



LOYALTY DAY PARADE IS SUNDAY

Rutland's annual Loyalty Day Parade is Sunday in downtown Rutland from 2-3 p.m.



MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!

Sunday celebrate "Star Wars" with a screening of the original trilogy.

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PAMYUA ARRIVES IN THE UPPER VALLEY

Intuit soul group Pamyua begins a 10-day Global Music Residency on May 1.

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CHECK OUT THE SCENE!

The Senior Scene that is. Gerrie Russell has all the action for May in her latest column.

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Aldermen await appointment after Heck resigned

Staff report

At the end of the Alderman's board meeting Monday, April 21, Alderman Henry Heck allegedly told Mayor Michael Doenges that he was resigning and the following day emailed his letter of resignation.

On Town Meeting Day in March Heck had unsuccessfully tried to unseat Doenges as mayor. However, in his resignation letter, Heck remained Aldermen seat → 4

Killington reappraisal will not happen as scheduled

By Polly Mikula

The Killington Select Board was informed by town lister Butch Findeisen Monday, April 28, that the state-mandated reappraisal of its Grand List would not, in fact, be happening this year as scheduled.

The third party-contractor, Vision, who the town hired to do the work, was not able to complete its evaluations on the town's residential properties by March as was required in time for the first tax bills to be sent out in July. In fact, the company indicated on its last bill that it was only 25% complete with the residential evaluation, Findeisen told the board.

"During our discussion last week [with appraisers] it came to our attention that Vision was not ready to get everything to us on time so that we can do all that we're supposed to do," Findeisen said.

Once the listers receive the evaluations of residential Reappraisal → 2



By Polly Mikula

Spring sports are underway, weather finally cooperates

Woodstock boys' varsity Lacrosse team beat Rutland 6-4 Monday, April 28, at home under sunny skies. Above Woodstock sophomore Kyler Eaton drives toward Rutland's goal. See more photos of both varsity and junior varsity games at mountaintimes.info.

Bridgewater to reconsider whether to keep its town listers

By Polly Mikula

Bridgewater voters successfully petitioned for a revote on whether the town should retain its listers or move to a professional assessor. The petition for a revote was submitted with 51 signatures within the 30-day window and a special vote has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 13.

At the Town Meeting in March residents had voted to keep its listers 84-54 (four voters abstained), bucking a growing trend to do away with the local positions.

Locally, voters in Woodstock, Reading, Hartland, Shrewsbury and Bridgewater all authorized the elimination of the office of town listers at Town Meeting Day. Professionally qualified assessors will now be hired to assume those duties.

In Woodstock the article to eliminate list-

ers passed by paper ballot 105 yes to 10 no.

In Reading voters approved eliminating listers 110-35 with 3 blank and eliminating auditors 114-27 with 7 blank. There were no candidates on the ballot for the positions.

In Hartland voters passed Article 9 to eliminate listers 66-32.

Shrewsbury voters also approved replacing its listers with a hired professional assessor, 146-61.

Bridgewater was the lone local outlier voting to keep its listers. The measure was decided by paper ballot vote, after residents moved to switch the vote from a floor vote. Opponents of a switch had argued that the town's current listers are more familiar with the town and that there is no reason to get rid of the office folks are willing to do it.

Green Up Day celebrates 55 years of community spirit across Vermont

Killington plans special activities to support the annual tradition

Vermont's annual Green Up Day returns this Saturday, May 3, marking its 55th anniversary as a cherished community tradition. Volunteers are gearing up throughout Rutland and Windsor counties and across the entire state to help make Vermont shine.

Green Up Day is a statewide initiative in which volunteers clean litter from roadsides, waterways, and public spaces. Established in 1970 by Governor Deane C. Davis, it remains

a unique, citizen-driven event. Vermont

is the only state in the country—and

now officially recognized by Guinness

World Records—to maintain

a statewide, volunteer-based litter

clean-up program. In 2024, volunteer

participation increased by 30%, reinforcing

the event's growing momentum.

"We are riding the momentum of achiev-

ing a Guinness World Records title last year,

Green Up → 2

Detained Palestinian Vermonter and activist, appears in federal court

By Ethan Weinstein/
VTDigger

Lawyers for Mohsen Mahdawi, a Palestinian activist arrested in Vermont last week, argued in federal court Wednesday, April 23, that the Upper Valley resident had been unlawfully detained by federal immigration authorities and should be released.

"Mohsen Mahdawi sits in a jail cell," said Luna Droubi, one of his attorneys at the hearing, "because of his lawful speech."

Mahdawi, a student organizer at Columbia University and a lawful U.S. resident for a decade, was arrested by federal agents in Colchester during an interview as part

Hundreds of supporters rallied to call for the Vermont resident's release.

of his U.S. citizenship naturalization process.

At that meeting, Mahdawi affirmed his commitment to "defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign, and domestic," according to court filings submitted by his attorneys.

But afterward, an immigration official told Mahdawi he needed to "check" on some information, and "ICE agents, masked and visibly armed, entered the interview room and shackled" Mahdawi, according to the filing.

The federal officers ushered Mahdawi into a vehicle and attempted to get him on a plane en route to Louisiana, his lawyers said.

Detained → 6

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Killington Select Board unanimously approves water system ordinance

By Polly Mikula

On Monday, April 28, the Killington Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Killington water system ordinance as presented Abbie Sherman, director of public works.

The ordinance will be posted at the town office, town library, post office, welcome center, and the deli as well as a concise summary of ordinance published The Mountain Times for public review.

Citizens may petition to bring the adoption of the ordinance to a vote by gathering signatures from 5% of the town’s residents who support deciding the matter by ballot. Any such petition is due by June 11. If the measure is not challenged, the ordinance will go into effect on June 27, 2025. Thereafter, the Select Board will begins process of appointing a board of water commissioners.

“I don’t fully agree with the way it’s written — the language seems a bit too limiting, in my opinion — but I don’t think it’ll have too much of a functional impact,” said Select Board member Patrick Cushing, reflecting on the meeting Tuesday. “I do encourage the public to read it carefully, especially those with property within 200 feet of the water line, so that they know what the ordinance states,” he said.

← **Reappraisal:**
from page 1

properties from Vision, they will review them to be sure there were no mistakes, which is expected to take three or four weeks.

Then the preliminary assessments get mailed out and the listers planned to “hold hearings — not official grievance, but a time which people could come in and talk to us about their specific property for a better understanding of the value and how it came about.”

Then there’s the official grievance period, which is typically the end of May, Findeisen said. Final tax bills go out in early July.

“So we don’t have much time. [Vision] should have given us everything back in late February or early March,” Findeisen summarized. “So I talked to the state and we can push off our finish date to next year, the next tax season, we just have to do it with the approval of the Select Board. So we’re here asking for that,” he concluded.

Select Board member Patrick Cushing asked how the delay would affect the town’s CLA and tax bills.

Findisean answered, “Our CLA is roughly 48%, but because the state is doing this new math where instead of 100% being 100% it’s now 73%, which brings our CLA up to 63%, but all that shouldn’t affect our tax bills a lot unless the state does something else crazy with rates... there’s even a chance this year our taxes could go down, but you didn’t hear that from me,” he said.

The board basically concluded that there wasn’t much they could do about it at this point.

“To me, I feel like maybe we should have been on them a little harder. With the TIF in the reappraisal there would have been increment up there so we’re losing one of the years since the start of the TIF in 2022. There are 10 years when you can accrue debt and then 20 years after that of capturing increment. So if this reappraisal should have been, I’m thinking we’re out six figures ... the town is losing out a lot because they’re not fulfilling their contract which said the work was to be completed this year. That being said, we need to approve this work.”

The board unanimously approved the year extension.

“I think if we give them more time they’ll do a better job and we’ll have plenty of time to review their work,” Findeisen added.



Courtesy Green Up Vermont

U32 11th grade student Ella Thomas was this year’s Green Up Day poster contest winner.

← **Green Up:**
from page 1

which is really special to Vermont and our residents,” said Green Up Vermont Executive Director Kate Alberghini. “Together, we achieved success and a clean state.”

Green Up Vermont emphasizes that a healthy environment directly supports Vermont’s economy, tourism, property values, and overall well-being. Volunteers are encouraged to spend an hour or two helping in their towns and celebrating their efforts with local events, such as creative Kentucky Derby Hat contests using recycled materials.

“Working together makes the biggest impact,” Alberghini added. “When people and businesses come together to Green Up, everyone benefits.”

Local efforts

In Woodstock folks are encouraged to meet on the Town Hall steps at 8 a.m. Woodstock Rotarians will be there to offer coffee, juice and donuts. Routes and bags will be given away. Please save any cans or bottles for the Scouts who will be accepting them at the high school.

Killington will have free Green Up bags available at the Killington town office, public safety building, and welcome center. Volunteers can collect trash anytime leading up to May 3 and are encouraged to sign up for specific road segments through killingtonrec.com to help coordinate coverage.

Bag drop-off will occur at the Killington Transfer Station on May 3 or 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To thank volunteers, Killington Resort will host a community BBQ picnic lunch at the Johnson Recreation Pavilion on Saturday, May 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

“We are riding the momentum of achieving a Guinness World Records title last year,” said Alberghini.

The Rutland event is organized by Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD). There are two ways you can join Rutland Green Up Day efforts. You can work independently in your neighborhood and pick up bags and gloves at the RCSWD administrative office on One Smith Road (off Green Hill Lane) in Rutland or join the “Mighty Tidy Rutland” group who is focusing on Downtown Rutland. They are meeting in front of City Hall downtown to work from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more town-specific details, visit greenupvermont.org. For Woodstock information, visit: woodstockvt.com/events. For Killington information, visit: killingtonrec.com. For Rutland information, call 802-775-7209 ext. 206.

The role of public engagement in TIF

Before we dive into this week's theme—public engagement in the TIF district process—we wanted to provide a short update. On Monday, April 21, the Rutland City Board of Aldermen approved a modification to the TIF District, as requested by the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC). With that change in place, VEPC has officially approved the district.

The next step in the Rutland City TIF process is to finalize plans for the first phase project (the downtown hotel) and submit those to the Board of Aldermen for their consideration. Hopefully this will occur in May with an application going to VEPC in June for their July board meeting.

Is there a role for the public to play in the establishment of a TIF district?

Yes. Public participation in the development of a TIF district is not only encouraged, it's required by law. In order for the Rutland City TIF District to be a success, the Rutland City TIF Task Force has relied on open and

transparent community engagement, largely by way of public hearings.

Before the City of Rutland could apply for TIF district approval, public hearings were held with the Board of Aldermen. Upon the Board's approval, public hearings were then held with VEPC. Moving forward, any Phase Filings for specific projects and any "substantial changes" proposed to the district will also require public input. Additional public hearings and formal notices will also be made available before each bond vote, ensuring that residents are informed before heading to the polls.

Public hearings that take place before both the Rutland City Board of Aldermen and VEPC are warned several days in advance and schedules can be found at [Tinyurl.com/RutlandBOA](https://tinyurl.com/RutlandBOA) or [Tinyurl.com/VEPCmeetings](https://tinyurl.com/VEPCmeetings).

To support ongoing community engagement, as well as to provide general information and project updates, the Rutland City TIF Task Force also maintains a public Facebook page.

We fully recognize the complexity of the TIF process, which includes multiple safeguards that require accountability from municipalities who have access to this important tool. While this series of articles will not serve as a platform to respond to all public comments, we will do our best to use the feedback we receive to shape the content of future columns.

Your vote matters

Importantly, none of the work done to this point can move forward without the support of the Rutland City voters. Once the first phase project is approved by VEPC, voters will be asked to approve a TIF-funded bond that will fund the infrastructure improvements needed to start the project.

As we shared in the last article, the bond will not result in a new tax, nor will it cause property taxes to rise in order to pay for it. Instead, the bond will be paid for using the property tax revenue generated from the new development.

While several steps remain before asking for voter approval, we anticipate a bond vote to be scheduled for this Fall.

For more information, visit the Rutland 360 website: Rutlandvtbusiness.com/tax-increment-financing.



Members of the Killington 100-Day Club posed for a commemorative photo on April 19 to honor skiing 100 or more days during the 2024/2025 season.

Killington celebrates pass holders and 100-Day Club members

KILLINGTON—Killington Resort hosted its annual Pass Holders Appreciation Day on Saturday, April 19, treating guests to a complimentary lunch, beverage,

and dessert as a thank-you
for a great season.

The day also brought together more than 50 members of the resort's 100-Day Club for a group

photo. Over 175 skiers and riders joined the elite group this season by logging 100 or more days on the mountain.

Among the crowd were 100-Day Club founder Rob

Kovalesky Sr. and longtime member David Lindner, who gathered at the K-1 Lodge to celebrate 13 consecutive seasons of commitment to the slopes.

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Submitted
MSJ senior Daisy Bishop recently received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Vermont Elks Club.

Daisy Bishop is awarded Vermont Elks Scholarship

NORTH CHITTENDEN — Daisy Bishop, daughter of Greg and Carrie Bishop, has been selected as a Vermont Elks Scholar. A Mount St. Joseph Academy senior, Daisy will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to support her continuing education at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, where she plans to double major in Multidisciplinary Studies and Humanitarian Relief and Development.

An active volunteer, Daisy has participated in Night to Shine through the Tim Tebow Foundation, served as a leader at Awana's Bible Club, volunteered as a lifeguard at Word of Life Summer Camp, and plays in the Calvary Church worship band. She enjoys soccer, swimming, traveling, playing piano, and spending time with family and friends.

Congratulations and best wishes to Daisy as she embarks on her next chapter.

← Alderman seat:
from page 1

vague in his reasons and timing for resigning, citing only "personal reasons" he said.

Heck had served as city clerk from 2008-2023, when Doenges replaced him with Traci Kapusta.

During Heck's final board meeting the governing body narrowly approved the reappointment of City Clerk Traci Kapusta. Heck, Allaire and Clifford had voted "no," along with Alderman William Gillam and Alderwoman Sharon Davis. McClure voted "yes" along with Alderwoman Anna Tadio and Aldermen Larry Cupoli, Michael Talbott and Tom Donahue.

Since seven "no" votes are required to reject a mayoral appointment, Kapusta was confirmed.

When looking to select a replacement for Heck's seat on the board, Doenges has said he does not want to rush the process.

As of Monday, April 29, he had yet to make a choice.

The Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance seeks to inform, educate, and support the short-term rental community in Vermont

By James Kent
On Friday, April 25, at a monthly Partners in Housing meeting held at the Hub CoWorks in downtown Rutland, the Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance (VTSTRA) hosted a 60-minute presentation and Q&A session for members of the public and the housing community. VTSTRA executive director Julie Marks was the afternoon's speaker. Her goal was to educate the local community about the economic opportunities short-term rentals (STRs) offer and clear up some of the myths and concerns about an industry that seemingly has appeared out of nowhere but does have a long and rich history in Vermont.

Marks, a native Vermonter with a background in environmental health sciences, founded VTSTRA in 2021 after working closely with Burlington's city council while developing their STR regulations. Today, the alliance has grown to over 380 members representing homeowners, property managers, and service providers across the state.

"Short-term rental hosts are everyday Vermonters—farmers supplementing their income, retirees aging in place, and entrepreneurs launching businesses," Marks explained. "We advocate for reasonable regulations, promote responsible hosting, and work to build stronger connections between vacation rental operators and local businesses."

STRs: An established part of Vermont's Landscape

Although some view STRs as a new phenomenon, Marks emphasized that Vermonters have been renting out homes to visitors since the 1950s. "The vacation rental tradition is nothing new," she said, noting its evolution from newspaper listings in the '50s and '60s to today's online platforms like VRBO and Airbnb.

Today, nearly half of



By James Kent
Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance (VTSTRA) executive director Julie Marks gave a presentation on the short-term rental industry in Vermont on Friday, April 25.

travelers globally prefer STRs, especially Millennials and Gen Z. Vermonters offer unique experiences that hotels often cannot: pet-friendly spaces, rural retreats, family-sized homes, and accommodations suitable for remote workers.

Marks pointed out that many STRs support medium-term stays—a growing need for traveling nurses, contractors, remote workers, and new residents. "The days of mid-term rentals being just for traveling nurses are over," she said. "Remote workers now make up about 40% of month-to-month rentals."

Debunking common myths

Addressing concerns that STRs are taking over Vermont's housing stock, Marks shared data showing that the number of STRs represents only a small portion of overall housing. In Rutland and Windsor counties, STR activity remains heavily tied to seasonal tourism — not to the displacement of year-round rentals.

Moreover, according to Marks, recent studies in Vermont and other states like Maine, New Hampshire, and Canada have found little to no evidence linking STR growth to higher long-term rental rates. "We hear a lot of talk about STRs

causing the housing crisis," Marks said. "But the truth is, the factors driving the housing crisis are much broader and more complex."

Data shows that STR activity has remained stable or increased moderately in towns like Burlington, Woodstock, and Killington even after regulations were enacted—without clear impacts on rental affordability.

Economic impact

STRs generate significant economic benefits for Vermont. In 2023 alone, STRs contributed \$54 million in meals and rooms tax revenue, with an additional 3% surcharge on STR reservations added that year.

Visitors using STRs also directly support local businesses. Marks cited 2022 data showing that STR guests spent about \$650 million at Vermont businesses.

"When guests stay in a short-term rental, they eat at local restaurants, shop at local stores, and use local services," she said. "This distribution of visitor spending

is critical, especially in rural areas without hotels."

STRs also create jobs: Airbnb estimates about 6,000 Vermont jobs are indirectly supported through short-term rentals, including property management, house-keeping, maintenance, and concierge services.

A balanced approach to growth

Marks emphasized the need for thoughtful, data-driven regulation rather than reactionary bans. "We recommend starting slow, engaging with the community, and focusing on safety and registration before jumping to restrictions," she advised.

