



## ARBOR DAY IS FRIDAY

National Arbor Day is Friday, April 25. This annual celebration encourages individuals and communities to plant and care for trees, promoting environmental stewardship and honoring the many benefits trees provide.

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## BAILEY'S PLACE OPENS

Downtown Rutland's first LGBTQ+ bar and restaurant in over two decades provides a warm and welcome atmosphere for community and acceptance.

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## VINTAGE MARKET DAYS

Vintage goods shopping returns to the Vermont State Fairgrounds this Friday-Sunday.

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## ANNUAL OWL FESTIVAL IS SATURDAY

Saturday at the VINS is the place to be for a hoot-tastic day of nature's night partiers.

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## Five file petitions for two seats on the Killington Select Board

A special election will be held May 28

By Polly Mikula

KILLINGTON — Monday, April 21, was the deadline for candidates to submit petitions to be on the ballot to join the Killington Select Board. The town clerk received five nominating petitions with the required consent of the candidate form. Bill Vines and David McComb are running for the two-year seat while Jon Wysocki, Andrew Gieda and Jay Hickory are running for the one-year seat, according to Town Clerk Peggy Neisner.

At Town Meeting this past March voters approved a measure to expand the Select Board from three to five members. A special election will take place May 28 to fill the board's two new seats.

"Pursuant to applicable election regulations, Consent of Candidate forms must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the election," explained Neisner via email to the Mountain Times, Tuesday.

Jim Haff, Patrick Cushing and Ricky Bowen make up the current board. Haff is the chair; however he was appointed by Cushing and Bowen only as interim chair until the full board can vote after the May 28 special election.

Cushing and Bowen are new to the board, having defeated incumbents Christopher Karr and Robert Hecker on Town Meeting Day. Neither had served on the board previously nor have any of the five new candidates. Haff has served a total of 10 years on the Select Board — three years 2011-2013 and seven 2018-present. He is up for re-election in two years, 2027.

On Wednesday, May 28, polls will open at the Killington Town Office from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Rural Schools Alliance wants voice in education reform

By Curt Peterson

The almost 14% average education tax increase last year shocked Vermonters into taking serious interest in education finance. The governor, the Legislature and local school board members blamed each other and/or alleged bloated school budgets. Now the education system itself is the focus for all stakeholders.

One group, Vermont Rural Schools Community Alliance (VRSCA), wants a meaningful voice on behalf of smaller local schools and communities as the final reform evolves.

General education challenges include: education and behavior effects left over from the Covid pandemic; dismantling of the federal Dept. of Education and shut-off of major grants; low number of students; distances to any proposed centralized regional schools; and a shortage of bus drivers.

"They can't close Reading and Barnard," Carin Park, VRSCA advocate told the Mountain Times. "The remaining school in our district is Woodstock Elementary, and it doesn't have enough room."

Park said long bus rides and larger class sizes may be manageable by students in the 8th grade, but for younger students these changes are unreasonable.

Vermont's new Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders introduced Governor Phil Scott's proposal to the House and Senate on Jan. 25. Scott's plan would consolidate the existing 52 supervisory unions (and 199 districts) school districts into five large regional districts, each with one school board and one central administrative office. Each regional system would accommodate 10,000-15,000 students, with the exception of a Champlain Valley region, which would educate 34,000 students.

The state would allot funds to each district based on a per student contribution, which Secretary Saunders said in her presentation, "would be very generous."

But the Vermont House of Representatives passed its own proposal, H454, earlier this month. In either the House plan or the governor's plan, local school boards would cease to exist, and any small schools that would no longer be necessary, would be closed, its students transported to larger facilities.

The governor's proposal and H454, inspired creation of the Alliance.

"The Rural School Community Alliance appreciates the effort lawmakers have made in recent weeks to respond to the many concerns raised by Vermonters about proposed changes to our public education system. Unfortunately, despite some improvements, H.454 falls short of addressing the most critical issues facing our rural communities, and it remains deeply concerning in its implications for educational equity, local democracy and the well-being of our children," stated Cheryl Charles, VRSCA steering committee chair, April 11 after the House passed H.454. "H.454 proposes a dramatic shift away from Vermont's functioning system of local democratic engagement in school governance. It moves toward central-

Rural schools → 9



Courtesy Rutland Area Robotics, FB

## IBOTS competed at the World Championship in Texas

The Rutland IBOTS finished 30 out of 75 in the Galileo Division at the FIRST World Championships held in Houston, Texas, this past weekend, April 16-19.

## Slate Valley passes school district budget

Staff report

Last Tuesday, April 15, voters approved the Slate Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) budget by a vote of 824-631 — a low voter turnout for the district. It was SVUSD's second vote to pass the budget. Last year, in which nearly a third of all school districts within the state failed to pass district budgets the first round, it took Slate Valley five rounds of voting to get a spending plan through. This year, the

board cut another half a million dollars after Town Meeting Day to make sure that didn't happen again.

"On behalf of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our communities for their support in passing (824 yes, 631 no) the school budget on the second vote," wrote Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell on the district website April 15. "Your engagement,

advocacy, and belief in the importance of public education make a profound difference in the lives of our students, staff, and families. We recognize that arriving at a successful outcome required thoughtful dialogue and collaboration, and we deeply appreciate the time and effort so many of you contributed throughout this process. Your vote allows us to move forward with the re-

Slate Valley → 8



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Submitted

Funky Flies turns skateboard decks into pet bowls, among other creative and colorful offerings for sale on its website.

# Rutland-based Funky Flies gets creative, captures attention of big brands, celebs

The owner of the Rutland-based creates wild skateboard decks, turning some into pet bowls featured on Chewy.com. Even Snoop Dogg’s taken notice

By Julian Chiemingo Rivera, Community News Service

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

Jumping onto the Funky Flies website, shoppers are quickly met with a variety of items to buy — from skateboard decks and skateboard dog bowls to coffee beans from Colorado.

The Rutland-based online business attracts a community through funky designs and art in a variety of products. And it’s funky enough that even Snoop Dogg followed and retweeted the brand.

In 2021, NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, were at their peak in selling high-priced art. Nowadays, some of these artistic pieces are shaping out into small businesses.

It all started when Jonathan Gicewicz launched an NFT project in February 2021.

“The art was called Funky Flies,” Gicewicz said. This NFT was very successful in selling on OpenSea, an NFT and crypto marketplace. Gicewicz decided to move this artwork into a real-life business. He creates apparel with designs that revolve around their Funky Fly model. “The art is a different type of art,” he said.

He models his shirts with a unique design that is unlike typical graphic T-shirts.

“It’s almost like this ‘90s throwback kind of skateboard and kind of feel vibe that we’re going with,” said Josh Leggette, product and marketing manager.

Gicewicz and Leggette started this side-hustle business straight out of their homes. Most of the work and construction was produced right in their garages.

“By the end of winter, there was probably 2 inches of

sawdust everywhere in my garage,” Leggette said.

More recently, Funky Flies has been able to move to more of a mass production business. And the products they produce have grown from just apparel. Their newest hits include the popular pet bowls made from skateboards.

“It’s a different market. It’s not your normal cat and elevated dog bowl. It’s something a little more niche and a little more funky,” Gicewicz said. “Now that we have this Chewy connection, we are looking toward pet products because the name lends towards pet products — you know, ‘flies on s--t,’ so to speak.”

This past March Funky Flies launched on Chewy.com, an online pet supply retailer, to expand their market. They currently market their skateboard dog bowls on the site and are working to put more pet products there.

The Funky Flies guys have been slowly trying to expand their community through social media, craft shows and donations. Recently, Leggette went to a pet adoption day at a local store and donated a skate deck dog bowl to be raffled off. Anyone who adopted a pet that day was entered into a raffle to win it.

The biggest donation Funky Flies has made was to the Uganda Skateboard Society. They donated 100 complete skateboards and kits with their NFT profits. This donation was over 20 boxes of equipment and cost about \$40,000, they said.

“At the end of the day, this is a passion project for us, and we do want to give back to the younger generations as well,” Leggette said.

Leggette and Gicewicz also host small businesses on Funky Flies → 8



Submitted

Funky Flies owner Jonathan Gicewicz and Product and Marketing Manager Josh Leggette are growing the online business including having products on Chewy.com.





Bailey's Place owner, Faith McClure

By James Kent

# Bailey's Place spreads a welcome mat for the LGBTQ+ community in downtown Rutland

By James Kent

RUTLAND— There's a new space in downtown Rutland bursting with warmth, heart, and pride—and it's called Bailey's Place. Founded by 21-year-old Faith McClure, Bailey's Place is the first LGBTQ+ bar and restaurant in the area in over two decades. It officially opened its doors on April 12, and within days had already made an impression on the community.

The venue at 13 Evelyn St. (the former location of the Strangefellows Pub) has been completely transformed into a bright, inviting space. With an inclusive vibe and welcoming energy, it's precisely the environment McClure and her stepfather envisioned when they first came up with the idea.

"We are a gay space—for the community, by the community," said McClure. "I've been out since middle school. If there was already a place like this when I turned 21, I would have gone there the first chance I got."

McClure, who worked at Olivia's Market for five years, credits that job for sparking her love for public service, but it was her stepfather, Fred, now the kitchen lead at Bailey's, who originated the idea. Driving through the Midwest on a hunting trip, he asked himself what Rutland was missing. His answer? What all of the rural areas he passed through were missing—a gay bar. He pitched the idea to McClure, and she didn't hesitate: "Let's do it."

Together, they built Bailey's from the ground up. The space needed repairs and renovations, which they tackled themselves—Fred even built

the new bar by hand.

"We had to do a lot of tearing out due to old damage... to make it suitable for clientele," McClure said. "This is for me to run. I am the boss, but he [Fred] is the other half of Bailey's."

Named after Faith's childhood nickname—"Buddha Bailey"—the bar's name is rooted in joy. "I associate the name with being fat and happy," McClure laughed. "What better way to make people feel happy than to name the place after that?"

The response from the community has been overwhelming—Bailey's Place hit capacity—nearly seven times over—during its grand opening. Guests lined up down the street,

eager to see what was inside. While McClure asks for patience as they continue building their menu and programming, she's blown away by the support.

Food and drink are a significant part of the experience, with a menu that's evolving weekly. "This isn't set in stone," McClure emphasized. "We're attending a food show soon to help expand the menu, especially to meet different dietary needs. But we had to start somewhere."

Current offerings include McClure's house-made chili. ("It's got a little spice, that's why it's called F.U. Chili"), burgers, salads, sandwiches, and both

Baileys' Place → 8



The Bailey's Place bar was built by Faith McClure's stepdad, Fred, who runs the kitchen.

By James Kent

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# Perseverance and progress after road delay

## How Killington became The Beast: Part 7

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."*

Despite the two-year delay to Killington's debut—caused by the access road not being built—early investor and co-founder Wally Morrison remembered only one time when he and Joe Sargent were worried simultaneously.

"We were both discouraged; the road delay really bothered Joe. We'd come up to meet with Pres [Smith] and wondering how we were going to tell him that it was all over, was a painful part of that trip," he said. Asked if he ever considered quitting, Smith said, "Sue once said, 'You've got to give this thing up.' But most of the time, she didn't feel that way, and I never considered giving up."

"It was a difficult and discouraging process at times," Smith conceded, but he quickly added, "There was also a total commitment, and I never doubted it would work. Joe and Wally were enthusiastic, also, and besides supplying money, they wanted to help, not just be passive investors."

Additionally, Smith noted that the 1957 Legislature mandated the building of the road, so he "knew it would eventually get built." Patience and perseverance would pay off.

### Progress 1956-1957

Progress had been made on the mountain with some clearing of trails and a lift line in 1956, but plans to open for skiing the winter of 1956-57 were nixed by the lack of an access road.

When a new road appropriation became law in June 1957, the company decided to forge ahead and bought a bulldozer and an army surplus trailer. They finished their own "work road" to the mountain in June—a major feat accomplished by the founders' efforts and those of their first employees.

"It was time to separate the men from the boys," recalled Joe Sargent of the momentous decision to start the ski area despite not having an access road or lease at that time.

Additionally, Perry Merrill told them that the promised lease would only be obtainable from the state after construction of the ski area had started. Caught in a "Catch-22," they began to build the ski area.

By mid-summer, it had become obvious to Smith that traveling the rough work road every day was out of the question.



Submitted

The Killington Basin Ski Area opened on Dec. 13, 1958, with lift-served skiing on Snowdon mountain.



Submitted

Pres Smith surveyed progress on the long-awaited Killington Access Road. The photo appeared in the Rutland Herald in 1958.

With his small work crew, he set up a camp on the mountain, where they stayed from Monday to Friday, living on the prow of Snowdon during August and into September 1957.

"One person worked on the 'dozer, winching trees and piling brush for burning while two of us worked with chainsaws, and two stacked or snatched logs with winch cables. I remember taking turns on the chainsaws, but I don't think I did too much 'dozer work — that was probably because I never became proficient at it," Smith said in his forthright manner. Ray Phillips, Eddie Flanders, Lin Bigelow, Ralph Severance, Ralph Moral, and Royal Biathrow made up the regular crew who, along with Smith, would make their way down from their "hotel up on the mountain to the farm-

"It was time to separate the men from the boys," recalled Joe Sargent of the momentous decision to start the ski area despite not having an access road or lease at that time.

house on Friday nights," where a case or two of beer and haircuts were in order with Smith playing barber.

Other workers came and went. Some arrived improperly dressed and didn't last long. Others took one look at the rugged mountain and fled.

"It took a certain type of person to do that work, and the conditions were rough. We always had three crews. One was hired, one was leaving, and one was coming," Biathrow said.

The steady crew that lived on the prow of Snowdon that summer was a good group of workers. Most were large men like Biathrow and Smith, and they could work all day, take time off for supper, and then work on into the evening. "There was nothing else to do," Biathrow noted.

They cut lift lines, and the lift engineer from Pomagalski

surveyed them. Trails were laid out and rough cut; even the Glades Poma line was roughly laid out in the late fall.

Had the "access road" been built, they would have installed the two Pomas that had arrived from France and operated on Snowdon in the winter of 1957-58. However, with the "access road" for skiers delayed again, there was no point in installing the lifts to work on the mountain ground to a halt. However, the progress on the mountain had convinced the Forests and Parks Department to grant the lease in November 1957.

The two years of delays to Killington's debut were finally over when the Killington Access Road was begun in May 1958, with almost three miles cleared by early June. In addition to a state crew, two or three subcontractors worked on the road that summer.

Meanwhile, up at the mountain, lifts were installed, and two more were ordered for a beginner area that got cleared and The Glades area. More trails were also cut.

### Killington debuts

As winter approached, work in the area continued at a feverish pitch. According to a December 8, 1958, newsletter sent to stockholders, things were progressing well enough to open even earlier than originally anticipated.

The third "Glades" Poma arrived from France on December 6, while the Model C novice Poma was expected any day. The two previously installed Pomalifts had been tested, and with two to three feet of snow, Smith announced, "Killington Basin will open on December 13."

The Killington Basin Ski Area opened on Saturday, December 13, 1958. First, Pres Smith attended a sub-zero Access Road dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. at its junction with U.S. Route 4. Claus Bartenstein and Governor-Elect Robert Stafford were among the officials present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

On that same Saturday, the Rutland Herald ran a picture  
The Beast → 8





By Sara Wilbur  
*Two-year-old Levi Wilson of Hebron, New York, shyly tried his hand at turkey calling at the 2025 Bart Jacob Memorial Youth Turkey Calling Contest on April 12 with assistance from his grandfather, Tom Wilson.*



By Kandy Petty  
*Seven-year-old Lennox Petty of St. Johnsbury demonstrated her turkey calling skills at the 2025 Bart Jacob Memorial Youth Turkey Calling Contest, in Castleton.*



By Sara Wilbur  
*At the 19th annual Bart Jacob Memorial Youth Turkey Calling Contest competitors Jared Preseau, Rutland (left); Samuel Luis, Whiting (center); and Dominick McGee, Clarendon (right), placed first, second, and third, respectively, in the 14- to 18-year-old division.*

# Youth turkey-calling contest draws record participation

CASTLETON— A record-breaking 33 young participants, ranging in age from 2 to 18, showcased their best gobbles, clucks, and yelps at the 19th annual Bart Jacob Memorial Youth Turkey Calling Contest on April 12 at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton.

Sponsored by the Oxbow Mountain 4-H Club and underwritten by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept (VTF&W), the annual event honors the legacy of Bart Jacob, a nationally known turkey call-maker and passionate hunter from Pawlet.

Competitors were divided into four age groups and tasked with performing a series of turkey calls using either handcrafted or commercially purchased devices. Contestants were judged on the accuracy and

execution of calls like the cluck, yelp, purr, Kee Kee run, and more.

The Rutland region was well represented in the 14–18 age group, where Jared Preseau of Rutland took first place. Samuel Luis of Whiting placed second, and Dominick McGee of Clarendon took third. Other area participants included Brady Werbinski of Rutland, Robby Harris of Poultney, and Wyatt Delance of Castleton.

