



ELECTION RESULTS

Wednesday, May 28, Killington residents will vote to fill two new seats on its Select Board. For results, visit: MountainTimes.info.



Submitted

Mary Cohen and Mayor Mike Doenges were part of the groundbreaking celebration for Maple Commons, May 21.

AFFORDABLE APTS BREAK GROUND IN RUTLAND

Last week, construction began on 30 permanently affordable apartments on Forest Street in Rutland.

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BIKE, GOLF, PLAY: KILLINGTON NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER

After a week delay caused by rain, Killington Resort plans to open its bike park, golf course and Adventure Center this weekend.



By Zach Godwin, Killington Resort

Killington Resort gets an early start on construction

New Superstar towers are expected to be flown in place by helicopter this week

Staff report

Progress is well underway on the Superstar chairlift replacement project, Killington Resort reported in its May 22 Insider Blog post. "We have completed removal of the old chair, including removing the chairs, haul line and towers and completed demolition of the top and bottom lift terminals and operator enclosures," the resort stated. "We then test drilled the new locations of all 11 towers and completed

Resort construction → 2

Ed funding reform moves forward

Senate and House poised to reconcile slight differences, but Gov. Scott says he won't sign bill as it stands

By Polly Mikula

Vermont Senate passed H.454, the state's landmark education reform bill, Friday night, May 23, after days of debate and uncertainty. The bill now heads back to the House, which was expected to call for a conference committee to work out its differences with the Senate version as soon as Tuesday, May 27.

Both chambers of the Legislature and the governor see education reform as a key issue in response to last year's double-digit average property tax increases. Both chambers and the governor have also broadly agreed the state should transition to a new "foundation" education funding formula and move toward consolidating school districts in order to cull education spending. But they have disagreed on the base funding amount, the size and process for mapping new districts and the timeline.

The bill that finally passed the Senate largely mirrors the version that the House passed last month with slight changes most notably a decrease in targeted average class sizes and more leniency for independent schools.

However, despite the likely fact that the chambers are likely to come to agreement early this week, Governor Scott has already stated that he will not support the bill as it stands.

Scott issued the following statement on Friday, after the Senate passed H.454: "While the Senate moving this bill forward today is an important procedural step, I still cannot accept

Ed funding reform → 5

"I still cannot accept either the House or Senate versions," said Gov. Scott.



By Glenn Russell/VT Digger

Sen. Andrew Perchlik, D/P-Washington, rests his head in his hands while listening to debate on the Senate floor at the State House in Montpelier on Friday, May 23.

Killington Select Board candidates call for financial audit to move forward

By Polly Mikula

On Wednesday, May 28, Killington residents will head to the polls to vote on who will fill two new seats on its Select Board. Voters approved expanding the board from three to five members on Town Meeting Day.

Bill Vines and David McComb are running for the two-year seat while Jon Wysocki and Jay Hickory are running for the one-year seat.

The winners of Wednesday's special election will join Jim Haff, Patrick

Cushing and Rick Bowen (the latter two who also recently won seats on the board this past March).

Prior to both the March and May vote, candidates have answered questions at candidate forums and in published Q&As, which have allowed voters to better understand four of the five board members and what's motivating them and what they hope to achieve if elected to the board.

(Jim Haff is the only one not on the

ballot this year. Haff has served a total of 10 years on the board. He is up for re-election in 2027.)

While candidates articulated their positions, a clear theme emerged: all agree that the town needs a full financial audit to include HR/payroll coupled with transparent communication and standardized policies, to successfully move the town forward.

Cushing and Bowen echoed this sentiment, too, prior to their

elections in March. However, in the two months since, calls for financial transparency have ramped up significantly with numerous requests for public information filed at town hall by concerned taxpayers.

The calls stem from at least a dozen claims of financial oversight, unequal or exorbitant payouts, benefits and severance packages.

At a candidate forum last Tuesday

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Polly Lynn Mikula Editor & Publisher

Jason Mikula Marketing Manager & Co-Publisher

Lindsey Rogers Marketing/Advertising Consultant

Pat Wise Graphic Designer

James Kent Publishers’ Assistant

Roger Rivera Distribution Manager

Call: 802-422-2399

Write to us:

For news: editor@mountaintimes.info

For advertising: lindsey@mountaintimes.info

For events: events@mountaintimes.info



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By Zach Godwin, Killington Resort

The top of Superstar at Killington Resort is transforming as the old quad is removed so the new six-pack can be installed.

Resort construction:
from page 1

blasting in areas with ledge. The cages for the new footings have taken shape in the Vale Parking Lot and are nearly ready to be flown into place.”

Helicopters worked on Memorial Day weekend beginning this process. Construction began quickly on the Superstar lift replacement after the lift spun for its final time on April 13.

The first order of business was to remove the old chairs using a telehandler or “lull.” Each of the 95 chairs was taken down and moved over to Pico, where they will gain a new lease on life on the Golden Express, the resort stated.

The next step was to remove the haul line. “This 20-ton piece of rope is metal with a plastic core, meaning it needs to be disassembled to be recycled and required a crane to be removed,” the resort added. “Once off the towers, it was cut into pieces and brought down the mountain, where a contractor will complete the process of separating the materials. Though most of the components of the old lift will find a new purpose at Killington, this is one item that is disposed of.”

“With the line down, the process of removing the sheave trains could begin,” the resort continued. “These components will be reused on the Snowshed Express, Summit Express and Golden Express, which are all from the same generation and manufacturer as the old Superstar chair. Crews stripped most of the primary electrical components from the lift shack, which will also be reused.”

All 12 current towers on Superstar will also be replaced. Some of the old towers will get a new life as terrain park features and culverts.

“With the old towers out of the way, we brought it in a drill track to start testing the areas where the new footings will be installed. This process involves drilling down to check for ledge — if it is found, blasting is required,” the resort said.

The new lift will have 11 towers, all of which will have new footings which need to be formed and poured. The beginning of the forms for those footings could be seen in the Vale lot, where the rebar was bent.

In the coming weeks, holes will be dug for new tower locations, then rebar dropped in and concrete poured, all with the help of helicopters. Once the footings are complete, the new towers will be brought in by helicopter and bolted down, likely all in one day, according to the resort.

Installation of the new towers was expected to be completed by the end of May.

“Since all the towers will be in new locations, we will not need to remove the old footings, just cut them below grade and bury them,” the resort noted.

Other major components of the project included running power from the top of Skyeship to the top of the new Superstar chair. That required digging a large trench to comply with safety codes, the resort noted.

The top and bottom shacks of the lift are also being rebuilt and the resort is replacing the snowmaking system on Superstar.

“The original Superstar snowmaking was one line, fed from the top, with the pipe getting smaller as it went downhill,” the resort stated. “All pipe will be replaced and the new system will include two separate sections. The bottom will be in a horseshoe configuration, allowing us to fire from both sides of the trail on Preston’s Pitch, one of the most challenging sections to cover.”

Throughout this construction, the resort had to consider its environmental impacts. It is Bicknell thrush nesting season, so the resort has to comply with state regulations, as the top of Superstar is ideal habitat for the birds. The resort used orange line around areas that it cannot touch to limit the disturbance and also laid down double matting when blasting to limit the amount of dust and rock that is released.

Other summer improvements

Elsewhere around the mountain, work has begun on the Northbrook barn, where the resort will store the new Skyeship Gondola cabins. The old building is currently being renovated. As for the cabins themselves, replacement is anticipated to begin in August, the resort stated.

In total, some 18,000 feet of new snowmaking pipe is being installed this summer, too. Locations include Superstar, from the Skyeship base up Valley Plunge, Beartrax and Wildfire. These replacements will increase systemwide efficiency as some of the pipe is undersized, and others simply worn out and leaky, the resort noted.

The replacement of the Magic Carpet on the Learn to Ski area of Snowshed is also underway. “We are repurposing Progression Carpet 2 on Ramshead, extending it slightly and reinstalling the covered carpet in this area,” the resort stated.

And over at Pico, a new Magic Carpet on Bonanza is underway.

“We are awaiting permits to begin dismantling the old double chair [on Bonanza] but are optimistic about completing that project this summer as well,” the resort noted.

Hartford's TIF district: A case study in downtown renewal

Over the last 15 years, Hartford, Vermont, has undergone a quiet but impressive transformation, reflecting the vision of its residents and meeting the needs of the community. Its village center—White River Junction—now hums with new life in the form of boutique shops, a Turkish bakery, seasonal flower stand and even a Prohibition-style restaurant.

Powered in large part by tax increment financing (TIF), Hartford stands as a model for how strategic public investment, thoughtful planning, and community collaboration can revitalize a downtown.

It started with a single block
“We started thinking about downtown renewal as far back as the mid-1990s,” recalled Lori Hirshfield, director of planning and development. “It began with one block and built from there.”

Railroad Row is where it all started. When a property owner agreed to a redevelopment project if the town handled the necessary infrastructure upgrades, Hartford agreed. Leveraging state grants

and local support to remediate the site, realign streets, and build a park, Hartford set the stage for future revitalization.

By 2008, it was clear that Hartford needed a formal strategy, especially to replace century-old water and wastewater infrastructure. That led to the White River Junction Village Revitalization Plan and, in 2010, the town’s designation as a growth center. The TIF district was established in 2011.

Local partnerships are the key to success

A key to Hartford’s success was early buy-in from local property owners and businesses. “They were partners from the beginning,” Hirshfield said. “They helped shape the plan, worked with us on financial projections, and spoke out in support before the Select Board and VEPC.”

Creative public outreach also played a role. Artists from the Center for Cartoon Studies designed visual explainers to walk residents through how TIF worked.

“They showed how revitalization increases property values, creates jobs,

and benefits everyone—not just those in the district,” Hirshfield said.

Challenges and course corrections
Hartford’s progress hasn’t been without setbacks. The recession stalled its first major redevelopment project when a developer pulled out.

“It took until 2014 for another developer to step in,” said Hirshfield. Then came Covid-19, which brought project delays and cost increases. “We’re not going to be able to build everything in the original plan,” Hirshfield acknowledged. “But the vision still holds.”

The results speak for themselves
New businesses have blossomed, adding to the charm of White River Junction. Eateries such as Cappadocia Cafe, a Turkish bakery offering traditional pastries as well as Turkish tea and coffee, have opened in recent years. There is also REDCAN, a contemporary, Prohibition-style restaurant that offers American cuisine, all sourced from local ingredients. And let’s not forget James Beard finalist for Outstanding Bar, Wolf Tree, which opened in 2019.

Retail has also seen a resurgence. Cover to Cover Books, a volunteer-run

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Rutland 360
By the Rutland
City TIF Task
Force

OBITUARY Glenn Sherman Burres, 60

Glenn Sherman Burres, previously of Killington, died at home in Ormond Beach, Florida, on Saturday, May 10. Glenn was born in Suffern, New York, on May 26, 1964, to Royal (Sherm) and Jerilyn Burres. He grew up in Monroe, New York, graduating from Monroe-Woodbury High School in 1982, where he excelled at wrestling. He then studied architectural drafting at SUNY Delhi.

Glenn dedicated his life to fighting fire, first volunteering in South Blooming Grove, New York. He then served as a firefighter in the City of Newburgh, New York, rising through the ranks from 1987 to 2007 and eventually serving as Deputy Chief. He loved the job and his “brothers” until the day he died.

The next phase of his life brought him to Killington, where he created a new family of friends and had his daughter, Kaitlyn. His



Submitted
Glenn Sherman Burres

greatest joy in life was skiing with Kaitlyn.

Glenn is survived by his daughter Kaitlyn of Woodstock, his parents Sherm and Jerilyn Burres of Ormond Beach, and sisters Dawn Fera and Tara Lagarde of Palm Coast, Florida. He is also survived by nephews Tyler and Cody Vervalin, Colin, Trevor, and Zemi Lagarde, niece Madison Lagarde, and many cousins, aunts, uncles, and extended family.

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Gardening Tip of the Week

If you are considering putting together a colorful flower garden and are searching for flowers that could be multi purposeful, Lavender should be on your list. Lavender has a subtle yet strong visual appeal with it's silver green leaves and vibrant purple blooms. Along with it's gentle nature Lavender gives off a calming fragrance, planting it near patios and porches would be ideal to add a peaceful and calming scene. Lavender has been a popular favorite for as long as it has been around for Pollinators and Butterflies, and it is very low maintenance requiring full sun and is drought tolerant. Lastly, Lavender has many culinary and craft benefits which make this addition beneficial in many ways.

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A digital rendering of what the three-story Maplewood Commons affordable apartment building is expected to look like when completed at 133 Forest St. in Rutland.

Community breaks ground on Maplewood Commons: 30 permanently affordable apartments coming to Rutland

RUTLAND — Local officials, nonprofit leaders, and community members gathered in Rutland on Wednesday, May 21, to celebrate the groundbreaking of Maplewood Commons Apartments. This new 30-unit housing development will provide permanently affordable homes for families.

The project is a joint effort by Cornerstone Housing Partners and Evernorth, two nonprofit organizations dedicated to creating and maintaining affordable housing throughout Vermont and northern New En-

gland. Maplewood Commons Apartments will transform a long-vacant industrial site on Forest Street into a vibrant, energy-efficient, three-story residential building.

“This is a critical step toward addressing housing needs and providing safe, stable homes,” said Mary Cohen, CEO of Cornerstone Housing Partners. “We appreciate the support of our partners and funders in making these much-needed affordable homes a reality.”

Six of the 30 apartments will be reserved

for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Homeless Prevention Center (HPC), a local Continuum of Care provider, will provide services to these residents in coordination with Cornerstone’s resident services team. The building will also include three fully accessible apartments, with one located on the ground floor and two on the second.

Maplewood Commons received 10 project-based rental assistance vouchers from the Rutland Housing Authority, which will

help keep rents affordable for residents.

