



## MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a federal holiday. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty.



## BRING BACK THE TRADES SHOW PROVES POPULAR

Over 2,000 high school students attended the event held on May 20 in Castleton.

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## BIKE, GOLF, SHOOT: KILLINGTON OPENS FOR SUMMER

Killington Resort offers bike, golf and shoot over Memorial Day weekend. Killington's Bike Park opens for the season Friday, the Adventure Center opens Saturday and the golf course opened May 16 — its earliest in years. At Pico, the Total Archery Challenge is Friday-Sunday.

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# 'This is gutting public education'

Superintendents who supported the House version of H.454 see Senate changes as devastating to local schools and public education, say all non-core classes will have to be considered for cuts

By Polly Mikula

Education funding reform has been the biggest legislative lift this year, as it proposes to drastically reformulate how taxpayers fund K-12 schools. Rising costs, coupled with a dwindling student population over the past few decades (K-12 enrollment has shrunk by 40,000 students over the past 40 years to around 84,000 today), have put so much pressure on taxpayers that about a third of the 119 school district budgets failed at Town Meeting Day in 2024. This year, 2025, while only a handful of budgets failed, Republicans took

many seats previously held by Democrats due to their platforms of affordability and lowering taxes. Education tax makes up over 70% of Vermonters property tax bill.

In January, to address these concerns, Governor Scott, along with Education Secretary Zoie Saunders, unveiled an education overhaul proposal that would consolidate Vermont's 119 school districts into just five regional districts and adopt a foundation formula model that would provide a base amount of \$13,200 per student. The governor

proposed a rapid transition with the foundation formula beginning next school year, 2026-27.

Legislators quickly decided that moving to five school districts was too drastic. Still, they embraced the idea of larger districts and the foundation formula model (used by 36 states), though base amounts differ, as does the timeline for implementation and governance structures.

Currently, education in Vermont is funded after communities develop and vote on their own K-12 Ed funding → 10



By Greta Solsaa/VTDigger

Newly naturalized citizens receive their certificates after reciting the Oath of Allegiance, Tuesday, May 13.

## Barstow hosted U.S. naturalization

Twenty new citizens originally from 11 different countries took an oath of allegiance to the United States at a naturalization ceremony May 13, held in the gymnasium of Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden. See story page 2.

## Woodstock MS/HS to adopt bell-to-bell cellphone ban beginning in the fall

By Polly Mikula

After a full school year of discussions with students, parents and administrators, Woodstock Union Middle School and High School (WUMSHS) principal Aaron Cinquemani confirmed last week that students will be required to secure their cell phones in locked Yondr pouches from the beginning of the school day to the end (bell-to-bell) beginning at the start-up of the 2025-26 school year, Aug. 27.

"Starting Aug. 27, 2025, WUMSHS will implement a phone-free learning environment for all students and staff," wrote Cinquemani in a draft letter to the community shared with the Mountain Times. "At WUMSHS, we aim to create a more supportive, focused, and engaging learning environment where students and staff can teach, learn, and socialize with each other without the distraction and disruption of phones."

The district currently has a policy in its student handbook banning "phones and bluetooth Woodstock phone-free → 8

"Schools that have adopted phone-free learning environment practices report almost immediate improvements in classroom focus, social interactions, and community engagement," said Cinquemani.

## New municipal water system is well underway

First residential water hookups in Killington are on track for next summer

By Polly Mikula

Building a new municipal water system to service Killington Road businesses, residents and a proposed new village at the base of Vermont's second highest peak is a massive undertaking. Years of planning, grant applications, development agreements, TIF approvals, bond votes and bids are just a few of the more obvious hurdles the town has had to crossed before the project could get underway. All that work was unseen until now.

Abbie Sherman, the public works director for the town of Killington, certainly has her hands full.

Today, there is a well-house constructed along the flats of Route 4 (directly behind the Mountain Times building) with three wells drilled. Underground pipes will bring water along the far side of the Ottauquechee

River, then cross the river and Route 4 to a pump station (currently under construction), which will then pump water up to Shagback Mountain (across East Mountain Road, parallel to Snowshed Mountain). The first of two tanks is currently being built on Shagback Mountain to hold 750,000 gallons of water (weighing about 6 million pounds), according to Mitchell O'Neil from Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers and Jeffery Gokey from Casella.

The tank will be about 35-40 feet tall including the dome, with 6 feet underground.

Casella has been working on Contract 1-3A for over a year. Contract 1-3A brings water from the valley wells to the pump station on Route 4 then up across East Mountain Municipal water → 11



By Polly Mikula

Pipes, valves and connectors await hook-up at the top of Shagback Mountain where the first water tank will be constructed.



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By Greta Solsaa/VT Digger

Vermont welcomed 20 new United States citizens at a naturalization ceremony at Barstow in Chittenden on May 13.

Vt welcomes 20 new citizens from 11 countries

By Greta Solsaa/VT Digger

Twenty new citizens originally from 11 different countries took an Oath of Allegiance to the United States at a naturalization ceremony Tuesday, May 13, held in the gymnasium of Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden.

Among those naturalized in the ceremony was Steeve Valcourt, a musician originally from Haiti.

Valcourt, 42, said he toured around the country including Vermont as a musician playing reggae and Haitian music with his band Lakou Mizik for years, but settled in Woodstock to raise his daughter. Valcourt said he chose to make Vermont his home two years ago because of the sense of “peace” the state provides.

He said he feels “lighter” after being naturalized in the U.S. and is grateful for the opportunities and rights he has access to as a citizen. “The United States is made with immigrants,” he said, so it’s important for the U.S. to “open the doors for immigrants” so more people come to the country legally.

In remarks at the ceremony, Chief U.S. District Judge Christina Reiss welcomed the new citizens and spoke to the importance of upholding the rule of law and actively engaging in the rights and responsibilities of citizens to protect democracy.

“The right to vote is endangered each time you fail to vote. The freedom of speech is threatened if you do not express your opinions and stand silent,” said Reiss. “It is also threatened when you do not tolerate the views of others and allow their speech to be violated. The rights of all citizens must be protected if you expect your own to be protected.”

Reiss also reflected on President

Dwight D. Eisenhower’s address to Vermont at the State Dairy Festival in nearby Rutland 70 years prior in 1955, echoing his words for the ceremony attendees: “I know that Americans everywhere are the same, in their longing for peace, a peace that is characterized by justice, by consideration for others, by decency above all, by its insistence on respect for the individual human being.”

Elizabeth Bernstein, with the Vermont League of Women Voters and resident from Jericho, attended the ceremony to help new citizens register to vote and facilitate civic participation. Bernstein said the ceremony was an important reminder of the importance for citizens to uphold the rule of law. But, she said she is concerned with recent actions by the Executive Branch, which judges and lawyers spoke out about recently.

Susan Harritt, also with the Vermont League of Women Voters from Jericho, said she was heartened to hear Reiss’ remarks about the importance of immigrants to the country.

“The arrival of new people — the variety, the diversity of new people — makes this country richer. We benefit from the infusion of new views,” Harritt said.

Among the naturalized citizens was David Munro, who arrived from Canada with his family to take a job at Middlebury College as an associate economics professor.

Munro, 40 and a resident of Middlebury, said it was special to have the event set in an educational environment that gave children the opportunity to learn and be a part of a meaningful moment for many.

“I’m excited to be part of the voice that is working to uphold the law of

the land and the Constitution,” Munro said.

Students from Barstow Memorial School shared poetry, music and helped facilitate the celebration of citizenship.

Christine Rogers, 60, said she emigrated to the U.S. from Germany in 1986 after marrying an American soldier and having two children. Rogers has now made East Thetford her home and works as a housekeeper at a retirement home in Hanover, New Hampshire.

“I was crying, it was happy tears. It’s been a long time coming,” Rogers said. “I can vote and go to town meetings and voice my opinions.”

Valerie Frolova, a 29-year-old interior architectural designer based in Newfane, moved to the U.S. from Russia to study at Temple University. She said found that she resonated with the U.S. culture and people. She met her current husband while a student in Philadelphia and the couple eventually settled in Vermont, Frolova said.

Frolova said she wanted to mark her “long journey” toward naturalization but finds it difficult to celebrate because of the fraught political landscape regarding immigration and rights to free speech.

But, Frolova said she has faith in U.S. democracy and is excited to participate in the process to uphold rights and responsibilities of all as a citizen after making that promise alongside 19 others Tuesday.

“I think the U.S. had different turbulent moments throughout history, but it always made it out OK on the other side,” Frolova said. “Now, as a participating citizen and voting citizen, I can be a part of that change as well.”



# Rutland teachers and school board reach agreement, averting strike

By Habib Sabet/VTDigger

Rutland teachers and the city’s school board reached a tentative agreement last Tuesday night, May 13, averting a strike planned to begin Wednesday morning. It would have been the first teachers’ strike in Vermont in eight years.

At a marathon school board meeting, the Rutland Education Association — the local union representing the city’s teachers — and district officials struck a deal for a new contract just before midnight following eight hours of negotiations, according to Daren Allen, the communications director for the Vermont National Education Association, the statewide teachers’ union.

Allen said details of the agreement would not be released until after the contract is formally ratified by both parties, a process that could take up to a week.

“This negotiation started at 4 p.m. yesterday, and both parties stayed at the table to get it done. Both parties

worked really hard to achieve a settlement,” Allen said. “Today, the teachers are just relieved, and they now want to focus on their jobs.”

After voting to strike last week, the union, which includes approximately 250 members, had intended to walk out of work indefinitely starting Wednesday if no deal was reached. The teachers had been working without a contract since last summer, when the previous one expired.

“The board is happy that we came to a resolution,” said Charlene Seward, a commissioner of the school board. “This is a great outcome for the students to continue out the rest of the year, and we’re happy for the community support, and we’re just glad that we could make it all work out.”

The agreement caps off a year and half of contentious negotiations between the union and the school district, which first began last January.

After months of bargaining, the two parties had reached an impasse

over wages.

The union had initially proposed that teacher salaries increase by 15% for the 2024-2025 school year, 10% for 2025-2026 and 10% for 2026-2027. The school board had meanwhile pitched increases of 3% each year, citing restraints imposed by the district’s \$63.8 million budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

After failing to find middle ground earlier this year, the two parties agreed to work with an independent fact-finder, who released a report last month calling for about 5% wage increases each year.

Rejecting the mediator’s findings, the school board last week moved to impose a contract on the district’s teachers for the next two years, a decision the union claimed violated Vermont labor laws.

Under the temporarily imposed contract, the board had included salary increases of 4.8% for the first year and 4% for the second year.

# Treasure fever hits Wallingford: Could one of the ‘JCB Treasures’ be hidden near White Rocks?

Hikers with maps and metal detectors are becoming a common sight on the trails near White Rocks. They’re not just there for the view—many are convinced that hidden treasure lies beneath their feet.

It all started with the 2024 mystery-adventure book “There is Treasure Inside” by the enigmatic author Jon Collins Black. The book claims that five real-world treasure chests—now known as the JCB Treasures—are hidden somewhere in the U.S. A growing number of readers believe one of them is buried in Wallingford.

The theory centers around page 230 of the book, where a cryptic map appears to resemble the area around Little Rock Pond and the Appalachian Trail. The map features faded but familiar symbols—skiers, catamounts, and apples—sparking speculation that Vermont may be home to one of the elusive caches.

Since early spring, treasure hunters have arrived from across the country, trading theories at local trailheads and grabbing coffee in town before venturing into the woods. Locals say the current treasure buzz echoes stories dating back to the 1700s—tales of silver hidden by early settlers near White Rocks.

Whether fact, folklore, or cleverly planted fiction, the

Treasure → 4

# Vt bowling alleys preserving retro fun while facing biz trends

In Rutland and Randolph, bowling centers are keeping up the sport—and the camaraderie it inspires

By Eliza Walsh

*Editor’s Note: This story is from Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship program.*

Rick Wilbur surveyed each lane at Rutland Bowlerama, marking up a scoresheet as pins crashed, high-fives smacked and kids scurried around decked-out competitors.

It was a mid-April night of bowling in this year’s Green Mountain Open Tournament, and Wilbur, who’s been around the Rutland alley for over 50 years, was right at home.

His family has been coming to Bowlerama for decades; he’s competed as a bowler for close to six. He started teaching his son Jon the craft of the game when he was 10 years old. Twenty-six years later, in 2019, Wilbur watched his son become the first Vermonter and 35th person in the U.S. to bowl a 900 series in open league play, achieving three consecutive perfect games in one set — all at Bowlerama on a Monday night.

As Wilbur meandered his way among the lanes last month, regulars at the bowling alley patted his back and chatted with him while he kept score.

“Being that I’ve been here so long, it’s like a family reunion every weekend,” Wilbur said.

Owner Chip Forte came into the business shortly after his grandparents started the institution in 1965. Originally a 16-lane bowling house, the facility is now 32 lanes large, many of which still boast the original wood.

Ron Carrara, lifelong Rutland resident, has worked maintenance at Bowlerama since he was a kid and grew up with Forte and his family—Forte’s mom being his Boy Scouts den mother.

“It’s changed a lot,” Carrara said. “In the early ’70s this place was packed. Now, we’re lucky if we fill 10 or 12 lanes.”

Bowling seems to be a dying pastime, with digital technology taking the forefront in family entertainment.

According to industry firm Hansell Group, the U.S.



By Catherine Morrissey

A competitor let one rip during Rutland Bowlerama’s Easter Sunday competition. The alley keeps the retro charm alive.

had around 5,800 sanctioned bowling centers and nearly 120,000 lanes in 2003. By 2019, there were about 4,500 commercial centers with around 95,000 lanes in operation, the group reported.

Increasingly, old bowling alleys nationwide have been converted into facilities offering a host of other games, activities and amenities. And new businesses opening up have focused on sleek, upscale experiences, according to the same report.

But for the few rural bowling centers in Vermont, old

school charm and long community ties have been tough to beat. Bowlerama still uses the analog keypads installed in the 1990s, and prior to that the center relied on halogen-lit, handwritten scorecards.

While the regular crowd at Rutland Bowlerama isn’t what it used to be, the business had no trouble filling out its lanes for the Green Mountain Open Tournament, which participants traveled hours across New England to attend.

“We have a lot of leagues, we have a lot of competition,

Bowling → 4





Courtesy Jodi Schneider

# Learning can be sweet!

Mrs. Jodi Schneider's pre-Kindergarten students are in the middle of a unit of study about ice cream. As part of the unit, they needed to find an expert in the field to answer questions that they haven't found yet. Ben Pilsmaker from Mountain Creamery presented to the class on Monday, May 19, how he makes the ice cream. Then students got to sample some of his flavors. According to student Patrick Ryan, the ice cream "wasn't good, it was the best!" Mountain Creamery Ice cream can be purchased at Mad Hatters in Killington as well as at many other local restaurants.



Submitted

## Stafford Technical Center students construct planter boxes for Castleton seniors in time for spring planting

Stafford Technical Center students Tyler Gugliotta (left), Charlie Souza (middle), and Paden Lynch (right), as well as staff in the RHS EPIC After School Program Carpentry Club, constructed seven new planter boxes for the Castleton Community Seniors Wellness Center entrance.

### Treasure: from page 3

search has brought renewed attention to Wallingford's scenic trails and deepened the sense of adventure in the area. For those looking for a sure bet, Come Alive Outside is offering a different kind of treasure hunt this summer. Launching May 30 in Rutland and Barre, the organization's Summer Passport Program includes a family-friendly outdoor challenge that ends with a real treasure map. Complete activities to earn the map, then follow clues to a treasure chest hidden in a downtown business. Each chest contains prizes for those who unlock it using a secret password. Whether you're on the trail of lost colonial treasure, unraveling the clues of a literary mystery, or joining in a family-friendly hunt downtown, all signs point to one thing: treasure season is officially underway in Vermont. Passports will be available online starting May 30. For more information, visit: [comealiveoutside.com](http://comealiveoutside.com).



By Arwen Turner

Wallingford's Heather Johnson posed with her copy of "There's Treasure Inside." Johnson is the latest JCB treasure hunter combing the trails of White Rocks.

### Bowling: from page 3

we have a lot of fun," Wilbur said. He is a coach for a local youth league and often helps out with Addison County Special Olympics events. The varsity bowling team at Fair Haven Union High School plays and practices at Bowlerama as well. The school has been in something of a friendly interstate rivalry with Randolph Union High School, and the two teams have duked it out at Bowlerama and elsewhere in recent years. Randolph is home to Valley Bowl, which shares a similar spirit to Bowlerama — the open game rate is \$5 per hour with \$3 shoe rentals and has been since the place opened in 2006. The year prior, the town's only bowling center, Rose Bowl, closed after being sold to a New York developer who wanted to open a Family Dollar. Couple Karen and Wayne Warner, avid bowlers, had made a bid to buy the property but lost out. So they bought all the bowling alley's lanes and equipment off the old owner, built Valley Bowl on Prince Street and opened in January 2006. Karen Warner also runs the area's Special Olympics program and has been coaching the Randolph Union bowling team for the past 10 years.

Valley Bowl recently started up a kids-bowl-free promotion, which offers two free games a day to minors all the way through the summer. "What we try to do is grow a love of the sport," said Warner. "We certainly see a lot of that come to fruition." Warner drills balls at the Valley Bowl pro shop, one of the few in-house pro shops in that part of Vermont, and helps with many of the other needs of local bowlers. She's familiar with the folks at Rutland Bowlerama and has crossed paths with them many times while coaching. "Fair Haven and we were in the finals this year," Warner said. "They ended up coming out on top. They wanted it, and sometimes it's about that want. They're a fun group of kids." Wilbur and Warner have also banded together to coach for the regional Senior Classic, a competition where the top 10 Vermont high school seniors go up against the top 10 seniors from New Hampshire. "We all came together to coach these kids. It was a lot of fun," Warner said. The two haunts preserve a sense of retro family fun in Vermont. Still, business continues to decline as bowling becomes a less fashionable form of recreation. "When one of these VT bowling houses closes, it's not good for any of us," said Warner. "It's always good to see those guys, to talk to them as a resource. Maybe that doesn't happen in other places, but it happens in this town." "Seems like every three months, everything changes," said Wilbur. A retired police officer, Wilbur doesn't let the slump get him down. He still bowls in a league every year from August to April, coming in recreationally with family and friends during the off season. It's even a family tradition to bowl on Christmas Eve. "It's just fun," Wilbur said. "I think I was put here for this reason."



# Washable, wearable and sustainable: Local outdoor enthusiasts create the tuckerchief

By Sarah Calvin

On a sunny summer day, local artist Kate DeFrancesco-Sias inadvertently invented the tuckerchief, a fashionable, washable, and wearable handkerchief bracelet.

“I ran out of tissues, and I had an old shirt laying around that was really soft. I cut a sleeve off of it and just started wearing it around,” DeFrancesco-Sias reminisced.