In the 11–13 age group, Boston Wilbur of Whiting claimed first place. Leif Comar and Beckett Perham, both of Pawlet, placed second and third, respectively. Competitors



in this age group also included Delilah Buck of Rupert and Liam Quesnel of Whiting.

For the 8–10-year-olds, Erin Loomis of Whitehall, New York, won first place, followed by Gabriel Greene of Poultney and Blake Butler of Wells. Additional contestants included local youths from Poultney, Wells, Weybridge, Granville, Pownal, and Rupert.

Although the youngest group (ages 2–7) did not compete for prizes, they still had the chance to step up to the mic and impress the judges with their calls. Each was award-

ed a turkey-shaped trophy for their effort and enthusiasm.

Prizes for the top three finishers in each eligible age group were provided by VTF&W and included turkey hunting vests, Bone Collector turkey calls, and shotgun ammunition. First-place winners also received custom engraved knives donated by the Mason family of Pawlet in memory of Keith Mason—a longtime 4-H leader, former contest judge, and hunter-safety instructor.

Joel Flewelling, Oxbow 4-H Club leader and fish and wildlife specialist with VTF&W, emceed the contest. Judges included Charlie Hewes of Manchester, Ken Jones of Proctor, Dan Nardi of Rupert, Wally Surething of Mount Holly, and Erwin Tobin of Shushan, New York.

# Rutland affordable housing project earns state award for energy excellence

RUTLAND— A historic home on River Street in Rutland has been recognized among Vermont’s top energy-efficient building projects, earning a “Best of the Best” award at Efficiency Vermont’s annual Better Building by Design (BBD) conference. The award, presented to Hildebrand Homes, LLC, highlights a creative and forward-thinking approach to affordable housing that aligns energy efficiency with historic preservation and accessibility.

The project, located at 112 River St., transformed an 1865 two-unit dwelling into four all-electric housing units for low-income residents. The extensive renovation prioritized energy efficiency, using heat pumps for hydronic heating, applying modern insulation and ventilation techniques, and preparing the building for future solar installation. The building envelope was fully reworked to allow better drainage and insulation, and the units were made accessible via a new covered porch and ramp. A steel roof and cladding cover the highly insulated walls, resulting in a durable and energy-smart structure.

The Rutland development was among 13 projects honored statewide at the BBD conference, held April 2–3 at the DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center in South Burlington. More than 900 attendees—architects, builders, contractors, and energy experts—gathered for the two-day event, which focused on aligning Vermont’s climate goals with real-world

“Investments in efficiency offer stability and affordability when so much else is uncertain,” said Walke.



Courtesy Efficiency Vermont  
*Hildebrand Homes, LLC members posed with their 2025 Best of the Best award for Residential New Construction at their River Street project in Rutland.*



# VTSU names John Casella 2025 Castleton commencement speaker

Vermont State University (VTSU) is graduating its second class this spring on May 17-18, 2025 and has announced a remarkable lineup of commencement speakers for the four ceremonies, held at the Castleton, Lyndon, Johnson, and Randolph campuses over the weekend.

“We are delighted to welcome distinguished alumni and campus community leaders John Casella, Greg Tatro, Ken Cadow, and Sophia Rivera to our campus celebrations,” stated VTSU President David Bergh. “Each of our four speakers has an incredible story to share, rooted in values we share here at VTSU: community engagement and civic responsibility, lifelong curiosity, and experiential learning.”

Commencement will occur on the Castleton and Randolph campuses on May 17 and at the Lyndon and Johnson campuses on May 18.

The Castleton campus will welcome alumnus and businessman John W. Casella (’72) as the guest speaker. Casella is the chairman & CEO of Casella Waste Systems, which this spring celebrated its 50th anniversary and has grown into one of the nation’s largest waste and recycling companies, employing over 5,000 people throughout the eastern U.S.



Submitted  
*John Casella was chosen as this year’s commencement speaker at the Castleton graduation event, May 17.*

Casella shared, “It’s always a good day when I get to return to the Castleton campus, and I’m looking forward to sharing graduation day with the Class of 2025. I’m grateful

for the impact the institution had on me in my younger years and throughout my career as well as the tremendous contributions of its graduates to Casella, the Rutland area, and across the state of Vermont.”

Author Ken Cadow will be the guest speaker at the Lyndon campus event. Cadow is the co-principal of Oxbow High School and the author of “Gather,” a young adult novel based on his own experience working with rural youth.

At the Johnson campus event, Gregory Tatro will be the guest speaker. Tatro is the co-founder of the non-profit Jenna’s Promise, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating pathways to wellness for people with substance use disorders. Their innovative Village Model aims to shift the paradigm of substance use disorder treatment and create better outcomes for individuals in recovery.

At the Randolph event, Sophia Rivera will both receive her bachelor of science degree in manufacturing engineering technology and speak at the event. She received her associate of science degree in electrical engineering technology two years ago and was recently distinguished as the Student Engineer of the Year.



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# Eyes on the Senate

This is that time of the session when the major money bills have passed the House and are now in the Senate for further review or amendments before heading back to the House for reconsideration. The next few weeks will tell the story of what was or wasn't accomplished this year.

These "money bills" — including the annual transportation plan, the biannual capitol construction plan and, of course, the state budget — are now under consideration in various Senate committees. The same is true of the education reform initiative and the annual yield bill, which sets the statewide property tax rate.

A potential sign that some of the session work is being wrapped up was the advancement of the annual transportation construction bill, which came out of committee on Friday. Additionally, it is expected that the FY26 budget bill, H.493, may be voted out of Senate Appropriations Committee later this week. That alone would signal we are in the final weeks of the session.

The caveat this year is the education reform efforts which have been given an exception to the normal legislative deadlines. The governor and legislative leaders agree that Vermont must begin the process of right sizing the state's K-12 system. The pace of those changes and exactly what they look like, still needs to be agreed upon. Early indications are that the eventual Senate plan will garner more bipartisan support than the one crafted in the House.

**Other issues of interest:**

- At a public event last week, Governor Scott signed into law H.154, which designates November as the Vermont Month of the Veteran.
- The House gave final approval to S.27, which leverages \$1 million of state funds to erase up to \$100 million of medical debt for low- and middle-income Vermonters. It also removes medical debt from credit scores in the future, consistent with actions taken by several other states.
- Legislation, S.44, to tighten restrictions when state agencies or law enforcement can enter agreements, has passed the Senate and now under review by



By Rep. Jim Harrison

- the House Judiciary Committee.
- The House gave final approval to a Senate bill, S.28, which expands the Vermont's Shield Law, which is designed to protect Vermont medical providers when prescribing medicines and procedures for out-of-state patients. It also expands access for abortion prescriptions to telehealth options.
- The House Energy & Digital Infrastructure Committee is continuing testimony on a Senate passed bill, S.50, to increase the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration.
- The Senate Government Operations Committee approved a proposed charter change for Burlington that would ban firearms in city bars on a 3-2 vote. Historically, the Legislature has been hesitant to allow different gun laws in each community.
- While there is probably a month left in the 2025 session, there has been limited action on the governor's proposed tax breaks by either the House or Senate. The proposal includes an exemption from Vermont income taxes for veteran pension benefits, similar to what most states currently offer.

In unrelated news, I concluded this basketball season's State House March Madness competition as the self-appointed commissioner with a recent awards ceremony. The annual games lead to some good-natured ribbing and boasting along the way and help to connect us all as individuals, not just members of a political party. Everyone is fair game with my updates to participants, whether you are the House speaker, the attorney general or a member of the governor's administration. This year's supported charities included Jenna's Promise and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. And seeing that my finish was closer to the bottom than the top, let's just say it wasn't my year.

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

# Trade partners

For anyone who thinks that what is happening in Washington isn't having a profound effect on life in Vermont, think again. It began with neighbors being fired from USAID and has evolved into destabilizing commerce with Vermont's biggest trade partner, Canada. In addition, President Trump's irresponsible rhetoric about Canada is having a profoundly negative impact on our tourism.

Research at UVM is threatened with funding cuts, and international students studying at our colleges are having their visas revoked and challenged. And sadly, last week, Windsor County had one of its legal residents, Mohsen Madawi, taken into custody by ICE. He is being detained in Vermont and is lucky to have a good lawyer who immediately filed a writ of habeas corpus (which kept him from being taken from Vermont) and a very supportive community.

In this unsettling environment, the Vermont Legislature continues to work on all of its priorities but also has to address the impact these federal actions are having on our constituents and economy.

On April 9 and 10, the Senate Economic Development Committee, which I chair, and the House Commerce Committee held two joint hearings at the State House. The first addressed the challenges Vermont and Canada face with the trade war and tariffs the Trump Administration is determined to enact, and the second addressed the state of tourism in Vermont, which is increasingly affected by Canadians boycotting travel to Vermont.

Last week, Senate Economic Development took up S.R.11, the Senate's resolution urging President Trump to repeal the Canadian tariffs.

Not surprisingly, in these hearings, we heard how interdependent our Vermont/Canadian economies are—so many of our manufacturers source materials and production in Canada, and vice versa. From our bakeries which source grains in Quebec, to our maple syrup producers, which source

the equipment and parts needed for sugar, to ski companies who source components and manufacture in Canada, to the sawmills

in Canada, which mill our lumber for use in all types of construction — we heard time and again of the cross-border nature of production and manufacturing seamlessly sewn into our economy. All of this is being turned upside down because of the current 10% tariffs, the destabilizing threat of additional tariffs, and the imposition of the devastating 25% tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum.

And, as a result, business optimism on both sides of the border has plummeted.

In response to these increasingly strained relations between our countries, the Senate is writing S.R.11, a resolution designed to reaffirm our strong relationship with Canada. It calls on President Trump to remove all tariffs he has imposed on Canadian imports and asks him to refrain from imposing any new tariffs. It articulates how much we value

Canadian investments in Vermont's economy supports over 17,000 jobs... \$680 million in goods and \$165 million in services [are] exported to Canada, and \$2.6 billion in goods [are] imported to Vermont.

our Canadian bonds: economic, cultural, and familial; how important our military and diplomatic ally is to us; and how much we value Canadian investments in Vermont's economy, which supports over 17,000 jobs. In addition, the resolution discusses how crucial the Canadian electric supply from Hydro-Quebec is to Vermont and cites the 2023 figures to underscore how important the economic impact of our partnership is: \$680 million in goods and \$165 million in services exported to Canada, and the \$2.6 billion in goods imported to Vermont.

This resolution has the overwhelming support of the Vermont Legislature — the House passed one similar earlier this session.

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



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

## ← Rutland housing award: from page 5

building practices under the theme "2030 on the Horizon: Assessing Vermont's Vision Versus Reality."

Efficiency Vermont Managing Director Peter Walke addressed the crowd during the conference, noting, "Politics and policies may change, but what doesn't change is how we deliver for our customers. Investments in efficiency offer stability and affordability when so much else is uncertain."

While Rutland's River Street project was the most relevant to the Rutland County area, other award-winning projects came from across the state, including Craftsbury,

Burlington, South Hero, Fairlee, and Brattleboro. Projects ranged from modular accessory dwelling units and multifamily gut rehabs to large-scale public buildings like the Williston Public Safety Building and Winooski School District renovations.

The keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Diana Hernandez of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, focused on energy insecurity and its wide-ranging impacts. "If we get it right," she said, "eradicating energy insecurity will deliver social and environmental benefits around emissions, efficiency, affordability, and accessibil-

ity while promoting health, wealth, and democracy." The BBD conference, hosted annually by Efficiency Vermont, serves as a major platform for sharing innovation and recognizing energy leadership across Vermont's construction and design industries. The recognition of Hildebrand Homes for its work in Rutland underscores how energy-smart building practices can be applied even to older structures, offering a path forward for community-focused development that doesn't sacrifice sustainability or comfort.

*For more information visit: [efficiencyvermont.com/bbd](http://efficiencyvermont.com/bbd).*



# New study shows most Vermonters report good health

Newly released data from the Dept. of Health, April 15, shows that most adults in Vermont report they are in good health, but that education and income levels, disabilities and other factors can lead to stark differences in people's health.

This data helps state officials and partners monitor trends and prioritize efforts to improve the health of all Vermonters. It is collected in the 2023 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Report, an annual health department survey of adults that tracks health-related behaviors, chronic health conditions and use of preventive services.

Overall, most Vermont adults report good to excellent general health, with only 14% of people reporting fair or poor health — similar to the previous year. Vermonters report better health than the U.S. overall, where 19% report fair or poor health.

However, the Vermont data shows certain groups are at higher risk: One quarter (25%) of Vermont adults living in homes with incomes of \$50,000 or less say they have poor health, and 21% of adults with a high school education or less say the same.

Health department officials say while the overall picture is good news, the data continues to support the department's focus on working across organizations and agencies to reduce health disparities.

"Health isn't just based on decisions we as individuals make at the grocery store or the doctor's office, it's also about the resources we have access to and the communities we live in," said Interim Health Commissioner Julie Arel. "This data reinforces our commitment to extend the opportunity for a healthy life to every person who lives in Vermont."

The survey reveals similar trends in other areas, including delaying health care due to cost,

poor mental health, disability, cardiovascular disease and COPD, diabetes and prediabetes, exercise habits, cigarette smoking, BMI-defined obesity, some vaccine rates, and other measures. The gap in health outcomes between Vermont adults with a disability and those without a disability is also significant: Adults with a disability are nearly six times more likely to report fair or poor general health and nearly four times more likely to report poor mental health.

However, the new report also shows positive changes in health behaviors over the last decade, indicating that Vermont adults are taking steps to reduce health risks.

**Other behavioral risk highlights:**

- 77% of Vermont adults report going to a routine doctor visit in the last year, almost a 10% increase since 2014 (68%).
- Vermont adults are more likely to meet aerobic physical activity recommendations than U.S. adults (67% vs. 60%). Adults with less education or lower income and those with a disability are less likely to meet these recommendations.
- 59% of Vermont adults 50+ have had a shingles vaccine. This is almost two times higher than the Vermont rate in 2014 (30%) and statistically higher than the U.S. rate (44%).
- Almost a quarter of Vermont adults report using cannabis (24%), but the rate of driving after cannabis use is down compared to 2016 (19% vs. 31%).
- Six in 10 Vermont adults had any alcohol in the past month (61%). This is higher than the U.S. rate of 52% of adults. Reported alcohol use increases with education level and household income level.

Health officials are also encouraging Vermonters who are selected to participate in the survey, which is active year-round. The health department interviews more than 6,000 adult Vermonters selected randomly for the BRFSS. All respondents are asked a uniform set of questions and results are weighted to represent the adult population of the state.

If you receive a phone call on behalf of the Vermont Dept. of Health about participating in a survey and want to check to see if it is legitimate or have questions about the Behavioral Risk, visit: [Vermont211.org](http://Vermont211.org).



New data from the Vermont Department of Health shows most adults report good health, but disparities in income, education, and disability remain.

Submitted



Courtesy SVUSD FB

**Slate Valley:** from page 1  
sources necessary to provide a high-quality, student-centered education while remaining committed to continuous improvement and fiscal responsibility. As we continue to navigate a time of significant uncertainty in public education—both at the state and federal levels—your partnership remains more important than ever. We are committed to maintaining transparency, fostering open communication, and working together to ensure Slate Valley remains a place where all students can thrive. Thank you for investing in the future of our schools and for standing with us as we face these challenges together."

**Funky Flies:** from page 2  
their website ([funkyflies.com](http://funkyflies.com)) and have brand partnerships with other local small business who struggle with having an online shop.  
"I reached out to a brewery, for instance, up here, and the logo is great, but they don't want to carry inventory because it's too expensive for them. If we partner with them, they can have their own drop-down right in our website for a partner project or project business," Leggette said.  
This can be good for tourists who want to order a glass from this brewery and do not want to travel with it. This is a safe and efficient way to promote other businesses in the area, the owners said.  
"It helps other people who would not have the ability to sell stuff online," Gicewicz said.  
Gicewicz works hard to create unique non-AI generated art. This art sometimes comes from collaborations with other artists across the country. He is currently working with the artist known as The Vintage Gimmick.  
"It's very fun to work with other creatives so they can see their designs on a deck and actually see it selling," said Gicewicz.  
Gicewicz and Leggette currently still see it as a passion project but hope one day it can become their full-time job.

**Bailey's Place:** from page 3  
alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Events like a Mother's Day "drag brunch" (21+) are on the horizon.  
Bailey's Place also stands apart by designating itself not just as LGBTQ+ friendly but as a true gathering place for the queer community—and allies too.  
"We're not just a bar. We're a place where people can feel safe," said McClure. "Not everyone can feel safe at home, work, or school. We want to be that place."  
With impressive determination, McClure has created something that many in the community have been waiting years for: a visible, vibrant, inclusive space for LGBTQ+ people to gather, celebrate, and just be.  
While hours are still in flux during these early weeks, patrons are encouraged to check Bailey's Place on Facebook for updates. One thing's for certain—whether you come for the food, drinks, or community, Bailey's Place is here to welcome you with open arms and open hearts.

