who covers the cost for infrastructure improvements. Importantly, TIF does not create new taxes on our residents.

Tax increment and the flow of funds

First, it's key to understand that in order for the TIF program to work, the municipality needs to establish a tax revenue baseline. To do this, the total taxable value of all properties within the district (the Original Taxable Value or OTV) is set and remains unchanged for the life of the district. Taxes generated from the OTV will continue to flow to the municipality's general fund and the state education fund. Not a nickel of those dollars is taken away.

As new private development occurs within the district, it increases the property value. The additional tax revenue generated by this increase—called the "increment"—is partially allocated to a special TIF fund. For Rutland, 85% of the municipal increment and 70% of the education increment is retained by the TIF fund for 20 years, which is used to pay for the infrastructure projects.

In short, this program uses the new tax revenue generated by a development project to pay for the infrastructure improvements that made the development possible in the first place.

Who pays for infrastructure projects?

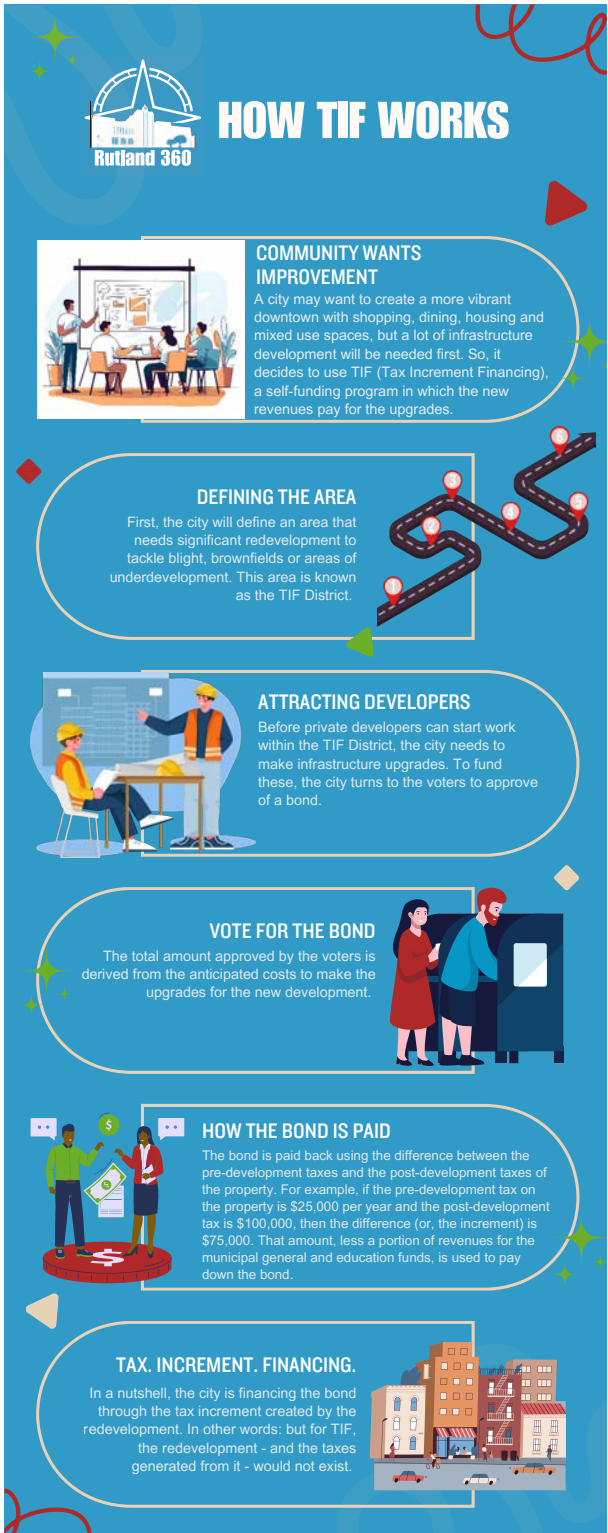
The municipality has until 2035 to incur debt—typically through a bond—for selected infrastructure projects, such as replacing aging water lines or improving streetscapes. For a period of 20 years from when the first debt is issued, the municipality may retain the increment that repays all of the debt accrued for the infrastructure projects.

So who ultimately pays for the upfront infrastructure costs? That would be the developers, by way of the property taxes generated by the new development.

To summarize, while the City of Rutland, for example, will ask for bond approval to fund critical infrastructure projects, it will not be a traditional bond that results in increased taxes for our residents. Instead, it will be paid for using the increased property tax revenue generated by the completed project itself.

Sometimes a visual aid helps. Our team crafted an infographic that explains, very generally, how TIF works. Check it out here: <http://bit.ly/3FRkTA9>.

For more information, visit: [Rutlandvtbusiness.com/tax-increment-financing](https://rutlandvtbusiness.com/tax-increment-financing).



Courtesy Rutland 360
Chart shows the process for which a Tax Increment Financing district comes to be approved and then implemented. Rutland City is currently working on adopting the defined area.

Deadline for high school seniors to apply for Winona Smith Scholarship is April 30

High school seniors still have time to apply for the Winona Smith Scholarship, a \$2,000 award presented annually by the League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund. The deadline to apply is April 30 at midnight.

Three scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate financial need, academic ex-

cellence, and a strong commitment to civic participation. Applicants must submit two 500-word essays... and a letter of recommendation.

event—and a letter of recommendation from a teacher. The scholarship, established in 1998 to honor longtime League leader Winona Smith, supports students pursuing higher

education at an accredited trade school, vocational program, or two- or four-year college or university. Last year's recipients included Essex and Winooski high schools and St. Johnsbury Academy students. This year's winners will be announced on June 1. For more information, visit: bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails.

Killington: Snags, catch-22, tenacity, and good news

How Killington became the Beast: Part 6

By Karen D. Lorentz

Editors' Note: This is part of a series on the factors that enabled Killington to become the Beast of the East. Quotations are from author interviews in the 1980s for the book 'Killington, A Story of Mountains and Men.'

In 1956, the only way to reach Killington Mountain was via West Hill Road, a steep, narrow dirt road from U.S. Route 4 to the Bates Farmhouse. From there, an old, overgrown logging road led to the base of Killington Peak, some 2 miles away. Despite progress made on the mountain, the state's building of an access road was delayed by the highway department's "lack of funds."

In August 1956, a letter was sent to Killington investors, noting that since plans for operating a ski area for 1956-57 were tabled and the escrow agreement would expire on September 30, 1956, each stockholder and subscriber would be personally visited to discuss stock pledges "since some of you may wish to use the capital." Many signed a new escrow agreement that would expire in September 1957. Others withdrew their support and were later re-solicited as the 1957 Legislature got underway.

In the meantime, the corporation's funds for business were limited to those invested by the project's promoters: the Smiths, Sargents, Joseph Van Vleck, and Walter Morrison. Since April 1956, those assets had quadrupled to \$4,800. But after buying the Bates farmhouse and land and equipment in 1956, the cash on hand in January 1957 was \$791.66.

Catch-22 and perseverance

It was an uncertain, difficult situation for the fledgling company because, without a road and a lease, it was impossible to sell the stock outright, hence the escrows. "You needed a road and capital to obtain the lease. To raise capital, you needed a road and a lease. And to get a road, there were those who wanted to see capital and a lease. It was a round and round circle of problems," Sargent had said of the first major hurdle.

It was a "Catch-22" situation that would have deterred a less ambitious group. Undaunted, Smith spent much of the winter of 1956-57 lobbying for an appropriation for the Killington Access Road and looking for investors. With his perseverance, the escrow account grew to \$30,000, which would satisfy a stipulation of the proposed Killington Road highway bill before the 1957 Legislature — that the Sherburne Corporation had the money to develop the mountain once the road was in.

Road snag

Vermont was actively looking for ways to bring development into the state in the 1950s, and there were those in state government who saw the development of ski areas as beneficial and desirable. As noted previously, State Forester Perry Merrill was a major proponent of skiing as a natural and efficient way to utilize the mountains and forests while augmenting revenues.

A policy of supporting the creation of ski areas by leasing state land was established during the early 1930s when Mount Mansfield was developed. In the mid-1950s, Governor Joseph B. Johnson supported the policy of the state building roads to access remote mountain areas where private ski developers would lease state forestlands.

Mount Mansfield, Smugglers Notch, Jay Peak, Okemo, and Burke Mountain were all built on leased lands with access roads and base shelters provided by the state. Additionally, the state approved the building of access roads for ski areas located on national forest land (Mount Snow and Sugarbush) and on privately owned land (Stratton).

However, there were those who could not accept the notion of using public funds to build roads for private enterprise. They didn't see it as the state's responsibility or as a partnership between the public and private sectors for the betterment of Vermont.

Pres Smith and Joe Sargent recalled members of the high-

way department telling them: "No way are we going to build you a road to that mountain."

This was in direct conflict with official state policy, thus setting the stage for potential problems even after the legislature appropriated the funds for the road!

As a newspaper publisher and promoter of industrial development for the Rutland area in the 1950s, Robert Mitchell witnessed much of what occurred within the various state agencies, i.e., the highway department, the highway board, the forests and parks department and board, and the legislature. He noted that personalities and politics had much to do with the delay in getting a road to Killington.

Against this involved political background, the Killington Road Bill was withdrawn in March 1957 in favor of an amendment to a \$26-million highway bond bill authorizing \$750,000 for building roads leading to ski areas.

In May 1957, appropriations were earmarked for further work on roads for Jay (about \$241,000 for two roads), Burke (\$126,000), Okemo (\$40,000), Killington (\$140,000), and Mount Snow (\$25,000). The highway bond was signed into law in early June. Another bill appropriating \$30,000 for the construction of a base shelter and parking lot at Killington was passed in June 1957.

During the summer, a preliminary survey and engineering of the access to Killington raised the question of a route for Killington Road. There was talk of a road costing \$340,000 as the only type to build, and one engineer proposed a higher elevation route.

With the preliminary survey of the road completed in the fall of 1957, the highway department announced that it was too big a job to build a "force account," i.e., with their own crews, and that the job would be put out to bid. The highway department improved the existing access roads for Jay Peak, Okemo, and Mount Snow, and in the fall began the road for Burke but delayed the Killington project once again.

The Killington Access Road was built in 1958 "by force account and without relocating it," Mitchell noted.

Convinced that the Killington project received less than a fair shake, he pointed to highway financial reports from this era and noted: "The Vermont Highway Board actually allocated \$340,000 for the access road construction, but only \$254,512 of it was ever spent. The missing \$85,000 was diverted to other construction in the Jay Peak area without the knowledge of the Highway Board by the department's commissioner and chief engineer, who was personally opposed to the Killington development."

Good news

A lease, which was substantially the same as that given to Mount Mansfield, was granted to the Sherburne Corporation in November 1957 after Joe Sargent made a presentation to the Forest and Parks Department. It included the project's history, accomplishments, plans, description of who was involved in the development, and several exhibits, including a balance sheet as of October 31, 1957. Assets totaled \$118,000, of which \$8,000 was from a loan and \$110,000 from stock sales. The cost of the work road and bridge, two Pomalifts, two bulldozers, two jeeps, a truck, chain saws, a house, and much small equipment had exceeded \$68,000.

In case that was not impressive enough, Sargent estimated that "of the 20 areas we expect to see in operation next year in the State of Vermont, we will rank ninth in lift line length, sixth in drop, and second in altitude.

Next week, we'll look at the progress made on the mountain and an unusual stock story, both of which indicate the caliber and dedication of the developers of the ski area.

Comments and insights are welcome: email klorantzski@vermontel.net to share thoughts about skiing in the 1950s.



Submitted

Ralph Moral and Pres Smith cut brush away in preparation for the first lift line.



By Sue Smith

Lifts placed near a Sherburne Corporation shed circa 1950.



Submitted

Pres Smith at the top of the first poma lift line, December 1957.

OBITUARIES

Deborah Lee (Hyde) Colby, 75

Deborah Lee (Hyde) Colby passed away on Sunday, March 30, at Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care in Lebanon, New Hampshire. She was born on April 8, 1949, in Long Beach, California, the daughter of Harley and Lee Hyde.

Deborah was the beloved wife of Scott Colby, with whom she shared over four decades of love and partnership. They were married on September 14, 1980, in Scarsdale, New York, building a life filled with adventure, creativity, and devotion to family.

Deborah earned a bachelor of arts in Italian from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She pursued a career in fashion as a retail buyer for May Company and Casual Corner. Her keen eye for style and aesthetics carried over into her personal passions, as she was a gifted artist and craftswoman.

She had a lifelong love for the ocean, spending her teenage summers surfing the beaches of California. Later in life, she embraced the mountains, learning to ski and taking joy in the beauty of all seasons. A real “Surfer chick learning to ski,” she had been a seasonal skier and part-time resident of Killington since 1994. Beyond her adventurous spirit, she was a deeply talented artist, working in painting, sculpture, woodworking, and tiling. She had a passion for remodeling and reconstruction, bringing creativity and precision to every project she touched. Her landscapes and



Submitted

Deborah Lee (Hyde) Colby

handcrafted pieces reflected her appreciation for nature and the world around her.

She was predeceased by her beloved aunt and uncle, Gloria and Skip Boston, who played a significant role in her life.

Deborah is survived by her husband, Scott Colby; her children, Greg and Jeff Colby; her favorite puppy, Moby; her brother, Lawrence Hyde; her sister, Nancy Hyde; and many dear friends and loved ones who will forever treasure her warmth, humor, and artistic spirit.

To view Deborah's online tribute or to send condolences to her family, visit: obits.csnh.com/deborah-Colby.

David Steven Hodulik, 69

David Steven Hodulik of Ship Bottom, New Jersey, died on March 12.

Hodulik was the first child of George and Dorothy Hodulik, born prematurely on April 2, 1955. His life was miraculous, as he received baptism and Last Rights at birth and was expected to live only days. He grew up in Dunellen, New Jersey, where, from an early age, his “golden mind” tried to figure out how everything worked. He won science fairs and Pinewood Derbies. He was an Eagle Scout and a loving older brother.

Hodulik loved to learn about anything and everything, and he was brilliant. He attended St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey, where he made life-long friends and became a Bruce Springsteen fan. After he graduated in 1973, he put himself through Rutgers College as a first-generation college student. In 1977, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; in 1979, he earned a Master in Business Administration, also from Rutgers.

In March 1980, Hodulik met Deborah Ann Green in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He spotted her from across a bar, and their perpetual love story began. They were married in Pennsauken, New Jersey, on August 7, 1982. While working as an engineer for Getty Oil and becoming an expert in



Submitted

David Steven Hodulik

building gas stations, he attended Temple University Law School at night in pursuit of his Juris Doctorate, which he earned in 1985. In 1992, Hodulik opened his own law and engineering practice through which he helped build countless gas stations across New Jersey by obtaining zoning approvals or drawing site plans—work he enjoyed and was still actively doing when he died.

He and Debbie raised their three daughters in a home filled with love, learning, and laughter in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. On
Hodulik → 12

Jon Lamb, 63

From Jon Lamb's daughters

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our father, Jon Lamb, on April 2. Jon left this world with his ski boots on, doing what he loved most in the beautiful resort town of Big Sky, Montana.

His family will remember him as a man passionate for the mountains. He instilled this love in his children, and it is something that they will be sure to carry into future generations.

In the summer, he would always come home just in time for dinner with dirt-covered hands, mountain bike gloves hanging out of his back pocket, and stories to tell of the trails he was building. During the winter months, he would bring the cold air in with him as the sky began to darken after being on the hill all day.

Jon is survived by his two daughters, Kelly Bittner and Carli Drexler, and three grandchildren, Cooper Bittner, Lydia Bittner, and Rory Drexler.

From Jon Lamb's wife, Careen

Jon Lamb was born September 26, 1961, in Montreal, Canada. He would tell you that he was the product of one bad turn. His father had broken both his legs skiing at Jay Peak, and he convinced his then-girlfriend Lillian Ball to marry him because she felt sorry for him. One bad turn on skis brought him to us, and another bad turn on skis took him away.

As a young boy, Jon moved to Michigan with his family, where he fell in love with gravity-driven adventure. Jon became an adrenaline junkie early, skiing and biking on the tiny hills of Michigan. Jon got his varsity letter in skiing from Waterford Township High School. That jacket still hangs in his closet, because he was a packrat (you should see his rock, sorry fossil, collection).