Rather than viewing STRs and long-term rentals as mutually exclusive, Marks encouraged communities to recognize that flexible housing options—including medium-term and seasonal rentals—are part of a healthy, diverse housing market.

"Short-term rentals fill important gaps," Marks said. "They house traveling nurses, contractors, new residents waiting for homes to be built, and visitors who support local businesses. With reasonable regulations, STRs can coexist with broader efforts to address affordable housing."

"When guests stay in a short-term rental, they eat at local restaurants, shop at local stores, and use local services," Marks said.

VTSTRA continues to work with towns across Vermont to promote responsible hosting, support local economies, and maintain balance in housing markets.

"The impacts of short-term rentals are enormous — and when done right, the benefits to our communities are even greater," Marks concluded.

For more information, visit: VTSTRA.org.

Shoestring start to stardom

How Killington became The Beast: Part 8

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 conducted in the 1980s for the book Killington, A Story of Mountains and Men.

Recapping this series, we have seen how Pres Smith, inspired by the mountain's potential and believing in the intrinsic value of skiing, set out to create a better ski experience.

He combined his own passion for the sport with a business opportunity, and thanks to the support of Sue Smith, Joe Sargent, and Wally Morrison, was able to attract a supportive group of investors and a board of directors who, inspired by his vision and motivated by his work ethic, joined him in forming the Sherburne Corporation and building what would become the East's most successful ski resort.

An unusual stock story

Readers may recall that the Sherburne Corporation had placed would-be investor funds in escrow accounts in 1956 because it didn't have a lease to the mountain or an access road.

However, with so much accomplished on the mountain and the access road survey and preliminary engineering work done by the state, it was decided that the terms of the escrow agreement had been substantially met, and the directors advised the escrow agent to release the funds in September 1957. A letter was sent to all stock subscribers informing them of the dissolution of the Escrow Account and advising them regarding their Sherburne Corporation stock certificates.

The first "actual" stock issue had a seven-page offering circular dated September 25, 1957. It described the project, its financial status, and plans and listed the 49 outstanding shares of stock then owned by the officers and directors. (Joe Sargent had upped his investment to 39 shares, Mary Sargent held 1 share, Pres Smith 3, Sue Smith 1, Joe Van Vleck 3, and Walter Morrison 2.) All had paid \$250 per share, thus making possible the purchase of the farmhouse, down payments on the equipment used to build the work road, the start of construction at the mountain, and the purchase of two lifts.

Joe Sargent explained that it was an unusual way for a company to begin a business. "Normally, the founders would give themselves so many shares of stock and then go out and sell stock and let the shareholders assume the risk should the project fail to get off the ground. But we paid up-front so that we took all the risk, and the shareholders had none until the project was well underway," he noted.

Their willingness to assume the risk manifested their belief in and dedication to the project. The early sense of responsibility to shareholders was a significant factor because it became an underpinning to a company philosophy and a key element to understanding the conservative workings of the company and the board's continued involvement with Killington. Board members took much pride in the company's accomplishments and the track record that the corporation so carefully maintained.

Through a series of stock splits and corporate restructuring, an original investment of four shares of Sherburne Corporation stock increased to 9,600 shares of S-K-I Ltd. A \$1,000 1958 investment was worth over \$120,000 in July 1988 and \$153,600 in July 1989. With another 5-for-4 split, those 9,600 shares became 12,000 shares that were worth \$216,000 on June 28, 1996, when the company was sold.

Shoestring start shows promise

Killington opened with seven trails and two Pomalifts operating on Snowdon, a CCC prefab base lodge (put up by the state, which hadn't had time to build the base lodge), an eight-holer outhouse nearby, and a converted chicken coop for a ticket booth. By the end of January 1959, the Glades Poma and beginner area "Model C" Poma were operating, although not always smoothly.

There were many kinks to be worked out in lift operations in those days. Smith vividly recalled running up the novice slope by the base lodge, hot dog in one hand, soda in the other, to scamper up a lift tower to unjam a lift hanger. "The hard part was swinging hand-over-hand, monkey-bar style, down fifty feet of cable before climbing up over the bull wheel to get to the hangar," he recalled of being part gymnast in the early days of ski area operations.

Despite the original "shoestring start," Killington Basin, as the ski area was originally known, had four lifts operating its first season, a record at that time. Some 8,000 skier visits were recorded during four months of operation, and over 100 stockholders had invested by the end of the ski season. By early 1959, the first stock issue was sold out, and a 100-percent stock dividend (two-for-one split) was declared on February 19.

What would have been a less impressive start in 1956 or 1957 with only two lifts and fewer trails had grown into a promising and larger new ski area. Although lift receipts for December had only reached \$1,278.00 and January tallied \$2,860.15,

February turned the tide with over \$10,000 in lift revenues!

Killington lost money that first season — the only year in which the ski area did not make a profit in its history, an enviable and unique record among ski resorts. With gross receipts of \$42,847.67, the area lost \$21,045.22 for its first fiscal year ended July 31, 1959.

However, the books for February and March alone indicated a profitable operation, which helped secure a Vermont Development Credit Corporation loan for the addition of a chairlift and more trails for the 1959-60 ski season.

A new stock issue of 480 shares commenced on April 3, 1959, to raise \$120,000 for the purchase of a chairlift to Killington Peak, the clearing of its lifeline, and new trails.

Humble beginnings with soul

While Stratton hired a helicopter to install its first chairlift in 1961 and Sugarbush opened in December 1958 with a three-passenger 9,300-foot-long gondola, Killington workers cobbled together a "gin pole" to install its first Pomalifts and then installed the first chairlift towers in 1959 with the aid of a crane.

However, the chairlift's late delivery on Thanksgiving Day made the installation particularly challenging, as the ground was already covered with 13 feet of snow!

But even more perplexing for Smith was the discovery that one of the newly bolted-together lattice towers looked different from the rest. Working in the dark, frigid air of a December night under car lights, Joe Sargent had bolted his tower together inside out, and the bolts were frozen solid!

Amateurs? Yes, definitely. But their hearts were in it. And souls. And that was to make all the difference.

The passion for creating a better ski experience was found in those long nights, as well as in the mishaps and best-laid plans that sometimes went astray.

In explaining why they were so involved with the physical construction of the ski area from the beginning, Sargent stressed, "We couldn't afford to let someone else put the lift up and mess it up because we had no money. There was no one to bail us out if someone else erred. We could simply not afford to take the risk of someone else doing it wrong with what little stockholder capital we had."

Sargent's desire for a hands-on, do-it-yourself approach was perfect for the genius lurking inside Pres Smith. For a man with a dream and determination as big as Smith's, the

The Beast → 39



Submitted

A converted chicken coop served as the first ticket booth at Killington Basin Ski Area.



Submitted

Novice Slope at Killington Basin, February 1959. "CCC Hut" base lodge and outhouse (right).

OBITUARY

Peter Rogers Gould, 82

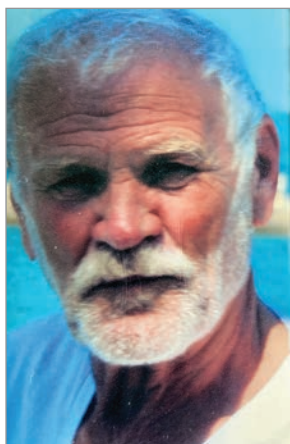
Peter Rogers Gould passed away on March 29 after a courageous two-year journey with pancreatic cancer—filled with both joy and hardship—Peter never lost his love for life or his will to live.

Peter, born on Sept. 22, 1942, in Auburn, New York, was a devoted father, a loving brother, and a cherished friend. He had a deep and abiding love for the people in his life, and he gave that love freely.

His true passion was his art. He was constantly sketching, painting, planning, and creating. Inspired by the natural world, the joy of simply being alive, and his own rich spiritual life, Peter's work reflected the beauty he saw around him and within.

He found endless joy in the outdoors. He kayaked on Kent Pond and Woodward Reservoir, hiked in the summer, and skied in the winter. When he got his e-bike, he delighted in flying down the winding roads of Killington, feeling like a kid again.

His ever-present grin and



Submitted

Peter Rogers Gould

sparkling blue eyes brought light and warmth to everyone he met.

Peter spent his final days at home, surrounded by love, thanks to the tireless support of his family, friends, and the compassionate team at Bayada Hospice.

On behalf of Peter's children—Chris, Tim, Kelli, Adam, and Ian—a heartfelt thank you to all who called, visited and reached out during his final days. Your presence and kindness meant the world to him.

A celebration of Peter's life will be held this summer, with details to follow.



Submitted

A celebration of life will be held for Barry Leete next Saturday.

Celebrate the life of Barry Leete, May 10

KILLINGTON—A celebration of life/memorial for Barry Leete will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Killington Fire Station. Please bring and share any stories of him from over the years.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Barry's memory could be made to: Killington Volunteer Fire Department, 800 Killington Road, Killington, VT 05751 or VSEA Fire Cadet Academy Dean Gilmore, PO Box 67, New Haven, VT or the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

Detailed:

from page 1

But Mahdawi's attorneys quickly filed a lawsuit, and a judge issued a temporary order to keep him in Vermont. He was later detained at Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans, where he continues to be held.

Attorneys for Mahdawi have argued he was detained in retaliation for promoting Palestinian rights and opposing Israel's military campaign in Gaza. They also cited a memo written by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio — reported by the New York Times — that argued the Columbia student's activism could “potentially undermine” Middle East peace talks.

The federal government, meanwhile, has said Mahdawi should be removed from the country because his presence “would have serious adverse foreign policy consequences and would compromise a compelling U.S. foreign policy interest,” citing Secretary Rubio, according to court documents.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford extended for 90 days the temporary restraining order that forces the government to keep Mahdawi in Vermont. Judge Crawford also said he intended to schedule a hearing for next Wednesday, where he might rule on whether the federal government can continue detaining Mahdawi.

“I recognize the urgency,” Judge Crawford said at the hearing, adding that he needed to give the federal government the opportunity to file further arguments. “I wish we could do it today, but I don't think that would be fair for the government.”

Asked by the judge about the temporary restraining order keeping Mahdawi in Vermont, acting U.S. Attorney Michael Drescher, who represented President Donald Trump's

administration, said he was “not authorized” to consent to extending the order.

And regarding Mahdawi's continued detention, Drescher argued that Immigration Court rather than Federal District Court had jurisdiction over the issue.

In turn, Mahdawi's lawyers argued that an immigration court wasn't the proper venue to rule on the constitutional violations against free speech they allege.

Considering Mahdawi's continued detention or release, Judge Crawford referenced the circumstances of his arrest in Colchester.

The federal government wouldn't have sent a “cavalcade of SUVs” and a “posse of agents” unless “they had something in mind,” he said without elaborating.

Asked by the judge about his treatment in a Vermont prison, Mahdawi told the court that “people have been very kind.” Following the hearing, as he exited the crowded courtroom, he extended two-fingered peace signs to the friends and family.

Outside the courthouse, hundreds of supporters rallied to call for the Vermont resident's release, and for the freedom of the Palestinian people.

Nora Rubinstein, of Middletown Springs, said she was inspired to attend Wednesday to defend “democracy and freedom” and help the U.S. “return to the democratic principles this country was founded on.”

“It's time to end the shredding of our democracy, the shredding of our Constitution,” Rubinstein said.

Following the hearing, Mahdawi's legal team addressed the press and the gathered crowd, calling the morning a

“victory” and stressing the case's importance for all immigrants in the U.S.

“We are very hopeful that he will be released,” Cyrus Mehta, one of Mahdawi's lawyers, said. “The judge wants to move quickly, and he realizes that this is a case of great importance for this country.”

Mahdawi faces a separate case in immigration court in Louisiana, according to court filings from his lawyers, where they allege federal immigration authorities had a “clear plan to ship him.”

Earlier this week, U.S. Sen. Peter

“It's time to end the shredding of our democracy, the shredding of our Constitution,” said Rubinstein, of Middletown Springs.

Welch, D-Vt, visited Mahdawi in the St. Albans prison, sharing a video of their conversation on social media. In the recording, the detained Vermont-er told supporters he was in “good hands” and “staying positive.”

Court filings indicate Mahdawi was set to graduate from Columbia University next month and intends to pursue a master's degree from the school as well. While a student there, Mahdawi co-founded the Palestinian Student Union, according to his attorneys.

In a statement shared by his lawyers Wednesday, Mahdawi encouraged the public to remain hopeful.

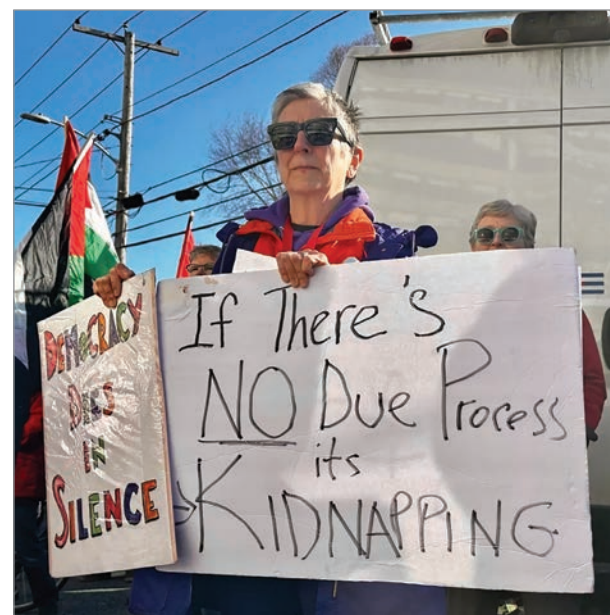
“This hearing is part of the system of democracy. It prevents a tyrant from having unchecked power,” he said. “A system of democracy guarantees freedom of speech. Speaking of Palestine does not only qualify as freedom of speech, but it is also about our humanity.”

Neal Goswami contributed reporting.



By Neal Goswami/VTdigger

Protestors gathered outside federal court in Burlington to support Mohsen Mahdawi on Wednesday, April 23.



By Neal Goswami/VTdigger

Sal Millichamp, center, of Burlington attends a protest outside of the federal court in Burlington on April 23.

Crosswinds

By the end of the week, it was clear that the Senate was moving on a different track from the House and the governor on a couple of major bills. It's the beginning of some strong winds, not necessarily in the same direction.

At his weekly press conference on Wednesday, Scott made it clear that the Senate Appropriations Committee was moving further away from his position on spending with its version of the state budget bill. The Senate committee version increased spending and added at least 10 new positions over the House budget version. And this comes when there is a backdrop of uncertainty in federal funds or grants coming to the state. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I couldn't resist the opportunity to kiddingly refer to one of my Republican colleagues on the Senate committee as "Big Government Joe" in reference to their more expansive spending plan.

At the same time, the Senate Education Committee appeared to be moving closer to the governor's version of education reform efforts and away from the spread-out timeline in the House version. It's too early to know where the committee will end up on reform efforts, but right now, they are giving the appearance of moving in a different direction than Senate Appropriations is on the budget plan for the state. You can almost feel the crosswinds in the State House.

Other issues of interest:

- The Vermont Senate approved a change to Burlington's Charter



By Rep. Jim Harrison

prohibiting firearms in that city's bars. The legislation was approved on a 17-12 vote. The Legislature has

typically refrained from allowing various communities to enact gun laws that are not uniform statewide. The measure will now move to the House for consideration.

- Lawmakers are hearing growing concerns over the implementation of new EV mandates on cars and trucks at Vermont dealerships. Ver-

mont followed California's lead in 2022 and adopted a Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate. It requires 35% of new vehicle sales in 2026 to be EVs, increasing to 100% by 2035. Currently, 12% of new vehicles sold in Vermont can plug in, which has dealers saying the higher percentages are unrealistic at this time.

- The Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) proposal to help communities finance infrastructure (such as water and sewer) for new housing developments is garnering attention. CHIP is often seen as a small-scale version of the state's limited Tax Increment Financing program (TIF), which is currently being utilized in Killington and planned for downtown Rutland. S.127 would allow borrowing against the future tax revenue of the

Harrison → 12

Proposed infrastructure financing program would allow even small Vermont towns to incentivize housing

Developers are cheering the so-called CHIP program, which would finance infrastructure to support development, including in towns that haven't been able to take advantage of TIF

By Carly Berlin

Editor's Note: This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, was produced through a partnership between VTDigger and Vermont Public.

Jonah Richard wants to build a new neighborhood in Bradford, an Orange County town of about 2,800. Richard envisions 15 small "starter home" cottages tucked off the town's main drag. His hope is to sell them at a price point that has become vanishingly rare in Vermont: under \$300,000.

But it would only work, he says, with water and sewer system financing from an initiative under consideration at the State House – the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program, or CHIP.

"Without CHIP, this project doesn't move forward. With CHIP, it does," said Richard, founder of the Upper Valley-based developer Village Ventures.

If the proposed program can bring in half a million dollars to help cover infrastructure costs – about 10-15% of the project's total estimated price tag, Richard said – it could make the neighborhood, currently in its pre-development stage, pencil out.

CHIP is essentially a small-scale version of Vermont's longstanding tax increment financing program, or TIF, which allows municipalities to borrow money for public infrastructure like roads, sidewalks, and wastewater projects in an area where they want to see growth — with the expectation that new infrastructure will spur new development. The increased tax revenue from the new development then pays off the debt for the infrastructure.

The complexity involved in managing large TIF districts means that only Vermont's larger cities and towns have used them. CHIP is designed to use the same tax increment financing concept, but at the scale of a single property.

"Without CHIP, this project doesn't move forward. With CHIP, it does," said Richard.

"CHIP allows communities — especially, I think, our smaller communities — to say, 'What's that one project? What's that one piece of infrastructure that we could put in, that we would bond for once, that could be a catalyst for housing development?'" said Megan Sullivan, a lobbyist for the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and a former executive director of the Vermont Economic Progress Council, which oversees the TIF program.

