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FIREWORKS SHOWS ABOUT THE REGION

Local fireworks shows begin Thursday, continue through Sunday.

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GOV. SIGNS BILL FOR PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS

Governor Phil Scott signed H.480, which includes a "phone-free" in schools policy that has received wide support in Vermont and nationally.

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GO SEE A CIRCUS THIS WEEKEND

Circus Smirkus, the popular youth circus troupe, will perform in Middlebury before heading to Manchester. The troupe (age 12-18 from all over the U.S.) is on tour all summer!

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By Polly Mikula

Killington water tank on Shagback Mountain takes shape

The walls are up on Killington's new water tank on Shagback Mountain. When completed it'll stand 35-40 feet tall including the dome, with 4-6 feet buried underground. The walls were cast and lifted into place last week by Preload, a company specializing in building prestressed concrete tanks onsite. A crew is here from Texas to get the job done by mid-August. Final completion of the water tank site is expected in early October. This is the first of two tanks planned for Shagback Mountain. The second will be built when demand requires it. Each will hold 750,000 gallons of water (weighing about 6 million pounds), according to Mitchell O'Neil from Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers. Abbie Sherman, the public works director for the town of Killington, said the project is going well and that all crews expect to finish on deadline. This means the first working water hook-ups on the new municipal line will be ready next summer (2026).

\$13.6m in Northern Border Regional Commission grants awarded

Rutland City, Woodstock, Rochester and Benson receive \$5.4m collectively

Governor Phil Scott, Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Peter Welch, and Congresswoman Becca Balint, together with the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), on June 24 announced that 11 Vermont communities will be receiving a combined \$13.6 million from NBRC's Catalyst Program.

Local awardees include:

Rutland City

- Grant amount: \$3,000,000. Total project cost: \$6,741,410.
- Project: Modernizing Downtown Rutland's wastewater infrastructure, enhancing economic growth and resilience.

Town of Rochester

- Grant amount: \$1,000,000. Total project cost: \$4,552,120.
- Project: Re-purpose the former Rochester High School into a multi-use community hub, providing early childhood education, senior services, workforce development, arts programming, and business incubation.

Town of Woodstock

- Grant amount: \$868,858.52. Total project cost: \$1,755,094.22
- Project: Upgrade municipal drinking water system, increasing pressure and capacity to support new housing and business development.

NBRC grants → 12



By Jerry LeBlond

Colleen Sands, 29, and Dan Curtis, 29, were the fastest women's and men's pro racers at Saturday's Cirque Series race up Killington Mountain. They stand with Brian Montgomery of The Killington Group (center), which contributed to their cash prizes.

Cirque Series celebrates successful Killington debut

By Polly Mikula

The Cirque Series broke trail in New England with two new races. On June 7, runners raced up Cannon Mountain in Franconia, New Hampshire and this

past Saturday, June 28, they tackled "The Beast of the East," Killington Mountain. Cirque is also adding Crystal Mountain, Washington, to its national lineup of eight races

this year.

Over 400 racers participated in the debut at Killington, according to Brian Montgomery of the Killington Group. Cirque Series debut → 3

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Community Health expands pharmacy access with acquisition of Beauchamp & O’Rourke

Community Health is expanding its pharmacy services in Rutland with the upcoming acquisition of Beauchamp & O’Rourke Pharmacy on Woodstock Avenue, furthering its commitment to providing accessible, high-quality pharmaceutical care across the region. The transition will complement Community Health’s existing community pharmacy in Brandon.

The need for expanded pharmacy access has grown as limited hours and staffing challenges impact many local pharmacies. Community Health aims to eventually operate the new pharmacy from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

“Providing care and services that are accessible to all people builds a stronger community,” said Mike Gardner, CEO at Community Health.

Beauchamp & O’Rourke Pharmacy, known for its personalized care and dedication to customer service, aligns closely with Community Health’s mission. The pharmacy will close at the end of the day on July 31, reopening as Community Pharmacy on August 4 with prescription fulfillment, medication counseling, local delivery, and medication affordability assistance through the sliding fee discount program.

“Some of the staff will be the same trusted individuals you were used to seeing. There will also be some new faces of staff who will be excited to get to know you,” said Gardner. “We will offer a modern pharmacy with old-fashioned service.”

Patients will also benefit from coordinated care with Community Health providers, making it easier to manage overall health and wellness.

Community Health is Vermont’s largest Federally Qualified Health Center, providing primary care, pediatric, behavioral health, dental, and pharmacy services at locations across the region.

For more information, visit: chcrr.org.

Sean Adkins named executive director of RRA

After a nationwide search, the Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA) has named Sean Adkins as its new executive director. Adkins, who brings a strong background in public administration and economic development, is expected to begin his role in late July or early August.

Adkins currently serves as the town manager in St.



Courtesy FB
Sean Adkins

“Coming to serve the RRA and the City of Rutland at the very beginning of a TIF District is a very exciting prospect,” said Adkins.

Albans, Vermont. He previously held economic development leadership roles in Patrick County, Virginia, as well as in Roanoke, Virginia, and New London, Connecticut. He holds a master of public administration (MPA) from the University of Miami and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Connecticut. He was also a doctoral student in the public policy program at Virginia Tech.

“The Rutland Redevelopment Authority is looking forward to working with Sean to support the City of Rutland in establishing and maintaining the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district and furthering citywide development goals,” said Edward Clark, chair of the RRA Board of Commissioners.

“We are very happy to have found a candidate who has the knowledge and enthusiasm of Sean when it comes to economic development. We want to be a resource for not only the City but for local and out-of-state developers that wish to establish or grow their businesses in Rutland City.”

Clark noted that with the new TIF district, the recent passage of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) in the Vermont House, and the anticipated Tier 1 Act 250 exemption, Rutland is poised for significant economic development. “We want to keep Sean really busy with work,” he said.

Adkins heads RRA → 10

Rutland Sculpture Trail announces 14th installation

Sculpture to highlight national blood donation record

The 14th addition to the Rutland Sculpture Trail will honor the community’s giving spirit, volunteerism, and inspiration - and the national record for donating blood.

Organizers have commissioned a piece honoring Rutland’s Gift-of-Life Marathon (GOLM), which still holds the one-day U.S. record for blood donations 12 years after setting the record and continues to inspire hundreds of donors each summer and fall.

Three local residents whose volunteerism, donations, and inspiration helped make the drive an ongoing success will be featured in the sculpture, designed by Evan Morse and now being carved by Morse and his wife, Taylor Apostol, at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center in West Rutland. It is expected to be completed and installed before the Gift of Life Marathon in the fall.

The sculpture, a large, round column set on a square base, will feature longtime Red Cross and GOLM volunteer Mary Ojala, who continued to help out with the drive till her 100th birthday; Bobby Poquette, a volunteer extraordinaire and regular blood donor; and Stefanie Schaffer, a Rutland native and blood recipient who has inspired hundreds of people to donate blood as a GOLM ambassador. It will be dedicated to the memory of Tom Huebner, an early and strong supporter of the GOLM.

“This sculpture will represent the most recent history featured on the trail, as well as one of Rutland’s most impressive community accomplishments,” organizers said in a statement. “Organizers of the Gift of Life were told many, many times that Rutland was simply too small to set and hold the national record. Well, the folks saying that didn’t know the size of the greater-Rutland community’s collective heart.”

Rutland shattered the old record of 1,968 pints on Dec. 12, 2013, collecting 2,350 pints at five sites spread across the region. The record still stands.

Sculpture Trail leaders from the CSSC and MKF Properties, along with GOLM organizers Terry Jaye and Steve Costello, collaborated to decide who the sculpture would feature. Morse created a moving tableau that will wrap around a column of Danby White marble donated by Vermont Quarries.

“The GOLM has always been about the community, and 14th sculpture → 11



Hundreds of racers and spectators showed up for the first Cirque Series at Killington Resort, Saturday, June 28.

By Jerry LeBlond

Dan Curts crossed the finish line first with a time of 58 minutes.

By Maks Davidov

← Cirque Series debut: from page 1

ton Group who helped bring the event to town. Organizers had capped the debut race at 500, but hope to reach 600 participants next year when the race returns, and grow it to 1,000 in its third year at The Beast.

"Racers loved the Killington course because it was so challenging," said Montgomery.

Killington Mountain offered an 8.2-mile, 3,010-foot vertical course with spectacular views of the Green Mountains. The race started at K-1 sending runners immediately up Snowdon Mountain, then to the top of Killington Peak before descending by Skye Peak to Bear Mountain, then back up Bearly trail to "one last spicy surprise," cirqueseries.com noted. "Needle's Eye is a steep quarter mile finisher with a staggering 45% degree climb." From there, it's a quick descent down Bittersweet to the finish back at K-1.

The top racer, Daniel Curts of Lebanon, New Hampshire, finished the course in 58 minutes. He was followed by Jackson Cole of Missoula, Montana; and then by Owen Wright of Lakewood, Colorado.

Colleen Sands, of Rindge, New Hampshire, had the fastest female time of 1 hour 16 minutes. She was followed by Jenna Gigliotti, of Amherst, Massachusetts; Haley

Heinrich, of Newbury, New Hampshire.

Like every Cirque race, the day ended with a festive party celebrating every runner's effort and adventure.

Cirque Series founder Julian Carr wasn't always a trail runner; his roots are on the snow as a renowned big-mountain skier, X Games gold medalist, world record holder for the highest invert on skis, and appearances in seven Warren Miller films. After spending his winters chasing deep powder, Carr turned to mountain biking in the summer, until a 2013 trail run with his dog ignited a new passion.

In 2015, he launched the Cirque Series to fill the void of mid-distance, high-alpine events that blend physical challenge with natural beauty summiting at least one peak in every race.

Until now, Cirque has thrived in the Mountain West, Alaska and Europe. Its 2025 expansion to the East Coast marks a significant moment for New England's booming trail scene, where the rugged terrain of the White and Green Mountains rivals the West in both difficulty and reverence.

"I started Cirque to create the kind of mountain races I was looking for, competitions that are both extremely fun and undeniably challenging, summiting peaks

in most efficient manner possible, with a party waiting for you at the finish line," said Carr. "Bringing the series to the East Coast is especially meaningful. The terrain is raw, the community is passionate, and these mountains match the grit of the runners who call them home."

To support its New England debut, Cirque has partnered with Tom Hooper, founder of SIX03 Endurance, a New Hampshire-based trail running organization. Hooper manages some of the region's most prestigious trail races including the Loon Mountain Race, Sunapee Scramble, and Kismet Cliff Run.

"Trail running is still in its infancy, and it's been incredible to watch how the SIX03 Endurance community has helped shape its growth while putting New England on the map as a trail running hub," said Hooper in a news release. "To enhance a sport that welcomes all paces and abilities, events like Cirque are uniquely positioned to develop as inclusive and deeply rewarding experiences for diverse athletes."

Montgomery met Hooper at the Boston Run and Outdoor Expo in March and encouraged him to bring the Cirque Series to Killington. "Then it was just off and running," Montgomery said. "He then introduced me to Julian, and it was really fantastic from the beginning. It was really the Cirque guys, Tom and Julian, to have

me with boots on the ground with them... keeping them positive and encouraging them when they hit obstacles."

"The Killington Group has been an exceptional partner for this year's Cirque Series race — from day one, they were true collaborators," stated Julian Carr. "They promoted and marketed the event with genuine enthusiasm, supported event logistics in a big way, secured us top-notch housing, and their generous cash contribution helped us create one of the most exciting standout prize purses in the region. Brian and the entire Killington Group Team were instrumental in making this weekend a success, and are one of the big reasons we are excited to be bringing Cirque Series back to Killington next year," Carr noted.

The Killington Group donated to the prize winnings, doubling the cash purse for the top female and top male for a total prize of \$2,000 each.

With over 4,200 runners expected in the 2025 eight event running series, Cirque bills itself as the largest trail race series in the U.S. It's known for its high-energy, scenic races on renowned ski mountains, as well as for bringing people together and supporting the year-round outdoor recreation economies of mountain communities. A portion of proceeds from each race support local trail conservation efforts.

For more info, visit: cirqueseries.com.

Governor speaks at Rutland breakfast

By Curt Peterson

It shouldn't be surprising that Phil Scott, "America's most popular governor," can easily pack a venue as large as Rutland's Southside Steak House, but at 7:30 in the morning empty seats were already hard to find at the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) Legislative Breakfast, Monday morning, June 30.

The governor focused his beginning remarks on the "new improved balance" in the Vermont Legislature — "No more super-majority" enabling Democrats and Progressives to override his vetoes of bills he thought were ill-advised.

"We're still the minority, but now we at least have a seat at the table, and our voices are being heard," Scott said.

He outlined four major areas where he and his cabinet hope to improve with real negotiations with legislators: public safety, affordability, housing and education.

He laments that 2024 is the third year in a row that the state saw 20 or more homicides in Vermont. He believes the current system of allowing suspects to go free until their trial (a.k.a. "Catch and Release Policing") is a failure, putting felons back on the streets.

Scott promised \$13.5 million will be used to control tax burdens, and military pensions will be exempt from taxation as income.

He highlighted three areas where the



By Curt Peterson

Gov. Phil Scott laughs with members at CEDRR during a Legislative Breakfast, Monday.

administration is confronting a dearth of housing. First, he said, the state is going to be investing in infrastructure to make creation of housing easier and more practical. Second, he touted Tax Incentive Funding (TIFs) that supports funding for larger housing development in qualified towns on the basis that resulting additional tax revenue will reimburse the investment.

"Each county is able to create two TIF districts," Scott said. "We have one in Rutland, and another in Killington."

Third, the governor also hopes to find regulatory relief for builders and developers, believing that current requirements for building housing are a giant impediment.

Education is on everyone's mind, for various reasons. 2024 saw some devastating education tax increases across the state, and there has been constant pressure on the

Legislature to find a way to finance education that doesn't overburden taxpayers. A controversial bill, H.454, is the result of lawmakers' and the governor's efforts.

"The current system is failing our kids," Scott said. "We spend \$2.3 billion on educating 80,000 kids. It's both inefficient and unsuccessful. We need drastic change."

He calculates the current 119 individual school districts in Vermont should be consolidated into between five and 12 new districts. Acknowledging parents' concerns about children having to endure long bus rides, Scott added: "We'll have higher teacher pay, more and better after-school programs, bigger classes and bigger schools," he said. "These will be big changes, but they won't happen in a day — ultimately it will

take years." The basic issue is demographics, according to the governor. He reported that the number of Vermonters under 18 has decreased by 14,000 in the past 10 years. Likewise, residents between 40 and 55 are now 40,000 fewer, but the group over 65 has grown by 60,000.

Mountain Times publisher Polly Mikula sent along a question for the governor: "Given that taxpayers in ALL school districts in Rutland County currently allocate less — sometimes far less — than the foundation amount per pupil in H.454, won't this mean that Rutland County taxpayers will see a tax increase as a result of this bill?"

"Not necessarily," Scott answered. "Consolidation and the other changes that affect education financing may take two or more

"If local voters retain control, they would not let consolidation happen," Scott said.

years to become reality." In the meantime local voters will have to relinquish control over their school budgets and the mechanics of consolidation, he said. "If local voters retain control, they would not let consolidation happen," he said. "And we'll invest in schools once we know where they are."



Submitted

Pictured (l-r): Will Aubuchon and Danielle Armstrong/Aubuchon ACE Hardware; and Carol Lighthall/OVRCC, celebrated the opening of the newly renovated ACE Hardware on Main St.



Submitted

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in Proctorsville for the opening of Green Mountain Fireplace Specialties.

Ribbon cuttings in Ludlow and Proctorsville highlight local business growth

A pair of ribbon cuttings on June 20 held by the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) marked a day of celebration for two local businesses and offered a boost of momentum to the region's small business economy.

In Ludlow, Aubuchon ACE Hardware unveiled its newly renovated store on Main Street with a grand re-opening celebration. CEO Will Aubuchon was on hand to officiate the ribbon cutting, welcoming vendors, longtime customers, and staff to tour the refreshed space. The event marked the beginning of a new partnership with ACE Hardware and

reaffirmed the store's commitment to quality products and community-focused service.

Later that day in Proctorsville, festivities continued with the official opening of Green Mountain Fireplace Specialties at its new retail location on Route 103, next to the Grafton Village Cheese Store. A family-run business known for its stove products, Green Mountain Fireplace Specialties now features an expanded lineup that includes BBQ grills, outdoor living equipment, sauces and condiments, and grilling accessories.

The new store also features a selection of Vermont-made favorites, including maple syrup, Vermont Flannel shirts, and Vermont Teddy Bears, which celebrate the state's local craftsmanship and charm.

"These events reflect the energy and resilience of our local businesses. We're honored to support their continued success and the important role they play in the heart of our communities," said chamber Executive Director Carol Lighthall.

For more info, visit: yourplaceinvermont.com.

Governor Scott signs tax relief bill for working families, seniors, military retirees

On June 25, Governor Phil Scott held a ceremony to sign S.51, An act relating to Vermont income tax exclusions and tax credits, into law. He was joined by members of the Legislature, current and former members of the military, and other supporters of the bill. In addition to exempting military retirement income up to \$125,000 from state taxes, the bill also expands the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and exempts an additional \$5,000 of Social Security income for seniors.

Governor Scott explained: “Over the last few years Vermonters have felt the impacts of inflation and higher costs in many areas, making it harder for those looking to retire and for families and workers to make ends meet, which includes paying their property taxes.

“So, at the start of the session, one of the areas I asked the Legislature to focus on was affordability,” Scott said. “I put forward some ideas to help ease the tax burden so Vermonters aren’t forced to make tough decisions about which bills they pay this month and which ones they don’t, their electric bill, their fuel bill, or their car payment, because

they can’t do all three. Or worse yet, consider moving out of Vermont to a more affordable state. Because when I’m out talking to people, that’s what they’re concerned about: how expensive it is to live in Vermont.