Two weeks later, on a hike with fellow outdoors lover Michelle Blackburn, DeFrancesco-Sias mentioned her new invention. Blackburn was hooked, thinking not only of her own active pursuits, but of her children, and how convenient it would be for all of them.

“It was a winter hike, we were hiking in the snow, up Deer Leap, trading stories about how gross their sleeves were from wiping their noses,” said Blackburn. “There’s just never enough tissues.”

“We love hiking, skiing, biking, and skinning, and we always need something,” added De-Francesco-Sias. “The glove is scratchy — nobody wants a scratched face.”

The two women agreed this new invention was too good to keep to themselves, and spent a year developing prototypes, sewing the tuckerchiefs themselves. Though the majority of the cuffs are crafted from a poly-spandex blend in the interest of comfort, the company offers a cotton cuff for those who prefer it. The pair is interested in using more sustainable fabrics, like wool and bamboo, as their company grows.

As avid outdoor enthusiasts, sustainability and supporting the local community is a big part of the company’s mission. Blackburn and DeFrancesco-Sias hope that their tuckerchiefs will replace disposable tissues for their

users, saving acres of the virgin forests tissue companies consume to make the product.

“Tuckerchiefs are sustainable, fashionable, and an accent to your wardrobe,” said DeFrancesco-Sias.

“We have some pretty cool patterns, and vibrant colors, so it’s also some self-expression when you wear one,” added Blackburn.

The tuckerchief currently comes in three sizes, and is designed for ages 5 and up. The extra small is designed for 3-7 year-olds, the small covers most women’s wrists, and

“I ran out of tissues, and I had an old shirt laying around that was really soft. I cut a sleeve off of it and just started wearing it around,” DeFrancesco-Sias reminisced.

the medium covers most men’s wrists. The design features a button clasp and a wide variety of patterns and solid colors.

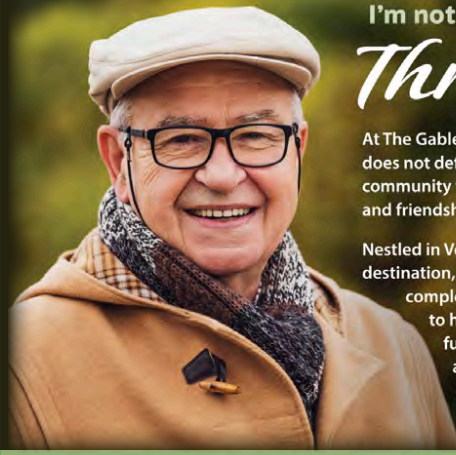
Tuckerchiefs are sold locally at the Killington Distillery, Forerunner Ski Shop, the Rutland Area Food Co-Op, the Lookout Tavern, and Liquid Art Restaurant. They are also available on Etsy and a website is currently under development.

Blackburn and DeFrancesco-Sias have big dreams for the tuckerchief. They currently have a patent pending, and would one day like to partner with other companies and organizations, such as the FIS Women’s World Cup, which is taking a break from Killington this season but is planned to return November 2026. A new Winter Hero design is currently in the works, which the pair hopes will be an accent to ski gloves.

“I’d love to see a tuckerchief on every wrist,” said DeFrancesco-Sias.



Submitted  
Local artists Kate DeFrancesco-Sias (left) and Michelle Blackburn (right) invented a wearable (and stylish) solution to running out of tissues while recreating: tuckerchiefs!



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OBITUARY

Gary Coe, 74

Gary Coe, 74, passed away peacefully earlier this month. He had a life well lived. Gary leaves behind his loving wife Barbara, son Travis, daughter-in-law Kristie of Salt Lake City, two sisters, and a brother. He was multi-talented and had many interests. As a young man, he drove trucks for his uncle and showed horses in New Jersey.



Submitted

After graduating from military school, he moved to Colorado to ski and became a ski photographer.

Gary moved to Killington to open a ski photography business. In the summer, he took pictures at horse shows. Gary and Barbara raised their son, Travis, in Killington and were married for 46 years. His photography business served the community for 25 years. Gary was well-respected in the community.

Gary started a trucking company to transport the U.S. Equestrian Team horses on the East Coast. Gary was an integral part of a winning U.S. Combined Driving Horse Team consisting of two silver and one gold medal at the World Equestrian Games and five world championships in the U.S. and Europe. He settled in Midway in 2013 to pursue his passions: skiing, fly fishing, and bike riding. Gary's favorite memories were fishing, hunting, and skiing with his son, Travis. Gary was a kind and generous man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Ludlow business owner begins 20-month prison term

Troy Caruso pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit honest services fraud for paying bribes

By Greta Solsaa/VTDigger

A prominent business owner in Ludlow reported to federal prison Friday, May 9, to serve a 20-month sentence related to his role in a kickback scheme in New York. The surrender date for Troy Caruso — originally scheduled for April 8 — has been extended twice due to requests for time to arrange accommodations for his businesses.

Caruso, 57, was indicted and arrested in December 2023 for bribing a project manager working for a global commercial real estate firm that occurred between February of 2021 to September of 2023.

Originally from Long Island, New York, he owns multiple businesses in Ludlow including the Fox Run Golf Club and The Barn at Fox Run and the restaurants Calcutta's, Terra Italian Steakhouse and Off the Rails.

The two charges against Caruso, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud and honest services wire fraud are related to payments totaling \$48,000 he allegedly made to gain preferential treatment and assistance



By Vincent T. Vuoto

Fox Run Golf Course is one of the properties owned by Troy Caruso of Ludlow.

in bidding on and obtaining construction contracts for a project valued at \$3.5 million.

Both federal charges have a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. In a deal with federal prosecutors, Caruso pleaded guilty last fall to the first count of the indictment, according to a U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of New York press release. On Feb. 28,

Caruso was sentenced to 20 months in federal prison, and was ordered to pay forfeitures and fines totaling roughly \$816,000, according to federal court documents.

Caruso reported Friday to a federal minimum security satellite camp in Otisville, New York to serve his 20-month sentence. In an interview, Feb prison → 14



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### Gardening Tip of the Week



Creating landscapes that resemble the simple, purposeful, and classic looking gardens of the early Colonial Era still offer a timeless look. Grapevines have always been a center piece due to their visual appeal with their over sized green foliage and love for climbing up any structure provided. Grapevines off beautiful Autumn colors, with vibrant reds and orange. Grapevines can provide food and shelter for birds and pollinators, enhancing the local ecosystem. Once established, grapevines can be relatively low-maintenance and sustainable. They don't require intensive watering or fertilizing, especially if planted in well-drained soil with proper sun exposure. Lastly, Grapevines provide a fresh eating treat, bountiful harvests to make jams , an whatever else you can create and imagine.



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# Pioneering and snowmaking R&D

## How Killington became The Beast, Part 11

By Karen D. Lorentz

*Editors' Note: This is part 11 of a series on the factors that enabled Killington to become The Beast of the East. Quotations are from author interviews in the 1980s for her book "Killington, A Story of Mountains and Men."*

From 1954 to 1963, the focus was on getting Killington open, operating, and growing. With the advent of the 1963–64 season, Killington entered an important new phase in the ski area's history. The addition of snowmaking heralded a new "better way" philosophy, an era of pioneering improvements that would run simultaneously with the commitment to growth.

The basis for this direction was Pres Smith's belief that Killington could provide a better ski experience if dependable snow were offered and a longer ski season reliably established. Killington was already committed to improving the ski experience by providing an abundance of terrain and lift capacity. Still, Smith wanted everyone, especially those who had never skied before, to be able to enjoy the mountains, and that meant there was more to be done than simply adding lifts and trails.

### Snowmaking as insurance

What enabled Killington to be the first to commit to the longest ski season possible was the installation of snowmaking in 1963. At the time this seemed particularly foolish to Vermont ski area operators as snowmaking was something "banana belt" areas in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania utilized because it was the only way they could exist.

Installing expensive snowmaking at Killington, in the heart of the Green Mountains with one of the best reputations for natural snowfall, seemed like a needless expense and just plain crazy.

Killington's (former) Operations Manager Paul Bousquet remembered Christmas Day of 1962 when "everyone — including ski school personnel, secretaries, and officers — picked stones on Snowshed. We had to get it ready for the least amount of snow. Fortunately, 14 inches fell the next day, saving us. But no way were we going to get caught short again."

That fear was the incentive to spearhead snowmaking the next year. Bousquet, whose father had installed a snowmaking system at Bousquet's Ski Area (Massachusetts) in the 1950s, was as determined as Smith not to go through with uncertainty anymore. "It was part of our philosophy to look for a better way and to be innovative," he noted.

"When I first started out, I used to say this is a great snow area, we'll never run short. But I soon found there were periodic times that natural snow wasn't enough and called in a firm to design a snowmaking system. The idea was that if it didn't snow, we could have skiing," Smith said.

Looking to a reliable future, Smith wrote in a June 4, 1963, letter to Rutland Herald publisher Bob Mitchell "... the question becomes who will pay our future payroll of perhaps 500 persons or who will patronize perhaps 100 commercial lodges and restaurants in the area if we have a poor snow year or a series of poor weekends?

"Although we have just concluded a season that can be regarded as highly successful and profitable, and although Killington is probably the choicest site in the Northeast for snow and its retention, we have decided to install snowmaking equipment this summer. Eleven thousand feet of pipe with 250 pounds of water pressure will cover our Snowshed area with that most important commodity — SNOW."

Management considered building their own snowmaking system but decided to be conservative and not take that risk, buying their first snowmaking system from Larchmont,

an experienced snowmaking engineering and design company. It was a patented above-ground system that collected water from a brook in Killington Basin and brought it down through aluminum pipe to Snowshed.

"The pipe was so light that you could carry 40-foot sections around in your arms," and "was very easy to install," Smith said.

But when they loaded the system with water, applied air pressure to it, and started to make snow, it was only a matter of minutes before the pipes exploded.

"By the time it reached the bottom of Snowshed, there was about a 600-foot head of pressure. The pressure for that kind of pipe was way over tolerable limits. It was lucky somebody didn't get killed because it was a very dangerous situation," Smith said of the plume that jetted above the tree tops and sent shards of aluminum flying.

"We had all kinds of problems, so they sent an engineer up to show us how to make snow. He said, 'Oh we'll have snow in no time.' But in three hours, he had successfully frozen every foot of pipe as solid as a rock from top to bottom."

Thoroughly disgusted, Smith sent the hapless fellow on his way. What Smith remembered most about that under-designed system was fixing it and getting it back together again.

Worker Royal Biathrow recalled the tendency of the system to freeze up "every time good snowmaking weather came. We took the system apart and buried the aluminum pipe in sawdust, but it still froze up. One of the ways we used to thaw it out was to use a little denatured alcohol and compressed air. That's very dangerous, the worst combination; it's a wonder we didn't blow ourselves up."

For all its difficulties, Killington's first snowmaking system pushed the area into operation one week ahead of all Eastern ski areas with a December 4, 1963, opening date and helped provide skiing in March when natural snow was sparse.

The snowmaking system also made a significant promotional effort possible by guaranteeing snow for midweek vacation customers, heralding in greatly desired midweek business as early as the 1963–64 season.

Most importantly, the initial snowmaking experience proved the impetus for Killington to tackle snowmaking

engineering. From that point on, there was an engineer on staff and a snowmaking system of Killington's own design, although the expertise of another engineering and design firm was used to supplement those efforts for several years.

Engineer James Kachadorian was assigned the task of getting the Snowshed system to function properly. He had been mystified by frequent pipe ruptures until one day he saw skiers "dinking the above-ground pipe with their ski poles." The pipe had cost Killington \$200,000, but he managed to convince his incredulous boss that it had to be replaced by steel pipe. When the expensive steel pipe was buried underground in sawdust, the system worked well, and the nightmarish freeze-ups ended.

### Snowmaking saves the 1965 season

The decision to go with snowmaking was a fortuitous move, as the winter of 1964–65 was a marginal one for natural snow, with four complete washouts making it the worst season (to date) in the history of the East. New England ski business dropped 25 to 33%, and attendance at some areas fell as much as 40 to 50%. Killington attendance rose from 240,000 to 250,000 skier visits as snowmaking kept the area operating while many others closed.

Snowmaking also allowed a November 21, 1964, opening date, Killington's earliest, and helped extend the ski season to May 4 for a 160-day record in the Northeast.

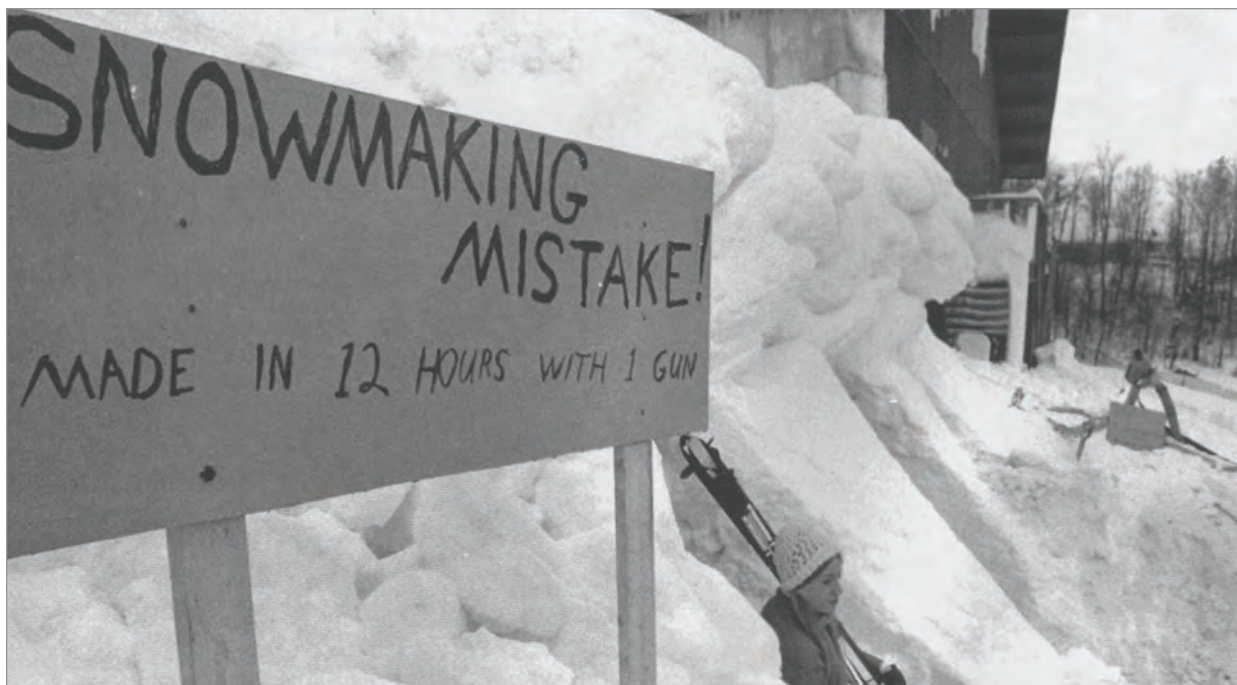
However, with almost continuous use, snowmaking proved to be expensive, and, coupled with almost constant grooming, high operating costs contributed to reduced earnings for fiscal 1965. At the same time, market share and gross revenues rose, and a net profit was realized.

Further capital improvements made to the system in summer 1965 reduced the time to cover Snowshed from seven to two days.

The commitment to snowmaking transitioned in the 1970s to include not only insurance for skiing but also repair of skier wear and tear on trails all over the mountain, as well as the promise of the longest ski season in the East.

Next week, we'll look at another far-reaching approach to the ski business — ski instruction and the innovative GLM.

*Comments and insights are welcome: email [klorentzski@vermontel.net](mailto:klorentzski@vermontel.net) to share thoughts about skiing in the 1950s and 1960s.*



The Snowshed Base Lodge buried as part of a 1960s publicity stunt.

Submitted



# Vote Bill Vines

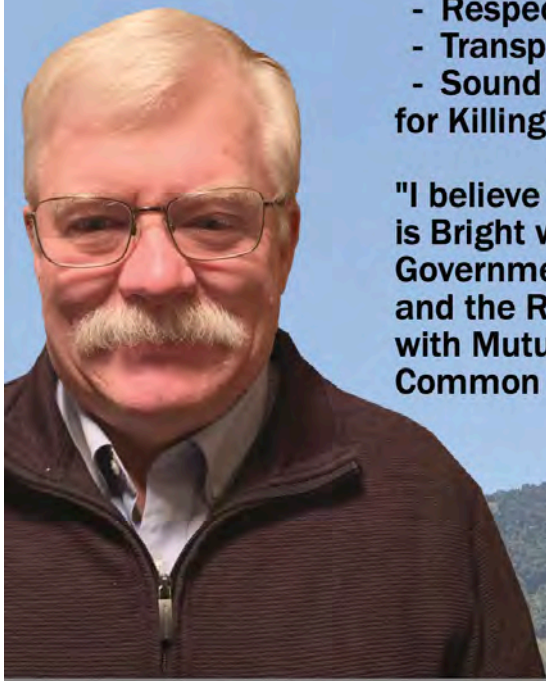
## Killington Select Board

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Paid for by Bill Vines and  
Mary Furlong, Killington, VT

# Statewide ban on phones in schools picks up steam

By Habib Sabet/VTDigger

Vermont is on track to join a growing list of states that have banned smartphones from classrooms statewide.

Last week, lawmakers in a key committee advanced legislation that would require all of the state's public school districts and independent schools to develop policies prohibiting students from using smartphones and other personal devices like smartwatches during the school day. The policies would need to take effect by the 2026-2027 school year.

A school cell phone ban was previously introduced in a standalone bill that has failed to move forward this legislative session. But on Thursday, May 15, members of the Senate Committee on Education voted to graft the ban onto H.480, a miscellaneous education bill that includes several smaller adjustments to Vermont's education laws.

Now, with broad support in both chambers, lawmakers hope to send the bill to Gov. Phil

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## Woodstock phone-free: from page 1

headphones/earbuds... during instructional time, study hall, advisory, anytime in hallways or bathrooms during class blocks" with consequences for not following those rules outlined specifically. But in practice, that policy is not consistently followed or enforced, according to students, teacher, parents and administrators.

A UNC Chapel Hill survey at WUMSHS provided key insights into Woodstock student device usage, its impact on learning and mental health and staff perceptions.

Key finding included:

- 83% of Woodstock students bring their phones to school daily, with 79% using them for non-class purposes during school hours. A significant portion (29%) admitted to using phones when they should be paying attention.
- 94% of Woodstock teachers believe smart devices are detrimental in the classroom, with 84% reporting being distracted by student phone use. Many also cited increased student misbehavior due to smart devices.