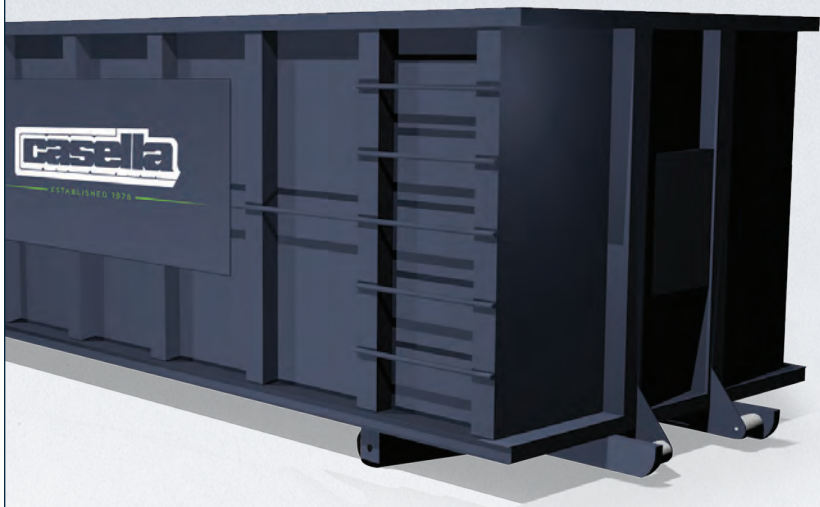
Situated within walking distance of downtown Rutland on Forest Street and along The Bus’ west route, the development offers easy access to transportation, services, and community amenities.

“The development of Maplewood Commons Apartments represents how strong collaboration between nonprofit developers, municipalities, and state and federal partners can create lasting positive change in our

30 apartments → 6

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Meg Budusky's Grounded Yoga Studio has a stretch goal for everyone

New Mendon yoga space welcomes all ages, abilities, and bodies in a supportive, non-intimidating environment

By James Kent

MENDON — A new yoga studio has quietly opened its doors along Route 4 in Mendon, already creating waves of calm and community. Grounded Yoga Studio, founded by longtime local Meg Budusky, officially opened May 5 and offers a welcoming alternative to the more intense fitness-driven yoga environments.

Grounded Studio is located in the same building with a Pilates studio, and with a new sign now hanging out front, the space is ready to be discovered. “We were just waiting for the street sign to go up,” Budusky said. “Now it feels real. We’re ready to welcome everyone.”

And she means everyone. “This studio is for all bodies and all people,” Budusky emphasized. “We’ve built a space where people can come as they are—whether they’re experienced practitioners or stepping onto the mat for the first time.”

The Grounded Studio schedule includes Hatha, Vinyasa Flow, Baptiste Power Flow, Yin Yoga, and a weekly donation-based community yoga class every Saturday at 10 a.m. The studio maintains a comfortable room temperature (around 65–68 degrees), has free parking, and is stocked with all the yoga props one might need—though students are welcome to bring their own.

Classes are held seven days a week, with early morning options at 7 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and an evening class on Mondays at 6 p.m. Single classes cost \$20, with student and senior discounts available and multi-class passes offering additional savings. Class registration is



available via Vagaro at vagaro.com/groundedstudiollc.

A teacher turned studio owner

Before opening Grounded Studio, Budusky was a well-known elementary school teacher in Vermont—most recently at Killington Elementary School, where she taught 3rd and 4th grades. A Killington local through and through, she grew up skiing and snowboarding at Pico and has deep roots in the local community.

“When I was about 12 years old, my mom introduced me to yoga at Pico,” she said. “She was a longtime employee of Killington. She’s retired now, and so we used to use the Pico fitness facility a lot, and that’s actually where I started practicing yoga a long, long time ago.”

“I am generally a bit of a go, go, go kind of person,” she continued. “I really appreciated the synchronicity with the breath and with the movement... It helped me complete a stress cycle and get to know myself better.”

Budusky had long dreamed of becoming a certified yoga instructor, but teaching full-time made it hard to find the time. That changed after the birth of her son, who faced serious early health complications that required open-heart surgery.

“Yoga really helped me through that whole experience, and this community helped me through that whole experience—my husband and I,” she said. “When we got to the other side of it—now he’s very healthy and thriving—it helped us sort of recalibrate our priorities.”

With the encouragement of Anne Marie Stearns, who owns the Pilates studio in the same building and has been

“an incredible friend and mentor,” Budusky took the leap. She earned her certification and started building what would become Grounded Studio.

Accessibility and community first

Budusky sees Grounded as much more than a fitness studio. “One of the biggest inspirations for the studio has been to try to make it accessible,” she said.

To that end, the studio offers a weekly donation-based class, with proceeds beyond teacher pay going into a fund to support those who need help covering class costs.

“That’s just kind of a no-questions-asked, open to anyone if they reach out,” Budusky explained. “If someone says, ‘I’d really like to practice, but this is sort of too steep for me,’ then we will work with anybody to make sure that they can access what they want to access.”

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Submitted

Grounded Yoga Studio is located at 1360 Route 4 in Mendon on the corner of Townline Road and Route 4.

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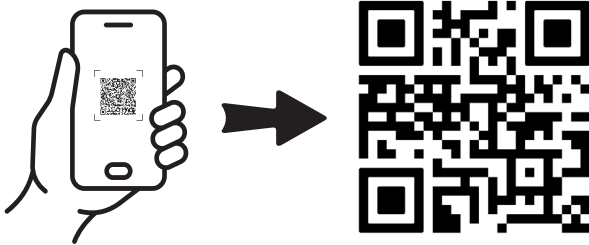
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← **Hartford's TIF:**
from page 3

bookstore, opened in 2023. Proceeds from book sales are used to support the efforts of Cover Home Repair, a nonprofit that winterizes homes for low income residents. Other retail establishments, including POST, a boutique stationery store, and Wilder Flowers, a seasonal flower farm that sells bouquets from a farm stand, also add to the character of the downtown. A cornerstone establishment, Revolution, continues to thrive with the influx of increased foot traffic in the downtown.

"We've created an expectation for businesses to be in these spaces," said Hirshfield.

Those businesses go beyond shopping and dining. In 2015, Northern Stage opened its new home, the Barrette Center for the Arts, which puts on several award-winning performances each year. "The creative economy is alive and present every place you walk. It's a place you want to be," Hirshfield continued.

The financial results have been substantial. As of 2018, the town had invested roughly \$13 million in infrastructure, which spurred more than \$60 million in private investment. The district's base value nearly doubled—from \$32 million at its inception to \$55.5 million within just a few years—and it's projected to hit \$79

million upon full buildout.

Organic growth on the horizon

As its 2026 borrowing deadline approaches, Hartford is focused on completing a final round of infrastructure projects and maintaining the momentum it has built. A reinvigorated downtown business association is playing a key role in sustaining post-development stewardship and civic pride.

"We've doubled the tax revenue downtown in about 10 years," Hirshfield said. "This wouldn't have happened without the TIF."

"The amazing thing is that you can literally see the plan being built," Hirshfield said. "Some things look a little different than the early renderings, but the core vision is there. The community made this happen."

With private development beginning to occur organically, Hartford's TIF district may soon become self-sustaining. "We've doubled the tax revenue downtown in about 10 years," Hirshfield said. "This wouldn't have happened without the TIF."

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



Submitted

Local officials, nonprofit leaders, and community members broke ground on the Maplewood Commons Apartments in Rutland on May 21. The project aims to be completed by May 2026.

← **30 apartments:**
from page 4

communities," said Nancy Owens, president of Evernorth. "We are so glad to be breaking ground today on homes that will remain a community asset in Rutland forever."

The project is backed by \$14.6 million in public and private funding. A federal tax credit equity investment of \$6.6 million came through Evernorth's Housing New England, Fund VI, and VII, administered by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA). VHFA also provided a \$1.2 million permanent loan. Additional support came

from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, which contributed over \$4.5 million in federal ARPA funds, \$1 million in national housing trust funds, and more than \$900,000 in state general funds. Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont also contributed to the development.

Maplewood Commons will provide long-term stability using a community land trust model that ensures permanent affordability.

For more info, visit: cornerstonehousing-partners.org and evernorthUS.org.

← **Financial transparency:**
from page 1

night, May 20, hosted by the Killington Pico Area Association (KPAA) the candidates for the one-year seat clarified this need in a rare back-and-forth exchange.

Jay Hickory said he was concerned about cashflow and not having enough money to hold the town over until the August tax payments come in. "I would support an emergency audit to locate the money we should have..." he said.

Wysocki then asked Hickory if he "would like to see an inclusive HR audit, to include payroll/HR issues?" Adding, "because I hear a lot of talk in town about that and I think it's really important for all the finances to be clear for the residents and taxpayers to better understand the true/full picture of what's going on and has been going on with all the money in town."

Hickory responded: "Yes, I want an audit so that everybody knows exactly where the money is going, where it's being spent... I think it needs to be a full audit, basically a forensic audit, going deep. It needs to find out everything and bring it to light."

"I concur," Wysocki agreed.

In a Q&A published in the Mountain Times May 14, Hickory added: "We need the truth to come out so we can move on with the important issues that face the town."

"If my fellow townspeople have been watching Select Board meetings over the past 6-12 months you know there has been rift brewing over a number of issues, some of these are management related, some financial, and some appear to have become personal," said Wysocki. "There is clearly some distrust in the community, whether it relates to HR issues at town hall, how finances are being managed, how things are being paid. It's a clear challenge and a clear issue in town right now. I see it from both sides of the fence, I hear it from a lot of different people and we need to be able to resolve that... we need to re-establish trust amongst the community, the taxpayers, the Select Board and everybody so that we can move forward. We need results now," he said.

Candidate Dave McComb also named "fiscal oversight"

as his No. 1 concern for the town, followed by "infrastructure execution and restoring public trust."

"We definitely need transparent financial processes," McComb said. "I've heard from several people from the town that they are not sure who is supposed to be producing what reports for whom. We need to correct that. I, like Jon and Jay, would like to see a financial audit, I also favor appointing a third party HR monitor so we can look at some of the morale issues," he said.

"Whether it's questions about budget decisions or how staff are treated, we need to rebuild confidence in town leadership," McComb wrote in his Q&A. "That starts with transparency, better communication... I see my role [as Selectman] as providing oversight, asking the right questions, and making sure the town manager has clear guidance and the support they need to succeed. It's not about micromanaging, it's about setting standards."

"We have to rebuild trust in town government," Bill Vines agreed. "We have instability in town, Jay's talked about it, Jon's talked about it, I've talked about it looking at taxes, looking at HR issues. And that instability has to be worked out and corrected to move forward... But the good news about these issues is that they're not obstacles to the town if we deal with them," Vines added. "If we work as a community to make sure the town can manage its way through these processes."

Part of the current challenges with town leadership are a result of the town not having a consistent town manager over the past few years. Michael Ramsey left in August 2024, after only a year with the town, Tom Yennerell then stepped in as interim town manager from September 2024 to March 2025 and David Atherton just took the reigns March 25. Atherton has a contract for five years and all candidates expressed hope that he'd provide the necessary stability, transparency and good leadership that the town needs.

All candidates said they believed their role as a Selectmen was to support the town manager and to provide

oversight to ensure policies and procedures were followed so that transparent communication could follow easily. That starts with a full financial audit, the candidates agreed, professing to ensure that Atherton has clear direction and the tools needed to sort out any past financial mistakes to ensure that they are not repeated in the future.

"I have no preconceived notions of who the people are at town hall, I can look at it objectively and say 'Ok this is what we have going on, this is the best way we need to move forward. Dave, this is what our opinion is.' Dave gets a paycheck and he needs to go make it happen. He also needs to be

"There is clearly some distrust in the community, whether it relates to HR issues at town hall, how finances are being managed, how things are being paid," said Wysocki.

strong enough to manage town hall because there are a lot of things that go on, there are a lot of different personalities, a lot of different needs... At the end of the day, we establish policy and the town manager makes it happen," said Wysocki.

"Select Boards are responsible for establishing the direction of the town," Vines agreed. "Over the last number of years with the number of town managers that we've had obviously the town has had to step in and provide help. And when you bring somebody new into the town manager role, obviously you have to get in there and you have to work with that person and make sure they understand the inner working of the town. But you then have to let the town manager run the show as soon as they learn what's going on."

"Dave Atherton, the newly elected town manager, has his job cut out for him," Vines continued. "Providing Dave with the support he needs to put in place sound management practices at town hall is a big concern of mine and a huge motivating factor for me to run for the Select Board."



Courtesy Karen Lorentz

Graduated Length Method (GLM) was an innovative teaching technique that featured shorter skis for beginner skiers.

Revolutionizing Ski Teaching with GLM

How Killington became The Beast, Part 12

By Karen D. Lorentz

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

The most radical development at Killington was to experiment with the short ski and a new way to learn to ski. Of all the novel ideas tried at Killington, none was to have as far-reaching an impact on the future of the ski area as GLM, the acronym for the Graduated Length Method.

GLM was an extreme departure from the accepted methods of ski instruction and exemplified the "better way" philosophy.

It also generated considerable controversy within the ski industry.

Smith was the first to admit that there were instructors within his own ski school who questioned and even resisted the introduction of short skis—scoffed at as "baby" skis—to teach skiing. But he wanted something more than a ski method steeped in a tradition of "do's and don'ts," final forms, and frustration.

Smith was convinced that the snowplow was basically "a defensive maneuver" and that it unnecessarily slowed the learning process. So, when SKI magazine approached Ski School Director Karl Pfeiffer and asked if Killington would participate in an experiment to find forms of learning that could be used as alternatives to the conventional snowplow, stem, and parallel approach, Smith was willing and eager to have his area participate. Other areas turned SKI down, but Smith shared Pfeiffer's interest in the possibilities of the short ski.

R & D with the Shortee

Killington tested 5-foot skis to see if conventional learning could be sped up in a ski experiment in 1964. Pfeiffer

reported that he found the results encouraging, but the other two participating areas (Boyne Mountain and Mont Tremblant) were not impressed.

After consulting with SKI, Pfeiffer carried the experiment a step further in March of 1965, utilizing the Taylor Instant Skiing Method and a progression of ski lengths.

Cliff Taylor, inspired by short "goon" twin-tipped skis, introduced the "Shortee" ski at Hogback in the 1950s and found it made learning easier and faster. He was invited to Killington, where he demonstrated his "instant skiing" for Killington instructors Wayne Gifford, Don Pearsons, Pepi Guggenberger, and Pfeiffer.

Taylor started skiers with parallel turns on 2½-foot wood skis. His standard method employed a twisting motion, with the new skier making his skis turn in place by vigorously twisting the ankles, knees, and hips. On softer snow, an unweighting motion or "hop" was added to this maneuver. Adding these motions to a downhill run led to "instant parallel skiing."

However, in Taylor's classes, there was no special emphasis on going to longer skis and no step-by-step learning method that led to regular-length parallel skiing within a week. Many stayed with the "Shortee" while others went to a 4-footer. Sometimes, they graduated to a 5-foot or a traditional-length ski, but this could happen a year or more later. There was no formal system or timetable, and many in the industry ridiculed the "baby ski" despite many learning to ski this way and enjoying it!