“My affordability plan included tax breaks for workers, families, and seniors by expanding the eligibility for the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit and increasing the Social Security income exemption by another \$5,000. It also included fully exempting military retirement pay.

“And although we didn’t get as much as I would have liked, we did make significant gains,” Scott continued. “S.51 fully exempts income up to \$125,000 and tapers off for those receiving more. The bill also includes a refundable tax credit for retirees earning up to \$30,000.

“Since I was first elected governor, I’ve asked the Legislature to eliminate the income tax from military retirement because

with an aging demographic and declining workforce, it’ll help attract more working aged people and families to Vermont.

“And it makes a lot of sense because it’s difficult to compete with other states who are much more generous with tax incentives.

“It’s an important recruitment tool because many in the military retire at a relatively young age and have an entire civilian career ahead of them,” Scott said.

“This exemption isn’t just about tax breaks,” he said. “It’s not a partisan issue. It’s an important recruitment tool because many in the military retire at a relatively young age and have an

entire civilian career ahead of them.

“They’re highly skilled from their military experience, which we need to fill jobs here in the state.

“To all the members of our military, past and present, thank you for your service to our country.

“We live in freedom because of you and it’s important we remember the contributions you’ve made to protect that,” Scott concluded.

Scott signs H.480, ‘phone-free’ school bill

Governor Phil Scott June 27 signed H.480, among other amendments, to education law. The bill includes a “phone-free” in schools policy that has received wide support in Vermont and nationally.

When signing H.480, an act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law, Gov. Scott issued the following statement: “This bill includes many technical changes but also takes a meaningful step forward to develop and implement a phone-free policy in

“The things our cell phones can do today are amazing; however, the one area they seem to be very good at, is their ability to distract us from everything. We need kids to be focused on learning, interacting with their peers, teachers, and friends while they’re at school,” Gov. Scott stated.

schools across Vermont. The things our cell phones can do today are amazing; however, the one area they seem to be very good at, is their ability to distract us from everything. We need kids to be focused on learning, interacting with their peers, teachers, and friends while they’re at school. And it’s clear now that phones can get in the way of important conversations and class discussions and can also be used for harmful interactions, like bullying. Taking a break from our phones is probably a good policy for all of us to follow — and hopefully, find that

healthy balance we could all use a little more of.”

The policy will go into effect for school year 2026-27. The law reads, in part: “The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Independent School Association, and a representative from the Vermont Coalition for Phone and Social Media Free Schools, shall develop, and review at least annually, a policy to, subject to the exceptions in subdivision (2) of this subsection, prohibit student use of cell phones and non-school-issued personal electronic devices that connect to cellular networks, the internet, or have wireless capabilities at school from arrival to dismissal,” the bill reads. “The model policy shall provide exceptions for students to use a cell phone or personal electronic device if such use is: it is required as part of a student’s individualized health care plan, individualized education program, or 504 plan, which shall be documented.”

Several Vermont middle and high schools have already adopted policies that create an entirely phone-free school day.

Newsweek reports that according to the Pew Research Center polling data released in June 2024, 72% of high school teachers say phone distractions are a major problem. As of June 2025, 14 states have active laws or executive orders that ban or restrict cell phone use in schools. Proponents argue that it benefits student attainment and improves mental health.



By Fiona MacLean courtesy of the Vermont Center for EcoStudies
A loon glides on the water of the Green River Reservoir in spring.

Vermont’s adult loon population is at an all-time high, but fewer chicks are surviving

By Izzy Wagner/VT Digger

Vermont’s adult loon population is at an all-time high, but scientists have noticed a recent decrease in the number of chicks surviving.

In 2024, Vermont saw a record-breaking 123 nesting pairs, 11 of which landed at first-time nesting sites. Out of the 125 loon chicks that hatched in 2024, 65% survived through the end of August, slightly below the 2004-23 average of 76%, according to the Vermont Center for EcoStudies.

Eric Hanson, a biologist for the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, said the three main reasons for less chick survival are competition, habitat loss, and predation from eagles and other wildlife.

Flooding in Vermont in recent years has contributed to habitat loss and affected nesting success. Twenty-one nests were flooded in the summers of 2023 and 2024, a stark contrast to the one flooded nest re-

ported during the drier summers from 2020 to 2022, according to the center’s 2024 loon season summary.

Nesting loons make their homes in smaller lakes when larger lakes are taken by other pairs of loons with established breeding grounds there. These sites tend to have more marginal habitat, often lacking protective features like marshes or islands. Nests built there are more exposed to predators, such as eagles and snapping turtles. Adults must also leave small lakes to feed in bigger areas where fish are plentiful, and the additional time spent away from their young can lead to their neglect, according to the season summary.

A higher presence of adult loons also creates territorial conflict, resulting in “turf battles” between loons that could prevent a pair from nesting, Hanson said. Chick

Loon population → 12

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Sanders restores \$17m for Vt schools canceled by Trump

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), ranking member of the Senate health, education, labor, and pensions (HELP) committee, June 27 announced that the U.S. Dept. of Education reversed its decision to cancel nearly \$17 million in federal K-12 Covid-19 funding for Vermont school districts and some \$2.5 billion for schools across the country. The administration’s announcement follows a successful lawsuit led by 16 states and the District of Columbia to prevent the department from revoking this important education funding.

Sanders worked with Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to make certain that Vermont received its fair

share. Sanders and his staff also worked with 19 school districts in Vermont to submit 88 applications to appeal these cancellations.

“I am very happy to announce that the U.S. Dept. of Education has reversed its decision to deny \$17 million of Covid-19 funding to schools in Vermont and billions across the nation. This means that 19 school districts in our state will receive funding that had been denied so that they can go forward with a variety of projects — summer programs, afterschool programs and school renovation,” Sanders said in a video message. “At a time when so many of our school districts are suffering and struggling

economically, this is an important step forward.”

In March, the Trump administration canceled an estimated \$2.5 billion nationwide in unspent funding for K-12 schools provided under the American Rescue Plan Act and established a bureaucratic appeals process. Sanders had several conversations with the Secretary of Education to urge her to change course.

Sanders’ office promptly contacted all affected school districts and worked with local school leaders to overcome administrative barriers to appeal the cancellations. The department is expected to provide funding to states next week.

VT Agency of Education announces summer food service program

The Agency of Education announced the availability of summer meal sites providing meals to all children, 18 and under, through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This program ensures that children across the state have access to nutritious meals throughout the summer. Families are encouraged to access these meals to help support children’s growth, health, and academic success.

In summer 2024, Vermont served over 1 million meals at almost 300 sites across the state. Meals are served at a wide range of locations, such as schools, parks, housing complexes, and libraries. Families can find information on open meal sites by calling 2-1-1, the United Way-run resource hotline, or through the USDA Meals For Kids Site Finder.

In Summer 2024, Vermont served over 1 million meals at almost 300 sites across the state.

Hunger Free Vermont also maintains site lists by county on their website. All sites listed are open to all children, 18 and under. Information is updated weekly throughout the summer.

Some sites may provide grab-and-go meals or multi-day meal kits that can be consumed off-site. These sites may also allow parents/guardians to pick up meals on behalf of children without them present.

Hunger Free Vermont also maintains site lists by county on their website. All sites listed are open to all children, 18 and under. Information is updated weekly throughout the summer.

Some sites may provide grab-and-go meals or multi-day meal kits that can



Courtesy Ben DeFlorio Photography
Graduating nurses from the Vermont State University Randolph nursing program received their diplomas.

Vermont State University graduates 414 nurses, boosting local health care workforce

Vermont State University (VTSU) has graduated 414 new nurses this year, marking a significant step forward in addressing the state’s ongoing health care workforce shortage. With approximately 92% of these graduates testing for licensure in Vermont and strong NCLEX pass rates, the university continues to deliver on its promise to educate and prepare nurses who stay and serve in their local communities.

“Vermont needs more nurses, and VTSU is delivering them,” said VTSU President Dave Bergh. “We’ve built an incredible program that is accessible statewide and whose graduates are directly and immediately impacting the health care needs of their local communities.”

Now enrolling more than 700 nursing students annually—90% of whom are Vermont residents—VTSU’s nursing programs span 12 locations across the state, with additional coursework available online. Designed for flexibility and accessibility, the university’s ladder credential model offers multiple entry points into nursing, from a practical nursing certificate to an associate degree in nursing (ADN), to a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN), and ultimately to a master of science in nursing (MSN).

The ladder structure—commonly referred to as 1+1+2—enables students to earn a certificate or degree after each stage of the program. Many, like Bennington graduate Jennifer Spika, choose to continue their education while already working in the field.

“Choosing the VTSU PN program was an easy decision for me,” Spika said. “It has a strong reputation, a supportive learning environment, and it’s located right in my community.” Balancing part-time work and raising three children, Spika plans to continue in the ADN program this fall.

Spika said the program pushed her out of her comfort zone in the best way.

Now enrolling more than 700 nursing students annually—90% of whom are Vermont residents—VTSU’s nursing programs span 12 locations across the state.

GUEST EDITORIAL

A big, bad bill for the Fourth

By Angelo Lynn

Editor's note: Angelo Lynn is the owner and publisher of the Addison Independent in Middlebury, a sister paper of the Mountain Times.

As Senate Republicans wrestle to pass President Trump's "big bill" by a self-imposed July 4 deadline, Vermonters should understand the policy changes that will impact their lives. At over 1,000 pages, the bill is deliberately packed with so many items as to confuse the public and Congress — successfully on both counts.

Even so, here are a few of the highlights as it currently stands:

Tax cuts, who benefits?

The most popular aspect of the bill is that it maintains the tax cuts passed during Trump's first term in 2017. Those cuts overwhelmingly favored the wealthy and contributed to a sharp increase in the nation's wealth gap, but the cuts also extended tidbits of relief to all except the bottom tier of taxpayers. Many Democrats support extending the tax cuts for the lower- and mid-income ranges but oppose tax cuts for the wealthy.

Here are a few of the bill's specific proposals pertaining to the tax cuts:

- According to a simplified USA Today breakout, if your income falls under \$17,000 annually, you're likely to lose benefits from Medicaid, health insurance markets, food assistance programs like SNAP and student loans. In dollar terms, USA Today estimates you'll lose \$1,035 or see a 10.8% loss in benefits.
- If you're among the super-wealthy and your income is above \$4.3 million, you'll save on average \$389,200 in taxes (that is, if anyone at that rate pays their full share.)
- Those with incomes between \$17,000-\$50,999 will see a loss of \$705 annually, or a 1% loss. Incomes of \$51,000-\$92,999 will gain 1%, or about \$845. Those with incomes between \$93,000-\$173,999 see a gain of 2.4% or \$3,245; those between \$174,000-\$262,999, will see benefits of 2.9% or \$6,050; and those between \$263,000-\$387,999 will gain \$8,835 or 2.8%. From there the benefits bump up. The average gain for those with incomes between \$388,000-\$987,999 are \$19,965 or 3.5%; while those making between \$988,000-\$4.3 million see an average benefit of \$44,365 and up, to more than \$300,000.
- In addition to extending the tax cuts from the 2017 tax bill, the House version of the bill gives people in high-tax states like California, New York, New Jersey, and Vermont, a bigger income tax deduction for state and local taxes, or SALT. The House version raises the deduction from \$10,000 to \$40,000, but the Senate version keeps the \$10,000 cap.
- The bill also would eliminate some taxes on tips and overtime. The Senate version of the bill puts a cap on those exemptions, including: the first \$25,000 of tips would be tax-deductible through 2028 with a \$150,000 income limit; and the first \$12,500 of overtime pay would be tax-deductible through 2028 with a \$150,000 income limit.
- A person over 65 could deduct an additional \$4,000 if they make less than \$75,000, but only through 2028. The Senate version increases the deduction to \$6,000.
- Another significant change is the bill allows for an even larger tax exemption for large estates. The House version allows people to pass on \$13.99 million of a \$15 million estate untaxed, while taxing just \$1.01 million at 40%. So, taxes owed on a \$15 million inheritance would be \$404,000. Without the change, the almost \$14 million exemption would expire at the end of 2025 and revert to

Big, bad bill → 11



Big Bad Terrifying Debt Bill by Christopher Weyant, CagleCartoons

LETTERS

Protecting SNAP protects farmers

Dear Editor,

As the director of the Burlington Farmers Market I am deeply concerned about what's happening in Congress right now and the potential to gut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, two of the most essential programs that help people put food on the table and get the healthcare they need.

At our farmers market, I see every week how these programs support both the dignity and health of our

SNAP isn't just a nutrition program, it's an economic engine.

neighbors, and the stability of our local economy.

Programs like 3Squares-VT (Vermont's SNAP program) and Crop Cash (Vermont's SNAP incentive) allow customers to stretch their food dollars and buy fresh, local produce. Over the last two summers, more than \$80,000 of food benefits were spent at the market. When families can afford to shop here, farmers earn income.

SNAP isn't just a nutrition

program, it's an economic engine that creates wins for all and creates inclusive community spaces.

If Congress moves forward with its planned SNAP cuts, the consequences will be severe. Our vendors will feel the hit in their bottom lines. People in our community, including seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities, will lose access to nutritious food and essential healthcare.

After the Covid-19 pandemic, some state food benefits were lost, and we saw how that negatively impacted our customers and vendors. Farms saw up to 40% decreases in their revenue, and market staff were left strategizing with customers to figure out how to stretch their dollars. The impact of deeper cuts to food benefits, like those in the current budget proposal, could be even more devastating.

Health and food security are deeply connected. When people have access to good food and stable

SNAP → 10

Gov. Phil Scott, we've never needed you more, where are you?

Dear Editor,

I was scheduled to be the final speaker at the "No Kings" rally in Burlington last week. Unfortunately, the event ran longer than anticipated, and I was not able to address the crowd. Here's what I had planned to say:

Good afternoon. My name is Larry Satcowitz. I'm a state representative from Randolph.

In these terrible and deeply disturbing times, it is a great joy to see you all today. Your presence gives me hope that we are a part of a large and growing resistance movement. Your presence gives me hope that we will thwart the billionaires and fascists that are currently in control of our federal government.

We heard many wonderful speakers today. One person, however, was notably absent: Our governor, Republican Phil Scott.

The Democratic Party is united in its opposition to Donald Trump. Every time a Democrat, like me, stands up, exactly no one is surprised. But opposition to

Trump should not be a partisan issue. The president is destroying our democracy. He is destroying our economy. He is actively undermining our national security and the rule of law. These should not be partisan issues.

A Republican governor who spoke out loudly, boldly and vigorously against the travesty taking place in Washington would do so with a special kind of authority. I remind you that Donald Trump and Phil Scott are on the same team.

I and others have recently published commentaries that ran in outlets all over the state, calling on our governor to speak out forcefully against the horrors that we are protesting here today. Days later Phil Scott issued a statement saying, "We must not allow ourselves to be distracted or live in a constant state of fear, anger or outrage."

I can tell you that I have been terribly distracted since Jan. 20, I've been afraid for my country ever Gov, where are you? → 39

CAPITOL QUOTES

That 'Big, Beautiful Bill'

President Trump and the GOP's massive tax and spending bill, which proposes to make extensive cuts to programs like Medicaid which could leave millions of Americans without health insurance, while giving enormous tax breaks to the wealthiest of Americans and corporations, has been met with strong resistance from Democrats with a few Republicans joining ranks in support of its citizens that stand to lose too much, as well as fiscal conservatives.

"It is inescapable this bill will betray the promise Donald Trump made,"

said North Carolina Senator **Thom Tillis**, who announced this week he will not seek re-election in 2026.

"All of us say we are here to help working families in every state succeed, but this bill will only cause bipartisan pain—all to pay for a tax break for those who need it least,"

said Vermont Senator **Peter Welch**.

"This bill isn't just irresponsible, it's cruel. It is literally taking food and health care away from lower income and middle income people to give a tax break to millionaires. I'm not making that up,"

said Maine Senator **Angus King** on X.

"Every member of Congress who campaigned on reducing government spending and then immediately voted for the biggest debt increase in history should hang their head in shame! And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth,"

said **Elon Musk** on X.

"Their bill the so-called big beautiful bill, which is really a big, ugly betrayal, cuts taxes for billionaires by taking away health care for millions of people. So what my amendment simply says, if people's health care costs go up, the billionaire tax cuts vanish,"

said Senator **Chuck Schumer**.

COMMENTARIES

The worst bill in modern U.S. history

By U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders

Editor's note: Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) gave the following remarks Sunday, June 29, on the floor of the U.S. Senate opposing President Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill."

Mr. President: President Trump's so-called "Big, Beautiful Bill," now on the floor of the Senate, is the most dangerous piece of legislation in the modern history of our country. It is a gift to the billionaire class, while causing massive pain for low income and working class Americans.

Actually though, Mr. President, I'm wrong. This is not a gift to the billionaire class. They paid for it.

This bill is an absolute reflection of a corrupt campaign finance system that allows billionaires to buy elections. And when billionaires spend hundreds of billions of dollars trying to elect a president, or a senator or a member of Congress, they're not making that investment just for the fun of it. They want something in return. This legislation is what they are getting in return.

So what is in this bill they invested in?

Well, if you are in the top 1%, you and the class you represent will receive a \$975 billion tax break — at a time when the richest people in this country have never had it so good.

Further, if you are among the wealthiest 0.2%, you will be able to pay zero taxes on your \$30 million inheritance. All of you folks out there who are waiting to inherit

at least \$30 million, today is a good day for you. Collectively, you will receive approximately \$211 billion in tax breaks. For the top 0.2%, congratulations. You hit the jackpot.

If you are a large corporation and you want to throw workers out on the street and replace them with artificial intelligence or you want to shift your profits to the Cayman Islands or other tax havens, you are going to get a \$918 billion tax break. Congratulations to the CEOs of large, profitable corporations.

When the wealthiest people in this country have never ever had it so good, it is totally insane to be offering them \$1 trillion in tax breaks so that we can cut health care, education and nutrition.

But while the rich and large corporations make out like bandits in this bill, what does it do for low-income and working families? Let me say a few words on that.