WUMSHS has been working to implement a true phone-free learning environment for nearly a year. At the board meeting this past Sept. 9, Cinquemani unequivocally expressed his support for Woodstock Middle/High School to become phone-free and asked the district board to support that effort. Three community forums were held in September and October to engage the community in this discussion and get feedback, a student debate on phone-free learning at Killington was also facilitated this past fall (65 students participated), many staff meetings have tackled the struggles with implementation and enforcement, a student-led phone-free learning committee was established, and advisory discussions have ensured all students understand the rationale behind the policy.

After "recognizing the importance of over-communicating and involving all stakeholders" WUMSHS feels confident beginning the new phone-free plan on the first day of school in the fall. Students will then be required to turn off their devices and place them in their school-issued Yondr pouches upon arrival at 8 a.m. Assigned staff will supervise this process, according to the draft letter. Students in grades 7-12 will keep their Yondr pouches in their backpacks or in their lockers. At the end of the school day (2:55 p.m.), students will be allowed to unlock their devices at magnetic unlocking stations and retrieve their devices. Students arriving early or late can lock/unlock their pouches at the front office when signing in or out.

"Students are also free to leave smartphones, cell phones, smartwatches, and bluetooth headphones at home," Cinquemani noted.

Yondr is the industry leader in providing lockable bags to secure cell phones when use is not permitted in schools and entertainment venues. The Yondr pouch has a magnetic lock that keeps devices secured.

Woodstock Middle/High School will issue Yondr pouches to every student, similar to how sports jerseys, textbooks or Chromebook devices are issued to students. Funds for the Yondr pouches were raised through a combination of private fundraising and the school's budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

If a student violates the new policy "the family will be notified and required to pick up the device. Additional consequences may include detention, suspension, and/or submitting the phone to the school for the remainder of the year."

If a student loses or damages/vandalizes their school-issued Yondr pouch, they are required to pay for a replacement.

"Research and evidence indicate that smart phones and social media have a detrimental impact on teaching, learning and mental health," wrote Cinquemani. "Moreover, these devices are major distractions, hindering teachers' and students' ability to focus and engage meaningfully in teaching and learning... evidence consistently shows that restricting access to cell phones during the school day leads to numerous benefits, including improved academic performance, a reduction in bullying, and better mental health outcomes for students and staff. Additionally, schools that have adopted phone-free learning environment practices report almost immediate improvements in classroom focus, social interactions, and community engagement."



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

## WARNING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 28, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Killington, County of Rutland, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Killington Town Office at 2706 River Road in Killington on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian ballot on the following Article.

Article 1. To elect the following town officers:

- A selectboard member for a term of one year;
- A selectboard member for a term of two years.

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 14th day of April, 2025.

Ricky Bowen

Patrick M. Cushing

Jim Haff





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**THU MAY 29, 2025**

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## ← Ed funding:

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budgets. The state then sets a statewide tax rate to cover the combined cost of that education spending, minus federal aid. With a foundation formula, there would no longer be local school budget votes. Instead, schools would receive an amount per pupil, and then an amount above that for students in various categories of need — they would then craft their budget allocations around that amount.

Last month, the House passed its take on education funding reform, H.454. The House version called for a committee to develop three proposals for new school district boundaries by the next legislative session. That committee would be made up of five people with experience working in Vermont's public education system and four legislators. The House bill also included average class-size minimums: 12 students for kindergarten classes; 15 students for grades 1-4; and 18 students for grades 5-12. H.454 also put strict parameters on independent schools, requiring them to serve at least 51% publicly funded students to receive taxpayer money.

The House calculated a base funding amount of \$15,033 per student, with implementation starting in 2029.

The Senate version of the bill, to be voted on this week, made significant enough changes to the House version that it lost the support of most school communities.

It changed the redistricting committee to be composed exclusively of legislators, took out the provision for class-size minimums but simultaneously lowered the base funding amount to \$14,870 per student, a number that Sen. Ruth Hardy (D-Addison) said was not rooted in data. The Senate version, however, was friendly to independent schools, authorizing them to serve just 25% of publicly funded students to receive taxpayer money. In the Senate version, the foundation formula plan would also go into effect two years earlier than the House's version, on July 1, 2027.

If the Senate approves the measure this week, it will head to a conference committee, where three House members and three senators will try to reach a consensus before sending a compromised bill to the governor to sign.

### Reactions

The House-passed version of H.454 is not universally supported by the education community, but it does have the support of several major players, including the state associations representing superintendents, school boards, and principals. They all lined up in support of the House bill and now strongly oppose the Senate's updates.

"This is an extreme. It's so far from where the House was," said Mountain Views Superintendent Sherry Sousa, which includes the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock. "There's significantly more legislation in the House [version of H.454] that gives really specific guidelines of how this work needs to happen, whereas the Senate is very focused primarily on restricting funding... To me, this is gutting public education, whereas the House is working very hard to maintain public education and rein in costs," Sousa said.

On Monday, May 19, Vermont public school student leaders called on their peers to walk out of school on Wednesday, May 21, in protest of H.454.

Rebecca LaDue, a junior at Arlington Memorial High School, said, "My school is organizing to bring attention to these attacks on our schools. Our school is small, and the H.454 bill directly affects us. Students and teachers alike recognize the negative impact this will have on our schools."

### Calculating budget implications

Analysis performed by the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO), May 2, calculates the difference between current school districts' FY25 education funding and the estimated "Education Opportunity Payment" under H.454.

Based on those calculations, Mountain Views SU will see its

FY25 budget reduced by 24.6% or about -\$6,237,855. Norwich school district will see a 27.7% reduction or about -\$4 million, and Hartland will see a 20% cut or about -\$2.15 million. All other districts in Windsor County will see a less than 5% change compared with their FY25 budgets.

In Rutland County, Barstow will see a 9.2% reduction or about -\$548,247 cut, and Mettawee School District will see a 4.9% cut or about -\$309,671.

All other districts in Rutland County will see mandated increases in their school spending, the largest of which is a 30.4% increase at Quarry Valley USD equal to \$5.5 million, a 17.7% increase in Ira equal to \$135,423, and a 13.7% increase in Slate Valley USD or \$3.6 million.

### Calculating tax implications

Those in districts with mandated budget cuts have historically voted for higher spending for their local schools. Under H.454, they will not be allowed to continue doing so, but instead will receive lower taxes, according to JFO analysis May 12.

Windsor and Rutland Counties high increases/decreases:

- Norwich SD will see a 26% homestead tax decrease (-\$0.41). An decrease of \$410 per \$100K property value.
- Mountain Views SD will see a 20% tax decrease (-\$0.33)
- Hartland SD will see an 18% tax decrease (-\$0.29)

Those in districts with mandated budget increases have historically supported lower spending for their local schools. Under H.454, they will not be allowed to do so. Instead, they will see tax increases to support the new funding, according to JFO.

- Ira will see a 31% homestead tax increase (\$0.32). An increase of \$320 per \$100K of property value.
- Quarry Valley USD will see a 26% tax increase (\$0.27)
- Slate Valley USD will see a 20% tax increase (\$0.22)
- Pittsfield will see a 12% tax increase (\$0.14)

"Winners are losers, losers are winners," quipped Vermont Public reporter Lola Dufort describing why the move to a foundation formula may be universally unpopular as all versions of the education reform bill (the governors, the Senate's or the House's) runs the risk of substantially raising taxes in the very communities — many of which are economically disadvantaged — that are most sensitive to tax hikes.

"We are one of the Top 5 in terms of per pupil spend. So that's why we're getting such cuts," said Mountain Views Superintendent Sousa. "Our community has consistently voted to support our schools at a very high level and wants that for our students. So it kind of seems like a worst-case scenario for everyone. It's a real lose-lose," Sousa summarized.

H.454 would also repeal the law's current provision allowing residents to pay some or all of their school taxes based on their income, which 70% of Vermont homeowners do. Instead, H.454 recommit the state to regressive property taxes that hit low- and middle-income residents the hardest.

### Effect on education, what could be cut?

"Anything that's ancillary would have to be considered," Superintendent Sousa said.

"You saw some modeling when we had to cut the \$2 million [for FY25]," Sousa continued. "We looked at what the priorities were for the district, and that was really our commitment to literacy and math and to pre-K... With this level of cuts, we'd have to look at things like class size and class consolidation — the Senate is spouting, 'oh, there's no [mandate for] class size or closing small schools,' but there's no way that we could continue with the class sizes we have if we have to cut at least \$6 million. I think that's really a misrepresentation by the Senate," Sousa continued. "There's no district that can have 10 to 15 students in a class and still get to that per pupil cost."

Consolidation of grades would mean two grades combined in one classroom. No more than two grades are permitted.

When asked if the budget cuts forcing consolidation and increased class size would effectively force small school clo-

tures in the district — Reading Elementary currently has only 37 pre-K-4 students and Barnard has 58 pre-K-6 — Sousa said: "I can't say that, but... everything has to be on the table, and we will have to make really hard choices, and that will be with the recommendations of administrators and conversation with the finance committee and the decision of the full board."

Staffing cuts would also be effectively mandated, Sousa explained. With "85% of our budget being staff, it will mean people, it will mean positions," she said. "We still have contracts that have mandated increases that we can't ignore; we still have to address double-digit health care increases... I can't even begin to fathom what that would look like."

"We're mandated to have drivers' ed, PE has to be twice a week in our elementary school... There are some things in statute, but even those will be challenging. Once again, we get mandates that are not funded."

Funding building and grounds maintenance, let alone improvements, will also likely be put off. While H.454 does aim to bring back the School Construction Aid Program, thus far, there is no funding for it.

The district would also have to consider steep cuts to after-school activities. For the FY25 budget, the district cut 10% of funding to after-school activities, sports, theater, and music, which equaled about \$70,000 in savings. Deeper cuts to those "would have to go back on the table," Sousa added.

When asked if there were any additional provisions or even new mandates in H.454 to improve educational quality (required language classes or advanced placement classes, for example), Sousa said, "No, none," adding, "There is literacy legislation that went through last year that talks about the kinds of best practices for literacy, but there is nothing in terms of improvement, no."

Woodstock High School is unique in its current offering of 17 AP classes. "If you look around, Windsor High School has no AP, Springfield has no AP, Bellows Falls has no AP, even Hanover High has no AP. Lebanon has 14 AP classes, and White River Valley School has 9. With 17 AP classes at Woodstock, it's the highest number in this area, and our communities and our students expect that... but we will not be able to maintain that."

Woodstock Middle/High School attracts students from outside the district because of the opportunities it is able to offer, Sousa said. "We have 20 different towns sending their kids here because of the high-quality experience. How will we maintain that when we have to cut those courses back?"

Improving education is not a driving factor in H.454, Sousa summarized emphatically. "That is not what this piece of legislation is about," she said. "This piece of legislation is to demonstrate an interest in reducing taxes."

But even on that merit it may fail, she explained, as many of the most economically distressed areas will actually see tax increases under this legislation — forcing them to move out. Also reduced educational and extracurricular opportunities will force others to move out. A further decrease in population will then drive taxes back up. "That's what I'm most concerned about for our region...our community people are going to leave. They're going to go to New Hampshire, they're going to go to private schools... They will take their money and go. We've maintained our enrollment in the district because of the high-quality education our students receive, both in elementary, middle school, and high school. If we cut those programs, all of our AP classes, our electives, our after-school programming, we know what's going to happen to our student enrollment, and when we cut down our enrollment numbers, we significantly impact our tax burden."

### Speak up

When asked what residents should do if they don't like the direction of H.454 — whether because they oppose tax increases or underfunding local schools — Sousa encouraged folks to contact their senators. "The pressure needs to come from our communities. It can't just be a subgroup of superintendents."



# 'The winners are losers and the losers are winners'

That was how Vermont Public reporter Lola Dufort described one of the potential challenges to move to a foundation formula that is included in the education reform bill under consideration. Under a foundation financing system, which is common in most states, each school district receives a standard amount per student adjusted for certain factors like non-English learners, poverty level, high school, etc. It also sets a uniform tax rate across the state (adjusted for property appraisal values), much like we currently have for non-homestead property today.

As Dufort points out, this also may mean that current high spending districts may see lower taxes, but also less money for their schools and lower spending districts may see higher taxes but more funding for their schools. This is just one example why education reform is not easy and is taking the legislative session into overtime.

The Senate version of the bill (H.454) is scheduled to be advanced to the full Senate this week and then to a conference committee of House and Senate members to work out the differences in the two versions of the bill. The two chambers and the administration have varying positions on the implementation timeline, school choice, minimum class sizes, district consolidation and the funding formula. A grand compromise will not come easily.

Two other key issues potentially standing in the way of adjournment are housing and health care. The governor and many legislators from rural parts of the state believe the current version of the housing bill (S.127) is too restrictive for smaller towns to use to help Vermont achieve its housing needs.

The health care bill (S.126) expands the authority of the Green Mountain Care Board and begins the process of allowing reference-based pricing. Included in the legislation are hospital incentives to reduce costs and prices by at least 2.5% (about \$100 million). Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, which is already struggling financially, has filed rate increase requests of 23% for its individual market and over 13% for small businesses. There is widespread agreement that changes need to happen to lower overall costs and resultant insurance rates.

### Other issues of interest:

- The governor issued an executive order to pause enforcement (18 months) of a multi-state plan requiring vehicle manufacturers to meet certain electric vehicle (EV) sales targets for passenger cars and medium- and heavy-trucks in Vermont. The regulation requires manufacturers to ensure that 35% of the cars sold in Vermont in 2026 be electric, which is unrealistic. In 2024, only 12% of new cars



By Rep. Jim Harrison

- sold were plugins.
- The \$9 billion state budget conference report, H.493, was approved by the Senate by a voice vote and a resounding 132-3 vote in the House and has been sent to the governor for his signature.
- Gov. Scott vetoed H.219 over language in the bill that included a requirement that the governor include funding for a new program in future budget proposals to the Legislature. The budget mandate is considered an unconstitutional separation of powers. The governor noted that he supported the program (expanded family access for incarcerated individuals), and the funding is already included in the budget headed to his desk.
- While Scott signed into law, S.27, which appropriates \$1 million to the Treasurer's Office to help erase Vermonters' medical debt (up to \$100 million), he noted concerns that the debt had already been written off and that we may be disincentivizing repayment going forward. The bill, which will take effect July 1, also will prohibit credit reporting agencies from considering Vermonters' medical debt when determining their credit scores.
- The House approved a miscellaneous Fish & Wildlife bill, H.230, which repealed a provision in current law that allows farmers to receive some relief from the state for crops and other damage caused by deer or bears. The bill is now in the Senate.
- The Legislature gave final approval to changes to the 3-acre stormwater law that extends the deadline for final permits by three years to 2028 for areas within the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog watersheds.
- The annual capital construction and state bonding bill, H.494, was approved by both chambers and sent to the governor for his signature.
- The Legislature approved S.53, which establishes certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services. Approximately half of the other states provide similar licensing and Medicaid coverage.
- The Senate Education Committee included a provision recommended by House members that would require all schools to adopt a cell phone use policy by students as part of a miscellaneous education bill, H.480, under consideration.

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



By Polly Mikula

Casella workers stand atop what will be a 750,000 gallon water tank in Killington.

## Municipal water: from page 1

Road to Shagback Mountain and back down to East Mountain Road.

Preload, a company specializing in building prestressed concrete tanks on site, is sending a crew from Texas to build the water tank on Shagback Mountain. Gokey estimated that about 20 crew members would be living in the area for about three months until the tank is completed — sometime in August. At that point, Casella will come back in for landscaping. Substantial completion is slated for September with final completion in early October.

All electrical controls will be housed in the well-house and pump-house. The only power at the tank will be solar to power a sensor to detect the water level in the tank.

Separately, a bit farther down the mountain, SUR Construction West, Inc. of Winchester, New Hampshire, has also been making significant progress putting water pipes under Killington Road. SUR Construction was awarded the bid for Contract 4, which will hook into a water main connection on East Mountain Road (where the line from down from the Shagback Mountain tank) and bring the water to the proposed village area, then continue down "Road H" (yet to be built behind Still on the Mountain) to Killington Road to the intersection of Ravine Road. The Contract 4 waterline will be gravity fed from the storage tank, with two pressure-reducing valves.

Work began at Ravine Road in April and crews have been working up the road (south) since at a rate of about 300 feet per day.

"Thus far SUR hasn't hit ledge," said Brady Roy, of Dufresne Group. "But this portion was pretty well blasted in the '80s when they last did a major rebuild of Killington Road... farther up past the Lookout, we're less sure what we'll find," he added.

SUR Construction estimated that it would take 405 days to complete, with a planned break in the schedule next winter, according to its bid.

A portion of Contract 4 — East Mountain Road through the proposed village — is within the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. The portion from The Lookout to Ravine Road is outside of the TIF district and will instead be financed through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant, according to Sherman.

At Town Meeting Day Killington in March voters overwhelmingly approved a bond (not to exceed \$11.2 million) for the final portion of the new municipal water system — Contract 5, 6A, and 7. Bids for 5 and 6A (Ravine Road to Anthony Way) will be going out in the fall, according to Sherman. Bids for Contract 7 (west along Route 4 from the base of Killington Road) won't be solicited for about two years, she said.

Homeowners and businesses along the new waterline will be notified of meetings with the town to discuss what's required to hook-up. The next prospective water users meeting is Monday, June 16 at 10 a.m. Anyone interested should email Sherman at: [publicworks@killingtontown.com](mailto:publicworks@killingtontown.com).

The first working water hook-ups are anticipated by next summer (2026).



By Polly Mikula

The pump house on Route 4 will treat municipal water before pumping it uphill to the tank.



## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Must H.454 be medicine that's too awful to swallow?

By Angelo Lynn

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

On Thursday, May 15, the Senate Finance Committee gave H.454, the Legislature's revised school funding bill, its final review and sent it to the full Senate to vote on this week. House and Senate members will confer, finetune and are expected to reach enough of a consensus to send a bill to Gov. Scott.

That's no small feat. The 160-page bill reworks how education is funded in Vermont. It also puts in place measures that will force school consolidations and, it is hoped, enough cost savings to make the pain worthwhile.

We phrase the argument like that because there will be much pain, and there's little to suggest H.454 will make Vermont's school system better for students, or for parents. Students will spend more times on buses, small communities will be weaker; tight-knit schools will be closed.

The Legislation promises to make school funding less expensive — its primary goal — which would be applauded by a majority of the state's taxpayers. But even that may be something legislatures are skeptical of.

That's a harsh reality and it doesn't demonstrate much hope for the state's future.

If the bill has flaws, and they all do, the biggest flaw in this legislation is the lack of faith in the state's small, rural communities. That's stated directly in measures that set (in the House version) class-size minimums for grades K-12, including 12 students for kindergarten, 15 for grades 1-4, and 18 for grades 5-12. Grades can be combined, but not more than two grades for any one class. Furthermore, schools operating grades 6-12, or any subset of those grades, would be required to have a minimum enrollment of 450 students. (In 2023, 180 schools in Vermont would not have met that minimum enrollment; and hundreds of elementary schools in the state would have to consolidate to meet the class-size minimums.)