**The Beast:** from page 4  
of Susanne Smith standing on skis under the Killington Basin ski area sign. But at the mountain, no fanfare took place that anyone could remember. Joe Sargent recalled selling lift tickets in the converted chicken coop that served as an outdoor ticket office on weekends, and Sue Smith thought that Pres was probably working on installing the Glades Poma.  
"It was probably a low-key day because we were still working to get the other lifts installed," Smith agreed.  
Next week, we'll examine Killington's "shoestring start" and an unusual stock story.  
Comments and insights are welcome: email [klorentzski@vermontel.net](mailto:klorentzski@vermontel.net) to share thoughts about skiing in the 1950s.



# DMV reminds Vermonters of upcoming REAL ID deadline

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding Vermonters that the REAL ID requirement takes effect on May 7, 2025. This means that people aged 18 and older will need a REAL ID-compliant Driver's License or Identification Card, or another form of identification accepted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), for domestic air travel and to enter certain federal facilities.

The DMV began preparing Vermonters for the change in 2014, and approximately 92% of all current valid Vermont driver's licenses are REAL ID.

"Most Vermonters already have REAL ID, though some may not be aware. If your driver's license has a star in the upper right corner, then it is REAL ID-compliant," said DMV Commissioner Andrew Collier.

Vermonters may choose between a Driver's Privilege Card (DPC) or a REAL ID Driver's License. The cost to obtain a REAL ID or DPC is the same. An Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) is also REAL ID compliant but has an additional fee.

You do not need a REAL ID if you have a valid U.S. passport or passport card, or you do not use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation, or you do not visit military bases, or you do not visit secure federal facilities.

You need a REAL ID if you do not have a valid U.S. passport or passport card AND you travel by airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation, or you visit military bases, or you visit secure federal facilities.

For more information, visit: [dmv.vermont.gov/licenses/types-of-licenses-ids/real-id](https://dmv.vermont.gov/licenses/types-of-licenses-ids/real-id).

## H.91 would overhaul Vermont's response to homelessness, dissolving statewide motel program

The bill's backers say a homelessness response system centered on the community level would be a better way to spend state money and serve people in need

By Carly Berlin/VT Digger

*This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, is published via a partnership between VT-Digger and Vermont Public.*

A bill that would fundamentally overhaul Vermont's response to homelessness is making its way through the Statehouse. H.91 provides a potential off-ramp to the state's mass use of motel rooms as a primary form of shelter – and could spell an end to the political battles over the voucher program that have become a yearly ritual.

"We've become stuck in a cycle of using band-aids with no real path out of this crisis," said Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, to her colleagues on the House floor in early April. Building the housing the state needs to ease homelessness will take time, she said. "In the meantime, we must make responsible use of our resources to ensure our vulnerable neighbors can thrive."

H.91 would dissolve the motel voucher program

as it currently exists next summer. In its stead would be a new initiative: the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing program. Funding and decision-making power over the state's homelessness response would shift to five regional anti-poverty nonprofits.

These community action agencies, along with the statewide organization serving people fleeing domestic violence, would also receive funding the state currently doles out for building and running local shelters, and would decide how to distribute it. The state would play an oversight role.

The bill's backers contend that a homelessness response system centered on the community level – rather than one that relies on the state as the central actor – will offer a better way to spend state money and serve unhoused people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Its critics argue that such a change would remove accountability from state government to care for Vermont's homeless population, eroding its current function as a backstop when shelters are full.

The bill passed the House earlier this month, and now sits in the Senate. Members of Republican Gov. Phil Scott's administration – frequently at odds with Democratic lawmakers over the future of the motel voucher program – have expressed some concern about the bill's cost, but have signaled their approval of the overall direction H.91 takes.

"There's a lot of merit, we think, to the idea of bringing this sort of service and decision-making closer to the local communities that are most impacted," Dept. for Children and Families Commissioner Chris Winters told lawmakers Thursday. He urged the Senate Health and Welfare Committee to consider

Homelessness → 12

### Rural schools: from page 1

izing decision-making into fewer school boards with reduced local representation, which would separate communities from decisions that directly impact their children and their schools."

VRSCA states that H.454 is in direct conflict with the letter and spirit of mergers resulting from Act 46 consolidation — many of the newly-formed districts are required to include all communities served in any decision to close a schools. There is no such provision in H.454.

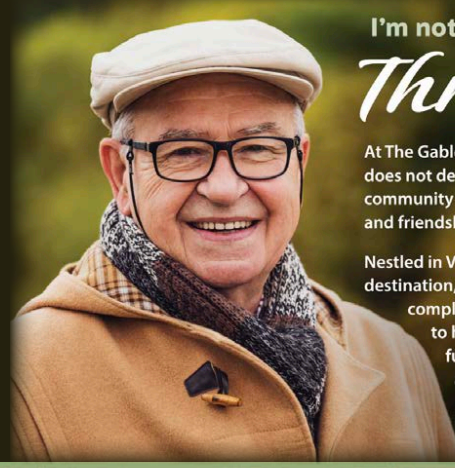
"Many school districts in Vermont currently have merger agreements that give towns a say in decisions about school closures," the VRSCA statement continued. "These provisions are essential. When a school faces closure, it is the local community—families, students, and taxpayers—who are most affected. They deserve a voice to ensure that children's needs are considered, including reasonable bus rides for young learners, thoughtful planning for the reuse of school buildings, and manageable financial impacts for the town. H.454 eliminates closure articles of agreement in the formation of the new larger districts,

and does not establish a clear process for school closures, creating uncertainty for rural communities ... The bill ignores the consequences for rural communities in Vermont, a state that is predominantly rural. School closures lead to population decline, reduced property values, loss of social capital, and difficulties attracting and retaining families. These are not abstract concerns—they are lived realities in towns where schools have already closed."

The Alliance currently is supported by more than 80 towns across the state, according to Charles. "Since Jan. 15, organizations that have joined [V]RSCA ... include school districts, supervisory unions, union districts, select boards and several early-childhood and parent-teacher groups," she wrote in an email. And the organization is growing steadily, she added.

VRSCA asks the legislators to instead focus their efforts on education financing, and to approach reformation of the education system as a separate, longer-term objective.

"We asked for tax relief, not for dismantling an education system based on strong local schools," Charles concluded.



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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## The real enemy isn't fear, it's how we let it divide us

By Stanley McChrystal

*Editor's Note: Stanley McChrystal, who is retired from the Army, is the former commander of U.S. and International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan and the former commander of Joint Special Operations Command. He is the author of the forthcoming book "On Character: Choices That Define a Life." This commentary was first published in the Addison Independent, a sister paper to the Mountain Times.*

Fear defines us. Not by its presence, but by how we respond to it.

There are two kinds of fear. The first is primal. It grips us when lightning strikes too close or when the crack of a bullet signals imminent danger. In those moments, our bodies freeze, and our focus narrows. But with time, experience and discipline, we recover. We learn to navigate perilous situations, even to function in the face of fear.

The second kind of fear is more insidious. It seeps into our daily lives, lingers in the background and dictates our choices without us realizing it.

America has always known fear — war, economic pain, uncertainty. But today's fear is different. It has been cultivated.

We live in a world of instability — jobs vanish, institutions falter, narratives shift by the hour. Every word we say, every action we take, is scrutinized, recorded and judged. The threat of digital mobs and public shaming doesn't protect us; it paralyzes us. It breeds hesitation, then withdrawal, then division.

Fear isolates. It pushes us into ideological bunkers, surrounding us only with those who think like us. And when fear festers, it mutates. What begins as anxiety turns into resentment. Resentment hardens into hatred. Hatred strips away our ability to see others as people. The result is a society riven by suspicion and hostility.

There is no magic cure for fear. But there is an antidote: rules.

Rules are not shackles. They are the foundation of order. They define the boundaries that allow us to function, ensuring fairness and predictability. For over two centuries, the U.S. Constitution has been our guiding framework, enduring war, crisis and division. It has been tested, yet it holds.

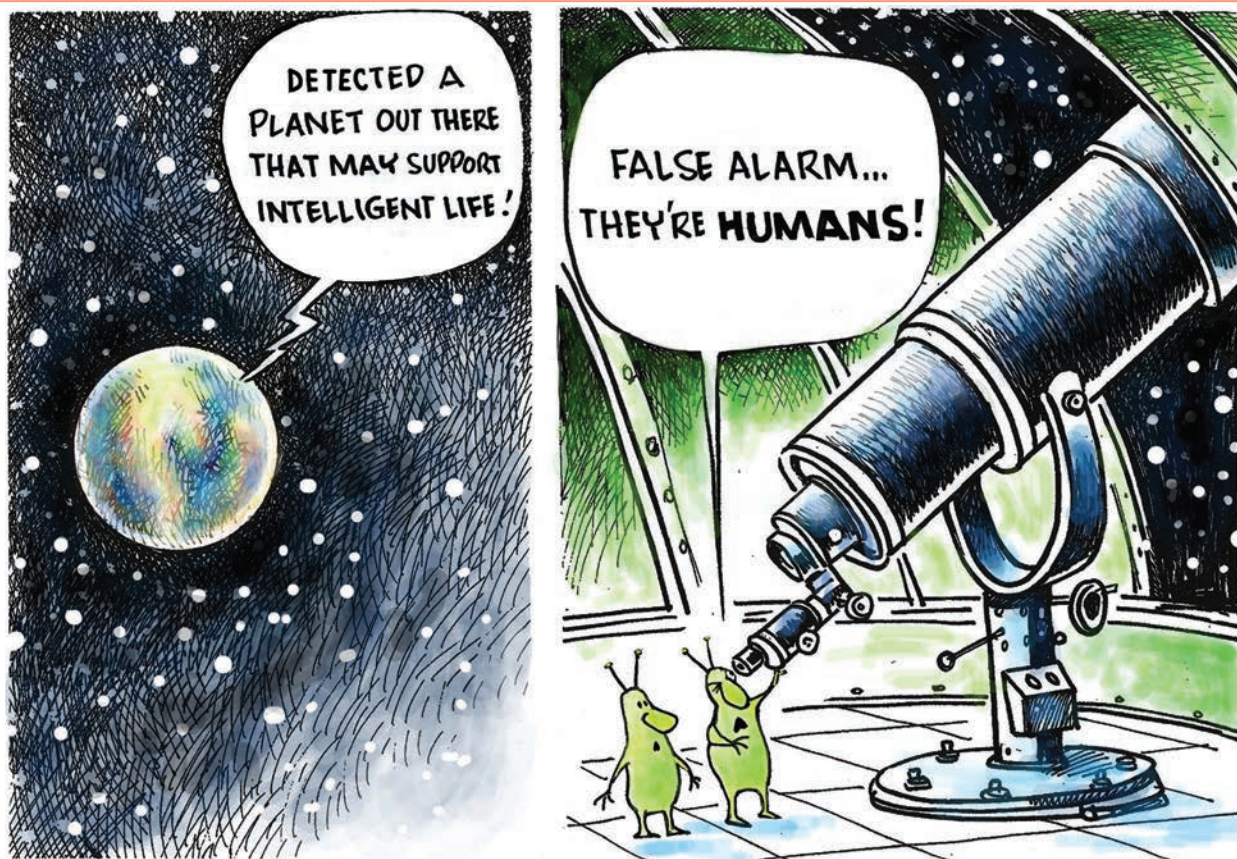
But the rules that matter most — the ones that govern character — are also in peril. The loss of external structure is one thing. The loss of internal discipline is another. Too many have abandoned the basic principles of integrity, decency and respect. Without these, society does not simply fray; it collapses.

In war, there was once an unspoken rule: Officers were not to be deliberately targeted. Armies understood that without disciplined leadership, chaos would follow. Leadership, at its best, provides stability, guiding people through uncertainty with resolve and principle.

Today, our leaders — whether in politics, business or culture — are no longer simply attacked; they are torn down with glee. Worse, some have become the very architects of disorder, stoking division and resentment for personal gain. They do not lead; they inflame. They do not steady the ship; they rock it for effect. And in doing so, they set a precedent that character no longer matters, that outrage is a currency

Fear → 13

America has always known fear — war, economic pain, uncertainty. But today's fear is different. It has been cultivated.



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Life on distant planet by Dave Granlund, Minnesota

## LETTERS

### Vote Bill Vines for Killington Select Board

Dear Editor,

At the special election on May 28, I am running for the 2-year seat on the Killington Select Board.

An incredibly diverse group of people call Killington home; my partner Mary Furlong and I included. After years of renting a ski house, we purchased our first Killington home in 1995. In 1997 we started a business, the Birch Ridge Inn. Our latest chapter began three years ago when we sold the inn and bought a home for retirement. We are very familiar with the challenges Killington residents face.

My goal should I be elected is to focus on three core principles within town government: respect, transparency, and sound management.

In a changing world, Killington must stay current. Yet Killington must also stay true to itself for people to continue to call Killington their home. Key to managing change is insuring all are heard and respected.

One measure of respect is how government communicates with citizens. Vermont's Open Meeting

and Public Records laws set minimum requirements. Killington should do better. Whether it's seeking advice and consent, reporting on projects, or answering simple questions, town government should be transparent.

Finally, to provide the necessary tools for respect and transparency, Killington needs to reinvigorate sound management practices in town government.

Killington uses a "Town Manager" form of government. Unfortunately, the town manager's office has featured a revolving door of late. While the reasons for the position being unstable are many, Killington is in a unique position to reinvigorate the office. With a newly hired town manager, and four new Select Board members (two in the last election, two in the upcoming special election) the time is now to promote sound management practices in town hall.

Killington has a bright future. I ask voters to cast their ballot for me for the Killington Select Board.

Bill Vines, Killington

### Vermont School Board Asso. supports H.454 ed plan

Dear Editor,

VSBA supports the bill as a more thoughtful and phased approach than Governor Scott's rushed, five district proposal.

#### **Grounded in a more realistic timeline:**

H.454 is the most grounded and actionable proposal developed during the 2025 session. It acknowledges the operational realities education leaders face every day. The implementation timeline is more manageable and allows for thoughtful planning.

#### **Recognizes that scale needs to be addressed at all levels and thoughtfully:**

Education reform proposals to date have largely focused on achieving scale through district consolidation. In contrast, H.454 takes a more thoughtful approach—calling for decisions about district scale to be guided by public input, data, and research. It also calls for any CTE governance reform to be a part of this larger process, signaling support for CTE as an integral part of the K-12 system. The bill also acknowledges that achieving scale must

be considered across all levels of the education system, where geographically appropriate, and often depends on the availability of school construction aid to support necessary infrastructure changes.

#### **Aims to achieve equity in our funding system:**

The bill establishes a foundation formula with a base education amount of \$15,033 per K-12 student, guided by research by Dr. Tammy Kolbe. It includes additional weights for students with greater needs, such as those experiencing poverty, and builds in an annual cost adjustment. The formula must also be reviewed every two years, ensuring it stays relevant and equitable over time.

#### **Is a start to adding balance in statewide governance:**

H.454 maintains the essential role of the State Board of Education in shaping education through public input processes. It also shifts two appointments to the House and Senate, beginning a more balanced appointment structure within statewide

VSBA → 13



## CAPITOL QUOTES

### Pope Francis

Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, passed away at age 88 on April 21. He was the first Latin American pope. Leaders from around the world expressed their admiration for the late pontiff.

**“I join the world in mourning the loss of Pope Francis. He was a visionary leader who inspired people around the world,”**

said Senator **Peter Welch** on X.

**“He commanded us to fight for peace and protect our planet from a climate crisis. He advocated for the voiceless and powerless. He made all feel welcome and seen by the Church. He promoted equity and an end to poverty and suffering across the globe. And above all, he was a Pope for everyone. He was the People’s Pope - a light of faith, hope, and love,”**

said former President **Joe Biden**.

**“From Buenos Aires to Rome, Pope Francis wanted the Church to bring joy and hope to the poorest. For it to unite humans among themselves, and with nature. May this hope forever outlast him,”**

said French President **Emmanuel Macron**.

**“His Holiness will be remembered for his compassion, his concern for the unity of the Church and for his tireless commitment to the common causes of all people of faith, and to those of goodwill who work for the benefit of others,”**

said Britain’s **King Charles**.

**“Rest in Peace Pope Francis! May God bless him and all who loved him,”**

said President **Donald Trump**.

## COMMENTARIES

# If Vt wants a future of abundance, we must choose to build

By Miro Weinberger

*Editor’s note: Weinberger is currently the executive chair of Let’s Build Homes. He was raised in Hartland and served as mayor of Burlington from 2012-2024.*

If you’ve turned on a podcast, watched a late-night show, or scrolled social media in the past month, you’ve probably heard something about “Abundance,” the new book by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson. The thesis is simple yet powerful: America, especially in blue states, has, over decades, created systems that prioritize stopping things rather than building them. We’ve become experts at saying no.