If you are concerned about health care, this bill throws over 16 million people off of the health insurance they have, according to the Congressional Budget Office, by cutting Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act by over \$1.1 trillion.

In other words, the top 1% are getting a \$975 billion tax break, and that is coming directly from throwing 16 million people off of the health insurance they have.

This bill, for the first time, forces millions of Medicaid recipients who make as little

Worst bill → 10

H.454 passed but not a done deal

By Rep. Peter Conlon

Editor's note: Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, is chair of the House Education Committee.

The passage of the education bill, H. 454, in the General Assembly, and presumably gaining the governor's signature into law, marks the start of efforts to transform Vermont's education system into one that recognizes the incredible demographic changes over the past four decades, and to correct the gradual but significant drift to a system where students in next-door towns have very unequal learning experiences and opportunities.

It also addresses Vermonters' call — as evidenced by the 2024 budget votes and subsequent legislative elections — to create a fairer funding and tax system with more state-level control of spending, while also providing school districts with stable and predictable funding that is fair to all students and taxpayers.

One thing it is not, however, is a done deal. H. 454 is a framework filled with future work by many entities and big decisions in the coming couple of years, work and decisions on which much of H. 454 rests. For example, the Legislature must decide on fewer and larger districts for the math to work — a decision that will be filled with politics and hard, hard choices. Additionally, the Legislature must decide how to fund career and technical education centers within our current spending boundaries when we have a hodgepodge of governance structures and wildly varied tuitions charged by each.

And it's not just the Legislature. To implement key parts of H.454, the Agency of Education, under a relatively new and controversial secretary, must accomplish much, from complex studies of special education delivery to hiring a team of experts to help the field with the transitions in H.454. Also,

H.454 work begins → 11

← **Worst bill:**
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as \$16,000 a year to pay a \$35 co-payment each time they visit a doctor's office.

What is the impact of all of that?
This is not my view — this is what the Yale School of Public Health and the University of Pennsylvania determined based on a study that they did. And this is the result. It is almost so horrific, so grotesque, that it is difficult to speak about. But they estimate that if this bill goes through with all of these cuts in health care — if 16 million people are thrown off the health care they have — over 50,000 Americans will die unnecessarily every year.

Fifty thousand Americans will die unnecessarily in order to give tax breaks to billionaires who don't need them. In other words, this bill is literally a death sentence for low-income and working-class Americans.

Further, if this legislation is enacted, rural hospitals all over the country that are already struggling are going to shut down or aren't going to be able to provide the level of services they do today. In other words, this bill would be a disaster for rural America.

It would also make massive cuts to community health centers and nursing homes, who are very heavily dependent on Medicaid funding.

The bottom line is that this legislation is the most significant attack on the health care needs of the American people in our country's history.

We already have a health care system which is broken and dysfunctional, and instead of addressing it — instead of doing what every other major country on Earth does: guarantee health care to all people — we are throwing 16 million people off the health insurance they have. But it's not just health care.

The future of America rests with our children. And yet, in a nation which now has the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth, this bill wipes out nutrition assistance for millions of hungry kids in America.

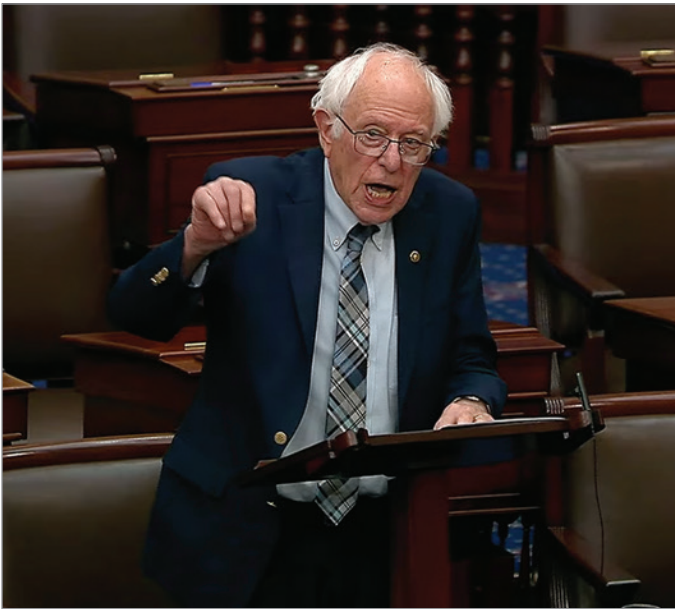
We are literally taking food out of the mouths of hungry kids to give tax breaks to Mr. Bezos, Mr. Musk, Mr. Zuckerberg and the other multi-billionaires.

If we understand that if we're going to compete effectively in the global economy, we need to have the best education system in the world, this bill makes \$350 billion in cuts in education with the result that working class kids will find it much harder to get the higher education they need to succeed in life.

If you are concerned about the existential threat of climate change, this bill decimates investments in energy efficiency and sustainable energy like wind and solar and moves us in exactly the wrong direction when it comes to energy.

If you are concerned about our role in never-ending wars, this bill makes a bad situation even worse by handing out another \$150 billion to the Pentagon — a 15% increase in an already bloated Pentagon budget.

We don't have enough money to feed hungry children. We don't have enough money to make sure that people continue to have the health care that they need. We don't have



Screenshot from Senate video recording
U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders adamantly opposed Trumps "Big, Beautiful Bill" on the Senate Floor, Sunday.

If this bill goes through with all of these cuts in health care — if 16 million people are thrown off the health care they have — over 50,000 Americans will die unnecessarily every year.

enough money to make sure that kids can get a decent education. But somehow, the military industrial complex is going to get another \$150 billion.

Mr. President: In my view, nobody in the Senate or the House should vote for this legislation. And I applaud all of the Democrats for voting against it. And I want to congratulate two Republicans — Senator Paul and Senator Tillis for voting against it — for different reasons than I have.

But I do find it interesting that when one of those senators, Senator Tillis, voted against it because he thought it was not a good bill for the people of his home state, North Carolina, suddenly the president of the United States went after him in a very vicious way. And today, he announced that he will not be seeking reelection.

It appears now that the Republican Party has really become the party of the cult of the individual. The only thing you have to do now as a Republican is say, "I agree with President Trump," "I love President Trump," "President Trump is right all of the time." Hey, that's all you have to do now to be a good Republican.

There was a day when Republicans and Democrats understood that they were elected by their constituents. There was an understanding that they were elected to represent their constituents and not simply to pay homage and bow down to every wish and whim of the president.

Mr. President, during the vote-a-rama, I will be offering several amendments which I hope will win support.

At a time when 22% of our nation's seniors are trying to survive on less than \$15,000 a year, my first amendment would fundamentally improve their lives in two significant ways:

Firstly, it would cut the price of prescription drugs under Medicare in half by making sure that our nation's seniors don't pay more than the Europeans or Canadians pay for the same exact drugs.

And with those savings, we're going to expand Medicare to cover dental, vision and hearing. In other words, instead of throwing people off of health care, we're going to expand Medicare to provide a number of services that seniors desperately need and want.

Secondly, at a time of massive wealth and inequality, my second amendment would eliminate the \$211 billion estate tax break for the top 0.2% that is included in this bill.

And lastly, at a time when we spend more on the military than the next nine nations combined, at a time when the Pentagon cannot account for trillions of dollars in assets, we are going to end the provision that allows the Pentagon to receive another \$150 billion.

The bottom line, Mr. President, is this country faces many crises — a high rate of childhood poverty, kids going hungry, an education system in deep trouble and a health care system that is completely broken. And in virtually every single area, this bill takes us in precisely the wrong direction.

When the wealthiest people in this country have never ever had it so good, it is totally insane to be offering them \$1 trillion in tax breaks so that we can cut health care, education and nutrition.

This bill is not what the American people want, and I hope very much we can defeat it.

← **Adkins heads RRA:**
from page 2

Adkins said the decision to join the RRA came naturally. "This was an opportunity I simply couldn't pass up," he said. "Coming to serve the RRA and the City of Rutland at the very beginning of a TIF District is a very exciting prospect. The community leadership has already done a great job laying the foundation, and I look forward to building upon it alongside all citizens and stakeholders in the years to come."

The RRA also extended appreciation to longtime staff member Barbara Spaulding, who has played a pivotal role in the organization during the transition period. "Barbara continues to give the RRA 110% effort in her work," said Clark. "We are very lucky to have her on staff and will soon be thanking her for 30 years of service."

As the RRA turns a new page, Clark emphasized the organization's commitment to working closely with the mayor, Board of Aldermen, city departments, and regional partners to support local businesses and foster economic growth throughout Rutland County.

← **VTSU nurse grads:**
from page 7

"Most of all, I liked that the program challenged me more than anything I've ever done. It helped me grow, not just as a future nurse, but as a person," she reflected. A career-changer with a background in architecture, Spika said her new path feels "deeply purposeful."

The statewide program's accessibility and layered approach have made it a top choice for adult learners and working professionals. "That flexibility is the real beauty of this program," said Caitlin Stover, dean of nursing and health sciences at VTSU. "Students can choose to advance to the next credential or enter the workforce at any step—and either way, they're positioned for success."

According to Stover, nearly all of VTSU's nursing graduates pass their licensure exams on the first attempt, with scores that consistently outpace national averages.

With its growing enrollment and innovative programming, VTSU continues to play a vital role in strengthening the state's health care system from the inside out.

← **SNAP:**
from page 8

healthcare, they are better able to work, care for their families, and contribute to their communities. Farmers markets like ours become places of connection and resilience, but only when the policies that support low-income families remain strong.

Congress must reject proposals that would weaken SNAP and Medicaid. Instead, they should prioritize investments that strengthen our food systems, support rural economies, and ensure all Americans, of all

incomes, can meet their basic needs with dignity.

While Vermont's senators are strong supporters of SNAP, our neighbors in other states need support urging their senators to vote "no" on this bill, on cuts to SNAP and Medicaid. I urge you to call your friends in other states, as close to home as Maine, and make sure they are raising their voices.

Our community, our farmers, and our health depend on it.

**Georgie Rubens,
Burlington**

Big, bad bill:

from page 8

just over \$7 million exemption.

- Increases in the popular child tax credit, championed by Democrats, would rise to \$2,500 through 2028 before returning to the current \$2,000. Without changes, the credit would fall to \$1,000 at the end of 2025.
- To sweeten the pot for everyone, the bill would gift children under 8 with \$1,000 each to open special savings accounts, with tax-free contributions to those accounts limited to \$5,000 annually until the child is 18.
- Controversially, the bill spends \$5 billion annually for the next four years to subsidize non-public school education, plus more than a generous scholarship allowance for students attending private schools.

In sum, Republicans are betting the public's appreciation to get any tax cut, along with special benefits to their core MAGA constituents, will outweigh the pain caused by cuts to services.

Other costs

- About \$150 billion more would go for defense, including \$20 billion for what Trump calls a "Golden Dome" missile defense system.
- Border security would increase from \$10 billion spent annually to \$150 billion, a huge change that will pile \$50 billion into completing the wall on the southern border; \$45 billion building detention centers; \$8 billion on additional immigration officers; and \$14 more billion spent on deportations. (Critics are already sounding alarms that much of this money for border security and the extra defense spending will benefit friends and supporters of Trump in the defense industry.)
- And in a little discussed item, according to USA Today, the bill would significantly increase taxes on private college endowments. The tax rate for endowments between \$500K-\$750K would be 1.4%; for endowments over \$2 million, the tax rate would be 21%.

Cuts to services

To finance all those tax cuts, Trump and this Republican-led Congress are calling for significant cuts to social services and much more. Here are a few:

- Medicaid cuts of at least \$625 billion, or higher in the Senate version, while shifting more of the burden onto the states. More than 10%, or 7.6 million people (mostly children), could

lose their health care insurance. The measure also adds work requirements for adults enrolled in Medicaid expansion.

- SNAP benefits, or what had been called Food Stamps, would be cut \$300 billion over 10 years, and would require states to provide more funding for food assistance programs in the future. SNAP benefits would only be provided to permanent, legal residents and new work requirements for those people 55-64 would be imposed.
- The bill would repeal the \$7,500 tax credit for electric cars, along with other rules encouraging Americans to use electric vehicles and move away from fossil fuels.
- Many other cuts to renewable energy initiatives, social services, higher education, the arts, science in all fields, health care subsidies, disability payments, student loans, Veteran Affairs and much more are included in the bill.

Cost of the bill

Republicans want Americans to believe the cost of the bill is only \$440 billion by failing to count the cost of extending the tax cuts. More rational folks admit the cost is closer to \$2.4 trillion, not including the huge cost that interest will add to the bottom line. Over the upcoming 10 years, the bill is expected to add \$3.3 trillion to the current \$29 trillion national debt.

The interest on that debt will total \$13.8 trillion over the next decade with annual interest costs projected to rise from \$952 billion in 2025 to nearly \$1.8 trillion in 2035.

As a share of the economy, interest costs are projected to reach 3.2% of GDP in 2026, surpassing the previous high set in 1991. They are expected to climb to 4.1% of GDP by 2035.

Interest costs currently represent the third largest spending category in the budget, exceeded only by Medicare and Social Security, but are higher than National Defense. Those rising costs have some Republican deficit-hawks vowing to vote against the bill and push for more cuts to services (rather than reduce tax cuts), while Democrats are expected to uniformly reject the bill.

To recap, the House narrowly passed its version of the bill, 215-214, back on May 22. The Senate, comprised of 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats, is hoping to take up the bill this weekend. If the Senate passes the bill, it will go to conference between the House and the Senate with the goal to work out their differences by the July 4 weekend.

Elections, readers should note, do make a difference.

14th sculpture:

from page 2

Mary Ojala, Bobby Poquette, and Stefanie Schaffer represent the breadth and depth of the community's involvement beautifully," Jaye said.

"Mary was a legendary volunteer. Bobby remains an incredible volunteer and overcame a huge fear of needles to become a regular donor as well," Costello said. "Stef required untold pints of blood to save her life, and in her recovery, found within herself a strength most of us can only dream about, and used that strength to tell her story eloquently and gracefully, inspiring our community to carry on the GOLM tradition and helping save countless lives in the process."

"The success of the Gift-of-Life Marathon speaks to the strength of community in Rutland," Morse said. "It's great to tell the story of everyday heroes who, acting together, make a big difference."

The sculpture, which will be donated to the city of Rutland upon completion, is funded by Green Mountain Power, John and Sue Casella, MKF Properties, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Betsy and Jim Reddy, Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region, Killington Resort, and the Ojala family. Each of the donors has a strong connection to the GOLM, including GMP as one of its primary sponsors and organizers, RRM as the leading health care organization in the region, the Reddys as regular GOLM volunteers, Killington Resort, which has donated countless ski passes and recruited donors including President Mike Solimano, and CEDDR, Casella, MKF and the Ojala family, all strong supporters.

The Rutland Sculpture Trail is a collaboration of the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center, Vermont Quarries, Green Mountain Power, and MKF Properties. The Rutland Sculpture Trail was started in 2017 to raise awareness of and pride in local and regional history, beautify downtown, and draw local residents and tourists to Rutland's historic downtown. It is funded by donations, with each piece of art donated as a gift to the City of Rutland.

The Gift of Life Summer Mini Marathon, an offshoot of the fall blood drive, is set for Dec. 8 in Rutland. Appointments can be made by calling 800-RED-CROSS.



By James Kent

A model of the upcoming Gift of Life Marathon sculpture was on display at the Carving Studio & Sculpture Center in West Rutland on July 1.

H.454 work begins:

from page 9

the tax department must create a new second-home category for a statewide education tax, and implement a new homestead exemption that, with all the other pieces of H.454, will leave most Vermonters better off tax-wise on the other side.

H. 454's journey was challenging, as is every piece of education legislation that looks to change the status quo. There were differing concerns from every part of the state, from areas not wanting to limit which private schools receive taxpayer-funded tuition, to rural areas that worry H.454 puts small schools in jeopardy, to large districts with large schools and class sizes that may receive less in overall funding as a more equitable system is put in place, even though they represent the ideal in scale.

Putting those in balance was hard enough, but there were also the demands of Gov. Scott, whose own transformation plan proposed just five school districts for the state, a student-to-staff ratio of 25:1 and a funding formula that would have pulled \$185 million out of the system, among other facets.

The governor threatened to veto H.454 at numerous stages, but was ultimately convinced by the work of the House to accept a foundation formula that recognizes Vermont today, not the future state of his plan.

It was not lost on the Legislature that Gov. Scott is very popular, including with Democrats, and that the politics of elections are ignored at one's peril, especially the call for working with the governor and for compromise. To his credit, he remained open to changes from his vision — within limits — and ultimately supported a bill that is much different.

H.454 is a good start for Vermont. It sets up a map to needed future change, but puts in significant contingencies that must be met along the way. Meeting them will take as much work, decision making and political consideration as passing the bill to begin with.

It should also be noted the bill also allows for the time and space to delay, change and make other needed adjustments depending on those dark clouds on the horizon that form in Washington, D.C.



By Fiona MacLean courtesy of the Vermont Center for EcoStudies
Volunteers contribute to monitoring efforts for Vermont's loons by placing signs along shoreline nesting sites at Green River Reservoir in spring 2025.



Courtesy of Lorna Kane-Rohloff
Gotcha! (Gulp) chick feeds on a sizable fish (proportionally) at Bald Hill Pond in Westmore.

← **Loon population:**
from page 5

casualties can also occur during these encounters.

However, lower nesting success rates are part of a natural process as the loon population begins to level out, he said.

“Loons overall are doing really well, and we don’t need to see success all the time,” Hanson said.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. biologist Jillian Killborn said this new phase is a balancing act on the landscape. After years of great success in increasing the loon population, slower growth and productivity is to be expected.

“With any wildlife population, there’s natural checks and balances that are built into populations when they start to get too high or exceed carrying capacity on the landscape,” Killborn said. Now, scientists are figuring out how many loons will remain in Vermont long term and where, she said.