Those proposed consolidations were mild compared to Gov. Phil Scott's initial recommendation to consolidate the state's 119 school districts to just five (ranging in size from 10,175 to 34,105 student in each). The Legislature's proposal would ask experts to propose district lines that would seek to have 4,000 students each.

Any sentimentality over smallness and the power of community, however, is met with irrefutable facts.

As Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, who is chairman of the House Education Committee, has said, the state's changing demographics tell the story. Vermont has 40,000 fewer students in our schools compared to the mid-1980s and the economics of scale does matter. Moreover, Vermont has put off this reckoning for the past two decades, partially in the hopes that Vermont's quality of life would draw enough young parents to turn those demographics around.

That hasn't happened for other stark reasons: our astronomical health care costs drive young families away, as does the lack of affordable and available housing. Nor does our job market always appeal to a younger generation at wages that are competitive throughout the region. If Vermont were just average on any of those three metrics, we would attract more young families, but we're far from average — we're at the high end on the expense side of things and on the low end with career opportunities. In short,

Swallow H.454 → 14



Reverse Robin Hood by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

## LETTERS

### Bill Vines for Killington Select Board

Dear Editor,

Since I announced my candidacy, many residents have spoken to me about their concerns for Killington. Taxes and education funding, for example, are often mentioned. Not surprisingly, everyone agrees that taxes need to be controlled and education funding needs to be solved.

Virtually everyone has spoken to me about how the town is being managed. The 12% town budget increase and the high turnover at the Town Manager's office have created much uncertainty. As a private citizen, I have spoken with the new town manager. I am confident that he can stabilize the office and bring sound management processes back to town hall.

Concerns about ongoing and future projects also resonate. Many question costs, schedule, and town liability with Killington Forward and the TIF. Most residents grasp the scope of these projects, but a common concern

Vines → 14

### Education transformation bill will gut local education

Dear Editor,

*Editor's note: This is an open letter directed to the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) communities dated May 19. Similar letters were sent out by many superintendents and school officials including Sherry Sousa at Mountain Views SU in Woodstock.*

As you may know, the Vermont House and the Senate have been working on H.454, the "Education Transformation" bill, based on the proposal that the governor and the Agency of Education presented at the start of the legislative session.

We are writing today to update you on the current iteration of the bill, which, on Thursday, May 15, the Senate Finance Committee voted 5-2 to advance.

This bill has many implications for our communities.

Based on current projections tied to the proposed foundation formula, this legislation would result in a significant reduction in funding for our districts.

The impact would be immediate and severe: we would face deep staffing cuts along with the loss of academic and extracurricular programs. Perhaps most concerning, the foundation formula in the Senate bill would eliminate our community's ability to vote on a local school budget, centralizing all education funds at the Agency of Education and removing your voice from the process.

The consequences of this shift cannot be overstated.

A loss of local control combined with substantial funding cuts would jeopardize the high-quality educational experiences our students currently receive. Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting robust learning opportunities for all students. This proposal directly undermines that tradition and the values we hold as a community.

Now is the time to speak up and ensure our students

Getting public ed → 13

### Conflict of interest

Dear Editor,

I read the Select Board candidates' answers in the latest issue of the Mountain Times, and I'd like to address the conflict-of-interest question further. My comments are not specifically directed at any particular candidate or candidates or even the current Select Board or other town board or commission members. Each current candidate has answered the question about current or future potential conflicts, but my points are directed more toward the appearance of conflict, an issue specifically addressed in state law, along with actual conflicts.

What is "appearance" rather than actual conflict? Actual conflict is defined as:

A conflict of interest exists 1. If you have a direct or indirect interest in a matter you have influence or control over at work or; 2. A member of your immediate family or household, or a business associate of yours, has an interest in a matter you have interest or control

Conflict → 36



CAPITOL QUOTES

H.454

Governor Scott's landmark education bill, H.454, advanced through a key Senate committee, but many in the Legislature have issues with the proposed legislation.

“I can’t remember ever feeling as bad about a vote as I do on this one, but it will move us forward,” said Senate Finance Committee Chair **Ann Cummings** after voting H.454 out of committee.

“I’m extremely uncomfortable with all of this,” said Sen. **Martine Gulick**, D-Chittenden Central, who voted “no.”

“The question is how uncomfortable you are at the prospect of these changes versus doing nothing at all,” said Sen. **Randy Brock**, R-Franklin, who voted “yes.”

“I had serious concerns with the bill as it passed out of the Senate Education Committee. Unfortunately, the Senate Finance Committee made the bill even worse,” said Sen. **Ruth Hardy**, D-Addison, who voted “no.”

Hardy outlined 10 “significant problems with the Senate version of H.454.”

1. It will not lower property taxes, especially for the people who need it most
2. It will under-fund public schools
3. It creates a funding formula that is not based on empirical analysis and is possibly unconstitutional
4. It includes a rushed, political process for consolidating school districts
5. It does not address the major cost-drivers in school budgets
6. It maintains private school vouchers and does not sufficiently limit public funding for private schools
7. It imposes an unrealistic timeline for change that will create chaos
8. It fails to advance needed reforms at the state or local level
9. It eliminates the structure for taxing upscale second homes at a higher rate than primary residences
10. It does not center kids and lacks a clear understanding of how K-12 schools actually work

COMMENTARY

Housing by the numbers:  
The high cost of low quality data

“In God we trust, all others bring data,” said W. Edwards Deming.

Human beings are hard-wired for narrative, storytelling, connecting with other humans by sharing experiences and detailing characters, plot, dialogue, spectacle, theme, and action.

We tell stories to build relationships, establish rapport, teach, persuade, inspire, establish credibility, create empathy, entertain, persuade juries, and accomplish goals ranging from selling baubles to



The Accidental  
Activist  
By Stephen Box

changing the world.

We are storytellers. We love stories so much that we favor great anecdotes over dry data, and here lies the problem regarding housing in Vermont.

Data and anecdotes are two different things.

Anecdotes may be true and emotionally powerful stories, but they do not represent statistical evidence. They describe

an individual experience and may give context, but they do not offer a larger point

Accidental Activist → 35

← Gutting public ed:  
from page 12

do not lose access to the education they deserve.

The Senate’s current proposal significantly underfunds public education, fails to address the real drivers of rising costs, and places an unjustified burden on local taxpayers, without offering improved outcomes or opportunities for students.

Below is a summary of these critical issues, with links to more detailed information for your review.

1. Deep cuts to education,  
sharp tax increases  
for some

The bill locks future education spending to FY25 levels and applies a limited inflation index that does not account for projected spikes in healthcare and other core costs. This will force many school districts to make deep cuts to essential services: educators, support staff, and administrators, as well as academic, extracurricular, and student support programs. Meanwhile, many taxpayers will face steep increases, making this both inequitable and unsustainable.

2. No action on  
major cost drivers

The legislation does nothing to confront the primary cost drivers affecting school budgets: rising healthcare costs, housing shortages, outdated infrastructure, and increasing student mental health needs. It also leaves districts burdened with unfunded and underfunded mandates from the state.

3. Incomplete and risky  
foundation formula

Rather than proposing a comprehensive, evidence-based model, the Senate has offered fragmented and incoherent changes. This piecemeal approach lacks transparency, undermines equity, and potentially exposes the state to legal challenges under the *Brigham*

The consequences of this shift cannot be overstated.

decision. For Hartland, this could result in funding losses amounting to over 2 million dollars. For Weathersfield, this could result in funding losses of roughly \$170,000. For Mount Ascutney, this could result in funding losses of roughly \$60,000.

In addition to the lost funding, the bill eliminates the local community’s right to vote on their district budget, replacing local control with centralized state decision-making.

4. Politicized and  
inexperienced redistricting  
task force

The Senate proposes replacing the House’s skilled and educationally experienced subcommittee with an all-legislator task force to guide school district redesign. This would politicize a process that demands education expertise and community representation. Notably, there is no educator

voice included in this draft legislation. This would mean further loss of local governance—decisions affecting our schools would be made by those with little to no public education experience.

We are aligned with the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) and the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) in urging the full Senate to vote no on this version of H.454. The proposed amendments compromise opportunity, undermine sustainability, preserve inefficiencies, and severely underfund Vermont’s public education system.

We encourage you to voice your concerns directly to our local senators:

- Senator Joe Major: jmajor@leg.state.vt.us
- Senator Becca White: rwhite@leg.state.vt.us
- Senator Alison Clarkson: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us

Your advocacy is essential to preserving the quality, opportunity, and integrity of public education in the WSE-SU and across Vermont.

With appreciation,  
**Christine Bourne**, WSESU  
Superintendent  
**Bill Yates**, WSESU School  
Board Chair  
**Nicole Buck**, Hartland  
School Board Chair  
**AnneMarie Redmond**,  
Weathersfield School Board  
Chair  
**Davis McGraw**, Mount Ascutney School Board Chair



## Swallow H.454: from page 12

until Vermont solves its health care and housing crises, our demographics aren't likely to improve.

### Changes, alternative solutions

That said, the Senate version of the bill removes the class-size stipulations for good reason. As Sen. Steve Heffernan said at a Vergennes forum on May 10, the Senate's thinking "is that we have to look after the small schools that are efficient and able to work within the budget they're given."

That's an opening to suggest there's more than one way to tackle the issue.

Nor is H.454 the cat's meow.

In a community forum penned by 19 former Vermont legislators, many of whom worked on and passed Act 60 (and Acts 68 and 46), they appealed to Vermont legislators to reject H.454 and instead work within the current system to make it better.

"Vermont's [current] education funding system is committed both to fair taxation and local decision making, and we can strengthen both of those. Instead, H.454... weakens them... (and) would repeal the law's current provision allowing residents to pay some or all of their school taxes based on their income, which 70% of Vermont homeowners do. Instead, H.454 recommitments the state to regressive property taxes that hit low- and middle-income residents the hardest..."

"None of the sweeping changes in H.454, the associated risks, nor the hassles to school districts are necessary... And while the governor likes to say the message from the election was that schools are spending too much, that's not the case. School spending in Vermont as a percentage of the state's economy has been a stable 5.5% to 6% for decades.

"... (H. 454) in reaching for elusive 'efficiencies,' with promises of better education, the bill doubles down on school consolidation, which many Vermonters have rejected; that will alienate more citizens by taking budgetary decision-making out of communities' hands.

"There are immediate, affordable changes to the existing law that would make the system fairer for the Vermonters hurt last year. Instead of rushing to new and unproven... financing mechanisms and an unprecedented move away from local control, the Legislature should

H.454... would repeal the law's current provision allowing residents to pay some or all of their school taxes based on their income, which 70% of Vermont homeowners do. Instead, H.454 recommitments the state to regressive property taxes that hit low- and middle-income residents the hardest...

adopt those changes."

It's a legitimate point, though the authors didn't suggest what changes they were talking about, nor did those alleged "changes" make it through the committee process, which was surely tried.

### Small-school, big-heart thinking

Still, a better bill would provide more options for communities with small schools but big hearts — and the wherewithal to make their school viable. The Senate's omission of class-size limits so as not to hamstring schools allows them to think outside the box. It allows for creativity and innovation. That's a start.

The challenge from there is to craft legislation that allows for such small-school/big-heart exceptions, while still meeting the constitutional mandate to provide education equanimity to all students. If done well, the bill would be that much better, even if the savings are a fraction less.

## Vines: from page 12

is whether the town can successfully manage them without incurring future unfunded financial liabilities.

The balance of future development in Killington is also mentioned. The infrastructure construction phase of Killington Forward is visible across large sections of the town. When this phase transitions to Great Gulf, putting shovels in the ground to build the Village, will the developers' plan find the right balance between their needs and the needs of the Killington

community at large? We should know in a few months when Great Gulf unveils its actual village design.

Concerns aside, my conversations have also renewed my confidence about the future. People want to be part of Killington, and Killington is moving forward.

Balloting for two new Select Board seats will take place on May 28. I ask voters to vote for me.

I believe that Killington's future is bright.

*Bill Vines, Killington*

## Fed prison: from page 6

Caruso said he intends to return to Ludlow after his prison term is finished and said he plans to use the time while incarcerated to seek permits to build condominiums, houses and hotels on his land ownings surrounding the golf course.

Caruso was initially set to surrender April 8, but he was granted an extension to April 22 to "arrange accommodations for his businesses," according to a request letter filed with the court.

On April 18, Caruso was granted a second extension of his surrender date to May 9 for additional time for business arrangements. The request letter filed to the court by Caruso's lawyer stated that "26 of his company accounts have been cancelled, in addition to his personal and business credit cards."

In an interview on April 23, Caruso said he had several outstanding work-related tasks, including initiating new lines of credit and helping with the engineering phase for a condominium project at the Fox Run Golf Course, before his surrender date.

In interviews a week prior, Caruso said staff are in place to manage his businesses in Ludlow — including the Fox Run Golf Club and his restaurants — while he serves his sentence. Caruso expects this to be the "busiest year ever" for his various establishments, with the golf club opening for the spring and summer season and his restaurants "all running properly."

Caruso's 37 limited liability companies based in Ludlow will remain registered under his name as principal manager, he said, except for Sam's Steakhouse, which the Federal Emergency Management Agency intends to buy out after the building sustained significant flood damage. Caruso's other business that sustained flood damage, Mr. Darcy's Bar and Burger, is expected to reopen later this year as a private Bourbon and Cigar bar, he said.

In a Feb. 14 letter addressed to the U.S. District Judge Lewis J. Liman, Caruso expressed remorse for his criminal conduct and wrote that his actions were influenced by a downturn in the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"My conduct has risked everything I worked so hard to achieve in life. I have also risked the future of my businesses, and more importantly, the future of my employees," Caruso wrote. "I have lost construction jobs, two lines of credits with two different banks, consulting contracts, multiple credit cards, reputational damage, golf members, customers and endless opportunities."

The Ludlow municipal manager, the Ludlow Select Board vice chair and the executive director of the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce said they had no comment on Caruso's sentencing and the potential impacts on Ludlow's community and local economy.

## Phone-free schools: from page 8

Scott's desk by the end of the session. The miscellaneous education bill is expected to soon hit the Senate floor before returning to the House, which needs to approve the new amendment to the bill.

"I feel like I still have to reserve a little caution, because there are still a couple steps, and things can always change," Rep. Angela Arsenault (D-Williston), the lead sponsor of H.54, said in an interview. "But when it passes, I'm going to feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for everyone involved and making it happen, and relief for our kids and our teachers."

In Vermont, a broad spectrum of advocates have said that a ban on smartphones and similar devices would go a long way toward alleviating soaring rates of depression, anxiety and other mental health issues among students.

After being added this week to a miscellaneous education bill, phone-free school legislation could make it to Gov. Phil Scott's desk by the end of this legislative session.

"Our students are struggling mentally, socially [and] academically," Benjamin Clark, a teacher at the Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School in South Burlington, told lawmakers this week while speaking in support of the measure. "And while there are many causes, one cause stands out clearly: the omnipresence of personal technology during the school day."

The legislation would also prohibit schools from using social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram to communicate with students or from otherwise requiring students to have social media to engage in school activities. According to Arsenault, Vermont would be the first state in the country to adopt such a ban.

"It's really a recognition that social media is not good for kids and that schools and educators should not be signaling that it is," she said.

Mounting concerns about the emotional and cognitive impacts of smartphone and social media use among children have fueled a nationwide movement to limit the use of personal devices in schools.

Already 21 states have enacted laws either requiring districts to adopt phone-free policies or outright banning phones in public schools statewide. Nine other states, meanwhile, either recommend policies or incentivize districts to ban devices by providing state funding for pilot programs.

Many countries have also put into place nationwide versions of a classroom smartphone ban, including France, Italy, and Brazil.

Vermont could follow suit by the end of the year. Assuming lawmakers do pass H.480, the bill will go before Republican Governor Phil Scott, who has signaled his interest in taking smartphones out of the classroom.

In a written statement, Amanda Wheeler, a spokesperson for Scott, said that although the governor had not yet reviewed the specific language included in the miscellaneous education bill, he "has generally been supportive of phone-free school policies."

"We often hear phones in the classroom [and in professional settings, for that matter] can be distracting," Wheeler said, "so by implementing these policies, which some schools have already done, it helps students to focus on learning"



Submitted  
Yondr pouches are one common tool used to lock up devices at school.



WORDPLAY

HONOR AND PRIDE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

BRANCH  
CEMETERY  
DRAFT  
DUTY

ENLIST  
FALLEN  
FEARLESS  
FLAG

HEROES  
HONOR  
MEMORIAL  
MEMORY

MILITARY  
OBSERVED  
PLATOON  
REMEMBER

RESPECT  
SACRIFICE  
SERVICE  
SOLDIER

SOMBER  
THANKS  
TOUR  
VETERAN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bring up
- 7. Child
- 10. Formal writ-ten defense
- 12. Bangladeshi currency
- 13. Burial site
- 14. In the lead
- 15. Large recesses in a church
- 16. Count on
- 17. Defunct phone company
- 18. Golf scores
- 19. Afflicts
- 21. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 22. Prominence
- 27. "The Great Lakes State"
- 28. SoCal ball-player
- 33. Location of White House
- 34. Magnificence
- 36. Hip hop songstress
- 37. Capital of Yemen
- 38. \_\_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 39. Bomb
- 40. Pancake made of buck-wheat flour
- 41. Pinkish-violet color
- 44. A way to make right
- 45. Monument

- to one buried elsewhere
- 48. Region south of Dead Sea
- 49. Acts out against
- 50. Harsh cry of a crow
- 51. Formal title for a woman
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Kitchen devices
- 2. Wings
- 3. Mythological birds
- 4. Everyone has one
- 5. Matchstick game
- 6. Bar bill
- 7. Weights
- 8. Satisfactorily
- 9. Small amount
- 10. Tree types
- 11. Small protu-berances
- 12. Equivalent of 100K BTU
- 14. Type of horse
- 17. More (Span-ish)
- 18. Argentinian province
- 20. A bad act
- 23. Moving in a circular way
- 24. Battery type
- 25. Atomic #58
- 26. Popular

			1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9
		10	11									12		
		13										14		
		15										16		
17											18			
19				20							21			
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		40								41	42	43		
44								45	46	47				
48								49						
50								51						

- breakfast food
- 29. An alternative
- 30. Tooth caregiver
- 31. A way to conform
- 32. Disfigured men
- 35. Cool!
- 36. Genus of mosses
- 38. Body part
- 40. Kashmiri people
- 41. Round water pot

- 42. Something to purchase
- 43. Emit coherent radiation
- 44. Indicates 10
- 45. Advertising metric
- 46. Pitching stat
- 47. Head movement



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.

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

Level: Beginner

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born on May 31, 1965 in New York. I began modeling as an infant and continued through childhood. Modeling turned into an acting career, and my feature film debut was in a horror film. My second and third films caused controversy for risqué content considering my young age.