“Abundance” has struck a nerve—for good reason. “Abundance” is a call to action, a challenge to break free from what the authors describe as “the politics of blocking.” It’s about a country that’s forgotten how to build homes, transit, clean energy, and the infrastructure of opportunity.

Sometimes Vermont can seem insulated and removed from national political conversations—it can be easy to think some of these discussions don’t apply here. We pride ourselves on being a little different, a little apart.

But this one? This conversation is 100% about us.

When Klein says we’ve built a political

system that’s better at stopping things than getting them done—he could be talking about Vermont’s housing shortage because we’ve created a system that makes it incredibly hard to build the homes we need. Our state faces a critical housing shortage, yet the pathways to develop more homes are gauntlets of redundant state and local rules, costly government mandates, and permit appeals systems that enable obstructionists.

As a result, the average Vermonter experiences soaring rents, impossible home prices, and a growing number of neighbors without secure housing.

That’s why we started Let’s Build Homes—to ensure this isn’t Vermont’s future. We are working to transform our state from one that excels at blocking to one that prioritizes building in the right places—and we are already having an impact.

In this legislative session, we’ve supported a bill that will make it easier to finance and build the infrastructure—like water, sewer, and roads—that makes new housing possible. And thanks in part to our testimony and the coalition members who contacted their legislators, this bill has now passed the Senate. We are also working directly with municipalities to modernize

Build homes → 13

## What if Vt’s housing crisis was a bridge?

On June 11, 2023, a tanker truck full of gasoline was traveling on Philadelphia’s Interstate 95 when it approached an off-ramp and overturned. The truck spilled 2,500 gallons of gasoline mixed with ethanol, which then ignited. Philadelphia Fire Captain Boyd reported, “Every square foot of the underpass was nothing but flame.”

The fire ran into the storm sewers, and Philadelphia Battalion Chief Quedenfeld reported that “a lot of fire was coming out of the storm sewers” and that the maintenance hole covers from the storm sewers became projectiles, flying into the air from the pressure of the exploding gasoline.

At the end of the day, the northbound lanes were destroyed, the southbound lanes were damaged, and nine miles of Interstate 95 were closed, displacing approximately 160,000 daily commuters.

A conservative analysis of the damage to the bridge resulted in repair, which was estimated to take 24 months to repair.

An optimistic analysis of the damage to the bridge yielded repair estimated that would take 12 months.

While those responsible for the conservative and optimistic appraisals of the damages and the amount of time that it would

take to return I-95 to service were busy with their reports, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro was already at work.

The first thing he did was declare a state of emergency, which gave him the authority to make things happen. He looked at the surrounding environment and focused on the two large construction companies already in the area. He signed no-bid contracts, paid union wages, and

put them to work around the clock.

He embraced innovation as a key element in the strategy to get I-95 back online.

Most importantly, he optimized for speed rather than process and focused everyone’s attention on the objective.

There were some obstacles to overcome.

The project required 8,000 cubic yards of fill, but the weight threatened to crush vital water and sewer lines, so they turned to a local company that uses crushed recycled glass to make a material 85% lighter than gravel. This solution was so important to the

Accidental Activist → 39



**The Accidental Activist**  
By Stephen Box



## ← Homelessness:

from page 9

speeding up the transition contemplated in the bill.

Leaders of the community action agencies, meanwhile, have pleaded with lawmakers to pump the brakes. But the regional directors say they are up for taking on the responsibility the bill entrusts to them – if they’re given an extra year to plan and implement the new system, and if it’s properly funded in the long term.

“Hopefully this will mean that we don’t have this cycle of people in hotels under these different categories that suddenly have to leave,” said Paul Dragon, executive director of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity. “That’s going to take the communities coming together to decide how we want to do this differently.”

Yet others have pushed back forcefully against the bill – including many directors of local shelters. In interviews and in public testimony, they have questioned the efficacy of funneling money through the five community action groups, an arrangement they fear could create conflicts of interest and ultimately cost more administratively, leaving less funding available for direct services.

A decentralized system could create disparities in services in different regions, critics said. And the move could destabilize the state’s shelter system at the exact moment federal funding for housing and homelessness programs could disappear.

“Frankly, this is not a good look for the state. It feels like an attempt to distance the state from its responsibility to care for its most vulnerable people,” Kim Anetsberger, executive director of the Lamoille Community House, a shelter in Hyde Park, told lawmakers Wednesday. “These are Vermonters, and yet they’re often treated like a problem to be solved rather than people to be supported,” she said.

### A not-so-new idea

The seismic shift contemplated in H.91 caught many who work in Vermont’s homelessness service system off guard this legislative session. Yet the transition considered in the bill is hardly new. For over a decade, state leaders have looked at shifting the state’s role in homelessness response over to local and regional organizations – and at times have experimented with it.

In the midst of the Great Recession, in 2009, DCF relaxed the rules guiding the emergency housing program, allowing



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

*The Travelodge motel in South Burlington seen on Tuesday, April 1. Residents who exhausted their 80-day limit and did not qualify for an exemption had to leave the motel housing program on April 1.*

more people to access motel vouchers. The next year, it began contracting with the five community action agencies to essentially vet applications, while the state held ultimate responsibility for approving someone’s stay, according to a 2012 stakeholder study.

“I remember waiting rooms in community action agencies being filled daily with folks who were seeking entry to the motel voucher program,” said Erhard Mahnke, the former coordinator of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition. People would wait all day to hear whether the state ultimately approved them a place to stay for the night, he recalled.

The system didn’t last long. The 2012 study found that many believed the state had asked the regional nonprofits to take on the vetting responsibility “without giving them adequate resources to do so” – resulting in “considerable inconsistency around the state.” While some wanted the local groups to gain full decision-making power, the state ultimately took over the application process again.

In the years following, reports to the Legislature routinely emphasized the program’s high price tag and the need to shift to a different model.

“While motels may meet the need for a temporary roof overhead, it is not good public policy for reducing homelessness in Vermont,” one such report from 2016 read.

Several years later, DCF pushed to remove the motel program from state government entirely. In a February 2020 memo, DCF officials outlined their aim to restructure the state’s approach to emergency housing, ending the state-run motel voucher program and shifting to a “100% community-based emergency housing/shelter system.” Officials hoped to begin the transition that July, but service providers pushed back, arguing the state wasn’t providing enough time.

The next month, the Covid-19 pandemic hit, and the proposal was shelved. With emergency funding from the federal government in hand, the state opened the voucher program’s doors to anyone in need of shelter.

The program transformed from one that provided short-term shelter to a few hundred people during the coldest points of winter and cost under \$5 million annually into one that offered long-term stays to several thousand people at a time and cost upwards of \$50 million a year. (The cost has since decreased due to various caps placed on the program over the last several years, and is projected to cost about \$34 million this fiscal year).

When DCF attempted to revive their localization proposal in 2021, critics worried the state was offering communities too little time to plan and was removing itself as a backstop, according to a DCF memo to lawmakers from that February.

Service providers strongly objected, arguing the change would result in an “exponential increase in literal homelessness,” according to VTDigger reporting from the time.

Since then, fights over how to best wind down the program’s pandemic era-expansion have become a perennial flashpoint in yearly budget negotiations, as lawmakers and administration officials debate the best way to care for a homeless population that has tripled since before the pandemic. Last-minute extensions and rule changes have become the voucher program’s hallmark, creating what Dragon called a “roller coaster” ride for unhoused people and service providers alike.

Proponents of H.91 see it as the last-best effort to step off that turbulent ride.

### Seeing all the pieces

The concerns that plagued former versions of regionalization — the timeframe of the transition, the funding questions, the fear that the state is absolving itself of responsibility — all haunt H.91. But the leaders of community action agencies were quick to point out the differences between this bill and prior proposals to decentralize Vermont’s homelessness response system.

Past efforts focused on restructuring the motel program in particular, Dragon said. The current bill is much more holistic, giving communities more flexibility in how they choose to use the funding after undergoing a regional planning and needs-assessment process — while the state plays a monitoring role.

That decision-making process could result in using motel rooms to an extent, Dragon said. “But it may look very different. It could include a variety of different shelters...It could include single resident occupancies.”

H.91 proposes maintaining the current funding level for homelessness programs when the regional nonprofits take the reins. Even now, however, there is not enough money in the system to address the needs of all Vermonters experiencing homelessness, said Frank Knaack, director of the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont.

He thinks the regional shift envisioned by the bill could work, if adequate funding for shelter and affordable housing is maintained over time – and if the state retains a key role in the picture.

If it’s the middle of winter in Burlington and the local response team has run out of funding for an emergency cold weather shelter, the state must be there to assist, he said. If another flood occurs in Washington County, “the state has the ability to bring massive state resources in immediately to address that.”

“The state is the one who can kind of see all the pieces,” Knaack said.





## ← Build homes: ..... from page 11

zoning and allow more housing in the places where it's most needed.

Next, by engaging the process launched by the legislature a year ago, we're taking on one of the most significant barriers: reforming the outdated maps and rules under Act 250 that limit where and how we can grow.

This isn't going to be easy. Already, we can see new groups forming that want to continue the politics of blocking. We must push ourselves to grow in a way that respects our cherished natural landscape, which is better than the development we have seen in other parts of the country.

Vermont's future depends on finding this balance.

Make no mistake: if we are going to end homelessness, be a state where young families can get a start, provide all our kids with a good education, and enjoy high-quality health care throughout the state—if we want a future of abundance, not scarcity—we are going to have to grow.

The alternative is a Vermont that becomes increasingly unaffordable, where only the wealthy or those receiving aid can live, where our schools continue to empty, where our rural communities are hollowed out, where our workforce shortage worsens, and where more Vermonters find themselves without homes. That's not the Vermont any of us want.

The politics of abundance requires courage. It means standing up to voices that reflexively say no. It means embracing change while being thoughtful about how we manage it. It means creating new systems for government decisions and actions that prioritize results and speed over undue process.

Let's Build Homes is committed to leading this transition from a state of blocking to a state of building. Join us in creating a Vermont where everyone can find a place to call home.

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

## ← Fear: ..... from page 10

and that the path to power is not through integrity but through spectacle.

When our leaders abandon character, it does more than set a poor example. It accelerates decay. It tells people that principles are optional, that decency is weakness, that rules are for fools. It fosters a culture of fear, where hesitation replaces confidence, cynicism replaces trust and self-preservation replaces the courage to stand for what is right. When those at the top abandon the standards that hold society together, the rest of us, knowingly or not, follow suit. And when enough people do, the foundation doesn't just erode. It crumbles. We cannot afford to let this stand.

The strength of our character is not defined by the absence of fear but by our ability to face it, to rise above it and to live, and lead, with integrity. It is in these moments that we show the true measure of our resolve.

Fear is not a force to be defeated by force alone, but by the steady adherence to rules that govern both our actions and our hearts. In this, we will find not just a defense against fear, but also the foundation of our strength.

## ← VSBA: ..... from page 10

governance.

### Promotes statewide coordination:

The bill calls for increased coordination at the state level around the school calendar, education finance systems, student data systems, and graduation requirements. This alignment will create a more seamless experience for students and make access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) more equitable and efficient.

### Reopens the door to school facilities funding:

The bill reintroduces state aid for school construction through a new

capital investment program. In addition, funds generated from communities that choose to spend more than the foundation formula will be pooled in a statewide capital construction fund.

As education leaders, you play a critical role in shaping the future of public education in Vermont. You can make a difference by asking members of the House of Representatives to vote yes on H.454 and providing the reasons why you think a thoughtful, phased approach is needed.

*Sue Ceglowski, VSBA executive director*

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Landscape Construction and Installation

Master Gardner Planning and Design

Arborist Services



## Gardening Tip of the Week



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



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**WED**  
4/23

### S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

### Boating Safety Course

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodard Marine Show Room, 35 E. Creek Dr., Castleton. \$20. Required for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1974, to operate a motorboat in Vermont. This in-person course includes two 4-hour sessions (April 23-24), led by an instructor with over 30 years of experience. For ages 11+, class size limited to 15. Parental consent required for those under 18. Coupon code for free class: FreeSafety20. [woodardmarine.com](http://woodardmarine.com).

### Active Seniors Lunch

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

### Gentle & Restorative Yoga

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

### Let's Laugh

1-3:30 p.m. Godnick Adult Center Rec Hall, 1 Deer st., Rutland. Free. Volunteer Marian presents a performance by a comedian to get you laughing out loud. [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com).

### Cribbage for Adults

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

### Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

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

### Oil Painting – Adult Intermediate Level

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$35. For ages 15+ with oil painting experience. Paint using the Alla Prima technique and leave with a finished piece. Bring your own brushes; canvas and paints provided. Instructor: Spencer Pelkey. Min: 5 participants. Must pre-register. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Vintage Book Cover Flower Presses

6-8 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$35. Create a recycled flower press using vintage hardcover books. Participants can bring their own book or choose from a provided selection. All ages welcome; youth under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Instructor: Caitlin Gates. [kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site](http://kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site).

### Open Poetry Reading & Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration

6:30 p.m. Castleton Free Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. Free. Read a favorite poem or one of your own at this community open mic. Hosted in partnership with the Castleton Community Center's writer's group. Cake served in honor of Shakespeare's birthday. [castletonfreelibrary.org](http://castletonfreelibrary.org).

### A Champion of the Maple Syrup Industry: The First 100 Years of the G.H. Grimm Company

7-8:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, Fox Room, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Dr. Matthew M. Thomas explores the history of the G.H. Grimm Company, a leading maple syrup equipment manufacturer, tracing its origins from Ohio to Vermont and Québec. Presented by the Rutland Free Library and Rutland Historical Society. [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.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](http://playhouseflicks.com).

**THURS**  
4/24

### Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

### Boating Safety Course

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodard Marine Show Room, 35 E. Creek Dr., Castleton. \$20. Required for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1974, to operate a motorboat in Vermont. This in-person course includes two 4-hour sessions (April 23-24), led by an instructor with over 30 years of experience. For ages 11+, class size limited to 15. Parental consent required for those under 18. Coupon code for free class: FreeSafety20. [woodardmarine.com](http://woodardmarine.com).

### Intermediate Line Dance

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

### Survivors Support Group

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

### Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org) or 802-422-4323.

### Communication Skills Class

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

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, 85 West St., Rutland. Free. Donate blood and support critical care needs. Donors April 14-30 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt and a chance to win \$5,000. [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

### Chaffee: Artery

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

### Ukelele Group

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

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Noon-4:30 p.m. Pierce Hall, 38 Main St., Rochester. Free. Blood donations urgently needed. Donate in April to receive a Red Cross T-shirt and a chance at \$5,000. [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

### Play Bridge!

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

### Kids Mandala Painting

4-5 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$20. A fun art session where kids create mandala-inspired designs using various mediums. Includes all supplies. Min: 5 participants. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Mandala Painting

5:30-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$25. Enjoy a mindful art session with mandala dot painting, tea, and sweet treats. Includes supplies and a bit of Chaffee history. Min: 5 participants. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Reading Cemeteries with Erin E. Moulton

6:30-7:30 p.m. Online via Zoom, hosted by the Woodstock History Center. Free. Genealogist Erin E. Moulton explores how tombstone imagery, epitaphs, and stone types reveal rich historical insights. [us06web.zoom.us/j/83512639091?pwd=MvPTqZMlnORbM4fTsaF0XflQUwUbm3.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83512639091?pwd=MvPTqZMlnORbM4fTsaF0XflQUwUbm3.1). [woodstockhistorycenter.org](http://woodstockhistorycenter.org).

### Film Screening: 'Common Ground'

6:30-8 p.m., Jeffords Lecture Hall, Castleton University. Free. Screening of "Common Ground," a journalistic exposé revealing the power dynamics shaping America's food system and highlighting regenerative agriculture efforts. A Q&A will follow the screening.

### 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](http://playhouseflicks.com).

**FRI**  
4/25

### Senior Café

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

### Vintage Market Days of Vermont – Early Buying Event

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St., Rutland. \$15. Shop two full buildings and an outdoor area filled with vintage goods, handmade treasures, boutique items, live music, and food trucks. Ticket good for re-entry all weekend. [vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont](http://vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont).

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

### Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

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

### Partners in Housing Monthly Meeting

1:30 p.m. HUB CoWorks, Streetside Conference Room, 67 Merchants Row, Suite 201, Rutland. Free. April's meeting will focus on short term rentals and their role in Vermont's tourism economy. Guest speaker Julie Marks, Founder and Director of the Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance (VTSTRA), will lead the discussion. [partnersinhousingvt.com](http://partnersinhousingvt.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 RRMCE employees and family. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. [vtwestiebest@gmail.com](mailto:vtwestiebest@gmail.com).

### UNBOUND vol. XIII Opening Reception

5:30-7:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Celebrate the opening of Artistree's annual exhibit exploring the book as art, now in its 13th year. Features traditional and unconventional artist's books, including 2-D and 3-D works created from deconstructed books. Exhibit runs through May 24. [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org).