Despite the drop in chick survival rates, Vermont loon chicks do better than those in eastern Maine, New Hampshire and the

Adirondack region, according to preliminary data from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

Since 1983, volunteers and biologists have been gathering on the third Saturday of July for LoonCount Day, a survey of adult and nesting loons in water bodies statewide. On July 19, Hanson said he expects more than 200 participants to visit 175 lakes in Vermont to tally the number of birds. These efforts are important for tracking loon health, nesting success and the identification of emerging threats, he said.

“We’re just trying to hit everything,” he said. “We’ve expanded that out as loons start to land on smaller ponds compared to what they used to do.”

In tandem with LoonCount Day, the Vermont Loon Conservation Project at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies organizes an annual loon monitoring program, during which volunteers take regular trips to lakes throughout the summer season to post signs in nesting areas and keep tabs on new and known nesting pairs.

The nesting signs respectfully ask boaters to give the loons a little space since they are highly territorial, especially during breeding season. If humans get within 10 feet of their nest and the birds feel it’s threatened, they’re more likely to abandon it, Hanson said.

In attempts to curb disruptions along ecologically sensitive shorelines, Vermont passed one of the most protective statewide wake sport regulations in the country in April 2024. However, Hanson said kayakers and people fishing in boats close to the shore create more harm for loons than far-off wake boats.

“If we can give them that little bit of space, they’re more likely to hunker down and watch you go by,” he said.

In addition to shoreline disturbances, recreational fishing poses another serious threat to loon survival. After a period of decline, loon deaths due to lead poisoning from ingesting tackle have risen again over the past six years, Hanson said. Ingestion of lead tackle, monofilament fishing line and

fishing hooks remains the cause of more than half of loon deaths in Vermont.

Vermont banned the use and sale of small lead sinkers in 2007, but despite the ban’s initial success, loons are still ingesting poisonous tackle, according to Hanson and Killborn. To address the issue, the Vermont Loon Conservation Project partnered with lake associations and the Fish & Wildlife Dept. last summer to install lead tackle and fishing line collection sites at around 30 public boat access sites, which they plan to add to this year.

Responsible fishing, boating and recreation are vital to loon health and survival, Killborn and Hanson said. As Vermont’s loon population stabilizes, they emphasized that the next phase of conservation will depend on how well humans learn to share the landscape.

Either way, Killborn said loon numbers are increasing at a sustainable rate, and overpopulation is not yet an issue. “I’m not sure if we’ll ever get there, depending on conditions,” she said.

← **NBRC grants:**
from page 1

Benson Village Trust, Inc.

- Grant amount: \$500,000. Total project cost: \$1,309,000.
- Project: Rebuild the Benson Village Store, restoring a vital economic and social hub for the rural community.

“Investing in our communities and fixing aging infrastructure, is key to addressing many of the housing and affordability challenges we’re facing in the state,” said Governor Phil Scott. “I want to thank the congressional delegation for their advocacy for this funding as well as the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and NBRC for their work to support these important projects.”


The Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York designed to stimulate economic growth and inspire collaboration to improve rural economic vitality. NBRC encourages projects that take a creative approach to accom-

plishing those goals.

“The Northern Border Regional Commission plays a crucial role in supporting rural economies and communities in Vermont. These funds will be a catalyst for economic growth in rural communities across our state—from renewing vital drinking water infrastructure to renovating historic buildings and community gathering spaces,” said the Vermont congressional delegation. “We’re pleased to see these projects receive funding to help communities in every corner of the Green Mountain State grow and thrive.”

When evaluating potential projects, the Catalyst Program considers project readiness, economic impacts, impacts on Vermont’s skilled workforce, project location, regional input and priorities, and the project’s transformational nature.

For a complete list of Spring 2025 awardees, visit: Vermont.gov/latest-news.



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WORDPLAY

SWIMTEAMWORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

BACKSTROKE	COURSE	DRILL	GOGGLES	PACE	TEAM
BREASTSTROKE	DECK	FLIP	KICK	PADDLE	TIMED
BUTTERFLY	DISTANCE	FLOAT	LANE	POOL	TURN
CAP	DIVING	FREESTYLE	LAP	SWIMMING	WADE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

1. Notes

6. Long-haired dog breed

12. ESPN's nickname

16. Spanish be

17. Disadvantage

18. Of I

19. Actor Pacino

20. On your way: ___ route

21. Fifth note of a major scale

22. Companies need it

23. News agency

24. Faces of an organization

26. Ponds

28. Samoa's capital

30. Partner to "Pa"

31. Adult male

32. Cool!

34. Used of a number or amount not specified

35. No No No

37. Hosts film festival

39. British place to house convicts

40. Made of fermented honey and water

41. Chief

43. College army

44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone

45. Consume

47. One point north of due east

48. For instance

50. Brews

52. Alaskan river

54. Not soft

56. Atomic #22

57. "The Golden State"

59. "The world's most famous arena"

60. Larry and Curly's pal

61. One billion gigabytes

62. Conducts inspections

63. Malaria mosquitoes

66. Unit to measure width

67. Features

70. Affairs

71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

1. Follower of Islam

2. Trauma center

3. French young women

4. Norse god

5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)

6. Merchant

7. Peyton's younger brother

8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy

9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America

10. "Pollack" actor Harris

11. Stuck around

12. Put on

13. Influential Norwegian playwright

14. Christian ___, designer

15. Fulfills a debt

25. Style

26. More (Spanish)

27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

29. Remedy

31. Disturbance

33. "The Martian" actor Matt

36. Express delight

38. Brooklyn hoopster

39. 1900 lamp

41. Motionless

42. One's mother (Brit.)

43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

46. Compels to act

47. Gardening tool

49. Ancient country

51. Frightening

53. Wimbledon champion Arthur

54. Popular plant

55. Database management system

58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

60. Where soldiers eat

64. Tenth month (abbr.)

65. Illuminated

68. Atomic #18

69. Adults need one to travel

SUDOKU

Solutions → 30

How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born in New York on July 2, 1986. I began my professional career as a Ford model at the age of 3. I rose to fame in a remake of a movie about twins separated shortly after birth, and later starred in a movie about unfriendly girls at school.

Answer: Lindsay Lohan

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WED
7/2

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.

Coffee With Senator Peter Welch

9:30-10:15 a.m. Killington Welcome Center, 2319 US-4, Killington. Free. Senator Peter Welch will discuss FEMA support as well as other issues affecting the region, as he tours the East Mountain Road flood site. killingtonpico.org.

Active Seniors Lunch

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

KMBC Bike Bum Race Series

2-5 p.m. (Wednesdays) Killington Resort, Rabbit Hole, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. \$200 per team or \$50 per individual. \$20 for single race individual. 10th annual 10-week Wednesday race series. Solo riders or teams of 3-5 compete in age-based divisions with one timed run each week, followed by an after-party at The Lookout. killington.com.

Cribbage for Adults

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

Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. (Wednesdays) The Green, 1 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Weekly outdoor market featuring local farms, artisans, prepared food vendors, and live music in a family-friendly setting. Visit woodstockvt.com.

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.

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.

Music at the Riverbend: Jenni Johnson

6 p.m. Behind the Brandon Inn in Brandon. Free. Old & new school; jazzy & swinging & funky. brandon.org.

Artistree Summer Concert Series—Evan Panzer

6:30 p.m. Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Weekly outdoor concerts every Wednesday through Sept. 24. Bring a blanket and picnic for an evening of live jazz, folk, and classical music in a scenic hillside setting. Field parking only; no dogs. artistreevt.org.

Women's Mountain Bike Group Rides

6-8 p.m. (Wednesdays) Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. Free. Weekly no-drop rides on Slate Valley Trails for all women, beginner to advanced. Groups split by pace and experience. Bring water, snacks, and after-ride beverages. Check Facebook for weather cancellations. slatevalleytrails.org.

VSO Summer Festival Tour: Summer of Love –

South Pomfret

6:30 p.m. Saskadena Six Ski Area, 247 Stage Road, South Pomfret. \$33. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's 2025 Summer Festival Tour: "Summer of Love." This year's program includes selections from "Romeo and Juliet," "West Side Story," the "Star Wars" theme, and pop classics like "I Put A Spell On You" and "Nature Boy." Mezzo-soprano Nikola Printz joins as guest vocalist. A Vermont summer

tradition, each concert includes access to the Musical Petting Zoo, where attendees can explore orchestral instruments before the show. vso.org.

Seven to Sunset Concert Series: Honey

7 p.m. (Wednesdays through the summer) Main Street Park in Rutland. Free. Rutland Recreation and Parks Dept. 2025 Summer Concert Series. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinner. rutlandrec.com/7tosunset.

Jazz Cafe: Moose Crossing Trio

7-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Jazz trio Moose Crossing featuring Zack Hampton, Joe Plotts, and Ryan Carney performs in an intimate setting. Free and open to the public. stonevalleyarts.org.

Film Screening: 'F1: The Movie'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 9 So. Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Brad Pitt stars as a former racing phenom returning to the track to save a struggling team in this high-stakes drama set in the world of Formula 1. playhouseflicks.com.

THURS
7/3

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.

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 – Gear House (ROC)

4:30-7:30 p.m. The Gear House, 16 Pleasant St., Randolph. Free. Join VMBA, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, and Lawson's to kick off the riding season with group rides, on-site membership signups, and a raffle featuring prizes from Rim Saver, Bivo, Darn Tough, Skida, and more. Current or new VMBA members (ages 21+) get a free beer during the après party from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Gear House. Raffle drawn at 7:15 p.m. vmba.org.

Michelob ULTRA Golf League

5-8 p.m. (Thursdays, through Aug. 28). Killington Golf Course, 227 E. Mountain Road, Killington. Refer to website for pricing. Weekly 9-hole scramble tournament with team and individual sign-ups, prizes from local businesses, and the return of the McGonagle Cup. Must be 21+ to participate. killington.com.

Group Dog Walks with Slate Valley Trails

6-7:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Trailhead, 131 Town Farm Road, Poultney. Free. Join fellow dog lovers for a weekly 2+ mile group walk. Dogs must be leashed or under strict voice command. Bring water, bug spray, and an after-walk beverage. slatevalleytrails.org.

River Road Concert Series: The Loonz

6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library in Killington. Free. Bands set up near the building and patrons can bring picnic suppers, lawn chairs, blankets, etc to enjoy the show. The concerts are scheduled rain or shine. sherburnelibrary.org.

Feast & Field: Lakou Mizik

6-9 p.m. Feast & Field, 1544 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$30. Haitian roots music. Food and drink available; preorder online. feastandfield.com.

Independence Day Celebration on the Mountain

6-10 p.m. Ascutney Outdoors, 449 Ski Tow Road, Brownsville. Celebrate with live music by the Fire House Dixie Land Band, food vendors including Moonlighters, Wicked Awesome BBQ, and Lazy Cow Ice Cream. Enjoy a raffle and fireworks by Northstar Fireworks. No BBQs allowed; BYOB policy available at ascutneyoutdoors.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/BYOB-policy.pdf. brownsvilleidc@gmail.com.

Fair Haven Concerts in the Park: The Army Band

Ensemble Iron Sights

7 p.m. Fair Haven Park, Main St., Fair Haven. Free. Food and 50/50 drawing available; bring a chair or blanket. fairhavenvt.gov.

Film Screening: 'F1: The Movie'

7:30 p.m. Playhouse Movie Theatre, 9 So. Main St., Randolph. \$7-\$10. Brad Pitt stars as a former racing phenom returning to the track to save a struggling team in this high-stakes drama set in the world of Formula 1. playhouseflicks.com.

FRI
7/4

Poultney 4th of July Celebration

7:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Poultney townwide. Free. Kick off the day with a pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church on Main St., followed by a magic show by Tom Joyce at Slate Quarry Park before the parade steps off at 10 a.m. in East Poultney. Parade floats reflect this year's theme, "Enjoying Outdoor Adventures," and awards will be given in five categories. Afternoon festivities continue at the Bhakta campus and Poultney Elementary School, with bouncy houses, food trucks, lemonade, hot dogs, a 4 p.m. magic show with Blaine Good, a 5 p.m. puppet performance by No Strings Marionette Company, and a 7 p.m. all-ages dance party with DJ Saltis. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m. poultneyrecreation.com.

Old Home Day

8 a.m.-9 p.m., Hartland Rec Center, 19 Route 12, Hartland. Events include a tractor pull at 8 a.m., book sale at Hartland Public Library from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., parade at 10 a.m., vendors and live music following the parade, Carlos Ocasio and Frydaddy at 7 p.m., and fireworks at 9 p.m. For details, visit hartlandvt.myrec.com.

Brownsville Independence Day Village

Festivities

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Various locations, Brownsville village. Community breakfast with live music at Brownsville Community Church (8:30-10 a.m.), followed by line dancing (10:30-noon), artisan vendors and food outside Town Hall (10 a.m.-3 p.m.), and a grand parade at 1:30 p.m. Parade includes floats, antique cars, Shriners, and local fire trucks. brownsvilleidc@gmail.com.

Killington 4th of July Celebration

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. River Road, Killington. Free. Events include: A parade, firemen's BBQ, games, fireworks and more. This event is sponsored by the Killington Fire Dept., Killington Parks and Rec., and the Killington Transfer Station. Please check the Killington Rec. website for any updates regarding this event. killingtonvt.myrec.com.

**COOLIDGE BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION**

FRIDAY @ 10 AM

Calendar:

from page 14

SATURDAY NIGHT GHOST TOURS

SATURDAY @ 8 PM

Chaffee: Artery

10:00 a.m.-noon. 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.

4th on the Farm

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Standard admission. Celebrate 4th of July with wagon rides, live music, ice cream-making, and a historic 1860s-style "base ball" game at 2 p.m. Explore Farmstead Gardens and enjoy Vermont-made treats. billingsfarm.org.

Coolidge Birthday Celebration

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 VT Rt. 100A, Plymouth. Celebrate President Calvin Coolidge's and the nation's birthday with a reading of the Declaration of Independence at 9 a.m., a noon processional to the cemetery, and a 1 p.m. orchestra concert. The Coolidge Cup national speech and debate competition takes place throughout the day. coolidgefoundation.org/debate/coolidge-cup.

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

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.

Market on the Green

4-7 p.m. (Fridays through mid-October) Village Green, 7 Depot St., Proctorsville. Free. Enjoy local produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, maple syrup, handmade crafts, music, and more. proctorsvillemarket.com.

Jackson Gore Summer Music Series: Krishna Guthrie Band

5:30-8:30 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow. Free. Enjoy BBQ, drinks, raffle prizes, and family fun at the Adventure Zone. Pets allowed on leash; no cash payments accepted. okemo.com.

Shrewsbury Meeting House Concert Series: Mojo Birds

6 p.m. Shrewsbury Meeting House at 88 Lottery Road in Shrewsbury. Free. There is lots of room to spread out, dance, and enjoy the company of others. facebook.com/p/Shrewsbury-Meeting-House-Concert-Series-100066976953046/.

Summer Smash

6:30 p.m. State Fairgrounds, Rutland. \$12. Annual demolition derby. Gates open at 4 p.m. dnamotorsportsvt.com.

Porcupine Bikes Group

Mountain Bike Ride

6-8 p.m. Lake St. Catherine Country Club, 2725 VT-30, Poultney. Free. Join Slate Valley Trails and Porcupine Bikes for a Friday night group ride open to all ability levels. Groups may split by pace. slatevalleytrails.org.

Film Screening: 'Jurassic

World: Rebirth' (PG-13)

7:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. The dinosaurs are back and badder than ever. This time Scarlett Johansson gets in on the action. pentanglearts.org.

'How to Train Your Dragon' & 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' Double Feature

Feature

9 p.m. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. \$12 adults, \$8 children (ages 5-12), Free under 5. Cash only. "How to Train Your Dragon" (PG) followed by "Jurassic World: Rebirth" (PG-13). betheldrivein.com.

SAT
7/5

Brandon Independence Day Celebration

All Day. Downtown Brandon. Free. Bands in the parks, a procession, the Heritage Train giving rides up Park Street, and two auction sites. Additionally, there will be a beer garden, Little Debbie Swiss Cake Roll Eating Contest, an evening street dance, and fireworks at dusk that can be seen from up to a mile away. brandon.org.

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.

Sensory Friendly Hour at VINS

9-10 a.m., Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Regular admission. Enjoy a quiet, low-stimulation experience throughout the exhibits and trails before regular hours. Guests may stay through closing. vinsweb.org.

Trail Sit

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

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.

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.

Brunch and a Book

10 a.m.-noon. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St., Poultney. Book release and signing with author Jill McCroskey Coupe for her new novel "Gemma Somerset." Free coffee, juice, and pastries. Proceeds from book sales benefit Poultney Public Library and Stone Valley Arts. poultneypubliclibrary.com.

Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

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

13th Annual Lake St. Catherine Boat Parade

1-2 p.m. Lake St. Catherine, Wells. Decorated boats will cruise the lake for prizes in categories like Most Original, Most Patriotic, Funniest, and Best Overall. To register your boat, email info@lakestcatherine.org. lakestcatherine.org.

Circus Smirkus: 2025 Big Top Tour

1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Mary Hogan Elementary Field, 201 Mary Hogan Dr., Middlebury. \$25-\$40. smirkus.org.

Cooler in the Mountains Concert Series: The

Crowded Table

3 p.m. K-1 base area of Killington Resort. Free. Grab a lawn chair, a beach blanket, and the whole family and head to Killington for this all-ages event. killington.com.

Roast Pork Dinner

4:30 p.m., Pawlet Community Church, 38 VT Rt. 133, Pawlet. \$15 adults, \$7 age 12, Free age 5 and under. Enjoy roast pork with stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salads, beverages, and dessert. Indoor dining and takeout available. To-go orders: 802-325-3022.

Fireworks on the 5th of July

6:30-9:30 pm. Okemo Base, 77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow. Enjoy music with Rustie Bus and food from Squeels on Wheels BBQ and others. Fireworks at dusk. Rain date, July 6. ludlowvtparksandrec.com.