Answer: Brooke Shields

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- **Smart Home**



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**WED**  
5/21

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

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

### Spring Cleaning: Organizing and Decluttering

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland City. Free. Workshop with professional home organizer Kris Harmelink. Learn tips and systems for a successful spring clean. [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com).

### Active Seniors Lunch

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

### Gentle & Restorative Yoga

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

### Senior Planet Technology Exploring & Downloading Apps

2-3:15 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland City. Free. 60+. Hands-on workshop to learn how to search for an download apps to your smartphone. You'll also learn how to delete apps and adjust settings. [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com).

### Cribbage for Adults

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

### Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

### Figure Drawing with Live Model

5-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$20. Monthly figure drawing session with a live model. Participants must bring their own supplies. Sign up for four sessions at a discounted rate of \$60. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Book Group

5:30-6:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Monthly book group will discuss "The Happiest Man on Earth" by Eddie Jaku. RSVP required. In partnership with Phoenix Books; members receive 20% off the monthly book. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

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

### Silent Book Club

5:30-8 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe, 31 Center St., Rutland. Free. Bring your own book and settle in for a quiet evening of uninterrupted reading. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with time to mingle, browse the Phoenix Books pop-up, or grab a drink before the 6-8 p.m. silent reading session. [phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz).

### Watercolor Wednesdays – Songbirds

6-7:30 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., upstairs, Rutland. \$25. Beginner-friendly watercolor class led by local artist Caitlin G. Ages 15+; all supplies included. Refreshments available. [kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site](http://kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site).

### Beginner & Intermediate Line Dancing Lessons

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

### Jazz Cafe

7 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. Enjoy an evening of live jazz with Harry Drum on sax, Ron White on bass, Dan Noto on guitar, and Gary Schmidt on piano. [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org).

### Film Screening: 'Sinners' (R)

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Twin brothers, Smoke and Stack, envision a juke joint, but get more than they bargained for. Michael B. Jordan and Hailee Steinfeld sizzle in Ryan Coogler's can't miss thriller. [playhouseflicks.com](http://playhouseflicks.com).

**THURS**  
5/22

### Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

### Hiking Group - Rail Trail

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland City. 18+. Free. Moderate elevations. Hikers encouraged to wear sturdy footwear, long sleeves/pants to protect against ticks. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Godnick Center to carpool. [rutlandrec.com](http://rutlandrec.com).

### Intermediate Line Dance

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

### Survivors Support Group

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

### Bone Builders

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

### Chaffee: Artery

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

### Ukelele Group

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

### Play Bridge!

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

### Trail Sit and Sips presented by Lawson's – Mt. Peg

4-7:30 p.m. Lower Know Meadow Parking Lot, Woodstock. Free. Join VMBA, Woodstock Area Mountain Bike Association, and Lawson's Finest Liquids to kick off the biking season with guided rides, on-site membership sales, and an après gathering featuring Lawson's brews (21+). Raffle at 7:15 p.m. for current members and those who sign up at the event. Parking available at both lower and upper lots. [vmba.org/events](http://vmba.org/events).

### Sip + Shop

5-8 p.m. Downtown Rutland businesses, check-in at 4:30 p.m. at Depot Park, Rutland. \$15-\$25. Explore Downtown Rutland during this spring Sip + Shop event, pairing local food and drink producers with downtown businesses. Enjoy tastings, sales, raffles, and more across up to 20 participating locations. Includes tasting glass, shopping bag, and raffle entry. Must be 21+ with ID to sample alcoholic beverages. [downtownrutland.com/sipandshop](http://downtownrutland.com/sipandshop).

### Sip 'n' Dip

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. \$35. A fun night out following along with instructor Sally Hogan to create a finished acrylic painting. BYO wine. All supplies included. Minimum 5 participants. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### 'La Traviata' at the Paramount Theatre

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$30-\$50. Opera Vermont presents Verdi's "La Traviata" featuring Italian soprano Scilla Cristiano in her American debut as Violetta. With baritone David Small as Giorgio Germont and tenor Theo Cohen as Alfredo. Conducted by Cailin Marcel Manson and staged by Joshua Collier. [operavermont.com/latraviata](http://operavermont.com/latraviata). [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

### Film Screening: 'Sinners' (R)

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Twin brothers, Smoke and Stack, envision a juke joint, but get more than they bargained for. Michael B. Jordan and Hailee Steinfeld sizzle in Ryan Coogler's can't miss thriller. [playhouseflicks.com](http://playhouseflicks.com).

### Mudstock Celebration: Cold Chocolate in Concert

6:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. Pay what you will. Celebrate Vermont's most overlooked season with a community reception, mudpies, and live music from Americana/folk band Cold Chocolate. This first-ever Mudstock Celebration benefits Pentangle Arts. Advance tickets recommended. Reception at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m. [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

**FRI**  
5/23

### ESBR Yard Sale Fundraiser

8 a.m.-3 p.m. The Expeditionary School at Black River, 43 Main St., Ludlow. Students are hosting a community yard sale to raise funds for school apparel. Donations of clean, gently used items (no appliances or electronics) accepted through May 23. Items may be dropped off weekdays at student arrival or between 3-4:30 p.m. or by appointment at 802-233-8357. [esblackriver.org](http://esblackriver.org).

### Vermont Diversifying the Educator Workforce Summit

8:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Killington Grand Resort Hotel, 228 East Mountain Road, Killington. Free. This summit convenes students, educators, higher education and state leaders, and community organizations to strategize ways to create a more inclusive and representative educator workforce in Vermont. Sessions will focus on recruiting, hiring, supporting, and sustaining educators of the Global Majority, with action-oriented workshops and youth engagement. [greatschoolspartnership.org](http://greatschoolspartnership.org).

### Memorial Day Celebration

9-10 a.m. Rutland Town School Gym, 1612 Post Road, Rutland Town. Free. Annual Memorial Day ceremony open to visitors. [rts.grcsu.org](http://rts.grcsu.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](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

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

## ESBR YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

FRI. 8 A.M.-3 P.M.





← **Calendar:** .....  
from page 16

## ALIVE AND KICKING: CLASSICOPIA PIANO TRIO CONCERT

FRIDAY & SATURDAY



### West Coast Swing Dance Classes

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

### ALIVE and KICKING – Classicopia Piano Trio Concert

7:30 p.m. Old South Church, 146 Main St., Windsor. \$18. Pianist Daniel Weiser joins violinist Emmanuel Borowsky and cellist Frances Borowsky for a lively program of trios by living composers. Works include Heleen Verleur's rhythm-driven trio, Paul Schoenfield's genre-blending "Café Music," and Stephen Dankner's lush, neo-Romantic trio. classicopia.org.

### Film Screening: 'Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning' (PG-13)

7:30-10:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$12. Tom Cruise returns as Ethan Hunt in this high-stakes conclusion to the Mission: Impossible saga. Action-packed and full of twists, the film explores the weight of past choices and the future of the Impossible Mission Force. pentanglearts.org.

### Film Screening: 'Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning' (PG-13)

7:30- 10:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Tom Cruise, as super spy Ethan Hunt, dons disguises and performs stunts that seem anything but possible. playhouseflicks.com.

**SAT**  
5/24

### Vermont Farmers Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Depot Park, Downtown Rutland. Free. Outdoor market open for the season. Shop local produce, crafts, and goods every Saturday through Oct 25. vtfarmersmarket.org.

### Trail Sit

9-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails for outdoor mindfulness and nature-connection experience along the trail. All ages welcome; no prior experience needed. slatevalleytrails.org.

### Healthy Kids Kitchen: Snack Time Cooking Class

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mission Farm Kitchen, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. \$48. Kids ages 9-12 will learn to make snack-ready recipes including flaky chicken hand pies, yogurt parfaits, oat muffins, and mini egg bites. Includes a shared meal and possibly leftovers. Register and note any allergies. missionfarmkitchen.org.

### Mount Tom Farmers Market

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Saturdays) Saskadena Six parking lot, 247 Stage Road, South Pomfret. Shop local produce, handmade goods, and crafts at Woodstock's oldest open-air market. Enjoy trails, picnic spots, and a growing list of local vendors every Saturday through Oct. 18. woodstockvt.com.

### Ascutey Day: Annual Summit Hike & Picnic

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mt. Ascutey Summit Stone Hut site, Windsor. Free. Hike one of the base-to-summit trails or drive the auto road and walk a half mile to join the 57th annual gathering. Enjoy snacks, refreshments, and community at the summit. ascuteytrails.com.

### Family Sheep & Wool Day

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included with general admission ticket (free for members). Experience Vermont's sheep farming heritage through hands-on activities like fleece cleaning, carding, spinning, and yarn dyeing. Meet lambs, fiber goats, and rabbits, watch sheep-herding demos at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and enjoy live bluegrass from 1-3 p.m. Sheep meet-and-greets and story times throughout the day. Food available from Sustainable Eats, Vermont Snack Shack, and the Scoop Shop. billingsfarm.org.

### Dinosaur Discoveries

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$5. Explore dinosaur discoveries through live animal encounters, fossil-themed crafts, and a bone scavenger hunt designed for families with children ages 4 and up. Registration required; VINS Nature Center admission not included. vinsweb.org.

### Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

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

### 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.

### Miss Lorraine's School of Dance: Jungle Vibes

1 & 6 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$25-\$30. Enjoy a lively performance featuring recreational dancers and competition teams as they bring the rainforest to life through music, movement, and colorful creativity. A showcase of beginner to award-winning routines. paramountvt.org.

### ALIVE and KICKING – Classicopia Piano Trio Concert

2 p.m. Home of Andrew Bauman, 221 Newton Lane, Norwich/White River Junction. \$20-\$40. Pianist Daniel Weiser joins violinist Emmanuel Borowsky and cellist Frances Borowsky for a lively program of trios by living composers. Works include Heleen Verleur's rhythm-driven trio, Paul Schoenfield's genre-blending "Café Music," and Stephen Dankner's lush, neo-Romantic trio. classicopia.org.

### MANGA for KIDS!

2-4 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$25. Kids ages 6-14 will learn how to draw in Japanese manga style. No prior art experience required. All supplies included. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

### Film Screening: 'Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning' (PG-13)

7:30-10:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$12. Tom Cruise returns as Ethan Hunt in this high-stakes conclusion to the Mission: Impossible saga. Action-packed and full of twists, the film explores the weight of past choices and the future of the Impossible Mission Force. pentanglearts.org.

### Film Screening: 'Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning' (PG-13)

7:30-10:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Tom Cruise, as super spy Ethan Hunt, dons disguises and performs stunts that seem anything but possible. playhouseflicks.com.

**SUN**  
5/25

### Ludlow Farmers Market

9 a.m.-1 p.m. 37 S Depot St., Ludlow. Free. Weekly outdoor market featuring local vendors every Sunday through October. ludlowmarket.org.

### Movement Improvisation Lab

10 a.m.-noon. Sundays (through June 22), Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. A five-week exploratory series in guided movement play with dancer and choreographer Melisa Clark. Open to all curious movers—no prior dance training required. Each session includes breath-based warm-ups, improvisation, creative reflection, and instant composition. \$125 for the full series or \$30 per session. pimagroup.org.

### Film Screening: 'Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning' (PG-13)

2 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 139 Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Tom Cruise, as super spy Ethan Hunt, dons disguises and performs stunts that seem anything but possible. playhouseflicks.com.

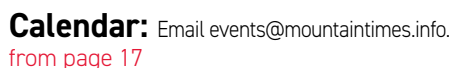
Calendar → 18

## FAMILY SHEEP & WOOL DAY

SAT. @ 10 A.M.-5 P.M.







**MON**  
5/26

**TUES**  
5/27

## ONGOING

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

**Vermont Spring Open Studio Weekend**  
May 24-25. Times/locations vary. Presented by the Vermont Crafts Council, artists across the state open their workspaces for a behind-the-scenes look at fine art and craft making. Includes studio tours, gallery exhibits, and live demonstrations. For maps and artist sites, visit: [vermontcrafts.com](http://vermontcrafts.com).

## UPCOMING

May 29 from 4-9 p.m. at The Foundry at Summit Pond, 63 Summit Path, Killington. 50% of the evening's proceeds benefit Killington Mountain School. The senior class of 2025—KMS's largest ever—will serve as guest servers throughout the evening. [killingtonmountainschool.org](http://killingtonmountainschool.org).

 **Billings Farm & Museum**  
**Family Sheep & Wool**  
**Saturday, May 24 - 10am - 5pm**

EAT  
DRINK  
SHOP  
LOCAL





[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED  
5/21

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND

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

THUR  
5/22

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Jacob Green

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Carl Anton

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe – Trivia Night

RUTLAND Cont.

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

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic Night

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Sandy and Vincent

6:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre – Mudstock Celebration Reception & Concert: Cold Chocolate

FRI  
5/23

BOMOSEEN

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

6 p.m. The Lakehouse – Ryan Fuller

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

6 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Taproom Trivia

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Rebecca Padula

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Rick Webb

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

POULTNEY

9 a.m. Main Street – Poultney Arts Day – Music by Carl Anton

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Matthew "Lobo" Willis

QUECHEE

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

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Em and Nat

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room – Dutch Experts with Haitlin and Wicked Louder

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

7 p.m. Bailey's Place – Liz Reedy

SAT  
5/24

BOMOSEEN

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

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mills Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Matt Vita and Friends

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

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

LONDONDERRY

7 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Lou McNally

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Frogz

6 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music With Rivalry

RANDOLPH

10 a.m. Gifford Medical Center – Farmers Market with Liz Reedy

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Rutland Country Club – Ryan Fuller

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Bobby Sheehan

SUN  
5/25

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Ryan Fuller

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Peet O Trio

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. Snowshed Umbrella Bar – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Sammy B

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

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

LUDLOW

9 a.m. Farmers Market – Sammy B

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON  
5/26

KILLINGTON

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

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

LUDLOW

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

RUTLAND

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

TUES  
5/27

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Town Hall – Open Jam

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

RUTLAND

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

GOLD SPONSORS:

Rutland Regional Medical Center, Killington, HERITAGE FAMILY CREDIT UNION, Community Health, COMMUNITY HEALTH, CARRISPELLO, SAMESUN, VELCO

SEASON SPONSORS:

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UPCOMING SHOWS

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FOR THE COMPLETE LISTING



THURSDAY, MAY 22 | 7:00 PM

The Metropolitan Opera

HD LIVE ENCORE



SERIES PRESENTED IN HONOR OF *Kathy & Bill Harms*

R. STRAUSS  
SALOME

Tuesday, May 27 | 1 PM



FRIDAY, JUNE 20 | 7:30 PM



THE BOB SEGER EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 | 7:00 PM

The Metropolitan Opera

HD LIVE ENCORE



SERIES PRESENTED IN HONOR OF *Kathy & Bill Harms*

ROSSINI  
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

Tuesday, June 24 | 1 PM

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# Cobra gymnasts completes 13th year of competitions in Vermont

By Shelby Barsalou

*Editor's note: Shelby Barsalou is the owner of Cobra Gymnastics.*

Cobra Gymnastics of Rutland City has brought their 13th competitive season to a strong close with an impressive showing at the USA Gymnastics Region 6 Championships in Westford, Massachusetts on May 17-18.

During the Vermont State Championships on March 22-23, 409 athletes from across the state competed for spots in the Regional Championships.

Cobra's youngest team members, the Bronze Xcel Team, while ineligible to qualify for Regionals, held on to their state title by claiming a 1st place finish over eight Vermont teams with a 115.525 team total. Cobra's Silver and Platinum teams captured 2nd place finishes respectively with team totals of 116.225 and 110.875.

The top 10 gymnasts in each respective level qualified for the Region Six championships. While USA Gymnastics sponsors two competitive tracks for artistic gymnastics (Xcel and Optional) Cobra qualified 11 athletes in total. Mia Harrington, a senior from Burr & Burton Academy and the Vermont state champion on bars, floor and all-around, competed in the Level 8 Optional championships in Springfield, Massachusetts on April 26. Harrington placed a respectable 7th place on beam with an 8.70.

Qualifying 10 athletes in the Xcel program, the Cobra girls found success this past weekend (May 17-18) as they donned their Vermont leotards and represented the Green Mountain State with grace and strength.

The Silver Xcel team, comprised of girls from Cobra and Regal Gymnastics Academy in Essex, posted a fourth place team finish, a rare occasion for Vermont. Competing against Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire, the team showed great showmanship and precision to land a podium finish for Vermont.

Individual Silver Xcel event podium placement includes Bailey Wilbur who set a record for Cobra by placing in all four events and all-around at Regionals. Bailey is an 11-year-old from Whiting who has been competing with Cobra for the past three years. She captured 2nd place on vault (9.475), 8th on bars (9.525), 6th on beam (9.65), 6th on floor (9.475) and 5th place in AA (38.125). She currently holds a spot in the 2025 top 100 floor scores in the nation with a 9.875.

Beatrix Hagge, an 11-year-old from Plymouth and third year member of the team, also landed on the podium. Her outstanding balance beam routine earned her a 9.825 and a 2nd place medal while she stuck her vault for a 5th place finish and a score of 9.4.

Teammate Mina Gugliotta, a 12-year-old from Killington, rose to the occasion in her first year on the competitive team. Gugliotta captured a gold medal at the State Championships in March with a 9.85 on floor.

Representing the All-Star Silvers Domenica Gagliardi, a 9-year-old from Rutland Town, is in her second year of competing for Cobra. Gagliardi captured three gold medals at the State Championships on vault (9.500), bars (9.700) and AA (37.900).

Catherine Welch, a 10-year-old from Poultney, who started gymnastics in 2016, is in her fourth year of competitions for Cobra. Welch captured three gold medals at the State Championships on beam (9.450), floor (9.600) and AA (37.900).

In the Gold All-Star division, Ella Lamson, an 11-year-old from Middletown Springs and four year member of the team, placed 6th on beam (9.45) and 4th on floor (9.475). Lamson began attending gymnastics in 2016 at the age of 3. Teammate Izzy Skuro, 10 of Woodstock, attained a personal best on bars with a 9.10. Skuro captured four titles at the State Championships on vault (8.750), beam (9.600), floor (9.625) and AA (36.850).

Karsyn Koontz of Jamaica, a six-year member of the team, represented Cobra on the Xcel Gold State Team. Koontz has been involved with Cobra since 2017 and is in her last year of com-

petition for Cobra due to a family relocation. Koontz took home two silver medals at the State Championships on vault (9.15) and floor (9.725) and a bronze medal in the AA (37.175).

In the Platinum division, Lacy Carmack, a member of Cobra since 2016 and six-year member of the team, hails from Danby. Carmack stuck her vault for an 8th place finish and captured personal bests on beam and all-around. Carmack also took home two gold medals at the State Championships on bars (9.225) and floor (9.6).