Testing the waters of college, he lasted two semesters before realizing he was destined for a life of outdoor adventure and headed to the big mountains of Vermont in 1979. Jon spent many years adventuring in the Green Mountains. Whether it was catching the last chair on Ramshead to head out to Pins Only or crushing it to the top of Killington on the Tuesday night ride, when you were with Jon, it was always full send. There, he met his first wife, Cindy, and together, they raised their daughters, Carli and Kelly.

On April 21, 2009, he met his second wife, Careen Little, on the Superstar lift line, and Jon loved to joke that they met ‘online—the lift line, that is! Skiing spring laps and giving advice, being his normal charismatic, enthusiastic self, Careen fell in love and they became the best adventure buddies ever, even though she skied better than him. Just kidding, but not really. Their love was obvious and persistent, and in 2017, they moved across



Submitted

Jon Lamb

the country to Big Sky, Montana.

This move was the biggest adventure of their life. They found a place that both recognized and celebrated this enthusiastic couple. Their adventures took them from teaching skiing at Big Sky Resort to Whitefish and back again. Jon continued to share his passion and enthusiasm with everyone who crossed his path as an outdoor guide at Montage Big Sky. Jon's enthusiasm was infectious, and to know Jon was to remember Jon. Whether on a mountain bike, his quiver of skis, snowshoes, a fishing pole in hand, or hunting petrified wood to share, Jon carried himself in a way you couldn't help but gravitate towards.

Careen and Jon created a lifestyle full of happiness, love, and adventure. Whether tearing up the mountain or stalking trout in Yellowstone National Park camping in the teardrop camper, Jon had it dialed in. It is comforting to know that Jon died at the top of his game, in his boots, doing what he loved.

Jon is survived by his partner and darling wife of 16 years, Careen Little; his two daughters, Kelly Bittner and Carli Drexler; his two stepchildren, Cavan and Delaney Little; his beloved hound, Lucy Little-Lamb; his sister, Heidi Lamb, and three grandchildren, Cooper and Lydia Bittner and Rory Drexler. He is predeceased by his mother, Lillian Ferguson, his father, Graeme Lamb, and his brother, Stephen Lamb.

In the words of his sister, Heidi, Jon instilled a love for skiing, mountain biking, and the great outdoors in everyone who came into contact with him. Even as a kid, his passion for skiing shaped the lives of those around him. On the hills of his childhood mountain, Alpine Valley, Jon began his illustrious career of sharing his love of skiing, shaping Heidi's life as she continues to carry on his legacy as a Lamb ski instructor.

There will be a celebration of life in Vermont on September 26, Jon's birthday—details to follow. Please start thinking of your Jon stories now.

IMLS terminates grant for Vermont Historical Society's local history program

The Vermont Historical Society (VHS) announced that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) terminated its federal funding for the Activating 21st Century Local History Training Program, effective April 8. The decision follows President Donald Trump's recent executive order to defund several federal agencies, including IMLS.

In a letter from acting IMLS director Keith Sonderling, the agency stated the grant was "no longer consistent with the agency's priorities and no longer serves the interest of the United States and the IMLS Program." The cancellation of the grant leaves approximately \$140,000 in funding unrealized and will result in the layoff of the program's lead staff member.

The now-terminated program was designed to support Vermont's often volunteer-led local historical societies by offering tools and training to help right-size collections, engage communities, and preserve local history. It featured an online resource center, statewide workshops, and targeted assistance to local partners, including Bixby Memorial Library in Vergennes and historical societies in Brookfield, Sharon, Thetford, and Waterbury. Initially launched in the summer of 2024, the program was set to continue through 2027.

"This move deprives Vermont's local historical societies of the resources and programming designed to support their operations as the nation prepares for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country," the organization said in a statement.

Despite the setback, VHS emphasized its ongoing commitment to preserving and sharing Vermont's history through its museum in Montpelier, research center in Barre, and education and outreach initiatives across the state.

Founded in 1838, the Vermont Historical Society is dedicated to helping Vermonters understand the past to build stronger communities.

For more information, visit: vermonthistory.org.

Zuckerman urges support for ranked choice voting during Ludlow Rotary talk

LUDLOW—Former Vermont Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman recently addressed the Ludlow Rotary Club, making a case for ranked-choice voting in elections with multiple candidates. He argued that allowing voters to rank their choices rather than select just one could foster broader participation and more open dialogue among candidates.

"Ranked choice voting gives voters more voice and opens the door for more candidates to run without fear of being spoilers," Zuckerman told attendees.

Currently used in states like Maine and Alaska, the voting method eliminates the candidate with the fewest votes and reallocates those votes based on voters' next preferences until one candidate receives a majority. While Zuckerman acknowledged that the process could slow election result reporting, he said that the benefits of more



Submitted
Former Vermont Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman recently spoke at a Ludlow Rotary Club meeting.

representative outcomes outweigh the inconvenience. Ranked choice voting has gained attention nationally and is under consideration in some states for use in presidential primaries, though it has been banned

in others, such as West Virginia and Wyoming. Zuckerman, who has served in Vermont politics as a legislator, senator, and lieutenant governor since 1996, continues to advocate for voting reforms and increased civic engagement.

Moving Day

"Moving Day" in the world of golf often refers to Saturday's third round play at the annual Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta Country Club. This is when top players often move into contention for Sunday's final round for the championship, just like Rory McIlroy did this past Saturday with an impressive six under par performance.

At the State House, you might refer to last Friday as "Moving Day" when the session's big issue of education reform passed the House and is now moving to the Senate. With statewide K-12 student enrollment down over the past 25 years, changes need to happen. The legislation, H.454, crafted by House Democrats, replaced the governor's proposal with a significantly slower timeline. On Thursday, April 10, House leaders questioned whether they had enough support within their own caucus to pass the measure as some Democrats from rural areas feared the eventual closure of small schools in their communities. On Thursday evening, an amendment was crafted to garner a handful of Republican votes to keep the bill moving to final passage on Friday. So on to the Senate...

Following the House approval Friday afternoon, Governor Scott issued a statement indicating he appreciated moving the bill forward, but it was clear more work needed to be done before the legislation would get his signature. He said, "This bill is nowhere near perfect due to the cost, timeline and more. However, we all agree that education transformation is needed this session."

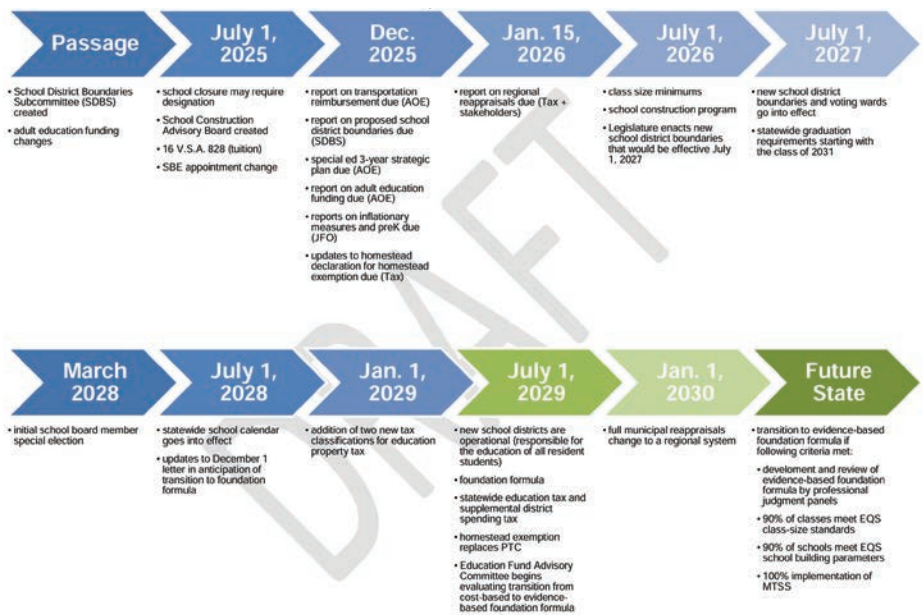
The governor's plan would have had new school districts decided this session and the transition to a new funding formula put in place by 2027 when the reforms were complete. The House plan establishes a study committee as to what the new districts should look like and then contemplates

a vote by the Legislature on it next year. Financing changes do not take effect until the 2029-30 year, a full two years later than the governor's. Many believe the slower implementation is necessary and more pragmatic given the potential scope of the changes. However, it delays any efficiencies from consolidation for at least four years. Given Vermont's already high property taxes, a longer process could be very costly to taxpayers.

Some key parts of the bill:

- A new study group to propose three different district maps for consideration by the Legislature in 2026
- New districts will strive to average 4,000 students or more
- Average class size minimums will be 12 students in kindergarten and increases to 18 in grades 5 and above (some exemptions or waivers allowed)
- Establishes a new state aid for school construction but does not identify a funding source
- Public tuition to approved independent private schools will only be allowed if over half the student enrollment is attending with public tuition, such as Burr & Burton
- Transitions to a foundation formula in 2029. Under the formula, school districts will receive a fixed amount per student adjusted for certain factors, such as lower income, non-English speakers, etc. Districts can raise up to an additional 10% through a local property tax surcharge
- Replaces the current property tax credit system, with exempting a portion of one's homestead value on a sliding scale

Harrison → 13



Courtesy legislature.vermont.gov
Chart shows a Legislature's draft estimating the timeline for H.454 Education Transformation.

1,700 pounds of Cabot butter recalled in Vermont and 6 other states for possible fecal contamination

Prior to the recall, just 17 packages of the butter — 34 sticks in total — were sold to consumers, all of whom purchased the product in Vermont, according to the company

By Habib Sabet/VTDigger

Cabot Creamery has issued a voluntary recall for nearly a ton of butter due to potential fecal contamination, the brand’s parent company, Agri-Mark Inc., announced April 9.

The recall covers 189 cases of the iconic Vermont brand’s 8-oz. Extra Creamy Premium Butter across Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, Connecticut, New

after testing revealed elevated amounts of coliform bacteria, which could suggest fecal contamination, the company said in the statement. No illnesses or complaints have been reported.

Although Agri-Mark initiated the recall process on March 26, according to records from the Food and Drug Administration, the federal agency did not appear to formally release information about the recall until Wednesday, a two-week delay that company and state officials were unable to account for Thursday.

“I know the Cabot team has been in contact with the FDA since the start. But we are unaware of why there was a delay,” Junas said in an email to VTDigger. The FDA did not immediately respond to VTDigger’s request for comment.

“FDA’s procedures on recalls is a federal process that the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) is not privy to,” E.B.

Flory, food safety and consumer protection division director at the state agriculture agency, said in a written statement.

According to Flory, Agri-Mark alerted state officials last week that they had initiated and completed the recall before April 4, recovering 95.5% of the potentially tainted butter.

The product code for the recalled butter is UPC 0 78354 62038 0, and all recalled items have an expiration date of Sept. 9, 2025, according to an enforcement report from the Food and Drug Administration.

“Agri-Mark has identified the cause and has taken the appropriate internal actions to address it,” the company said in its statement. “No other products were affected. Agri-Mark is dedicated to food safety and producing quality products and is always monitoring its products for compliance.”



Courtesy Cabot Creamery
Vermont-based Cabot Creamery recalled nearly a ton of its Extra Creamy Premium Butter due to potential fecal contamination. Just 17 packages were sold to consumers, all in Vermont.

Hampshire and Arkansas, amounting to just over 1,700 pounds, according to a statement from the company.

Since the announcement, Cabot has had to contend with a wave of national news stories that Nicole Junas, a spokesperson for the brand, said “have unintentionally overstated the situation,” despite the minimal risk posed by the potentially contaminated product.

The FDA has categorized the recall as “Class 3,” the least serious category of recall, indicating that the product is “not likely to cause adverse health consequences,” according to the agency’s website.

Prior to the recall, just 17 packages of the butter — 34 sticks in total — were sold to consumers, all of whom purchased the product in Vermont, according to the company.

The company prompted the recall

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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

The wave must continue to grow

By David Moats

Editor's note: David Moats, of Salisbury, is editorial page editor emeritus of the Rutland Herald, where he won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for his editorials on Vermont's civil union law.

The festive atmosphere on the town green in Brandon during the "Hands Off" protest on April 5 did not mask the seriousness of the moment. About 500 people gathered in Brandon that day, placards in hand, to join tens of thousands around the state and nation to oppose the destruction and cruelty set in motion by President Trump.

"Grandpa, What Did You Do to Stop Trump?" said one sign. "Make America Ours Again," said another.

The signs showed a combination of humor and outrage — humor for the sake of sanity, outrage because of the damage done and still to come.

Vermont is home to two of the most eloquent and persistent defenders of the nation and globe — Sen. Bernie Sanders and environmentalist Bill McKibben. In a recent article, McKibben described the catastrophic cost, globally, that will ensue from Trump's destruction of U.S. climate programs — destruction that has already occurred.

Because of Trump's actions, the effort to hold the increase of global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius has been wrecked; according to a report cited by McKibben, we can now expect an increase of 3 degrees, with disastrous consequences around the globe (except for air conditioning manufacturers, who are expecting a bonanza).

The ironies are stark. Even as progress to contain climate change is undermined, the Trump administration is moving to destroy the Federal Emergency Management Agency, whose job it is to help people in the wake of floods, hurricanes, wildfires and tornadoes, all of which are worsening because of climate change.

There is satisfaction in wielding a clever placard: "Deport Elon and Melania," "Make

Lying Wrong Again." And there is a boost to morale in gathering with friends and neighbors to take a stand against the destruction of government. But it is dawning on more and more people that if there is to be a meaningful wave of opposition, demonstrations like those on April 5 are only meaningful if they are like the water molecules swept up by a large, intensifying, massive wave.

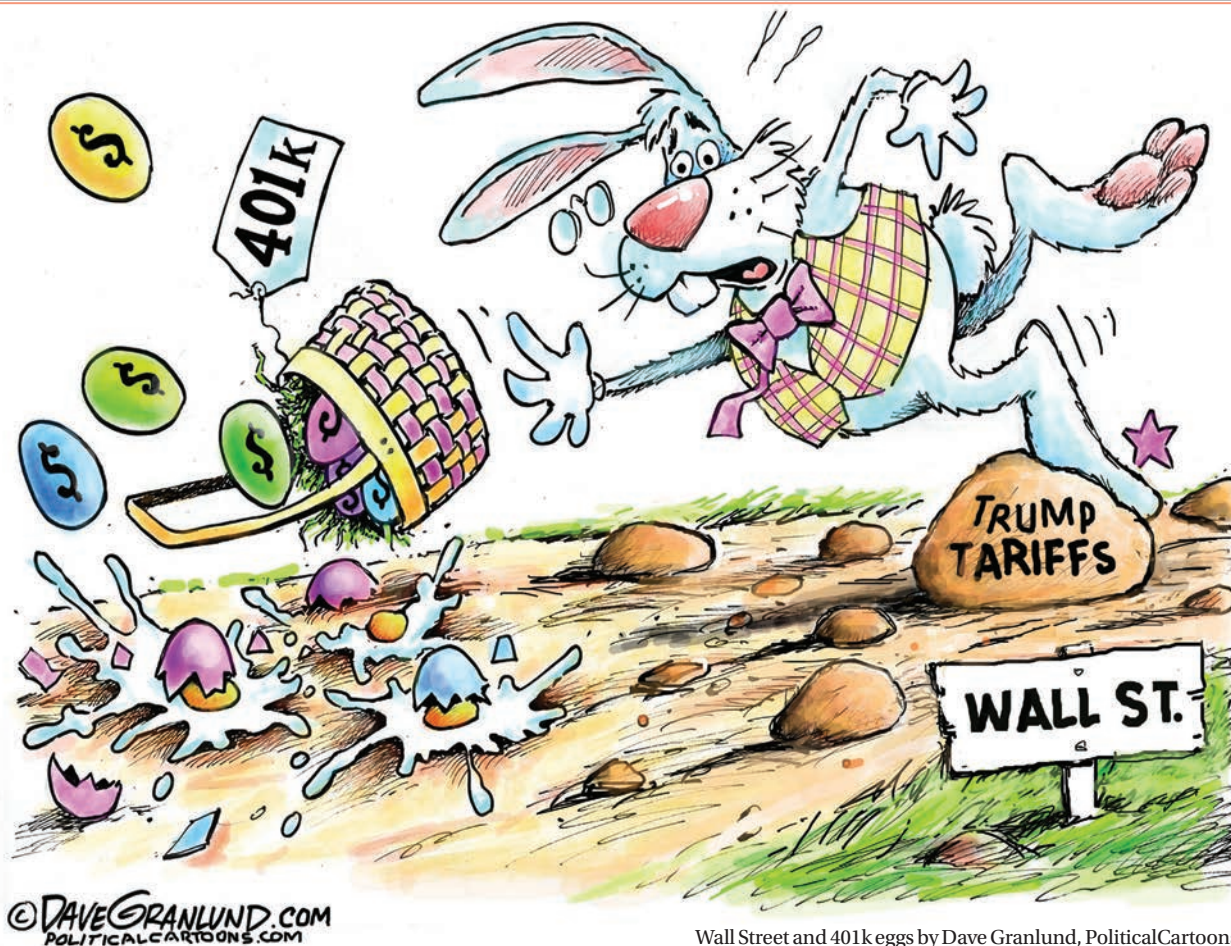
Some of the placard-carrying demonstrators in Brandon had taken heart from the recent speech on the Senate floor by Sen. Cory Booker: "It's Not Left or Right. It's Right or Wrong," their placards said. Those were Booker's words, repeated during the course of his 25-plus-hour speech. "This Is a Moral Moment," said another placard in Brandon.