Film Screening: 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' (PG-13)

7:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. The dinosaurs are back and badder than ever. This time Scarlett Johansson gets in on the action. pentanglearts.org.

Pond Hill Ranch Rodeo

7:30 p.m. Pond Hill Road, Castleton. \$15 adults, \$10 kids (6-11). Pond Hill Pro Rodeo Company events include bareback bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, girls' barrel racing, girls' break away roping, and bull riding. Rain or shine. pondhillranch.com.

Saturday Night Ghost Tours

8-8:45 p.m. (Saturdays through the summer) The Woodstock Inn & Resort, 14 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join local guide Richard Adams for a 45-minute walking tour of haunted sites and ghostly tales in historic downtown Woodstock. Family-friendly. Sign up at the inn's front desk. woodstockinn.com.

'How to Train Your Dragon' & 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' Double Feature

9 p.m. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. \$12 adults, \$8 children (ages 5-12), Free under 5. Cash only. "How to Train Your Dragon" (PG) followed by "Jurassic World: Rebirth" (PG-13). betheldrivein.com.

Fireworks at Lake Bomoseen

9:30-9:45 p.m. Lake Bomoseen KOA Holiday, 18 Campground Dr., Bomoseen. Enjoy the annual fireworks show at dark. koa.com.

SUN
7/6

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.

Circus Smirkus: 2025 Big Top Tour

11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mary Hogan Elementary Field, 201 Mary Hogan Dr., Middlebury. \$25-\$40. smirkus.org.

Figure Draw Workshop

1-3 p.m., Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., Rutland. \$25. Join a figure drawing session with experienced model and art teacher Jon Terhune. Bring your own supplies or use materials from the art bar. Supplies also available for purchase. Ages 18+ or 16+ with parental consent. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site.

Film Screening: 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' (PG-13)

3 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$10-\$12. The dinosaurs are back and badder than ever. This time Scarlett Johansson gets in on the action. pentanglearts.org.

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

Contra Dance

4-6:30 p.m. Green Mountain Perkins Academy, 32 Academy Circle, South Woodstock. Free. Live music, dancing, and strawberry shortcake under the big tent. greenmountainperkinsacademy.org/events.

Fireworks, Food & Fun at WUHS

6-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Union High School, 100 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Family activities, games, crafts, live music by The Flames, cookout, and fireworks at dusk. woodstockvt.com/events.

'How to Train Your Dragon' & 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' Double Feature

9 p.m. Bethel Drive-In, 36 Bethel Drive, Bethel. \$12 adults, \$8 children (ages 5-12), Free under 5. Cash only. "How to Train Your Dragon" (PG) followed by "Jurassic World: Rebirth" (PG-13). betheldrivein.com.

MON
7/7

Bone Builders

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

Monday Movie

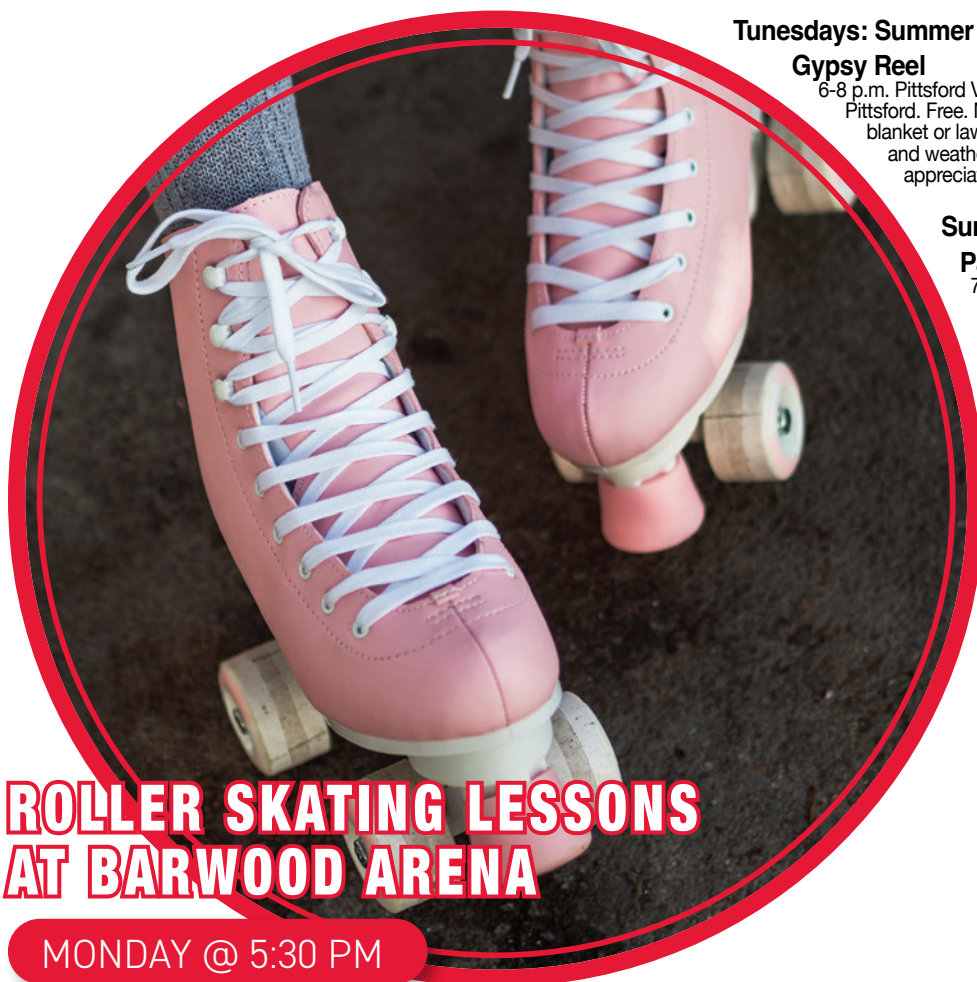
1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765.

Roller Skating Lessons at Barwood Arena

5:30-6:30 p.m. (ages 5+), 6:45-8 p.m. (adults 16+). (Mondays through July 7). \$40 for series. Barwood Arena, 45 Highland Ave., White River Junction. Four-week Monday evening series for absolute beginners to intermediate skaters. Includes instruction and guided open skate. Skaters must bring their own skates, helmet, wrist and knee pads. Register: hartfordvt.myrec.com.

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.



ROLLER SKATING LESSONS AT BARWOOD ARENA

MONDAY @ 5:30 PM

TUES
7/8

Mini Gift of Life Blood Drive –**Franklin Event Center**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Noel's at the Franklin Event Center, One Scale Ave., Suite 92, Rutland. Use code "MINIGIFT" when signing up. redcrossblood.org.

Mini Gift of Life Blood Drive**– Elks Lodge**

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Elks Lodge #345, 44-46 Pleasant St., Rutland. Refer to website for details. Use code "MINIGIFT" when signing up. redcrossblood.org.

Circus Smirkus: 2025 Big**Top Tour**

1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park, 320 Rec Park Road, Manchester. \$25-\$40. smirkus.org.

Handcraft Gathering

2-4 p.m. (Monthly, 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, Library St., So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abbottmemoriallibrary.org.

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.

Concerts in the Park: Larry Brassard and The Bear**Mountain Jammers**

5:30-7:30 p.m., Gifford Green, 44 So. Main St., Randolph. Free concert series featuring weekly live music and food sales by area nonprofits. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. giffordhealthcare.org/event/concerts-in-the-park-3.

Alyx the Magician

6-7 p.m. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St., Poultney. Vermont's premier magician Alyx Hilshey performs a free Summer Reading Magic Show. Fun for all ages. poultneypubliclibrary.com.

Tuesdays: Summer Concert Series -**Gypsy Reel**

6-8 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. Modern roots music. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Concerts are outdoors and weather dependent. Donations appreciated. pittsfordvillagefarm.org.

Summer Concerts at the**Pavilion: Blue Jay Way**

7 p.m. Castleton Pavilion. Free. Held rain or shine. Dugout Dogs will provide concessions, while Vermont State University Castleton will collect non-perishable food items at each concert to support the Castleton food shelf. Bring your chairs by anytime after 5 p.m. on the concert night. Meet the artist's reception following the performance. For more info: Castleton Conferences & Events @ 802-468-6039.



'ALMOST HEAVEN: JOHN DENVER'S AMERICA'

ONGOING THROUGH JULY 6

ONGOING

37th Annual Great Brandon Auction

10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, July 3-12, Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq., Brandon. Indoor auction featuring antiques, collectibles, original art, gift certificates, furniture, tools, glassware, and more. Items available through silent bidding or "Buy It Now" pricing. Proceeds support the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce. For donations or details, contact info@brandon.org or call 802-236-8120. brandon.org.

'Almost Heaven: John Denver's America'

Through July 6. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. \$25-\$88. Weston Theater Company presents a musical celebration of John Denver's life and songs, from "Take Me Home, Country Roads" to "Annie's Song." Directed by Sherry Stregack Lutken. westontheater.org.

Expressive Fibers

Through July 19. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Free. Artistree's first-ever all-fiber-arts exhibit, showcasing work by Vermont and New Hampshire artists that uses traditional techniques to explore expressive, non-functional forms. artistreevt.org.

Rutland County Pride Festival Exhibition 2025

Noon-6 p.m., VTSU Castleton Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. This art exhibition, presented with Rutland County Pride, showcases work by local artists who are members and allies of the 2STLGBQIA+ community in celebration of the 3rd Annual Rutland County Pride Festival. vermontstate.edu.

UPCOMING

Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'

July 16-Aug. 10, Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. \$25-\$85. A heartwarming musical about friendship, love, and saving a Vermont inn, featuring classic songs like "Blue Skies" and "White Christmas." Directed by Susanna Gellert. Family ticket packages available. westontheater.org.

Killington Uncorked Wine Festival

July 18-19. Killington Resort, 4763 Killington Road, Killington. \$95-\$150. This two-day festival features an estate wine tasting at the Peak Lodge on Friday and a grand tasting with wines, spirits, artisan vendors, and live music at the K-1 Lodge on Saturday. Must be 21+ to attend. killingtonuncorked.com.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
7/2

BRANDON

6 p.m. Brandon Inn (Behind)
- Music at the Riverbend with
Jenni Johnson

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

PROCTORSVILLE

6 p.m. SVEC Memorial Green
– Cavendish Summer Concert
Series with Gypsy Reel

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Bailey's Place – Karaoke
101 hosted by Tenacious T

7 p.m. Main Street Park – Seven
to Sunset Concert Series with
Honey

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

SOUTH POMFRET

6:30 p.m. Artistree – Evan Panzer
on the Hillside

6:30 p.m. Saskadena Six – VSO
“Summer of Love” concert

THUR
7/3

BARNARD

5:30 p.m. Fable Farm – Feast &
Field: Lakou Mizik

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. The Lakehouse – Aaron
Audet

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery –
Jacob Green

FAIR HAVEN

7 p.m. Town Park – Concerts in
the Park with The army Band and
Iron Sights

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial
Library – River Road Concert
Series with The Loonz

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 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe – Trivia
Night

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht
Club – Mountain Dog

FRI
7/4

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge &
Taproom – John Lyons

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

5:30 p.m. Jackson Gore
Courtyard – JG Summit Music
Series with Krishna Guthrie Band

SAT
7/5

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge &
Taproom – Krishna Guthrie

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mills Comedy Club
– Comedy Show with Headliner
Pranav Behari

KILLINGTON

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

3 p.m. K1 Base Area – Cooler
in the Mountain Concert Series
with The Crowded Table

6 p.m. The Foundry – Music by
Cooper

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

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Clocktower Base Area –
The 4th of July on the 5th of July
with music by Rustie Bus, and
Fireworks
7 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub –
Jacob Green

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Hezzie &
The Flashbacks

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht
Club – The Freeze Brothers

SUN
7/6

BOMOSEEN

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

2:30 p.m. Long Trail Brewery –
Radio Kingston

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus
Jones

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

7 p.m. Still on the Mountain –
Comedy & Cocktails with Pranav
Behari

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Main & Mountain –
Sammy B

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Main Street Park –
Summer Concert's with Rutland
City Band

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

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
7/7

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge &
Taproom – Music by Cooper

KILLINGTON

5:30 p.m. Sushi Yoshi –
Tboneicus Jones

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

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

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

RUTLAND

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht
Club – Bluegrass Etc. Jame with
Ben Kogan

TUES
7/8

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge &
Taproom – George Nostrand

CASTLETON

7 p.m. Vermont State University
Castleton Pavilion – Blue Jay
Way

LONDONDERRY

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

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

PITTSFORD

6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm –
Tunesday Concert with Gypsy
Reel

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

WOODSTOCK

6 p.m. Coburn's Tonic – Learn to
Line Dance with Britt

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SEASON SPONSORS:

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UPCOMING SHOWS

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FRIDAY, JULY 25 | 7:30PM



OLIVER
ANTHONY
MUSIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16
DIAMONDS AND MORE GRANDSTAND AT THE
VERMONT STATE FAIR



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 | 7 PM



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 7:00 PM



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 7:00PM

Just added!

Blues Traveler.....	Friday, October 3	7:30 PM
Celebrating Meat Loaf.....	Friday, October 10	7:30 PM
Keb' Mo'.....	Friday, November 18	7:30 PM
Caitlin Canty.....	Friday, November 21	7:30 PM

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Fireworks over the Independence Day weekend

Here is a list of towns hosting fireworks events this weekend at dusk

Thursday, 7/3

Brownsville

Ascutney Outdoors, 449 Ski Tow Road

Friday, 7/4

Hartland

Hartland Rec. Center, 19 Route 12

Killington

Johnson Recreation Fields, 2782 River Road
Fork

Poultney

Poultney Elementary School Field

Saturday, 7/5

Brandon

Downtown Brandon

Bomoseen

Lake Bomoseen

Ludlow

Okemo Base, 77 Okemo Ridge Road

Sunday, 7/6

Woodstock

Woodstock Union High
School, 100 Amsden Way

For complete details on festivities happening in these towns during the weekend, see calendar pages 14-16.



Brandon keeps the party going with an all-day Independence Day celebration on July 5

Saturday, July 5, all day—BRANDON — If your Fourth of July calendar is already full — or if you're simply looking to stretch the holiday weekend — Brandon has you covered. On Saturday, July 5, the town hosts its annual Independence Day celebration with a jam-packed schedule of free, family-friendly festivities from morning to night.

This year's theme, "Sunflowers," is a nod to happiness, good fortune, and finding beauty in everyday life — all things the town plans to deliver in full bloom.

Brandon's popular parade kicks off at 10 a.m., beginning on Park Street and winding through downtown. But that's just the start. From bounce houses and family games to a Swiss roll-eating contest and duck race on over the Neshobe River, there's something for everyone—silent auctions, train rides, and fundraising raffles round out a festive daytime lineup.

Live music in Green Park begins at noon, featuring Cedar from noon–2 p.m. and Electric Bear from 3:30–5:30 p.m., both sponsored by Red Clover Ale. The beer garden will be open from noon to 7 p.m., making it an ideal spot to relax between events.

The evening continues with a street dance at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Jam Man Entertainment in front of the banks downtown, and the grand finale fireworks show begins at dusk — visible from all around town.

Support for the celebration comes from the community and a range of fundraising efforts, including a 50/50 raffle (last year's winner took home over \$1,900) and the always popular "Ducks Over the Neshobe" race. Raffle tickets and rubber duckies will be on sale throughout the day.

Visitors will find amenities to make the day comfortable and convenient: shuttle buses running every 30 minutes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., accessible parking, portable restrooms, and a cooling tent operated by the Medical Reserve Corps.

For those planning to attend, note that Route 7 will be closed through downtown starting at 9:30 a.m. for the parade. Detours will be clearly marked.

Brandon's Independence Day celebration is known for its festive spirit and community feel — and this year promises to be no exception. Come for the parade, stay for the music, food, fireworks, and a full day of sunflower-themed summer fun.

For more information, visit: brandon.org.



Brandon will celebrate Independence Day on July 5 with activities, music, fireworks, and fun.

Submitted



Submitted

Poultney will celebrate Independence Day with a full day and evening of outdoor adventures.

Poultney's July 4th celebration highlights the joy of outdoor adventures

Friday, July 4, all day—POULTNEY — The historic town of Poultney is gearing up for a vibrant and fun-filled 4th of July celebration on Friday. From pancakes to parades, puppets to pyrotechnics, the day offers something for all ages.

The celebration kicks off bright and early with a pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church on Main Street. Families can then stroll over to Slate Quarry Park for a pre-parade magic show with local favorite Tom Joyce.

At 10 a.m., the town's popular Independence Day parade begins in East Poultney. This year's theme, "Enjoying Outdoor Adventures," encourages creative interpretations from both organizations and families. Cash prizes will be awarded in five categories: Most Photographic, Most Patriotic, Best Depiction of the Theme (Family), Best Depiction of the Theme (Business), and Best Depiction of an Organization. Parade float applications are still being accepted at poultneyrecreation.com/events/4th-of-july.

After the parade, the Bhakta campus becomes the hub for midday fun, offering food trucks, hot dogs, lemonade, and a bouncy house for kids.

The party continues into the evening at Poultney Elementary School. At 4 p.m., magician Blaine Good will entertain the crowd, followed by a 5 p.m. performance from the No Strings Marionette Company. Food trucks will be on hand throughout the afternoon, and children's activities will continue into the evening.

At 7 p.m., an all-ages dance party with DJ Saltis will get everyone moving, leading up to the grand finale—fireworks at 9 p.m.

For more information, visit poultneyrecreation.com.



Woodstock celebrates Independence Day weekend with farm fun and fireworks

Friday and Sunday, July 4 and 6, all day—WOODSTOCK—This Independence Day weekend, Woodstock will offer two days of classic, family-friendly festivities, with special events taking place on Friday, July 4, and Sunday, July 6.