Developers big and small have voiced their support for CHIP, and the new housing advocacy group Let's Build Homes, of which Richards is a board member, has thrown its full weight behind it. Gov. Phil Scott's administration proposed a similar program at the outset of this year's legislative session and officials have indicated their continued support. The housing package that contains CHIP cleared the Senate last month and is currently making its way through the House.

Advocates for Vermont municipalities say the program offers a critical new option for cities and towns to spur housing development and grow their grand lists.

Right now, to fund new infrastructure, municipalities have to raise property taxes or water rates, said Samantha Sheehan, a lobbyist for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Or municipalities can go to the state for a grant – an option that only exists when funding is made available through the state budget.

The other way municipalities get new infrastructure, Sheehan said, is when housing developers pay for it themselves – and bake the cost of infrastructure into the price of housing.

"That raises rents or homeownership for whoever moves into that housing development first," Sheehan said. CHIP aims to move away from that model.

CHIP is not the first "project-based TIF" program to circulate around the Legislature in recent years, Sullivan said. Prior versions haven't made it to the finish line because of concerns that plague the TIF program more broadly: that development that has occurred in TIF districts would have happened even without the financing mechanism, and therefore hasn't justified the foregone property tax revenue to the state's overstretched Education Fund.

CHIP has garnered similar critiques. State Auditor Doug Hoffer, a frequent critic of Vermont's TIF program, has become the CHIP initiative's most vocal detractor in recent weeks. In an interview, Hoffer emphasized that the Legislature's nonpartisan financial analysts have not been able to determine the fiscal impacts of CHIP due to a host of unknown factors: the scope of the program's eventual utilization, the size of future projects, and "the amount of development that would occur absent the program," according to a Joint Fiscal Office memo from early April.

Hoffer also challenged whether the CHIP program as currently envisioned would provide an adequate public benefit, if it ultimately gives an incentive to the builders of

CHIP → 14

Vermont's 2025 open enrollment sees record numbers for health insurance

The Dept. of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) released figures on marketplace open enrollment for 2025 earlier this month after Vermont's open enrollment period ended on Jan. 15— data showed a substantial increase in the number of Vermonters enrolling in plans through Vermont's health insurance marketplace, known as Vermont Health Connect. Most Vermonters enrolled in Qualified Health Plans through the marketplace will benefit from increased subsidies and better coverage in 2025 than in previous years.

During Vermont's 2025 Open Enrollment period, over 32,000 Vermonters signed up for their health

and dental plans through Vermont Health Connect. This is an approximately 11% increase in newly enrolled members and represents historically high enrollment for the marketplace.

This year, many Vermonters were eligible for plans with a higher level of coverage at lower premium costs due to increased federal subsidies — 95% of those enrolled through Vermont Health Connect are benefitting from more available subsidies to reduce health insurance premium costs.

For 2025, nearly half of Vermonters enrolled through the marketplace will be covered by a Gold plan. This is a substan-

tial increase and means that more Vermonters will be receiving more generous coverage than in previous years. All Qualified Health Plans have the same comprehensive benefits, but Gold plans have lower out of pocket costs. Vermonters will receive an average of \$240 per month more financial help in 2025, representing a 37.5% increase over 2024.

For plan year 2025, an eligible individual earning \$40,000 a year qualified for the lowest-cost Gold plan for less than \$1 a month — a savings of \$1,138 each month. A family of four with a household income of \$100,000 qualified for

Health insurance → 14

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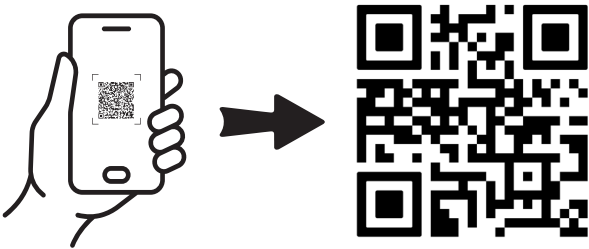
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Vermont, 11 other states sue Trump admin over tariff policies

By Habib Sabet/VTDigger

Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark is joining the top prosecutors of 11 other states in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of President Donald Trump’s tariff policies, the Attorney General’s office announced Wednesday, April 23.

The attorneys general, who filed the lawsuit Wednesday in the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York City, argue that Trump’s four executive orders imposing tariffs on im-ports from other countries violate Article I of the U.S. Constitution, which assigns Congress, not the president, the “Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.”

“President Trump’s illegal tariffs will harm Vermont’s businesses and consumers,” Clark said in a Wednesday press release announcing the suit. “I’m suing the Trump Administra-tion for the 10th time over these illegal tariffs to protect working Vermonters, small business-es, and our economy.”

The lawsuit requests a preliminary and permanent injunction blocking U.S. Customs and Border Patrol from enforcing the tariffs.

Since taking office, Trump has repeatedly invoked the Inter-national Economic Emergency Powers Act while issuing a flurry of executive orders unilaterally declaring levies on imported goods.

“I’m suing the Trump Administration for the 10th time over these illegal tariffs to protect working Vermonters, small businesses, and our economy,” stated Clark.

But the lawsuit argues that the 1970s-era law doesn’t grant the president the authority to impose sweeping tariffs under any circumstances.

Moreover, the attorneys general argue in the suit, Trump has trotted out the once-ob-scure law under false pretenses, claiming that the tariffs are aimed at countering various alleged national security threats, such as illegal immigration and cross-border fentanyl smuggling.

“Yet over the last three months, the President has imposed, modified, escalated, and suspended tariffs by executive order, memoranda, social media post, and agency decree,” the lawsuit states. “These edicts reflect a national trade policy that now hinges on the Presi-



By Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons and Glenn Russell/VTDigger
President Donald Trump, left, and Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark.

dent’s whims rather than the sound exercise of his lawful authority.”
The lawsuit is the latest in a string of legal challenges made to the Trump Administra-tion’s tariff policy in recent weeks.
Earlier this month, California filed a lawsuit similarly questioning the constitutionality of Trump’s trade-related executive orders.
Members of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana and two non-profits — the New Civil Lib-erties Alliance and the Liberty Justice Center — have also all filed lawsuits opposing various aspects of the administration’s tariff policy in recent weeks.

Vermont sues Trump administration over funding for K-12

Over \$100 million in federal financial assistance at risk in Vermont

Attorney General Charity Clark recently joined a coalition of 19 attorneys general in filing a lawsuit chal-lenging the U.S. Dept. of Education’s threat to withhold federal funding from state and local agencies that refuse to abandon lawful programs and policies that promote equal access to education in K-12 classrooms across the nation.

On April 3, 2025, the U.S. Dept. of Education informed state and local agencies that they must accept the Trump administration’s new and legally incoherent interpre-tation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts — or else risk imme-diate and catastrophic loss of federal education funds.

Vermont informed the U.S. Dept. of Education that it continues to stand by its prior certifications of compli-ance with Title VI and its lawfully issued implementing regulations in the U.S. Dept. of Education’s possession, but would not certify to any executive orders, memoranda, or guidance materials or the undefined language regarding “certain DEI practices” or “illegal DEI” in the request for certification.

In filing the lawsuit April 25, Attorney General Clark and the coalition seek to bar the U.S. Dept. of Education from withholding any funding based on these unlawful condi-tions.

“The Trump administration has tried to place unlawful conditions on federal funding for our schools. Today I sued to protect Vermont’s students, schools, and future,” said

Attorney General Clark. “Vermont has been and will con-tinue to follow education laws, and I will continue to protect Vermonters against any unlawful actions by the federal government.”

The U.S. Dept. of Education provides Vermont with over \$100 million in congressio-nally mandated financial support each year for a wide variety of needs and services related to children and edu-cation. This funding includes financial support to ensure that students from low-in-come families have the same access to high-quality education as their peers, provide special education services, recruit and train highly skilled and dedicated teachers, fund programming for non-native speakers to learn English, and provide support to vulnera-ble children in foster care and without housing.

As a condition of receiving these funds, state and local education agencies provide written assurances they will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which pro-hibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin, and Vermont has consistently and regularly certified its compliance with Title VI and its implementing regulations.

However, on April 3, the U.S. Dept. of Education issued a letter that conditioned continued federal financial assis-

tance on state and local education agencies certifying that they are not operating programs inconsistent with the Trump Administration’s view that efforts supporting diver-sity, equity, and inclusion are unlawful.

The letter forced state and local agencies to choose between two untenable options: (1) refuse to certify compliance based on the department’s un-defined view-point on what constitutes unlawful diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, curriculum, instruction, and policies, and place federal funding in peril or (2) certify compli-ance, attempt to identify and eliminate lawful diversity, equity, and inclusion to the detriment of students, and still face liability for failing to fully comply with the U.S. Dept. of Education’s vague and ill-defined order. Faced with this choice, Vermont stood by its prior certifications of com-pliance with Title VI and its lawfully issued implementing regulations in the U.S. Dept. of Education’s possession.

In the lawsuit, Attorney General Clark and the multistate coalition assert that the U.S. Dept. of Education’s attempt to terminate federal education funding based on its misinter-pretation of Title VI violates the Spending Clause, the Appropriations Clause, the separation of powers, and the Administrative Procedures Act.

“Vermont has been and will continue to follow education laws, and I will continue to protect Vermonters against any unlawful actions by the federal government,” said Clark.

Joining Attorney General Clark in filing this lawsuit are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mich-igan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Migrant workers' arrest should shock Vt. dairy farmers

By Angelo Lynn

Editor's note: Angelo Lynn is the publisher of the Addison Independent, a sister publication of the Mountain Times.

When federal agents from Trump's "big-brother" government descended on the Pleasant Valley Farms dairy in Franklin County this past Monday, they arrested eight migrant workers in their homes and placed them immediately into the Northwest State Correctional Facility in Swanton, where they are currently held.

According to the group Migrant Justice, the arrests constituted the largest single immigration enforcement action against farmworkers in recent Vermont history.

The farm, which is Vermont's largest with 3,000-plus cows on 10,000 acres, is owned by Mark and Amanda St. Pierre. Their son Jamie is part of the management team, along with his wife, the Olympic runner Elle St. Pierre.

In a story reported by Seven Days, Amanda St. Pierre said they had not been told why their employees were being detained, and said the employees "were hired following the federal and state employment requirements. We remain supportive of our employees and appreciative of the valuable role they play in our community performing essential work on our farm."

The arrests should send shock waves through Vermont's farm community, which employs about 850 year-round migrant farmworkers — all crucial to the state's dairy industry.

Thomas D. Holman, Trump's "border czar" and a North Country native, stressed that the raid on the farm "wasn't a raid," but rather the outcome of a pursuit of two other people who had crossed the border by foot and walked onto the farm. Holman said the migrant workers were arrested during a search of a house on the farm in pursuit of the two walkers. One of the two suspected walkers was also arrested. Holman has previously pledged to support dairy farms and their employment of migrant workers.

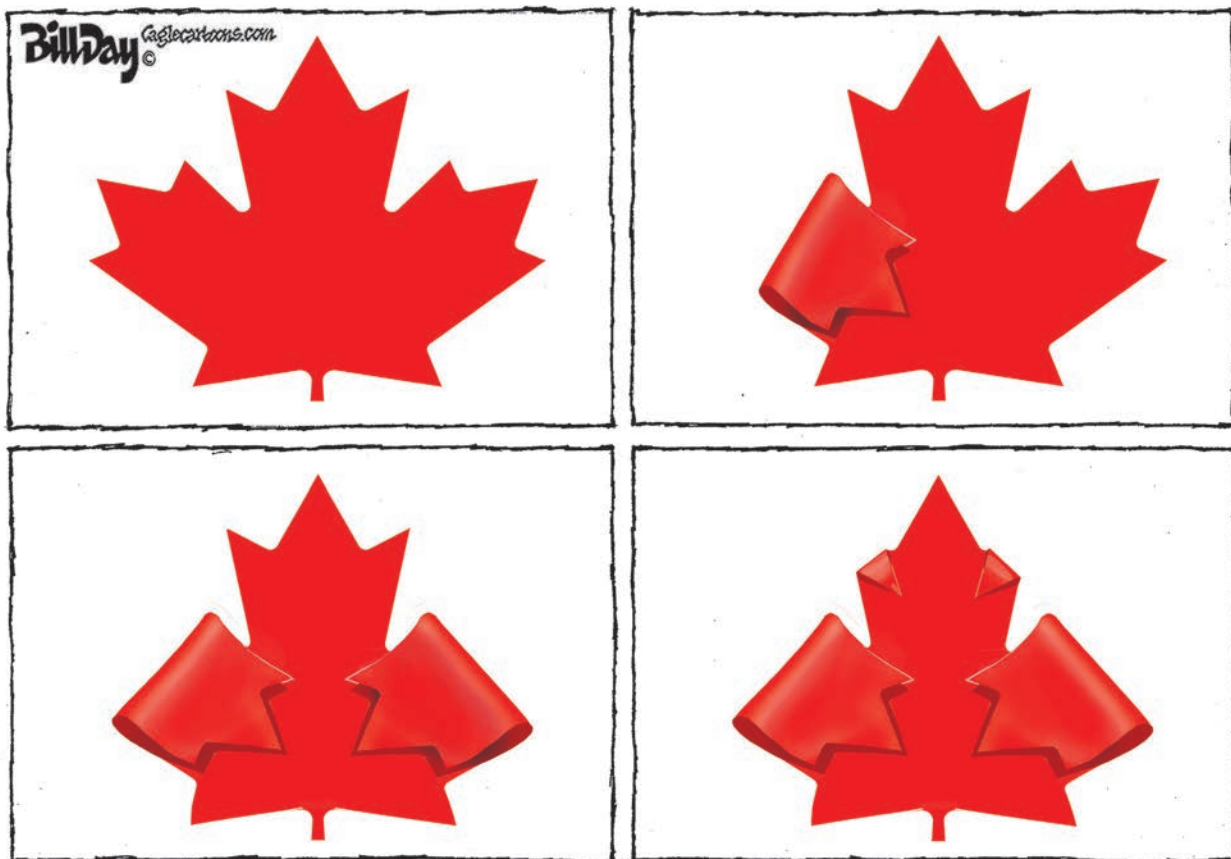
The Migrant Justice community isn't accepting excuses, and neither should Vermonters. "What happened... was an injustice," said Cristian Santos, a member of the group's Farmworker Coordinating Committee.

Gov. Phil Scott added his voice saying "migrant workers are an essential part of our communities," and called on Congress and Trump to pass immigration reform that would make it easier for migrant workers to work here without being "forced to live in the shadows."

He's right, of course, but it's unlikely to happen with this Republican Congress and with this president — not until massive waves of people stand up against them.

Dairy farmers should join other farmers upset by federal cuts to nutrition programs — and others upset with cuts to a host of programs and services that harm Vermonters — and let this Republican Congress know they'll be losing their votes if they don't restrain the rogue at the head of their party and speak out against his destructive policies.

They had not been told why their employees were being detained, and said the employees "were hired following the federal and state employment requirements.



CANADA'S MESSAGE to TRUMP

By Bill Day, FloridaPolitics.com

LETTERS

Senate's draft of H.454 weakens accountability for private schools

Dear Editor,

Last week, the Senate Education Committee got to work on H.454, the education reform bill that recently passed the House. While the Senate's new draft preserves many of the bill's broad goals, it also reflects a troubling shift in priorities, particularly when it comes to holding independent schools that receive public dollars to the same standards as public schools.

Friends of Vermont Public Education is working to ensure accountability and transparency wherever public education dollars are spent. We believe that any school receiving taxpayer funds should meet the same standards and serve the public good, as required by Vermont's Constitution.

Every school should be safe, focused on real learning, and run responsibly. Every child deserves to be taught by someone who is qualified. And any school that receives public funding

should be held to public standards and answer to the public that is paying the bill. That is basic common sense.

We may not be able to set rules for every private school in Vermont. But when a school accepts taxpayer money, it must be expected to follow public rules.

What we cannot accept is two sets of rules, one strict for public schools and one looser for private schools funded by the same taxpayer dollars.

The Senate's version of H.454, however, steps back from some of the House's stronger accountability measures. It lowers the threshold for tuition eligibility, removes broader requirements for demonstrating high standards, and maintains limited oversight of how public dollars are used in private settings. This raises serious concerns about the continued gaps in transparency, oversight, and student protections.

Ed bill → 12

Gov. Scott is keeping promises

Dear Editor,

I commend Gov. Scott and his efforts to make Vermont affordable through financial common sense and accountability to taxpayers.

Gov. Phil Scott's recent vetoes of the budget adjustment bill signals the end of one-sided policy-driven bills forced through the Vermont Legislature. With Vermont voters deciding last November to eliminate the Democrat/Progressive supermajority in the Vermont General Assembly, we restored the mechanism of checks and balances that ensures bills are honestly and openly discussed and evaluated for the best interest of Vermont.

Gone are the days where the supermajority-led Legislature can simply override and ignore a governor who received over 70% of the popular vote (over 266,000 votes). Gov. Scott is now doing exactly what he said he would do during the 2024 campaign — making Vermont affordable.

The majority-party legislators had — have — forgotten how to cooperate and negotiate with the state executive branch

and across the aisle to find common ground and the best solutions for Vermont. Overriding executive vetoes used to be easy, and no discussion or compromise were necessary.

When the Legislature had a supermajority, they didn't have to acknowledge the governor's or the minority party's ideas and thoughts, or for that matter those of the voters, into the lawmaking process. That is not the case today.

The balance in Montpelier has decidedly shifted to a position where compromise and cooperation are now necessary to affect solid legislation, an unfamiliar position for the General Assembly majority which no longer has veto override assurance.

I commend Gov. Scott and his efforts to make Vermont affordable through financial common sense and accountability to taxpayers, an approach that continues to be foreign to many Vermont legislators. Thank you Gov. Scott for your strong and continued commitment to Vermonters.