Booker is one leader who has stepped up. Sanders has already given momentum to the wave of opposition with his campaign against the oligarchy. Joined by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, he has drawn tens of thousands of supporters to rallies in the West and Midwest.

Each of these events — a Sanders rally attended by 30,000 or 500 people on the green in Brandon — could engender a sense of futility if seen as a singular moment. But taken

Growing wave → 13

Demonstrations like those on April 5 are only meaningful if they are like the water molecules swept up by a large, intensifying, massive wave.



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Wall Street and 401k eggs by Dave Granlund, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Medical debt relief to help survivors

Dear Editor,

At the Vermont Network, we support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, amplify their voices, and build safer communities. We represent 15 independent nonprofits that provide direct services to survivors and prevention programming in their communities.

S.27, a proposal to eliminate up to \$100 million in medical debt for low-income Vermonters and exclude medical debt from credit reports, supports this work. Brought forward by Senator Ginny Lyons and Treasurer Mike Pieciak, the bill is a critical step toward helping survivors achieve economic security, better health outcomes, and a safer future.

Economic security is a barrier to safety and healing for survivors. As healthcare costs rise in Vermont, survivors are more vulnerable to accruing medical debt as a direct result of abuse.

The National Institutes of Health estimates that the lifetime financial loss from intimate partner violence exceeds \$100K per female victim, with healthcare expenses accounting for the majority

of that cost. Research shows that survivors have higher healthcare costs, even years after escaping abuse.

An emergency room visit or mental health care can leave people burdened by debt through no fault of their own. That debt can damage their credit, making it harder to secure housing, find employment, and escape an abusive partner.

Medical debt can also lead to worse health outcomes. Studies show that tens of thousands of Vermonters delay treatment out of fear of medical debt. This can result in more serious health issues, higher future medical costs, and time away from work.

When someone is unable to pay their medical bills, everything else — including their safety — becomes less affordable. Nothing should hold survivors back from moving forward in their lives.

On behalf of the Vermont Network, we encourage the Legislature to support S.27, an investment in Vermonters' safety, health, and prosperity.

Sarah Robinson, co-exec. director of Vt Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

In support of Woodstock police chief

Dear Editor,

We moved to Woodstock, Vermont, in early 2017. It was the first time we had spent any time in Vermont, and we fell in love. We loved the town, the community, and everything else. We opened a business, and one of the first people we met was then officer Joe Swanson. He was grounded, calm, strong, and just a good guy.

As a member of the LGBT community, my wife and I are always aware of our community, town, surroundings, and neighborhood; we want to feel safe, and we want to feel a part of it.

We got to know Officer Swanson. We met his family—his husband and parents—and learned how he grew up in the town. His family supported the town and took active roles in helping it run and thrive.

It was shocking to learn that Police Chief Swanson had been suspended since October. I read the report that there were no grounds

Woodstock chief → 13

We moved to Vermont to escape Florida's schools

Dear Editor,

If you're wondering what Gov. Phil Scott and Sec. Zoie Saunderson's education plan will be like in practice, I can tell you—our family lived through it in Florida.

My family relocated to Vermont from Florida just a couple of months after Saunderson and her family. Unlike Saunderson, we moved to Vermont to escape Florida's school system. Saunderson, apparently, came to make Vermont Florida.

People often tout the quality of Florida schools based on their high test scores, as if that's the only measure of a good school. We also thought that living in a top district within Florida would guarantee a great educational experience. Unfortunately, our experience was that all Florida's high test scores reflect are the state's obsession with standardized testing and the ridiculous hoops educators have to jump through for them.

My son has multiple disabilities and when it was time

FL to VT → 13

CAPITOL QUOTES

Texas Republican House member Chip Roy, a white male, introduced the SAVE Act, which then passed the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. The SAVE Act, sold as a necessary measure to protect the integrity of elections, if passed by the Senate and voted into law by the president, would make voting in U.S. elections difficult for an abundance of Americans, including millions of women.

“I am deeply troubled by this naked attempt to disenfranchise voters, particularly married women, low-income and elderly voters, and active-duty military members. Even viewed in the most charitable light, this is a solution looking for a problem, as illegal, non-citizen voter fraud is virtually nonexistent. An American’s right to vote is sacred and must be protected,”

said Rutland Town clerk **Kari Clark**.

“Anyone without a passport, anyone who has ever changed their name, or anyone who moved since they last voted will find registering and voting under the SAVE Act to be nonsensically harder and more bureaucratic. This is particularly galling for Black Americans, who are statistically less likely to own a passport, and for the millions of women who elected to change their name upon marriage and no longer have a matching birth certificate,”

said **Alex Ault**, the policy council for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law.

“The House just passed the Republican voter suppression measure that threatens voting access for millions of Americans, including 69 million women whose married names don’t match their birth certificates. Make sure your senators know you expect them to stand against it,”

said **Hillary Clinton** on X.

“Under the SAVE Act, women who took their spouse’s last name and don’t have an updated passport or birth certificate would be turned away at the polls,”

said Representative **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**.

“Democrats say it’s already illegal to vote as a (non-)citizen, but that doesn’t mean that you don’t need further enforcement,”

said House Speaker **Mike Johnson**.

COMMENTARIES

The state of maple

By Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Agriculture Secretary

By the end of the month, we’ll have a clearer picture of how Vermont’s sugar makers view this season. How was the yield? What will prices look like? Where will the markets be?

In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will release the official results of its annual survey. Last season, Vermont producers made more than three million gallons of syrup—accounting for over half of the total U.S. production.

Last month, we had a spectacular time at Pure Gold Sugaring in Sutton. Governor Phil Scott, U.S. Senator Peter Welch, lawmakers from the Northeast Kingdom, and sugar makers from across Vermont gathered around a sturdy maple tree to celebrate the start of the season. Governor Scott, along with the Solinsky family and other producers, tapped the tree in honor of the hardworking Vermonters who craft the finest maple syrup in the world.

During the event, Governor Scott remarked, “This important event recognizes Vermont’s maple industry and the hard-working families that produce the best maple in the world. The Solinsky family, and so many families like theirs, work to make sure our state is producing the highest quality maple syrup. Their hard work and dedication year-round are why we continue to lead the nation in maple production and excellence.”

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) understands the vital role of the maple industry in our state’s economy and culture. The Agency supports producers through marketing initiatives, product labeling and quality inspections, and funding programs such as the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association Sugarhouse Certification Program. In 2024, the Agency awarded \$540,000 in maple agriculture development grants to 11 Vermont producers. These grants focused on infrastructure improvements, food safety, operational efficiency, and climate adaptation. With more than 350 applications and a total of \$18 million in requested funds, it’s clear that Vermonters value their maple economy and recognize the need for continued investment to maintain the state’s leadership in the industry.

However, this season also brings uncertainty. The impact of new tariffs between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico is still being assessed, and many in the maple industry are concerned about rising costs for equipment, supplies, and products. The Agency will continue to monitor the situation, sharing information as it becomes available.

In the meantime, let’s celebrate and support Vermont maple. This spring, enjoy sugar-on-snow parties, festivals, and parades—there’s no better time to experience all things maple!

Vermont’s public safety and recovery need adaptation

By Jenney Samuelson, secretary Agency of Human Services

Vermont has long been a leader in treatment for addiction and substance use, particularly through its Hub and Spoke model, launched nearly a decade ago to address the opioid epidemic. This approach brought treatment into mainstream, integrating into doctor’s offices and expanding access to services through regional hubs. It made Vermont one of the top states for accessing care and reduced stigma around seeking help.

However, the landscape of substances in use has evolved over the past 10 years. What we are seeing now is an increasingly complex drug supply in Vermont that mixes the potent opioid fentanyl with stimulants like methamphetamines and cocaine, and adulterants like xylazine, leading to complex addictions and complex treatment.

The tools and treatment systems we developed to address opioid addiction are no longer enough to tackle this emerging crisis. The medication-assisted treatment model that once worked for opioids does not translate effectively to stimulant use. Not surprisingly, that creates significant gaps in care. This shifting landscape presents new challenges in

reducing addiction, improving public safety, and ensuring long-term recovery.

To break the cycle, we must adapt. In addition to supporting recovery efforts, we need to address the broader public safety implications tied to addiction and drug trafficking. Criminal activity associated with drug distribution, as well as the violence and disorder it breeds, disproportionately impacts health and safety of our communities. These are not isolated issues; they are inextricably linked to lack of comprehensive care and support for those struggling with substance use disorder and the need for further treatment options our judicial system can offer.

One of the most pressing gaps in our system is treatment of complex substance use, particularly in light of the rising prevalence of stimulants. Traditional medication-based treatments used for opioid addiction do not work in the same way for stimulant use. That means people suffering from addiction to multiple substances often face longer recovery times and higher relapse rates. There are also significant gaps

GUESS WHO'S TURNING 50?

Happy birthday to
Ginger Gillette-Kent
on Thursday, April 17.



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← Hodulik: from page 7

weekends you could find David building or fixing—cars, decks, basements, sheds, and the like—always with at least one of his girls in tow. His life revolved around his family. Hodulik loved skiing, teaching his siblings in their youth during the 1970s, and started traveling to Vermont in 1980, eventually becoming a share in a ski house for several years in the 1990s.

He and the family especially enjoyed their vacations at Pico. There were memorable Easter Sunrise services. Besides skiing, he loved sailing, camping, and traveling with them. But he was always happiest when the

whole family was “down the shore” on Long Beach Island. In 2013, he and Deborah moved to Ship Bottom, where he particularly enjoyed beach days with his grandsons.

Hodulik was a man of faith raised and remained a devout Catholic. Whether through his unmistakable boisterous laugh or his innate genuine nature, he had a way of disarming all who met him. The world will miss his infectious smile, boyish humor, unfettered kindness, and unique mind. He was truly one of a kind.

Hodulik is survived by his wife of 42 years, Deborah Hodulik; his three

daughters, Laura Bourgeois and her husband Robert, Ann Querns and her husband Timothy, and Michelle Mavis and her husband Anders; his four grandsons Charles and Patrick Bourgeois, Paul and Maxwell Querns; his granddog Lucy; his siblings Michael Hodulik (Giuliana), Gerard Hodulik (Jackie), and Pamela (James Dozier); and his many nephews and nieces.

For expressions of sympathy, the family would appreciate donations to the David S. Hodulik Memorial Scholarship at St. Joseph’s High School, which can be made at stjoes.org/support/hodulik.

← Bring back the trades: from page 2

for new generations in a diverse range of skilled trades, Turner is like a genie one wishes had materialized, when faced with “what do you want to be when you grow up?” and the reply of “fireman” or “hairstylist” was not the dream some parents envisioned.

Turner is that guy, helping young people consider such dreams — perhaps, landscaper, cook, builder, electrician, plumber, mechanic, welder, tailor, truckdriver — before the pressure to pursue a traditional college education takes hold.

Bring Back the Trades collaborates with philanthropic foundations, educators, community leaders, and businesses in various sectors. These supporters are essential in bridging the divide between academic learning and practical application, offering students invaluable mentorships, apprenticeships, scholarships, and clear pathways to meaningful employment. Events organized by Bring Back the Trades, such as interactive career fairs featuring hands-on demonstrations and networking, have engaged thousands of students.

To be sure, BBTT continues to compete with the ingrained societal perspective that a four-year college degree represents the singular path to success. Overcoming this pervasive belief necessitates continuous education and a concerted effort to highlight the significant earning potential, inherent job security, and profound personal fulfillment offered by pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

In our interview, Turner underscored the importance of peer mentors sharing their own difficult experiences as well. “I was a really bad student and I thought I [would] never become anything,” he said. “I found the trades, and there was this one girl that I became friends with. She had a real problem in school, serious anxiety, and she found welding”

On Tuesday, May 20, Bring Back the Trades will host a Skills Expo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vermont State University’s Castleton Campus. This in-person event, presented by F.W. Webb and hosted by Vermont State University in collaboration with the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR), is designed to offer a unique and engaging experience for attendees aged 12 and older — including career-changers, noted Steve Turner — to explore a variety of trade skills and employment opportunities.

Russ Marsan, founder and co-owner of Rutland-based landscape company Carpenter & Costin, was instrumental in bringing the BBTT Expo to the Rutland region, and in attracting numerous local sponsors.

In the video interview with Turner, Marsan — who also serves as CEDRR’s board chair — said of Bring Back the Trades, “It’s taking the ropes that life provides us, tying them together and creating a net to capture opportunities that

“I’m fighting for all the kids that just aren’t book smart,” Turner said.

benefit everybody... You’re able to represent all kinds of different people across a wide spectrum,” noted Marsan, “and you step back and make it something that nobody ever imagined it could be.”

Reflecting on his early education experiences, Steve

Turner concluded, “I’m fighting for all the kids that just aren’t book smart,” he said. “My core mission is about empow-

ering those kids to say, ‘I’m going to do something with my hands, and I’m going to make something of myself.’”

Schools can receive complimentary admission and are encouraged to inquire about a promotional code. Education partners include The McClure Foundation, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the National Aviation Academy, and Vermont Works for Women. Corporate sponsors include Casella Construction, F.W. Webb, Heritage Family Credit Union, M&T Bank, Belden Construction, VELCO and numerous manufacturers. Parking at the venue will be provided free of charge.

For more information, visit: bringbackthetrades.org.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is a strategic growth specialist, nonprofit leader, business educator, and author. Her L3C consulting firm works exclusively with charities and educational institutions: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.

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OF THE TRADES**



Submitted
A portion of the Bring Back the Trades Skills Expo poster features a woman driving a commercial vehicle for Casella.

← **Harrison:**
from page 8

- Adds several new non-homestead property tax categories, which could be considered by future legislatures for different tax rates
- Transitions to a regional property appraisal system rather than the current town by town one

A draft of the timeline of changes identified in the House version of the bill can be found at: H.454-Jon Gray-Education Transformation Timeline~4-8-2025.pdf.

Business groups worry that with the new non-homestead classifications, more of the tax burden could easily be shifted onto commercial property in the future. Others worry about the lack of school choice or potential for small school closures going forward.

The bill will undergo more changes in the Senate and then will need to be reconciled with the House version before the measure will go to the governor. Senate leader Baruth has signaled he thought their Chamber's version could capture more Republican support.

Stay tuned for what could be a month ahead of many twists and turns on this issue.

On a personal note, the Masters always brings up memories of some years back when our son Ben from Atlanta called the weekend before and said a couple of the Wednesday practice round tickets for the tournament came his way and was I interested in coming down? While my initial reaction was there was too much going on with work, I quickly came to my senses and decided to fly down. At the annual Par 3 tournament that afternoon, I got to see one of the last times the famed threesome of Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Niclaus played together. Even if I don't get another opportunity to attend the tournament, I will always cherish walking the beautiful grounds of Augusta National and seeing some of golf's greatest players.

Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield: JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us.