Killington developed an instructional method that had skiers in the experimental class go from 2½-foot to 4-foot to 5-foot to normal-length skis (determined by holding one's arm straight up

and having the ski tip reach the cupped hand) in one week while skiing parallel at all times. A regular ski school class using normal-length skis and traditional instruction methods served as a control group. In addition, a third test group on 5-foot skis learned via the traditional snowplow-stem approach.

What SKI and Killington were interested in was the potential of the short ski to serve, in Karl Pfeiffer's words, as "a learning tool to improve and possibly accelerate the learning process, with the final objective being a transition to a standard-length ski. And I wanted to see if the new skier could have more fun in the process," he said.

In the 1965 experiment, he saw promise in a radically new teaching system.

Pioneering GLM

Historically the development of the progression of snowplow to stem christie to parallel turn had its origins in the famous Austrian Ski School run by Hannes Schneider. But in the November 1966 issue of SKI magazine, Pfeiffer explained that in those days the terrain was rough and largely covered by unpacked snow. "In this kind of snow, the snowplow is virtually the only turn that can be done by a beginner. Today, conditions are different. Slopes tend to be smooth and hard-packed, particularly in the East and in mid-America. The question is whether, under these modern conditions, some improvement in teaching methods could accelerate the beginning skier's progress to parallel, increase his enjoyment of ski school, and make more efficient use of the available time for learning (often limited to a few fragmented weekends a winter)."

Working in conjunction with SKI and proceeding with the full support of Smith, Pfeiffer scientifically tested the

The Beast → 9

It's not pretty

The legislative process is sometimes likened to sausage making, not pretty to watch. That was certainly true last week at the State House with education reform and a major housing bill being considered. Both had a week of ups and downs with more work still to be done.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

The Senate version of the education reform bill was initially scheduled to be voted on by the full Senate on Wednesday, May 21. But after a backlash of opposition from education interests and major disagreements among the majority Democrats and with some Republicans, Senate leader Phil Baruth used a procedural move Thursday to strip the Senate amendment to the legislation. Two months of work by Senate

committees was deleted in less than a minute.

Getting a new version of the bill proved elusive until Friday evening, May 23, when they finally got enough votes to pass one. The Senate plan is now closer to the House bill with a longer period of implementation and higher spending than what Scott proposed.

Following the Senate vote, the governor said the following, "...I have been clear: we cannot adjourn this legislative session without a bill that sets us on the course to accomplish these goals, and I've appreciated the constructive conversations we've had with both chambers to date. While the Senate moving this bill forward today is an important procedural step, I still cannot accept either the House or Senate versions. I do however remain optimistic about finding a path forward with the committee of conference."

Meanwhile the House struggled with a major housing bill that included a new financing option for development infrastructure. Many representatives from rural areas believed there were too many restrictions in the bill to be of any help to smaller communities. The legislation was delayed for a few days before receiving an initial passage on a divided vote Friday afternoon. A bi-partisan amendment offered by members of the legislative rural caucus to make it easier to take advantage of the new financing failed after pushback from House leadership.

The Senate proposal had fewer hoops to go through to utilize the new infrastructure financing, so it remains to be seen if a compromise can be reached through a potential conference committee.

Other issues of interest:

- The House approved an amendment to H.266 that caps prescription drug prices at several hospitals, including the Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC), which estimates it could cost them as much as \$16 million annually in lost revenue. It is unclear what the potential impact on services might be. The new caps are intended to help lower claims to insurers.
- Scott signed into law the annual state budget bill, H.493. In signing the \$9.1 billion plan, he said, "While not perfect, H.493 makes critical investments in affordability, housing, education and public safety. But we must focus on the policy bills that fix what's broken so the funding can have its intended impact."
- The Senate approved H.91, the transitional housing program for the homeless on a 17-13 vote. The measure will now likely go to a conference committee to work out differences with the House.
- Supported by the Vermont State Employees Association, S.125 has passed the Legislature and has been sent to the governor. The legislation only requires 30%

Harrison → 9

GUEST EDITORIAL

Education reform: Trust Vermont values

By David F. Kelley

Editor's Note: David Kelley is a Vermont attorney. He lives in Greensboro and is a former chair of the Hazen Union School Board. He was part of the legal team that represented more than two dozen rural elementary school districts that appealed forced mergers under Act 46.

The road to education reform in Vermont has been long and winding, and we are at another crossroads. Driven by increasingly unaffordable property tax bills, H.454 proposes using district consolidation as a cost-saving measure, along with a funding formula change aimed at containing spending.

With no proof that this tactic will actually save money (and plenty that suggests it will not), this legislation heads us in a dangerously wrong direction. We need to look both ways before we go any further down this road. H.454 proposes a massive transfer of power. If it is enacted, taxpayers will no longer get to vote on their school budgets. Rather than the checks and balances between local and state power, school spending will be determined by the governor and the Agency of Education. It severs ties between voters, communities, spending, and governance decisions.

H.454
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transfer
of power.

Understandably, many superintendents want greater consolidation: bigger districts, fewer school boards, fewer meetings, and more control will make their jobs easier. But advantages for the central office come with costs. Those school boards

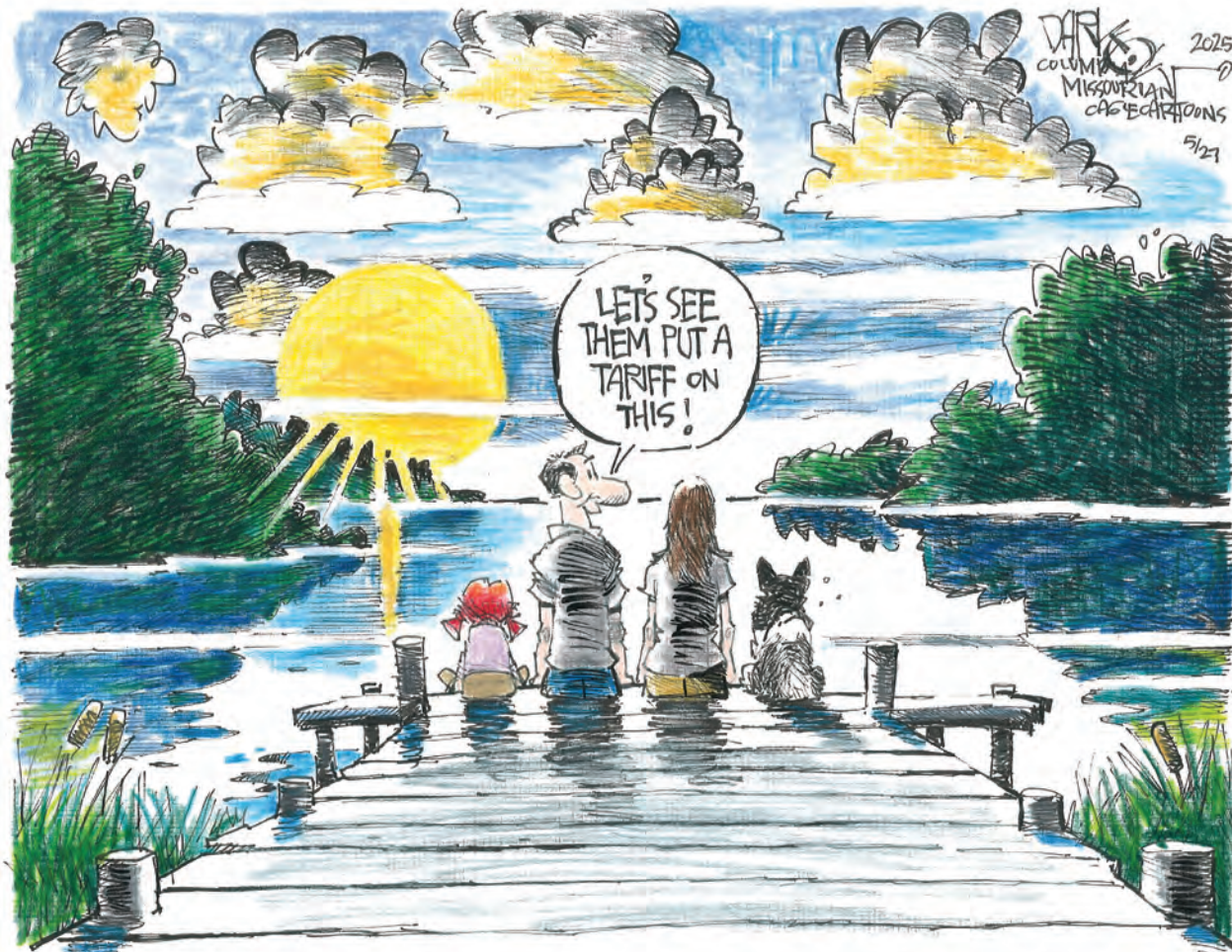
and meetings instill leaders with an understanding of the communities they serve. The movement toward greater consolidation is movement away from local input, community engagement, and informed democracy. The Legislature and administration spent the winter largely stymied on education reform, attempting to choose from among vastly unwieldy, universally unpopular proposals that do not address the real issues. Policymakers have become increasingly focused on creating a comprehensive system on a larger scale. But Vermonters understand that size and scale have little effect on either fiscal responsibility or academic quality. Quality and cost should be the indicators receiving the most scrutiny. High-quality, cost-effective schools and districts come in all shapes and sizes.

Before we pass a bill, we need to: 1) Carefully consider Vermont data. We need fiscal analysis of each district to know what produces good outcomes at sustainable costs and what doesn't; 2) implement a public school approval and certification process using professional panels made up of Vermont experts who visit schools to make recommendations about budgets as well as programs; and 3) model the real financial impacts of any changes including accounting for transition costs.

Guessing about future tax impacts is not good enough. It's dangerous to assume scale will deliver on cost-effectiveness and quality. Local school boards have long delivered and managed the tough decisions Gov. Scott has called for; unfortunately, the real cost drivers are out of school boards' control.

Legislators should focus on getting health care costs under control and tackling the education fund by moving non-education needs into the general fund where they belong.

Vermont values grew out of a rural economy and a deep, abiding commitment to community. If we want to build a healthier education system, then we need to reinvest in grassroots democracy with a renewed vitality in local decision-making.



They put a tariff on this by John Darkow, Columbia Missourian

LETTERS

Raising the bar for ethics in Killington

Dear Editor,

As a candidate for the Killington Select Board, I'm running on a commitment to transparency, accountability, and steady leadership. I believe that trust in local government begins with clear standards and clear enforcement.

Killington's current conflict of interest policy, adopted in 2019, provides a useful foundation. However, it lacks the tools to ensure accountability when ethical concerns arise. The draft ethics ordinance now under consideration is a step in the right direction, and if I'm elected, I will advocate for strengthening it even further:

1. Establish clear enforcement procedures: Introduce defined processes for filing, investigating, and resolving ethics complaints, ensuring fairness and consistency.
2. Annual disclosure requirements: Mandate that elected and appointed officials submit annual disclosures of potential conflicts, pro-

moting transparency.

3. Independent ethics oversight: Form an independent ethics committee or designate a neutral party to oversee ethics matters, reducing potential biases.
4. Anonymous reporting mechanisms: Allow for confidential reporting of ethical concerns, safeguard whistleblowers, and encourage reporting.
5. Mandatory ethics training: Implement regular training sessions for all town officials to reinforce ethical standards and responsibilities.
6. Regular public reporting: Provide annual summaries of ethics complaints and resolutions (without disclosing personal details) to maintain public trust.

These proposals align with best practices observed in other Vermont towns and recommendations from the Vermont League of Cities

Ethics → 9

School spending

Dear Editor,

All of this school spending, better referred to as overspending, is now coming home to roost. Had there been corresponding results in outcomes, there may have been different mindsets to be under discussion. Remember now, the voters went to the polls and spoke loudly and clearly on the education money issues that are prevalent all across the state.

Act 60 was a failure in that it created punishment for the towns in Vermont that were fortunate enough to have a diverse grand list makeup, which usually produces the desired tax bases.

Some of us involved in local government predicted this would happen. Some never seem to learn that the hand that feeds the beast is the one to help in

maintaining and properly structuring those entities that produce positive outcomes in tax bases.

Again, punishment from state policies saw Tambrands, Mal Tool, Howe Richardson, and others making plans for the exit as soon as it was decided where I-89 was going to be landing.

So, all of the above has been gradually coming back, showing outcomes. It is not difficult to figure out the goals of the many who have retired by now. The debate in the Legislature, along with the governor's correct action, now is telling the story. It has been a long time in the making, but the golden egg suppliers have either moved or just do not exist anymore—at least in Vermont.

James Hall, Center Rutland

Audit needed in Killington?

Dear Editor,

Someone should advocate for a town auditor given the constant rumors

of ethical lapses and financial irregularities.

Vito Rasenas, Killington

← The Beast: from page 7

short-ski parallel approach to learning, not only in March of 1965 but twice more that season and again with seven similar tests during the 1965–66 season. The control group and experimental class were compared via skiing tests at the end of their learn-to-ski weeks. The results showed that the “short-ski class” had made more progress and had achieved better control, rudimentary sliding parallel turns, and an average time of five seconds faster through the gates in an easy Giant Slalom run.

Additionally, Pfeiffer noted, “To fall on short skis is not as complicated as to fall on long skis. I think this is perhaps the single most important advantage of the short ski: much less strain and fear on the part of the pupil. The graduated ski classes have more fun. The pupils are likely to keep on skiing and come back for more,” he said.

During the testing, pupils skied on a 30-inch ski on the first day, a 4-foot ski on the second, a 5-footer on the third for the better skiers only, 5-footers for all students on day four, and on the fifth day of lessons on the traditional “long” ski of the day. This “pushing” of a quick succession of ski lengths led to the conclusion that for some skiers, GLM would be a faster route to better skiing, with less effort and injury and more fun along the way.

The testing led to the development of a methodology as Pfeiffer, Pearsons, and Gifford worked with various learning sequences to determine what worked and how much should be taught in the various lessons. In addition, Pfeiffer approached Head about making metal skis specifically designed for GLM and tested them

during summers in Europe.

As a result, Killington introduced GLM ski weeks and weekends for all skiers during the 1966–67 season. Pfeiffer then modified the method for the 1967–68 season by starting with a 39-inch special Head ski for Monday and Tuesday, 5-footers for Wednesday–Thursday, and regular-length skis on Friday.