Bruce Roy, Williston

CAPITOL QUOTES

100 days

President Trump's first 100 days have been marked with controversy, from an un-elected billionaire running a government agency-slashing campaign, military and security heads using unsecured communication protocols, an immigration policy that runs counter to the due process laws and protections guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, to an economic policy of tariffs that have seen American's investments sour, and the potential of widespread price increases on the horizon.

"So, I assume, they're doing it just to try to appease their base that just seems angry, but not very focused on what exactly do they want. Other than they want to reverse the election on November 5, which obviously is not going to happen,"

said Senator **John Cornyn** of Texas regarding Democrats' resistance to the Trump agenda.

"The American people are watching this president and don't like what they see,"

said Senate Minority Whip **Dick Durbin** of the president's sinking public opinion polls.

"President Trump 'understood the assignment' from his first day in office: to enforce our borders and immigration laws, especially against dangerous criminals; to root out waste, fraud, and abuse across the federal government; and to rip the woke anti-American race and gender agenda out of our public institutions by its roots,"

said Sen. **Mike Lee** in a Deseret News statement.

"Today's ABC poll has Trump's approval rating lower than any past president at his first 100 days in office. The American people do not want oligarchy, authoritarianism, or attacks on Social Security, Medicaid, or the VA. And the resistance is just beginning,"

said **Bernie Sanders** on April 27 via X.

"I don't think necessarily people know what to do given that the level of peril is so high, but at least we're not arguing anymore whether something insidious going on,"

said Sen. **Chris Murphy** on the reaction to Trump's first 100 days.

COMMENTARIES

A practical strategy to the Global Warming Solutions Act

By Vermont Senator Anne Watson

In a recent op-ed about the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), Vermont's cornerstone climate policy, Secretary Julie Moore accused legislative leadership of being "content" with "unattainable" climate pollution reduction requirements. As chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, I feel compelled to respond, as I would not describe us as "content" with the current situation.

Earlier this year, I presented the administration with a potential path forward — an offer that still stands. But before I get into the details, let's clarify one important point. The next major GWSA deadline isn't tomorrow. It's in 2030—five years from now. Five years to act. Five years to take meaningful steps toward reducing climate pollution, which will ultimately save Vermonters a significant amount of money.

Unfortunately, based on the pattern we've seen, I don't believe Governor Scott will do what's necessary. Instead, he'll continue to do what he has done on climate: stall, resist, and let the legislature do the heavy lifting—only to blame us when we propose real solutions that would lead Vermont toward a cheaper, more sustainable, and resilient energy future.

I'm interested in solutions, and I believe Vermonters are too. It's unclear to me how interested the governor is in finding solutions. By 2030, Governor Scott will have had an entire decade to implement policies to meet our climate targets. While I recognize and appreciate his support for the Clean Cars and Trucks Rules, that alone falls short of what this moment demands. Unfortunately, it remains unclear what further policies the governor is actually willing to support. The governor's package of climate rollbacks (H.289) requires an "implementation strategy" for reducing climate pollution—but it's not due until December 2026, after this biennium is over and, conveniently, after the next election.

Just to clarify, the governor doesn't need a new bill to make an implementation plan. We already have an actual law: the Global Warming Solutions Act. If Scott wasn't willing to act based on the directive of current state law, it's difficult to trust that a new law would compel him to do so.

That's why I proposed the following path forward. First, the governor must identify and commit to a real strategy that moves us meaningfully and substantially toward the

GWSA → 13

Vermont's housing caste system

Housing and homeless advocates are missing the big opportunity to solve the homelessness crisis in Vermont by focusing on hotel vouchers instead of a real solution that would result in finding homes for everybody who needs one, preparing them for their tenancy, staying with them to ensure that they remain housed, and partnering with landlords instead of fostering an adversarial relationship.

Motels and shelters are temporary solutions that are being stretched into de facto permanent solutions while ignoring the huge opportunity to solve the problem.

When the phrase "housing crisis" is used, it can mean many things.

It includes people living in motels, relocating professionals, growing families that need larger housing, anyone who wants to spend less than 30% of their gross income on housing, and the future housing needs of the State of Vermont.

The most visible and audible element of the housing crisis is the Motel population, which I contend is the "caste" that gets the press but not the support.

Housing people in a motel is not support. Preparing them for tenancy, supporting them as they connect with landlords,



The Accidental Activist
By Stephen Box

working with them during their tenancy, and engaging landlords as partners are all essential forms of support.

Here is the rub.

Housing and homeless advocates seem to consider these solutions the third rail of housing.

Consider the unintended consequences of the advice that Erhard Manke, founder of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition (VAHC), gave to Ver-

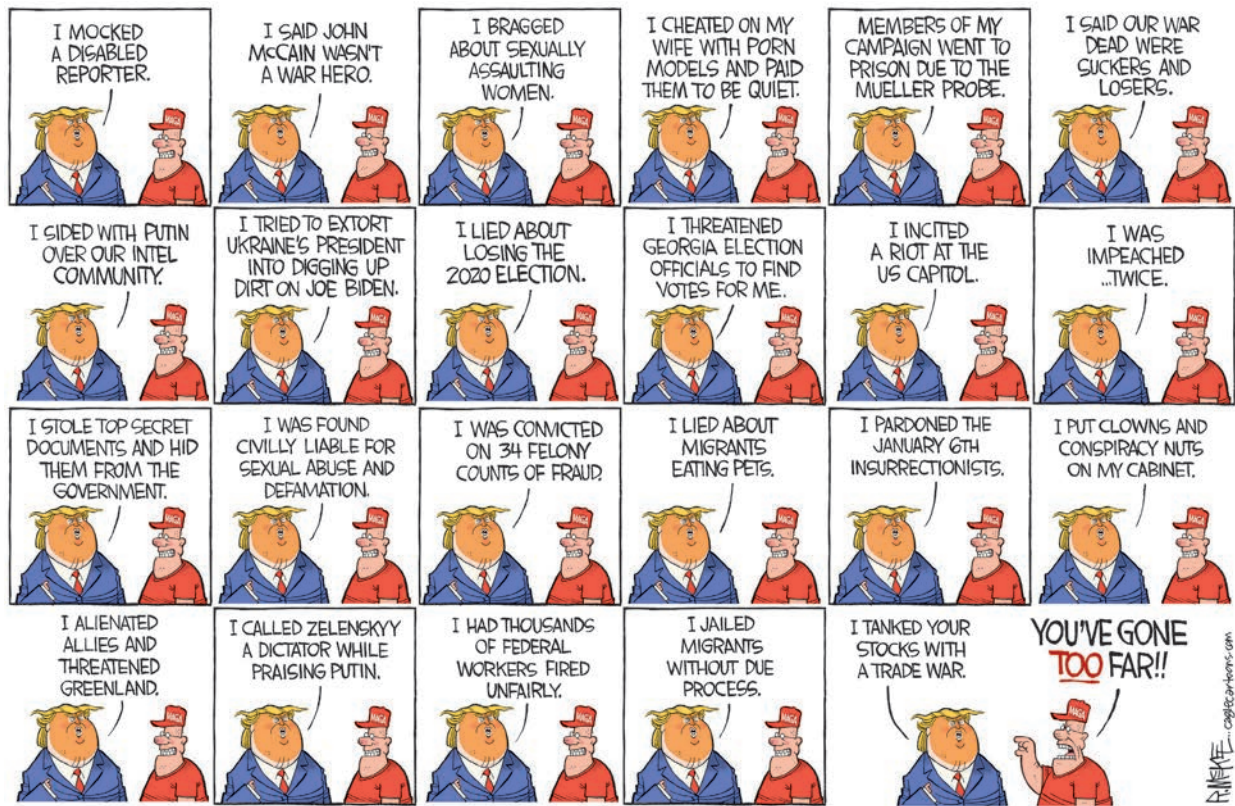
mont landlords when he attempted to allay their concerns over the difficulties experienced with evictions.

During a debate over evictions in Burlington, Manke identified himself as a rental property owner and stated, "I fail to understand what responsible landlords who run their business in a business-like manner are afraid of." He continued, "I ask my fellow landlords to please stop. This is not the end of the world. If you run your property businesslike, screen well, and keep your property in good shape, you will be rewarded by long-term, stable, and grateful tenants."

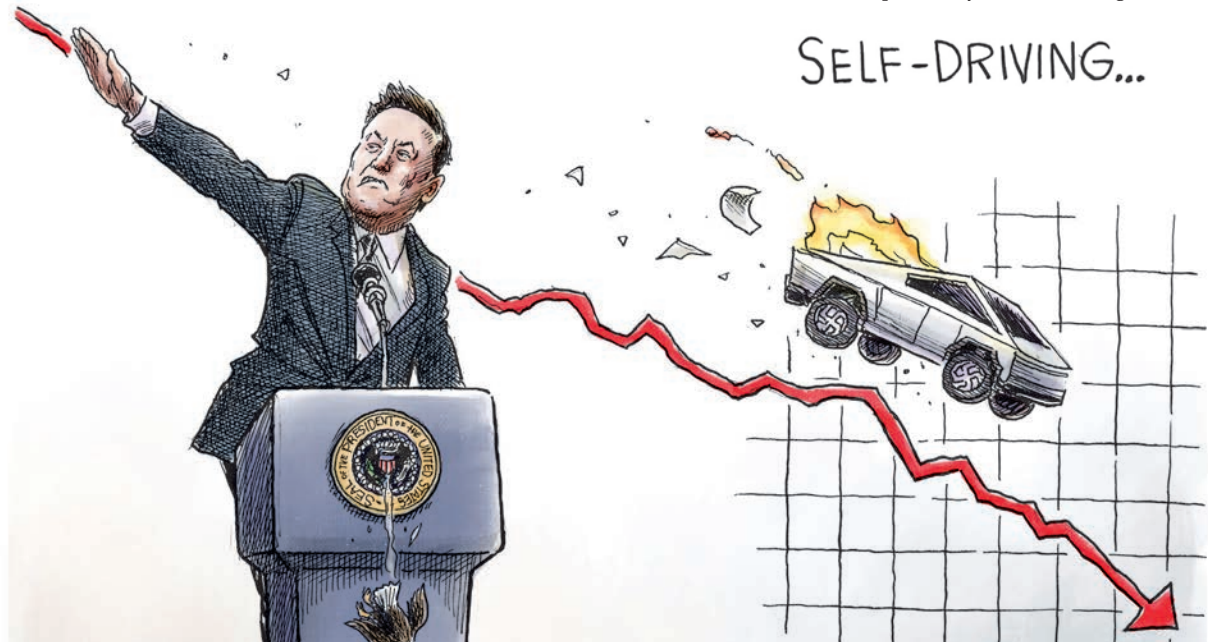
Manke has inadvertently contributed to the creation of the Vermont housing caste system, which includes a pool of people who simply can't qualify for housing.

Accidental Activist → 13

CARTOONS



MAGA Mad About Trump Tariffs by Rick McKee, CagleCartoons



Tesla Sales Tanking by Adam Zyglis, The Buffalo News, New York



Monarch Butterflies In Spring by Bob Englehart, PoliticalCartoons

← Harrison: from page 7

new development for the necessary infrastructure.

- The House Education Committee is reviewing a proposal (H.54) to limit student cell phone usage during school hours. Many educators are citing concerns over digital addiction and the negative impacts of social media. Fourteen states have already passed some form of smartphone ban in schools.
- The House Health Care Committee continues to review S.126, which adds new oversight authority to the Green Mountain Care Board. With some health-care facilities struggling financially and the state's largest insurer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, losing money, there is wide agreement that some things need to change. Healthcare rates are expected to increase once again by double digits.

The next few weeks will be critical to see if the winds of education reform, the state budget, and other initiatives can blow in the same direction.

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



Submitted

← Ed bill: from page 10

Public schools in Vermont are doing their part. They hire licensed teachers, teach to clear state standards, open their finances to public review, and operate transparently. Schools that take public funding should be expected to meet those same core obligations.

If public money is flowing into both public and private schools, Vermonters should have the same ability to understand, trust, and evaluate how that money is being used.

If a policy is important enough to require of public schools, it should be important enough to require of all publicly funded schools. What we cannot accept is two sets of rules, one strict for public schools and one looser for private schools funded by the same taxpayer dollars.

As the Senate continues its work, Friends of Vermont Public Education will be following the process closely and weighing in. We are committed to pushing for a system where public dollars come with public standards, because every student deserves a safe, high-quality education, and every taxpayer deserves transparency and accountability.

Thank you for standing with us.

Friends of Vermont Public Education board of directors: Geo Honigford, South Royalton; Adrienne Raymond, Shrewsbury; Ken Fredette, Wallingford; Krista Huling, Cambridge; Greg Hughes, Bethel; Kim Gleason, Grand Isle; Neil Odell, Norwich.

← Accidental Activist: from page 11

The “screening” that Manke recommends typically includes:

- Positive rental history
- Positive rental references
- Evictions and legal actions
- Employment history
- Credit score
- Employment verification
- Criminal background
- Personal references

The Vermont Landlord Association (VLA) and the Vermont Property Owners Association (VPOA) both assist landlords with screening housing applicants to determine if the tenant meets the criteria of the “business-like landlord” that Erhard suggests should be *de rigueur*.

The only problem with this scenario is that a significant group of people will not qualify for housing if landlords use traditional screening strategies.

What is the solution? Forge relationships with low-obstacle and no-obstacle landlords.

I am a low-to-no-obstacle landlord. I expect the tenants to be ready. This past week, I was contacted by two different motel applicants who didn’t have their current personal documents, which their social worker needs. They hadn’t applied for a Section 8 voucher or assistance with the security deposit, etc., and they

hadn’t gone through any sustainability screening with the local agencies.

I expect the tenants to have a case-worker who will guide them through the CVOEO Renters Workshops. Lest anyone think that this is anything other than helpful for both tenant and landlord, keep in mind that the state’s VHIP program requires landlords to go through a Landlord-Tenant Mediation orientation and complete Fair Housing Training.

I expect an agency to commit to partnering with the tenant and the landlord through the tenancy to ensure that the tenant stays housed. One of the most common complaints from Housers at the housing meetings is that they feel like the agencies “dump and run” when the rental agreement is signed and that no one is left behind to support the ongoing relationship. The commitment to staying housed is limited to mediation, legal aid, and eviction prevention instead of prevention.

At the end of the day, if housing and homeless advocates expect landlords to forgo Manke’s advice to “screen well,” some process will need to be put in place to ensure that those who

need housing the most are getting the support they need.

I contend that the current debate over motel vouchers and shelters is a complete distraction that is grossly inefficient and massively expensive, with no positive outcomes.

If our commitment is to an outcome focused on housing those who need

If our commitment is to an outcome focused on housing those who need housing, then we will budget for preparation and partnership, not prolonging the disaster at the motels.

housing, then we will budget for preparation and partnership, not prolonging the disaster at the motels.

As for the future, I am listing my properties on AffordableHousing.com which allows tenants to view vacant properties instead of cold-calling landlords, they can fill out an application once instead of one for each landlord, and they get notifications when an appropriate match is made.

Stephen Box is a Rutland-based houser, general contractor, landlord, and advocate for citizen developers.

For more information, visit: partnersinhousingvt.com.

← GWSA: from page 11

2030 pollution reduction requirement and gets Vermonters to the cheaper, more price-stable, more self-sufficient, and resilient future that we all want. Second, the governor should roll it out and start implementation in 2026 or 2027. Third, prove to us it’s working in 2027 or 2028. Then, and only then, we can talk about recalibrating the timeline, choosing a slightly delayed deadline year with a pollution reduction requirement that follows the curve downward, which would maintain accountability.

This offer remains, but the first step must come from the governor. I’m ready to listen and work together if he has a meaningful plan for getting Vermont back on track. In the vast majority of cases, the renewable option is cheaper than the fossil fuel alternative. If Governor Scott is serious about energy affordability, he’d find a way to transition Vermonters off expensive, price-volatile, foreign fossil fuels.

What’s concerning is the governor’s continued pattern of resistance and a lack of initiative, even as energy costs fluctuate and the need to transition off fossil fuels becomes more urgent.

This moment calls for leadership that embraces both the financial and scientific realities before us. The affordable, resilient energy future Vermonters need is within reach, but only if we’re willing to take bold, concrete steps.

Governor Scott, Vermont needs you to bring forward a serious, actionable climate plan that gets us back on track toward necessary climate pollution reductions, that gets us back on the path toward energy affordability. If you do, I’ll be the first to recognize and support that effort. But in the absence of such a plan, we must stay the course for the 2030 deadline.

We all want a future in which energy is cheap, locally produced, and not polluting our planet, and we need leadership that will get us there.

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SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Location: 2981 River Road, Killington
(Behind Town Garage)

Phone Number: (802) 422-4499

Website: killingtontown.com/transferstation

Summer Hours Are In Effect
Saturday & Monday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

BULKY ITEM DAYS
Saturday May 3rd, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Monday May 5th, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Transfer station is for the collection & transfer of solid waste deposited by residents and property owners of the Town. (Windshield sticker & punch card needed). Recycling Center is for residents and property owners of the Town. (Free with windshield sticker). If you need to dispose of solid waste outside the normal operating hours of the Transfer Station or have construction & demolition debris or other non-acceptable waste, residents and property owners of Killington can go to the Rutland County Solid Waste District Transfer Station & Drop-off Center located on Gleason Road in Rutland.



Health insurance: from page 7

a Gold plan for \$155.37 a month — a monthly savings of \$3,044, or more than \$35,000 per year. (For those not eligible for subsidies, the cost of the Gold plan for a family of four is \$38,392.44 per year.)