← **Woodstock chief:**
from page 10

for his suspension, yet it remained until the very recent hearing, which still leaves the matter unresolved.

We have moved out of Vermont and still believe it is a wonderful place, but to think a town that is gearing up for its second "Pride" festivities of Woodstock is also considering firing or demoting their dedicated, wounded in duty, honorable openly gay Police Chief Joe Swanson is extremely disappointing and makes me question their motives. Is it personal? Is it biased? Has the influence of big government tarnished the small town of Woodstock, Vermont, into no longer being inclusive, especially of such a dedicated citizen chosen by the last highly regarded Police Chief, Blish? To think that Vermont is impenetrable by the wave of hate for the LGBTQIA is naive. Hate is a fungus and spreads quickly.

Vicki Ferentinos, formerly of Woodstock

← **Growing wave:**
from page 10

together as a continuing, persisting, unstoppable wave, they become something of historical importance.

That's why institutions threatened by Trump must act in concert to resist. These include colleges and universities, law firms, industries that are being undermined, farmers frozen by tariffs out of markets for their crops. What is the point of all this destruction? Disaster capitalism is what occurs when oligarchs step in to seize ownership of businesses — or farmland — after disaster undermines them. Thus, what may be in the offing may not be just a new oligarchy, but a new feudalism.

The general good humor in Brandon allowed for the presence without incident of some stalwart Trump supporters. A small group stood at the curb looking out at Route 7, a pro-Trump banner in hand. Several times a large pickup truck roared by, blasting its horn, and displaying pro-Trump flags. So what? That was the attitude of onlookers. The Trump movement may well implode sooner than we think because of the hardship it causes, even as the disasters it has set in motion engulf the world.

One placard suggested a notion that puts the Trump

← **FL to VT:**
from page 10

for him to enter kindergarten we discovered he wasn't welcome to attend the local public elementary school, but instead would have to attend the district school for kids with disabilities. It was a two-hour bus ride each way — with a 5:45 a.m. pickup time. He would have zero interaction with his peers in our community.

We were told if we didn't like that option, we could apply for a state voucher to send him to a private school, which is what the district recommended.

The problem with the private school was, despite the voucher, it was really only available for rich families with a stay-at-home parent. Not many private schools accepted disabled kids, and we would be responsible for transportation.

The closest one to us wasn't even in our school district and would have been 2 1/2 hours per day of driving, plus tolls. There was also no curriculum accountability — they were not required to fol-

low his IEP — and additional services he needed like physical therapy and occupational therapy were contingent on our private insurance.

We ended up sending him to the public school with my husband and I taking turns dropping him off in the morning, so he only had to ride the bus one-way. This restrictive school, only serving students with intensive needs, was advertised as specializing in supporting kids with disabilities. In reality, the school was not equipped to meet his needs. There are many stories I could tell, but the bottom line is, our son wasn't thriving there — once I got a call to pick him up early because he had spent the entire day crying by the classroom door.

Even our friends with typical kids experienced a lot of frustration with the public schools — and our district was one of the top districts in the state. One of our friends reached out to the school when it became clear her kid was behind in reading and

agenda into perspective. "Trump is Putin's puppet," it said. If it is not literally true, it poses a question: If Vladimir Putin wanted to undermine and weaken America, what would he do? He would do everything Trump is doing. That includes destroying American leadership in science, foreign affairs and business. And he would undermine democratic institutions such as free and fair elections.

On that latter point, it is noteworthy that Trump has fired the leader of the NSA, the spy agency that monitors cyberattacks on America, including Russian interference in our elections. Is he inviting Putin to interfere? And if he isn't explicitly a Russian agent, he is nevertheless pursuing those Russian aims with an alarming degree of success. One can speculate as to why — probably because of his affinity for dictators who respect only self-interested power.

Yet there was power on the green in Brandon and in Montpelier and Brattleboro and elsewhere. The wave seems to be growing, helped by the likes of Sanders and McKibben, but also by the thousands of Vermonters who went out on a dank day with humor and seriousness. That wave must continue to grow.

was showing signs of dyslexia. There was not a single reading specialist at the school, and the only solution they offered my friend was for her to "hire a private tutor."

When my son entered the school system only kids with special circumstances were eligible for vouchers, but by the time we moved they had expanded it so that anyone could apply.

Entering the school system in Vermont has been a night-and-day experience. The staff are excellent, our son is so much happier and we feel much more supported as a family. Our kids love being able to attend the same school and are always excited when we run into classmates and staff around town. Our son now spends his Vermont school vacations asking how many days are left until he can return.

Florida proudly advertises their test scores and promotes school choice as something that would give more autonomy to families, but our actual experience

showed that convincing rhetoric and data spreadsheets didn't match families' realities in the system. Being in a larger district meant another layer of bureaucracy that prevented us from engaging effectively with his teachers and administrators. The larger distance he had to travel left us disconnected from his education, his classmates and our local community.

I feel very concerned when I hear rhetoric from Scott and Saunders that echoes what I heard in Florida.

I hope our Legislators will refuse to allow them to dismantle the very aspects of Vermont's education system that have allowed my kids to thrive. Vermont's system isn't perfect, but as someone who has experienced other places, I can tell you — you have something special here.

Katie Livermore, Winooski
Editor's note: Livermore has lived in six different states as a military spouse before settling in Vermont with her husband and two children.



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**Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae**
April 17 at 7 pm

Easter Sunrise Gathering
April 20 at 6:30 am Ashcroft-Billings farm,
731 Creek Rd, Rutland Town

Easter Celebration
April 20 at 10 am with Festival Brass,
Timpani, Handbells and Bagpipes



← **Vermont detainee:**

from page 1

Born and raised in a refugee camp on the West Bank, Mahdawi was an activist and organizer of student protests at Columbia University while he studied philosophy there. Until March 2024, he was “an outspoken critic of Israel’s military campaign in Gaza,” according to court documents, but has taken a step back from organizing since.

Mahdawi, who owns a cabin in West Fairlee, currently lives in New York City and plans to start a master’s program at Columbia this fall, according to his lawyers. He has been a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. for 10 years.

A familiar face at various meetings and protests, those who know him in Vermont said he is a pacifist who is willing to talk to people from all sides.

“He’s always been a very peaceful man. He’s always been a bridge builder,” said friend and neighbor Christopher Helali, who shot a video of Mahdawi being detained in Colchester Monday morning, calling the event “horrific” and an “absolute injustice.”

“He’s a green card holder. He’s lawfully here. He did everything by the book. He never advocated for violence. In fact, he’s always advocated for peace and for dialog and reconciliation,” said Helali, who lives in Vershire and was elected high bailiff in Orange County last November.

He said he believes his friend was targeted because he spoke out against the crimes committed by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza and in the West Bank.

Both from the Middle East, Helali said the two have been friends for years. So he didn’t hesitate when Mahdawi asked him to accompany him to his Monday citizenship appointment.

Helali and Sen. Becca White, D-Windsor, were among the people present at the field office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at 463 Mountain View Drive to support Mahdawi during what was supposed to be a routine citizenship



By Christopher Helali, courtesy VTD
Mahdawi (center) shown being escorted to an unmarked car.

interview at 11 a.m.

Instead, they said they saw a handcuffed Mahdawi, accompanied by several plainclothes, masked and hooded men, put into an unmarked black vehicle just after noon.

“I tried to connect with the officers, or whoever they were,” Sen. White said. “They wouldn’t give me information. They wouldn’t tell me who they were. They wouldn’t give me any IDs.”

She estimated there were at least six cars and about 10 men there. White subsequently posted videos from the incident outside the USCIS office.

The videos show Mahdawi wearing a grey suit and making the peace sign with both hands before being put into a black Nissan with green Vermont license plates.

As they awaited further information, Sen. White said she was shocked this happened in Vermont, to a resident she described as a kind human and a peaceful protester.

“What I learned today is Vermont is not safe,” White said. “This happened here in Colchester, Vermont, with an Upper Valley resident, a young man who has been deeply ingrained in our community. And it is just so clear that if he can be taken,

anyone can be taken.”

Mahdawi’s detainment comes about a month after Mahmoud Khalil — another Palestinian, Columbia University student and legal permanent resident — was arrested March 8, supposedly for participating in “antisemitic protests and disruptive activities,” as NPR reported. Khalil’s lawyers have disputed the charge, arguing that criticism of Israel’s actions in Gaza and U.S. support should not be equated with antisemitism.

Mahdawi and Khalil reportedly started an organization called Palestinian Student Union at Columbia and both helped organize pro-Palestinian activities on campus.

Khalil’s arrest was the first after President Donald Trump promised to crack down on student protests on campus and any action he deems as “pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity.”

Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s recent use of an obscure statute from the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, which authorizes Rubio to deport anyone he believes is a threat to the country, as the AP has reported, coupled with Mahdawi’s and Khalil’s cases, indicate that immigration authorities are targeting pro-Palestine student activists in the U.S. for deportation, even when they are legal residents.

In their court filing Monday, April 14, Mahdawi’s lawyers wrote, “The government has made clear that it intends to retaliate and punish individuals such as Mr. Mahdawi who advocated for ceasefire and ending the bloodshed in Gaza.”

They further noted that the actions “plainly violate the First Amendment, which protects Mr. Mahdawi’s right to speak on matters of public concern and prevents the government from chilling constitutionally-protected speech.”

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

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LOTS OF BOOKS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

ABSTRACT	BOOKS	CIRCULATION	EDITOR	KEYWORD	REFERENCE
ALMANAC	BROWSER	CITATION	GLOSSARY	LOAN	RENEW
ARCHIVES	CARD	COURSE	INDEX	MOVIES	RESERVE
AUTHOR	CATALOG	DESK	JOURNAL	PERIODICAL	STACKS

Solutions → 30

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

Level: Intermediate

Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

1. Dark blacks
7. Construct a wall to confine
13. Most inappropriate
14. A type of board
16. Sacred Hindu syllable
17. Flatterer
19. The Granite State
20. Tears down
22. China's Chairman
23. Former Houston footballer
25. Periods of time
26. Expressed pleasure
28. World alliance
29. A Brit's mother
30. Television network
31. Brother or sister
33. Type of spirit
34. ___ Ladd, actor
36. A medium overuses it
38. One time province of British India
40. Wrong
41. The highest parts of something
43. Insect
44. Baseball stat
45. A way to use up
47. Where wrestlers compete
48. It helps elect politicians

51. As fast as can
be done
53. Genus of
legumes
55. Samoa's capital
56. Monument in
Jakarta
58. Former French
coin
59. Exploiters
60. College sports
official
61. Uninterrupted
in time
64. Stephen King
story
65. Marked by no
sound
67. Weathers
69. Denounce-
ments
70. More beloved

CLUES DOWN

1. Winged nut
2. It cools a home
3. Kisses (French)
4. Oxford political economist
5. Keyboard key
6. Leaf pores
7. Agrees with publicly
8. Not around
9. Czech city
10. Muscle cell protein
11. Greek letter
12. Movements
13. Ned __, composer
15. Popular series

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17				18						19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

- Game of ____
- 18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
 - 21. Helper
 - 24. Gift
 - 26. Up in the air (abbr.)
 - 27. Treat without respect
 - 30. Trims
 - 32. Slang for lovely
 - 35. City of Angels hoopster

- (abbr.)
- 37. Guitarists' tool
 - 38. Island nation
 - 39. Delivered in installments
 - 42. A baglike structure
 - 43. Cooking vessel
 - 46. Gets in front of
 - 47. Wounded by scratching
 - 49. More breathable
 - 50. Medical dressings

52. Indiana hoopster
54. Married Marilyn
55. An ancient Assyrian city
57. Congressmen (abbr.)
59. Approves food
62. Ventura's first name
63. Between northeast and east
66. Atomic #71
68. Email designation

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in Texas on April 17, 1972. I spent much of my childhood practicing ballet after an initial lesson at age 3. I've appeared in many TV shows and in a string of romantic comedies. Most people know me as a CIA secret agent as well as a sai-wielding assassin.

Answer: Jennifer Garner



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WED
4/16**S.E.A.T. Exercises**

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

Active Seniors Lunch

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

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

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

AI & Disinformation Lecture

2-3:15 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. FREE. SENIOR PLANET from AARP Technology Classes present a lecture for ages 60+ to help distinguish between real and fake online content. rutlandrec.com.

Cribbage for Adults

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

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

Book Group: 'The Tools'

5:30-6:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. This month's discussion will focus on "The Tools" by Barry Michels and Phil Stutz. Held the third Wednesday of each month. RSVP required. In partnership with Phoenix Books—book group members receive 20% off the monthly title. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

5:30-7:20 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St., Poultney. Join instructor Patti Panebianco for ballroom dance with East Coast Swing at 5:30 p.m. and Salsa at 6:30 p.m. stonevalleyarts.org.

Oil Painting

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$35. Learn the Alla Prima oil technique—wet paint applied to wet paint in a single session. No experience necessary. All supplies included. Minimum 5, maximum 12 participants. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Rubber Stamp Carving

6-8 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$30. Learn to carve your own rubber stamps and use them to decorate a dish towel or clothing with fabric-grade ink. All materials included. Ages 13 and up. Instructor: Caitlin Gates. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Beginner & Intermediate Line Dancing Lessons

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

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. playhouseflicks.com.

THURS
4/17**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 or stonevalleyarts.org.

Intermediate Line Dance

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

Survivors Support Group

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

Bone Builders

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

Communication Skills Class

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

Chaffee: Artery

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

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.

Play Bridge!

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

High Horses Open House

4:30-6 p.m., High Horses Center for Equine Assisted Services, 138 Horse Farm Road, Sharon. Free. Tour the farm, learn about programs, and meet the team at this special open house. All are welcome. volunteer@highhorses.org.

Civil Air Patrol Open House

6-8 p.m. Rutland Squadron Headquarters, 1002 Airport Road, Clarendon. Free. Learn about Civil Air Patrol programs for youth ages 12-18 and adult volunteers. Activities and info include aerospace education, emergency services, leadership, and physical fitness. Contact jlaron@vtwg.cap.gov or visit Rutland.CAP.gov.

Pour Painting

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$40. Learn the pour painting technique in this guided session with instructor Lorrie Amerio Maniery. All supplies included. Minimum 5, maximum 12 participants. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org.

A Fantastical Evening in Rutland

6:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Meet Vermont authors Madison Rene and Courtney & Clarke Collins for a night of fantasy, adventure, and romance. Learn about the "Legends of Danaeca" and "Vows & Valor" series and stay for a book signing after the discussion. phoenixbooks.biz.

Film Screening: 'Local Hero'

7 p.m. Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont. Free. Watch the classic film "Local Hero," starring Peter Riegert and Burt Lancaster. Set in a charming Scottish seaside village, the film features a memorable score by Mark Knopfler. mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com.

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. playhouseflicks.com.

Coffee and Conversation: Sexual Violence in**Rutland County**

8-9:30 a.m. The HUB CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Presented by NewStory Center in partnership with the Rutland County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The panel discussion will cover sexual assault in Rutland County, ongoing prevention efforts, and what more can be done. Coffee and refreshments served. 802-775-6788 or info@nscvt.org.

FRI
4/18**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@aginginhartland.org or via@mahhc.org.

Bone Builders

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Lane, White River Junction. One donation can save up to three lives. Be a hero for someone in need—schedule your appointment at redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

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.

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.

Adult Trans, Non-Binary, & Gender Non-Conforming Affinity Space

6-7 p.m. Rutland County Pride Center, 106 West St., Suite 1, Rutland. Free. A monthly in-person space for individuals 18+ who identify as transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming. Facilitated by Morgan Grant (they/them) and Akbar Abidi (he/they). Meets the third Friday of every month. rpride.org.

Jazz Night

6:30-8 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. Free. Join local musician Justin Burgess and his jazz trio for a night of experimental, improvised jazz inside the art gallery. BYOB 21+. Seating limited to 9. RSVP to contact@kaleidoscopeartsupply.com. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Art Soup

7-8:30 p.m. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, 45 Alumni Dr., Castleton. Free, donations accepted. A collaborative performance by VTSU Castleton students, faculty, and staff, featuring music, dance, theater, and visual art. Soundings students may only attend one performance for credit; no signup required. Marisa.Valent@VermontState.edu.