As illustrated in a 1969 film about GLM, there was little technical talk but lots of demonstrating how things were done and the use of simple language like “up and down.” Instructions like, “Just remember two things, smile and face down the hill,” or “*cha cha chachacha*,” illustrated that learning could be fun. A non-threatening teaching style was a big part of the new learning process and resulted in a vastly changed class atmosphere.

Not everyone could parallel on 5-footers, and some

skiers were placed in the regular snowplow and stem classes at that point. It was recognized that the quick succession of GLM might be difficult for some people, so there was no pressure to pursue this method for all students. The flexibility of using either teaching method was part of the enlightened view that learning should be fun, not stressful. For a good many beginners and first-time skiers, rudimentary parallel skiing on easy terrain was possible in one week with GLM instruction. Some skiers who had tried skiing before and given it up found the new system easier and became enthusiastic skiers as a result.

Next week, we’ll trace the amazing success of this radical teaching method and what it meant to Killington.

Comments and insights are welcome: email klorentzski@vermontel.net to share thoughts about skiing in the 1950s–60s.



By Bob Perry

After learning on 3 foot skis, skiers advanced to longer skis.

← Ethics: from page 8

and Towns (VLCT). We can strengthen our community’s confidence in local governance by adopting these measures.

I’ve been proud to serve

on the Planning Commission, and my family is deeply invested in this community. If elected to the Select Board, I’ll work hard to bring a professional, even-handed

approach to every discussion and every vote.

I’d be honored to earn your vote for the Killington Select Board on May 28.

Dave McComb, Killington

← Harrison: from page 7

of employees in a unit to form a union but raises the threshold to decertify the union to 50%, prompting some to question the imbalance.

- The governor signed into law H.491, which utilizes surplus funds to reduce the level of this year’s education property tax increase to an average of 1%. As this is an average, some communities will see higher increases while others will see lower rates.
- The House approved a major health care reform bill, S.126, with a 99–38 vote. The measure gives new regula-

tory authority to the Green Mountain Care Board with the aim of better managing Vermont health care costs.

Now entering the second week of overtime, House leaders remain steadfast in adjourning by May 30. Senate leadership is less optimistic. And if the Legislature adjourns without agreement on education reform, Scott has indicated he will call us back to Montpelier.

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



Submitted

Grounded Yoga Studio in Mendon opened on May 5 offering accessible yoga for all abilities.

← Grounded Yoga: from page 3

Accessibility also means inclusivity in how yoga is taught. “Sometimes I think when the media shows a lot of cool and impressive poses, it can make yoga come across as something that’s not accessible to people who wouldn’t see themselves as relating to that kind of physical exertion,” Budusky said.

“We’re trying to offer a wide variety of classes that can help increase accessibility to more people to this practice,” she added, noting offerings like an adaptive yoga class taught by massage therapist Kelly Clifford for people with injuries or physical limitations.

“We’re not about achieving the ‘ideal’ version of a pose,” she said. “We’re being very accepting of all body types and all body shapes and where everybody is in their body in that moment, on that day.”

What’s next

While Budusky leads many of the classes herself, additional instructors have joined the team, and the schedule is growing.

She’s also teaching one evening a week at the Rutland City Firehouse and hopes to expand Grounded’s morning and evening class options over time.

“I’m hopeful to add more classes in the early morning and later evening for people who work a typical 9-to-5 in the future,” she said.

With her background in education, a lifelong connection to movement, and a deep appreciation for what yoga can offer, Budusky feels that opening Grounded is a full-circle moment.

“It’s a really kind of special combination for me—of my school teaching background, my dance background, and my athletic background,” she said.

“I couldn’t do this without this community,” she added. “It’s one of the reasons I wanted to come back here—and gratefully, my husband also loves it here.”

For more information, visit: vagaro.com/groundedstudiollc.

← Burres: from page 3

Kaitlyn requests that contributions be made in his name to Pathways Vermont, which assists Vermonters in accessing mental health and rehabilitation services. Pathways Vermont Giving Day 2025—Pathways Vermont or the IAFF Center

of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery offers similar services to firefighters. IAFF Center of Excellence—Rehab & Treatment for Fire Fighters. Memorial services will be held:

- June 7 at 11 a.m., Ormond Beach, Florida, Elks Lodge #2193, 285 Wilmette Ave. Ormond Beach.
- June 28 at 11 a.m. Newburgh, New York, Elks Lodge #247, 356 Washington St. Newburgh.

Ed funding reform:

from page 1

either the House or Senate versions. I do however remain optimistic about finding a path forward with the committee of conference... As I've said since the beginning of this process, I will only accept a final product that costs less than it does today, sets us on a clear path to achieve scale, reduces administrative overhead, and eliminates inefficiencies that prevent money from flowing towards more opportunities for students. We also need to make this transition as quickly as possible."

The governor's original education reform proposal, unveiled in January, called for consolidating Vermont's 119 school districts into just five regional districts with a foundation formula base amount of \$13,200 per student beginning next school year, 2026-27.

The House and Senate versions of the bill, call for a committee (to include school administrators) to proposed versions of consolidate districts with a maximum 8,000 students each, a foundation formula base amount of \$15,033 per student (based on the Kolbe model), with implementation starting in 2029.

The Legislature faces intense pressure from Gov. Scott to pass a bill before adjourning for the year. Scott had all but demanded it, warning that he would use his powers to call them back for a special session until they came to a consensus.

"I have been clear: we cannot adjourn this legislative session without a bill that sets us on the course to accomplish these goals," he said May 23 echoing what he said at his weekly press conference Wednesday, May 21: "I'll call them back — and we'll keep calling them back — until we get something accomplished," he said. "We can't go home without this transformation."

Senate process, passage

Even as late as Friday last week, it wasn't certain that Senate leadership had enough votes to get a bill over the line. At a tense meeting earlier in the week, it became clear support had faltered for a now-defunct Senate education and tax-writing committee's version of the bill.

That led Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, to delay a vote planned for Wednesday then scrap the Senate's version of the bill all together on the floor Thursday taking up an amendment to the House's bill late Friday afternoon, instead.

Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, who was one of two "no" votes on the Senate Education Committee vote that passed it to the full chamber (5-2), lead the amendment discussion of the House bill in the Senate, Friday.

The resulting legislation that was approved by the Senate maintains much of the House's bill: a four-year transition to new school districts and a new foundation funding formula of \$15,033 (July 1, 2029) and a task force made up of experts and representatives of different public school constituencies to create three school district consolidation maps for legislators to consider next year.

Senate vs. House differences include:

Lower average class size minimums: The House bill suggests minimums of 12 students for Kindergarten, 15 students for Grades 1-4, and 18 for Grades 5-12, while the Senate's bill sets the standards at 10 students for Kindergarten and 1st Grade, 12 students for Grades 2-5, 15 for Grades 6-8 and 18 for Grades 9-12. The Senate bill would also give the state secretary of education greater discretion over the enforcement of the class size standards.

District size: Senators also specified that a maximum size allowed for proposed new, consolidated school districts would be 8,000 pre-k through 12th-grade students. The House had instead set a minimum of 4,000 students per district. The Senate bill also nixed a requirement for a uniform school calendar across the state and for developing statewide graduation standards.

Independent school inclusions: The Senate version of the

bill broadens the group of independent schools that would be eligible to receive tuition under the new system. In the House version, an eligible independent school would be one with a student body that was at least 51% public school students in 2024 and complies with minimum class size requirements. In the Senate version, independent schools must be in supervisory districts that, as of July 1, 2024, do not operate a public school for some or all grades, and have at least 25% of Vermont resident students tuitioned to other districts during 2023-2024. Out-of-state independent school tuition is no longer allowed in either chamber version.

Reactions from local politicians

The Senate's vote, Friday, was not unanimous, but it was taken by voice, so individual senators' votes weren't on the record.

The three Rutland County Senators (Brian Collamore, Terry Williams and David Weeks, all republicans who ran on affordability) were asked where they stood on the bill in light of the fact that resulting estimates from the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) show tax hikes for ALL Rutland County school districts — Ira, the highest, is projected to see a 31% tax increase.

Collamore responded "the bill which was the House version with 100 pages of amendments was voted out of the Senate Friday evening. It will now go to a committee of conference." His opinion on the bill "will depend on what comes out of the committee of conference," he added.

Williams and Weeks, who was a member of the Senate Education Committee, didn't respond directly to the Mountain Times request for comment.

The three Windsor County Senators (Allison Clarkson, Becca White and Joe Major, all democrats) also did not reply to requests for comment on the bill in light of the fact that resulting estimates from JFO show tax cuts for most Windsor County districts while simultaneously gutting those school district budgets that voters have supported year after year.

Jim Harrison, who represents Chittenden, Mendon, Pittsfield and Killington in the state House, responded, "As the Senate changed the bill Friday evening, I have not had a chance to review the changes. Suffice it to say, there is a lot of angst with the bill on both sides. The governor has indicated he would not sign either the House or Senate versions right now, but remains hopeful the gaps can be bridged this week. That is a tall order," he emailed Monday, May 26. Adding, "I support consolidation (we can't justify 119 school districts and 52 supervisory unions for 80,000 students) and a simpler financing system."

Reactions from school leaders

School leaders have argued that the Senate's proposed funding model could upend operations at schools across the state, slashing budgets that have garnered strong voter support over the decades for some districts while spiking tax rates in others that can least afford it.

"There's something for everyone to dislike in the legislation," John Castle, the executive director of the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative, a nonprofit advocacy group, said in an interview with VTDigger.

Castle said lawmakers were laboring under a "false narrative" that school consolidation could solve all of the state's education woes while failing to tackle the root causes of education spending increases, like skyrocketing health care premiums and deferred facility maintenance costs.

In a letter sent to members of the Senate Finance Committee, Brooke Olsen-Farrell, superintendent of the Slate Valley Unified School District in Rutland County, similarly expressed her concern about the "lack of long-term vision for education in Vermont" included in the Senate's version of the bill.

Although Slate Valley schools would receive an increase in education funding from the proposed spending model, Olsen-Farrell wrote that homeowners in the district could see property tax increases of up to 22%.

"The Senate's version of H.454 does not reflect the values or

needs of our students, families, and communities," Olsen-Farrell wrote. "It jeopardizes our ability to deliver equitable educational opportunities and modernize our education system, while placing an untenable financial strain on Vermonters."

Olsen-Farrell's sentiments were largely shared by superintendents in Franklin County, who collectively panned the Senate proposal in a scathing open letter to their communities.

"The latest attempts at school funding reform are a stark reminder of how disconnected the current legislative process is from the realities facing our local districts," wrote Maple Run superintendent Bill Kimball, Missisquoi Valley superintendent Julie Regimbal, Franklin Northeast superintendent Lynn Cota and Franklin West superintendent John Tague.

Noting that the proposed model could yield tax increases of up to 30% for some homeowners in Franklin County, the superintendents wrote that the bill would do little to address the "core drivers" of increased education costs, as Castle had noted.

"Until our elected officials demonstrate the courage to confront these fundamental cost drivers and craft equitable solutions, we're simply rearranging the deck chairs on a sinking ship," the superintendents wrote. "Our children deserve better than this political charade."

While far from having widespread popularity in the school community, the House-passed version of H.454 had the support of the state associations representing superintendents, school boards, and principals. Those groups, however, strongly opposed the Senate's Ed Committee changes to the bill and school district leaders from across the state had issued missives panning many of the Senate committees' proposals after it came to the Senate floor, Thursday, May 15.

That pressure, in part, helped sway the discussion successfully back in the direction of the House version.

"I wanted to thank everyone who became engaged in this conversation of Vermont Education Reform," wrote Superintendent Sherry Sousa in a letter to the Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) community, Sunday, May 25. "No matter what position you took, the voices of Vermonters were heard and the Senate pulled their version of H.454. This was a true example of democracy in action and I'm so appreciative."

Mountain Views School District serves the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock and is projected to see a \$6 million to \$8 million (or about 24.6%) of current spending levels cut under the ed reform bill, H.454, according to Analysis performed by the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO), May 2.

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

Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, who chairs the chamber's finance committee, responded to concerns over affordability saying it was not possible to fully understand the proposal's tax rate implications until new school district boundaries are drawn up and approved by the Legislature next year, which is the schedule proposed in the bill.

"We're aware that there are going to be problems we need to solve. But we don't need to solve them tonight in order for this process to go forward," Cummings told her colleagues on the Senate floor. "To do it now, is premature."

In addition to tax increases likely to hit those who can least afford it, H.454 would also repeal the law's current provision allowing low- to middle-income residents to pay some or all of their school taxes based on their income, which 70% of Vermont homeowners do.

Shaun Robinson/VTDigger contributed to this reporting.

WORDPLAY

ALL IN BLOOM WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- ANEMONE
ASTER
AZALEA
BEGONIA
- BLOOM
CARNATION
CHRYSANTHEMUM
DAFFODIL
- DAHLIA
DAISY
DANDELION
HYDRANGEA
- IRIS
LAVENDER
LILY
MARIGOLD
- ORCHID
PEONY
POPPY
ROSE
- SNAPDRAGON
SUNFLOWER
TULIP
ZINNIA

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 24

CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion accessory

4. Engine additive

7. Small, faint constellation

8. Gives a job

10. Self-righteous person

12. Caucasian language

13. Surinam toad

14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

16. Former French coin

17. Levels the score

19. What stage performers do

20. Egyptian Sun god

21. Localities

25. Spherical body

26. Licensed for Wall Street

27. Perfect

29. It's on many people's heads

30. Boxing's GOAT

31. Photo show

32. Popular HBO show

39. Popular music awards show

41. Pouch

42. Lake in Botswana

43. Unruly group

44. One-fourth

45. Very eager

46. Edward ___, author and writer

48. Flying insect

49. Dragged forcibly

50. Thus far

51. Not just "play"

52. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur

2. Show up

3. Capital of Taiwan

4. Brother or sister

5. Secret get-togethers

6. Type of tea

8. Where the action is

9. Cast out

11. Crime group

14. Type of vessel (abbr.)

15. Accept and handle

18. Sacrifice hit

19. One who buys and sells securities simultaneously

20. Month

22. Most thin

23. Naturally occurring material

24. Luke's mentor ___-Wan

27. Postmodernist Austrian "House"

28. Aquatic salamander

29. Baseball stat

31. Beginning military rank

32. Talk rapidly and unintelligibly

33. Paddle

34. Caregiver (abbr.)

35. Old Irish alphabet

36. Japanese city

37. In a way, acted

38. Things to see

39. Nursemaid

40. Type of tooth

44. To be demonstrated

47. Defunct European group

SUDOKU

Solutions → 24

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in London on May 26, 1966. I used money I earned in a writing contest to pay for a spot in the actors' directory Spotlight. Since then, I've become a versatile actress that can do humorous, quirky and dramatic roles. I was once married to a popular and eccentric film director.