“DVHA is excited to see these historic numbers for the 2025 Open Enrollment period, demonstrating that more Vermonters recognize the value of having affordable, high-quality health coverage. The state is utilizing all available tools to support Vermonters in accessing affordable, high-quality health plans. Access to these health plans lowers barriers to care, encourages preventative care, and reduces out-of-pocket costs. This year, more Vermonters are enrolling in plans with lower out-of-pocket costs, meaning they have stronger financial protection when they need care,” said DaShawn Groves, commissioner of the department of Vermont Health Access. “As we celebrate this milestone,



Submitted

we also want to encourage Vermonters to keep their coverage year after year—because maintaining health insurance is one of the most important ways to safeguard both health and financial well-being.”

The increased availability of financial assistance is largely because of enhanced federal subsidies. These enhanced subsidies are due to expire at the end of this year without congressional action. If these subsidies do not continue, Vermonters with health insurance through the marketplace

may face significantly higher premium payments in 2026.

The 95% of people who are enrolled through Vermont Health Connect qualify for financial help. Thousands of Vermonters now pay less than \$25 a month for coverage through the marketplace. The increased cost savings available for Vermonters in 2025 have helped more people get better coverage at lower costs and represent a substantial benefit to Vermont’s mission of providing high quality, affordable health care to all Vermonters.

CHIP: from page 7

market-rate homes. He argued that CHIP should include an affordability requirement for the housing it helps finance.

“Otherwise, you’re going to have developers doing what they do. They’re going to seek to maximize profit – and that’s capitalism,” he said. “But if that doesn’t serve a really serious public need, then I’m asking myself, why do we need this program?”

Affordable housing funders have echoed the need to incentivize income-restricted housing as part of the program. Because financing capacity would be a function of property value, higher-value homes would bring the largest benefits under the CHIP program, Gus Seelig, executive director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, told lawmakers on Thursday.

“It pushes against building more modest homes because it’ll produce a smaller tax base upon which you’d be able to pay off the infrastructure,” he said.

But other proponents of CHIP have argued that its flexibility is key to its ultimate success.

“The reality is that in order to achieve 36,000 homes in five years, we need poli-

cy that is housing-type agnostic,” Sheehan said, referring to a recent statewide housing needs assessment. “We need housing types of all kinds that are built in every community at the density that’s appropriate for that community.”

The House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development is current-

“The reality is that in order to achieve 36,000 homes in five years, we need policy that is housing-type agnostic,” Sheehan said. “We need housing types of all kinds that are built in every community at the density that’s appropriate for that community.”

ly considering changes to the bill, like honing in on what types of infrastructure improvements can qualify, where CHIP projects will be allowed, and how much housing a proposed project must have, versus commercial space.

“We want to make sure that we’re doing due diligence — we have, you know, good guardrails around the program. But not hampering it so much that they won’t be able to do anything,” said Rep. Michael Marcotte, R-Coventry, the committee’s chair.

Bill's Landscaping

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



Gardening Tip of the Week



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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WORDPLAY
HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

WORDPLAY
HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

WORDPLAY
HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

H	M	C	Y	X	T	E	A	F	A	T	G	I	N	G	R	P	S	Y	X
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ACCENT
ARMOIRE
ARTISTIC
ASYMMETRY

BALANCE
COLOR
CONCEPT
CONTRAST

DESIGNER
FABRIC
FLOORING
FOCUS

HARMONY
LAYERING
LIGHTING
MODERN

MOLDING
MONOCHROMATIC
PROPORTIONS
RENOVATIONS

SOFA
STYLE
TEXTURE
TRADITIONAL

CROSSWORD PUZZLE Solutions → 30

CROSSWORD PUZZLE Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

1. McCarthy acolyte Roy
5. Ancient Korean chiefdoms
10. Not soft
14. Jai __, sport
15. Philosophy
16. Do what you're told
17. Gaffe
18. Widely known and esteemed
19. Amusement park attraction
20. Popular comic strip Viking
22. Usually has a lid
23. American sportscaster
24. Lung fibrosis
27. General's assistant (abbr.)
30. Pouch
31. Upset
32. Partner to hem
35. Astronomy unit of distance
37. Witch
38. Gradually disappear
39. Regions
40. Possesses
41. Body parts
42. A way to comprehend
43. Defraud
44. Sandwich type
45. Expression of disappointment
46. Popular Dodge truck model
47. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
48. Soviet Socialist Republic
49. Songs to a beloved
52. Custom
55. Partner to cheese
56. West Indies trees
60. Member of a Semitic people
61. Plant that originated vegetatively
63. Squandered one's money
64. Ethiopian river
65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
66. Acquire by one's efforts
67. Irish goddess
68. Hungarian village
69. Cereal grasses

CLUES DOWN

1. Currency
2. Ceramic jar
3. Reagan's Secretary of State
4. God worshipped in Kanesh
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Semitic
7. About blood
8. Benign tumors
9. Move one's head
10. Hours (Spanish)
11. Hebrew calendar month
12. Advise someone
13. Colors clothes

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60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

21. The sun does it
23. Concealed
25. City of Angels hoops team
(abbr.)
26. Droop
27. Away from one another
28. Challenges
29. A harsh scraping sound
32. Attaches to a wall
33. Capital of Ethiopia: __
Ababa

- 34. German river
- 36. Disappointed
- 37. Star Wars character Solo
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Not mass-produced
- 41. Nonsense
- 43. Automobile
- 44. Hogshead (abbr.)
- 46. Soak in water
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Romanian city

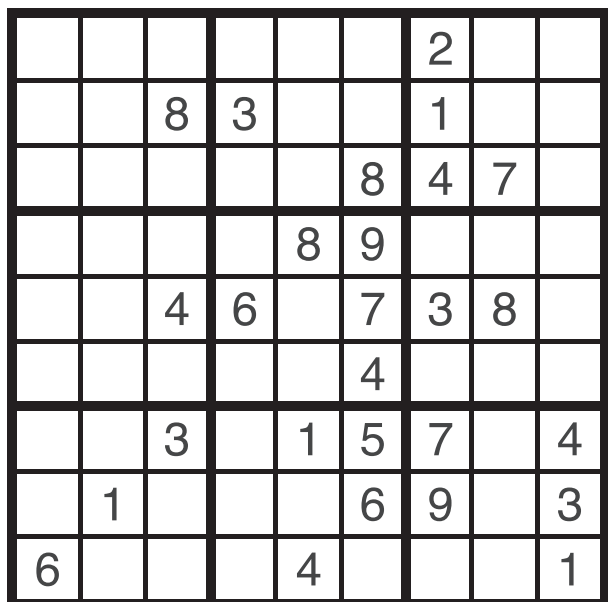
50. A parent is often one
51. Fencing sword
52. Body part
53. Region
54. Farm building
57. Ali's surname at birth
58. Waxy bird beak covering
59. Stiff bristles
61. VCR button
62. Small amount

SUDOKU Solutions → 30

SUDOKU Solutions → 30

How to Play

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



Level: Intermediate

GUESS WHO ?

I am a country singer born in Texas on April 29, 1933. I grew up in the aftermath of the Great Depression and played music for money to avoid picking cotton. I wrote my first song at age 7 and had many country hits throughout my long career. I also am an activist and actor.

Answer: Willie Nelson

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WED
4/30

Vermont Organics Recycling Summit

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.

S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

Active Seniors Lunch

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

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

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

Cribbage for Adults

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

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

Make It with The MINT: Bee Hotels (for Teens!)

3:30-5:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Teens ages 12-18 can build their own bee hotels using a variety of materials and power tools, just in time for pollinator season. Hosted by The MINT. Registration required. rutlandfree.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.

Intro to Cricut Maker 3

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25. Learn to design and create two handmade cards using the Cricut Maker 3 in this beginner-friendly class with instructor Michele Robie. All supplies included. Ages 16+. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Beginner & Intermediate Line Dancing Lessons

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

Film Screening: 'Snow White' (PG)

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Live action remake of the Disney animated classic. A young girl feuds with her stepmother, runs away, encounters seven gem miners, and has a bad reaction to an apple. playhouseflicks.com.

THURS
5/1

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

Intermediate Line Dance

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

Survivors Support Group

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

Bone Builders

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

Chaffee: Artery

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

Ukelele Group

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

May Day March for Democracy

Noon-1:30 p.m. Gazebo Park, corner of West & Main Sts., Rutland. Free. Join Castleton Indivisible for a downtown march to defend democratic rights and protest against actions threatening public programs and civil liberties. Open to all political perspectives. Part of a nationwide day of rallies held on May 1. jonathan.spiro@comcast.net.

Play Bridge!

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

Farm to School Regional Gathering

4-6 p.m. Rutland City Schools - Allen St. Campus, Rutland. Free. Connect with teachers, farmers, families, and more to celebrate and strengthen Farm to School efforts in the Rutland region. Event includes resource sharing, success stories, and locally sourced food. vermontfarmtoschool.org.

KID'S FISHING DERBY

SAT @ 8:30 A.M.



Spring Cleaning: Organizing and Decluttering

6:30-7:30 p.m. Castleton Free Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. Free. Professional home organizer Kris Harmelink shares tips and systems for tackling clutter and streamlining your space in this one-hour workshop. Ideal for those starting spring cleaning projects or curious about organizing like a pro. castletonfreelibrary.org.

Circus Springboard: 'Thank You For Waiting'

7-9 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$10-\$15. America's next generation of elite circus performers from the New England Center for Circus Arts present a high-flying, comedic tale of seven strangers transforming a waiting room into a world of aerial feats and magical realism. One-night-only family-friendly show created by top circus talent. paramountvt.org.

Film Screening: 'Snow White' (PG)

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Live action remake of the Disney animated classic. A young girl feuds with her stepmother, runs away, encounters seven gem miners, and has a bad reaction to an apple. playhouseflicks.com.

FRI
5/2

Senior Café

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

Bone Builders

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

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.

Wallingford Walking Group

6-7 pm. Hart Library, 14 S. Main St., Wallingford. Free. 25-45 min. walks with Heather Johnson. Walk at the pace of the group. No pressure and no judgment, just enjoyment of the outdoors. comealiveoutdoors.com.

SPRING SPROCKETS & WALK-IT'S SCAVENGER HUNT SCRAMBLE

SAT @ 10 A.M.



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 16

Dragons & Mythical Beasts

7-8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$29. Step into a magical world of legends and monsters in this family-friendly live show featuring spectacular puppetry and creatures from around the globe. From the Stone Troll to a not-so-sweet Tooth Fairy, brave heroes of all ages (3+) are invited to join the adventure. paramountvt.org.

Film Screening: 'The Legend of Ochi'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. PG. Fantasy film about a young girl who discovers a mystical baby creature named Ochi. playhouseflicks.com.

SAT
5/3

VT Green Up Day – Killington

All day. Various locations, Killington. Free. Celebrate Vermont's annual Green Up Day by picking up bags at Killington Town Hall, the Transfer Station, or the Public Safety Building. Drop off collected trash at the Transfer Station on River Road. Volunteers are invited to a thank-you BBQ at the Killington Recreation Center from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. killingtonvt.gov.

Kids Fishing Derby

8:30-10:30 a.m. Combination Pond, Sharon Dr., Rutland. Free. Hosted by Rutland Rec & Parks Dept. and part of the Vermont Children's Fishing Program, this family-friendly event offers kids a chance to fish for stocked trout in a supportive and fun setting. vtfishandwildlife.com.

Community Work Day at Pine Hill Park

9 a.m.-noon. Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St. Extension, Rutland. Free. Join Rutland Young Professionals for a Green Up Day community work event focused on trail maintenance and gardening projects. Tools and gloves provided—bring water and sunscreen. All are welcome, including those seeking community service hours. rutlandyoungprofessionals.org.

Scout Troop 220 Bottle & Can Drive

9 a.m.-noon. Woodstock Union High School, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Free. Help send local scouts to camp by donating your redeemable bottles and cans during Troop 220's Spring Green-Up Day drive. Proceeds support scout activities. facebook.com/groups/813371358806657/.

Spring Sprockets & Walk-It's Scavenger Hunt Scramble

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St. Extension, Rutland. \$3-\$15. A family-friendly mountain biking and walking event featuring trail-based scavenger hunts and prize drawings to benefit Homeless Prevention Center. Open to all ages and skill levels. givebutter.com/HPCSpringSprockets25.

Billings Backyard: Cool Compost with Andy Scherer

10-11:30 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$20, \$15 for members. Learn the basics of home composting in this beginner-friendly workshop led by Master Composter Andy Scherer. Includes troubleshooting tips, environmental insights, and a tour of the farmstead compost system. billingsfarm.org/billings-backyard.

Fiddlehead Foray

10-11:30 a.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$12 general, free for VINS members. Explore the woods in search of seasonal fiddleheads, learn foraging safety and ethics, and harvest Ostrich Ferns to take home with a recipe. Dress for the weather and bring water and a bag for your harvest. Space limited. Advanced registration required. vinsweb.org.

Spring Tea & Sweet Treats with Artisan Market & Makerie

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$5 donation. Celebrate moms and creativity with free DIY crafts, chair massages, art demos, door prizes, and sweet treats. Explore unique handmade gifts, the current exhibit, and the historic Queen Anne mansion. chaffeeartcenter.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.

Craft Fair, Vendor Fair, and Outdoor Flea Market

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Castleton American Legion, 378 Route 4A, Castleton. Indoor/outdoor craft fair, vendor fair and flea market. Snacks for sale. Great opportunity to find a perfect Mother's Day gift. lisathayercm@yahoo.com.

The Need to Belong: A Genealogical Journey

11 a.m.-Noon. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Free. Genealogist and historian Adam Boyce shares insights into tracing family history and exploring eligibility for lineage societies. Learn how to connect your ancestry to major historical events and figures. fmlnews.org.

Bridgewater Raft Race

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Ottauquechee River, Bridgewater. Free. Celebrate the 51st Annual Bridgewater Raft Race, a fun, noncompetitive float on homemade, self-propelled rafts. Sign up at 11 a.m.; race starts at noon near Long Trail Brewery and ends at the Bridgewater Mill. Life jackets encouraged. No dogs or alcohol. facebook.com/events/2868720340001979.

Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

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

May the 4th Be With You: 'Star Wars' Trilogy Marathon

11:15 a.m.-8 p.m. Fortress of Fun, 702 US-4 BUS, Center Rutland. \$15 per showing (includes popcorn & soda), \$40 all-day pass. Celebrate "Star Wars" Day with a back-to-back screening of Episodes IV, V, and VI. Experience the full saga in one epic day. fortressoffun.com.

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

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

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU: 'STAR WARS' TRILOGY MARATHON

SAT. @ 11:15 A.M.



Peavine Whitewater Race

Noon-3 p.m. Peavine Park, Gayssville. \$40 per racer, \$15 under 18. Open to experienced paddlers of all ages, this five-mile whitewater race on the White River welcomes solo and team entries from camps, clubs, and seasoned racers. Helmets and PFDs required. Shuttle begins at 8 a.m.; bib pickup and waivers at Peavine Park. Proceeds benefit Ridgeline Outdoor Collective. creekvt.com/races/peavinerace.

Inclusive Figure Drawing Workshop

1-3 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., upstairs, Rutland. \$25. This guided figure drawing session is open to artists 18+ of all skill levels. Bring your own supplies or receive 10% off in-store purchases made the day of class. Space is limited to 7 participants. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Decked Out Days

3-5 p.m. K-1 Lodge Patio, Killington Resort, Killington. Free. Kick off spring après season with live music from Dan Brown (2:30-5:30 p.m.), games, and Michelob ULTRA swag giveaways. Relax after a day on the slopes and soak in the spring vibes on the K-1 Lodge patio. killington.com.

Roast Pork Dinner

4:30-6:30 p.m. Pawlet Community Church, 38 VT Rt. 133, Pawlet. \$15 adults, \$6 age 12, free for 5 & under. Enjoy a hearty roast pork dinner with all the fixings, including stuffing, mashed potatoes, hot vegetables, salads, and dessert. Dine in or order takeout. 802-325-3022. facebook.com/pawletcommunitychurch.

Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band: A Springsteen Celebration

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.

Film Screening: 'The Legend of Ochi'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. PG. Fantasy film about a young girl who discovers a mystical baby creature named Ochi. playhouseflicks.com.

PEAVINE WHITEWATER RACE

SATURDAY @ NOON



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

SPRING FLING

SUN @ 2 P.M.



SUN
5/4

Drop Spinning Class

12:30-3 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 96 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. \$50. Learn the ancient art of drop spindle spinning with instructor Susan Snider. Class includes fiber prep, drafting techniques, and spinning your first yarn. All materials provided. Preregistration required. greenmountainfibers.com.

Brownsville English Country Dance

1-4 p.m. Brownsville Town Hall, 22 Hartland-Brownsville Road, West Windsor. \$15 (sliding scale \$12-\$20). All levels welcome for this community dance with caller Jill Delaney and live music by Carol Compton (piano) and Thal Aylward (violin). Includes a potluck break and optional pre-dance intro at 12:45 p.m. Soft-soled shoes recommended. cdss.org.

Film Screening: 'The Legend of Ochi'

2 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. PG. Fantasy film about a young girl who discovers a mystical baby creature named Ochi. playhouseflicks.com.

Spring Fling

2-4 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. Enjoy an afternoon of spring games, music, nature crafts, treats, and drinks at this family-friendly event co-hosted by Maclure Library and Pittsford Village Farm. pittsfordvillagefarm.org.

Film Screening: 'The Empire Strikes Back'

3-5 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$10 adults, \$8 children. Celebrate Star Wars Day with a screening of "The Empire Strikes Back" (PG). Join Luke, Leia, Han, and Chewbacca in the epic sequel featuring the ice planet Hoth, Yoda, and the legendary duel with Darth Vader. artistreevt.org.

Loyalty Day Parade

2-4 p.m. Downtown Rutland. 62nd annual Loyalty Day parade, hosted by the VFW Post 648 of Rutland. Color guards, marching floats, fire and rescue units, and marching bands. loyaltyparadecomm@yahoo.com.