Film Screening: 'Black Bag'

7:30-8:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. A spy drama about intelligence agent George Woodhouse and his wife Kathryn, whose loyalty is questioned in the face of betrayal. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender. woodstocktownhalltheatre.org.

Film Screening: 'Minecraft'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Jack Black stars in this PG comedy based on the global hit world-building online game. playhouseflicks.com.

BENEFIT CARD
SHOW FOR
GOLBI CLARK

SAT. @ 10 A.M.



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

SAT
4/19

White River NRCD Annual Tree Sale

9 a.m.-1 p.m. 28 Farmvu Dr., White River Junction. The White River Natural Resources Conservation District holds its annual tree sale, with some trees still available. Visit the website for current availability and details. whiterivernrco.org/2025-04-19-annual-tree-sale.

Benefit Card Show for Colbi Clark

10 a.m. Moose Lodge 1122, 78 N. Main St., Rutland. \$3. This fundraiser supports Colbi Clark of Hydeville, who was paralyzed in an accident caused by a drunk driver. Proceeds from the event will help Colbi and his family. Table registration is \$40. Hosted by William Tyler and Card Show Finder. facebook.com/MooseLodge1122RutlandVT/.

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.

Earth Day Festival 2025

10:30 a.m. Montshire Museum of Science, 1 Montshire Road, Norwich. Free with museum admission. Celebrate Earth Day by learning how much carbon trees can store, touring the Montshire's Compost Plaza, and observing composting critters in action. Activities are designed for all ages. montshire.org.

Kids Oil Painting

11 a.m.-noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$25. Ages 6-12 can learn the Alla Prima oil technique—painting wet-on-wet in one sitting—with instructor Spencer Pelkey. All supplies included. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Winter Season Pass Holder Appreciation Party

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. K-1 Lodge, Killington Road, Killington. Free lunch for eligible pass holders, giveaways, and raffle prizes. Group photo for the 100 Day Club at 11:30 a.m. near the outdoor stage, followed by a raffle drawing at 3:15 p.m. during Dazed and Defrosted. Passes eligible: Beast 365, Winter 24/25, and Midweek. killington.com.

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-100066761013097/.

Dazed and Defrosted

11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Killington Resort, slope side of K-1 Lodge, Killington. Celebrate spring with Killington's annual music festival featuring live performances by The Dirty Water Dance Band and Diggin Dirt, a 100 Day Club photo at 11:30 a.m., and a season pass holder appreciation lunch from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. followed by a raffle at 3:15 p.m. Beast 365, Winter 24/25, and Midweek pass holders receive free lunch with pass. killington.com.

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

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

Teen Oil Painting

12:30-2:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$30. Teens ages 12-17 will explore the Alla Prima oil technique—wet-on-wet painting in one sitting—guided by instructor Spencer Pelkey. All supplies included. chaffeeartcenter.org.

PoemTown Live Reading at Kimball Library

1-3 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 N. Main St., Randolph. Free. Vermont poets Ina Anderson and Danny Dover will read as part of PoemTown Randolph. Copies of the 2025 PoemTown anthology will be available for \$15. For more information, visit poemtowntown.org.

Cyanotype aka Sun Printing

2-4 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$30. Learn the camera-free photographic technique of cyanotype printing using light-sensitive chemicals to create nature-inspired prints on paper or fabric. Bring your own item (denim recommended) or choose from Kaleidoscope's vintage room with a \$5 store credit. All ages welcome. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Bridgewater Grange Easter Potluck

6 p.m. Bridgewater Grange #284, 129 Route 100A, Bridgewater Corners. Free. Community potluck gathering—bring a dish to share. All are welcome. facebook.com/groups/90556951117.

Garrison Keillor 'Tonight'

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$40-\$60. An evening of stand-up, storytelling, poetry, and song with Garrison Keillor, featuring reflections on aging and a visit to Lake Wobegon. paramountvt.org.

Art Soup

7-8:30 p.m. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, 45 Alumni Dr., Castleton. Free, donations accepted. A collaborative performance by VTSU Castleton students, faculty, and staff, featuring music, dance, theater, and visual art. Soundings students may only attend one performance for credit; no signup required. Marisa. Valent@VermontState.edu.

Film Screening: 'Black Bag'

7:30-8:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. A spy drama about intelligence agent George Woodhouse and his wife Kathryn, whose loyalty is questioned in the face of betrayal. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender. woodstocktownhalltheatre.org.

Film Screening: 'Minecraft'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Jack Black stars in this PG comedy based on the global hit world-building online game. playhouseflicks.com.

SUN
4/20

Easter Sunrise Service

5:30 a.m. Killington Peak Lodge, Killington. Gondola loading, at 5:30 a.m. with 6:45 a.m. service. Free with ticket. **SOLD OUT**—waitlist available. Begin Easter Sunday with a gondola ride and non-denominational sunrise service at the Peak Lodge, followed by a community breakfast. Proceeds benefit Vermont Farmers Food Center. Service may move to K-1 Base Lodge if weather requires. killington.com.

Easter Sunrise Gathering

6:30 a.m. Ashcroft-Billings Farm, 731 Creek Road, Rutland Town. Free. Grace Congregational United Church of Christ hosts an outdoor Easter sunrise gathering. gracechurchvt.org.

Easter Gathering

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. missionfarmvt.org.

Easter Celebration Service

10 a.m. Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St., Rutland. Free. Celebrate Easter with Festival Brass, Timpani, Handbells, and Bagpipes. gracechurchvt.org.

Easter Service in the Sanctuary

10-11 a.m. North Chapel Church, 7 Church St., Woodstock.

Easter Service

10-11 a.m. Sherburne United Church of Christ, 4173 Route 4, Killington. killingtonucc.org.

Film Screening: 'Black Bag'

3-4:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. A spy drama about intelligence agent George Woodhouse and his wife Kathryn, whose loyalty is questioned in the face of betrayal. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender. woodstocktownhalltheatre.org.

MON
4/21

Bone Builders

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

Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. This week's film is "The Last Rifleman," starring Pierce Brosnan. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

Modeling Climate Change Workshop

5:30 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free hands-on workshop for adults presented by Vermont Energy Education Program with support from Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity. Explore how greenhouse gases work and impact our climate, led by educator Julian Leon. 228-8921 or fmlnews.org.

WINTER SEASON PASS HOLDER APPRECIATION PARTY

SAT @ 11 A.M.-2:30 P.M.



Caring for House Plants

7 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Join Nancy Bernier and Mary Ashcroft of the Rutland Chapter UVM Extension Master Gardeners for a talk on the essential elements of houseplant care. Learn about light, soil, watering, humidity, and propagation techniques to keep indoor gardens thriving—without breaking the bank. rutlandrec.com.

TUES
4/22

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.

Death, Dying & Danishes

2:45 p.m. Young at Heart Senior Center, 206 Furnace St., Poultney. Free. Purchases encouraged at host sites. The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region hosts this open community conversation about end-of-life topics. Led by hospice volunteers, the group creates a relaxed atmosphere for discussing death, dying, grief, and life's meaning over coffee, tea, and baked goods. All ages welcome. For details, contact Mary Pleasant at 802-442-0540 or mary.pleasant@vnahrs.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.

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.

Anti Cabin Fever Dinner Supports Youth

Reforestation Trip

6-9 p.m. North Universalist Chapel, 7 Church St., Woodstock. \$20/adult, \$10/child. Enjoy a 3-course meal prepared by Executive Chef Matthew McClure of the Woodstock Inn & Resort to support Change The World Kids' annual reforestation trip to Costa Rica. The dinner is part of the group's winter Anti Cabin Fever fundraising series. All proceeds benefit environmental restoration efforts. Cash only at the door. To register: 646-708-1780 or changetheworldkids@gmail.com.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
4.16

LUDLOW

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND

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

SOUTH POMFRET

6:30 p.m. Artistree – Acoustic Jam Session hosted by Kerry Rosenthal

THUR
4.17

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

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 – Sammy B

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Trivia 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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe – Trivia Night

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Nat & Em

FRI
4.18

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Sammy B

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Liz Reedy

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Caillie Hughes

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel

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

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Joe Samba with special guest Crooked Coast

PITTSFIELD

6 p.m. Clear River Tavern – The Cosmic Cows

8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Outer Style

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – George Nostrand

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Katie Dobbins

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Kind Bud

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

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

SAT
4.19

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – John Lyons

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with headliner Max Higgins and support from Alex St. Louis

CHESTER

12:30 p.m. Down To The Roots – Sammy B

2:45 p.m. Down To The Roots – Max Cassano

KILLINGTON

1:30 p.m. K1 Base Lodge (Outdoor Stage) – Dazed and Defrosted with music by The Dirty Water Dance Band

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredice

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

4 p.m. K1 Base Lodge (Outdoor Stage) – Dazed and Defrosted with music by Diggin Dirt

6 p.m. Killington Cafe & Wine Bar – Rhys Chalmers

6 p.m. Rivershed – Caillie Hughes

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Sammy B

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Aaron Audet Band

PITTSFORD

7 p.m. Hilltop Tavern – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Carl Anton

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Sandiland and Vincent

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Frogz

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Theta Waves

SUN
4.20

BRIDGEWATER

7 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with headliner Josh Day and a ton of special 4/20 prizes and surprises

CHESTER

1 p.m. Down To The Roots – Sammy B

3:15 p.m. Down To The Roots – Max Cassano

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

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

QUECHEE

2 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Jim Yeager

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
4.21

KILLINGTON

5 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Tboneicus Jones

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

RUTLAND

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Ali T

TUES
4.22

CASTLETON

7 p.m. Casella Theater – Comfort Women

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

Rockin the Region with The Dirty Water Dance Band



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

If you didn't get the opportunity to see The Dirty Water Dance Band (DWDB) at Killington Resort's Cooler in the Mountains concert series in 2023, you're in luck because Killington is bringing them back this Saturday, April 19, outside the K1 Base Lodge, as part of Dazed and Defrosted at 1:30 p.m. They share the bill with Diggin Dirt.

The Dirty Water Dance Band is a six-piece band fronted by husband and wife duo Josh and Melissa

Ayala.

Speaking with Josh Ayala, he described the band as high-energy.

"We adapt classic covers," Ayala said. "We play stuff like the Grateful Dead but make it our own. We don't play it like you hear on the radio. We make our own adaptation of it. We're working on our first album, so we're pushing some of those originals. We're a big band of talented people. Anyone on the stage could run their own band, but we all do it together."

DWDB consists of Ayala on vocals and guitar, his wife Melissa on vocals,

George Smith on organ/keys/vocals, Jake "One-take Jake" Goodwin on guitar, Carl Hedin on bass, and a fill-in drummer Alex Brander from BIG D and the Kid's Table, who tour all "over the world."

"The band has three lead singers, all of whom are songwriters too," Ayala said. "There are a lot of harmonies going on. The guitar players give you an Allman Brothers feel."

Although the DWDB has been together for eight years, many band members have played together for up to 20 years.

Because DWDB's approach to covers is not to merely imitate the original, Ayala said it's caused the band some hiccups in the past.

"I was so stubborn in the beginning when we started to play music. We couldn't get jobs because we wouldn't play all the Top 40 stuff. It took a long time to get to that point of 'Oh, this is what these guys do,' and then for people to expect it. Now, they would be shocked if we played a straight-up tune. We haven't even played a song the same way twice. Some of these we're recording as our own version."

DWDB has been putting together an album in their Ayala's basement recording studio for a while now, but they plan

Rockin' →21



Submitted

Dirty Water Dance Band



BLUES DUO

You on acoustic guitar
and me on harmonica

MRBLUES (802) 775-3546

MUSIC HELP WANTED

Blues from the 1920's & 30's era.....thru today

Killington's Dazed and Defrosted returns with live music, spring vibes, and season pass perks

Saturday, April 19 at 11 a.m.—KILLINGTON—Killington Resort is sending off the season in style with its annual Dazed and Defrosted spring celebration. Known for its lively atmosphere, free live music, and nod to the season's most dedicated skiers and riders, the event will take place slope side of the K-1 Lodge and is open to all.

The festivities kick off on Saturday at 11 a.m. with the Season Pass Holder Appreciation Lunch on the K-1 Lodge patio. Eligible pass holders—including Beast 365, Winter 24/25, and Midweek—can present their pass for a complimentary BBQ lunch. Passholders will also be automatically entered into a raffle drawing scheduled for 3:15 p.m. on the

outdoor stage. Ikon, Pico, and Spring pass holders are not eligible for the free lunch.

The festivities continue with a special group photo for the resort's prestigious 100 Day Club members at 11:30 a.m., followed by an afternoon filled with music and community spirit. Cape Cod's own Dirty Water Dance Band takes the stage at 1:30 p.m., delivering their signature blend of rock, reggae, and soul—what they call “dirty reggae soul.”

At 4 p.m., California-based funk-soul powerhouse Diggin Dirt will headline the festival, bringing their electrifying sound and high-energy presence to Killington. With musical influences ranging from James Brown and Tower

of Power to afrobeat and psychedelic rock, Diggin Dirt is widely regarded as a must-see live act.

Dazed and Defrosted is more than a concert—it's a community gathering that embodies the joy of spring skiing, mountain culture, and camaraderie that defines Killington. Guests are encouraged to show off their best spring attire and make the most of one of the final mountain events of the season.

All activities and entertainment are free and open to the public, though event details are subject to change.

For more information and schedule updates, visit: killington.com.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Left: Skiers and riders enjoy a previous Dazed and Defrosted event at Killington Resort. This year's event will occur on Saturday, April 19 at 11 a.m. and will feature the bands Diggin Dirt and Dirty Water Dance Band (Middle). Right: Past Dazed and Defrosted attendees enjoyed food, drink, and entertainment.

The sandwich boys are ready to serve!

Maxie's Deli at 93 State St. in Rutland is the place to go for subs when looking for a stacked sandwich at a fair price.

On this evening, sub-making gurus Aiden Farrell and Chris Wideawake stood ready to make two large steak-and-cheeses and a large spicy turkey sub for a hungry customer.

Maxie's is a true delicatessen experience. Whether you're stopping in for lunch or grabbing dinner on the go, the team of sandwich artists is ready to build your perfect sub, exactly how you want it.



By James Kent

(Left to right) Sub-making specialists Aiden Farrell and Chris Wideawake prepare to take a dinner order.

Outer Style to perform at the Clear River Tavern in Pittsfield

Stop by the Clear River Tavern in Pittsfield this Friday, April 18, at 8 p.m. to catch Nate Martel and his four-piece psychedelic rock band Outer Style. If you can get there early, Space Mooves & The Cosmic Cows kick off the evening at 6 p.m.

Outer Style started in 2008 at UMass Amherst. Joining Martel (guitar/vocals) are Monte Arnstam (drums), John Duffy (drums), and Chris Ball (bass). They just released a single, “The Source,” available on every streaming service and YouTube. Outer Style has released three albums, but only one is streaming online, their 2016 release, “Puzzles.”

For those attending Friday's show, Martel set the expectations of the band's collection of psych-rock originals, where the vibe hands at the intersection of 1970s and 1990s boulevards with a right turn onto Presentville.

“It's like if Black Sabbath meets Soundgarden meets Queens of the Stone Age. It's heavy, not jammy,” said Martel. “We bridge

the gap between heavy rock and jam rock.”

Although Outer Style's home base is western Massachusetts, where they are

Outer Style → 23



Submitted

Outer Style will perform at the Clear River Tavern in Pittsfield on Friday, April 18.

Mentor Bowl rolls strikes to support youth mentoring in Rutland County

Saturday, May 17, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.—RUTLAND — Community members, local businesses, and youth will gather at Rutland Bowlerama on May 17 for a day of bowling, music, and fundraising at The Mentor Connector’s 17th annual Mentor Bowl. With a galactic theme of “Mentoring is Out of This world,” this year’s event aims to raise \$25,000 in support of youth mentoring and transitional living programs across Rutland County.

The Mentor Bowl, held at the Rutland Bowlerama, includes two bowling sessions at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., with teams of four or individual participants, who are encouraged to raise funds in advance. A minimum of \$75 is required per person or \$300 per team, which includes two rounds of bowling, shoe rental, a t-shirt, and access to the popular basket raffle and 50/50 drawing. Sunset Entertainment will provide music, and food will be available on-site.