Answer: Helena Bonham Carter

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WED
5/28

S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

Active Seniors Lunch

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

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

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

Cribbage for Adults

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

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

Let's Talk About Your Nest Egg

5:30-7 p.m. Woodstock Union High School Library, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Free. Financial workshop presented by SEVCA and Mascoma Bank Investment Team on maximizing savings during uncertain times. Includes free onsite childcare and pizza. thompsonseniorcenter.org.

Ballroom Dance with Patti Panebianco

5:30-7:20 p.m. (Wednesdays) 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.

Watercolor Wednesdays – Castles and Doors

6-7:30 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., upstairs, Rutland. \$20. Beginner-friendly watercolor class led by local artist Caitlin G. Ages 15+; all supplies included. Refreshments available. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

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.

THURS
5/29

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

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.

Intermediate Line Dance

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

Survivors Support Group

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

Bone Builders

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

Chaffee: Artery

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

Ukelele Group

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

Play Bridge!

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

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.

KMS Takeover at

The Foundry

4-9 p.m. 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.

Green Drinks:

Backyard Composting

5:30-7 p.m. Woodstock Union High School & Middle School, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Free. Workshop with Lee Moncton covering composting styles, harvesting tips, and soil use. Great for beginner and intermediate composters. sustainablewoodstock.org.

Chad Hollister Band at Feast & Field

5:30-8:30 p.m. Fable Farm Orchard, 1544 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25 sliding scale, free for kids 12 and under. Enjoy live rock & roll from Vermont's Chad Hollister Band, local food and drink, and community celebration under the tent. barnarts.org.

61st Annual GKWC Meeting & Social

6-8 p.m. Mountain Meadows Lodge, 285 Thundering Brook Road, Killington. Free. The Greater Killington Women's Club invites all to an evening of connection, community, and celebration. Open to members and newcomers alike. evite.me/nf9EfA9Wu9.

Pour Painting

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S Main St., Rutland. \$40. Learn pour painting with instructor Lorrie Amerio Maniery and create your own finished piece. Supplies included. Minimum 5, maximum 12 participants. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Using Cricut Maker 3 – Design a T-shirt

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S Main St., Rutland. \$25. Adult class (16+) with instructor Michele Robie. Create a custom T-shirt design using the Cricut Maker 3. All supplies included except T-shirt—please bring your own light-colored shirt. Pre-registration required. chaffeeartcenter.org.

'Three Tall Women'

7-9 p.m. Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret. Preview Pay-what-you-wish performance. Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama explores aging, identity, and memory through the lives of three women. Presented by Artistree. artistreevt.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.

FRI
5/30

Bone Builders

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

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly

Group

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

Hartland Farmers Market Opening Day

4-6:30 p.m. Hartland Farmers Market, 153 US Route 5, Hartland. Free. Weekly Friday market returns with local produce, goods, and community spirit. Interested vendors can find applications and info online. hartlandfarmersmarket.com.

JAM's 48 Hour Film Slam

5-6 p.m. JAM – Junction Arts & Media, 5 S Main St., White River Junction. \$20 sliding scale. Local filmmakers have 48 hours to write, shoot, and edit a short film under 7 minutes. Prompt revealed at kickoff meeting on May 30 at 5 p.m. Final screening and celebration to follow. uvjam.org.

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class, \$10 for students, \$12 for 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.

Sable's Food & Art Friday: Soft Opening with

Mikahely

5:30-8:30 p.m. Sable Land, 588 N Taggart Hill Road, Stockbridge. \$5-\$20 suggested donation. Enjoy live music from Madagascar's Mikahely (6:30-7:30 p.m.), wood-fired pizza, and an evening of art and community. BYOB and bring a blanket. thesableproject.org.

Jazz Night

6:30-8 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. By donation. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site/.

HUCK FINN CATFISH DERBY

SATURDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.



Calendar: from page 12

FREE BIKE DEMO DAY AT PINE HILL PARK

SATURDAY, 9 A.M.-3 P.M.

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.

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.

Free Bike Demo Day at Pine Hill Park

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. Free. Test ride full suspension e-bikes and mountain bikes with Boot Pro guides. Group rides leave every 30-45 minutes. All skill levels welcome. On-site registration and credit card deposit required. thebootpro.net/blogs/shop-talk/free-bike-demo-day-at-pine-hill-park/.

The Art of Mixed Media

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 S Main St., Rutland. \$25. Hands-on class exploring mixed media techniques using paint, yarn, paper, and more. Supplies included. Minimum of 5 participants. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

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

Huck Finn Catfish Derby

Noon-2 p.m. The Foundry, 40 Summit Road, Killington. \$5. Family-friendly fishing derby with trophies for winners. Enjoy burgers and hot dogs. Proceeds benefit Killington Elementary School. foundrykillington.com.

Miss Jackie's Studio of Dance: Can't Stop The Beat

Noon-2 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$37 adults, \$27 children/students. Celebrate the 69th season of Miss Jackie's Studio of Dance with performances in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, and more. paramountvt.org.

Covered Bridges Half Marathon Community Pasta Supper

5-8 p.m. Saskadena Six, 247 Stage Road, Woodstock. \$22 adults, \$12 children. Enjoy live music by Spare Parts, an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner with local sauce, homemade desserts, and a cash bar. Kid-friendly and open to all. woodstockvt.com.

Ben Kogan Band & The Freeze Brothers

6-9 p.m. Woodstock Theatre, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$20-\$25. Live music presented by Pentangle Arts featuring local acts The Ben Kogan Band and The Freeze Brothers. Food and full bar available in the lobby. pentanglearts.org.

Allumé in Concert

7-8:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$30. Cajun-country supergroup featuring Miss Tess, Thomas Bryan Eaton, K.C. Jones, and Trey Boudreaux performs songs from Cher Rêve and more. artistreevt.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
6/1

Covered Bridges Half Marathon

8 a.m.-11 a.m. Starts at Saskadena Six, Stage Road, Pomfret; finishes at Dewey Mills Field, Quechee. \$110 registration fee. Official registration is closed. 33rd annual 13.1-mile point-to-point road race through scenic Vermont countryside. Free shuttle buses from parking to start. Spectators welcome. cbhm.com.

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.

Calendar → 14

'Samantha Inside Out': Staged Reading of New Play

7-9 p.m. Shaker Bridge Theatre at Briggs Opera House, 5 S Main St., White River Junction. \$10. One-night-only staged reading of "Samantha Inside Out," a new one-woman play by Marisa Smith, directed by Theresa Rebeck and starring Jayne Atkinson. Free for Shaker Bridge subscription holders. shakerbridgetheatre.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
5/31

West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk

7 a.m. Marble St. Boardwalk, West Rutland. Join Rutland Young Professionals for a monthly monitoring of West Rutland Marsh led by a Rutland County Audubon member. Beginners to experts invited. Walk the whole 4-mile route or go halfway. rutlandyoungprofessionals.org.

Introduction to Birding – Beginner Bird Walk

7-9:30 a.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$15 general, \$12 members. Learn birding basics on a guided walk through VINS habitats and Forest Canopy Walk. Binoculars and field guides recommended. Rain or shine. vinsweb.org.


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.

ALLUMÉ IN CONCERT

SATURDAY, NOON-2 P.M.



 **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 13

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.

Figure Draw

1-3 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$25. Monthly figure drawing session with live model. Ages 18+ (or 16+ with guardian consent). Bring your own supplies or use provided materials. Participants receive 10% off art supplies purchased that day. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site/.

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.

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

3-6 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.

MON
6/2

Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-432.

Monday Movie

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

Group Trail Run

6-8 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. Free. Weekly Monday night runs with Slate Valley Trails. Routes vary with options for different distances and abilities. Bring water, snacks, and bug spray. Check Facebook for weather updates. slatevalleytrails.org.

TUES
6/3

Bird & Nature Walk - Delaney Woods

7:30-10:30 a.m. Enter Delaney Cross Road off North St., Wells. Parking area on the right in the Lakeside Park area. Free. Explore an easy-to-moderate 3.4-mile route with Slate Valley Trails and Rutland County Audubon on easy to moderate terrain. Great for all experience levels—bring water, snacks, binoculars, and a camera. jptilly50@gmail.com or 802-598-2583 (7-8 p.m. only).

Night Golf League

5 p.m. (Tuesdays) Green Mountain National Golf Course, 476 Barrows Towne Road, Killington. Weekly four-person team scramble league open to all ability levels. Sign up by 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the clubhouse. greenmountainnationalgolf.com.

Adventurer Mary Anderson Talk

6-7:30 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library, 5114 Route 14, Sharon. Free. Hear from long-distance adventurer Mary Anderson, aka "Mary Badass," as she shares stories and photos from her 20,000+ miles of trekking, paddling, and biking. sharonvtlibrary.com.

Wallingford Walking Group

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

Rutland Area Toastmasters

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

Ted Levin – 'The Promise of Sunrise': Author Talk

6-7:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Former Bronx Zoo zoologist and nature writer Ted Levin discusses his new book "The Promise of Sunrise," a reflection on reconnecting with nature during turbulent times. Co-hosted by Yankee Bookshop. normanwilliams.org.

ONGOING

'Sonic Sea' – Virtual Film Screening

12:01 a.m. May 28–11:59 p.m. May 30. Online event. Free. Stream "Sonic Sea," a documentary on the dangers of ocean noise pollution and its impact on marine life. Narrated by Rachel McAdams, featuring Sting and top ocean experts. Donations welcome to support local arts. Hosted by Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts. Use the following code when registering: SSS-WSTK. pentanglearts.org.

'Three Tall Women'

May 30–June 8 Grange Theatre, 65 Stage Road, South Pomfret. \$25. Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama explores aging, identity, and memory through the lives of three women. Presented by Artistree. artistreevt.org.

Summer comedy series comes to Killington

By Sarah Calvin

Sunday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. — KILLINGTON—In a monthly collaboration between the Woolen Mill Comedy Club and local restaurant Still on the Mountain, a night of comedy comes to Killington on Sunday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. The headliner will be Matt Dundas, a Maine-based comedian and father who has performed at festivals and comedy clubs across the U.S. Woolen Mill Comedy Club co-founder Collen Doyle will open.

Although the Woolen Mill Comedy Club has brought comedy performances to Still on the Mountain during ski season, the summer comedy series signifies a more permanent partnership. Woolen Mill co-founder Matt Vita says a lot of comedy is a vibe, and he appreciates the intimacy afforded by performing in a smaller venue like Still on the Mountain.

"Small intimate spaces, just for the energy of a comedy show, are great," said Vita. "A lot of comedy's connecting with an audience. When you're in a small room like [this venue, the comedian is] a little more than an arm's length from where the audience is sitting. You can see everybody; you can have these fun interactions. There's a certain playfulness to a small room that's like fun for a performer."


Doyle and Vita love to bring big talent to smaller stages and audiences at the Woolen Mill and other host sites, such as Still on the Mountain and their annual Vermont Comedy Festival. The most recent headliner at Still on the Mountain was Sharon Simon, a New York City-based comedian who echoed Vita's appreciation for performing in smaller venues.

"I love interacting directly with people," said Simon. "People go to see live comedy because they're there for the experience that's happening in that moment. This was amazing because people in Vermont are curious and interested and not very judgmental, so it gives a chance to try new things and experiment and recover like, you know if that's all a joke and they don't like it, it's okay. They'll let me recover. They'll let me move on."

Vita also hopes the Woolen Mill's expansion to other venues will help cultivate the local comedy scene, inspiring younger or newer performers to try their hand at it.

"Come out [to a show], see what we're doing, introduce yourselves," said Vita. "I would love to see the interest grow because it'd be great to cultivate more local talent."

For more information and tickets for Sunday's show, visit the Woolen Mill Comedy Club Facebook page or its Eventbrite page.



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in our evidence based program




Arthritis Foundation
Walk With Ease

Walk with Ease is an six-week program developed by the Arthritis Foundation. This evidence-based initiative is designed to help individuals increase physical activity and improve overall health through guided walking.

This multi-component program also includes health education, stretching and strengthening exercises, and motivational strategies. The program includes a guidebook and a walking schedule to get you safely moving toward better health.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TRAINED FACILITATOR WHILE MOVING TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH AND HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY AT NO COST TO YOU?

Contact Nicole Woodie, SVCOA Volunteer Coordinator
Call Nicole at 802-772-7853
Email: nwoodie@svcoa.net

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PEGTV
Rutland Community Access

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[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
5/28

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND

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

THUR
5/29

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast & Field with the Chad Hollister Band

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Live Music

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Scott Forrest

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 Chicky Stoltz

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe – Trivia Night

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

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - Preview Night! Three Tall Women

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club – New Roots

FRI
5/30

BOMOSEEN

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

6 p.m. The Lakehouse – Ryan Fuller

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

6 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Taproom Trivia

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON

2:30 p.m. Snowshed's Umbrella Bar – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Jacob Green

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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

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

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Marcos Levy

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge - Live Music with Madonna Gordon

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Colin Nevins

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room - Blabpipe with Brother T & The Boys and The Grandstand Jockeys

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - Opening Night! Three Tall Women

SAT
5/31

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Breanna Elaine

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mills Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Matt Dundas

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Plymouth Rocks

KILLINGTON

Noon. Sunday brunch with Nancy Johnson

2 p.m. The Umbrella Bar in Killington – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nancy Johnson & Barry Schoenwetter

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Jenny Porter

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Sammy B

6 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge - Live Music With Sleeveless Tease feat. Narah Sparks

SHARON

4 p.m. Sharon Academy – Phoenix Fest with the Trio of Aether feat. Bow Thayer

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Grange Theatre - Three Tall Women

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club – The Loonz

7 p.m. Town Hall Theatre - Ben Kogan Band & The Freeze Brothers

SUN
6/1

BOMOSEEN

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed –Liz Reedy

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

7:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Comedy night with Matt Dundas

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

RUTLAND

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

SOUTH POMFRET

3 p.m. Grange Theatre - Three Tall Women

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
6/2

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

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

RUTLAND

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

TUES
6/3

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

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A movie poster of "The Brutalist" hung inside the Savoy Theater this year.