MON
5/5

Bone Builders

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

Wallingford Walking Group

10-11 a.m. Hart Library, 14 S. Main St., Wallingford. Free. 25-45 min. walks with Heather Johnson. Walk at the pace of the group. No pressure and no judgment, just enjoyment of the outdoors. comealiveoutdoors.com.

Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

Little Feat: 'Strike Up the Band' Tour

7-9 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$75, \$85, \$90 + tax/fees. Legendary band Little Feat brings their Grammy-nominated sound to Rutland as part of their "Strike Up the Band" tour. With a career spanning over five decades, their music blends rock, funk, folk, jazz, country, and New Orleans boogie. Tickets available at paramountvt.org.

TUES
5/6

Bird & Nature Group Walk: Poultney River Loop

7:30-11 a.m. D&H Trail crossing, Main St., Poultney. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and Rutland County Audubon Society for a slow-paced, 3.3-mile nature walk along the Poultney River Loop. Great for birdwatchers, wildflower enthusiasts, and photographers of all experience levels. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars. jptilley50@gmail.com.

Rutland Area Toastmasters

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

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.

Halfoween Celebration

May 2-3. Various locations, Brandon. Free to \$25. Celebrate Halloween halfway through the year with a Witch Walk on Park Street, a bounce house party behind the Inn, a Haunted Hall experience (6:30-9 p.m.), and scary movie screenings at Barn Opera starting at 7 p.m. Mystical Market in Central Park Brandon on Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tickets for Haunted Hall and Masquerade Ball available at colleenwrightevents.com.

Spring Plant Start Sale at Woodstock Union High School

May 1-30. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.) Woodstock Union HS/MS Greenhouse, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Free. Browse a wide variety of student-grown organic, heirloom, and pollinator-friendly plants. Extended hours until 6 p.m. on Monday, May 5. Also featuring Fedco seeds, saved seeds, and a plastic pot recycling drive. Cash or check only. abbie.castriotta@mtviews.org.

Theater in the Woods Presents 'Faith Healer'

7 p.m. (May 2-3 & 16-17); 3-p.m. (May 4 & 18). West Rutland Town Hall Theater, 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$30 adults, \$25 seniors/students. Brian Friel's critically acclaimed "Faith Healer" explores truth, identity, and illusion through the conflicting memories of three complex characters. Directed by Meg Bouchard. Proceeds benefit Theater in the Woods' summer theater camps. theaterinthewoodsvt.org.

The Vermont Palette: VPS Members' Exhibition

April 11-May 22. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. Presented by the Vermont Pastel Society, this exhibition invites artists to explore Vermont's diverse landscape through pastel, pushing creative boundaries and embracing new expressions. 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

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.

'The Vermont Farm Project: A Farm-to-Stage Musical'

May 7-25. Northern Stage, 76 Gates St., White River Junction. \$23-\$77. This world premiere indie-folk musical follows eight Vermont farmers through a single summer day, weaving real stories into a heartfelt, toe-tapping production. Inspired by interviews across the state and featuring live actor-musicians. northernstage.org.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

SUN @ 2 P.M.



BLUES DUO

You on acoustic guitar
and me on harmonica

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MUSIC HELP WANTED

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

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
4/30

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 – Kim Wilcox

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

THUR
5/1

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

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

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

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

FRI
5/2

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

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

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

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Bailey's Place – Country Music Thursday
6 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe – Trivia Night

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

SOUTH POMFRET
7 p.m. Artistree – Preview Night: Three Tall Women

SAT
5/3

BRIDGEWATER
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

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

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

RANDOLPH
7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room – Jaded Ravins with Red River North and Sarah King

RUTLAND
6 p.m. Bailey's Place – Hairy & Haute Night

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

SOUTH POMFRET
7 p.m. Artistree – Opening Night: Three Tall Women

SUN
5/4

BRIDGEWATER
11 a.m. Ramuntos Brick & Brew Pizza of Bridgewater – 51st Annual Raft Race with music and commentary by DJ Dave and Hickory, the Drunk & Underwhelming

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with headliner Rodney Norman

PAWLET
6 p.m. Town Hall – Spring Fling: Open Mic and DJ Zac Ward

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music With Sleeveless Tease feat. Narah Sparks

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Em & Nat

RUTLAND
7 p.m. Bailey's Place – John Lyons

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre – Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band

SOUTH POMFRET
7 p.m. Artistree – Three Tall Women

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

MON
5/5

KILLINGTON
5 p.m. Sushi Yoshi – Tboneicus Jones

TUES
5/6

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

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Cinco De Mayo Party with Rivalry

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

LONDONDERRY
6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaitis

POULTNEY
7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

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

WED
5/6

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

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Cinco De Mayo Party with Rivalry

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

LONDONDERRY
6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaitis

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Bleeding Hearts capture attention with unique form and color

By Deborah J. Benoit, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

Have you ever heard of the lady in the bath flower? That's just one of the common names for bleeding hearts (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, formerly *Dicentra spectabilis*). If you're wondering where that name comes from, look at the flower upside down, and you'll see her.

Other common names include heart flower, lyre flower, or Asian bleeding heart.

There is a bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) native to the eastern United States that's commonly referred to as the fringed bleeding heart. It has grayish-green colored foliage and pink to purple-red flowers and, at about 18 inches in height, is somewhat smaller than *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*.

Interestingly, while *Dicentra spectabilis* appears related to our native bleeding heart, genetic testing revealed it is not. This led to it being reclassified as *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, many cultivars of which are available to home gardeners.

Bleeding hearts are one of the fleeting pleasures of spring in the garden. Each year, this perennial emerges from the ground, its stems reaching upward and outward. Heart-shaped flowers in combinations of red, white, or pink dangle beneath the arching stems.

Native to Asia, *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* was introduced to European gardens in the mid-1800s and has been a shade garden favorite since that time.

Bleeding hearts are a charming, old-fashioned flower equally at home in a cottage garden with dappled sunlight or in a woodland shade garden. They are hardy in United States



By Deborah J. Benoit

One of the bleeding heart's most distinctive features is its delicate, heart-shaped flowers that dangle beneath its arching stems.

Bleeding Hearts → 27

Hank Azaria to perform Bruce Springsteen tribute in Rutland



May 3 at 7 p.m.—RUTLAND— Emmy-winning actor and Tony Award nominee Hank Azaria is bringing his critically acclaimed Bruce Springsteen tribute show, "Hank Azaria & The EZ Street Band," to the Paramount Theatre in Rutland on Saturday, May 3. Known for his iconic voice work on "The Simpsons," Azaria now takes center stage in a theatrical concert experience that honors The Boss with authenticity, humor, and high-energy rock 'n' roll.

Rather than a traditional impersonation, Azaria describes the show as a "performance piece," staying in character as Springsteen while weaving stories from his life into the performance. "I

think of it as a theatrical performance. I stay in character as Bruce, even while telling stories about my own life," Azaria told Rolling Stone.

Critics have lauded the show for its vibrant energy and heartfelt tribute to Springsteen's legacy. "Hank Azaria & The EZ Street Band" has earned acclaim from Rolling Stone, NPR Weekend Edition, New York magazine, NBC-TV's New York Live, Relix, and The Observer, among others.

Proceeds from the event will benefit The Four Through Nine Foundation, an organization founded by Azaria that supports causes related to social justice, education, and recovery. More information can be found at ezstreetnyc.com.

For more details and to purchase tickets, visit: paramount-vt.org.

Submitted

Hank Azaria



By Kerry Tasker

The Inuit group Pamyua (Left to right: Phillip Blanchett, Qacung Blanchett, and Ossie Kairaluak), will begin a 10-day residency at BarnArts beginning May 1.

Inuit soul group Pamyua brings music, dance, and culture to the Upper Valley

May 1-10—BARNARD— The sounds of Alaska will echo through the Upper Valley this May as BarnArts welcomes the internationally acclaimed Inuit group Pamyua for a special 10-day Global Music Residency from May 1-10. The residency will feature school workshops across the region and three public performances, culminating in an outdoor concert and celebration at Barnard town hall on Saturday, May 10, at 5 p.m.

Founded by brothers Phillip and Qacung Blanchett, Pamyua (pronounced búm-yo-ah, a Yup'ik Inuit word meaning "encore" or "play it again") blends traditional Inuit drum and dance with the soulful harmonies of R&B. The group includes master drummer Ossie Kairaluak and singer-composer Karina Moeller, forming a dynamic ensemble known for powerful live performances that honor indigenous Alaskan culture while celebrating musical fusion and unity.

Pamyua will lead interactive workshops in seven local schools during their residency, engaging students in musical arrangement, Indigenous Alaskan and Arctic cultural traditions, and active participation through Yup'ik games and dances. Thanks to a grant from the Canada Family Charitable Trust, the group will spend seven full days in schools—nearly double the length of previous BarnArts Global Music Residencies. Schools participating include Braintree Elementary, Maple Avenue Elementary, Hanover's Bernice A. Ray School, Prosper Valley School, Sharon Elementary, and White

River Valley Schools.

The wider community will also have the opportunity to experience Pamyua's unique sound and message. Three public performances are scheduled:

- May 1 at West Claremont Center for Music and Arts
- May 3 at Next Stage Arts in Putney
- May 10 for a special outdoor

Pamyua will lead interactive workshops in seven local schools during their residency, engaging students in musical arrangement, Indigenous Alaskan and Arctic cultural traditions, and active participation through Yup'ik games and dances.

concert at Barnard Town Hall

The May 10 performance will begin at 5:30 p.m., with doors and food vendors opening at 5 p.m. Warm, comfort food will be available for purchase, and attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets. In the case of inclement weather, the performance will move indoors.

Students participating in the residency workshops will receive free tickets to the Barnard show.

Pamyua has performed around the world and contributed music to National Geographic, PBS, and the Discovery Channel. The group is considered a cultural treasure among Indigenous Alaskans and uses music and dance to promote understanding and connection across communities.

BarnArts launched its Global Music Residency program in April 2022 to bring international artists into K-12 central Vermont and New Hampshire classrooms. Now in its eighth cycle, the program reaches over 1,500 students each session through immersive cultural and musical experiences.

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Theater in the Woods stages acclaimed Brian Friel play 'Faith Healer' in West Rutland



Courtesy Theater in the Woods
Matthew Riley will star as Teddy in Theater in the Woods' upcoming production of Brian Friel's "Faith Healer."



Meg Bouchard will star as Grace Hardy in Theater in the Woods' upcoming production of Brian Friel's "Faith Healer."

May 2 through 18—WEST RUTLAND— Theater in the Woods Vermont returns this spring with a powerful new production of "Faith Healer" by acclaimed Irish playwright Brian Friel, opening May 2 at the West Rutland Town Hall Theater. Directed by Meg Bouchard, the production runs two weekends with evening shows on May 2, 3, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m., and matinees on May 4 and 18 at 3 p.m.

Named one of the "40 best plays of our time," "Faith Healer" showcases Friel's signature lyrical language and emotional complexity. The play unfolds through four interwoven monologues delivered by three characters—faith healer Frank Hardy, his wife, Grace, and his manager, Teddy. Each tells a version of the same story but with starkly different perspectives that challenge the audience to consider the elusive nature of truth.

Director Meg Bouchard, who previously led the company's 2023 production of Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa," was drawn to the script's exploration of illusion, memory, and personal identity. "This is a detective story where we do not know what actually happened. And we never will," Bouchard said. "Lying is part of the culture. Frank does not live in reality. Grace can't. Teddy seems most reliable, but is he really?"

At its heart, "Faith Healer" examines how individuals lose themselves in their vocations, sometimes to the detriment of their relationships and their humanity. "I so desperately want Frank to be a villain, and yet he is a part of me—of all of us, if we're brave enough to look," Bouchard added. "Faith Healer" invites us to look and impels us to not look away."

Friel's writing is infused with humor, empathy, and poetic grace, creating a space where audiences can reflect on the contradictions and complexities of being human. The play challenges viewers to consider how we interpret our own lives and the stories we tell ourselves and others.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors and students. Proceeds from the production benefit Theater in the Woods' summer theater camps for children, held June 23 to Aug. 2 in Tinmouth, offering youth the opportunity to experience the transformative magic of theater in nature.

"Faith Healer" is made possible by sponsors O'Brien, Shortle, Reynolds, and Sabotka PC; Querrey Industrial Services Inc.; Noble Ace Hardware; Foley Services; and media sponsor The Mountain Times.

For tickets and more information, visit: theaterinthewoodsvt.org.



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‘The Studio’ is a laugh-out-loud look at Hollywood dysfunction

Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg's satirical take on Hollywood hits all the right beats



Screens and Streams

By James Kent

Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, the writers, directors, and executive producers of the new series "The Studio," now streaming on Apple+, have cultivated their long tenure within the Hollywood system to create a comedic gem of a show where every episode seems wildly outlandish yet is more than likely based on truth.

Making a show in Hollywood about Hollywood is a delicate balance. On the one hand, it needs to be relatable to an audience who likely doesn't know, understand, or potentially even care about the cut-throat, backstabbing, compromising world of deal-making in the backlots and offices of movie studios. On the other hand, it has to be real enough to convince an audience that, yes, this shit happens, and that is quite possibly why so many movies suck. Robert Altman's "The Player" comes to mind as the Hollywood satire that nailed it, and that 1992 film classic is a clear inspiration here in "The Studio," yet it is not the only Altman film this series pays homage to.

From its opening scene, "The Studio" tells you that film history will guide the storytelling. The show's characters are either varying levels of studio executives or the creatives behind the movies that get made, and they all seemingly have one thing in common: they love movies. They say they love movies, which is why they are all doing this, but some of them like the money aspect a bit more. And that Faustian bargain each character makes to be a part of the Hollywood razzle-dazzle makes "The Studio" work so well and hilarious.

In a show about movies, it is fitting that the choice of medium for "The Studio" is film. It gives the show a decisively cinematic look and features some of the best cinematography and camera work I've seen deployed on a television show. The cinematographer is Adam Newport-Berra, whose work is astounding on this show. I mentioned "The Player," and that film's famous one-take opening shot sets the template for how "The Studio" will operate. The first episode mimics the long-take opening of "The Player," but then it never lets go of that aesthetic. Every episode features long takes with intricate camera moves, including Episode 2, which spoofs the concept of the one-take shot by pulling off one of the most elaborate one-take television episodes in history.

Seth Rogen stars as Matt Remick, a studio executive at the fictional Continental Studios, who lands his dream job as head of the studio in the first episode after Catherine O'Hara is fired. By that episode's end, he's rehiring O'Hara for a sweet studio deal to produce to solve a mess created by Rogen's desires to please all and everyone in his new head role.

Rogen's weekly episode battle is the desire to please, be liked, and make movies that generate revenue for the higher-ups. The humor comes from Rogen's insecurities and the insecurities of everyone surrounding him in this viper's nest of studio executives and creatives all trying to reach the top, which would mean Rogen's job.

Episode 4, "the Missing Reel," is a hilarious spoof on the Hollywood detective film, as ego-fueled director Olivia Wilde tries to complete her modern-day rip-off of "Chinatown."

Screens and Streams → 26



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Courtesy Apple +
Continental Studios head Matt Remick (Seth Rogen) quickly learns that making great films comes with compromises at every turn in Apple+'s brilliant satire, "The Studio."

CLAWS

By Patrick Wise

Claws, you look kinda heavy today.

Yeah... sometimes the world feels too big, and I feel too small.

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By Shervin Lainez

Judy Collins will perform at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland on May 15.

Judy Collins shares her life in song and verse with spring tour

By Dave Gil de Rubio / Last Word Features

Mark Twain once famously said, “Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.” It’s an adage fiercely embraced by the ever-youthful Judy Collins, currently on the road celebrating her 86th birthday on May 1.

And while artists of her vintage might be expected to be doing some greatest hits tour, that’s not the case for Collins. She is promoting her current record, 2022’s Grammy-nominated “Spellbound,” and her forthcoming book, “Sometimes It’s Heaven: Poems of Love, Loss and Redemption.”

To call the Seattle native a creative dynamo is an understatement, but it’s the only way she knows how to approach life.

“I always say I’m the Betty White of the music industry,” she said with a laugh during a late-January interview. “I am blessed to have had incredibly good health and incredible stamina. I work out all the time—I’ve been doing that for years. I have been given a second career, doing all kinds of things that I’ve wanted to do that I’m doing. And that’s always refreshing. I’ve done a lot of writing. The last book I put out in 2017 was called “Cravings: How I Conquered Food.” I wrote [2011’s] “Sweet Judy Blue Eyes: My Life in Music” before that. I’ve written eight books

over the years. I’ve been doing this, singing, performing, telling jokes, writing books, and going on tour for 65 years. That’s a long time.”

And while that might seem impressive for an artist half her age, this flurry of activity is all the more remarkable given that husband Louis Nelson, who Collins had been with for 46 years and met at an Equal Rights Association fundraiser in

1978, passed away on December 3, 2024.

“It’s a disaster and the worst,” Collins said. “So it’s a good thing that I’m working because it’s the only thing that can get you through these

kinds of tragedies. And it was a tragedy. He was diagnosed with undiagnosed cancer. It suddenly came upon us, and he only had two weeks to live after they found it.”

Nelson’s influence directly affected Collins’ aforementioned projects, as her late spouse challenged her to write 365 poems in a year, a dare she took on back in 2016.

“In my new book, I’ve got 100 of my new poems,” Collins explained. “In a way, it’s a dedication and celebration of my husband. And then, I carved out and hatched the songs from some of those poems. It’s my first album of all self-penned material. I wish I could call Leonard Cohen and tell him about that. He’s

Collins → 27

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← Screens and Streams:  
from page 22

Rogen, Goldberg, and their writing team's deep knowledge and love of cinema go 'deep-cut' here, with musical nods to Altman's "The Long Goodbye" and "Chinatown."