### Free Family Movie Night

6:30-8:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Vote in the Children's Room or on social media to help choose the movie. Winning title announced mid-April. Start time may vary based on film length. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org).





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

### Dirty Deeds – The AC/DC Experience

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$29-\$39. Celebrate the energy of AC/DC with a power-packed tribute performance spanning the Bon Scott and Brian Johnson eras. Dirty Deeds delivers an electrifying and immersive rock experience, recreating the band's iconic sound, stage presence, and spirit. paramountvt.org.

### Mud Season: Jay Nash Live

7 p.m. Mission Farm, 422 Mission Farm Road, Killington. \$25-\$30. Part of the Mud Season Music Series, Jay Nash performs an intimate solo acoustic set. jaynash.com.

### And Another Thing – Stand-Up Comedy

7-9 p.m. Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret. \$25 adults, \$20 seniors. Three veteran comedians—Kendra Cunningham, Meredith Gordon, and Vicki Ferentinos—bring the laughs for two nights only. artistreevt.org/performances.

### Film Screening: 'The Penguin Lessons' (PG13)

7 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. In 1979 Argentina, a teacher and his students are enlightened by an unusual guest. Starring Steve Coogan. pentanglearts.org.

### Winter Moth Storytelling: Just a Matter of Time

7 p.m. Abbott Memorial Library, 15 Library Lane, South Pomfret. Free. All ages. A live storytelling event featuring the theme "Just a Matter of Time." Snacks provided. 802-763-8393.

### Film Screening: 'Snow White'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. PG. Live action re-imagining of the Disney caroon. playhouseflicks.com.

### Fierce Friday Presents – DIVAS! A Night of

#### Celebrity Impersonation

8-11 p.m. Elks Lodge, 44 Pleasant St., Rutland. \$25-\$30. Get ready for a dazzling night of drag and celebrity impersonation, hosted by Rutland County Pride! Featuring fierce performances inspired by your favorite icons. Must be 18+. rcpride.org.

**SAT**  
4/26

### Kids Fishing Derby – West Pawlet

8-11 a.m. Hollister Pond, Rte 153, 1.5 miles south of village, West Pawlet. Free. Hosted by the West Pawlet Fish & Game Club, this Children's Fishing Program event offers young anglers a chance to catch 8 to 10" stocked trout in a fun, family-friendly setting. Sponsored by Vermont Fish & Wildlife. vtfishandwildlife.com.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

8 a.m.-noon. Rutland Town Transfer Station, 60 Green Hill Ln., Rutland Town. Free. The Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) hosts a collection event for household hazardous waste. Open to residents of SWAC member towns. For accepted items and town eligibility, visit rutlandcountyswac.org.

### Rabies Vaccination & Microchip Clinic

9-11 a.m. Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 4832 Route 44, West Windsor. \$20 per rabies vaccination, \$20 per microchip. First-come, first-serve clinic for dogs and cats. Pets must be leashed or crated. Bring prior rabies certificate for eligibility of a 3-year certificate. lucymac.org

### 10th Annual Owl Festival

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$25 adults, \$22 youth, free for children 3 & under and VINS members. Celebrate owls with live presentations, crafts, games, and conservation info. Early bird pricing available online through April 25. Overflow parking and shuttle at Ottauquechee School. vinsweb.org/owl-festival-2025.

### 2025 Festival of Quilts by Maple Leaf Quilters

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Rutland Town Elementary School, 1612 Post Road, Rutland. \$8. Children under 12 free. Featuring over 150 quilts, antique quilt exhibit, consignment boutique, vendors, food, handicap accessible, and convenient parking. mapleleafquilters.org.

### Healthy Kids Kitchen: Asian-Style Takeout Cooking Class

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Kitchen at Mission Farm, 367 Mission Farm Road, Killington. \$53.31. Kids ages 9-12 will learn to cook delicious Asian-style takeout dishes in this hands-on cooking class. Space is limited. missionfarmkitchen.org.

### Vermont Winter Farmers Market

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

### Vintage Market Days of Vermont – General Admission

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St., Rutland. \$10. Enjoy vintage and boutique shopping, live music, and food trucks across indoor and outdoor spaces. Ticket good for re-entry all weekend. Children under 12 free. vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont.

### Baby Farm Animal Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. With standard admission. Free for Billings Farm members. Meet baby animals including calves, piglets, chicks, goat kids, lambs, and bunnies. Enjoy wagon rides, stories, obstacle courses, food trucks, and the Art on the Barns exhibition. billingsfarm.org.

### LYS Day

10 a.m.-5 p.m., Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Free. Celebrate Local Yarn Store Day with door prizes, mystery kits, vendor promotions, free patterns, knitting help from the Stitch Doctor, and cookies from a local bakery. greenmountainfibers.com.

### Pour Painting

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$30. Learn the pour painting technique in this guided session with instructor Lorrie Amerio Manieri. All supplies included. Minimum 5, maximum 12 participants. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. See an operating HO scale model railroad set up and displays of hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and more. facebook.com/p/Rutland-RailwayAssociation-1000667610130977.

### Free Child Car Seat Safety Check

11 a.m.-2 p.m., Benson's Chevrolet, 25 Pond St., Ludlow. Free. Get your child's car seat checked for proper installation by trained technicians. Complimentary tire pressure checks and free lunch (hotdogs and hamburgers) provided. No appointment necessary. bensonschevy.com.

### The Paper Poet Is In(die)

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Celebrate Indie Bookstore Day and National Poetry Month with Poet-in-Residence Bianca Amira Zanella, who will be on-site creating complimentary spontaneous poems on the typewriter. Stop in, offer a subject or ask for a surprise poem. Tips welcome. phoenixbooks.biz.

### 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.

### Where Do I Fit in with Time & Space?

1-3:15 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$35. Explore ancestral grief and connection through guided reflection and art-making. Participants may bring copies of family photographs to incorporate into their piece; all other materials provided. Instructor: Jackie Proulx. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

### Manga for Kids!

2-4 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$25. Kids ages 8-12 will learn how to draw in Japanese manga style during this beginner-friendly art class. All supplies included. Instructor: Kara Draws. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

### SVA Artist Member Show

2-4 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Opening reception for the 2025 Artist Member Show, featuring works by over a dozen local artists. Exhibit runs through June 8. stonevalleyarts.org.

### The Vermont Palette: VPS Members' Exhibition

2-4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. Presented by the Vermont Pastel Society, this exhibition invites artists to explore Vermont's diverse landscape through pastel, pushing creative boundaries and embracing new expressions. Opening reception. vermontpastelsociety.org.

## KIDS FISHING DERBY IN WEST PAWLET

SAT. 8-11 A.M.



### Drag Story Hour

3-4 p.m. North Chapel, 7 Church St., Woodstock. Free. Pride of Woodstock and Yankee Bookstore present a family-friendly Drag Story Hour celebrating literacy, self-expression, diversity, and imagination, followed by snacks and crafts. prideofwoodstockvt.org.

### Decked Out Days

3-5 p.m. K-1 Lodge patio, Killington Resort, Killington. Free. Celebrate spring skiing season with live music, games, and Michelob ULTRA swag giveaways on the K-1 Lodge patio. Part of Killington's spring après series, this event brings the party atmosphere off the mountain and onto the deck. killington.com.

### Bingo

5 p.m., Bridgewater Grange #284, 129 Rte. 100A, Bridgewater Corners. Concessions available. Games begin at 6:15 p.m. All welcome. facebook.com/groups/90556951117.

### Date Night Cooking Class: International Tapas

6-9 p.m. The Kitchen at Mission Farm, 367 Mission Farm Road, Killington. \$216.29 (price per couple). Adults are invited to cook and enjoy savory international tapas dishes in this fun and flavorful evening class. Space is limited. missionfarmkitchen.org

### Ludlow Rotary Club's 67th Annual Penny Sale

6-9 p.m., Ludlow Elementary School, 45 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The Ludlow Rotary Club hosts its annual Penny Sale with over 300 prizes, refreshments, and community fun. Proceeds support local Rotary programs and initiatives. portal.clubrunner.ca/2939.

### Film Screening: 'The Penguin Lessons' (PG13)

7:00 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. In 1979 Argentina, a teacher and his students are enlightened by an unusual guest. Starring Steve Coogan. pentanglearts.org.

### PoemTown Finale: Farmer Poets at Silloway Maple

7 p.m. Silloway Maple Sugar House, 1303 Braintree Hill Rd., Randolph Center. Free. April 26. Celebrate the PoemTown finale with live readings from farmer poets Taylor Mardis Katz, Katie Spring, and Greg Bernhardt. Hosted in a working sugarhouse, this event offers a unique setting for poetry meant to be heard aloud. poemtown.org.

### And Another Thing – Stand-Up Comedy

7-9 p.m. Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret. \$25 adults, \$20 seniors. Three veteran comedians—Kendra Cunningham, Meredith Gordon, and Vicki Ferentinos—bring the laughs for two nights only. artistreevt.org/performances.

### Mozart's Requiem

7-9 p.m. Casella Theater, VTSU Castleton, 62 Alumni Dr., Castleton. Free. The Rutland Area Chorus, Grace Festival Orchestra, UVM Concert Choir and Catamount Singers, and VTSU Castleton Chorale and Chamber Singers perform Mozart's "Requiem in D minor." Conducted by Sherrill Blodget with soloists Evangelia Leontis, Lorna Jane Norris, Ryan Matos, and David Rugger. gracechurchvt.org.



← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info.....  
from page 23



## BOUNCE-A-PALOOZA

SUN. 10 A.M.–3 P.M.

### Film Screening: 'Snow White'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. PG. Live action re-imagining of the Disney caroon. playhouseflicks.com.

SUN  
4/27

### Vintage Market Days of Vermont – General Admission

10 a.m.–3 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 S. Main St., Rutland. \$10. Enjoy vintage and boutique shopping, live music, and food trucks across indoor and outdoor spaces. Ticket good for re-entry all weekend. Children under 12 free. vintagemarketdays.com/market/vermont.

### 2025 Festival of Quilts by Maple Leaf Quilters

10 a.m.–4 p.m. Rutland Town Elementary School, 1612 Post Road, Rutland. \$8. Children under 12 free. Featuring over 150 quilts, antique quilt exhibit, consignment boutique, vendors, food, handicap accessible, and convenient parking. mapleleafquilters.org.

### Baby Farm Animal Celebration

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. With standard admission. Free for Billings Farm members. Meet baby animals including calves, piglets, chicks, goat kids, lambs, and bunnies. Enjoy wagon rides, stories, obstacle courses, food trucks, and the Art on the Barns exhibition. billingsfarm.org.

### Bounce-A-Palooza

10 a.m.–3 p.m. Rutland Recreation Community Center, 134 Community Dr., Rutland. \$5 advance, \$7 day-of (ages 1-15), free for ages 16+ with paying child. Presented by Whirlies World, this event features multiple bounce houses, cotton candy, and snow cones. Proceeds benefit improvements to the Community Center's Kids Zone. rutlandrec.com.

### Ranger Pre-Ride

Noon-4 p.m. Mt Peg Trails Parking, Woodstock. Free. Join the Ranger crew and Ranch Camp for a laid-back social ride ahead of the Ranger Gravel-Enduro. Two group levels (intermediate and advanced), all rides 25+ miles. Ride leaders and routes provided. Limited to 50 participants—RSVP required. mtbwoodstock.com.

### Film Screening: 'Snow White'

2 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. PG. Live action re-imagining of the Disney cartoon. Starring Rachel Segler and Gal Gadot. playhouseflicks.com.

### "Healthcare is a Human Right" Medicaid Cuts Discussion

2-4 p.m. Junction Arts & Media (JAM), 5 S Main St., 1st. Floor, White River Junction. Free. Hosted by the Vermont Workers' Center, this event features a presentation on the impact of Medicaid cuts on Vermonters, followed by a group discussion. Attendees are encouraged to share their own healthcare stories. Snacks and drinks provided. workerscenter.org.

### Film Screening: 'The Penguin Lessons' (PG13)

3:00 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. In 1979 Argentina, a teacher and his students are enlightened by an unusual guest. Starring Steve Coogan. pentanglearts.org.

### Jazz Café

3-5 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month with a special afternoon concert featuring returning musicians from the Jazz Café series and the West Rutland School Westside Jazz Combo under the direction of Zach Hampton. stonevalleyarts.org.

### Mozart's Requiem

4-6 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St., Rutland. Free. The Rutland Area Chorus, Grace Festival Orchestra, UVM Concert Choir and Catamount Singers, and VTSU Castleton Chorale and Chamber Singers perform Mozart's "Requiem in D minor." Conducted by Sherrill Blodgett with soloists Evangelia Leontis, Lorna Jane Norris, Ryan Matos, and David Rugger. gracechurchvt.org.

MON  
4/28

### Bone Builders

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

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

11 a.m.–3:30 p.m. American Legion Post #49, 72 So. Main St., Fair Haven. Free. Give blood and help save lives. All who donate April 14-30 will receive an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt and be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 prizes. redcrossblood.org.

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

11 a.m.–5 p.m. Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich. Free. Be a lifesaving volunteer by giving blood. All April donors receive a Red Cross T-shirt and are entered to win a \$5,000 prize. redcrossblood.org.

### Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. This week's film is "Love Hurts," starring Oscar winners Ke Huy Quan and Ariana DeBose. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

TUES  
4/29

### Bird and Nature Walk – Fairgrounds West

7:30-10:30 a.m. Fairgrounds Trail, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and Rutland County Audubon Society for a slow-paced 3-mile bird and wildflower hike on easy terrain. Open to all experience levels. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and insect repellent. Contact: jptilley50@gmail.com. vmba.org.

### Met Opera: 'Le Nozze di Figaro'

1 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$20. Experience Mozart's beloved comedy in an encore screening from the Metropolitan Opera. Conducted by Joana Mallwitz in her Met debut, the cast features Michael Sumuel, Olga Kulchynska, Joshua Hopkins, Federica Lombardi, and Marianne Crebassa. Run time: 3 hours, 30 minutes. paramountvt.org.

### 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.

### 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.

### VTSU Castleton Wind Symphony: Good On Paper

7-8:30 p.m. Casella Theater, Fine Arts Center, 45 Alumni Dr., Castleton. \$5-\$10. A concert of music inspired by visual art and literature, featuring Bernstein's Overture to "Candide," Hisaishi's "My Neighbor Totoro" suite, and Shapiro's electronic work "Paper Cut," plus pieces by Jacob, Standridge, Whitacre, and Copley. vermontstate.edu.

### 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 RRM employees and family. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

## ONGOING

### Arantza Peña Popo's Visual Journalism

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

### Spring Dressage Camp

April 22-25. Horse Amour, 432 Kelley Road, Brandon. An intense week of dressage instruction and creative riding leading up to the annual Spring Dressage Show. Riders can prep for tests, join a quadrille, try musical freestyle, or collaborate in Pas De Deux/Trois. Space is limited—early registration recommended. horseamour.com.

### The Vermont Palette: VPS Members' Exhibition

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

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

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

## UPCOMING

### Vermont Organics Recycling Summit

Wednesday, April 30 from 8:15 a.m.–6 p.m. Vermont State University, Randolph. Free. The 19th annual summit, themed "Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost," will explore composting's role in building resilient communities, reducing waste, and supporting healthy soils. Includes keynote by Michael Martinez of L.A. Compost, hybrid plenary, and in-person sessions. Followed by free statewide tours and workshops on May 1. cav.md.membershipsoftware.org.

### Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band: A Springsteen Celebration

May 3 at 7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$29.50-\$79.50. Acclaimed voice actor Hank Azaria brings his live concert tribute "Hank Azaria as Bruce Springsteen and the EZ Street Band" to the Paramount. Azaria channels Bruce's signature vocals, physicality, and storytelling in a full-tilt performance he calls "a theatrical piece, not impersonation." Net proceeds benefit The Four Through Nine Foundation. paramountvt.org.

### Rutland Youth Theatre Presents: 'Mary Poppins'

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

### Race Around the Lake

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



**[MUSIC Scene]**By DJ Dave Hoffenberg  
Have a music scene coming up? Email [djdavehoff@gmail.com](mailto:djdavehoff@gmail.com)**WED**  
4/23**LUDLOW**

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

**POULTNEY**

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

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. The Public House – Chris Pallutto

**RUTLAND**

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

**THUR**  
4/24**BOMOSEEN**

6:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge &amp; 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. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Killington Cafe &amp; Wine Bar – Music Bingo with Sunset Entertainment

**LONDONDERRY**

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

**LUDLOW**

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

**POULTNEY**

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

**QUECHEE**

6 p.m. Public House Pub – 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

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – Crash Course in Comedy!