Fourth on the Farm

Kicking off the holiday weekend, Billings Farm & Museum will host “4th on the Farm” on Friday, July 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a full day of old-fashioned entertainment, including horse-drawn wagon rides (11 a.m.–3 p.m.), ice cream making, and spelling bees for both kids and adults—with a historical twist.

At 2 p.m., the field transforms into a vintage baseball

diamond for a lively game played using 1860s rules, complete with straw-stuffed bases and barehanded catches. Attendees are welcome to join in the game or cheer from the sidelines. The Rose Hip Jam Band will provide live music from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Vermont-made treats will be available at the Farm-house Scoop Shop.

For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org/events/4th-on-the-farm-2025.

Fireworks & festivities at Woodstock Union High School

The celebration continues on Sunday, July 6, from 6–9:30 p.m. at Woodstock Union High School. Families can explore crafts hosted by ArtisTree, Purple Crayon Productions, and

Change the World Kids, along with games organized by the VT Volunteer Services for the Animals Humane Society. Children will also enjoy a “Touch-a-Truck” session with fire and EMS vehicles.

The WUHS Alumni Association will host a traditional picnic featuring burgers, hot dogs, desserts, ice cream, and drinks throughout the evening. Live music from The Flames begins at 6:15 p.m., building excitement for the grand fireworks finale at dusk.

These events are presented by the Town of Woodstock and Billings Farm & Museum.

Info: woodstockvt.com/events/4th-of-july-fireworks-2025.



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

Visitors of all ages will enjoy 4th on the Farm.



Submitted

Bring a blanket, chairs, family, and friends, and hang out at Woodstock Union High School on Sunday, July 6 for the annual fireworks display.



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

Test your 19th century vernacular at the Adult Spelling Bee during 4th on the Farm at Billings Farm & Museum.

The 13th annual Lake St. Catherine boat parade sets sail on July 5

Saturday, July 5 at 1 p.m.—LAKE ST. CATHERINE—The Lake St. Catherine Association (LSCA) will host its 13th annual boat parade on Saturday afternoon, inviting residents and visitors to join in the colorful summer tradition.

Participants are encouraged to decorate their boats and compete for top honors in four crowd-pleasing categories: Most Original, Most Patriotic, Funniest, and Best Overall. As in previous years, photos of each entry will be shared online for a community-wide vote to determine the winners.

“Watching the parade is always fun, but it’s even better to be in it,” organizers said.

To enter, boaters can register by emailing info@lakestcatherine.org with their name, phone number, and the name of their boat or its theme. Registrants will receive a boat number and participation details. At least 10 boats are already signed up. Lake St. Catherine always has room for more.

For more information, visit lakestcatherine.org.



Courtesy lakestcatherine/ Karen Velsor

Last year’s best overall winner was boat #9—Come On Barbie Let’s Go Party—entered by Christine Gay

RESEARCH STUDY

August 2025

www.nenpa.com/screener

Newspaper Readers Needed!

Do you read a newspaper on a regular basis?

The New England Newspaper & Press Association is conducting a study to learn readers' views about which qualities separate good newspapers from great ones.



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Tunesdays

Summer Concert Series

JUNE 17 - AUG. 12, 2025

TUESDAYS @ 6PM

42 Elm St., Pittsford, VT
across from Kamuda's



Concerts are outside on the Village Farm grounds.
For extreme weather, concert is canceled. Check PittsfordVillageFarm.org
This event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

July 8 — Gypsy Reel

High-energy stirring music
rooted in Celtic tradition, but
garnered from the whole world.

FOOD BY
HOG
HEAVEN

PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG



Courtesy Circus Smirkus

Circus Smirkus will bring fun and games to Middlebury and Manchester beginning this weekend.

It's "Game On!" when Circus Smirkus comes to Middlebury and Manchester this summer

July 5-6 and July 8-9—MIDDLEBURY and MANCHESTER—Vermont's Circus Smirkus kicks off its 38th annual Big Top Tour this summer, bringing its high-energy, youth-powered performances to Middlebury on July 5 & 6, and Manchester on July 8 & 9.

Fresh off its opening weekend in Greensboro, the award-winning youth circus will roll into the Mary Hogan Elementary School Field in Middlebury before heading to Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park in Manchester. The troupe will perform four shows at each stop, offering families and circus lovers a chance to experience one of New England's favorite summer traditions.

Circus Smirkus is the only traveling tented youth circus in the United States, featuring 28 young performers, ages 12-18, from across 14 states. Under a traditional European-style circus tent, these budding artists showcase aerials, acrobatics, juggling, and clowning, bringing audiences of all ages to the edge of their seats without the use of animal acts.

This year's theme, "Game On!," transforms the Big Top into a vibrant playground inspired by classic board games, complete with checkerboard acrobatics, aerial chess queens, candy-colored juggling, and playful clown antics that capture the spirit of childhood fun and imagination. With a new original score and direction from Fritz Grobe, a veteran performer and creative director, this year's show promises surprises and non-stop entertainment in true Smirkus style.

The tour, which spans 65 shows across four states and 15 towns over 50 days, is a massive effort involving 23 support vehicles and more than 80 people, including performers, coaches, cooks, and crew. Each summer, Circus Smirkus performs for around 35,000 people, bringing joy and inspiration to communities throughout New England.

When Circus Smirkus rolls into town, it's always "Game On!"

For a complete schedule and to purchase tickets, visit: smirkus.org.

VINS unveils a full summer schedule of wildlife education programs

QUECHEE—The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) has launched an engaging summer schedule filled with wildlife education programs to captivate visitors of all ages. Running daily through the end of October, these offerings are included with regular admission to the VINS Nature Center and provide hands-on, nature-based experiences led by expert educators and wildlife specialists.

“Our summer programming is designed to spark curiosity and foster a deeper connection with our incredible Ambassadors,” said Anna Morris, director of wildlife ambassador programs at VINS. “From families with young children to dedicated birding enthusiasts, we have something to captivate visitors of all ages.”

Visitors can participate in a range of educational sessions throughout the day:

Natural wonders (10:30–11 a.m.): A family-friendly program exploring animals of New England, nature’s engineers, and local habitats.

Predators of the sky (11–11:30 a.m. and 3–3:30 p.m.): A dynamic introduction to the fascinating world of raptors, highlighting their powerful adaptations.

Rotating education station (1:00–1:30 p.m.): A daily surprise offering a behind-the-scenes look at bird rehabilitation, ambassador care, or field research.

Songbird aviary tour (2:00–2:20 p.m.): A close-up look at songbirds, with tips on creating bird-friendly habitats at home.

Raptor feeding time (2:30–3:00 p.m.): A chance to meet resident raptors and learn about their individual histories during their feeding.

Hawk on the walk (4:00–4:15 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays): A unique opportunity to watch a Harris’ hawk navigate the trees along the forest canopy walk.

The summer programs reflect VINS’ mission to inspire care for the environment through education, research, and wildlife rehabilitation. In addition to the daily events, general admission includes access to VINS’ full range of exhibits and nature features, such as the forest canopy walk, adventure playscape, Birds are Dinosaurs exhibit, and the new beaver lodge for early explorers.

For more information, visit: vinsweb.org.



Courtesy VINS

VINS will provide a full slate of educational wildlife programs this summer.

It's fright night every Saturday this summer in Woodstock

Learn of Woodstock's spooky history on a ghost tour

Saturdays at 8 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—Let local guide Richard Adams be your navigator through the shadows of Woodstock to discover haunted secrets hiding in plain sight. On this 45-minute walking tour (weather permitting) through the historic downtown, you'll uncover chilling tales of haunted homes and eerie encounters that still haunt the streets today.

Gather by the Green to hear the strange story of the buried vampire heart. Catch whispers of a little girl who skips down the halls of a local shop only to vanish in the blink of an eye. Or meet the ghostly woman whose piano music fills the air before she disappears mid-song.

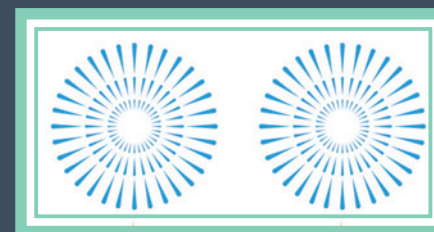
Perfect for curious minds and brave hearts, this family-friendly ghost tour offers a unique opportunity to experience the supernatural side of Woodstock. Will you see something... or someone?

Sign up for the ghost tour at the Woodstock Inn's front desk. Tours depart on Saturday nights at 8 p.m. from the Inn's lobby.

For more information, visit: woodstockinn.com.



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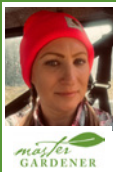
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Gardening Tip of the Week



The color purple is considered visually one of the most appealing colors in a garden. Continuing with sustainable landscapes, Chives offer a charming shade of purple flowers, along with many other benefits. Chives, offer late spring to early summer purple blooms which Bees and Butterflies thrive off of. Chives also act as a natural pest repellent, chasing away Aphids, Japanese Beetles, and Carrot Flies. They also benefit roses, if planted near a rose bush, Chives reduce Black Spot and deter Aphids. Chives also attract beneficial insects such as Lady Bugs who prey on all sorts of pests. Chives are also used as a culinary source, and a natural ground cover as they spread quickly and choke out any weeds, and fill in spaces fast.



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Okemo's summer lineup

By Karen D. Lorentz

"Oh, it's so beautiful," I heard my 8-year-old grandtwin exclaim when she discovered the view from Okemo's summit.

Days later, when recounting her favorite activities, she included the "lift chair" and explained that she liked the view at the mountaintop and during the ride down.

The "lift chair" is Okemo's Sunburst Six chairlift, featuring an orange bubble that can be lowered for a colorful view or protection from the elements — or left up.

Okemo's Summit Lodge offers a great spot to picnic on the deck, play a game of corn hole, or enjoy Summit Milk Shakes featuring Vermont's Wilcox Dairy ice cream. The Summit Cafe is open Thursday through Sunday, offering food and beverages from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For adventurous souls or those seeking some exercise, you can hike from the Summit Lodge to the Okemo Fire Tower at 3,343 feet above sea level, where you can climb up and get 360-degree views on a clear day.

For the romantics who crave a spectacular wedding venue, there is a new Summit Wedding Garden just below the lodge with a reception option in the lodge.

The chair ride down the mountain is spectacular, offering a view of Ludlow below, the New Hampshire mountains, and sister resort Mount Sunapee in the distance. The ride is so quiet that you can hear the occasional babbling of a stream below or a rustling of the trees when mountain breezes

blow, providing, of course, that you are still to enjoy nature's sounds.

Other options include hiking up the mountain on trails or the Mountain Road, which is an easy ski trail in winter. Alternatively, you can drive up the Mountain Road (built by the CCC in 1935), park, and take a short hike to the fire tower, followed by another walk to the Summit Lodge. The drive back down is spectacular, with lookouts for amazing views and a picnic spot.

The scenic chairlift rides are offered Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the same hours the Adventure Zone is open.

Adventure Zone

The Jackson Gore side of Okemo is summer grand central, offering another lovely wedding venue, outdoor concerts, and fun thrills in the Adventure Zone. The Adventure Zone includes a bouncy house, mini golf, Mountain Coaster, gem mining, climbing wall, trampoline, and disc golf. The Haulback Challenge, with three treetop courses — some tunnels and zip lines incorporated — is super fun for daring souls who don't mind harnessing up and wiggling at great heights. This attraction is now included on the All-Day Adventure Zone pass or as a separate ticket.

The bouncy house, miniature golf, bungee trampoline, and Timber Ripper (Mountain Coaster) were all great hits with Okemo → 23



Kids of all ages will enjoy Okemo's bungee trampoline.

Submitted



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← Okemo:
from page 22

my grandtwins, but what surprised me was how much they enjoyed “mining for gems” in the Sluice. The Timber Ripper was a definite highlight, with screams making for the loudest fun on the second run when I let our coaster rip.

The Adventure Zone activities, including the Haulback treetop experience and chairlift rides, can be enjoyed on an à la carte basis or with the All-Day Pass. Residents of NH and VT receive a day pass discount on Fridays and Sundays with state ID proof. Holders of 2025/26 Epic Passes (excludes the Epic Day Pass) can ride Okemo’s chairlift for free and get 20% off on food and lodgings as part of their automatic Mountain Rewards. Booking online is encouraged for the best rates.

Live music, events

Okemo Resort continues its free concerts in the summer music series every Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Jackson Gore Courtyard from June 27 through Aug. 29.

The Krishna Guthrie Band plays July 4, followed by Sly Richard July 11, Adam McMahon Band July 18, Studio Two July 25, The What Knots Aug. 1, Cold Chocolate Aug. 8, Jester Jigs Aug. 15, Total Strangers, Aug. 22, and Jenny and the Bets Aug. 29. Bring a picnic, blankets, or chairs. Food and beverages are available, or dine at Coleman Brook Tavern, which is adjacent to the courtyard.

Among the special activities being offered, there’s Summit Yoga every Saturday

morning from 9 to 10 a.m., July 5 through Sept. 6 at the summit. (I did a morning yoga class last week at the Spring House, and the instructor did a fantastic job taking us through stretching, breathing, and yoga positions — it left my old body feeling fine and my stressed-out mind peaceful!) Classes at the summit must be a real treat, with the fresh air and views enhancing the zen.

The popular Taps and Taste returns on Aug. 2 with craft beer and local bites samplings, and the Fall Into Winter festivities resume on Oct. 12 to celebrate the changing seasons with activities for all ages, early-season skiing demos, and fall-themed events to kick off winter.

Good to know

Camp Gokemo offers indoor and outdoor activities with weekly themes for children aged 5 through 12 on a daily or weekly visit basis.

Okemo does not accept cash payments.

New at the Jackson Gore Spring House (fitness center, classes, hot tub, sauna, pools, lockers), free movie nights at 6:30 p.m. Saturdays. And there’s a recreation room with a basketball hoop and a pickleball setup option (advance notice and fee required).

Oh, yes—you might want to bring sunglasses, bug spray, and sunscreen when visiting the mountain.

For more information, visit okemo.com.



Submitted
The historic Okemo fire tower affords 360 degree views on a clear day.



By Britney Kelley Photography
Weddings at Okemo’s new summit garden will add extra magic to a special day.



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Forage Bakery takes its gluten-free treats to Ludlow Farmers Market

LUDLOW—Forage Bakery will join the Ludlow Farmers Market as a part-time vendor this summer, offering artisan baked goods, including sourdough bread, cinnamon buns, and bagels. All items are 100% gluten-free, mostly vegan, and made with all-organic flours.

Catch Forage Bakery on Depot Street in Ludlow during the Sunday markets on July 6, 13, 20, and Aug. 3, 10, and 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Custom orders are available by emailing foragebakery@gmail.com or through Instagram (@ForageBakery) and Facebook (Forage Bakery).

Stop by the Ludlow Farmers Market on Depot St. this summer to enjoy a delicious gluten-free treat while supporting local food makers.



Submitted
Gluten-free bagels will be available to purchase this summer at Ludlow Farmers Market through Forage Bakery.

Moose Crossing to headline jazz night at Stone Valley Arts

Wednesday, July 2 at 7 p.m.—POULTNEY—The Jazz Café at Stone Valley Arts returns with a performance by the seasoned Vermont jazz trio Moose Crossing. Led by saxophonist Zack Hampton and featuring Joe Plotts on bass and Ryan Carney on drums, the trio is known for its dynamic performances that blend jazz standards with engaging improvisation and high-energy swing.

Moose Crossing has been performing together for years, building a strong presence across Vermont's music scene through shows at local venues and in public schools. Their performances are both musically rich and welcoming, often inspiring audiences to get up and dance.

The Jazz Café series at Stone Valley Arts provides an intimate and relaxed atmosphere for enjoying live jazz by both veteran and emerging musicians. The evening promises a mix of music, community, and possibly even a bit of swing dancing for those inspired to move to the beat.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit: stone-valleyarts.org



Submitted
Zack Hampton and his jazz trio, Moose Crossing, will perform at Stone Valley Arts on Wednesday, July 2.

'F1: The Movie' is the film event of the summer



Screens and Streams

By James Kent

If you've been waiting for a movie to get you off the couch and into a theater, wait no longer: "F1: The Movie" is the type of film that was tailor-made for summer entertainment. The film, directed by Joseph Kosinski and action producer Jerry Bruckheimer, the duo who brought the movie box office back from the dead a couple of years ago with the thrilling sequel, "Top Gun: Maverick," delivers another thrill ride that will leave you breathless.

"F1: The Movie," made with the full cooperation of F1, benefits from the partnership because the film feels authentic. One can smell a fake a mile away, and in this era of CGI-fueled superhero entertainment, it's refreshing to see a movie made the old-fashioned way, with cameras in the cars, zooming around the track at 200 Km/h. Trust me, you'll feel as if you're in the race car.

Made by Apple Studios, which to date hasn't had a film hit to speak of, this film changes all of that in a single Formula One lap, with its nonstop pulse-pounding action that will please racing and non-racing fans alike. The package will seem familiar: An aging one-time racing phenom gets the opportunity of a lifetime to return to the sport he'd long since abandoned in a hail-Mary move to try and get a last-place team into the points and a desperation try at a first-place finish to save the team from certain sale. Brad Pitt plays Sonny Hayes, the racer, and as the film's script shrewdly informs the audience, Formula One has fielded drivers over the age of 50 before. So, it's enough to lend credibility to the story, and just like Robert Redford's oldest rookie ballplayer, Roy Hobbs, we are ready to root for the underdog.

Naturally, there's the young driving sensation trying to make a name for himself, Joshua Pearce, played by newcomer Damson Idris, who Pitt's Hayes must help along, and the pair will form a rivalry as old as any sports movie cliché can dish out. We know how this relationship is going to go, and it's fine because "F1: The Movie" embraces its tropes and cliches unabashedly and doesn't pretend to be anything more or less than what it is: pure, unbridled entertainment.