Surrounding Rogen is a standout, Ike Barinholtz, who plays Rogen's best friend, No. 2, and rival. Barinholtz would love Rogen's job and would backstab him whenever the opportunity allowed, but that's when he's not fending off creative executive Chase Sui Wonders, who is gunning for his job. Everyone in this show is out for themselves, and the comedy comes from Rogen and Goldberg's writing, which draws from experience. They spent years walking into these studios, pitching scripts and getting pitched zany ideas. While the thought of a tentpole franchise starter movie based on Kool-Aid and potentially directed by Martin Scorsese sounds beyond ridiculous, in the world of "The Studio," it sounds like maybe only the fifth worst idea

pitched during an afternoon in Los Angeles.

Rounding out the regular cast is the always excellent Kathryn Hahn as Continental Studios head of marketing. All she cares about is, if the film is a product she can sell. Things get dicey in Episode 3 when Ron Howard's sure-fire box office winner goes off the rails in an extended 45-minute final act that destroys Hahn's ability to sell it.

Every episode features an all-star cameo lineup of stars playing themselves. Still, star Rogen ties it all together, and his insecure studio head is his best performance to date. So far, six episodes have been released out of eight. Here's hoping Apple+ renews this show on the quick. It's easily one of the best, and certainly the funniest, shows of 2025.

*James Kent is the arts editor at the Mountain Times.*



Courtesy Apple+





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## Bleeding Hearts : from page 19

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If you enjoy sharing plants or want more of a good thing for your garden, mature plants can be dug up when dormant, and the root clumps divided using a clean shovel or blade.

Plant in early spring as soon as you can work in the soil. You can also plant during the fall when temperatures are mild to give the roots a chance to establish before the ground freezes. Either way, you may want to mark the planting location to avoid accidentally digging up the roots during its dormant period.

For best results, plant in partial shade or filtered sunlight in rich soil that drains well. Amend soil with compost if needed. Heavy soil that retains water may cause root rot.

Add a layer of mulch to help keep moisture levels consistent. Mulch will also help keep the soil cooler during the heat of summer and protect the roots from freezing and thawing in winter.

Feed, if needed, in early spring—according to package directions—to encourage flower and root development.

After it's finished flowering, the foliage will yellow and die back. The plant will go dormant until the following spring.

Bleeding hearts spread by underground stems called rhizomes or through self-seeding. They're not considered aggressive in the garden.

They are a low-maintenance plant, but root rot may occur due to standing water or excessive moisture in heavy soil. They're also a good option if deer or rabbits tend to browse in your garden, as both tend to avoid nibbling on them.

A word of caution: Although bleeding hearts appear delicate and harmless, all parts of the plant are toxic to pets and humans if eaten. Touching them may cause skin irritation, so wear gloves as a precaution.

If you have questions regarding bleeding hearts or other home-gardening questions, please contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline at [go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion](http://go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion).



By Deborah J. Benoit

A shade garden favorite, bleeding hearts come in a variety of colors. They grow 2 to 3 feet tall and wide and bloom for 4 to 6 weeks each spring, attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

## Collins: from page 25

the one who started me on this writing path, and I've never stopped since 1966."

For this current string of dates, Collins will mix material from "Spellbound" with songs from her deep catalog. As someone who has become known as an interpreter of other artists, ranging from Lennon/McCartney and Stephen Sondheim to Train and new wave duo Yaz, her rationale for covering a song is pretty straightforward.

"On this tour, people can expect all kinds of music," Collins said. "It's been a lifelong career of falling in love with songs. I have no idea [what attracts me to a song]. I fall in love with a song because I fall in love with a song. I am not an analyst. I'm not a music critic. I don't have any way to put numbers or edginess into it. It's just a love affair. It's not unlike how you don't make any qualifications to a person you fall in love with."

Collins' love of music and performing dates back to a childhood as the eldest of five siblings who traveled with her father Chuck Collins, who was a blind singer/pianist/radio show host. Her earliest memories include a particularly memorable gig when she was on the road with her pop.

"I remember being 3 years old with my father on tour with something called National School Assemblies, which was created by the Roosevelts during the Depression in order to give musicians a place to work," she said. "My father was on tour with National School Assemblies in the Northwest, and when we got to Butte, Montana, we did a show, and he said, 'Honey, how would you like to sing a song for the nice people?' I strode out in my pigtails and my pinafore and sang 'I'll Be Home for Christmas' and the audience went crazy. But it was also April, but the audience didn't care."

Collins' decision to explore folk music when she was 16

eventually led her to Greenwich Village in the early 1960s following her graduation from Denver's East High School. And while, as of this writing, she's yet to see the Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown," there is nothing quite like getting stories straight from someone who not only had a front-row seat for what was going on but was an active participant.

"I was one of the first people to record Mr. Dylan," Collins said. "I met him when he was Robert Zimmerman, homeless and dressed badly, even for the '60s, in Denver. He followed me to Central City, where I was working, and I got to spend time with him there. When I got to New York, there he was at Gerde's Folk City. He was actually singing under his name—he hadn't changed his name to Dylan yet. I started singing his songs right away and recorded 'Masters of War' and 'Fare Thee Well.' We were in the same bundle, and as soon as I moved to Greenwich Village, I started recording all these songs by people like Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, etc. And then of course, I met and introduced Leonard Cohen to the world, along with Joni Mitchell."

As long as her health holds out, Collins has no intention of slowing down. That indefatigable spirit keeps her going well into her 80s.

"I have a sign on my mirror that says 'Do it now—whatever it is,'" she said. "I have a viewpoint about courage and adaptability that plays into my love of the road. I'm unusual in that regard because a lot of people don't like the road. I love the road. I love the planes. I love the cars. I love the drivers. I love the venues. I love the audiences. What's bad about that? Nothing."

Judy Collins performs on Thursday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland. For information and tickets, visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

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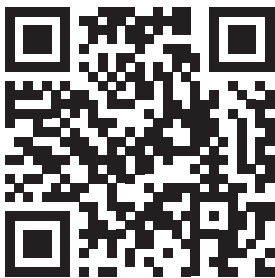
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# DOWNTOWN RUTLAND VERMONT



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EAT

DRINK



SHOP

LOCAL



Solutions

From page 15

Crossword

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

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



Ernie—6-month-old.  
Male. Hamster.



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



Emma—1-year-old.  
Female. Terrier mix.

Sudoku

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



Hercules—8 ½-year-old.  
Neutered male. English bulldog mix.



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



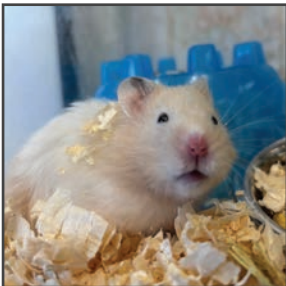
Lady—11-month-old.  
Spayed female. Coonhound.



Jay—5-year-old.  
Neutered male. American Staffordshire terrier.



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



Grover—6-month-old.  
Male. Hamster.



Pinky—3 ½-year-old.  
Neutered male. Cattle dog mix.



Blue—1 ½-year-old.  
Neutered male. Bluetick coonhound.

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MOOSE AND KIA—Foxhounds born 12/26.



# Cosmic Catalogue

## **Aries** March 21 - April 20

Did you ever read those choose-your-own-adventure novels that were popular many years ago? Have you ever read all the adventure possibilities to see if your original choice was the best? Life may feel overwhelming now with so much to do and little time or energy to do it all. Rather than seeing things as too much, see it as choosing your own adventure. Life is about to get a little bit sweeter.

## **Leo** July 21 - August 20

You'll get to breathe a sigh of relief this week. That said, you don't want to relax too much. You want to keep your hopes and aspirations in your mind's eye. If you're not really enjoying what you're doing right now, think about the reason why you're doing it. If you don't have anything beyond paying the bills and putting one foot in front of the other, then start spreading your wings. Bigger things are possible when you believe it.

## **Sagittarius** November 21 - December 20

Taking a different approach to your day-to-day life is now possible. You don't have to get routinely stuck in the mundane, especially if it's not getting you anywhere. This week, you may be better off just having a bit more fun. When you add a bit of action and motivation to what brings you joy, you will have more joy. The mundane won't necessarily go anywhere, but if you're happier doing it, isn't that better?

## **Taurus** April 21 - May 20

I'm certain that the phrase "digging in your heels" was coined by a Taurus. Unfortunately, few people see this attribute as one of your best. Regardless, it is what you have to do this week. If you need the pace to slow down so you can keep it, then do that. If you need the pace to slow down so you can recharge your batteries in order last the distance, then that is what you have to do. Don't apologize for it.

## **Virgo** August 21 - September 20

Do you know the saying, when you reach a new level, there's a new devil? Sometimes people don't see it like that. They see it as no matter what they do or how hard they work; they are constantly faced with the same or similar problems. Is this the case for you, or is it that you are actually rising to new levels, but it feels like the same? It could be a bit of both. Ensure that it is a new level you're reaching for.

## **Capricorn** December 21 - January 20

Soak in all the lovely energies that are coming through your family, living situation, and children, if you have any. Making time to do what you love and with whom is highlighted. Not to alarm you, but things will get a little harder and heavier with more responsibilities in your Home Zone soon. So with that in mind, press pause on other obligations and be sure to make some happy memories in this area now. Lighten up and have some fun.

## **Gemini** May 21 - June 20

You could feel as though you have a bit of extra luck on your side this week. All the work you've been doing and the opportunities you've been available for are beginning to pay off. In addition to all your efforts and achievements, where you'd benefit most is from networking, socializing, and making sure the right people are supporting you. You can go fast alone, but you'll go further with the right support.

## **Libra** September 21 - October 20

Have you ever looked at the word *Hassume*? *Ass-u-me*. There aren't too many occasions, especially in an important relationship, when assuming anything is ever a good thing. Even if you're right, it's better to ask than to assume. This week, if in doubt, then you know what to do. Ask. Speak up. Don't assume because you know what happens – *ass – u – me*. For the closeness and connection you crave, just have the conversation. Clear the air, and love will get better.

## **Aquarius** January 21 - February 20

When life feels as though you're being pulled in a variety of directions, it can be helpful for you to stay grounded and practical. The more attention you pay to your home life now, the more focused you'll be as opposed to distracted. If you have been putting off having a conversation with someone, this could be a good week to do it as Venus moves into your Communications Zone. A simple please and thank you can go such a long way.

## **Cancer** June 21 - July 20

Making waves at work is one thing, but it may be in your best interest to ensure you're being noticed by the right people. When you're in the room with the right people, with the right energy and intention, you'll go further than you could ever go by yourself. Being with those who are like-minded and share in your hopes and dreams makes such a difference. Adjust accordingly if you need to. Loyalty counts, but you do, too.

## **Scorpio** October 21 - November 20

It doesn't matter where you've been; it's where you're going that matters the most. In a key relationship, you really do have the chance to wipe the slate clean. The days of dirty mirrors and muddy waters are done. You can imagine a bright new future, but you can't bring the past with you. It was a learning curve that made you stronger and a whole lot better. Fresh starts and new beginnings are all possible now.

## **Pisces** February 21 - March 20

Dealings with money are highlighted this week. You may be tempted to splurge a little bit too. One thing is for certain, you're in new territory now when it comes to your finances, so some caution is advised. If a deal is too good to be true, then it just might be. However, if you can sweeten the deal, things could work out in your favor. If you feel overwhelmed by it all, wait a few more weeks, as things will soon get clearer.

## Rewrite your ending

Do you feel that? Peace, calm, and serenity. Strangely, amid some of astrology's most historical skies, this week brings the chance to catch your breath and slow down a bit.

That isn't to say that things will actually get slower because they won't, far from it, in fact. Consider this week a bit like an intermission. It's just enough time to stretch your legs, take a bathroom break, grab another drink, and then return to the movie.

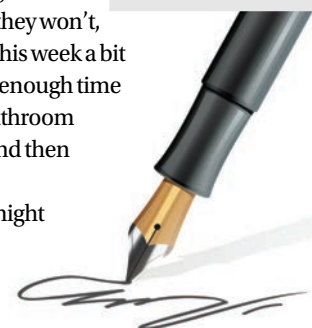
The question right now might be more about the movie you're watching. Are you enjoying it, or is it barely keeping your attention? Is it a movie genre you like, or are you just watching to keep someone else happy?

Now imagine for a moment that the movie is about your job, living situation, relationship, finances, or anything else. While you may be unable to change the movie, you also don't have to continue watching it.

Mid-week, it may begin to dawn on you that if you're not content with your current situation in life, you should stop the movie and write your own script.



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall



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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.



## Of ferns and other fantastic fractals

Fractals are sometimes referred to as a “visual representation of math.” They can be observed in the spatial arrangements found in many familiar forms, patterns, and shapes in nature: from the branching of trees, ferns, river systems, and lightning to the patterns found in leaves, seedheads, crystals, seashells, snowflakes, clouds, hurricanes, and geologic terrain. The intricate branching patterns of blood vessels and respiratory structures are some intimate expressions of fractals in animals.

As a fractal grows, the pattern replicates itself on a larger scale. The German mathematician Felix Hausdorff laid the mathematical foundation for our understanding of fractal geometry during his groundbreaking work modeling the mathematics behind geometrical shapes and patterns. In 1918, Hausdorff introduced the Hausdorff [fractional] dimension, a model that shows how to calculate the dimensions of spatial patterns that replicate or repeat at different scales.

The word “fractal” was first used in 1975 by Benoît Mandelbrot, a French-American mathematician, who described intricate shapes and patterns that repeat even when an object is viewed at different levels of scale. Mandelbrot defined a fractal as “a rough or fragmented geometric shape that can be subdivided into parts, each of which is (at least approximately) a reduced-size copy of the whole.” Whether you are looking at a fractal zoomed in or from a distance, each view resembles the same pattern.

Ferns are among the best and most accessible examples of fractals. The leaves of each fern, which are called fronds,

form the self-same pattern when viewed at any distance or scale. In fact, one of the most well-known formulas in fractal geometry is the Barnsley fern. In his 1988 book, “Fractals Everywhere,” Michael Barnsley, a British mathematician, describes how he created this fractal to simulate the frond of black spleenwort (*Asplenium ad-nigrum*), a common European fern.

The fiddlehead pattern of a sprouting fern is a perfect example of a fractal. The familiar fiddlehead is a classic shape that—along with the similarly spiral-shaped nautilus—has inspired countless works of art and sculpture, from the carved spirals at the tops of violins and other stringed instruments to the ingenious spiral staircases in the designs of the iconic Spanish architect Antonio Gaudi and even the spiral path at the start of the Yellow Brick Road in “The Wizard of Oz.”

The petiole, or leaf stalk, forms the spiral-shaped fiddlehead of a sprouting fern as it unfurls into a frond. As the leaf stalk grows, each pinna, or leaflet, at first appears as its own minute fiddlehead. The next time you look at a lacy fern frond, try focusing gradually closer, and you will see how the overall pattern created by the entire frond is repeated in each of the gradually smaller elements that branch off of it.

Outside Story → 37



**The Outside Story**  
By Michael J. Caduto



## Weak in the knees

During my formative years, my mother made me attend church fairly regularly. I had to sit in the pew for the first several years, but when I got old enough, I was ushered into the world of an altar boy. (For those uninitiated, an altar boy (or girl) generally assists the priest during the Eucharist Mass by carrying candles, holding liturgical books, ringing bells, or preparing the altar.)

I didn't mind being an altar boy because it got me up and moving around. Strangely, I also liked being part of the process and procession that was undertaken during Sunday services. In hindsight, it was a lot to ask of a young boy to sit perfectly still for an hour or more, which is probably why priests eventually roped the younger boys into the activity.

I took the responsibilities of being an altar boy seriously but also found ways to be mischievous. Whenever I interacted with our priest, I was careful to conduct myself with the utmost respect, especially when I was visible to the church assembly. But when we were tucked into the corners of the sanctuary, unseen by the congregation, all bets were off.

The worst thing an altar boy could do was get caught laughing during the service. The priests frowned on it, the participants frowned on it, the choir director frowned on it, and even some of the other altar boys frowned on it. Because of this, we knew that it was forbidden territory... and that made it all the more appealing.

I was especially susceptible to these taboo events, and on more than one occasion, I cracked while trying to get another kid to laugh. When one of us broke, the priest would walk over and firmly squeeze us on the shoulder, signifying that we were corrupting a religious moment. He would skillfully do this without a break in his speech and in such a way that no one in the congregation noticed the transgression.

But I can't lie. When my altar boy tenure was over, I was immensely relieved. By that point, I had intellectually moved on from my religious upbringing. And while I went on to study philosophy in college, with a course-load that featured such prominent religious thinkers as St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Martin Luther, I slowly adopted a more atheistic viewpoint.

I read plenty of atheist books, specifically anything by Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris, whom I regarded as beautifully adept religious skeptics. This

strengthened my belief system and made me wholly prepared to debate anyone willing to jump into the “Does God exist?” ring. Not surprisingly, I was also surrounded by like-minded friends and family.

Looking back, it was easy to take an atheistic stance. I had few profound troubles in my life that might challenge the narrative. And when I was confronted with immense beauty, like looking into the night sky or across a vast ocean horizon, I simply chalked it up to the wonder of nature. That was good enough for me.

I didn't realize it at the time, but my arguments against the existence of God were based on poor definitions. And my criticisms of the Bible were of the same ilk.

It wasn't until I began to immerse myself in some alternative study that I started to question my strongly held beliefs. Maybe God wasn't the deity I had formulated in my mind as a child. Maybe “It” is something altogether different?

No one has challenged my belief system more than the author-lecturer, Jordan Peterson. Famous for his monumental manuscript, “12 Rules for Life,”

Peterson went deep with his latest tome, “We Who Wrestle with God,” which I just finished reading. In this manuscript, Peterson explores biblical stories and how they formed the foundation of the Western world. Admittedly, his arguments have caught me off guard and forced me to contemplate an alternative definition of God that I had never considered – and that alone has been enlightening.