**WOODSTOCK**

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Jim Yeager

**FRI**  
4/25**BOMOSEEN**

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge &amp; Taproom – Tom Davidson

**CASTLETON**

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Mitch Terricciano

**KILLINGTON**

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

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Alli and Adam

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

**POULTNEY**

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mr. Moose &amp; Friends

**QUECHEE**

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Peter and Friends

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Sammy B

**RANDOLPH**

7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room – The Peavine Boys with Jennings and McComber &amp; Katie Dobbins

**RUTLAND**

9:30 a.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – Vintage Market Days with music by George Nostrand

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

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

**TINMOUTH**

7:30 p.m. Old Firehouse – Friction Farm

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – AND ANOTHER THING: A fun night of Comedy

starring Kendra Cunningham, Meredith Gordon and Vicki Ferentinos

**SAT**  
4/26**BOMOSEEN**

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

**BRANDON**

4 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Carl Anton and Emily Nelson

**BRIDGEWATER**

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with headliner James Pontillo

**CASTLETON**

7 p.m. Casella Theater – VTSU Castleton Chorale

**KILLINGTON**

2:30 p.m. K1 Base Lodge Patio – Decked Out Days with Rhys Chalmers

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

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

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – All-Request DJ Dave Dance Party

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

**QUECHEE**

5:30 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Rivalry

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Em &amp; Nat

**RUTLAND**

9:30 a.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds – Vintage Market Days with music by George Nostrand

**SOUTH POMFRET**

7 p.m. Grange Theatre – AND ANOTHER THING: A fun night of Comedy

starring Kendra Cunningham, Meredith Gordon and Vicki Ferentinos

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**WOODSTOCK**

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Bryan Frates

**SUN**  
4/27**BRIDGEWATER CORNERS**

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Liz Reedy

**KILLINGTON**

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

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

**QUECHEE**

2 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Rowley Hazard

**RUTLAND**

4 p.m. Grace Church – Requiem

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

**STOCKBRIDGE**

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

**WEST RUTLAND**

11 a.m. Town Rec – Bounce-a-Palooza with music by Ryan Fuller

**MON**  
4/28**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 – Music Bingo by Sunset Entertainment

**Owl Festival****SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
9 AM TO 5 PM**GET YOUR TICKETS!**  
**VINSWEB.ORG/OWLS****VINS NATURE CENTER**  
149 NATURES WAY / QUECHEE, VT / 802.359.5000**BLUES DUO**You on acoustic guitar  
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Blues from the 1920's &amp; 30's era....thru today



## Billings Farm & Museum hosts baby farm animal celebration

Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—WOODSTOCK — It's officially the cutest weekend of the year. The baby farm animal celebration returns to Billings Farm & Museum, inviting visitors of all ages to enjoy a weekend of hands-on farm fun, education, and baby animal bliss.

Guests will have the chance to meet Billings Farm's own Jersey calves, piglets, and chicks—plus special animal guests, including bunnies from Farm & Wilderness, goat

kids from Cabin Hill Farm, fiber goats and rabbits from Starry Eyed Farm, and lambs from Aker Fiber Farm. Rangers from Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park will also be on hand to talk about baby animals in the wild.

In addition to animal meet-and-greets, the weekend includes wagon rides (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), story time sessions (at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.), an obstacle course, sensory stations, and farmer chats.

When it's time to refuel, food trucks, including Sus-

tainable Eats and Heidi's Hot Dogs, will be on-site with snacks, drinks, and lunch options. Ice cream and treats will also be available from the museum gift shop.

Visitors can also enjoy the Art on the Barns Exhibition, a seasonally inspired abstract showcase featuring Vermont artists Elise Whittemore and Will Gebhard, presented in partnership with Soapbox Arts.

To find more information on this event, visit the Billings Farm and Museum website at: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

From left to right, a young girl pets a baby Jersey calf at Billings Farm & Museum, and baby lambs from Aker Fiber Farm will also be featured at the Baby Farm Animal Celebration on April 26 and 27. Kids will enjoy petting goats from Cabin Hill Farm and Starry Eyed Farm during the event.

## VINS celebrates annual Owl Festival with a hoot-worthy lineup

Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.—QUECHEE — The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) invites owl lovers, curious kids, and nature enthusiasts to take flight into the world of raptors during its 10th annual Owl Festival at the VINS Nature Center in Quechee.

This milestone event is more than a celebration of owls—it's a full day of hands-on education, family-friendly fun, and up-close encounters with some of the world's most mysterious and magnificent birds. From barn owls to barred owls, festival goers will meet live birds of prey and learn about the vital roles these nocturnal hunters play in ecosystems both near and far.

"The VINS Owl Festival has become a cherished springtime tradition for families throughout New England," said Hannah Gelroth, Senior Director of Education at VINS. "This year's celebration will be yet another educational and engaging day, showcasing the remarkable diversity of owl species and raising awareness about their vital role in our ecosystem."

### Festival Highlights:

- Live owl presentations with species native to Vermont and beyond
- Interactive crafts for all ages inspired by owls and their habitats
- Owl-themed games to test your feathered IQ
- Educational exhibits on owl conservation and how to protect their populations
- Free commemorative 2025 Owl Festival stickers for VINS members



- Last year's event drew more than 2,200 visitors, and organizers anticipate a similarly enthusiastic crowd this year. Early bird tickets are available through April 25:

### Advance tickets

- \$17-\$20, with children under 3 and VINS members free
- Day-of-prices:
- \$22-\$25 with children under 3 free.
- Parking is available on-site, and overflow parking with a free shuttle service will be offered from Ottauquechee School (304 Dody Lane, Quechee).

For more information, visit: [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).

Courtesy VINS

The Owl Festival will return on Saturday, April 26.





Submitted

*Memory Banks by Mareva Millarc is on display at Stone Valley Arts.*



Submitted

*A lifelike rendition of a Hershey Kiss called "Save a Kiss for Me Hershey Chocolate" by Lynn Pratt is on display at Stone Valley Arts.*

## Stone Valley Arts opens 2025 Artist Members' Show featuring 25 Vermont creatives

April 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.—POULTNEY—Stone Valley Arts will open its 2025 SVA Artist Members' Show on Saturday with a celebratory artists' reception from 2-4 p.m. at the organization's gallery space. The exhibit will remain on view through June 7, with regular gallery hours on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

This year's in-person exhibition features the work of 25 artists from across Vermont, showcasing a diverse range of media and styles. Visitors can expect to see paintings, photography, pottery, collage, sculpture, and mixed-media pieces reflecting themes both whimsical and serious—ranging from abstract explorations to depictions of wildflowers, landscapes, wildlife, and historical reenactments.

Participating artists include: Valerie Broughton, Donna Ciobanu, Irene Cole, Joan Curtis, Chuck Helfer, Burnham Holmes, Deena Howard, Melissa Kristiansen, Denise Letendre, Dale Lott, Mary Fran Lloyd, Ruth Liberman, Scott MacLachlan, Mareva Millarc, Kerri Munro, Sheryl Porrier, Lynn Pratt, Erika Lawlor Schmidt, Carolyn Stellatella, Adrienne Vento, Richard Weis, Melissa Weiss, Heather Wilson, Phil Whitman, and Ronald Withrow Jr.

All artwork on display is available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds supporting the continued maintenance and enhancement of the SVA Galleries.

*Stone Valley Arts is located at 145 East Main Street in Poultney. For more information, visit: [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org).*

## Ludlow Rotary Club's 67th annual Penny Sale set for April 26

Saturday, April 26 at 6 p.m.—LUDLOW — The Ludlow Rotary Club is gearing up for the 67th annual Penny Sale in the Ludlow Elementary School gymnasium. A much-anticipated community tradition, the event promises an evening of fun, excitement, and generous prize giveaways, all supporting local students and charitable causes.

The Penny Sale is free and open to the public. Attendees can win more than \$20,000 in prizes donated by area businesses and individuals. From gift certificates and cash to tools, toys, and ski passes, each of the event's three rounds will feature over 100 prizes.

Tickets for each round are just \$1.00 for 100 chances (or 6 for \$5), staying true to the event's name—one penny per chance. Winners are drawn randomly; participants can also visit the "swap table" to trade prizes with fellow attendees.

**The evening will conclude with a raffle offering five cash prizes:**

- 1st prize: \$500
- 2nd prize: \$250
- 3rd prize: \$150
- 4th prize: \$100
- 5th prize: \$50

Winners do not need to be present to win, but those in attendance will receive an additional \$25 added to their prize. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and are available from LRC members via the club's website at [portal.clubrunner.ca/2939](http://portal.clubrunner.ca/2939) or by mailing a check to LARCF, PO Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Refreshments will be available during the event.

Proceeds from the Penny Sale benefit the Ludlow Rotary Club's scholarship fund for graduating high school seniors and support donations to local nonprofit organizations. In the past 23 years alone, the Rotary Club has awarded more than \$271,000 in scholarships, with annual awards averaging \$12,000.

Don't miss this exciting night of community spirit and the chance to win great prizes—all while helping support education and charitable work in the Ludlow area.



Courtesy Ludlow Rotary

*Last year's Ludlow Rotary Penny Sale. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 26.*



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170 S Main Street, Rutland, VT

# Ryan Coogler's 'Sinners' is an American Southern Gothic horror with bite



## Screens and Streams

By James Kent

It's proving ever more challenging to drag a group of people into a movie theater to see a film that isn't either a children's movie translation of a video game, a Disney reboot of an animated classic that was better off the first time around, or the latest Marvel retread. But if there was a film tailor-made for the cinematic experience that should get the adult crowd scouring to locate the largest

screen imaginable to see it on, "Sinners"

is that movie.

To set expectations properly: "Sinners" isn't my favorite film. I have some issues with the story structure, and I am particular about the horror genre and how such films should unfold. "Sinners" hovers into a rarified pocket of horror, where the film presents as one way and then takes an abrupt shift into horror for its second half. Think Robert Rodriguez's "From Dusk Till Dawn," and you'll be on the right track. I also detected elements of John Carpenter's "Assault on Precinct 13," "The Thing," and George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead." I will say writer/director Ryan Coogler's "Sinners" is a fairly successful trip down the American Southern Gothic horror genre, and it may wind up, over time, being considered a classic.

What Coogler is doing in "Sinners" is interesting. The horror, which, trust me, the film does shift into, is a slow build, and there is a point to it all. Underneath the facade of two Black twin brothers, who return, or is it escape, from gangland Chicago back to their childhood home in the Jim Crow South of Mississippi in 1932 to stake their claim for the American dream, is already a landmine field of dread and potential horror. For as much as some Americans would like to hide the history, we know the history, and we know what white men will do to these twins, brilliantly played by Michael B. Jordan in a dual role, if they are successful in their venture to establish a juke joint. While Coogler doesn't dwell on this, it isn't far from the audience's mind, as Coogler carefully builds up tension.

This tension build-up allows Coogler to create backstory and character in a way that's long been missing from much of American cinema. Coogler, whom film fans will know from his work on the films "Creed," "Black Panther" and its sequel, along with his debut film "Fruitville Station," delivers his first original screenplay that is not based on any prior film or story, and it's smart. He fills the story with period details that he doesn't



Courtesy IMDb

"Sinners" stars Michael B. Jordan (left) and Sam Malone (right).

spend precious runtime explaining. Either an audience will recognize the meanings behind certain things, or they won't. And that's the sign of an assured storyteller. Too often, everything is spelled out for the audience in today's film landscape.

So far, I haven't told you much about the film and its plot. And to do that would spoil the fun and surprises. If you didn't venture out to the theaters this past weekend to see it, there is a good chance word-of-mouth has hit you by now, and you may have learned what is going on with "Sinners." Fine. The secret is out, but you didn't hear it from me.

For the rest of this review, I want to discuss why you should see this film not only in a theater but also on the largest screen you can.

Coogler and his cinematographer Autumn Durald Arkapaw shot "Sinners" utilizing a combination of 70mm and IMAX 70mm film stocks. And for the standard 70mm scenes, they used the super rare Ultra Panavision 70 format, which boasts one of the widest film aspect ratios of 2.76:1. And for the IMAX 70mm scenes, if you are able to catch it in an IMAX theater, you'd see the scenes filmed with IMAX cameras in a full aspect ratio of 1.43:1. I wanted to see "Sinners" in IMAX, but I wasn't able to get down to Reading, Massachusetts this past weekend. The Jordan's Furniture IMAX is one of New England's actual IMAX theaters, with laser projection and a screen tall enough to accommodate the full IMAX frame. Anyone who has experienced the smaller LIEMAX theater in Albany

Screens and Streams → 23

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Courtesy Warner Bros.

Ryan Coogler's "Sinners" (now playing in theaters) showcases a powerful dual performance from Michael B. Jordan (pictured) as twin brothers Smoke and Stack, in a this horror-infused dazzler of a film.



## Garfield's not there

As a kid, I couldn't pay attention to the reality of the classroom's chalkboard world. My pencil was always scribbling from its warped source of reality, fueled by hours and hours of maniacal Saturday morning cartoons—a happy place vividly logged under nostalgic memories in the farther recesses of my data banks.

Back in the day, my friends and I plagiarized schoolbooks with pencil speech bubbles, making John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, or whoever else the star of our imaginations. This gateway to ingenuity opened all sorts of ideas in my head, so I got the big idea to start erasing the text from the speech bubbles of comic strips, inserting my versions, and then passing the resulting take around the classroom among my friends. Many years later, I've found a similar vent: "Garfield Minus Garfield."

"Garfield Minus Garfield" is twice as funny as the original "Garfield." I wish I had this comic when I was reading the original. The popular webcomic by Dan Walsh, which quickly became a viral sensation, was first published in 2008. This version of "Garfield" offers a noticeably more jarring perspective of the fat, lasagna-eating, cynical, smart-mouthed Garfield—namely, that he's not there. The comic uses the original Jim Davis Garfield strips but digitally removes Garfield (and sometimes other characters) from the scenes. The resulting images are left with only Jon Arbuckle's actions and expressions, creating a surreal and existential portrayal of his life without Garfield's presence. It shifts the focus to Jon's solitude and the absurdity of his interactions—no Nermal, no Odie, no Argyle, etc.

In November 2008, an official version of "Garfield Minus Garfield" was launched on GoComics by Paws Incorporated. The comic, with its alt-sampled angle art form, hailed by Jim Davis as "Inspired," became unstuck from its time and landed in perfect synchronicity with the digital age and its new

platforms. "Subtraction art" is where elements are deliberately removed from an original work to uncover new interpretations. In "Garfield Minus Garfield," the Garfield-less comic leaves Jon alone, providing a skewed perspective that now appears to depict an insane person.

Without his pet partner in crime, what is left is Jon, who seems to struggle with existential issues and loneliness. This removal transforms the comic from lighthearted humor into a profound commentary that analyzes deeper emotional aspects of his life.

Without Garfield, Jon's character is out of step with reality. He is isolated, bored, and frustrated. His life feels repetitive and empty, which mirrors the struggles many people face today, like feeling

disconnected or stuck in a routine. This makes the comic relatable to modern readers who deal with loneliness and the pressures of daily life. Jon's constant interactions with empty space show how his loneliness is a reflection of larger, real-world feelings of alienation.

"I was astonished at how horrifically dark they could be," Walsh told Cracked.com in 2023.

Before the introduction of "Garfield Minus Garfield," there were other variations of the comic, such as "Garfield Minus Garfield's Thoughts" and "Realfield," where Garfield was either absent or replaced with an anthropomorphic cat. The appeal of such a "bootleg" remix correlated with growing meme culture and the ready-to-go formats easily replicated from the web. It marks a cultural shift away from traditional DIY art approaches. Remix art resonates now because it allows creators to reinterpret familiar works in new and unexpected ways. It reflects the digital age's accessibility to image formats, resulting in an interconnected collaboration. It's innovative in the way rap was when beats were made by remixing records. In a time

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### Off the Shelf

By Patrick Wise

## Screens and Streams: from page 22

knows that all IMAX theaters are not the same.

It was no easy feat locating a theater in our area showing "Sinners" on a large enough screen to generate the impact of the Ultra 70mm aspect ratio, but the AMC Theaters in Saratoga Springs were showing "Sinners" in their premium theater, so I opted for that.

Although the non-IMAX screening did not showcase the full, tall IMAX screen scenes, seeing "Sinners" on a giant screen capable of showing off the super-wide 2.76:1 aspect ratio was still a treat. Coogler doesn't waste the opportunity the wider canvas affords him. Scenes that call for multiple characters to appear on screen at once get full treatment. Dynamic framing builds tension, and a dazzling scene where the climax of a juke joint music jam culminates in a blend of past, present, and future plays out with fever-pitch

intensity heightened by the extra frame length.

No doubt, countless audiences will discover "Sinners" on their big-screen television and will enjoy it. Perhaps they will lament that they missed the opportunity to see this one in the theater. I know I'll be keeping an eye out for future screenings in 70mm. For select theaters with those capabilities, a small number of 70mm film prints of "Sinners" were made available. Unfortunately, unlike "The Brutalist," which I caught at a special 70mm presentation a few months ago, the two theaters in Massachusetts capable of showing "Sinners" in 70mm, The Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline and Somerville Theatre weren't playing it in 70mm. I'm hopeful they'll get a print down the road. "Sinners" is a film that is textured and layered enough to deserve a second watch.