Now in its 17th year, the Mentor Bowl is the signature fundraising event for The Mentor Connector, a nonprofit that provides one-on-one mentoring relationships and transitional living support to vulnerable youth in the region. Proceeds from the event will directly support mentoring outreach and case management programs, helping local youth build confidence, social skills, and life-long assets that foster long-term success.

Since its founding in 2004, The Mentor Connector has supported over 1,000 young people in western Vermont through mentoring programs emphasizing skill-building, goal-setting, and character development. The organization also works with schools and community partners to establish regional mentoring initiatives.

“The request for youth mentors continues to exceed our volunteer capacity,” said organizers. “With your support, we can expand our reach and provide even more opportunities for young people to thrive.”

In addition to mentoring, The Mentor Connector also operates a transitional living program (TLP), created in 2020, that offers housing, case management, and aftercare services for runaway and homeless youth ages 16 to 22. In 2023, 92% of TLP participants transitioned into permanent, stable housing.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations are invited to support the Mentor Bowl through sponsorships, team participation, volunteering, or donating raffle items. Community members are also encouraged to join the event’s development committee or lend a hand during the event itself.

To sign up, donate, or learn more, visit: mentorconnector.com/bowling. For questions or donations, email bowling@mentorconnector.com or call (802) 775-3434.



Courtesy Mentor Connector

Participants of a past Mentor Bowl event posed with their team name, the Gutter Fingers.

Rockin': from page 19

on releasing a single or two this spring.

“Every member of the band has two kids each, all under the ages of 10, so everybody is in the thick of it, plus with us all not being in the same town, it’s hard to get it all together,” Ayala said of the long-gestating album. “Having our own studio makes it the slowest process ever, compared to renting somewhere and going in for a weekend. We’re trying to do it all ourselves. Melissa has written a lot of lyrics for the album. The style we made fits the way we cover a song. That’s definitely our sound for the originals.”

Ayala’s been writing music for nearly 22 years and playing guitar for almost as long.

One of his major influences is Bob Dylan, and his favorite type of song to write is one where people interpret his words and come up with what they think it’s about.

“I have a song that sounds like you lost your best friend, but it’s about missing a place we used to play with a community of musicians because we lost that place. It sounds like a love song, but really, it’s me missing this bar.”

DWDB calls what they do musical therapy, and they’ll be on call to administer plenty of it this Saturday at Killington.

For more information, go to: thedirtywaterdanceband.com.



Submitted

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Courtesy Killington Café & Wine Bar

The Killington Café & Wine Bar, opened in November 2024, has transformed into a culinary hotspot with expanded brunch, lunch, and dinner menus featuring local ingredients, and plans for a renovation and new offerings like wine tastings and pairing dinners when it reopens on July 2.

From charcuterie to crème brûlée donuts, The Killington Café & Wine Bar evolves into a full culinary destination

By James Kent

What began as a cozy wine-and-charcuterie hideaway tucked inside the Spa at the Woods building has blossomed into one of Killington’s most exciting new dining experiences. Since its opening in November 2024, the Killington Café & Wine Bar has steadily evolved its menu from simple small bites to elevated but approachable cuisine in a relaxed and inviting space.

With just a few weeks left in the season—the final day before a six-week renovation closure is May 18—the wine bar encourages visitors and locals alike to drop in for its expanded brunch, lunch, and dinner menus, available Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

A brunch worth waking up for

The Mountain Times recently sampled the Wine Bar’s standout stuffed French toast, made with Irish cream, fresh strawberries, and mascarpone and topped with warm Vermont maple syrup and thick-sliced bacon. The verdict? Ridiculous—in the best possible way. Also unforgettable: the maple candied bacon, originally a topping that became so popular it earned a spot on the appetizer menu all on its own.

This responsiveness to customer feedback is a hallmark of the Wine Bar’s approach. “People started asking if they could

just order the bacon, so we added it,” said general manager and co-owner Joe Cuzzo. “Same with the deviled eggs—they started as a filler, and now they’re a staple.”

Cuzzo, who originally came to Killington for a ski season and ended up owning a wine bar, admitted that one of the past year’s biggest surprises was how much could be done with a minimal kitchen setup. “We didn’t have a full kitchen—just two burners and a convection oven—but we were still turning out great food,” he said. Plans are underway to install new heavy-duty equipment and a full stove during the June closure.

Locally rooted, globally inspired



Thanks to rising demand and executive chef Avery Chipka’s creativity, the kitchen has produced everything from deviled eggs to wagyu hot dogs, shrimp scampi, and baked crème brûlée donuts.

Local sourcing plays a significant role in the Killington Café & Wine Bar’s


identity.

“We work with Cavendish Game Birds for quail eggs, shop farmer’s markets in Rutland and Woodstock, and our cheeses are all local,” said Cuzzo. “Even our duck eggs—those are 1,000% local.”

Wine Bar →26



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Straighten the rug one last time for Val Kilmer

Val Kilmer (December 31, 1959-April 1, 2025) is gone. While celebrities pass on, as do we all, sometimes a loss hits home harder than others. Why? It's difficult to say. But for this filmgoer of a certain age, Kilmer was a part of that '80s experience. He left an impression, and although his health issues of the past decade shortened his career, Kilmer put together a filmography of memorable performances that will last for decades to come.

Kilmer admirers have their camps. Some think first and foremost of his role in "Tombstone," as Doc Holliday. Without Kilmer's iconic performance as Holliday, would the film be considered the modern classic it is today? I don't think so.

Others prefer their Kilmer, ice-cold. Ice, as in Lt. Tom "Iceman" Kazansky in 1986's "Top Gun," a role he'd reprise

in 2022's "Top Gun: Maverick," his final onscreen performance.

Then there is "The Doors," where Kilmer slipped effortlessly into the role of Jim Morrison. It's the film that, when looked upon now, it's difficult to believe Kilmer wasn't nominated for an Oscar. The film, not a big box office hit, is now iconic, as in many of the films he starred or featured.

For me, the Kilmer I love is the comedian Kilmer. Straight out of the gate, his first two film roles were leads in two '80s comedies, 1984's "Top Secret," and 1985's "Real Genius." Both films were box office duds. It's hard to imagine that now, but it's true. A spoof of war movies from the makers of "Airplane" wasn't something people wanted to see. I went to the theater that summer and saw it with my sister. My first reaction was it wasn't very funny, and I didn't like the lead. Boy, did I call that one wrong.

"Real Genius" is a film I didn't even want to see. It came to theaters and went within a week during the summer of 1985, part of a wave of science comedy films that came out that sum-

mer, along with "Weird Science" and "My Science Project." All three films were duds, although "Weird Science" has since become part of the problematic John Hughes legacy and still holds a few inappropriate laughs.

After "Real Genius" had left my local Massachusetts multiplex, I caught an episode of "At the Movies" with Siskel and Ebert. They reviewed director Martha Coolidge's science comedy and hailed it as one of the smartest, funniest films of the summer. I was shocked, and now I wanted to see this film I'd taken for granted.

Flash forward to the spring of 1986. My parents were watching HBO and began watching some film that had started 10 minutes or so earlier. Pretty soon, I was hooked on watching the film, something none of us knew what it was. It was hilarious and brilliant. The film was "Real Genius," and it featured a brash, sassy, sarcastic, and star-making performance by Val Kilmer. I didn't realize this was the same actor from "Top Secret." My family must have watched "Real Genius" a dozen times over the months after. The movie still

Kilmer→25



Screens and Streams
By James Kent

Outer Stylie: from page 21

annual staples at the Wormtown event and will be playing at this year's StrangeCreek Campout Memorial Day weekend, Martel also does a solo show. He recently played at the Public House in Quechee.

"It was cool; it's a fun little spot. It was snowing so it made the ride home a little difficult. It's always snowing when I'm up there," said Martel.

In addition to his solo shows and work with Outer Stylie, Martel also plays in a funk/soul/rock organ trio called Beast Mode, which will perform at Marigold in Brattleboro on May 8.

Juggling three different jobs is no sweat for Martel. Music is his full-time job, and all of his life experiences go into his songwriting.

"It's great to be doing something I love, most days of the week," Martel said of his passion, which he's been doing professionally since he was 16. "Music really connects everyone who listens to it. That connectivity is the purest art form to me. It's great to be able to express myself doing that, doing what I love, and other people enjoy it too."

Submitted

Catch Outer Stylie, a psychedelic rock band led by Nate Martel, performing at the Clear River Tavern in Pittsfield this Friday, April 18, at 8 p.m., with Space Mooves & The Cosmic Cows opening at 6 p.m.



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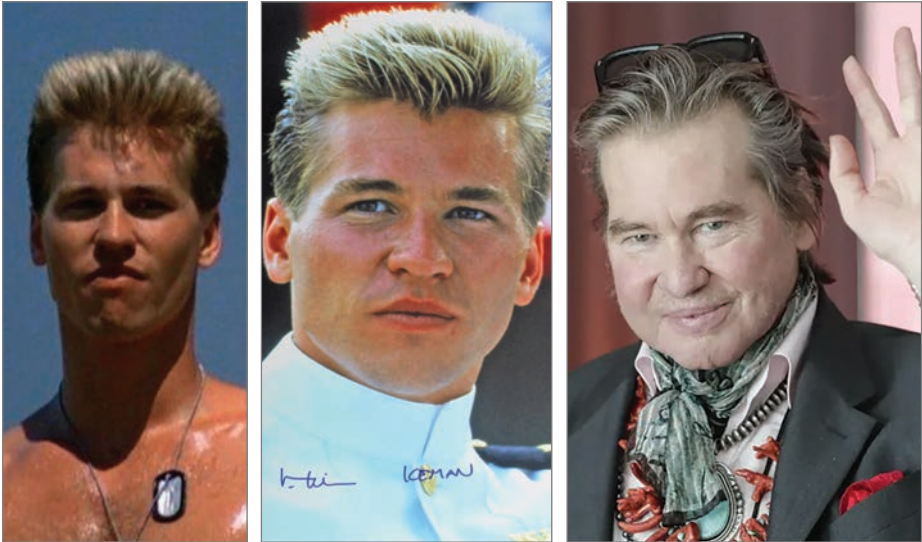
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**GOT
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Kilmer:
from page 23

stands as one of my favorite comedies. Twenty years ago, a revival house held a screening of “Real Genius.” I went as a fan and expected maybe a handful of admirers would attend a frosty winter’s evening showing. The screening was a sell-out, with people dressed up as characters and cheering when certain people showed up on screen. Those who only know actor Jon Gries from his turn as Greg on “White Lotus” may be surprised to see a much longer-haired version of him appear in “Real Genius.”

Not a hard argument: Kilmer is the best part of Ron Howard’s 1988 film, “Willow” as the humorous warrior Madmartigan. To no fault of Kilmer’s, this film was another in a string of box office disappointments that plagued his early career, except “Top Gun,” where Kilmer had a supporting role.

“The Doors” pushed Kilmer into a more serious direction, and I was a bit sorry to see Kilmer shed his comedy roles in favor of the more serious brooding ones of “Batman Forever,” “The Saint,” and “Heat.” By now, I had discovered the pure genius of “Top Secret,” and Kilmer’s hilarious performance as Nick Rivers singing hits like “Skeet Surfing” and “Straighten the Rug.”

Prior to Kilmer’s cancer diagnosis and speech loss, he wasn’t in a lot of films. But in the 2000s, he put on a couple of iconic performances that I love. The first is in the criminally underseen “Salton Sea.” The film is a neo-noir with Kilmer as a man seeking his revenge for the murder of his wife at the hands of meth dealers. The second great Kilmer performance of the 2000s found him doing comedy again, as private detective “Gay” Perry van Shrike in the 2005 comedy noir, “Kiss Kiss Bang Bang.” The film barely got a theatrical release (although I did catch it at a screening,) but it has since found a cult audience thanks to the career re-emergence of Robert Downey Jr. after “Iron Man.”



I rattled off a bunch of titles, and I’m sure people have their personal favorites, and maybe a Kilmer performance I didn’t list. I’ll have to reconcile the fact there will be no more Val Kilmer movies to come, but I take comfort that he left behind enough iconic roles for me to go back to and enjoy. Maybe tonight, I’ll straighten the rug.

James Kent is the arts editor at the Mountain Times.


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## Wine Bar: from page 22

One unique adjustment came from both creativity and practicality. “When chicken egg prices went crazy, switching to duck eggs was not only cost-effective but also gave us something different from other places,” Cuzzo explained. “They’re richer, creamier, and they make the scrambled eggs taste like double the portion.”

The Killington Café & Wine Bar is the brainchild of co-owner Howard Levine. “It started as a passion project for Howard,” said Cuzzo. “He loves wine, and he’s still deeply involved.”

Cuzzo, who stepped into the role of co-owner after managing the operation, brings a hospitality background and a fresh perspective. “I never intended to live in Vermont full-time or own a wine bar,” he said with a laugh. But after a whirlwind first season of seven-day workweeks, learning to bartend, managing a full-service restaurant, and expanding the menu, he’s fully in.

### Looking ahead

When the Wine Bar reopens on July 2, guests can expect an even more dialed-in

experience. Plans include a more expansive charcuterie bar, new seating configurations, and added events like wine tastings and pairing dinners.

“There’s a lot of intimidation around wine,” Cuzzo said. “We’re looking to do tastings that help people learn what they like. You can’t understand words like

‘tannic’ or ‘oaky’ until you taste and compare. That’s how I learned.”

### Don’t miss your window

Until May 18, the Killington Café & Wine Bar is open Thursday through Sunday for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Brunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., lunch from

1:30 to 5 p.m. with dinner from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and late-night bites available until 9 p.m. or later “if the vibes are right.” There’s even a kid’s menu available, so there’s a food option available for everyone’s taste.

The Killington Café & Wine Bar will be open on Easter and Mother’s Day.

To explore the full menu or learn more about upcoming offerings and events, visit: [killingtonwinebar.com](http://killingtonwinebar.com).

There’s a lot of intimidation around wine,” Cuzzo said. “We’re looking to do tastings that help people learn what they like. You can’t understand words like ‘tannic’ or ‘oaky’ until you taste and compare.



By James Kent

Killington Café & Wine Bar general manager and co-owner Joe Cuzzo made a Bloody Mary for a customer at brunch on Thursday, April 10.



By James Kent

The stuffed French toast at the Killington Café & Wine Bar might be from another planet.

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# From the shadows: How Gotham's owls occupied Wall Street



**Off the Shelf**  
By Patrick Wise

this big kid may not be tucked under a midnight blanket dome with a flashlight, a Zagnut in one hand, and a comic in the other—but thanks to Jon's encouragement, I'm there in my mind.

This 2011 Batman graphic novel, written by Scott Snyder and illustrated by Greg Capullo, shines bright with its gripping, dark-themed glow and precise craftsmanship. The cover is ferocious and at full gloss as Batman violently attacks the page. Its interior is equally remarkable. Intricate line work offers up a bristled, moody tone. The color palette—blues, blacks, and reds—anchors the drama. The stark black serves as white space, giving the detailed compositions and intense action room to breathe, adding vivid tension throughout the book.

Submitted  
*Vulture emerged to raid the icebox.*

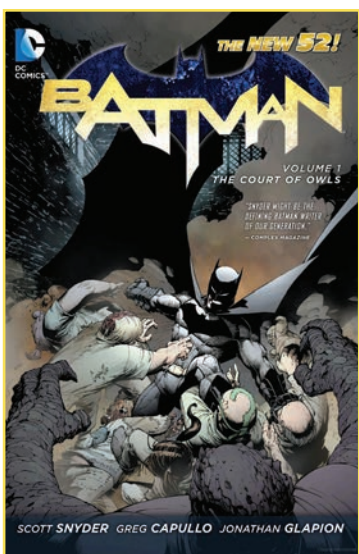
The comic's story hinges on the Court of Owls—an ancient, secret society of Gotham's most powerful

elites. For over a century, the court has controlled Gotham from beyond the curtained veil of the underground. Muscle and fear are the Owls' chief diplomats. These agents of control reach out from the shadows. When Batman discovers the society, he is extended into a larger world where he uncovers corrupt, hidden powers that have lurked for ages.

Enter the real world. Starting from Battery Park, head northward on Broadway, passing the Charging Bull statue, and continue toward the Financial District to Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange. Keep going north to reach Zuccotti Park, where Occupy Wall Street was held. Here's where the pencil leaves the page, and the mind re-engages—taking the story to a whole new level. I wouldn't have recognized it as a kid, but now it redefines what comics mean in adulthood, intersecting the line between fiction and reality, revealing common threads while adding a new layer of depth.