God is certainly on the docket with this week's feature, “Conclave.” It is a deep dive into the religious underpinnings of the Catholic Church and a review of what transpires when a pope dies, and the world's cardinals gather to elect their next leader.

Directed by Edward Berger, “Conclave” is a suspenseful political thriller set in the Vatican. It's got a stellar cast (including Ralph Fiennes and Stanley Tucci), stunning cinematography, and an intense musical score that adds to the tension that punctuates the film.

I was dismayed (if not shocked) by the film's conclusion. Outside of that, “Conclave” was an interesting ride worth checking out.

A timely “B-” for “Conclave,” now available to stream on Amazon Prime.

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at [moviediary@att.net](mailto:moviediary@att.net).



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi





# Downtown specialty stores in the '50s and '60s

Downtown Rutland had quite a few "specialty stores" in the '50s and '60s. They were a nice addition to the department stores, and their specialties made for a full downtown shopping experience.

One of the more unique "specialty" stores testifies to a woman's accessory from that period that would not be needed in today's world. The Mayfair on Center Street was a millinery store that offered a wonderful selection of hats. I remember going there with my mother to select Easter bonnets. But women wore hats for more than that one holiday. During that period, women had to have their heads covered while attending Mass in the Catholic Church. This meant wearing a hat or mantilla (veil) every Sunday. My mother loved hats for any occasion and had some suitable for every season. There was a woman who attended Christ the King Church by the name of Mildred Accavallo. As kids, we used to call her "Hats" since she had the most striking collection of hats we had ever seen. Chances



are she may have been the Mayfair's best customer!

As regular readers of my column know, the Hartford Book Shop was one of my favorite stores to visit. Besides the fun of selecting a book to call my own, I loved seeing the cat that slept in the store window on a little braided rug. He was the "official greeter," which is a role that one would expect a dog to play! The books I wanted to own revolved around the adventures of the Bobbsey Twins in my youth and Nancy Drew mysteries as I got a little older. There were two sets of Bobbsey Twins. The older ones were Bert and Nan, and the younger ones were Freddie and Flossie. I couldn't wait to see what adventures they were up to in a new book. The Nancy Drew books kept me guessing as the mystery unfolded. The Old Book Shop on Center Street was another option for book lovers.

There were three music stores, which seemed like a high number for Rutland's population. The fact that they were all on Center Street made shopping easy if you were looking for the best price on various items. Barter's Music, Larry's Music, and Wilson Music all sold organs and pianos. I would never have guessed that so many local people wanted those items. The city directories for that period list Larry's and Wilson's as selling band instruments.

Looking back → 37



**Looking Back**  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

# Steppin' up The Canyon game

It's a challenge. For years, we've been spring skiing the same trail in the same way with the same lines. You knew the bumpers would hold court on the skier's left, both on the middle and bottom sections. Man, do they love that final section where they could show off for the Umbrella Bars. It was a show, and the Bump Squad was here for it.

The headwall was so short that you could flub it and lose your rhythm, but it didn't matter because the end was only three turns away. In the middle section, people could go crazy, flip off the ridge line, and let it fly while they rested their legs for the bottom section, where the lines were strong. The patterns were in place. We knew which lines we liked and which we wanted to stay away from.

Yeah, that's not what's happening in The Canyon. There's no show of glory or silly tricks happening. No joking around mid-trail and laughing with the folks on the chairlift because you're feeling so good about yourself and your skiing. Nobody is taking 50 laps in one day and celebrating in

the parking lot.

We are working. Hard. There is no respite easy middle section. Sure, you've got the top part to get into a rhythm, but all hell breaks loose once you hit the pitch. Whether it's Dipper, Downdraft, or East Fall, there's no playing about. The bumps are big, the trails are steep, and no one seems able to figure out a line for the duration of the trail—any of them.

It's actually the funniest part. On Superstar, those lines were worked in. Solid. Patterns developed over decades. But not in The Canyon. Sure, you can get a rhythm going for maybe eight turns, but then everyone seems to blow up, and you end up in a band of mogul mess: no rhythm, no line, no zipper—just pure chaos. I don't know what you people are doing in the morning when you set the bumps, but it is certainly not skiing consistently.

I'm not saying I would have set them differently, but those transitions are nasty. I don't care who you are; it's a battle to stay in the front seat with your feet underneath you when everyone who has gone before got

Living the Dream → 39



**Living the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman



By Merisa Sherman

Moguls on The Canyon offer unique challenges, and with Superstar inactive, it's time to read-just and step out of your comfort zone.

# Mark May with reflection, wellness, and community spirit

"You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream"—C.S. Lewis

According to the Gregorian Calendar, the month of May is named after Maia, the goddess of springtime and growth. Historically, the gentle warmth of the month caused flowers to bloom, crops to sprout, and people to dance. Children made garlands from greenery and participated in joyful celebrations on the first day of May. These early May celebrations declined in popularity some two thousand years ago, but the spirit of May time remains to this day. Even as we grieve the loss of our heroes on Memorial Day, we find ways to celebrate the freedom that proves their sacrifices were not in vain. On the second Sunday in May, we celebrate Mother's Day. Many of us only have memories, but they still remind us of the love we feel for these wonderful women in our lives.



**Senior Scene**  
Gerrie Russell

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month. It's a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm our commitment to serving older adults. The 2025 theme, Flip the Script on Aging, focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. Individuals and communities are encouraged to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions. Let's all think of one thing we can do to flip our own script on aging. There are many challenges out there, so thinking of one change in our lives cannot be too difficult.

We are all so different, and that's a wonderful thing. I love the so-called self-help books, and a good friend will not even read

Senior Scene → 36



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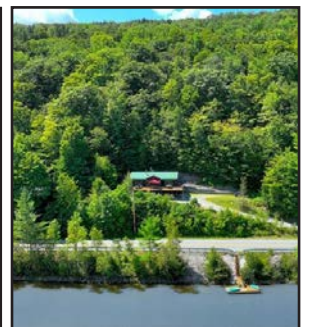
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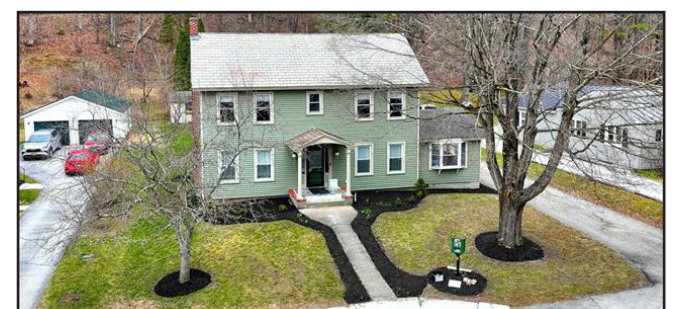
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Senior Scene:  
from page 33

the summary of a book if she thinks it falls in this category. One of these books came to mind when thinking about flipping the script on aging. It's called "Tiny Habits" by B.J. Fogg, Ph.D. Dr. Fogg is the founder of Stanford's Behavior Design Lab. He speaks about introducing little habits to make significant changes. The first suggestion in the book is to say, "This is going to be a great day" as soon as your feet touch the floor each morning. Of course, this tiny habit will not make us well or solve our everyday problems, but I have learned that my day-to-day happiness depends on my frame of mind, and only I can control this. Try it and see what happens!

The self-help book that I'm reading right now is called "The Big Five" by Dr. Sanjiv Chopra. It caught my eye because the cover features the words in great big letters—Five simple things you can do to live a longer, healthier life. How hard can that be? The five things are probably already part of our routine, but how important are they? You decide. Number 1 is "Coffee: A Cup of Health." Americans love coffee. We drink about 400 million cups of coffee a day. According to Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and CEO, "You haven't had enough coffee until you can thread a sewing machine while it's running." According to Dr. Chopra, coffee is good for us and maybe our healthiest beverage. It can reduce the risk of many diseases common to the elderly. Number 2: Vitamin D, not really a vitamin but disguised as one. Its value is cloaked in mystery. There is really only one thing we know for certain. Everybody needs it, and many require a lot more than they are getting. Number 3: "Run For Your Life! Move! Move!" And keep moving. In a world where it is not uncommon for a drug to generate billions of dollars in a year, it's rare to find something that does so much good for free. Number 4: "Nuts to You." They contain all the elements needed in a diet, including protein, fats, and carbohydrates, and are, thus, capable of sustaining life. They do not contain these elements in proper proportion, so they are not suitable for an exclusive diet. They are a powerhouse of nutrition and provide a variety of nutrients. Eat a handful a day! Number 5: "Meditate Once a Day-Twice." There is a story told about a very learned man who once was asked, "What have you gained from meditation?" The wise man shook his head and said nothing, but let me tell you what I lost....anger, anxiety, depression, insecurity, and fear of old age and death. Maybe it's worth a try. None of these suggestions can do us harm, but it's up to us to decide if they add value to our lives.

Several newscasts this week reported that seniors had been scammed of almost \$4.8 billion, with the average loss being \$83,000. Reported losses are likely undercounted as not everybody files a report. One gentleman was working on his computer and suddenly received a notice not to shut down his computer and to open his bank accounts immedi-

ately. He was scammed of over \$1.7 million over three months by giving the scammers access to these accounts. Tech support and personal data scams are most prevalent, with romance scams coming in sixth. People in our age group filed the most claims, with California leading with the highest number of claims, and I'm happy to say Vermont was the state with the least claims. The internet opens the world to us, and there's nothing better than receiving a text from a grandchild sharing good news. However, we have to be careful and not open anything that is suspicious in any way.

The Little White Church is continuing a tradition held in Killington for many years. They host a community breakfast that honors our road crew and thanks them sincerely for another job well done. We are all invited to break bread with our neighbors and have our chance to say Thank You! Please note that this breakfast will be held on Wednesday, May 14, between 7 and 10 a.m. Meet at the church for pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, juices, and coffee.

The Sherburne Library is always there for us, not just for reading a book. Bone Builders is Monday and Thursday at 10 a.m. A movie every Monday at 1 p.m. offers good seats and popcorn. The Book Club meets the last Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. There are also puzzle challenges scheduled periodically. Everyone is welcome. The summer schedule is available at the library and features activities for both adults and children. The staff and volunteers are working hard to prepare for the grand opening featuring the summer 2025 theme of "Color Your World." The library will be closed on Thursday, May 5, for staff in-servicing and also closed on Friday, May 6, to prepare for the open house on Saturday, May 7. The unveiling of the summer theme is always exciting!

Did you know that someone has a heart attack every 40 seconds? We hear advice every day, both in the written word and from doctors, to be active, give up hamburgers/french fries, and certainly stop smoking. There are other factors, so do your heart a favor and read on. None of the suggestions need explanation so you can decide for yourself—1. Healthy Weight/Healthy Heart. 2. Watch the Bad Cholesterol. 3. Stay Active. 4. Get Checked for Sleep Apnea. 5. Know Your Numbers....blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. 6. Prioritize Your Sleep. 7. Take Care of Your Mental Health. 8. Quit Smoking. It all comes back to us. We are in charge of our health.

We have been offered a chance to have yoga classes. They can be once a week, every other week, or anything in between. No time or costs have been decided. At this time, we are just trying to discover interest. If this is something you would be interested in please let me know.

Remember to reach out to each other and always be grateful. Love who you can. Help where you can and give what you can.

-Gerrie



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## Outside Story:

from page 32

Of course, not all ferns are intricate laceworks. Walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*), which is rare in most of the Northeast, has undivided fronds. Other fern fronds, including those of sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), are simple divisions off of the main stem. Fronds of the ethereal maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) have individual pinnae branching off each striking black stem. The fronds on some ferns, such as long beech ferns (*Phegopteris connectilis*), are divided two times, while the most delicate ferns, including evergreen wood ferns (*Dryopteris intermedia*), are divided three times.

Two of my favorite examples of how nature weaves the threads of geometry into beautiful green tapestries are the lacey arching fronds of northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), which grows in moist, shady woodlands, and the tall,

lush, bushy masses of royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), which commonly grows in and along wetlands. Both are found throughout New England.

The variety of shapes among ferns reveals that there are many examples of fractals found in the natural world. These are visually striking expressions of the hidden geometry that lend order to the fascinating forms we see. As the ferns begin unfurling this season, take a moment to contemplate their patterns and reflect on fractals.

*Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is the author of "Through a Naturalist's Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England." 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.*

## Looking Back:

from page 33

Schoolchildren were probably their best customers. My parents bought me a clarinet from one of those stores, and today, the case it is in serves as a "doorstop" for a door that doesn't stay closed! I guess that is called "re-purposing"!

A store that catered to all aspects of outfitting the various rooms in your home was Home Fashions on Center Street. They even "custom-made" curtains and drapes. The owners, Joe and Frances Gluck, were skilled at determining what you needed for every room. Joe came to the house a few times over the years to measure for drapes. He helped my mother and me select drapery fabric and trim. Later on, he assisted my husband and me with various decorating projects. If I went into the store by myself, Frances would always ask, "How's your sweetie?"

Jewelry stores were another specialty category with multiple downtown stores. Howard's, Munsat's, and Rudolph's were on Center Street, and Freeman Hascall was on Merchants Row. Howard's had jewelry on the first floor and an elevator that took you to the second floor, where the china and glassware were located. Many brides and grooms took that elevator to choose the pattern that would be registered for wedding gifts. Freeman Hascall was where my husband, Peter, selected my diamond. Our wedding china and glassware also came from there. Once again, there were multiple options in downtown Rutland.

If you needed cigarettes, pipes, or tobacco, you would find just what you needed at Sam Frank's Inc. on Center Street. My husband, Peter, was a pipe smoker back in the day, and he was one of their best customers as he always bought his favorite blend there. This specialty store also had some competition in the form of Quebec Cigar on Wales Street.

If knitting was your favorite hobby, you could find yarn at Leona's Yarn Shop. It was

Jewelry stores were another specialty category with multiple downtown stores. Howard's, Munsat's, and Rudolph's were on Center Street, and Freeman Hascall was on Merchants Row. Howard's had jewelry on the first floor and an elevator that took you to the second floor, where the china and glassware were located.

owned by Leona Snyder and was in the basement of the Economy Store on Merchants Row. In addition to yarn, there were needlepoint and embroidery items. Leona gave instructions to help crafters with their projects.

Eastman's on Merchants Row was the "go-to place" for stationery and greeting cards. They also sold business equipment and office supplies. I remember getting a typewriter there, along with paper and carbon for school essays. In those days, there were no computers where you could hit "DELETE," and mistakes disappeared. Even "lifting off" the mistyped letters left a trace of your errors.

At the end of your shopping spree you could head to Rondeau's Bakery on Merchants Row or Bush's Bakery on State Street for some "sweet treats" to enjoy when you got home. After all that shopping you needed a break before tackling your household chores.

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## ← Living the Dream: from page 33

shot out of that line like a cannon. And since my boots are about 1,000 days old with ripped liners and overworked plastic, I'm right there with you. It takes my entire core to rotate around and pull my now snow ladder skis around for the next turn—that isn't where it should be in the line.

This isn't Superstar, and you cannot ski it the same way. You've got to get lower. Lower in your stance. The steepness of the terrain and the consistency of that pitch means you have to keep your feet underneath you without blowing out. That means pulling your feet back and sinking into your ankles. You need to lift the balls of your feet in your boots to keep your shins engaged and help keep your ankle in the pocket. And then, you need to sink your hips straight down to your heels like an accordion. Any chance of those hips moving forward and gravity takes control, and you're not ever where you want to be.

I got spanked yesterday. You know, where someone took the 1980s moguls from Outer Limits and plopped them right on Lower East Fall. Those old Volkswagen Beetle moguls? Yeah, they're back. And on Lower East.

I missed like five turns as I slid across and down the trail completely out of control after having been popped out of a mogul like a torpedo. I was pissed. I spent my whole

damn winter prepping for these moguls, and I can honestly say I did not prep enough. I'm not low enough in my stance, not twisted enough to have complete control of my skis in every situation and every turn, so I'm working hard and not laughing as I might have done on lower Superstar. If you thought you had Superstar mastered, come back and let The Canyon kick you and your ego in the butt.

It's awesome and I am so here for this. It's downright challenging, and I can feel myself getting better every day. I can feel myself getting worked in a good way, having to come into the trail with a real plan—and still screwing it up because I was so focused on skiing I forgot that I wanted to move to the left for the bottom section or hug right to make it above the still-buried jumping rock. This is the spring I was looking for—the one that is making me grow as a skier, forcing me to step up my game, not just float along on Superstar for another year. If you think you're good, I challenge you to come lap the Canyon with us. And discover who you really are.

*Merisa Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, global real estate advisor, public official, and Coach Pom-Pom. She can be found online @FemaleSkiBum or Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.*

## ← The Beast: from page 5

avenue to accomplishment was simple now. To reach the summit, he had only to follow the step-by-step, methodical procedures that his mind so easily intuited from its vision.

Smith didn't need millions to develop Killington because he was perfectly capable of succeeding with what he had. And what he had was the right combination: the majestic mountains, capable backers, loyal workers, and his own innate drive and vision. A dedicated, supportive colleague in Sue Smith, an intelligent, creative partner in Joe Sargent, and the analytical expertise provided by Morrison assured success no matter how difficult the struggle.

The conservative business approach to ski area development was in place. Foreshadowed by Sargent's cautious business ethic — avoid risk with others' money and be sure to make a slow but steady profit — Smith and the board of directors embraced an attitude of fiscal responsibility. It made the dream possible, and entrepreneur, ski area, and corporation would thrive.

*Next week, we'll visit the perseverance and pioneering*

*progress that set Killington apart and on a path to innovation. Comments and insights are welcome: email klorentzski@vermontel.net to share thoughts about skiing in the 1950s.*



Courtesy Killington Resort  
Two young skiers practice the "pizza wedge" technique during a lesson at Killington in the earlier days of the resort.

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