James Kent is the arts editor at The Mountain Times.

# CLAWS

By Patrick Wise

Where are you headed?

St. Louis, that's why I held the sign up that said St. Louis ya see?

Maybe you are running away from something...no? Anyway, my name is Esmeralda Villalobosa. And you are?

Call me.... C LAWS! So, uh...What kinda name is Esmeralda Villalobosa?

It's Spanish. 'Esmeralda' means 'emerald'—a precious gem, green and rare. And 'Villalobosa' means 'town of wolves'—wolves, they're survivors, facing their troubles head-on. A pack, working through the tough stuff together.

The air went flat as everything went into slow motion...his mind clearing.

Maybe... he wasn't running...

Sounds like a tough name to live up to.

Maybe so Señor CLAWS, but in a town of wolves, even the toughest can find something precious. Don't run Claws. You might find your own emerald.

Remember, Señor Claws, as you navigate the fuzz... readjust your focus...wipe away the dust. Keep between the ditches... roads just wind the way they do... Look beyond the veil—hands at ten and two. And if the walk is darkened...recognize the truth: No need to walk alone, I'll be here with you.

It was in this moment, as CLAWS looked ahead, a sensation washed over him. Time paused...

CLAWS felt the hard cold rusty-snap of old chains breaking. The universe just put his favorite song on the record player and he was ready to dance his way down a whole new path... but which one?





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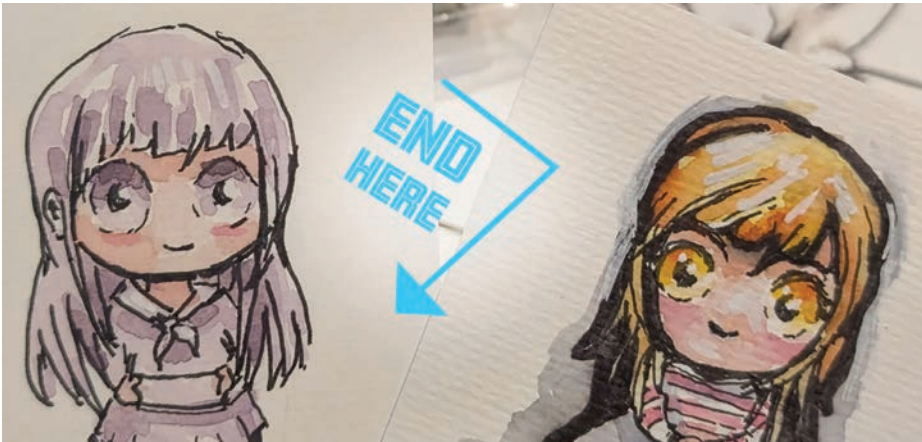
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Courtesy Kaleidoscope Art Supply  
Kids ages 8 to 12 can learn how to draw Manga on April 26 at Kaleidoscope Art Supply.

# Learn to draw Manga at Kaleidoscope Art Supply

April 26, 2-4 p.m. — RUTLAND — Young artists with a passion for Japanese animation and comics will have the chance to explore their creativity during a special “Manga for Kids” drawing class at Kaleidoscope Art Supply in downtown Rutland.

Designed for children ages 8 to 12, the workshop introduces participants to the basics of Manga-style drawing, including how to create expressive faces, dynamic characters, and signature stylistic features. Instructor Kara Draws will guide students through easy-to-follow steps, making it a welcoming experience for beginners and budding illustrators alike.

This is the first Manga-focused class hosted by Kaleidoscope, a locally owned art supply shop and creative space on Center Street known for supporting community arts programming. The \$25 registration fee includes all supplies, and snacks will be provided to keep young artists fueled while they work.

Whether your child is a fan of anime, graphic novels, or simply loves to draw, this workshop offers a fun and engaging introduction to one of the most popular art styles among kids today.

Space is limited. For info and registration, visit: [kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site](http://kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site).



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# NECCA's 'Thank You for Waiting' delivers acrobatics, laughter, and heart to Rutland

Staff Report

Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND — The circus is coming to town, but not just any circus. The Paramount Theatre in Rutland will host a high-flying, family-friendly spectacle presented by the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA). The show, titled “Thank You for Waiting,” features America’s next generation of elite circus artists in a performance blending aerial feats, acrobatics, storytelling, and comedy.

Created as part of NECCA’s Circus Springboard program, the show follows seven strangers trapped in a waiting room who decide to stop waiting and start turning their world upside down—literally. “This specific show is about making connections, communicating, and patience,” said NECCA co-founder and producing director Serenity Smith Forchion. “The main character is a clown named Agatha who leads the audience through a theatrical journey filled with trapeze, acrobatics, juggling, partner aerial acts, and dance.”

Tickets are just \$10 to \$15 for this one-night-only performance, which begins at 7 p.m. NECCA and Paramount partnered with a shared goal of making family-friendly entertainment accessible to all ages. “We want our audiences to feel joy, have a fun time, and learn something,” Forchion said.

NECCA, based in Brattleboro, is the largest circus school in the country, offering programming to thousands of students annually with over 60 staff and coaches. Forchion and her twin sister founded NECCA. The pair are former Cirque du Soleil performers and love giving people the opportunity to learn this art form. Their flagship 3-year ProTrack program has produced graduates who go on to join Cirque du Soleil, Ringling Bros., and other elite circus troupes.

This show marks the first visit by the Circus Springboard troupe to Rutland.

“Our third-year graduates connect with an American director and take this new show to rural communities across New England,” said Forchion. “We’re thrilled to bring it to Rutland. When we were looking for exciting venues for our Circus Springboard tour, I reached out to the theater about a collaboration. Their executive director, Eric Mallette, was very welcoming of the idea to expand their family entertainment and encourage people of all ages to have a fun activity together.”

With an enthusiastic community response, NECCA hopes to make Circus Springboard an annual occurrence at the Paramount Theatre.

In addition to the mainstage performance, NECCA will host creative circus workshops at the Boys & Girls Club and Rutland Rec Center earlier in the week, offering community members a hands-on experience with circus art.

Local sponsors, including Baja Burrito of Killington and The Lakeside Studio in Tinmouth, support the Rutland performance. NECCA continues to seek additional local support to expand its inclusive, family-friendly performances to more communities.

To purchase tickets, visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org). For more about NECCA, visit [circusschool.org](http://circusschool.org).



By Elsie Smith

Audiences attending NECCA’s Circus Springboard program, “Thank You for Waiting,” on May 1, will experience acrobatic performances by Esther Cowgirl.



By Elsie Smith

The New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) will present a family-friendly, high-flying performance titled “Thank You for Waiting” at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland, featuring aerial feats, acrobatics, and comedy, with tickets priced at \$10 to \$15, alongside creative circus workshops in the community earlier in the week.



← **Off the Shelf:** .....  
from page 23

when information and art are constantly shared and altered, remixing allows new meanings to emerge from the old.

As I look back and remember my scribbles, I sometimes reflect nostalgically. Garfield is a direct link to the smell, sight, and sound of the innocence of youth circa 4th and 5th grade elementary school. I devoured every book, just like Garfield devoured lasagna. At the time, I remember the comic's art having the perfect angle on some form of comedic approach that was unique in its time. That angle can be attributed to the "Late Show with David Letterman" and "Saturday Night Live." Garfield's sarcastic view on life and his actions among his household acquaintances was so fresh that it always made me laugh. My best friend and I would redraw them and share them in school the next day, and it felt as if we were the special select few who were privy to this unique format, which resonated deeply. That view is remembered in Walsh's new version. Still, it has evolved into a more grotesque detachment, reflecting how revisiting nostalgic memories rekindles a fondness for the past

but somehow leaves a bittersweet taste, as you can never really go back. "Garfield" has left the page, and I don't exactly erase the speech bubbles and pass the updated edits around the classroom anymore... but in my mind, I do.

*Pat Wise is a comic artist and graphic designer at the Mountain Times.*



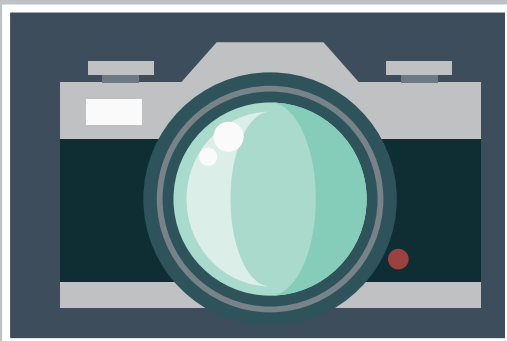
Courtesy Garfield Minus Garfield, FB

"Garfield Minus Garfield," a surreal comic strip shows Jon Arbuckle alone in his familiar, everyday setting, interacting with empty space where Garfield once was.

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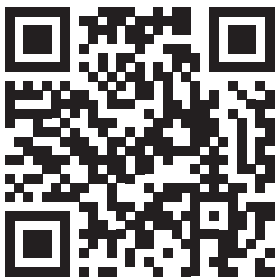
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- "Navigating Funding Avenues for the Next Stage of Your Business." Presented and Moderated by Liz DiMarco Weinmann. Panelists will include representatives from local and state funding sources.
- "Business Credit Building." Presented by Shelley Faris, Financial Education, BROCC Community Action
- "Social Media & Brand Marketing." Presented by Shandi Marie Patch, Shandi Marie Brand Photographer

All people working in downtown businesses, organizations, and nonprofits are welcome. This is FREE for those located in the Downtown District of Rutland. For businesses located outside the Downtown District, tickets at \$50. Lunch and snacks included! To register and view the full event schedule visit: [downtownrutland.com/womeninbusiness-sevents](https://downtownrutland.com/womeninbusiness-sevents)

Support for this event is made possible by a Vermont Women's Fund grant.

Thank you to our event sponsors:

- Gold - Heritage Family Credit Union
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- Supporter - Harlow Nonprofit Consulting
- In-kind - The Hub CoWorks and The Gymnasium

**Date:** Tuesday, April 29

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Location:** The Hub CoWorks at 67 Merchants Row in Downtown Rutland



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DRINK



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LOCAL

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Solutions

From page 15

Crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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Spayed female. Pitbull terrier/boxer mix.



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



Blue—1 ½-year-old.  
Neutered male. Blue tick coonhound. Black and tan.



Ernie—6-month-old.  
Male. Hamster. Orange/white.

Sudoku

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



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



Sadie—6-year-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Black/white.



Fanta—5-year-old.  
Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Orange.



Jamie—2-year-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger.

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# Cosmic Catalogue



## Aries

March 21 - April 20

Creative projects beckon, but are you doing what it takes to be seen, or are you playing small? You may still be in a state of confusion or fatigue, but the clarity you need can only come when you do something. Keep moving forward, and the way forward will be revealed. You can't know about a destination—literal or metaphorical—until you make moves to get there. The results you want will come from the action you have been avoiding.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

Your confidence has been bolstered in ways you've been waiting for all year. That said, a key relationship in your life is likely to provide plenty of pushback. Do you let your ego get in the way, or do you try and learn the lesson you're being shown? To forgive is to be a giver. To not forget is to continue to get. If you really want to grow and evolve in a relationship, you need to do both.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

Your greatest gift is your ability to see the big picture. For some time now, you've been overly obsessed with the details and options presented to you. Know that this is just the season you've been in, and it won't last forever. Start sharpening your arrows and perfecting your aim. The horizons you've been seeking are within reach. Just keep doing what you've been doing a little longer. You've got this!



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Life feels a little bit brighter now. When there is brightness, there is clarity. You know where you stand and what you do and don't want. This week, you may have to put your foot down regarding a friend or colleague. Bury your head in the sand if you want, but you'd be better off digging in your heels. The respect you need comes from what you say No to rather than what you blindly accept.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

If you're finding yourself caught in the nitty-gritty of relationships, then rise above the details and see the big picture again. Can you see more good in someone than the habits and patterns that annoy you? In reality, the state of all kinds of relationships is all in the way you see them. It may not solve all the problems, but it certainly will make you feel a whole lot better. You deserve to feel good.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Start getting your finances in order if you haven't already. Things are about to change in just a matter of weeks. New responsibilities will arrive as a result of new dreams and inspirations. You're not afraid of commitment and hard work – that is your strength. Even though your goals may look a little different than they once did, your ambition doesn't. Also, you can have a little bit of fun and romance along the way.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You can get lost in the details and distractions. In some circumstances, this works, while in others, it doesn't. This week, you need to ignore the distractions and the million opportunities and options that life is providing you with. Is what you're doing leading you in the right direction? A little bit of ruthless ambition is what it will take to get you where you want to be. Some quiet prayer, meditation, or reflection time will help you refocus.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Friendship, a group, community or a colleague is in focus this week. Fun, joy, and happiness are all possible, but avoid losing sight of your goals and ambitions, too. Working hard in the background is not only required but necessary. The crazy pace will die down soon, so hang in there. A new start in a financial situation is possible, too, provided you're making moves you've not done before. Make waves and make rain this week.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

There is nothing quite like relationships – personal or professional to push your buttons and question your value or sense of self-worth. This week, take stock of those around you. Is their fire exhausting you, or are they fanning your flames? Fire is exciting and alive but must be used carefully and cautiously. In either circumstance, don't let your self-esteem and confidence be rattled. Take care with your money too.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Your sense of confidence around your skills and talents has received a much-needed boost. The deeper you dig, the more gold you find. It may be in the area of your friendship or professional groups – online or in real life, where you'll find the pot of gold you're looking for. A fresh start or a new beginning is possible that may not only generate luck but also a lot of fortune too—both materially and energetically.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

The career progress that has been in the making for months is likely to arrive this week. Were you careful what you wished for? You might just get it. Power dynamics and drama are all a part of the picture. It doesn't have to be a bad thing, though. The chance to begin new relationships with new dynamics can support you. Instead of seeing things as either/or, see them as both/and.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

It's not in your nature to be overly ambitious, but that doesn't mean you aren't. You tend to work in the background, showing up and doing your thing. Then, before you know it, you've got what you always wanted. Something beautiful is manifesting for you in some way, shape, or form. Take a moment to appreciate it if you want it to appreciate. All the hard work and toil of the past couple of years is paying off.

## The calm within



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

At almost every turn, the landscape looks different. Times have changed, people have changed, and cities have changed. Nothing looks like it once did.

Historically, humans aren't fond of change. Change is inevitable, but growth is not.

There is a chance to pause and to put your feet on solid ground this week. To catch your breath and think about what you want out of these times, out of all these changes. Do you want to be in the same place this time next year, or would you like to make the kind of progress that seems impossible right now?

The calmest place you can be is right in the eye of the storm. Let the talking heads talk. Let those who say the sky is falling down wait for it to fall. Let those say it can't be done, not do it.

Not only is the eye of the storm the calmest, but holding your center is the most powerful. Figure out what you want and what sacrifices you're prepared to make to make it happen.

A turning point has arrived. The sea has parted. Do you remain true to the promise and cross it, or do you let the fear of failure and change keep you safe?

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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.





## Mating rituals of muskrats

Muskrat mating is so sensational that songs have been written about it. Fans of 1970s pop music might be familiar with a certain ballad, written by Willis Alan Ramsey and popularized by bands like America and Captain & Tennille, about two anthropomorphic muskrats falling in love.

Though you probably won't find breeding muskrats "nibblin' on bacon" or "chewin' on cheese" this spring, you might nevertheless come upon them looking for "Muskrat Love" in aquatic habitats.

Muskrats (*Ondatra zibet-hica*) are large, furry rodents that inhabit wetlands, ponds, and waterways. They live in burrows dug into the banks of these areas or in lodges constructed of plant material. In harsh winters, muskrats may den communally to conserve heat. They remain active year-round, feeding mostly nocturnally on plants like cattails, lilies, and the occasional snail or crayfish. A key to differentiating muskrats from beavers is their tails: Muskrat tails are thin and scaly, whereas beaver tails are wide and flat.

In northern New England, the muskrat breeding season begins in early spring when the ice on ponds and rivers thaws. At this point, any *bonhomie* between muskrats huddled up for the winter disappears as adults become aggressive in securing their territory and in the subsequent search for mates. Older males tend to outcompete younger ones for the choicest real estate, forcing the latter to roam farther afield in search of unclaimed territories, which can render them more vulnerable to predators like bobcats, great horned owls, and mink.

Once paired up, typically by early April, monogamous muskrat couples establish territories ranging from 100 to 120 feet in diameter. They will rarely venture more than 50 feet beyond these areas unless forced abroad by a food shortage. They delineate their domains by marking

them with scent produced by glands at the base of their tails. These glands swell to

produce an oily liquid called "musk," the substance for which this species is named. Muskrat musk was once widely used in the production of perfumes and colognes for its earthy aroma but was eventually replaced by artificial alternatives in the 1960s.