Hang a mirror image of "Bateman: Court of Owls" upside down and let it dangle in the back of the mind. It becomes a symbolic placekeeper of the real-world corruption of the 2008 financial collapse, Occupy Wall Street, and the resulting turmoil. As I made the connection, the narrative's contours elevated the story beyond elementary comic structure into a legitimate work of visual art and compelling narrative—more than just a superhero tale.

"Court of Owls," reflective of The Wall St. financial crisis, which had been fueled by shady mortgage deals and an array of



Courtesy Mentor Connector  
*Batman Court of Owls, Vol. 1*

deceptive tactics used by Goldman Sachs and other financial giants to profit off ordinary people. The reminiscent similarities echoed in the Court of Owls' control over Gotham were strikingly similar. Both operated in secret, playing the part of master of puppets, pulling strings while the public paid the price.

During the peak of its tension, the book reveals Batman's struggle as he is trapped in the Court's underground labyrinth. He is disoriented and panicked, a situation echoing the confusion felt by many during the financial crisis and its maze of disdain. As the Bat fights to reclaim Gotham, so too did Zuccotti Park occupiers push back against elite systems and the shady dealings of Wall Street's immoral money machine.

The book's pacing twists the dial from slow boil to rising tension and resolution. There's a measured setup in Act One, disorientation in Act Two, a crescendo surge in Act Three, and a climax in Act Four. Through this arc, each beat reflects the frenzied period of societal unrest in 2011, reminding us of the fight against hidden elites. Snyder and Capullo capture deep issues of power and control.

As a kid shining a flashlight at the pages underneath that old blanket dome comic fort, the light revealed the masked vigilantes' majestic flapping cape and flying fists. But as an adult, that same light reveals a larger world. The Zagnut wrapper remains—alongside the thrill of discovery and the unraveling of truths—transforming this story into something far more powerful.

## CLAWS

BY PATRICK WISE

WAKE UP!!!

WHOA! I WAS JUST DREAMING I WAS A SUPERHERO VIGILANTE ABOUT TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE KINGPIN OF THE UNDERWORLD, AKA THE RATKING! THANKS FOR WAKING ME... ANYWAY, WHAT'S UP DUDE?

WELL...I'VE BEEN WONDERING... YOU EVER THINK HUMANS MAKE THINGS TOO COMPLICATED?

LIKE TAXES? OR RELATIONSHIPS? OR POLITICS? OR VACATIONING? OR THE LUNAR LANDING? OR THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM

I WAS THINKING CALENDARS. THEY TURNED A SUNRISE INTO A 9 A.M. MEETING.

THAT'S WHY I SLEEP THROUGH ALL SUNRISES.

THEY CHASE HAPPINESS LIKE IT'S HIDING UNDER A COUCH.

IT USUALLY IS. ALONG WITH THE REMOTE AND LOST SOCKS.

THEY INVENTED CLOCKS... AND NOW COMPLAIN ABOUT NOT HAVING TIME.

CLASSIC MOVE. LIKE BUYING A TREADMILL AND USING IT TO HANG LAUNDRY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'D LEARN IF THEY JUST SAT STILL FOR AN HOUR?

MAYBE THEY'D LEARN THAT... THE ANSWER TO LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE TOO, IS HIDING IN PLACES RIGHT UNDER YOUR SHOE! IT'S QUIET, IT'S SNEAKY, IT HUMS SOFT AND LOW—YOU'D HEAR IT IF ONLY YOU'D SLOW DOWN YOUR GO! BUT MOST FOLKS ARE BUSY, THEY RUSH AND THEY RACE, WITH TO-DO LISTS AND MEETINGS ALL OVER THE PLACE. SO THE ANSWER JUST GIGGLES AND HIDES IN PLAIN SIGHT, WAITING FOR THOSE WHO 'R LISTENING RIGHT



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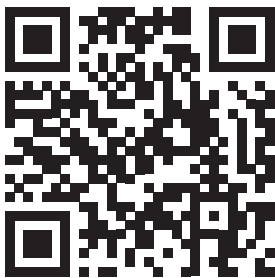
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Solutions

From page 15

Crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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RUTLAND COUNTY



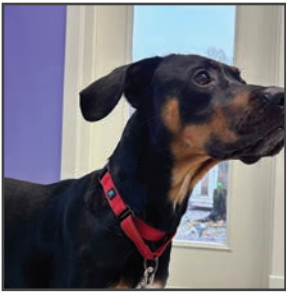
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Pearl—2-year-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic  
shorthair. Torti.



Moose—1 ½-year-old.  
Neutered male. Rottweiler/  
hound mix. Black/tan.



Odin—3-year-old. Male.  
Rottweiler. Black/tan.



Lady—11-month-old.  
Spayed female. Coon-  
hound. Red.

Sudoku

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



Maizy—3 ½-year-old.  
Female. Great Pyrenees.  
White.



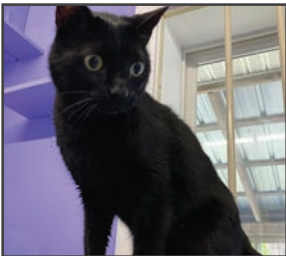
Izzy—2 ½-year-old.  
Spayed female. Pitbull terrier/  
boxer mix. Brown/white.



Stormy—4 ½-year-old.  
Spayed female. Great Pyrenees.  
White.



Grover—6-month-old.  
Male. Hamster. Cream.



Archie—5-year-old.  
Neutered male. Domestic  
shorthair. Black.



Muffin—2-year-old.  
Neutered male. Domestic  
shorthair. Black.



Marleen—4-year-old.  
Spayed female. Collie mix.  
Black/white.



Emma—1-year-old. Female.  
Terrier mix. Brindle/  
white.

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# Cosmic Catalogue



## Aries

March 21 - April 20

The trials and tribulations you've experienced on the home front will draw to a close this week. Your mission now is to focus on fun. Don't play to win; play to play. You'll be much happier when you return to an attitude of joy rather than finding battles where they don't exist. If that means you have to walk away from something or someone, that may be what you have to do. Hard choices now will serve you well later.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

You've been chomping at the bit to make progress on something that has continually stalled or seemingly failed. You could be tempted to give up or give in at this point, but hang in there. Access to opportunity may feel thin on the ground now, but it's just about testing you to see how badly you want it. These challenges are strong but remind yourself that you are stronger. Don't seek external approval if you don't approve of yourself first.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

If you had wide horizons and exciting visions for your future when the year began, do remember them. While you may have been bereft of the progress you wanted, you have a second chance now. It's quite possible you weren't wanting enough or settling for way less than you deserve. Don't make that error again. Double down on your dreams and aspirations and commit to them. You have enough information to move forward.



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Any issues you've had with a friend, group, or community will begin to subside this week. You may also realize that those you thought were in your corner are not. Don't be shy about standing your ground or having your value recognized and respected. Speak up if you need to, but also be prepared to walk away. Draw your line. Focusing on family can help you step away from the drama.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

The battles you've endured with friends or colleagues will soon come to an end. As such, you'll be able to fully enjoy the benefits and blessings your career or your recent life direction opportunities have afforded you. As the confusion surrounding relationships of all types subsides, remember you also get to decide with whom you want to remain in company with and whom you do not. It doesn't have to be your problem to fix problems all of the time.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

It's not always easy to decide whether to give up, give in, or stay in the fight. Relationships of all kinds – personal and professional, haven't been easy for you so far this year. You did what you had to do, so now it's time to wait. Don't overthink. Don't analyze. One way or another, a better outcome isn't far away. Hold true to your boundaries, and everything else will work out as it should.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

This year has tested you in a variety of ways, especially involving your self-confidence and cash. This test has really helped you to level up and demand more out of life, more out of yourself, and more out of others. Sometimes, what you choose to reject allows the opportunity for more. Jupiter is still in your sign, so embrace saying Yes now that you have the wisdom to know what you actually want.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Your professional path or your overall life direction has been fraught with obstacles so far this year. To say it's been a grind is an understatement. That said, if you've applied yourself, even when you didn't feel like it, the rewards are not far behind. In the meantime, continue fine-tuning your time and energy management routines. Working harder does not always equate to the outcomes you want. A little bit of faith will go a long way now.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Relationships – especially the ones you have with yourself and regarding money – may show signs of resolving this week. Delays and confusion have all been a part of the plan for you to get more decisive about what you deserve. This has been a lengthy progress, but the light is at the end of the tunnel. Do avoid slipping into old habits or old beliefs now. You haven't come this far to come this far.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

The sigh of relief you'll experience this week will be felt from all corners of the globe. You've endured a great test this year, and the good news is that it ends now. Continue to cut your teeth when it comes to your confidence, self-esteem, or any financial issues. The next couple of months is about faking it until you make it, and before you know it, you made it.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

This week, you'll get the chance to return to your New Year / New Me goals. Except this time around, you are stronger and wiser than you were before – if that is even possible! A return to joy and playfulness will help put a spring in your step, so do say yes for opportunities to do more of what makes you smile. That said, dare to say no to whatever doesn't and commit to it.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Your personal upgrade, whether that be your appearance, attitude, habits, or all of the above, is complete. Your mission now is to commit to those choices and decisions. For some Pisceans, you may be ready to throw in the proverbial towel, but remembering the effort and toil you've endured thus far may be worth remembering. Sometimes you need to cut and run. Other times, you just need to grind things out for a little bit longer.

## Hit the refresh button



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

Your 2025 trial period ends this week as Mars returns to the sign it started the year in. The long and arduous journey of retrogrades has now come to completion.

This week brings an opportunity to hit the refresh button. This isn't just about starting over; it's about starting better. Don't discount the fact that hardship, difficulty, and challenges generate deep wisdom.

Spiritual teachings reflect that in order to access more light, energy, or more of what you desire, something has to break first. This is the test to see how much you actually want what you said you wanted. Too often, people give up at the first obstacle or when the fear of failure sets in. What if you gave something just one more shot? Would you hit your target?

If you've overcome challenges, surmounted obstacles, healed wounds from your past, faced limiting beliefs, or ignored the naysayers and continued on your path, congratulations! Remind yourself of where you were on January 1; chances are, you're in exactly the same place.

What has changed is that you are no longer the same person. You're battle-scarred, stronger, and wiser, and you know what you stand for. This makes you unstoppable.

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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.



## Vernal pools: Nursery for amphibians, buffet for predators

When the winter snow melts and the spring rain begins, vernal pools appear on the landscape. These ephemeral wetlands form in depressions in forests or ridge lines and offer essential breeding habitats to amphibians and invertebrates, including wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp. Because vernal pools dry up in high summer and are disconnected from other waterways, fish cannot survive in them – making them uniquely attractive to many amphibian and invertebrate species.

“It’s the lack of fish that allows them to treat it like a nursery with essentially no serious new aquatic predators,” said Kevin Tolan, staff biologist at the Vermont Center for Eco-studies and coordinator of the center’s vernal pool monitoring project.

Not all species that use vernal pools require pools to survive, but some do. Creatures who depend on vernal pools are known as obligate species. These include spotted salamanders, whose charcoal-colored bodies are decorated head-to-tail with lemon-yellow spots. They spend nearly the entire year underground, tunneling beneath the frost line to survive the cold. On the first warm, wet spring nights, they emerge to breed in the vernal pools in which they were born. A female spotted salamander can lay hundreds of eggs in one night. She lays eggs in ovular masses clinging to sticks and grasses near the pool’s surface. These masses can look like strange, forgotten crafting projects: jumbles of googly eyes chilled in jelly. Spotted salamanders can grow up to 10 inches and live as long as 20 years. Wood frogs, another obligate species, typically live for only five years and will lay thousands of eggs in one sitting. This breeding strategy ensures species survival even if their brief lifespan includes dry years when the vernal pool doesn’t refill.

While invertebrates and amphibians that use vernal pools do not have to contend with fish, they do face the threat of many other predators. “Anything will eat a little baby salamander,” Tolan said. Raccoons, minks, and skunks will happily snack on egg masses. Tolan has even seen pet dogs chowing down on amphibian eggs.

Predation at vernal pools is, in part, due to the time of year when they occur on the landscape. In early spring, the ground is still thawing, and there are few other sources of food. The pools offer a protein-packed buffet to species that are awakening from winter dormancy or returning from seasonal migration, including black bears, some raptors and wading birds, and several

species of turtle.

“Even though they’re physically small compared to many other wetland types, because there’s so much activity in them at a time when the rest of the land is sparse, they can play an important role in early spring,” said Brett Amy Thelan, science director at the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

Solitary sandpipers have been spotted feeding at vernal pools in the spring on their long migrations from Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. They hunt alone, searching for crustaceans, insects, and amphibians. Broad-winged hawks are also known to hunt at vernal pools during their migration journeys from Central and South America.

These crow-sized raptors love

eating frogs, toads, and other amphibians and will also eat crustaceans and insects. Great blue herons also feed at vernal pools in early spring.

Barred owls are one of the most prolific predators at vernal pools. Although these predators typically hunt from perches high up in the trees, they’re not averse to getting their feet wet. “I’ve seen them hunting by going down into the water and shuffling through and picking salamanders in the shallows,” Thelan said. Trail cameras have captured these owls wading through pools and trapping amphibians under their talons. They’ll nibble on them with their sharp beaks and then fly off to finish their meal undisturbed.

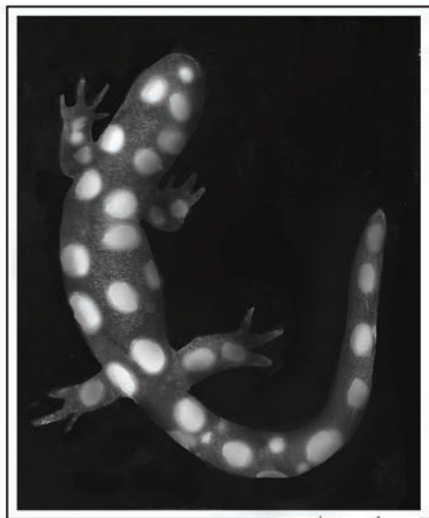
Thelan leads salamander crossing brigades for the Center, which involves spending many rainy nights in early spring along roadsides throughout New Hampshire’s Monadnock region, helping frogs and salamanders safely cross busy roads and monitoring the migrating populations. “It is not uncommon to see a barred owl hunting

The Outside Story → 35



### The Outside Story

By Emily Haynes



*Haynes*

## Lonely is the night

The older I get, the more solitary my life becomes. This isn’t a sad or deliberate thing but rather an unconscious choice to lean into more peaceful, less dramatic activities.

I’ve always loved team sports, parties, holidays, concerts, sporting events, etc. – undertakings that involve large groups of people. I thrived off these activities throughout my life, but over the last decade, I now engage in them on a less consistent basis.

Where I used to view alone time as painful or uninviting, I now look at it as preferable. I’ve found that I have a certain amount of energy I can expend with other people, and when that’s depleted, I withdraw back into myself, my wife, and my son.

The majority of my socialization is at work, and if you were to ask my coworkers, they would likely describe me as outgoing and sociable. Since I’m involved in communications, quite often I present in front of groups of people. So, it’s not surprising that with that much “face” time, I would look to be less sociable outside of the office.

So, after I leave work and head home, the “me” time begins. For instance, I love to run, which is a solitary activity for me. I was once asked to join a running club but flatly declined. I look at running as a chance to lose myself in my head or to work out problems that require immense focus. I don’t see it as a way to connect with others.

I also love to play guitar, and while I wouldn’t mind playing with other people (and have often pined for it), I’m perfectly happy strumming away in my little studio, playing and singing songs that make me happy.

Not surprisingly, I also frequent the movie theater alone on most occasions. Over the years, I’ve had people tell me that they find this odd or unnerving, like they could never imagine walking into a theater solo. I’m perfectly comfortable sitting alone while surrounded by couples, families, or friend groups. It doesn’t faze me in the slightest.

But golf is the one thing I do alone that most people find unusual. I love to golf, and while I don’t mind playing with other people, I much prefer, for several reasons, to play alone.