Teammate Ashley Peterman, a 10-year-old from Killington and newest member of the Cobra team, showed great talent and showmanship while representing Cobra on the Xcel Platinum State Team. Peterman attained a personal best on floor with a 9.10 and also captured five titles in the State Championships on vault (8.825), bars (8.925), beam (8.450), floor (9.05) and AA (35.25).

"The confidence, positive teamwork and graceful sportsmanship that is developed for gymnasts at Cobra is life-changing," stated Barsalou. "Coaches are hardworking individuals who strive to make the lives of gymnasts healthy and enjoyable."

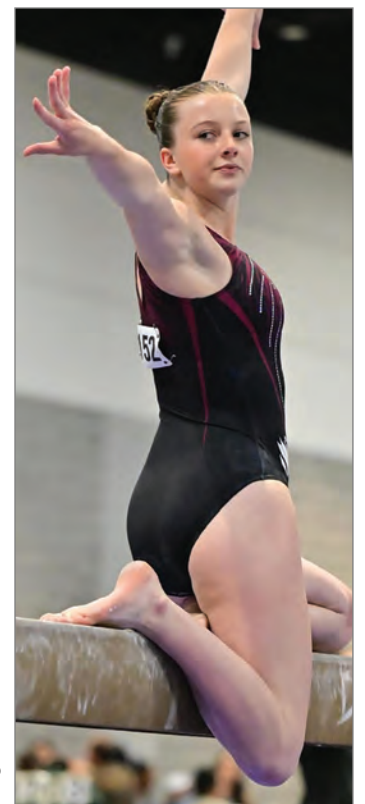
Cobra will offer summer camps and classes this summer from June 30-Aug. 15.

For more photos, visit: [MountainTimes.info](http://MountainTimes.info). For more information about Cobra, visit: [cobravt.com](http://cobravt.com).



Courtesy Team Photo

Left to right: Mina Gugliotta, Beatrix Hagge, Karsyn Koontz, and Bailey Wilbur pose at the Regional Championships.



Courtesy Team Photo

Mia Harrington

## On your marks, get set, bow!

### Total Archery Challenge returns to Pico for three days of competition

May 23 through 25—KILLINGTON—Archers, outdoor enthusiasts, and families will gather at Pico Mountain Resort for a one-of-a-kind event this Memorial Day weekend as the Jack Link's Total Archery Challenge returns for three days of world-class 3D archery action, Friday through Sunday.

Billed as the "greatest outdoor 3D archery experience in the nation," the event offers participants a chance to shoot over 100 lifelike 3D targets across multiple challenging courses. Designed for a range of skill levels, each course features targets placed at varied distances and angles, creating realistic and exciting scenarios for archers of all abilities. A stationary kids' range, complete with dinosaur and zombie targets, will also be available.

#### Archers can test their mettle on:

- Leupold course – 25 targets, 15-70 yard shots, minimal angles.
- Prime course – 25 targets, 40-100 yards, with steep angles and rugged terrain.
- Jack Links course – 25 targets, 25-75 yards, moderate difficulty.
- Sitka course – 25 long-range targets (60-100 yards) replicating sheep, mountain goats, and other species.

The event includes novelty shots with opportunities to win

prizes, including a new truck. Vendors will be on site offering the latest outdoor gear, and food will be available for purchase at the main lodge throughout the weekend.

Each day begins at 6:15 a.m. with check-in and course access starting at 7 a.m. Shuttle service and chairlifts to the courses will be available until late afternoon.

#### Full schedule details include:

- Friday & Saturday: Courses open 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sunday: Courses open 7 a.m.-3 p.m.; individual courses close between 1:30 and 3 p.m.
- Participants who register online at least 30 days in advance receive a free event t-shirt and are entered into prize drawings. Pricing is tiered by start time and participation length:
- Adult: \$60 (1 day), \$110 (2 days), \$160 (3 days)
- Youth (ages 6-15): \$35 (1 day), \$50 (2 days), \$60 (3 days)
- Non-shooters: \$15 per day

Additional fees apply for earlier start times.

With dramatic mountain views, a fun atmosphere, and plenty to do for all ages, the Total Archery Challenge is more than a competition—it's a celebration of archery and outdoor adventure.

For more information or to register, visit: [totalarcherychallenge.com](http://totalarcherychallenge.com).





# Inside Vermont's creative heart: Artists open their doors for an inspiring Spring Open Studio Weekend

May 24-25—VARIOUS LOCATIONS—Throughout Vermont, artists are preparing to welcome the public into their creative spaces for the annual Spring Open Studio Weekend. This statewide event invites visitors to explore studios, galleries, and art centers on scenic drives through town centers and rural backroads alike. The event, organized by the Vermont Crafts Council, runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday,

The following artists and galleries in Rutland and Windsor counties will be participating:

**Bethel**

**Atelier Silver & Stone (Melanie Considine)** – Hand-made jewelry  
245 Main St.

**Day Breaks Glass Studio (Dayna Sabatino)** – Stained glass, mosaics  
285 Main St.

**Grace and Evan Pottery** – Wheel-thrown and hand-decorated pottery  
388 Woodland Road

**Tatterworks (Nancy Plotsky)** – Upcycled fashion for women and children  
259 Dunham Road

**Brandon**

**Caleb Kenna Photography** – Vermont images, prints, drone photography  
40 Old Farm Road

**Judith Reilly Studio and Gallery** – Fabric art, hooked pillows, mixed media  
24 Conant Sq. (Route 7).

**Brandon Artists Guild** – Cooperative gallery of local artists  
7 Center St. (Route 7).

**A Little Twisted Gallery (Jamie Ruggerio)** – Glassblowing and curiosities  
7 Carver St.

**Joan Curtis** – Mixed-media sculpture and painting  
10 Union St.



Courtesy Katie's Art Gallery

Katie Roberts is one of the many artists participating in Vermont's Spring Open Studio Weekend on May 24 and 25.

May 24 and 25.

Open Studio Weekend allows the public to meet artists where they work, surrounded by tools, materials, and works-in-progress, and gain firsthand insight into how handcrafted items are designed and made. The event also supports Vermont's vibrant creative economy and offers the chance to purchase work with a story and connection behind it.

**Bridgewater**

**Susan Lenfest** – Basket weaving  
Bridgewater Woolen Mill, Route 4

**Katie Roberts** – Nature paintings with water-mixable oil paints and live-edge frames  
Bridgewater Woolen Mill, Route 4

**Shackleton Furniture**  
102 Mill Road

**Miranda Thomas Pottery**  
102 Mill Road

**Castleton**

**Stragnell Art (R. Sanford Stragnell)** – Nature-inspired sculpture  
97 South St.

**Merwin Gallery (Tom Merwin)** – Oils and sumi ink drawings  
557 Main St.

Studio → 24



Courtesy Vermont Crafts Council

Third Branch Pottery

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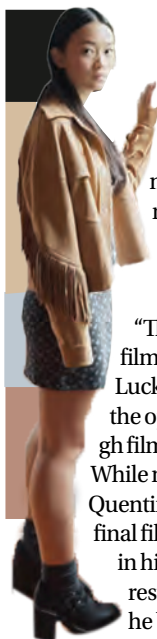
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## Soderbergh's 'Presence' features more than scares

'Presence' is available to stream on-demand



Courtesy The Spectral Spirit Company  
*Callina Liang as Chloe Payne can sense an entity living in her new home in Steven Soderbergh's ghost story, "Presence."*

Eleven," although they were studio-backed projects, they share a filmmaking quality that's all Soderbergh. I haven't caught up with "Black Bag," but I did see "Presence," and I was pleasantly surprised with the result.

"Presence" belongs to the ghost-story/haunted house genre, but the film Soderbergh gives us feels decidedly more thriller than horror film. It lacks scares, and I don't think Soderbergh or screenwriter David Koepp were interested in making a scary movie. Instead, the goal here is more closely aligned with

After director Steven Soderbergh's planned 2013 theatrical film, "Behind the Candelabra," ran into funding difficulties and eventually landed on HBO for a cable release, the prolific director announced his retirement. In what is, perhaps, the shortest retirement in filmmaking history, Soderbergh was back with his short-lived, though compelling, two-season HBO series, "The Knick." In 2017, Soderbergh's film retirement ended with "Logan Lucky." In 2025, filmgoers have had the opportunity to see two Soderbergh films, "Black Bag," and "Presence." While moviegoers are still waiting for Quentin Tarantino's reported 10th and final film, Soderbergh has hit that mark in his post-retirement phase. A film resume that includes 35 films since he burst onto the scene with 1989's

breakout, "Sex, Lies, and Videotape," Soderbergh is prolific, I'll give him that. Substance and quality are sometimes the victims of his breakneck filming pace. Soderbergh makes films fast and relatively inexpensively. They don't typically run long, and they can feel, at times, more experimental exercises than multiplex crowd pleasers. It's been a while since Soderbergh gave us an "Erin Brockovich" or an "Ocean's

Eleven," although they were studio-backed projects, they share a filmmaking quality that's all Soderbergh. I haven't caught up with "Black Bag," but I did see "Presence," and I was pleasantly surprised with the result.

"Presence" belongs to the ghost-story/haunted house genre, but the film Soderbergh gives us feels decidedly more thriller than horror film. It lacks scares, and I don't think Soderbergh or screenwriter David Koepp were interested in making a scary movie. Instead, the goal here is more closely aligned with

an experimental take on presenting a haunting. In "Presence," we experience a first-person perspective throughout, or I guess we could say, "first-presence" experience, as the entire film is shot in single wide-angle takes from the perspective of an unseen entity.

Again, I wasn't scared for an instant, but what the film lacks in creepiness, it makes up for in fascination. What unfolds over a tight 82 minutes is more of a detective thriller. As an audience, all of the information we get is from whatever the presence learns about the Payne family—Rebekah, Chris, and their two teenage children, Tyler and Chloe. They are a new family who have moved into an old house. We meet the house before we meet the family, as the "presence" is already there, taking us through a visual tour of the empty dwelling.

Piece-by-piece, we learn that the Payne family moved to a neighboring town after experiencing tragedy. The daughter is grieving the loss of a best friend due to an overdose. The mom, played by

Lucy Liu, is an A-type personality whose obsession over her son, and possible illicit doings at work, have driven a wedge between her and her husband, played by Chris Sullivan. We never receive all the details about what is happening in this family's life, because Koepp's script is more intelligent than to provide an info-laden monologue dump.

Slowly but eventually, the presence makes itself known, first to Chloe and then to the rest of the family. A medium is brought in, and some clever and useful bits of script information are divulged.

Throughout the film's plot, there is a plot that I don't want to spoil here, and Soderbergh and Koepp provide the right amount of information to keep up with the story, but not so much that the ending of the film is given away.

And it's the story that resolves itself and comes full circle by the film's closing moments that makes "Presence" a fun watch. If you can work past the fact that it isn't scary, I think you'll find it a unique and worthy offering to the haunted house genre. And it ranks up there amongst Soderbergh's better recent efforts. And if you find even the slightest bit of tension scary, "Presence" could be one of the more frightening films you see all year.

### Screens and Streams

By James Kent

## Billings Farm to host Sheep & Wool Day

Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—WOODSTOCK — Billings Farm & Museum will celebrate Vermont's long-standing sheep farming tradition on Saturday, with its annual family Sheep & Wool Day. This hands-on event highlights the journey of wool from fleece to fiber.

This family-friendly event invites visitors of all ages to explore the rich history and techniques of Vermont's

fiber arts. Guests can participate in interactive demonstrations, including fleece cleaning, wool carding, yarn dyeing, felting, spinning, and knitting. Children and adults can fill a "Sheep-to-Yarn" passport as they move through each activity station.

"This is one of our most hands-on events of the season," said Gabrielle Bourassa, public

programs manager at Billings Farm & Museum. "Families can try carding wool, watch sheep herding in action, and learn all about Vermont fiber history."

Throughout the day, visitors will also have the chance to meet and learn about lambs, fiber goats, and rabbits from local farms. Sheep meet-and-greets are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., and a quiet Sheep Story Time will occur at noon and 2 p.m.

Adding to the excitement, border collie herding demonstrations will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., showcasing the skill of these working dogs in action. From 1 to 3 p.m., live bluegrass music by Billy Boucher's Bluegrass Band will keep the atmosphere festive.

Sustainable Eats and Vermont Snack Shack will provide food throughout the day, and the Scoop Shop and the museum's gift shop will offer additional treats.

*Family Sheep & Wool is included with general admission to Billings Farm & Museum. For details, visit: billingsfarm.org.*







## From Slopes to Service: KMS seniors host fundraiser at The Foundry

By James Kent

Thursday, May 29 at 4 p.m.—KILLINGTON — The senior class of Killington Mountain School (KMS) will trade their ski gear for menus as they take over The Foundry at Summit Pond for a special fundraising event. In a unique partnership between KMS and the Karr Group, the evening will feature the 2025 graduating class—one of KMS's largest to date—acting as guest servers, with 50% of the night's proceeds donated to support the school's annual fund.

"This event is a great way for us to interact with the community and showcase our awesome seniors, as well as our awesome KMS community," said Claire Butler, head of KMS. "It's an open event for everybody to get together, learn a little bit more about KMS, and enjoy some awesome food."

Butler emphasized the unique makeup of this year's graduating class, which includes national champions, U.S. Ski Team athletes, and competitors from the Youth Olympic Games representing countries like

Brazil, Serbia, and the United States.

"It's a really interesting, vibrant senior class," Butler said. "The idea behind the takeover is to both celebrate our seniors and support our annual fund. That fund helps us with everything, from scholarships and financial aid to enhancing academic and athletic programs. It's critical to the success of the school."

The Foundry will operate as usual during the event, with the added twist of the seniors assisting as servers throughout dinner service. Butler noted that the event will run from 4 p.m. through the end of the evening, and encouraged community members—parents, alumni, board members, and locals—to attend.

Robin Debiase, the director of advancement at KMS, noted the generosity of The Foundry owners Chris and Missy Karr, who are making the evening possible.

"We're so grateful to Chris and Missy Karr and the entire Karr Group for their support in bringing our community together for this special cel-

ebration. This event not only honors Killington Mountain School, but also shines a spotlight on its incredible senior class—the largest in our history. Having our 26 seniors serve as hosts for the evening is a beautiful way to recognize their leadership, spirit, and the impact they've made at KMS."

Attendees are encouraged to make reservations in advance through The Foundry's website. The event is a lead-in to KMS graduation, scheduled for Sunday, June 1.

Among the many standout student athletes graduating this year is Ella Andrews, who was recently promoted to the pro team on the Stifel US Freeski Team. Alice and Arthur Pedilha, representing Brazil, are also graduating seniors with exciting prospects ahead on the international stage.

For more information about Killington Mountain School, visit: [killingtonmountainschool.org](http://killingtonmountainschool.org).

To make a reservation for the KMS Takeover at The Foundry, visit: [foundrykillington.com](http://foundrykillington.com).

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← **Studio:** .....  
from page 21

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**Ludlow**

**Form and Function Pottery (Jane Wojick)** – Functional and sculptural stoneware  
344 Brooks Road

**Mendon**

**Jennie Johannesen** – Pastel bird paintings  
211 Mountain Road

**Rutland**

**Ann McFarren** – Original Vermont scenes in oil and watercolor  
56 Terrill St.

**Shattuck Studio and Gallery (Carolyn Shattuck)** – Book arts, printmaking, collage  
193 Patricia Lane

**Northern New England Museum of Contemporary Art at The Hub** – Contemporary exhibit and studios  
67 Merchants Row

**Springfield**

**Gallery at the VAULT** – Vermont State Craft Center in a historic bank  
68 Main St.

**Weston**

**Doris Ingram** – Watercolors of rural Vermont  
83 Trout Club Road.

**West Rutland**

**The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center** – Marble sculpture garden and trail  
636 Marble St.

**White River Junction**

**CraftStudies Studio & School** – Pottery, jewelry, textiles, book arts  
87 Maple St.

**Star Pudding Farm Pottery (Jodi Kelly)** – Functional and decorative ceramics  
85 N. Main St., Suite 231

**Woodstock**

**Collective – The Art of Craft** – Fine craft in multiple mediums  
47 Central St.

*Whether you're seeking paintings, pottery, sculpture, glass, jewelry, or fiber art, Open Studio Weekend offers a chance to see Vermont's creativity up close. Maps and artist details are available at [vermontcrafts.com](http://vermontcrafts.com) or at participating studios and local galleries such as the Brandon Artists Guild.*



Courtesy Vermont Crafts Council

*Brandon Artists Guild*



Courtesy Killington Resort

*Killington plans an action-packed slate of fun and adventure this summer.*

# Killington Resort rolls out full slate of summer events and adventures for 2025

KILLINGTON — The snow may be gone, but the action is just heating up at Killington Resort as it unveils a packed summer schedule for 2025. From mountain biking and music to races and family fun, “The Beast” delivers non-stop excitement across its expansive terrain, with new additions and returning favorites lined up throughout the season.

“When the snow melts, we switch gears at The Beast and celebrate all the great things summer in Vermont has to offer,” said Mike Sutcliffe, Killington’s events and sponsorship manager. “We’ve got a packed agenda of family-friendly events and no shortage of on-mountain activities planned for the warmer months.”

The summer kicks off Memorial Day Weekend with a trio of openings: the Total Archery Challenge at Pico Mountain, Killington Bike Park’s first day of the season on Friday, May 23, and the Adventure Center opening on Saturday, May 24. Killington Golf Course opened early this year on May 16, though it briefly paused operations due to storm damage and is expected to reopen on Thursday, May 22. Scenic gondola rides on the K-1 Gondola begin July 3 and will operate Thursdays through Sundays this summer, with dining available at the mountaintop Peak Lodge.

The Cirque Series, coming to Killington on Saturday, June 28, is new to the calendar this year. This nationally acclaimed mountain running race challenges athletes with steep climbs and fast descents across rugged alpine terrain. It brings a high-energy, community-driven experience to Vermont for the first time.

**Fan-favorite events also return, including:**

- Fox US Open of Mountain Biking
- Spartan Race
- Killington Brewfest
- Killington Uncorked

Weekly summer staples include the Bike Bum Race Series every Wednesday starting June 18, Divas of Dirt group rides on Fridays from June 27, and Michelob ULTRA league nights at the golf course every Thursday beginning June 12. On Saturdays from July 5 to Sept. 6, visitors can unwind at the Cooler in the Mountains concert series, presented by Kona Big Wave.

Beyond the mountain, Killington supports area community events, including the Girls on the Run 5K in Manchester on June 7 and the Rutland Pride Festival on June 21.

Killington’s momentum doesn’t stop this season. A brand-new mountain bike trail is in development on Ramshead Mountain, with a projected opening in mid-summer 2026, further cementing Killington’s place as a premier bike park destination in the East.