By Logan Wolff

The Savoy's show goes on despite theater industry slump

With post-flood renovations in the basement and upgrades to the theater's upstairs, the Savoy crew is hitting back against the streaming surge

By Lucy Renaud and Kingsten Zenick

Editor's Note: This story is via Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship, on assignment for the Montpelier Bridge.

Five years of survival through a global pandemic, historic flooding and a withering moviegoing crowd, and the Savoy Theater is still standing.

The two-screen theater in downtown Montpelier remains a hangout for people who want to share their love of cinema, a role its owners are dedicated to keeping up.

"Reality is, if you don't see a movie in the theaters, you can watch it later and watch it at home. So we have to make the experience unique; it has to be special to make you come out and watch the movie here," said owner James O'Hanlon.

"Part of that is just what we are showing: films that leave people completely moved and almost as if their lives have been changed — that's what we are here for."

The rise of streaming services as people's preferred movie-viewing mechanism has forced theaters across the country to close their doors. Vermont hasn't escaped those headwinds: Merrill's Roxy Cinema in Burlington shuttered this past fall, ending a 43-year run in the state's biggest city.

But with post-flood renovations completed in the basement and upgrades to the theater's upstairs pending, O'Hanlon and crew are hitting back against the streaming surge.

The plan? Focusing on a curated selection of arthouse and indie flicks, promoting local filmmakers and offering wine and beer alongside the usual popcorn and candy.

The Savoy first opened under Rick Winston in 1981. Alongside the folks at Capitol Theater, a more traditional theater that had operated for decades around the corner, Winston helped foster a local following of film lovers in the city before selling to Terry Youk in 2009.

Youk recruited several local carpenters and volunteers to help with major renovations on the building, including the transformation of what was originally a basement video

store into a second theater room.

Among those who volunteered a day to help with renovations was O'Hanlon, who eventually bought the place from Youk in 2016. He recalls instantly falling in love with the Savoy. The theater is one of the few spots for arthouse films in the state.

To O'Hanlon, it felt like home.

"I look at my role as sort of the steward or curator of facilitating what it's gonna take to keep this place going," he said. "And I love movies too. That's why I believe in it and keep it alive."

He understands streaming at home is typically the more affordable and easier option these days. And generational divides in moviegoing habits have been tricky to navigate: "The older crowd is the loyal base," he said. Younger people — less so.

But he feels a theater can offer something you just can't get from your laptop or living room.

"Certain films are cinematic," he said, invoking that elusive sense of spectacle, grandness. "And you're gonna lose something if you don't watch it on a real screen like that."

And there's something special, he said, about the collective buzz of a theater audience all tuned in to the same experience.

Closing shop in 2020 because of Covid — and again for almost nine weeks after the 2023 floods — only reinforced the idea of getting people to come out and be together.

The Savoy goes beyond screenings to host panel talks, rom-com-themed craft nights, cinema club meetings, and showings of staff favorites. The latter, a series called "Movies We Love," focuses on older films.

"That will draw in a new audience who hasn't seen them before, as well as people who have seen them before but love to come and see the films again," O'Hanlon said.

The theater also looks to bolster the local film community

Savoy → 18

'Friendship' is not for the faint of heart

Andrew DeYoung's dark comedy examination of male friendships is disturbingly accurate



Screens and Streams

By James Kent

Forming a new friendship with someone in your 40s is challenging enough; try doing it if you're an introvert.

Writer/director Andrew DeYoung's comedy "Friendship" is a hilariously dark look at male bonding with a leading performance from Tim Robinson that audiences won't soon forget.

Where to begin with this movie? I guess, for starters, a lot depends on your familiarity with comedian Tim Robinson's television work on "Detroiters" and "I Think You Should

Leave." The latter is a three-season Emmy award-winning sketch comedy from Netflix, and the former is a two-season comedy about two hapless advertising executives that you can currently catch on Netflix. Both shows are hilarious. "I Think You Should Leave" is something that I feel almost embarrassed to reveal, as I've watched it so many times that it's crept into my vernacular and shaped my quotable quotes to the point where, at times, I feel I'm living in one of its sketches.

"I Think You Should Leave" is a perfect primer for "Friendship" in that nearly every sketch involves some form of social awkwardness that, on the one hand, feels absurd and, on the other, feels almost too real in that we've all encountered someone who is that awkward. Tim Robinson is the ringleader of many of these sketches, and his looney approach to social behavior and mores is something you either click with or you don't. I find it hilarious, and it was the primary reason I sought "Friendship" out in the theater.

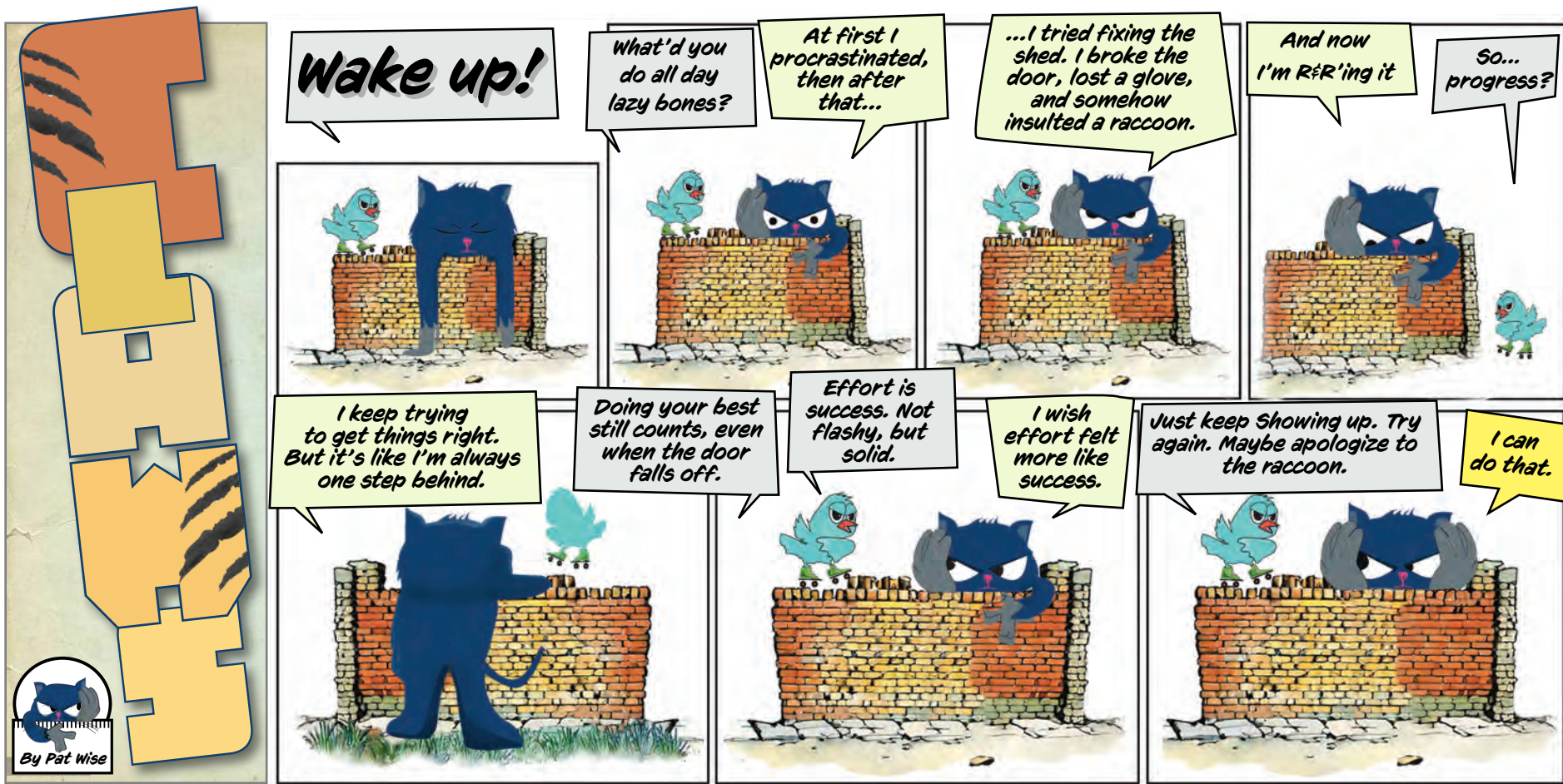
In "Friendship," Robinson plays Craig Waterman, a small-town marketing executive who, on the surface, has a perfectly ordinary and bland life. However, that static existence is uprooted when he delivers an incorrectly delivered package to a new neighbor, Austin Carmichael, the local weatherman, played by Paul Rudd. Robinson's Waterman has a seemingly stable job, but his coworkers don't want to hang out with him. Even Waterman's wife, Tami (Kate Mara), a cancer survivor, prefers the company of her ex-boyfriend Devon to spend time with him. So, when Rudd invites Robinson to hang out for an evening, Robinson is taken aback by another male wanting to be his friend.

Rudd is a bit of an adventure seeker, and maybe he's just trying to test the early friendship to see what kind of man Robinson is. Still, Robinson is pulled in by Rudd's seductive charms and soon sees the possibilities of a social world that has been all but nonexistent in his adult life.

Before long, Robinson gets invited to hang with Rudd and Rudd's buddies, and that's when things go off the rails. In typical "I Think You Should Leave" fashion, Robinson's peculiar nature, nerves, and inability to socialize with the so-called normals get him a quick exit from the friend group. And if Robinson's Waterman couldn't understand why his odd behavior freaked Rudd and Rudd's friends out, then he certainly isn't going to understand Rudd abruptly ending the friendship altogether.

"Friendship" is what I call an uncomfortable comedy. I put it in the category of dark comedies like 1981's "Neighbors," 1985's "After Hours," or 1996's "The Cable Guy." The difference here is that while those movies follow a protagonist

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Screens & Streams:

from page 16

continually being outdone by either a loose cannon antagonist or worsening circumstances, in “Friendship,” we’re hunkered down with the loose cannon. Instead of sympathizing with Rudd, who can’t shake a guy who can’t take a hint, we have to watch the can’t-take-a-hint guy’s world slowly unravel. And that’s what makes this film uncomfortable to watch, as hilarious as it is for the majority of its 97 minutes.

DeYoung shoots the movie as if it were an independent horror film. There’s a scene later in the movie, shot in aqueducts under the city, that feels more unnerving than most Blumhouse scare fests. And that seems to be the point. Friendship can be a scary thing for an adult. Building trust with someone new in a platonic relationship is no different than starting a romantic one. And sometimes they don’t work out.

I mentioned my familiarity with Robinson’s most known work, “I Think You Should Leave.” If you are a fan of that show, then you’ll want to see “Friendship” as soon as possible. Many of the sketches in “I Think You Should Leave” build upon repetitive themes, phrases, and situations that are hilarious to watch as you get to know Robinson’s quirks and fondness for certain tropes. Robinson finds new ways to work those into “Friendship,” and those moments aren’t so much hidden Easter eggs as they are rewards for the initiated. For those unfamiliar with Robinson and his brand of humor, “Friendship” could be a completely new and unexpected experience. I don’t know what you’ll think of this movie. I can see people finding the entire watch unpleasant, uncomfortable, and unfunny. On the flip side, if you came back and told me it was one of the weirdest, strangest, and funniest films you’ve ever seen, I’d get it. I’d say, “Welcome aboard.”

James Kent is the arts editor at the Mountain Times.



Courtesy A24

Tim Robinson and Paul Rudd form a curious bond in the new film “Friendship,” now playing in theaters.



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Local teen featured in new book showcasing Gen Z changemakers

Killington's Pippa Scott earns national recognition for her mental health advocacy work through snowboarding nonprofit

GEN Z TEENS TAKE ACTION

Stories of Circumstance, Passion and Opportunity

Kelli Peterson

KILLINGTON—A new nonfiction book focuses on extraordinary teens making a real-world impact, including a familiar face for readers in the Killington area. “Gen Z Teens Take Action: Stories of Circumstance, Passion, and Opportunity,” by author Kelli Peterson, features a chapter on Pippa Scott, a Killington Mountain School senior and founder of the nonprofit Ride for Mental Health.

Published by Outskirts Press and released nationwide last week, “Gen Z Teens Take Action” tells the stories of 14 young people from around the world who have turned ideas into real change — launching social initiatives, founding businesses, and advocating for pressing issues all while balancing school and teenage life. Among them is Scott, who has gained attention for her tireless advocacy for youth mental health in the snowboarding and action sports communities.

Scott’s inclusion in the book follows a wave of recent recognition. In 2024, she won the grand prize at the University of Vermont’s inaugural Vermont Pitch Challenge — securing a full-ride scholarship for her nonprofit venture, Ride for Mental Health. The organization promotes mental health awareness, provides resources, and advocates for systemic support for young athletes, particularly in the snow sports world.

“Even though this work is hard, it’s healing pieces of me every day,” Scott says in the book. She began Ride for Mental Health after losing multiple friends and teammates to suicide, including athletes within her own snowboarding community. What started as a few sweatshirts with supportive messages has grown into a full-fledged nonprofit that now partners with national organizations like the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide (TSPTS) and the United States of America Snow-

board and Freeski Association (USASA).

Her goal: to build an educational program for coaches to better support athletes dealing with mental health struggles. “Coaches spend so much time with athletes and can often spot changes before anyone else,” she told the Mountain Times last year. “We believe coaches can save lives.”

In “Gen Z Teens Take Action,” author Kelli Peterson details Scott’s journey from grief to activism, highlighting her persistence, family support, and creative outreach strategies — including the launch of her podcast Tell Me More, where she interviews athletes and experts about mental health in competitive sports.

“Pippa just would not take no for an answer,” her father says in the book, describing her determination to build partnerships and push through the stigma around teen suicide. “You can have a great idea, but if you don’t put in the work, it doesn’t get done.”

The book’s release provides another platform for Scott’s message to reach wider audiences. She hopes the increased visibility will support her nonprofit’s mission and help other teens feel less alone.

“People are going to be safer,” she said, “because this messaging is flowing to more eyes.”

“Gen Z Teens Take Action” is available now at major booksellers and online at outskirtspress.com/genz-teenstakeaction.

To support or learn more about Pippa Scott’s nonprofit visit: rideformh.org.

Courtesy Pippa Scott

Pippa Scott

Savoy:

from page 16

by getting involved with the annual Green Mountain Film Festival.