The film gets so much right that I can easily overlook any of its faults. Pitt engages throughout, and he's supported by an



Courtesy Apple Studios

"F1: The Movie" will put you into the driver's seat of a Formula One race car.

excellent cast, including his team's engineer, Kerry Condon, whom people may remember from her standout supporting role in "The Banshees of Inisherin." Naturally, Condon also serves as Pitt's love interest, and it is refreshing to see Hollywood making an age-appropriate romance that doesn't feel out of place. It works, just like pretty much everything else in this finely tuned machine.

Several years ago, our oldest roped my wife and me into watching F1 races on Sunday mornings. It soon turned into mandatory weekend viewing. I attended an F1 race in Canada with my son back in 2019, and my wife and I still follow the sport to this day. Having that understanding of the nuances made me appreciate the film all the more. The filmmakers respect the sport, and they've done their homework to get it right. We are not saddled with a real sport where the governing body is portrayed by a fake name, sponsors, and racers. In this movie, the story plops the audience into the real world of F1. If you know the sport, you'll enjoy seeing your favorite racers. Lewis Hamilton, George Russell, Alex Albon, Max Verstappen, Charles LeClerc, and most of the others on the circuit at the time of filming all make appearances. Familiar F1 announcers David Croft and Martin Brundle do the announcing during the film races. And while some of their comments explain the terminology to the audience more thoroughly than they might during a live broadcast, it helps educate the uninitiated

on aspects of an F1 race.

Again, the plot of the film isn't anything you haven't seen a zillion times, but it's woven together in a fresh enough story that you'll enjoy all the beats leading up to its thrilling conclusion. And, as I've watched more than half a decade of F1, I can safely say that many of the twists and turns that occur during the races in this movie happen during a season. Watch any F1 race when a rainstorm hits, and you'll understand the chaos that ensues, and the unpredictability of a finish are not scripted moments. Several of the events in the movie feel more than a bit inspired by things I've seen happen over the past several seasons.

Okay, here's the pitch: You need to see this on a big screen. I made the trip to Massachusetts and saw it in IMAX. Wow. If there was ever a movie built for the gigantic IMAX screen and superior sound system, this film is it. The seats shook, and you did feel as if you were right in the middle of the action. I know that this coming weekend, "F1: The Movie" will still be playing at the IMAX theater in Reading, Massachusetts. If you find yourself traveling that way over the holiday weekend, I recommend checking it out. It's also playing in theaters around the region, so if you can, try to see this one in the theater. You won't be disappointed. When I exited my screening, I heard several enthusiastic audience members declare, "Hollywood needs to make more movies like that." I couldn't agree more.



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BY PATRICK WISE




So Byrd... 4th of July. Freedom, fireworks, and enough potato salad to knock out a hippo.

And don't forget the part where Uncle Jerry tries to light a sparkler and loses an eyebrow. Ah, tradition.




You ever think about how weird it is that humans celebrate independence by blowing stuff up and eating 20 pounds of meat?

It's poetic, really. Nothing says freedom like indigestion. So... what are you doing for the 4th?




What am I doing for the 4th? Eating everything in my path! Ya know...you kinda look like a snack!

Try it buddy. Hey remember last year when you tried to buzz the tower? You jumped off the roof and landed in Mrs. Watson's deviled eggs.




Yeah, yeah, yeah... Worth it for the deviled eggs. Say, you ever think maybe... the 4th isn't just about barbecues and blowing up small parts of the neighborhood?

Oh totally. I mean, sure—blowing stuff up is fun—but freedom's about sticking together too, y'know? Like us.




You mean... a sarcastic cat and an overly patriotic pigeon?

Exactly. If we can get along, there's hope for everybody.



Maybe if you don't sing...I might smile. But let's take a serious 5, don't you think real freedoms about showing up for each other, even if we're a total fur-and-feathers mess. Buzz that across yer tower Maverick!

Yeah-yeah! Happy 4th of July buddy!



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11:00am: Johnson Recreation Center Opens, DJ Evan Foley, Drop off Pies at Pool House for Inaugural Pie Baking Competition

1:30pm: Field Games at Soccer Field; No Registration Required

3:00pm: Pie Competition Winners Announced

3:30pm: Belly Flop Contest

7:00pm: Live Music by Summit Pond Quartet

9:00pm: Firework Show

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are needed for food service, set up and break down.
Email: killingtonpico@gmail.com or killingtonems@gmail.com.

PARKING: We anticipate a large influx of visitors this year for the celebration and firework display. Please abide by all posted "no parking" signs when parking for the event. Evening parking for the fireworks will be permitted in the library lot, but spectators must view the fireworks from the Recreation Center. Carpooling is highly encouraged for the fireworks.

RAIN DATE: if inclement weather occurs, please check KillingtonRec.com for updates

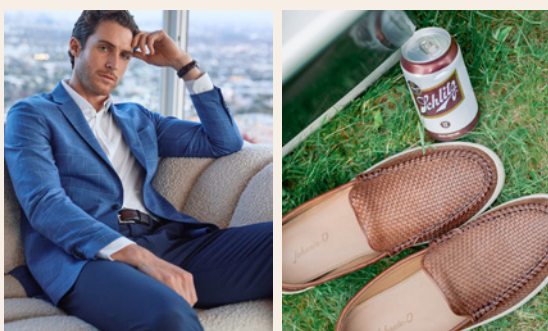
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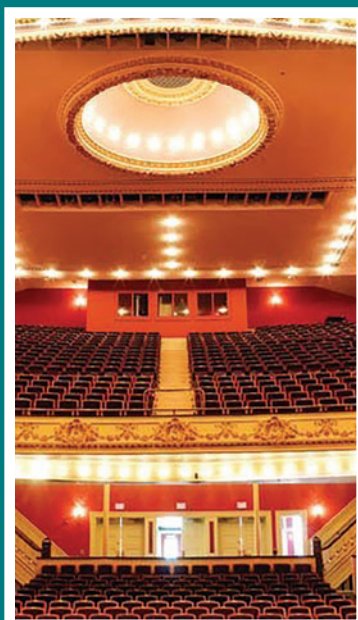
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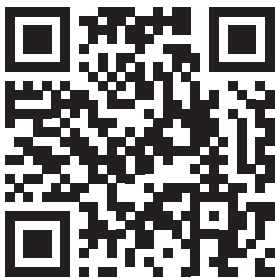
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Willow Bee Exchange New Shop in Downtown Rutland!

Willow Bee Exchange is an eco-conscious, sustainable lifestyle boutique that has officially opened in Downtown Rutland! This new shop offers organic and non-toxic clothing, textiles, and toys for children and women, as well as secondhand children's clothing, maternity wear, and health and wellness products.

If you're interested in consigning your clothing, feel free to call or text them or drop off your items in person. Find contact information and more on their Facebook page: facebook.com/willowbeeexchange

Located at 38 Wales St. in Downtown Rutland.

Check out their website at willowbeeexchange.com



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Solutions

From page 13

Crossword

	M	E	M	O	S			S	E	T	T	E	R	
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Rocco—8-month-old.
Neutered male. Pit bull terrier mix.



Charlie—2-year-old.
Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Prince—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Simba—6-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix.

Sudoku

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



Lucas—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Tater tot—3-year-old. Neutered male. Pit bull terrier mix.



Tito—4-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Poppy—7-month-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Tippy—2 1/2-year-old. Spayed female. Rottweiler mix.



Gloria—7 1/2-year-old. Spayed female. Pit bull terrier.



Hulk—1 1/2-year-old. Neutered male. Great dane mix.



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Peekaboo—Sassy, 1-2-year-old tortie.

Cosmic Catalogue

**Aries**
March 21 - April 20

Reserve the right to change your mind. Be humble enough to say you don't know something, and go out and learn what you need to learn. You don't stop learning because you grow old; you grow old because you stop learning. The more open and curious you can be now, the more you'll be able to not only attract more abundance but also fulfill your personal desires. Be open, curious, and committed at the same time.

**Leo**
July 21 - August 20

Friends, groups, and the company you keep are about to embark on a lengthy process of change. You'll get closer to discovering what a reason, a season, or a lifetime really means to you. As you grow, change, and evolve, the people around you will reflect that. Authenticity counts, as well as being with the like-minded while not trapped in a linear way of thinking. Your self-expression will continue to be vital and important.

**Sagittarius**
November 21 - December 20

The past few years have certainly been a whirlwind for you. Life just got busier and busier to the point where it became your new normal. It doesn't have to be this way. You're going to see life, love, and everyone through a whole different lens. Life will get better for you when you choose to see things differently, not just from your own perspective but from those of other people as well.

**Taurus**
April 21 - May 20

You can start to breathe a sigh of relief that the change and turbulence of the past several years start to die down. While it's not completely over, you will get the opportunity to reflect on how you've grown and changed. It will be a whole lot more than you think! Start turning those growth experiences into ways in which you can boost your prosperity. The money moves you've always wanted to make will soon be available.

**Virgo**
August 21 - September 20

If you're feeling a bit agitated or restless with your career or your overall life direction, then that's OK. Uranus, the planet of change and awakening, is about to arrive in your Career Zone. So, if you're longing for change but not sure how to make it happen, avoid making sudden moves. Discernment is still needed. Just knowing that big changes are on the horizon is sometimes enough to ease the frustration.

**Capricorn**
December 21 - January 20

You've learned a lot about what it means to really be happy. It hasn't always been smooth sailing, but it's been worth it. Just because things are about to change doesn't mean you have to throw the baby out with the bath water. Do seek the ways in which you can have your cake and eat it, too. Life doesn't have to be either/or; it can be both/and.

**Gemini**
May 21 - June 20

You're going to hear a lot about what it means for you to be authentic. What that means will be different for everyone. That said, you do have a chance to consider what you're willing to be available for and what you're not. Consider whether you are truly in alignment with your desires and whether your daily actions reflect that alignment or not. Let the outside match the inside and vice versa. This won't be an overnight process.

**Libra**
September 21 - October 20

What might the world look like if you viewed it from another perspective? What if you took an unexpected chance to learn, travel, or discover something new? You're about to enter a significant cycle where the world will become your oyster. You just have to say yes to anything that is completely outside your comfort zone. When you say yes to life, life says yes to you both personally and professionally.

**Aquarius**
January 21 - February 20

Whenever I look at your horoscope, I think of the Joker when he says, "Why so serious?" Thankfully, life is about to get a whole lot more fun for you and less intense. This should come as a relief. So, with that said, start opening up and become increasingly spontaneous. Simply say, "Why not?" and go for it. Life rewards those who are brave enough to risk their ego once in a while.

**Cancer**
June 21 - July 20

Some changes are happening for you, and not all of it is obvious. Sometimes, the biggest forms of growth we can ever experience aren't about holidays, big houses, and career moves. Sometimes, it's about listening to the inner voice that you're most afraid to hear. It's the voice of intuition, instinct, and bright new ideas all coalescing together. Allow yourself to be guided even if it does appear to be devoid of logic.

**Scorpio**
October 21 - November 20

Once the stability in relationships returns, you'll get the chance to rethink your career and overall life direction. Rolling stones gather no moss, and right now, something is coming to an end or approaching a process of purification. So much is opening up for you if you continue to move forward rather than focusing on the past. What's done is done, and now turn your attention to what you can become.

**Pisces**
February 21 - March 20

Brace yourself for some changes on the home front that will come suddenly and unexpectedly. This could come in the shape of deciding to move, renovate, or relocate. Maybe your home relationships and dynamics change. Maybe you want different things out of your family life than what you once did. Whether you want to settle down or be a rolling stone, it's all about doing things differently and being courageous enough to take those risks.

The cliff we're all staring down



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

The astrology of the moment reminds me of something my father often said to me as a kid, "if [insert name here] jumped off a cliff, would you?" I'm sure you heard it too!

The question then followed with the regular belligerent teenage eye roll. There was a part of you that knew your dad was probably right. Despite that, you didn't want to listen, didn't want to give him that satisfaction of being right, or you just couldn't see what his wisdom and experience could see.

Whether it's dealing with a teenager or humanity as a whole, it seems that few people have the capacity to learn from the past. We always think we know better. We think things are different this time around. We think that the worst possible scenario couldn't happen. We think we are more progressive, more educated, more liberal, and more evolved.

Right now, humanity is standing at the edge of the cliff. The edge of technological advancements that will radically reshape the way we live faster than we can catch up with it. There is also the ideological cliff where belonging to the tribe comes at the expense of thinking for oneself, asking questions, and being independent of 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.

Fish mouths: how anatomy suggests ecology

The river roars in the heat of the summer. The water is clear and cool, and a respite from the high sun. An angler leans back, fly-fishing rod in hand, and casts it forward. The fly drops and sinks into the water. Hopefully, a fish will bite. What kind of fish depends on how deep in the water – the surface, mid-depth, or bottom – the fly ends up. Fish feed in different parts of the water column, and their bodies and diets are adapted to their feeding strategies. Their mouths alone often give a clue as to where in the water column they feed.

A fish can have three different locations for its mouth: it can be terminal (located at the end of the head), inferior (opening downwards), or superior (opening upwards). These seemingly simple differences in anatomy can reveal where a fish typically hunts for food.

Fish with superior mouths often feed on food above them by targeting prey floating on the surface or by ambushing it from below. If you watch a herring, such as an alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), you'll probably see a flash of silver as this fish swims upwards towards its zooplankton prey. Alewives eat all sorts of small invertebrates, snatching them from below with their large, upturned mouths. Their superior mouth looks like an underbite, with their lower jaw jutting out.

Fish with terminal mouths, such as largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), often feed throughout the water column, catching prey wherever they happen to be swimming. Largemouth bass are found throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, although they are not native to the region. Stocking efforts have spread them from their native waters in the Mississippi River basin to waters across the country. Like other fish with terminal mouths, such as trout and salmon, the largemouth bass can eat any prey that is swimming right in front of them: zooplankton, crayfish, other fish, and even frogs.

Fish with inferior mouths, located on the underside of their heads, typically feed on river and lake bottoms as they swim along. The longnose sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*) and brown bullhead

(*Ameiurus nebulosus*) are bottom feeders. They eat algae, small invertebrates like copepods (tiny crustaceans), snails, and the aquatic larvae of insects such as mosquitoes.

The bullhead is a catfish, and all catfish have "whiskers" around their mouths, which gives them their name. These whiskers, or barbels, are fleshy cylinders covered in sensory cells. Barbels are often used to find food. (Biologists continue to study what other uses barbels have.) Fish move their barbels around, using touch and taste cells on them to locate prey. This is helpful when the water is too cloudy or dark for the fish to see.

Since catfish feed on the bottom, anglers must ensure their line reaches the bottom. "During the winter, we'll get people jigging for them," said Joseph Murzin of Fish Tails Bait and Tackle in Barnstead, New Hampshire. Using a weight attached to the fishing line, anglers can drop a hook down toward the bottom and jerk it up and down to attract the fish.

Once you pull a catfish out of the water, you may notice that its mouth looks very large. This is because catfish have protrusible mouths that jut forward to enlarge the mouth cavity and allow it to suck in prey. Largemouth and smallmouth bass also have this adaptation.

When fish with protrusible mouths are near something tasty, they flare their gills or gill plates and open their jaws quickly. The movement is so fast that it creates a vacuum. "Almost immediately, they close up shop, so the intended prey cannot escape," explained John Viar of New Hampshire Fish and Game. This is called suction feeding, and the vacuum generated can be quite strong. The bottom-feeding burbot (*Lota lota*), another suction feeder found in cool, deep waters, sometimes has "stomach pearls," as Viar calls them, or small rocks that they can't avoid sucking in along with prey – one drawback to a great adaptation.

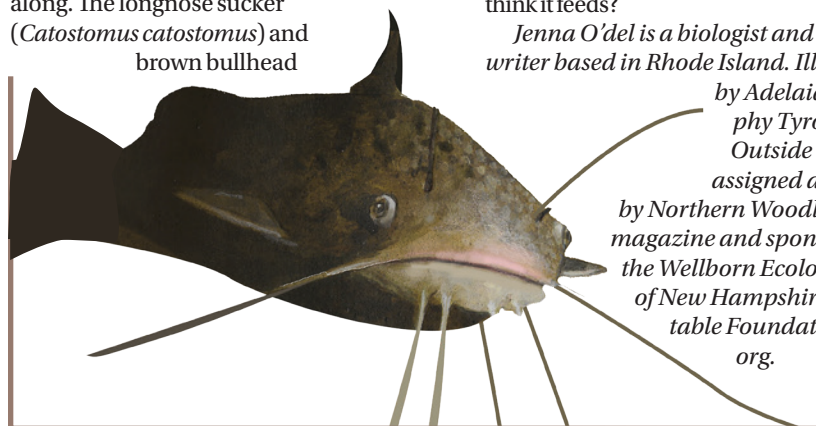
Next time you're cooling off in a river, fishing, or wandering through an aquarium, look closely at the fish swimming by. Do you see the location of its mouth? Where do you think it feeds?

Jenna O'del is a biologist and science writer based in Rhode Island. 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 Jenna O'del



Getting away from it all

My family and I went to the beach this past week. The temperatures were hot, and the weather was sunny, making for a classic seaside vacation. The house we rented was in the harbor of the town where we were visiting, so while we didn't stare out at the ocean, we were able to sit on the deck and watch the yachts and motorboats move about. Initially, I was disappointed with the location, but it turns out there's something soothing about having a cocktail at sunset while the boats come in to dock.

The first thing I did when I arrived at our rental was pull up the local golf course website so I could book a few tee times. These golf outings are usually the highlight of my week since I get to steal away from everyone to play a beautiful course by myself. Moreover, I always walk and carry my bag at home, but on vacation, I generally get a cart and live it up with a couple of cold beverages.

However, I was disheartened when I discovered that the course I wanted to play was closed for renovations. My only other option was the unreasonably high-priced resort course, which would have cost over \$300 per round. I'm not cheap, but there's a cut-off point for me when buying a round of golf, and given that I belong to a club at home, I didn't feel compelled to spend my hard-earned cash so frivolously.