**Key summer 2025 dates at Killington:**

- May 23-25: Total Archery Challenge
- May 23: Killington Bike Park opening day
- May 24: Adventure Center opening day
- June 12-Aug. 28: Michelob ULTRA Golf League (Thursdays)
- June 18-Aug. 20: Bike Bum Race Series (Wednesdays)
- June 27-Sept. 5: Divas of Dirt group rides (Fridays)
- June 28: Cirque Series trail run
- July 3: K-1 gondola rides begin
- July 5-Sept. 6: Cooler in the Mountains concert series (Saturdays)
- July 11: Play for Your Freedom veterans event
- July 18-19: Killington Uncorked
- July 19-20: Maxxis Eastern States Cup: Thule showdown
- July 25: Not So Chilly Golf Tournament
- Aug. 30: VMBA Days at Killington
- Sept. 13-14: Spartan Race
- Sept. 20: Killington Brewfest
- Sept. 25-28: Fox US Open of Mountain Biking
- Oct. 4: Pepsi Mountain Clean-Up
- Oct. 11: Harvest Faire

*For more information, visit: [killington.com](http://killington.com).*



# Local students win statewide tree-themed art and essay contest

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, MENDON — Two area students were among this year’s winners in the Growing Works of Art contest, a statewide program encouraging Vermont students to explore their connection to trees through art and writing.

The 2025 theme, “Tree Tales from A to Z,” invited students in grades K-8 to select a letter of the alphabet and pair it with a tree-related word. Each entry included an essay and a visual artwork in any medium, judged equally on creativity and storytelling.

Winning students each received a Vermont State Park punch pass.

- Among this year’s honorees:**
- 3rd Grade: Ivy Everson of White River Junction, White River School
  - 8th Grade: Evelyn Pike of Mendon, Barstow Memorial School

The full list of winners and their entries can be viewed at [go.uvm.edu/growingart](http://go.uvm.edu/growingart).

**Ivy’s story:**

“C is for cherry tree”

“Cherry trees require the winter cold in order to blossom in spring. You can also eat blossoms of the cherry trees. Some people think cherry blossoms are pink but cherry blossoms can be white too.”

**Evelyn’s story:**

“Sometimes my father leaves me to visit my aunt and uncle at their cliffside cabin overlooking the lake. The fall here brings me the most comfort, it was my grandmother’s favorite time of the year. Bulky knitted sweaters, warm pumpkin pie, hot tea, and leaf piles.”

“My aunt and uncle have an old tire swing with thick rope on one of the sturdy birches that stands on the cliff’s edge. Sitting on the tire swing peering over you can observe the quiet lake below, and this causes my thoughts to wander off about my father. How is he? I wonder if he is missing me too.”

“This spot is my escape from the busyness of the city with the beautiful white bark of the birches, the soft breeze creating ripples on the lake, the mountain in the distance. I sit also reminiscing about the sounds of the once nearby birds, who recently left their nests in this beautiful grove of birches. The quietness and beauty of the birches brings me peace. Nature has a way of doing that to folks. The yellow orange leaves of the birches are almost gone and a layer of frost is slowly growing around the edges of the lake on these chilly mornings.”

“As much as I love it here, I do wonder when my father will return and bring me back to the city. Maybe when he gets here we can collect birch bark to start a fire and talk all night long about his travels under the chilly fall sky.”



Courtesy Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program  
Ivy Everson, a student at the White River School in White River Junction, submitted the winning artwork and written story for Grade 3 in the 2025 Growing Works of Art contest, sponsored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program.

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diverse selection and knowledgeable team are here to guide you. [killingtonwinebar.com](http://killingtonwinebar.com), 802.353.6423.



### Killington Market

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

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



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### Inn at Long Trail

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### Lookout Tavern

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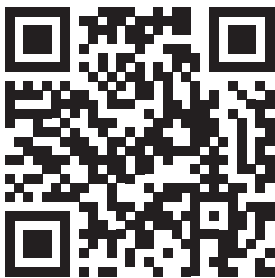
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# DOWNTOWN RUTLAND VERMONT



## Sip & Shop is back in Downtown Rutland

Downtown Rutland Partnership's popular Spring Sip & Shop pairs local beverage and food producers with downtown Rutland businesses. Ticket holders will visit up to 20 stops where they can shop, enjoy sales and raffles, taste something new, meet up with friends and enjoy an evening downtown together. Tickets are on sale at [downtownrutland.com/sipandshop](http://downtownrutland.com/sipandshop). Ticket options include:

**\$25 All-Inclusive Ticket:** With this ticket, you can sample spirits, beer, wine, and food from vendors hosted at downtown Rutland businesses.

**\$15 Non-Drinking Ticket:** If you don't drink alcohol or are a designated driver, you can still enjoy the Sip & Shop with this non-drinking ticket option. This ticket allows you to sample food and taste non-alcoholic drink vendors.

Each attendee will receive a map of all participating businesses, a shopping bag with a tasting glass, and one entry into a raffle for items from vendors and businesses. Plus, ticket holders are eligible for additional door prizes and raffle prizes throughout the event!



Don't miss out on this unique event that introduces new tastes and treasures in Downtown Rutland! Head to [downtownrutland.com/sipandshop](http://downtownrutland.com/sipandshop) to learn more and purchase your ticket today.

**Date:** May 22, 2025  
**Time:** 5-8 p.m.  
**Location:** Downtown Rutland

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- Divine | Killington Distillery
- Fruition Fineries | Vermont Hard Seltzer Company
- GreenSpell Plant Shop | Frost Beer Works
- Hand Carved by Ernie | Red Clover Ale Company and free Reuben sliders
- Hop n' Moose | Vermont Pepper Project, beer tasting, and \$3 pizza slices
- Kaleidoscope Art Supply | Mamma Tamara
- Loose Loona Gifts + Teahouse | Golden Rule Mead
- Masala Corner | Sample authentic Indian cuisine
- McNeil & Reedy | Split Spirits
- Mountain Girl Cannabis | Upstate Elevator Supply Company
- Mountain Music | Mad River Distillers
- Phoenix Books Rutland | Neshobe River Winery
- Prouty's Parlor for Ice Cream | True North Granola and free Parlor treat samples
- Speakeasy Cafe | Music & Trivia Night
- The Grateful Vermonter Gift Shop | Grafton Village Cheese Company
- Wild Kind Toys | Watson Wheeler Cider

### Frequently Asked Questions

**I've purchased a ticket! Now what?**  
Check in at the Downtown Rutland Partnership's office, located at 28 Center St., starting at 4:45 pm to collect a map, tasting glass, and shopping bag. Following that, guests will explore the various participating locations at your own pace and order.

For those who purchased a ticket that includes alcohol sampling, you must present a valid ID at check-in. You must be 21 or older to sample alcoholic beverages. Drinking responsibly is highly encouraged, and we strongly suggest pre-arranging safe transportation.

**I don't drink alcohol. Can I still attend?**  
Of course! If you don't drink alcohol or are a designated driver, you can still enjoy the Sip & Shop with a \$15 non-drinking ticket option. This ticket allows you to sample food and taste non-alcoholic drink vendors, receive an entry into the raffles, and be eligible for door prizes!



**Will I be able to buy a ticket the night of the event?**  
Certainly! While you can purchase a ticket at the Downtown Rutland Partnership office on the day of the event, we highly recommend securing your ticket online in advance. This way, you'll have extra time to enjoy the event and minimize the time spent waiting in line!



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# Cosmic Catalogue



## Aries

March 21 - April 20

Saturn's arrival in your sign could bring quite a conundrum. Do you slow down a bit, or do you commit yourself to the fast pace you thrive on? Maybe this is the wrong question to ask. It's quite possible that you don't need to change anything, except for this: practice the art of discernment before you go all in on something. By saying no more often, you'll learn to say yes to what matters and make that your priority.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

Sometimes life can really test your faith. Other times, you just simply commit to it as a part of your own life philosophy. As Saturn arrives in your Travel, Discovery, & Adventure Zone, you may start to wrangle with God, so to speak. Faraway places, cultures, or religions may beckon. You may need to update your bucket list. However you imagine your life to be, whatever it is you want to learn or experience, or if you want to shift your perspectives, then commit to it!



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

If you were to ask a child what they like to do for fun, the list would be as long as their arm. If you asked an adult, they'd have to really think about when was the last time they had fun. It's a sad reality, but one you will now have the opportunity to change. When you decide to commit to joy and make it as much of a priority as other responsibilities, life will improve. Saturn in your Joy Zone doesn't have to be a bust after all!



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

After a significant cycle of personal change, you'll need some downtime to sort things out. Saturn in your most Private Zone will demand that you'll need regular periods of time alone or in isolation. To be alone with your thoughts to contemplate the meaning of your life may become a priority. You may also need the time alone to fully commit to a work project or a dream you really want to bring to life.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

There are some realities of life that no matter how much we try to bury our heads in the sand, there is no avoiding them. Saturn is going to enter what is known as your "Death & Taxes" Zone. Not especially fun, to be sure. That said, these are the realities of life. The sooner you face whatever it is you tend to avoid, even if it's your attitude to authority, the sooner you'll be free of the fears that bind you.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Your focus will be less on your outer worldly ambitions and more geared toward your private life. As your patron planet, Saturn, arrives in your Home Zone, family relationships, domestic dynamics, and the very foundation upon which you build your life will become a priority. Start thinking about your domestic dreams and what you need to do to make them come to life. Something that feels so out of reach will be closer than you think with just a little bit of effort.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Certain people may be a part of your history, but may not be a part of your future. Saturn in your Friends Zone may call into question the nature of true friendship. As you lean into friendships, groups, and communities that are more aligned with you, don't be surprised you have less time and energy for those who aren't. If the people you're spending the most time with aren't an example of the life you want to lead, then adjust accordingly.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Whether you've been papering over the cracks in your relationship or the cracks in your own mind that are preventing you from getting in one, Saturn in your Partnership Zone will change things. As new realities emerge, even ones you don't want to look at, you'll see things for what they really are. With clarity comes real change as well as new potential. Change also comes from committing to your relationships and dreams, and doing what you need to do to realize them.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Saturn moves into Aries this week and asks that you commit to changing your mind. Easier said than done for you, but this really will be the secret to your happiness. Allowing your natural curiosity and desire to go beyond the limits of things will help you exceed your mind's limits. When you allow yourself to think differently, then your life will be different. It's easier said than done, to be sure, but it's also entirely possible.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Your career and overall life direction are at a crossroads. For some, you may have to step up into new responsibilities. While for others, it may be about stepping back or stepping down. Regardless of whether you want more or less on your plate, Saturn in Aries is going to ask you to commit to your big-picture dreams. Aim for the Moon, and if you miss, you could still land among the stars. It will take work, but you can make it happen.



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

There's no question that life is going to set a punishing pace for you. As Saturn moves into your Daily Grind Zone, there will be plenty of mundane realities you simply won't be able to avoid. All this being said, though, you can choose to do thankless tasks that will go unrewarded or unrecognized. If you're strategic, you can do what you have to do, knowing it will lead you to higher ground and better places. Choose wisely.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Short-term pain for long-term gain may become your middle name as Saturn settles into Aries and your Cash Zone. Consider what your financial dreams are. Ask yourself what abundance and a healthy bank balance mean to you. Are you willing to commit yourself to those dreams? When you prioritize your desires, there is very little you cannot achieve. The state of the economy has no relationship the state of your own success and what you can attract.

## Own your potential



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

It feels nice to listen to a podcast, read a book, or attend a seminar that inspires, motivates, and uplifts. It's a great mind exercise to expand on the possibilities and wonder what might be possible for you.

It also feels nice to gain new levels of self-awareness, to be able to examine your habits, attitudes, traumas, and triggers. Being able to understand yourself is a gift. That said, to understand also means to stand under.

What if you could stand over or even stand higher? What would that mean?

Could it mean rewriting the script, changing your habits and patterns, or pushing yourself a little bit beyond what you think you're capable of doing each and every day?

Could it mean that you become your own authority and not seek approval or acceptance from the crowd? Could it mean that you motivate yourself and take the inspired action you've been sitting around and waiting for someone else to give you?

God helps those who help themselves. Strike the match, ignite the spark of the divine light that is already within you. No one can do it except for you.

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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.



# Mosquitoes in the rain

If you're a mosquito and it's a warm spring afternoon, you're out cruising the air currents on your tiny wings. But as you buzz around, the sun warming your exoskeleton, the clouds roll in, heralding a spring shower. Balls of water up to 50 times heavier than your body begin plummeting out of the sky. You're too slow to evade the giant drops; it's only a matter of time before one will hit you!

For tiny flying insects, such as mosquitoes and their relatives, rainfall is an entirely different experience from other animals. Their relative size to the raindrops makes it a potentially life-threatening situation. When drops hit a larger creature, they break apart in a splash, and the only result is a wet animal. But what happens to insects when they are hit by a raindrop in a full-body mid-air collision?

Andrew Dickerson, a researcher at the University of Tennessee, who investigates how liquids flow under different conditions, asked this question. He put mosquitoes in enclosures and dropped water on them at about half the speed of falling rain. He described this experiment as "the human equivalent of raindrops the size of Volkswagen Beetles falling from the sky."

Flying insects do have an advantage over humans when dealing with water: they are extremely water-repellent. They have wax-coated hairs on their bodies that make them more hydrophobic than their aquatic or terrestrial cousins. This means that when they are hit by water, it is more likely to slide or bounce off than to remain stuck to them. "It would be like us walking around with a coating of Teflon," Dickerson said.

Natural raindrops vary in weight and size but usually come in around 4-100 mg, with a 1-4 mm radius. Insects weighing under 3 mg, including mosquitoes, blackflies, and fruit flies, are smaller than raindrops. When one hits their body, it remains mostly spherical and doesn't break apart into a classic crown-shaped splash. Instead, it gives the insect a solid push downwards. When this happens, they experience 100-400 times stronger accelerations than

gravity. By comparison, the greatest acceleration humans can survive is 50 times gravity.

Small insects can shrug off these extreme accelerations because they have so little mass that the actual forces generated are also small. Additionally, smaller animals are proportionately stronger than their larger counterparts. If we imagine doubling the mass of a mosquito, that super-mosquito would be stronger, but it wouldn't double in strength relative to a normal-sized mosquito. While getting hit with balls of water 50 times our body weight sounds terrifying for a human, flying insects are actually better prepared to survive such an experience than we are.

Perhaps this is why Dickerson's mosquitoes didn't appear alarmed about water collisions. In his lab experiments, he never saw mosquitoes attempt evasive maneuvers before being struck by water drops. A mosquito's maximum flight speed is so much slower than the speed of a falling raindrop that Dickerson calculated they would rarely, if ever, succeed at avoiding such a collision even if they did try. Although, if they reacted quickly enough, they might turn a full body strike into a glancing blow.

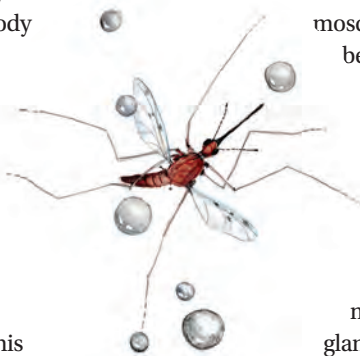
He also never saw mosquitoes attempt to actively shed water after being hit, like how mammals shake to dry off more quickly. They didn't show any behavioral tricks to free themselves from the water. Instead, they relied on their natural water repellency to passively separate from a ball of rainwater.

Still, the intensity of the everyday experience of rain for insects is hard to imagine. A mosquito braving a raindrop collision is "like a Teflon-coated Hulk being hit by a car," said Dickerson. So next time you feel mildly inconvenienced by the rain, imagine that you're cruising the air as an insect. Each drop is a giant ball of water which can send you plummeting towards the earth. When one hits you, you tumble downwards at terrifying speeds before recovering and continuing your flight—just another day in the rain.

Rachel Sargent Mirus is a teaching artist and writer. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. *The Outside Story* is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



**The Outside Story**  
By Rachel Sargent Mirus



## The Age of Innocence

When I was a young man, the legal drinking age was 18. That meant that a good chunk of teenagers could go out to the bars while still in high school. Admittedly, this caused some problems. I should know; I was one of them.

When I was 20 years old, the state of Vermont changed the drinking age to 21, but grandfathered in anyone who had already been classified as legal. That meant that a select group of young people (of which I was a part) could enter bars while legally underage. Those of us in that group considered ourselves lucky.

I remember being nervous when I first entered the bar/nightclub scene. One minute I'm sleeping over at a friend's house sneaking beers in his garage, and the next minute I'm at a club trying not to become the target of a displeased 30-year-old who'd just been dumped.

My older brother had been a bartender and bouncer and had forewarned me about the pitfalls and hazards in the club scene. He was all about looks and presentation, so it was imperative to him that his little brother act accordingly. But more than anything, he didn't want to see me get my ass kicked.

First of all, he was adamant about my beverage selection. "Don't you dare walk into a bar and order a wine cooler or pina colada," he said pointedly. "Order a damn Budweiser – like a man!"

And so, I dutifully did as he said without putting much thought into it. I didn't mind Budweiser, so it wasn't a big deal, but in hindsight, it restricted me from trying other spirits that may have been more to my liking. I also unconsciously looked down on any guy who chose one of the aforementioned "ladies" cocktails. (Oddly, I don't drink Budweiser anymore – I prefer bourbon – but on the rare occasion when I do, the taste immediately brings a smile to my face.)

My brother also insisted that I keep my wits about me when clubbing. Young men and alcohol can be a volatile combination. Not only can people take things wrong when under the influence, but some individuals will go out of their way to set someone straight, given the slightest indiscretion. "Don't go popping off," he'd tell me, "even if you think you're right."

And long before it was understood that

you never leave your drink unattended, my brother enlightened me to that point. Nowadays, people are concerned about someone spiking their drink with narcotics, but back in my day, the concern was less pharmaceutical and more bodily. "I can't tell you how many times I've seen a fight erupt because someone relieved themselves into someone else's beverage," he warned. Just the thought of that possibility kept the Budweiser bottle firmly in my grasp.

I was also conscious about how I dressed when out on the town. My brother rarely commented on my attire, which wasn't surprising given that I modeled my style after him. Jeans were a prerequisite, along with Timberland boots (untied), and a colorful rugby shirt. That may seem laughable, but it was hard to find a guy not wearing that combination at the time.

Thankfully, I never got into many drunken brawls as a young man. Like my older brother, my demeanor was relaxed and non-threatening, so I tended to be friends with a wide array of people. And when a situation did erupt, I was either the first one to defuse it, or the guy who relied on his best friend (who happened to be bigger

and tougher than most) to make things right. Eventually, the bar scene faded in interest. A girlfriend and job meant that I had different places to spend my time and money. But the memories of those days still loom large. A sip of a certain beverage or the melody of a particular song can bring it all back, making it seem like those were the best days of my life.

This week's feature, "Warfare," is sort of like navigating a bar in the 1980's, except 1,000 times scarier and deadlier.

Set during the Iraq War in 2006, "Warfare" embeds the viewer with a Navy Seal platoon as they locate cover during an intense fire-fight. What transpires is a real-time boots-on-the-ground story of brotherhood and battle fatigue.