The multi-day event, held in Montpelier, features screenings in both the city’s theaters and has been running for more than two decades.

Last year, it returned from a four-year, pandemic-driven break.

In the end, the Savoy’s persistence only exists because of people who care. O’Hanlon is quick to credit local support for the theater’s staying

in business.

“This place only exists because of the community here,” he said.

“Not because of me. It’s here because the people in this community love it,” O’Hanlon said.

EAT SHOP

DRINK Local

Rockin' the Region with Dennis McNally

My interview with Fred Tackett of Little Feat happened because of their publicist, Dennis McNally. I didn't know who McNally was, but my friend Annie Sullivan questioned if he was the same guy of Grateful Dead fame. A Google search confirmed they were one and the same. McNally became the Grateful Dead's biographer in 1980 and publicist in 1984.

McNally and I had been emailing, and I said to him, "You have had quite the musical experiences in life."

"I've been at it for a while, yes," McNally replied.

In 2002, McNally published the New York Times best seller, "A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead". On May 13, his latest book, "The Last Great Dream: How Bohemians Became Hippies and Created the Sixties," was released. McNally sent me a copy, and I look forward to reading it.

McNally has been Little Feat's publicist for about 10 years. The last manager of the Grateful Dead, Cameron Sears, and his partner, John Scher, became Little Feat's managers. As McNally put it, "I came along for the ride." His ride with the Dead lasted until 2004, when GD's production shut down.

While McNally was in graduate school at UMass Amherst in 1977, he wrote a book on Jack Kerouac ("Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, The Beat Generation & America").

"I wrote it for a lot of different reasons," McNally said. "The guy who encouraged that was sort of a big Deadhead. In the course of researching that, he took me to my first show, gave me my first hit, and I started becoming a Deadhead. There's obvious connections between Kerouac and the Grateful Dead, not the least of them being Neal Cassady would pose as Dean Moriarty in "On the Road," (a Jack Kerouac novel). Cassady was hanging out with Ken Kesey during the acid tests, the early days of the Dead. I wanted this to be my second book. A very long story later, I met Jerry [Garcia]. It turned out 'On the Road' had been Jerry's bible as a young man. Eventually, he said, 'Why don't you write a book about us?' I thought that sounded like a nice idea, which I had wanted to do for 5 years."

After Jerry died, McNally finished the Grateful Dead book, which came out in 2002. His next book, "On Highway 61: Music, Race, and the Evolution of Cultural Freedom," was a deep background of the relationship between white people and Black music, and how it affected white values.

McNally was invited by the California Historical Society to create a photo exhibit on the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love.

"All the museums in the Bay Area were excited about the anniversary. I said sure,

that was fun. About halfway into it, I realized that's a book. That was my usual 10 years ago. I started working on that, and now I'm done! It spread, it's not just the Bay Area, it also involves LA, NY, and London. It ends at the Monterey Pop Festival," said McNally.

McNally loved that scene, but only until it got commercialized and publicized.

"The fall of '66 was really the Summer of Love," said McNally. "For starters, because SF is really warmer in the fall, we have our summer in the fall. The scene in

'66 was marvelous. It's everything you read about, think about, and imagine. Then what happened is they had a party to celebrate it, called the 'Be-In' in January of '67. It attracted thousands more people than anyone could've imagined. Suddenly, there's a tidal wave of media that is interested in what's going on. All the word was in May, as soon as school's out, every college or high school kid in America is coming to SF. As a result, it was more of a scuffle than this benign thing. My book ends at the Monterey Pop Festival in June '67 because that's the high water mark, as I described it. The whole idea of people with flowers in their hair, happy, listening to the music, very high, very mild, and very wonderful, and it was really like that for four days in Monterey. It was something very exceptional. Then, unfortunately, the realities of having too many people in one place, at one time, complicated matters."

McNally said he's always been interested in the music of the '60s and '70s and the whole scene.

"The thing that dawns on people after a while, about the '60s, is that they never went away. The peace movement didn't win, in terms of politics, but it helped slow the war down. What did happen is, it won culturally. If you eat organic food, do yoga, study Zen, worry about the environment, care about gay people having rights, etc. That all derives from the '60s. It's still real, except of course we have a president who's against all that, so it's a little more complicated, but there it was," said McNally, who ended our conversation with a reminder of the Grateful Dead. "It's been long, it's been strange, and it's definitely been a trip."



Dennis McNally

Submitted



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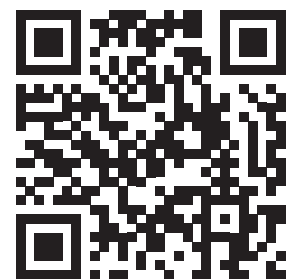
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DOWNTOWN RUTLAND

VERMONT



Ice Cream Social: A women in business mixer

Downtown Rutland Partnership
Ice Cream Social: A Women in Business Mixer

When: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Prouty's Parlor for Ice Cream at 62 Merchants Row in Downtown Rutland
Join in for our second Women in Business Mixer in Downtown Rutland - an Ice Cream Social at Prouty's Parlor in Downtown Rutland. An evening of conversation and connection with a guided work/life balance discussion led by Abbey Harlow of Harlow Nonprofit Consulting.

For more info, visit: downtownrutland.com/womeninbusinessevents



The Downtown Rutland Partnership is hosting a series of Women in Business events in 2025. These events are meant to celebrate and empower women-owned and -led businesses, organizations, and nonprofits in the historic Downtown Rutland district. These events are free for businesses, organizations, and non-profits located in Downtown Rutland. For businesses located outside the Downtown district, there will be a small fee.

This event is made possible by a Vermont Women's Fund grant and sponsorship from Heritage Family Credit Union.





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Solutions

From page 11

Crossword

H	A	T						S	T	P								
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Sudoku

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

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Tigger—2-year-old. Male. Domestic shorthair.



Marleen—4-year-old. Female. Mixed breed.



Daffodil—juvenile. Female. Hamster.



May—8-month-old. Female. Akita mix.



Dottie—2-year-old. Female. Domestic shorthair.



Tortellini—8-month-old. Female. Domestic shorthair.



China—2 ½-year-old. Female. Mixed breed.



Lenny—10-year-old. Male. Domestic shorthair.



Barron—4-year-old. Male. German shepherd.



Cashew—6-year-old. Male. Domestic shorthair.



Sammie—4-year-old. Male. Domestic shorthair.

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries

March 21 - April 20

The best way to change a situation is to think differently about it. While that can be easier said than done, it most certainly isn't impossible. The reality is that you're under a bit of extra pressure right now. You can buckle under it or change your perspective and thrive. You're always available for a challenge; the hard part is choosing one you're willing to commit to.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Opportunities tend to multiply when they are seized. You know this! This week, don't take for granted a chance to catch up with a friend, attend an event, or consider an opportunity you'd normally decline. In some ways, the chances you take or don't take this week will set you up for some amazing changes down the track. Stay curious and open-minded, and you'll be amazed by the doors that can open up for you.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

One door closes, and another door opens. That is the rhythm of life. Right now, these doors pertain to your most important relationships in either your personal or professional life or both. If you need a change, a burst of freshness, or just... something different, then don't be afraid to close some doors that you know deep down you probably need to. Saying no more often does lead to chances to say yes on something or someone more exciting.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

A New Moon in your Money Zone may inspire some new intentions regarding cash. There's going to be a lot of change in this area of your life, so get on the front foot and start making some plans. If you couldn't fail, what chances would you take on yourself? What risks would you take? Creating wealth is a combination of discipline, decisions, and healthy risk-taking. This week, think about how you can manage to do that.



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

This week, it may begin to dawn on you just how dissatisfied or restless you've been. At some level, you've known changes need to occur and that they likely will occur. That said, it's not always easy to pinpoint exactly what that is, and in some ways, that is exactly the point. Your main mission now is just to stay open and curious to any and all possibilities to change. The more you try and figure out the details, the more likely you'll miss the boat.



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

The attitude of don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today is fitting. Very soon, two things are likely to happen. Your daily grind and routines are going to go a little bit haywire and crazy—but in a good way. At the same time, your relationships are going to take more of your time, energy, and attention, also in a good way. So this week, do everything you can to complete your To-Do list so you can make room for what and who matters.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

A burst of energy may arrive this week as the New Moon happens in your sign. Mercury, your ruler, also arrives in your sign too. So, if you pay attention this week, you'll get a chance to not only think about but also intuit some of the incredible changes that are coming your way. In some ways, this is the calm before the storm, so do what you can to get organized and align yourself with your personal priorities and goals.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

Over the past 12 months, you've expanded your life perspectives. What do you think you might do with all this new knowledge and wisdom? There is so much that is about to change for you in this area that it may be hard to decide right now. That said, this week gives you a great opportunity to explore the possibilities, set some goals and intentions around your bucket list, and adjust your desires accordingly.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

In some ways, life has become a little bit more intense and serious. While in others, you've got some massive green lights to have more excitement, joy, fun and even romance. Maybe it's about changing your perspective on what seriousness and intensity mean. If you can double down on what brings you happiness in life, then everything will feel and become a whole lot better. This week, set the intention to radically reshape joy in your life.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Most of this week's energy is happening in the background for you. So if you need time alone or just want to be with your own thoughts and feelings, then do that. There's a lot happening on one hand, while on the other, it feels like nothing is. Rest assured, though, that this week may be quiet, but this is all in aid of you preparing for an extremely positive personal growth phase. If you need to hibernate this week, then stay inside your shell!



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Debts are in focus this week. This could mean the money that you owe or are owed. It could also mean debts at a deeper or more emotional level. Think of the karmic entanglements you share with other people. It may be time to address some of these issues within yourself. If you're tired of playing out the same patterns in your life, you probably know what you must do—change them! Start with setting that intention!



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

You have the opportunity to set the tone around how you want your domestic life to look. You're probably anticipating quite a bit of change regarding your family life, and if that's the case, then you'd be right. While it's impossible to predict every change, you can definitely prepare for it. This week, set the intention to be open, flexible, and curious. A happy home life and living situation may involve doing things differently than you currently are.

New month, new mindset



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

As the old month becomes new, there's an opportunity to start afresh. The skies look very different this week than they did last week, and as such, it may require you to think a little bit differently, too.

New circumstances often bring new opportunities and, therefore, new choices to make. Though this week and in the many weeks and months to come, you can make different choices based on old paradigms and old ways of thinking.

The challenge will be to take on new information, even if that differs from what you thought was true. Can you ask questions? Can you explore differing ideas? Can you take something on board without taking it personally?

Your feelings about something don't change the reality of a situation. However, when you change the way you feel about a situation, you can face its reality, and then there is a possibility and quite possibly an opportunity to change it.

The way forward now will be vastly different than how things have been. Rise up to this challenge and thrive, or hope things will return to the way they were and be left behind. In either case, make up your own mind.



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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.

Against the flow: Spring alewife run

One of the most exciting rites of spring is the alewife run, an annual event where throngs of fish race upstream from the ocean to inland water bodies on a reproductive journey. These “river herring,” as they are categorized, actually spend most of their lives at sea. Come spring, when the water warms to at least +5 C., schools of alewives gather near rivers and stream mouths. Striped bass, seals, and cormorants pursue them underwater while osprey, bald eagles, and a cacophony of gulls attack from the air. The fish adopt a “safety in numbers” approach by congregating in dense groups, and when they make their push upstream, the water appears to reverse direction as masses of gleaming, silver bodies surge against the current.

However, unless you live close to an “alewife stream,” you may not be familiar with this natural spectacle.

Like their salmonid cousins, alewives are anadromous, meaning they migrate up coastal streams and rivers to breed in ponds, lakes, and slow-moving riverine habitats. Breeding can start as early as February in South Carolina, at the southern end of their range, but not until late May or June in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the northern extent of their range. When alewives reach their spawning sites, they release vast quantities of eggs and sperm. Females can release over 300,000 eggs at times.

Soon after spawning, the alewives return downstream to spend another year at sea. Fertilized eggs hatch after a few days, and the young fish spend the next several months eating freshwater zooplankton and trying to avoid being eaten. Everything from dragonfly larvae to bass can dine on young alewives. In fact, biologists estimate that only 1 in 80,000 survive their first summer. At the end of summer and into early fall, those surviving individuals travel downstream to the ocean, where they spend the next few years feeding on marine zooplankton. After three to four years, they return to their natal freshwater bodies to spawn, drawn there by olfactory cues.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans and the construction of dams that cut off access to most of the alewife’s historic breeding grounds, alewives likely occurred in the billions. In 1634, an Englishman named William Wood, who lived at the Massachusetts Bay colony from 1629-1633, published an account

of the areas he visited called “New Englands [sic] Prospects,” in which he wrote of the alewife’s abundance:

“Alewives... come up to the fresh Rivers to spawn, in such multitudes as is almost incredible, pressing up in such shallow waters as will scarcely permit them to swim...”

These multitudes resulted in huge volumes of marine nutrients flowing into inland ecosystems. Envision streams and rivers as a great circulatory system, transporting nutrients from the ocean across the landscape in a variety of forms. Not only do the fish excrete nitrogen and phosphorus as waste, fertilizing the water for aquatic plants and algae, but they also feed dozens of predator species. Large rivers like the Delaware, Hudson, and Kennebec served as major thoroughfares from which the alewives accessed thousands of smaller streams and rivers on their way to interior ponds and lakes. The impact of these fish extended far inland from the coasts, in some cases well over 100 miles.

In addition to their ecological role, alewives are thought to have been a significant resource for Indigenous peoples and early European colonists. Wood’s descriptions of towns often included whether an alewife river was present or not. In this account of a

Massachusetts town, for example, he wrote:

“...Dorchester... which is the greatest Towne in New England... [has] no Alewife-river, which is a great inconvenience.”

There is evidence that Indigenous people used the alewife for fertilizer as well as food. Indeed, the alewife is suspected

of being the fish most commonly used by the Wampanoags to fertilize their “three sisters” crop of corn, bean, and squash.

Today, the alewife exists at a fraction of its former levels and spawns in a tiny subset of its native breeding sites. But as dams are removed and fish ladders added to those that remain, the alewife is slowly reclaiming portions of its historic range, where it may once again serve as a conduit for energy flow from the ocean to the land.

Loren Merrill is a writer and photographer with a PhD in animal behavior, wildlife ecology, and physiology. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



The Outside Story
By Loren Merrill



Angling for attention

Now that my son is in his 20s, working and taking college classes, my time with him has diminished considerably. He still lives at home, so I see him in passing, but the quality time I used to revel in has long since passed.