If these scent barriers fail, muskrats will defend their territory from intruders with their claws and teeth. Brehan Furfey, wildlife biologist and furbearer project leader at Vermont Fish & Wildlife, said that muskrat pelts sometimes show deep scrapes and furrows, grisly evidence of these showdowns.

Pairs mate partially underwater or above the surface on floating materials like driftwood. Paired muskrats

will "kiss" and nuzzle each other as a show of affection—one dimension of "Muskrat Love" that has some basis in reality.

The gestation period is just under a month, meaning the season's first litter is generally born in late April or early May in northern New England. A litter can include between four and eight kits, which will be reared chiefly by the mother. Female muskrats can mate again almost immediately after giving birth, which allows them to produce up to three litters per year. Pairs will often breed again while the female is still nursing the previous litter.

Kits are born blind and nearly furless, relying on the mother for about 30 days before taking their first swim outside the den. From there, their coming-of-age progresses quickly. Young muskrats strike out on their own at roughly six weeks from birth, at which point they will begin the search for suitable mates, though females do not reach sexual maturity until they are about a year old.

This quick maturation period, combined with their prolific breeding, can lead to population densities of up to 25 muskrats per acre in aquatic environments. When densities climb, muskrats

Outside Story → 37

## A puzzling situation

Over the years, I've told my son at least a thousand times, "It's a puzzle, figure it out."

Borne of necessity, I used the phrase to promote action in my child, given that his first response to difficulty, traditionally, was to either give up or make a half-hearted attempt. Because of his laissez-faire attitude, my wife and I inevitably did everything for him.

As a toddler, my son was slow to walk. My wife and I became concerned, so we took him to a doctor and a physical therapist. After extensive testing, both told us that there was nothing physically wrong with our child, insisting that when he was ready to walk, he would walk.

I was encouraged by the positive diagnosis but still frustrated that he was lagging behind his peers (we had some friends whose children started hopping around at a year old; my son was content to scoot on his knees until he was two years old). So, I went home and began setting up scenarios that would encourage him to stand up and hopefully take a step.

Not surprisingly, food was my first choice to lure him into action. Like most infants, my son pined for sweets, but unlike other kids, he only wanted them when they

were within reach. If the sweet was placed on a shelf that would be easily accessible to a standing toddler, he was content to simply leave it there.

And that's exactly how he approached every teaser I set up, whether it was food or a toy. No matter what I did to prompt him into walking, he wasn't interested.

This sounds frustrating—and it was—but the flip side was that my child never once threw a temper tantrum. He was the most joyful, laid-back kid. He was happy to go to bed and happy to wake up. If you turned off the TV mid-cartoon, he simply smiled and moved on to the next thing. He was, in a word, easy.

So, it should come as no surprise that one day, he stood up and started walking—just like the doctors predicted. Within a week, he was impossible to catch.

However, as the years progressed, I still noticed his lackadaisical attitude rearing its head, especially when it came to school. I've spent countless hours trying to break down his unique personality style and then match that with a study approach that would allow for success. I tried homework guides and organizational apps. I even tried hiring a tutor (not surprisingly, his tutor loved the

The Movie Diary → 36



### The Movie Diary

By  
Dom Cioffi



Courtesy IMDb

A grieving mother, a mysterious woman, and a chilling secret—"The Woman in the Yard" will leave you questioning everything.





The Earth is in our hands, and on Green Up Day, Vermonters unite to clean roads, trails, and communities, preserving the beauty of the state. This annual tradition, held on the first Saturday in May, sees thousands of volunteers picking up trash to ensure Vermont stays green, showcasing the state's commitment to environmental stewardship and community responsibility.

# Plant a tree and make a difference

By Melinda Myers

Trees provide many benefits to the environment and our health and wellbeing. These long-lived members of our landscapes and communities provide shade, help reduce energy costs, clean the air we breathe, prevent soil erosion and stormwater runoff, and attract and provide homes for birds and pollinators. National Arbor Day, celebrated on the last Friday of April, recognizes the important role trees play in our environment.

Spending time among the trees also helps boost our immune system. Studies reveal that tree-filled landscapes help decrease domestic conflict, aggression, and violence at schools. A mindful walk through the woods, known as forest bathing, helps reduce blood pressure and stress. It increases focus and energy levels, improves sleep, and much more.

When planting new trees, select one that will fit in the space when mature and thrive in the growing conditions. Plant tags and catalog descriptions can provide you with this critical information. Consider including trees that provide multiple seasons of beauty with flowers, fruit, fall color, and form. Look for those that also support birds and pollinators,

as they deliver many other environmental benefits.

Spending time among the trees also helps boost our immune system.

Select a planting location away from overhead and underground utilities to avoid future conflicts. Avoid plants that eventually could grow into wires or structures that may interfere with utilities and power transmission, creating a real hazard.

Always call 811 or file a request online at: [call811.com/811-In-Your-State](http://call811.com/811-In-Your-State) at least three business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. When your request is received, this non-profit group contacts all the appropriate underground utilities. The utilities' locators will then mark the location of the underground utilities in your work area. Contacting them first reduces the risk of injury, the inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable, or other utilities, and the potential cost incurred to repair a utility you damage when skipping this step.

Once the location is cleared, you're ready to start planting. Locate the tree's root flare (where the roots curve away from the trunk) by gently pulling the soil away as needed. Dig a hole two to five times wider and the same depth as the distance from the root flare to the bottom of the root ball. Set the tree in the hole, carefully remove it from the container, and loosen or prune off any circling roots. Cut back burlap and wire baskets when planting balled and burlapped trees.

Plant the tree so the root flare is even with or slightly above the soil surface. Roughen the sides of the hole and backfill with the existing soil. Water thoroughly and spread a 2-to-3-inch layer of mulch over the soil surface, keeping the mulch away from the tree trunk.

Continue watering throughout the growing season, the following year, and as needed once established. Check the soil moisture and thoroughly water the root ball and surrounding soil when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Apply 10 gallons of water for every inch of the trunk's diameter at 4-½ feet high.

If you don't have room for your own tree, contact your municipality, park, or nature center. Many organizations seek volunteers to help plant and care for trees, benefiting even more people in your community.

## Green Up Day is May 3

When I went to Kent Pond the other week to launch for the first time, I was all stoked to enjoy the beauty of nature right from the boat launch. But the joke was on me because right behind the treasured bench was a bag of unattended—you guessed it—dog poop. How nice of someone to bag it up so that someone else would have to pick it up. There was also an unwanted charcoal left right in front of the bench where people would want to rest their feet with some trash left sitting in it. Just Why?

As I was walking the dirt road the other day, I was amazed by how many beer cans were just thrown out of the window, like the beloved Earth was just their trash can. Don't even get me started on all the Fireball Nips underneath the chairlift, especially during January College Week. You had room in your jacket to carry the nip up the lift—you couldn't have waited for either the trash bin at the top of the lift or put

it back in your pocket to take back to your car? Can you imagine what Vermont would look like if we just left all that trash on the roads? Eeeewww.

So who picks up this trash? In your home state, it might be the job of the highway department or part of the local prison work program, but here in Vermont, we take care of our own. That's right. On the first Saturday in May, one day a year, the entire state of Vermont stops what it would normally be doing and fulfills our commitment to each other and this planet by picking up trash on the side of the road, at hiking trailheads, and at our resorts.

You will see us all out there, carrying that bright green bag with pride. This is our land, and we are responsible for maintaining it, keeping Vermont beautiful, and preserving it for generations of Vermonters to come. For most, it's a lonely job. You will see one person, alone, taking responsibility for a section of highway that others have decided doesn't matter to them. They won't be back here ever again. Or worse, they

don't care to live on a planet resembling a dumpster yard.

But it's not truly lonely. Because you will see Vermonters from all walks of life all over the roads on Saturday, May 3, walking with their bright green trash bags. Bags that are donated from local Vermont businesses that also believe in Green Up Day. That belief in a community working together to "keep Vermont Green." Last year, over 30,000 volunteers participated in Green Up Day, which is roughly 4.65% of the population of Vermont. Those volunteers collected over 404 tons (808,000 pounds) of trash and nearly 16,000 tires from Vermont's roads. Can you imagine what Vermont would look like if we just left all that trash on the roads?

This first Green Up Day was in 1970, and they closed the interstate for three hours so that local school-children could pick up trash as part of their school day. It was not the best organizational choice, but it sent a message during the Keep American Beautiful campaign years. Vermont was serious about being Green, and it all started 55 years ago.

Today, towns around the state  
Living the Dream → 36



Living the Dream  
By Merisa Sherman



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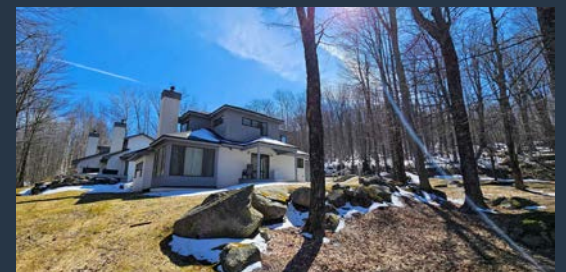


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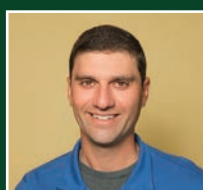
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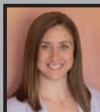
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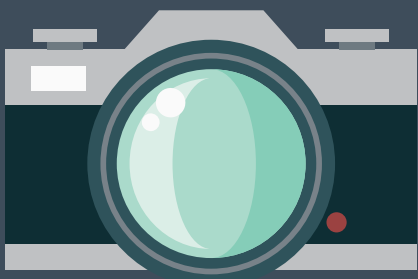
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← **Movie Diary:** .....  
from page 32

time they spent together but even she couldn't light a fire under him).

I finally got to the point where I decided I simply had to let him fail. If he came to me with a math problem that was giving him trouble, I resisted the urge to plot it out myself. If the Lego set he was working on didn't come out like the picture on the box, I shied away from figuring out where he went wrong. Most importantly, when he had a scuffle with a friend, I avoided telling him how to handle it.

I would listen to his issue and maybe reference past situations that might shed some introductory light on a solution. Then, without fail, I would return to my often-stated mantra: "It's a puzzle; figure it out."

Not surprisingly, I hear myself saying this mantra inside my head to coworkers making half-hearted attempts at work-related problems. To be honest, I think my fuse has grown increasingly short over the years, so I have little patience when I feel like someone isn't committed to finding a solution. I've found that my puzzle statement works on my child, but colleagues find it somewhat condescending.

Condescending is a good word to describe this week's feature, "The Woman in the Yard," a less-than-par horror mystery that did everything it could to insult my intelligence.

Ramona is a widowed mother haunted by guilt over a car accident that killed her husband. While recuperating at an isolated family farmhouse, a mysterious woman in black appears and begins to torment the family.

I'm always in the mood for a good horror film, but I'm more often than not disappointed by the modern adherence to moments of shock rather than true terror. Check this one out if you've literally got nothing better to do; otherwise, save your theater dollars for something else.

A puzzling "D+" for "The Woman in the Yard," now playing in theaters everywhere. Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at [moviediary@att.net](mailto:moviediary@att.net).

← **Living the Dream:** .....  
from page 33

have Green Up Day BBQs, where you can go to drop off your trash and be rewarded with a yummy burger and surrounded by community. Vermonters are proud of this day, proud to take ownership of our communal lands rather than foist the honor on someone else. It is an honor to keep our state clean and to work together as a community for something greater than ourselves. Can you imagine what Vermont would look like if we just left all that trash on the roads?

Nobody wants to live in litter, especially when we spend so much time playing in these mountains, tending to our vegetable gardens, or just sitting on our front porches looking out at our beautiful little state. There are art contests, collection contests, and so much more for you to get involved in over the weekend. We are teaching our kids to respect the planet and nature and take responsibility for it. To care for the earth in deed and not just thought. To set an example for the country and the world on how to work together as a community to care for each other and the planet.

I freaking love Green Up Day. I even have some grabbers that I got so that I could be much more awesome at picking up trash. I hope that we'll see you out there this Saturday, bright green bag in hand, doing your part to keep Vermont beautiful. If you don't want to go by yourself, reach out. Because together, we



Submitted  
*Let's keep Vermont green and fresh—join Green Up Day!*

can make a difference. See you on the roadside!  
*Merisa Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, global real estate advisor, and Coach PomPom. She can be found in the mountains or at [Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com](mailto:Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com).*



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← **Outside Story:** .....  
from page 32

may become polygamous, and adult males may kill newborn and young muskrats to eliminate competition for food and mates. High populations may also greatly reduce aquatic vegetation in the surrounding environment, eventually forcing local populations back down.

It turns out that the ballad “Muskrat Love” isn’t a particularly reliable guide to these rodents’ breeding habits. The author cannot report to have seen, nor found record of, courting muskrats “singin,” “jinglin” or “floatin’ like the heavens above.” Still, if you have a resi-

dent muskrat pair in your local wetland or pond, you can watch their breeding season unfold this spring and check to see if they really “do the jitterbug out in muskrat land.”

*Colby Galliher is a writer who calls New England’s woods, meadows, and rivers home. To learn more about his work, visit colbygalliher.com. 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.*



Submitted  
A muskrat swims gracefully through a wetland, following the start of its busy spring mating season.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT  
Rutland Unit

PROBATE DIVISION  
Docket No.: 25-PR-01651

In re ESTATE of: 

Barbara Wood

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: 

Barbara Wood

late of 

Pittsfield

Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 

4/7/25

Signature of Fiduciary  

Lauren Rhim

|                                       |                                       |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Executor/Administrator<br>Lauren Rhim |                                       | Mailing Address<br>c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519 |
| Phone Number<br>802-885-2582          | Email<br>parkerankudajp@vermontel.net | City, State, Zip<br>Springfield, VT 05156              |

Name of Publication: 

The Mountain Times

Publication Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Probate Court: 

Vermont Superior Court, Rutland Unit Probate Division

Address of Probate Court: 

83 Center Street  
Rutland, VT 05701

PE32 – Notice to Creditors

Page 1 of 1

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← **Accidental Activist:**  
from page 11

project that the governor provided state police escorts to each of the 800 trucks.

Then, rain clouds appeared, which typically resulted in the crew pausing work and waiting for the sun. Not in Philadelphia!

The governor borrowed NASCAR's jet engine, which it uses for drying racetracks. The team was able to continue working under ideal dry conditions and kept going 24/7.

The governor even required the Pennsylvania Transportation Secretary to stay on the job site to provide his personal sign-off when needed.

Twelve days after the fire, the governor announced that I-95 was open. He declared an emergency, put outcome before process, erred in favor of action, paid union wages to union crews, wrote no-bid contracts, and demanded that all engaged parties work together with a focus on the objective of putting I-95 back in service.

What would happen if Vermont were to use the I-95 strategy for approaching the current housing crisis?

1. Declare an emergency. Surely this would enable Vermont leadership to cut through the relentless debate over motel vouchers and to focus on:
  - Housing the homeless
  - Keeping them housed
2. Define the outcome and implement rigorous performance management
  - House the homeless (metric)
  - Keep them housed (metric)
3. Establish a timeline
  - Identify open available housing units
  - House the homeless
4. Identify those that are producing housing
  - Incentivize results
  - Demand performance
5. Synchronize the many teams, departments, agencies, and organizations that have a piece of the housing puzzle or simply identify the performers and eliminate

Hell yeah! Vermont is filled with the right people, ready to do the right thing for the right reasons right now. Vermont's approach to the housing crisis will be a tribute to the ingenuity of those in leadership and the "get it done" attitude of those in the community who partner to solve problems, house those in need, and build strong communities.

- the spectators
6. Hold everybody responsible and accountable for measurable results on time
- Government is notorious for ensuring that authority and accountability are diluted so that success has many parents but failure is an orphan.

Vermont is in the midst of a housing crisis, and the time is right to call it an emergency. We must empower the governor to act, work together, innovate, and focus on outcome and speed, not on process.

Eric Goldwyn of New York University's Marron Institute of Urban Management attributed the successful rebuilding of Philadelphia's Interstate 95 as a feat of coordination. "In our system, we have both a problem of diffuse power where we don't know exactly who is in charge, but we also have these moments of incredible centralized power where a governor can act and enact things quickly."

Readers who have come this far will probably have one of two responses: Either the author is overly simplistic and doesn't understand the complexities of government, housing, homelessness, social services, and working with the public sector, or, Hell yeah! Vermont is filled with the right people, ready to do the right thing for the right reasons right now. Vermont's approach to the housing crisis will be a

tribute to the ingenuity of those in leadership and the "get it done" attitude of those in the community who partner to solve problems, house those in need, and build strong communities.

For more information on strategies for resolving the current housing crisis, join Stephen Box and Partners in Housing on the last Friday of every month at 1:30 p.m. This month's meeting will be held at Hub CoWorks in Downtown Rutland.

*Partners in Housing is a local housing committee that connects housers, wrappers, supporters, and the government to quickly and efficiently bring more safe and healthy housing online, with a commitment to financial responsibility and good stewardship.*

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