First of all, I play better golf when I’m by myself. It’s easier for me to get into and stay in “the zone” when I’m not distracted by someone else’s conversation or game. Like most hackers, I struggle to shoot good scores, so in the event that I happen to get something going, I definitely want all my

attention directed on my round.

Secondly, there’s something very meditative about wandering the course alone. I tend to play in the late afternoon and early evening when the crowds have dispersed. During these times, with the sun setting and the birds chirping, a long walk through the fairways of my country club can make all the ills of the world fade away.

This past Sunday, when the rest of the world was sitting at home watching the final round of the 2025 Masters tournament, I decided to go golfing. I did this not because I had little interest in the broadcast (I actually consider it one of my favorite television viewing events of the year), but rather, I knew the course would be empty and my love of wandering the fairways alone would be especially heightened on this day.

I got to the course around 4 p.m. As expected, the parking lot was nearly empty. I jumped onto the first tee box, rifled a shot up the fairway, threw my bag over my shoulder, and wandered into the distance.

I then spent the better part of the next three hours punching balls into the late afternoon sky, undeterred by other golfers.

When I was finished, I headed home and fired up my recording of the Masters broadcast. And since I had a self-imposed media, text, and phone blackout, I watched the spectacle unfold without any idea of the dramatic ending. Talk about having your cake and eating it, too!

This week’s feature, “The Ballad of Wallis Island,” features another man who fancies being alone, except in his case, he’s purchased his own private island with unexpected lottery winnings to assure he has his space.

Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden star as former bandmates and lovers brought together after the eccentric millionaire jets them to his remote getaway for a private concert. A comedy of errors follows as the threesome looks to navigate the oddest of interactions.

This is one of those fun little films that catches you off guard. It’s heartwarming and unique, with three diverse characters that blend together beautifully. If you don’t catch it at the theater, definitely look for it online in the months to come.

A deserted “B+” for “The Ballad of Wallis Island,” now playing in theaters everywhere.

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





# Kent Pond—taking the season's first paddle

I woke up ready to go for my regular morning walk—just a quick jaunt out the door for a few miles to get my circulatory system up and going. Usually, I just throw on the appropriate footwear for the weather—this week, it ranged from flip-flops to snow boots—and throw a coat over my pajamas. I don't care.

This time of year, I call it my daffodil check. A few years ago, my mom had the bright idea to line my driveway with daffodils. It's honestly been a pretty awesome idea. My dad loved daffodils, so it's nice to see them. Like dad is helping me welcome spring or some wheezy crap like that. But this time of year, as I walk down my driveway, I can check on their daily growth. Watch the slow progression of spring before heading up to the mountain to ski. I love the contrast of seasons!

But then I remembered that it was supposed to be over 50 degrees with low winds and immediately ran back inside to grab the key to the barn. Today would NOT be starting out with a walk but a paddle! Kent Pond has been going back and forth with a thin sheer of ice, but I knew today was the day for the season's first paddle!

It's a wee bit tricky getting the canoe out of the barn for the first time. We haven't made the seasonal turnover, so I have to climb over and around the snowblower and move a few things before accessing my beautiful baby.

She is "old-school." A Mad River canoe that was actually made in the Mad River Valley right here in Vermont before the company sold out to a bigger brand that moved them to the Carolinas. The first thing the big company did? Stop making

this beautiful boat — the Independence.

What a perfect name for a canoe. I saw this canoe once as a child. Raced against it, actually. I saw the sweet lines and smooth glide and absolutely fell in love. There was just something about this boat that just drew me toward her. Ash gunwales and just a bit of fore/aft rocker make paddling this a dream if you know the strokes. She dances so smoothly and is just the perfect size for everything Vermont has to offer.

I spent almost two decades trying to find her—literally. The sale of the company made it almost impossible to find. I didn't care what color; I just knew I needed the Kevlar version so I could lift it myself—she only weighs about 35 pounds even though she's 15 feet 6 inches long! It legitimately wasn't until the internet that I was able to find her.

I've slept underneath her, protected from the elements by my makeshift lean-to. I have raced in her, defeating my opponents by boat lengths, not just strokes. I have delivered pizza in her, coached in her, backcountry camped in her, sold homes, read books, suntanned, and even written this column.

She's just so sexy; she even makes my car look better. The ivory color just pops in those early morning photographs Barb Wood took of us together. And Monday was the first day of the season that I got to paddle her. She's getting old, my baby, and it's about time for the gunwales to be replaced. Like probably past time, but I'm not a woodworker, and I'm more scared of screwing it all up than having her fall apart on me in the middle of the pond. Fear is a

Living the Dream → 37



**Living the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman



On a clear spring morning, Merisa Sherman took her trusty canoe onto Kent Pond in Killington to enjoy a the first paddle of the season.

# Shopping for clothes in the '60s

My friend, Diana, told me recently that she likes to try on clothing before she buys it. I totally agree! However, that option is becoming less available as brick-and-mortar stores close. Internet shopping seems to be the preferred method in today's world. Scrolling through a worldwide selection of clothing is hard to pass up.

My generation grew up trying on clothes before buying them. We took them off the rack, held them up, and felt the texture of the material. If they "passed the test," we brought them into a dressing room with a full-length mirror. To get a better view, we stepped outside, where there was a large three-sided mirror. You could twirl around and see the clothing from all angles.

If you needed a different size, a sales clerk was standing nearby and would get it for you. There was no need to hunt down the item on your own!

When you left the store, you knew the clothing fit properly and was well made. Most likely, you paid cash for what you bought, as credit cards were not a standard payment method back then.

Knowing that the purchase you brought home was exactly what you wanted seems a whole lot easier than taking a chance with an online order. Yes, I am an old fashioned gal who feels that buying clothes and shoes online is a last resort method of shopping. You are taking a chance that the clothes will fit and that the material is the quality you are looking for. When you find out the items are not what you expected, you have to package them for return, fill out paperwork, and wait for your credit card to be credited. Apparently, that method is acceptable for today's shoppers, but it makes me long for the days of yore!

Where did women shop for clothes in downtown Rutland back in the '60s? You could go to the Economy Store on Merchants Row if you needed to outfit yourself completely, from underwear to stockings, clothes, and shoes. The corset department had a clerk who made sure that you got the proper fit for undergarments. It was best to start there and head to their women's section. Picking out the shoes best suited for your clothing purchase was the final department to visit. Everything you needed was under one roof.

On the corner of West Street and Merchants Row was another department store, Ross-Huntress. It was nice to have two stores that carried all your clothing needs from head to toe in one place.

Another popular place for women to shop was The Fashion Shop on upper Merchants Row. That store was the go-to place for the Pendleton brand, which was very popular in the '60s. My college days were over during this decade, and it was time to enter the "work world." You couldn't go wrong with a Pendleton skirt, jacket,

and sweater. In addition to a wonderful selection of clothing on the first floor, there was a bridal section on the second floor. Nate Goldman, his son, Bill, and their staff ensured you were well taken care of.

When I was making the rounds as I shopped downtown, I always went to The Towne Shop on the corner of Center Street and Merchants Row. There was a nice variety of clothing to choose from, and prices were reasonable. If you could vote

for a "Favorite Downtown Clerk" my choice would have been Marion Fredette. She always greeted you with a smile and was genuinely interested in helping you find what was right for you.

Another choice for women's clothing arrived in the late '60s when Ladies' Country store opened on the corner of Merchants Row and West Street. The location was a family affair as Barbara Carbine operated the ladies' store, and her husband, Bill, could be found next door in Carbine Anderson, which was a men's store. The Carbines used to be our neighbors on Howard Avenue. My mother and I loved shopping in Barbara's store. She chose her inventory with care and always made you feel special as you made your selections.

With such a magnificent choice in downtown Rutland, I don't think the clothing stores mentioned above would have had any trouble competing with the internet. You can't go back in time, but you can "look back" and remember what a fun experience it was to visit the downtown stores and select your wardrobe.



**Looking Back**  
By Mary Ellen Shaw





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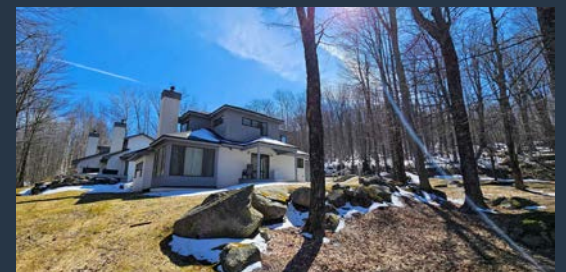


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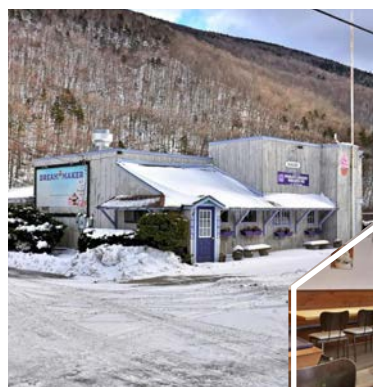
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**The Outside Story**  
from page 32

by the side of the road on those nights – they’re keyed in,” she said.

Now is a great time to search your local forests for vernal pools because wood frogs are becoming active again. Listen for the sound of their throaty, squabbling chorus on a warm day, and it will likely lead you to a vernal pool. You may even catch a predator stopping by for a tasty meal!

*Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast. 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.*



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## ← Living the Dream: from page 33

dangerous thing.

But Kent Pond was perfect. The ducks were a bit surprised to see me but quickly remembered my canoe. I heard the fabulous cry of a loon, saw three Canadian Geese sitting on their nests, all on different islands, and met a little boy and his family walking the Appalachian Trail around the southerly side of the pond. He had no idea what to make of us. Like most folks, he probably had never seen a solo canoe except in Disney's "Pocahontas."

But here I was, just a ski bum in love with her canoe, paddling for an hour before heading up to make some turns on the white stuff. It's a great place we live in, where it's so easy to go for a spin in a canoe and get back to my office for a few hours before stepping back into winter for my lunch break. Because while spring might just be getting started here in Killington, we still have at least 6 more weeks of winter up there on the mountain. So next time you're here, don't forget to load your car up with all your toys - the multisport season has arrived!

*Merisa is a longtime Killington resident, global real estate advisor, and Coach Pom-Pom. She can be found in the mountains or at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.*

## ← Public Safety: from page 11

in how we provide treatment for people entering residential care, making it difficult to get into care at the moment when someone is ready to take that step, and difficult to get back into treatment when they are relapsing.

Vermont's housing crisis is another critical issue that exacerbates these challenges. Stable housing is a fundamental pillar of recovery, yet the shortage of affordable housing makes it incredibly difficult for individuals in recovery to maintain long-term sobriety. Lack of housing units also makes it nearly impossible for recovery housing programs to expand.

Lack of stability and continuity in treatment further compounds the challenges and can play out publicly in communities across the state. Too many transitions in the residential treatment and recovery system create risks for disruption, particularly early in recovery when individuals are most vulnerable. Each time a person moves from one level of care to another, chances of relapse increase, threatening their progress and, by extension, their potential to reintegrate into society. Vermont's residential treatment programs need to offer a full range of treatment options, allow for longer residential treatment stays, and provide better support for individuals during transitions from residential treatment programs back to home or to recovery housing options.

Substance use is a major factor in our justice system in Vermont. More than 70% of individuals in corrections are being treated for substance use disorder. This presents a key opportunity to address the issue, but we must go beyond offering medication-assisted treatment during incarceration. The real challenge lies in equipping individuals with tools they need to stay sober once they are

released. Without comprehensive residential treatment during incarceration and continued support through transition back into the community, many individuals will find themselves trapped in a cycle of re-offending, which perpetuates the broader public safety issues we face.

Substance use is a major factor in our justice system in Vermont. More than 70% of individuals in corrections are being treated for substance use disorder. This presents a key opportunity to address the issue, but we must go beyond offering medication-assisted treatment during incarceration.

The administration's recent proposal takes significant steps to address these gaps in care. It aims to ensure residential treatment providers offer a full spectrum of services, equipping them to treat the evolving drug landscape effectively. Additionally, the proposal calls for stays of adequate and meaningful duration in additional high-intensity recovery housing — integrating housing, treatment, and critical skills-building programs for individuals in recovery and struggling with the most complex challenges. Finally, offering residential recovery services in corrections and enhancing pre-trial supervision, this plan will help bridge the gap between incarceration and successful reintegration into communities.

Ultimately, by filling the gaps in our current system and smoothing out transitions in care, we can improve care for those struggling with addiction and address behaviors that disrupt safety and health of our communities. We will see a reduction in substance-use-related crime, improved public safety, and a stronger, more resilient state overall.

Healthy individuals are the foundation of healthy communities, and by investing in comprehensive, integrated care, Vermonters can break free from the cycle of addiction and rebuild their lives. The time to act is now, and with the right tools and policies in place, Vermont can continue to lead the way.

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## The Good Samaritan & VT housing

In 1973, John Darley and Daniel Batson conducted the Good Samaritan experiment at Princeton University's Theological Seminary, where participants were studying to become religious leaders.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is about a traveler who is beaten and robbed and left half dead alongside the road. Two separate religious leaders pass by and avoid the man, ignoring his requests for help. A Samaritan arrives, ignores his cultural antagonism to the man's tribe, and helps him. The story is told by Jesus in response to a question offered by a lawyer who asked for clarification on the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself."

The 40 students in the Princeton Seminary Good Samaritan experiment had been studying the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The experiment consisted of instructing the students to deliver a presentation on the Good Samaritan. One-third of the students were given the locations of their presentations and told that they had plenty of time to get there. Another third were given the locations of their presentations and told that they had barely enough time to get there. The final third were given the locations of their presentations and told that they were late and would need to hurry to arrive in time to present.

As the students traveled individually along the university hallways to their respective destinations, they encountered a stranger who had fallen and was coughing and moaning, signaling that they needed help.

Of the students with plenty of time, 63% stopped to help. Of the students with just enough time, 40% stopped to help. Of the students who were late, only 10% stopped to help.

At the end of the day, the majority of the students studying the parable of the Good Samaritan were so focused on giving their presentations on the Good Samaritan that they passed up the opportunity to serve a neighbor in need.

The experiment's results are disheartening, to say the least, but the experimenters have a more generous appraisal of them. They propose that the participants who ignored the person in need did so due to conflicting obligations rather than cruelty and because they were focused on their objective.

The story of the Princeton Seminary Good Samaritan experiment resonates with me because last week, I participated in a meeting of a statewide Housing and homelessness advocacy group with approximately 80 participants representing the State of Vermont, NGOs, and for-profit developers.



**The Accidental Activist**  
By Stephen Box

The meeting opened with a review of the current legislation related to the homeless situation in Vermont, the number of hotel vouchers available, and advocates' efforts to increase the number and length of vouchers. I raised my online hand and countered that the housing shortage narrative was not accurate and that the focus should be on permanent housing for those in need, not temporary housing in motels. I offered as support for my contention the fact that I had nine vacant units ready for their clients and I shared my digital application in the chat.

As the founder of Partners in Housing, I spoke on behalf of other Housers who have vacant units but are not getting agency action in housing those in need and then supporting them with services necessary to keep them housed.

At this point, Erhard Mahnke, founder of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition, shut me down; after all, I wasn't on the agenda! From my perspective, when 80 housing and homeless advocates get in the room to talk about the current housing crisis in Vermont, the appearance of a Houser with vacant housing units would warrant an interruption or a revision to the agenda. But we know how the Good Samaritan experiment turned out. There is nothing more powerful than a commitment to a task, obligation, agenda, process, or journey.

At the end of the meeting, I had received no applications. A week later, the number remains zero. At the meeting, I contended that the process of housing those in need was cumbersome and needed revision and refinement, but...the agenda took over, and I was out.

Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke of the parable of the Good Samaritan, and he went a little farther than simply indicting the robbers and those who ignored the victim. He went further than celebrating the Samaritan's selfless actions. King extended the call for neighborly assistance to society at large, calling for the focus to be on making the road to Jericho safe for all.

King would apply the parable of the Good Samaritan to Vermont and call for us to focus on providing housing for all.

But...we have that agenda! It's time to invest in rigorous performance management, not more meetings, to plan the meetings and prepare the agenda for the next meeting.

It's time to put competent managers in charge of systemic change, which evaluates spending to produce actual outcomes with long-term sustainability. It's time to invest in a highly trained workforce and to hold agencies and authorities accountable for results.

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