Throughout his childhood, my son and I were connected at the hip. I was involved in most aspects of his life, most notably as a coach in his many sporting adventures. I was also his chauffeur, chef, and maid. I didn’t resent any of these responsibilities, but I chose to do them out of love and commitment to his well-being.

And while I did cater to his needs, I also balanced that attention with a demanding parental dictate that he should become an accountable young man. In other words, I played support but made him do the hard work.

Given that our time together is now limited, I make it a point to take him out to eat at least once a week. Inevitably, this manifests as Sunday breakfast at a local diner.

The one rule I have is that he can’t use his phone during our meal together. In fact, many times, we both leave our phones in the car so we don’t have the temptation. The result (most of the time) is that we’re both completely present in our conversation.

This past weekend, as my son and I were having our breakfast, I caught him staring over my shoulder. I assumed he was checking out one of the many cute waitresses who were working that morning, but just as I was going to comment, he piped up and stated, “I think in one of my past lives, I must have been a catfish.”

“A catfish?” I replied with a tinge of concern. “What makes you think you were a catfish?” “Well,” he stated, “if I had my choice, I think I’d prefer to sleep in a hole all day and then stick my head out occasionally to eat some food. Just like catfish do.”

I gazed at him for a moment, not knowing how to reply before finally adding, “Of all the things a father would want to hear their son say, that has to be one of the worst.”

While we were both laughing at this comment, I realized that my son had not been present for those few moments and was instead thinking about his favorite pastime: fishing.

I should be clear: while I have had a tremendous influence on my son’s life in a multitude of disciplines, I in no way have influenced his love of fishing. Somehow, he came up with this passion completely on

his own. However, I may have unintentionally initiated things early in his childhood due to one nondescript purchase.

Many years ago, our family had a lake house that we frequented on weekends. From the back door to the edge of the lake was no more than 90 feet, where we had a large dock and boat. From this dock, there happened to be excellent fishing – which I never engaged in, from lack of interest.

On one trip to the lake house, I decided to buy my son, who was roughly 7 years old, a play fishing pole so he could pretend to be an angler. The pole had a Spider-Man theme, which was a character that he loved. I figured he might get an hour or two of fun out of it before casting it aside for another activity.

By chance, my father-in-law was also visiting that day, and when he saw the rod, he jury-rigged it with a real hook and worm. My son danced about the dock as this process unfolded, obviously excited about the prospect of catching a fish. With my father-in-law giving instructions, my son threw the readied line into the water and waited.

I was watching from the deck above and thought it would be cute to film the interaction, so I grabbed my video camera and turned it on. In that moment, I heard my father-in-law yell, “He actually got one!” To all of our surprise, my son held up his pole with a tiny fish dangling off the end. His excitement was profound, and I had captured it all on film.

I honestly believe that singular moment imprinted a love for fishing on my son, leading to a lifelong passion that exists to this day.

In this week’s feature, “Untold: The Liver King,” we meet a man who also had a profound childhood experience that one day would propel him to the highest ranks of social media stardom.

Brian Johnson took an early childhood of bullying and abuse and turned it into a multimedia empire based on his assertion that living a primal lifestyle was the key to health and happiness. Unfortunately, he wasn’t altogether truthful.

This is one of those rags-to-riches case studies that is mesmerizing to watch, not only for the unique product that catapults fame but for the missteps that cause a kingdom to fall. Check this one out if you love documentaries that expose the underbelly of wishful thinking.

A primal “B-” for “Untold: The Liver King” now available to stream on Netflix.

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at moviediary@att.net.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



The constant novice gardener

Rolling out of bed, I grab my Apple watch and check my phone. Confusion and delight spread across my face as I see that the sky is supposed to be blue today. All day. Like a normal spring day. There isn't a cloud on the radar nor a bloop in the hourly. It's confusing, all right, with our rain gauge saying we've accumulated over 8 inches just this May alone. Instead of "April showers bring May flowers" do we need to adjust it to "May showers bring June flowers?"

My poor daffodils literally drowned this year, and my first attempt at potted bulbs never had a chance to dry out, rotting in their pots that were half-filled with rocks. Maybe I was supposed to cover them with plywood or something to keep them from drowning as well?

Because I have to be honest, I am an uneducated gardener. A Google gardener, I sometimes like to call myself. When we first bought the property, I would sit out in the vegetable garden, weeding the beds with the "Vegetable Gardener's Bible" by Edward C. Smith (from the Northeast Kingdom) open to whatever plant I was working on. I had no idea what I was doing ... and it showed. As soon as we got the pH of the soil part, I failed miserably. My carrots were short, my peppers were puny, and the only things I was good at growing were asparagus, chives, and rhubarb.

But I loved the dirt under my fingernails, even through the gloves. I loved the weeding, cleaning out a safe space for my plants to grow, and making them happy. I loved designing the garden and creating the layout. I have an entire notebook of drawings, showing where the beds should go and how the plants should be arranged within them. The BF calls it my Book of Rectangles. But as I started redrawing the vegetable garden, it became increasingly obvious that what I really liked to do was landscape gardening.

The idea of creating long-lasting flower beds that all you had to do was weed them every year and move them

around like you were decorating your property. This made sense to me. I never took landscape architecture classes, but I took design and structural architecture. This type of gardening made perfect sense to me. I started by tidying up the perennials that had been bequeathed to us when we purchased the house. When I had ACL surgery, I spent a summer sorting rocks in a bed that had been destroyed by Irene and created a springtime Zen garden with rock paths, a homemade bench, and a wooden owl chainsaw sculpture that the BF bought to promote wisdom. When a plant is unhappy, you dig it out and move it until it finds a happy place.

In my reading, I began to find excerpts about how gardening connected women to the Earth and how it is meditative in nature and strengthens our connection to the earth. Historically, women have found power through gardening, founding clubs, and schools that would give women their own domain in the home and increasingly outside of it. It was women gardeners who began the fight against billboards in the 1960s, who fought for the beauty of public lands and spaces—even if it was just the dead space at an intersection. It is the act of tending to plants, watching them grow, and nurturing the earth that makes us grow stronger as a people. It is healing and rejuvenating. It connects us to the Earth's mother, strengthening her power and ours.

I love seeing the gardens of others and then rushing home to see how I can use that new knowledge to shape my own gardens. To care for and improve my own property. I took a 6-foot-diameter clump of hostas that were suffering in the hot sun and divided them up into a shaded border along my driveway. I got about 126 plants out of the separation, and nothing makes me smile more than when I drive into my home and am greeted by my entrance gardens, one in sun and one in shade, and then drive along my driveway. My welcoming committee. As I

loved them, so they shine their love to me.

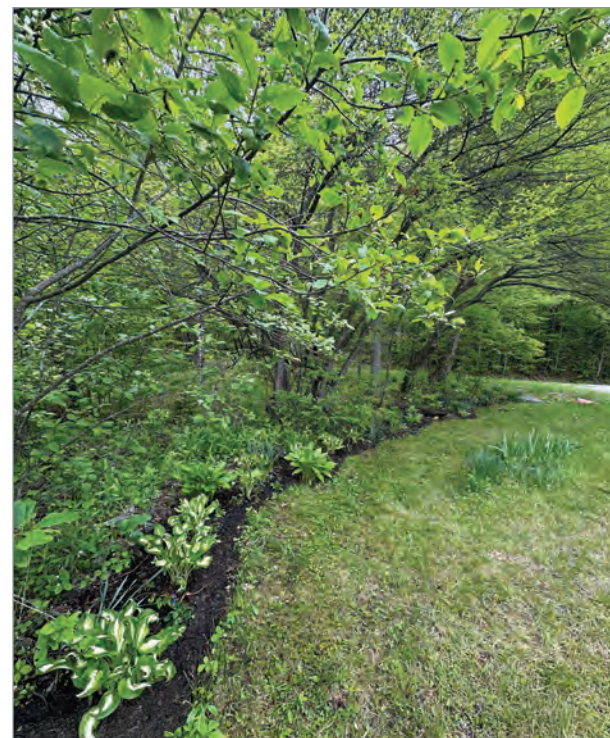
I brought happiness, both to myself and to nature. And that is such a beautiful thing. My hands in the dirt showed me why I love hiking so much and how truly connected to this land I have become. This land is an integral part of my identity, of who I am and who I will become. It's one of my favorite parts of Vermont—our respect for the land and beautiful Green Mountains make us who we are. This is our land, and we must protect it and preserve it, for only together can we grow.

Merisa Sherman is a longtime Killington resident, global real estate advisor, town official, and Coach PomPom. She can be found online @femaleskibum or at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



Living the Dream

By Merisa Sherman



By Merisa Sherman

Merisa Sherman's Garden is always a work in progress.

A variety of fears

One of the TV talk shows I was watching recently discussed fears. The comment was made that we outgrow most childhood fears, but some remain.

Fear of the dark is a common one when you are young. I remember a night light solved that problem for me. My bedroom door was left open, and there was just enough light from the hallway to put aside my fears.

I always thought that some kind of monster would come out of the attic door and into my parents' bedroom. That fear went away because our attic was a favorite play spot for me and my friends on a rainy day. The crib and bassinet that had been used for me were perfect places to put our dolls as we played with them.

Moving on to school days, there is often a fear of being away from home and a fear that the other kids won't like us as we attempt to make new friends.

Fear of tests in school can make for a sleepless night before exams.

Standing up in front of classmates to give a book report or talk about an assigned topic can cause sweaty palms for sure. I often watch local high school graduations on PEG TV and am amazed at how relaxed the students look as they give their speeches.

If I thought standing up in front of classmates was difficult, I found real fear when another classmate and I had to get up on stage and give a short introductory speech in front of parents and guests for high school awards night. Fortunately for me, my friend was even more nervous than I was. I didn't have much time to worry about me because I was too busy calming her down.

Fear stood in the way of getting my license until my senior year in college. I really didn't have a choice by then, as I needed to drive to Proctor High School for student teaching. I told the instructor that I wasn't ready for the first test he had arranged for me. He gave me a couple more lessons and instilled confidence in me that I could pass, and I did. I must confess that I haven't parallel parked since then, and that was 60 years ago!!!

My mother was afraid of thunderstorms and high winds. My father would be sitting on our back porch watching the lightning, and my mother would be sprinkling holy water throughout our house. I came out "in the middle" of those mindsets. I don't watch the storms from our porch, but I don't sprinkle holy water on them either. I just turn off the TV and computer and wait for the storm to be over!



Looking Forward

By Mary Ellen Shaw

I didn't know I was afraid of heights until I won tickets to a tennis event at Stratton in the '80s. Our seats were up near the top. I was OK climbing up, but once I was seated, there was a feeling of panic about how I would get back down. We took a break between matches, and I went down the steps behind my husband so all I would have to look at was his back. I never returned to our seats and watched the remainder of the matches standing on the handicap ramp. Fortunately, nobody told me to get off it!

An adult fear came to me when my husband, Peter, and I were out fishing on Crystal Lake in Barton, Vermont. The wind came up quickly and pushed our boat around like it was a toy! Fortunately, it pushed us to shore near the boat access. We got out and pulled the boat along the shoreline to the parking area. My eyes were glued to the skyline after that experience and if there was more than a breeze I wanted "out of that boat"!

My cousin Betty and I have two common fears—flying and elevators. Neither of us has even been in a plane. However, we have no choice but to take an elevator at times. When we are together in one, we keep our fingers crossed that it won't get stuck. I kid her that our first plane ride will probably be in a "Medevac" plane that is taking us to a hospital, and we will be too sick to care!

Unfortunately, fears will always be a part of everyone's life. Let's do the best we can to conquer the irrational ones!

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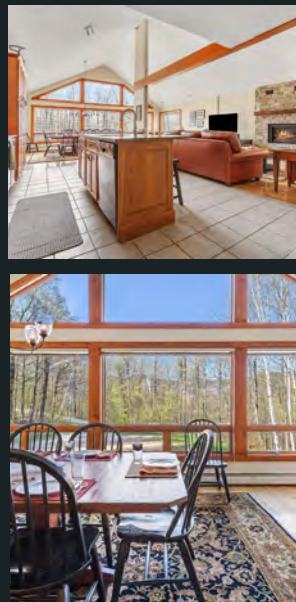
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Location in the heart of Killington!

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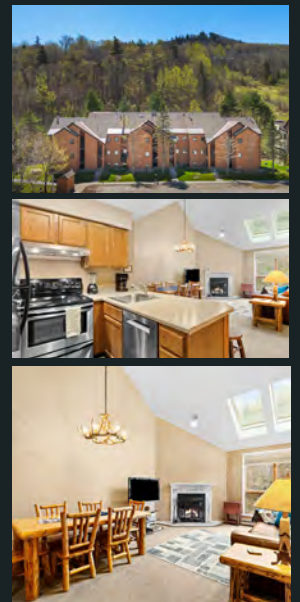
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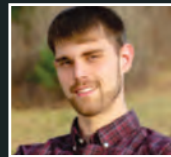
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Broker/Owner



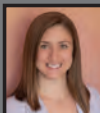
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Employment

OFFICE MANAGER WANTED-Mosher Excavation in Killington, VT is looking for a full-time Front Office Manager. Candidates must be detail-oriented, have high standards for quality and have a strong work ethic. Candidates must be positive and professional with the team and clients. Positive can-do spirit is a must as new tasks arise. Qualifications must include attention to details, high standard for quality of work, banking and financial experience preferable but not a requirement. In addition, Quickbooks Desktop version experience is preferable. 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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Mosher Excavation

Office Manager

Mosher Excavation in Killington, VT is looking for a full-time Front Office Manager. Candidates must be detail-oriented, have high standards for quality and have a strong work ethic. Candidates must be positive and professional with the team and clients. Positive can-do spirit is a must as new tasks arise.

Qualifications:

Accounts Receivable/Payable
Attention to detail, accuracy
High standard for quality of work
Strong work ethic

Banking/Financial experience preferable, but not a requirement
Quickbooks experience preferable, but not a requirement

We are willing to train a candidate with strong qualifications (above) to learn the necessary job tasks (below).

Tasks:

Client communications: phone, email, occasional walk-ins
Manage main email/respond and pass along messages
Keep track of RFP's- Organize digital library of plans, permits and vendor quotes
Manage contracts for general contractors, State of VT AOT, Vermont Parks & Rec, and Annual Snowplow
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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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