This is a tough film to watch, and certainly not for the faint of heart. However, the intensity and tightness of the story also make it a commanding, visceral undertaking.

Check this one out if you're a fan of war dramas—it's got it all and then some. And while the genre has been overwrought with selections for many years, this is easily one of the best.

An explosive "B+" for "Warfare," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi





# Memorial Day



We were surrounded by red, white, and blue. The stars and stripes were everywhere, repeated over and over across the field in front of us. We sat next to my mom and dad, trying to read the names on the memorial that stood proudly in front of us. We saw the name Jones repeated over and over again, no matter the war.

Next to the memorial tombstone stood my normally jovial and cuddly grandfather, his American Legion uniform cap perched on his head. There was no smile on his face, and we could feel the seriousness oozing from his large frame. As the Post Commander of the Colquitt, Georgia American Legion Post 165, he was there to lead the most serious of services marking the sacrifice of those who had fallen during service to our nation: Memorial Day.

On the front of the podium hung a quilted pennant that my sister and I had been helping my mom make over the past year. It had an American flag waving on a dark blue-starred background with the words "Freedom Isn't Free" scripted in white letters. My mom had begun work on this pennant when we found out that Poppie was going to be named Post Commander, and she was so proud of it.

As I got older, I realized that the gift meant so much more than we realized. My mom was a college student during the Vietnam War, and the younger sibling of one of her sorority sisters had been a victim of the Kent State Massacre. She had a very different relationship with the

federal government than my grandfather, who had served as a Gunner's Mate First Class during the Second World War. They had, I would learn, different interpretations of what the flag meant. And my mom presenting Poppie with that pennant was, in fact, a father-daughter healing.

But there was no doubt by either my mom or grandfather that

a revered day. It was not just for a BBQ or game. It was a us that the the self is the greater certainly not morial Day." meaning, of and of not for-who made sacrifice.

I remem-bering so morning, saying "Oh foot!" more times than I had ever heard him say it before. He was a big man, so hearing him say the soft southern versions of curse words always struck me as funny. But not that morning. He knew too many who had served and been lost to make anything funny that day.

At my grandma's house, there were two portraits of my grandparents, taken at the beginning of the war. My grandfather, in his navy blues with white stripe and the naval patch on his sleeve, and my grandmother, in full nursing regalia. These portraits were always front and center. I can remember staring at them for so many hours, wondering



**Living the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman

Memorial Day was in our family. another day a baseball day to remind sacrifice of necessary for good. It was a "Happy Me-It was one of mourning, getting those the ultimate

ber Poppie nervous that

what my grandparents were like when they feared for their lives in their 20s.

Serving the nation was such a simple task back then. Kill or be killed. The enemy was drawn in such black and white. The Germans wanted to take over the world, everyone else be damned. The Allied Powers fought back and won. Hooray! It all made sense to me. But as I got older, I began to ask questions. My grandfather began to answer them as he never had before, telling me the truth of his service and leaving nothing out. I asked more questions that he couldn't answer, but suggested I research so that we could learn together.

I spent my last few high school years and college running around the country researching the PQ Convoys. My research opened doors. I was allowed to study at the Nimitz Library at the Naval Academy in Annapolis and one massively intimidating session at the Library of Congress. It was ... a lot. The research was intense, the interviews were overwhelming, and I dove way deeper into high-level International politics than I ever wanted to go again. Real-politik scared the crap out of me.

From my grandfather, I learned to respect the commitment of our men and women in uniform and honor the fallen. From my mother, I learned that this must come even when you question why they fought and how they were led. Based on my research, I chose to cease my application to the U.S. Naval Academy, but I will always spend Memorial Day honoring the service of our fallen. May we never forget.

*Merisa Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, global real estate advisor, town official, and Coach PomPom. She can be found on socials @femaleskibum or at Merisa. Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.*

## Deaths from opioid overdose declined significantly in 2024

Data shows first sustained annual decrease in opioid overdose deaths since 2019

New data from the Vermont Dept. of Health shows a significant decline in opioid overdose deaths last year. According to the newly-released Fatal Opioid Overdoses Among Vermonters report, 183 Vermonters died from an opioid-related overdose in 2024, a 22% decrease from 2023 when 236 people died. This marks the second consecutive year of a decline in overdose deaths, after a slight drop in 2023.

"We're grateful to see this decline," said Health Dept. Deputy Commissioner Kelly Dougherty, who oversees Vermont's substance use programs. "At the same time, people are still dying due to opioid overdose, and we must not forget the lasting impact these losses have on families and communities. We must continue strengthening our partnerships and systems of care to respond to these challenges."

While fatal overdoses involving fentanyl decreased by 25% between 2022 and 2024, fentanyl continues to be the No. 1 substance involved in opioid-related deaths, accounting for 93% of opioid fatalities in 2024. Cocaine involvement in deaths increased significantly — from 60% in 2023 to 70% in 2024 — and remains the second most common drug involved in fatal overdoses.

Xylazine was involved in 42% of fatal overdoses in 2024, up from 32% in 2023.

Vermont last saw a significant decrease in opioid fatalities in 2019, when 115 people died, down from 131 in 2018. However, the Covid-19 pandemic increased many risks related to substance use disorder, including isolation, unemployment and health disparities, leading to record numbers of deaths — 244 in 2022 alone.

The 2024 decrease also aligns with national trends: on May 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a nearly 27% decline in U.S. drug overdose deaths in 2024, the steepest such drop since 2020.

While the factors contributing to this decline are complex, public health efforts that support prevention, treatment and recovery are helping save lives. This includes strategies such as offering fentanyl test strips and the statewide naloxone distribution program, which helps ensure people have access to life-saving medication. The Health Dept. distributed more than 70,000 doses of naloxone to community partners in 2024.

The Health Department said the new overdose data reflects the work of a vast

Opioid → 36



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**Additional Programs & Events**

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- Johnson Recreation Pool opens June 16th with daily adult swim from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Junior Golf League for ages 9-14 will be held in collaboration with GMNGC
- Pickleball Club registration is now open.

**2025 River Road Concert Series**

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- July 3: The Loonz  
\*Performance at Johnson Rec Center as part of the July 4th Fireworks Display. 6-9 p.m.\*
- July 10: TwangTown Paramours
- July 17: Ener Jazz Big Band
- July 24: John Lackard Blues Band
- July 31: Ray Foley
- Aug. 7: Rick Reddington and Tuff Luv  
\*Chili Cook-Off; Performance at K1 Base Lodge
- Aug. 14: Moose and Friends
- Aug. 21: Reese Fulmer and the Carriage House Band



**Killington Chili Cook-Off 2025**

**Thursday, Aug. 7 from 5-8 p.m.**

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For more info on Killington Rec programs and events visit: [killingtonvt.myrec.com](http://killingtonvt.myrec.com)



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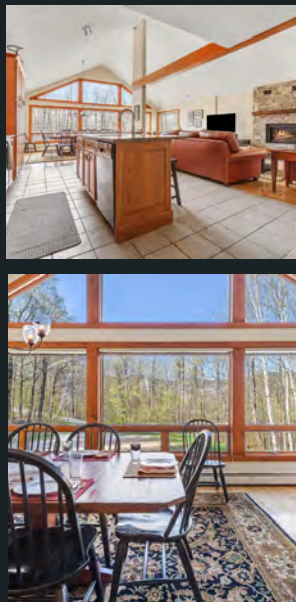
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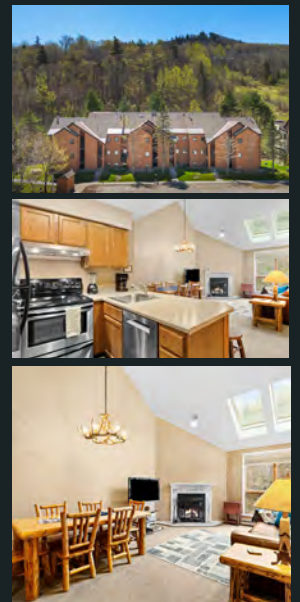
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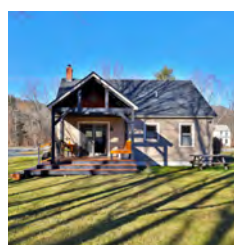


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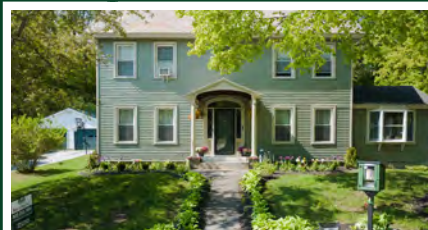
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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
MAY 24, 2025  
10 a.m. - 12 Noon

*Come stop by to see this turnkey home in Proctor.*



← **Accidental Activist:** .....  
from page 13

of view of the circumstances that they are being used to illustrate.

As Vermont navigates the current housing crisis and the Legislature deliberates over policies for the immediate and for the future, journalists churn the water with feature articles that detail the travails of a motel resident, complete with details of the tragedies that brought them to the motel and the impending deadline that threatens to return them to homelessness.

These anecdotes only serve to skew the housing narrative into a hotel vs no-hotel dichotomy, as if the only choice on the landscape is to continue the hotel program or dump people onto the streets.

The anecdotes are well-written stories, but they are not data, accurate appraisals of the big picture, or useful when it comes to making statewide decisions on policy, funding, legislation, and programming implementation.

To be fair, anecdotes can be true, and when they deviate from the data, it's a call to action to review the data to ensure that the correct markers are being measured and that the data is relevant and accurate.

But that can only happen if there is data. I contend that partial data is not data.

For example, if the subject is affordable housing, how much affordable housing is there in Vermont?

Already, the data is murky. HousingData.org has a list of affordable housing, but their definition of "affordable housing"

is project-based housing, a small portion of subsidized affordable housing.

What is the size of the portion?

Who knows! We don't have the data!

Short-term rentals are a hot topic, and local town hall meetings are filled with anecdotes, but where is the data?

There is an abundant number of State of Vermont departments with data, but the data is siloed and dormant. VT Taxes has a roster of all rental housing in the State, but it isn't public. VT Public Health also has a roster of all rental housing in the State, but it isn't public.

One would think that the State of Vermont could use the data to communicate with rental housing owners and locate affordable vacancies that could be used to house those in need of housing.

I contend that the State of Vermont's most significant opportunity to lift people up and improve the quality of life in Vermont is to double down on data, to embrace a data-driven approach to solving problems, removing obstacles, managing resources, and efficiently reaching goals.

It has been said that a well-stated problem is a problem half-solved. It has also been said that if you can measure it,



you can manage it.

If the State of Vermont invested in a comprehensive data management experience, it would act with precision when establishing goals, designing processes, and measuring performance.

This approach to governance is not new. In fact, there are significant success stories (anecdotes!) that Vermont could review as it evaluates the organizations and companies that assist government agencies and authorities in implementing a data management strategy that brings the many State Departments and Divisions together.

Data allows those in charge to measure the problem, take action, and analyze the results.

Data provides efficient feedback that prevents the waste of resources.

Data gives authorities tools for responding to challenges quickly, before they reach a

crisis level.

Data is a tool for testing the effectiveness of a given strategy, rather than relying on hopes, dreams, and emotions.

Data allows for focused problem solving based on data points that test theories and offer measurable conclusions.

Data simplifies the advocacy process, demonstrating with facts the best strategies and policies.

Data engages the public by providing transparency to business of the people.

Data provides for the efficient delivery of services and allows for fast adjustment so that resources are deployed precisely where they are needed, as opposed to a scattershot or system-wide.

Data identifies the high-performing programs, service areas, and people. Find the bright spots and duplicate!

Data is essential for setting goals and measuring success.

Data is also essential for managing funds and evaluating on outcomes.

Data exists, and it is an abdication of responsibility to ignore it, to allow it to lie dormant when it has within it the power to fuel efficient and effective governance.

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← **Conflict:** from page 12

over at work. In this case, “work” would be defined as Select Board or other town board membership.

The *appearance* of conflict is defined as: “would a reasonable, average person with knowledge of all relevant facts think you have a conflict of interest?” If the answer is “yes”, there is an appearance of conflict.

How do these rules apply in Killington or, in fact, in any small town? We can agree that an actual conflict exists when No. 1 above is the case. I trust all of our town officials adhere to this rule and recuse as required. I am not sure we can say the same for No.

2 because, in many instances, we simply do not have enough information to make a judgment and must trust the official to disclose relevant information.

The appearance of conflict, however, can get a little more dicey.

In Killington, we have officials and candidates who have family members employed by the town or are employees of the town themselves. To many, these relationships indicate potential conflict. We also have board members who are

Another example would be development board or planning commission members who are also in the real estate business locally and would benefit from new development.

beneficiaries of decisions, but those decisions are not limited to themselves. For example, the decision to build a water line on Killington Road could be viewed as directly benefiting businesses owned by Select Board members, but would also benefit many other properties as

well. Another example would be development board or planning commission members who are also in the real estate business locally and would benefit from new development. Again, they would not be the sole beneficiary, as anyone in the same business would also potentially benefit.

I raise these questions not to support or oppose anyone in the current election or future contests, or the appointment of anyone to any board or commission, but to try to better define and clarify how we look at the conflict of issue question now and in the future.

I also think the time is now for the Select Board to address this issue by gathering public input and setting basic guidelines for all of our various boards and commissions going forward.

**Art Malatzky, Killington**

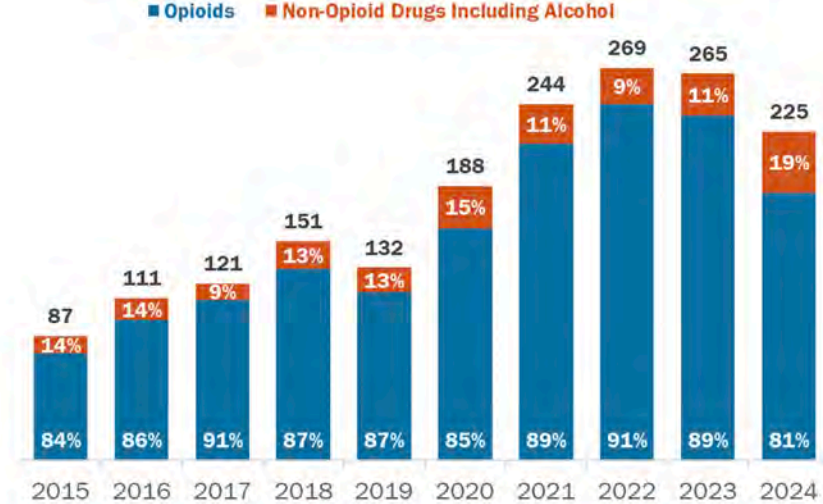
← **Opioid:** from page 33

network of partners across the state to expand access to community-level prevention, recovery and treatment services, including through the hub-and-spoke system of care and its strong foundation among Vermont’s primary care providers. While there is still more work to be done, health officials thanked primary care providers, other clinical providers, syringe services providers, recovery resources, public safety and EMS responders and other health care partners for their vital role in this work.

Officials also emphasized that outreach and resources remain critical through campaigns such as KnowOD, and VTHelpLink, a free and confidential support and referral service, available 24/7.

“Vermont’s communities know the lasting toll the opioid epidemic has taken in our state,” Interim Health Commissioner Julie Arel said. “Seeing this decline in overdose deaths is heartening, but we can’t take our foot off the gas. We must continue to make our systems of prevention, treatment and recovery stronger so that we can meet the needs of people struggling with substance use disorder and build safer, healthier communities for all.”

**Most accidental and undetermined drug overdose deaths involve opioids.**



Courtesy Vermont Dept. of Health  
Chart shows most accidental and undetermined drug overdose deaths involve opioids.





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# Over 2,000 attend Bring Back the Trades event in Castleton

By James Kent

CASTLETON—On a cold May 20 morning, school bus after school bus began to pull into the Castleton University parking lot after 9 a.m. More than 2,200 registered high-school students and other attendees arrived for the inaugural Bring Back the Trades event in Vermont. Bring Back the Trades, a New Hampshire organization recognizes the need to bring high-schoolers and the trades together, and helps support both with events like these. While not the first Bring Back the Trades event, it was their first time visiting Vermont, and with a sell-out crowd, and more than 80 participating vendors, the day already proved itself a success.

The vendors on hand, from construction and building to electricity, community service providers, landscapers, hospitality, and more, came to Castleton to show high school students that there are a variety of trades they can pursue after high school.

Ira Sweet, the owner of Concrete Impressions in Bennington, came with his foreman, Andre, to let interested students

know that a career in concrete could be rewarding and fun. They do a lot of interesting projects, from countertops to intricate walkways, decks, patios, and everything in between. Sweet said he started with Concrete Impressions as a summer job in high school. Fifteen years later, he is the owner. And Andre has been working with concrete for the past 10 years, and loves the family atmosphere of working at Concrete Impressions.

Bring Back the Trades' secretary Kimberly Sullivan-Brewer said that while they did not yet have a follow-up event scheduled for Vermont, they have another big trades event in October at Gillette Stadium in Fox-boro, Massachusetts. In addition to these learning events, Bring Back the Trades awards \$1,500 monthly scholarships to anyone who is either part of a post-secondary education in skilled trades or has accrued finances from such education.

For more information, visit: [bringback-thetraditions.org](http://bringback-thetradestraditions.org).

For information on Concrete Impressions, visit: [concreteimpressionsvt.com](http://concreteimpressionsvt.com).



By James Kent

High school students visited Castleton University on May 20 for the Bring Back the Trades event.



By James Kent

Left to Right: Andre W. and Ira Sweet of Concrete Impressions came to Bring Back the Trades to speak with students about the career opportunities that exist with concrete.



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Tasks include client communications via phone, email, occasional walk-ins. You will also manage the main email/respond and pass along messages to the team. Additional responsibilities include keeping track of RFP's, organizing digital library of plans, permits and vendor quotes and managing contracts for several different entities and organizations that we work with. There will be oversight of 401K employee contributions, medical insurance and keep track of annual equipment registrations and special permitting. This list is a basic outline. It is not comprehensive of all tasks as the job will likely grow/shift with seasons. Other required attributes: Positive. Creative. Intelligent. Organized. Trustworthy. Professional. "Can-do" willingness to help in a variety of departments and tasks. To apply email Mosher at mosher@mosherexcavating.com. Please write short cover letter along with attaching resume.

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High standard for quality of work  
Strong work ethic

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Keep track of annual equipment registrations, special permitting

Keep track of equipment and employee expenses

Assure CDL compliant

Billing and admin tasks

Maintain office supplies and cleanliness

(This list is a basic outline. It is not comprehensive of all tasks as the job will likely grow/shift with seasons.)

#### Other required attributes:

Positive. Creative. Intelligent. Organized. Trustworthy. Professional. "Can-do" willingness to help in a variety of departments and tasks.

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