I sighed deeply at this bitter realization, then resolved myself to the idea that golf wasn't going to be a part of my vacation. And to be honest, I wasn't entirely disappointed. I play a lot of golf at home, so not playing for a week wasn't going to kill me. I'd just have to find other things to do.

Obviously, heading to the beach is the main reason for a beach vacation, so my wife and I diligently lugged our gear to the sandy shores every morning. We set up our chairs, cooler, and fancy new Shibumi Shade. If you haven't heard of Shibumi, look them up – they are far superior to umbrellas and much easier to carry. The design is unique in that it uses the wind (which is usually a negative for umbrellas) as the catalyst to create more shade. They are also very easy to set up, which is a plus for any beach visit.

For me, no beach visit is complete until I have Bob Marley playing in the background. We've got one of those fancy little JBL speakers that clips onto your beach bag,

so with a quick connection via Bluetooth, Marley's "Legend" LP was consuming our little corner of sand, making everything feel more lighthearted and relaxed.

Of course, some good snacking is in order if you're at the beach. My wife and I favor boiled peanuts since they provide a salty fix, while the discarded shells are biodegradable. Toss in some frosty Coronas with lime, and there's really nothing else to do except stare out into the ocean and consider yourself blessed to be there.

And that's generally when I fall asleep. Cold beer and hot sun do a number on me. I can fight it for a while, but eventually my eyes are going to get heavy, and I'm going to fade out. This is fine because sleeping at the beach might be one of the most soothing activities a person can engage in.

And finally, there's the swimming. No beach vacation is complete unless you spend some time in the water. And thankfully, the water we were in was like a soothing bath. I didn't go in every day, but I went in a lot. And the kid in me can't help but pull out the boogie board to ride the waves. I loved the activity when I was a little

boy, and I still love it today.

All in all, it was a wonderful getaway that contained all the necessary elements to make a trip to the beach worthwhile.

Interestingly, this week's feature, "Dangerous Animals," is not the kind of film you want to watch before heading to the beach, which is why I smartly saved it for my return home.

Set on the Australian coast, "Dangerous Animals" imagines a serial killer boat captain with a penchant for sharks. The creepy madman lures unsuspecting tourists onto his boat, promising a thrilling cage dive into shark-infested waters. Unfortunately, the people involved end up becoming the bait.

I'm not generally a fan of this type of fare, but on occasion, I'll give one a shot just for the thrills. And given that I was just at the beach, this seemed like a good film to get under my skin. And it actually did. "Dangerous Animals" was surprisingly decent with some exceptional cinematography, a seriously disturbing villain, and some "gotcha" moments that will leave you feeling queasy.

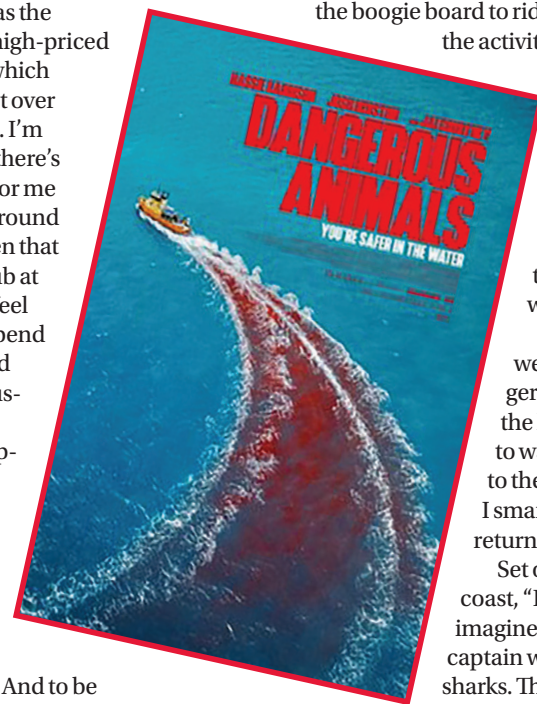
Check this one out if you're in the mood for a summer thriller more in the vein of "Jaws" and less in the vein of "Sharknado." An unsettling "B-" for "Dangerous Animals," now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie Diary

By Dom Cioffi



'Almost Heaven'

The stage was simple, designed to resemble a wooden board that resembled the siding of any barn, anywhere across America. It could have been the barn behind my house, or the one that my cousins have down in Georgia. It could have been a barn in Colorado or even West Virginia. Nothing remarkable at all, except that in its starkness, there were a myriad of instruments littered about like children's toys. An upright bass stood tall in the middle, but strewn about were the instruments of America: a banjo, a hammered dulcimer, drums, a mandolin, an autoharp, several acoustic guitars, and, of course, at least four fiddles.

As we sat waiting for the show to start, my mom and I had no idea what to expect. Except that Ron Ottino had told us the show was going to be awesome. And so we had purchased tickets to see the Weston Theater Company perform "Almost Heaven: John Denver's America." I had never seen John Denver in person, but I knew his musical catalogue as the background of my childhood. A true child of the late 70s, I grew up sitting on the living room floor with my mom and dad singing folk songs while my dad strummed the guitar.

And while family sing-alongs would eventually become encapsulated by the songs of Madonna and Janet Jackson, the early years

were formative. I know the lyrics of "Leaving on a Jet Plane" and memorized all nine questions from "Blowin' in the Wind." Our first golden retriever was named Sunshine after the song my father had sung to my mother during their courtship, and two dogs after that was aptly named Annie (although I think it was more from the movie on my sister and my part, but I learned later she was named after an entire album.)

Tears started slowly rolling down my face around the third song, as I figured out the historical context of the songs I had grown up with. I mean, I studied history in school but had somehow never put 2 + 2 together. Folk songs were fun things that you sang at home while hanging out with the family. I never sang them as songs of protest or searching - to me, they were always just about love. But this play gave them meaning, for me, anyway. Obviously, they were written with the heartache of Vietnam America.

An America divided, an America where a war tore families apart, waged both abroad and amongst ourselves. An America replete with conflict, where families argue at the dining table and out in the streets. It threw me for a loop when the actors broke into "Draft Dodger Rag," something that I had never heard before, but it was obvious that just about every other person in the audience was

Living the Dream → 36



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Inventing a better ski day: the innovations that drew crowds to Killington

By Karen D. Lorentz

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

"We've got a million dollars that says you'll learn to ski at Killington."

That million-dollar promise was not an idle marketing ploy. Killington had literally invested a million dollars in the research and development of GLM and its subsequent Accelerated Ski Method, as well as the equipment needed for new skiers in the 1960s and early 1970s. (Part 13 in the May 28 Mountain Times.)

It turned out to be a tremendous investment — \$5.1 million in December 2023 dollars (due to inflation)! Most importantly, it worked so well that it turned many newbies, or "never-ev-ers," into skiers!

Bob Madden had moved to Vermont to work at GE in 1974 when someone told him that Killington was offering a free learn-to-ski

week for Vermonters.

"I think it was a masterful plan to get Vermonters on skis and warm up the ski instructors," he said of his GLM week in December. "We had a delightful young woman who was very good at teaching — a real joy. At the end of the week, I thought the world of her," he recalled.

Having been a competitive rower and a lover of sports, Madden said he fell in love with skiing that week and bought a pair of skis, which he used for a run on Saturday morning during the first free hour. It was a try-before-you-buy promo that hooked him as he took a run

down Snowshed on the beat-up skis he had purchased "without falling." After skiing on them a few times, John Southworth noted the lack of camber and sold him skis that were more forgiving.

Madden became a volunteer gatekeeper, but he couldn't ski the steep hill, so he requested the bottom gate so he could walk up. That helped him afford skiing, as he earned a free skiing ticket that afternoon, plus another day's ticket.

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How Killington Became the Beast
By Karen D. Lorentz

Pies, parades, and porch chats

"America is a tune. It must be sung together."—Gerald Stanley lee

The month of July is the height of summer, bringing a spirit of celebration to all of us. Our town of Killington may be small, but we know how to celebrate the 4th of July. We start early with the annual book sale at the library. We line River Road with our chairs to watch a parade where we wave and cheer on our friends and neighbors. By that time, we're hungry, and our Killington Fire and Rescue provides hamburgers and hot dogs supplemented by salads and desserts made by us. Then it's pool time with fun and games all day for everyone. This year, there will be a pie baking contest. So, if a pie is your specialty, please enter and share your recipe. Finally, we gather together at dusk and enjoy the fireworks. Independence Day is a federal holiday that commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence, ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1778, establishing the United States of America. The delegates declared that the 13 colonies were no longer subject to the Monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and individual states. It's an honor to wear our red, white, and blue and show our gratitude.

The beginning of July is also a reminder that half of 2025 is over. It seems like I was just complaining about snow, and now I'm facing the second half of the year. Some people

check out their New Year's resolutions to see if they have managed to keep any of them. I came across a poem by Catherine Pilsifer that suggests it's not too late to consider 2025 a success. We still have time to accomplish goals and be a better person, both for ourselves and others.

*Allow yourself to dream,
And when you do, dream big.
Allow yourself to learn,
And when you do, learn all that you can.
Allow yourself to laugh,
And when you do, share your laughter.
Allow yourself to set goals,
And when you do, reward yourself as you move forward.
Allow yourself to be determined,
And when you do, you will find self-confidence.
Allow yourself to believe in yourself,
And when you do, you will find self-confidence.*

*Allow yourself to lend a helping hand,
And when you do, a hand will help you.
Allow yourself relaxation,
And when you do, you will find new ideas.
Allow yourself love,
And when you do, you will find love in return.
Allow yourself to be happy,
And when you do, you will influence others around you.
Allow yourself to be positive,*



Senior Scene
By Gerrie Russell

And when you do, life will get easier.

Are you trying to throw away things you no longer need or want? Or maybe you have already done that and need to re-organize. Perhaps it's such a challenge you don't even know how to begin. Join us on Wednesday, July 9, at 1 p.m. when Kris Harmelink will present "Down and Dirty Home Organizing." She will offer suggestions on systems to make daily life easier, including downsizing, decluttering, and packing and moving, in case that is in your future. This event will be held at the KPAA building, located on Route 4, directly across from the Access Road. There is plenty of parking. Remember, your home is living space, not storage space.

As usual, there is more going on in town than one possibly has time to enjoy. I'll start with the library and remind everyone of the Monday afternoon movies. They begin at 1 p.m., and there is air conditioning, comfortable chairs, and, my favorite, popcorn. The volunteer group will resume meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m., starting July 15. The focus for the next couple of months will be the Fairy Tale Festival held in September. Even though this group accomplishes a lot every time they meet, it's a great social time where we talk about anything and everything. You've heard of story time for kids... well, we have story time for adults. Save the date: Tuesday, July 22, and join us for an interactive story just for adults. It's fun, and everyone can participate. On Wednesday,

On July 16, the "Thoughts on Aging" group will meet. We will enjoy the "Grandma" drink that was featured

Senior Scene → 36

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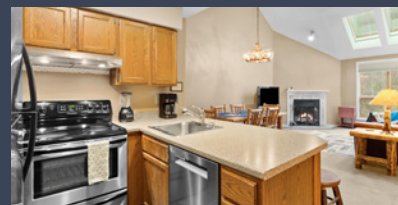


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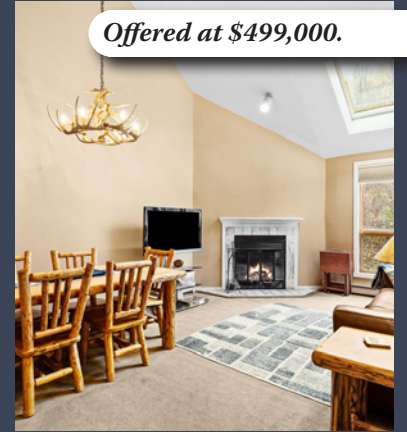


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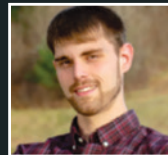
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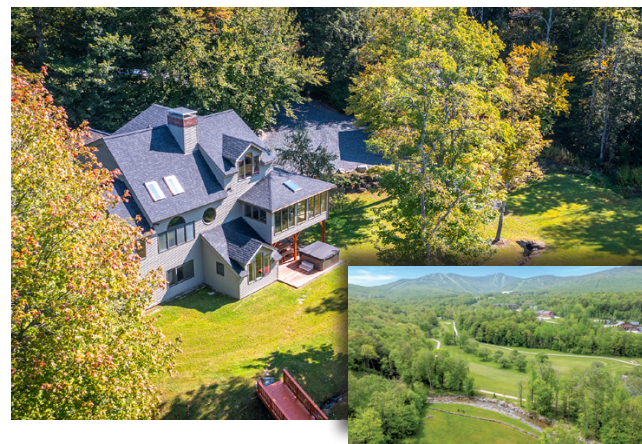
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← **Living the Dream:**
from page 33

very familiar with the lyrics. Having been born at the end of the Vietnam War, I had missed the emotional trauma of the previous decade.

But through the performances, reality hit me like a punch to the gut. And all I could think of was how John Denver and the entire folk music scene are what's missing about our America right now. Do folks know that as they shout out the lyrics of "Take Me Home, Country Roads," they are shouting for the return of our troops from Vietnam? Or that "Leaving on a Jet Plane" is mourning the farewell of a mother and her son as he heads off to war? Did you know that "Rocky Mountain High" was banned because radio stations thought it was about doing drugs like the damn protesting hippies? Does it matter that they don't have the original meaning, or are the songs themselves enough to inspire empathy without the backstories?

Judging by my reaction, I'm pretty sure these songs are so much stronger with their historical context, especially in today's political

climate. Man, do we need John Denver right now. Protecting our public lands and speaking out for human rights. If he had lived longer, would he have discovered Vermont and written a song about how beautiful our greenery is? What kind of songs would he have written if he had lived past 1997?

We will never know the answer, but we can begin by studying his well-thought-out lyrics, played on his old guitar. As we have one year left until the Semiquincentennial of the United States, perhaps it is time to reflect on our commitments to each other: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and sit down with John Denver's music.

Merisa Sherman is a longtime Killington resident, global real estate advisor, municipal official, and Coach PomPom. Find her on socials @femaleskibum or Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



By Merisa Sherman

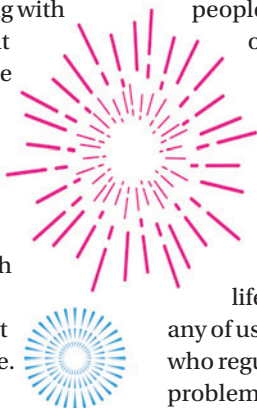
The stage at the Weston Theater Company was set for a performance of "Almost Heaven: John Denver's America."

← **Senior Scene:**
from page 33

in the Mountain Times Summer Guide, along with some snacks and general conversation about the state of getting "old." Book Club meets the last Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. This month's selection is "The Wishing Game" by Meg Shaffer. The book narrates the uncertain journey of a young woman striving to adopt a little boy. Copies are available at the library. The Senior Group meets for lunch every Thursday at the Lookout at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$5, and it's an opportunity to meet other members of the group. All are welcome. We eat a lot and talk a lot!

The River Road Concerts begin Thursday, July 3, with The Loonz performing. Bring a chair, a snack and, of course, a sweater since this is Vermont. It's a beautiful setting and wonderful to just relax and enjoy being with friends. The concerts take place every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. They coincide with the Killington Active Senior "Hot Dog and Potato Salad" nights. The first one of three will be Thursday, July 10. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the library, and depending on the weather, we will either meet outside on the front porch or inside the meeting room. We provide the hot dogs and potato salad, and you provide a drink and a chair. You can also bring something to share, like a snack or a dessert. These special nights were very popular last year, and we ended up with homemade chili one night and absolutely incredible desserts. So, mark your calendars and plan to be there.

Have you ever wondered if you are likable? Likable



people are a gift to those around them. They elevate others and draw people together. They pull people into conversations. The result is that lik-

able people usually have a lot of friends. A recent article suggested some things that will make all of us more likable. Be in a good mood. It's true that life can be challenging, but do any of us enjoy being around people who regularly complain about their problems or are pessimistic about the future? Do your best to maintain a cheerful attitude without being overly bubbly and happy, as that can get old, too.

Just let people know you are glad to be where you are. People like talking about themselves, so encourage conversation and be ready to share your own stories. You will find as much pleasure in getting to know a person and their uniqueness as they do in sharing and being known. People like being the object of your genuine interest. Dale Carnegie once said, "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

In the spirit of the preceding paragraph, I would

like to share a story with you. My household includes a two-year-old golden retriever named Chloe and two black cats. About a year ago, the smallest and youngest of the

A recent article suggested some things that will make all of us more likable. Be in a good mood. It's true that life can be challenging, but do any of us enjoy being around people who regularly complain about their problems or are pessimistic about the future?

two cats ran out the front door and was gone for eight weeks. No one knows how she survived, but that's another story. You can imagine how careful I am so that doesn't happen again. I looked up the other day, and there she was, prancing along the balcony railing outside of my living room. Needless to say, I ran out and chased her in with a fly swatter. I discovered she had torn the screen along the frame so that it was barely noticeable. A day or so later, Chloe came to me, pawing at my leg and barking. Following her, I discovered the cat on the balcony again. Now, I'll never know if Chloe was concerned for her little friend's safety or if she just enjoyed seeing her chased with a fly swatter. No one should doubt that animals are very smart and definitely

know how to communicate!

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

Happy July 4th!
Gerrie

Beast: from page 33

Later, he became an instructor in Pico’s Sunday afternoon children’s program and received a pass, teaching from 1980 to 1985, when he moved again. “I was 28 years old when I learned, and I absolutely loved it. My only regret is I didn’t have the \$1,000 to buy a bond in 1974,” he added of a time when such purchases carried a lifetime Killington pass.

More pioneering

But teaching wasn’t the only factor that led to Killington’s popularity and growth. The pioneering spirit that led to the installation of snowmaking and the development of a better way to teach beginners was a company strategy that encouraged many workers to innovate.

Hired as a systems analyst, Charlie Hanley was charged with “finding better ways to do anything. I had free license and could stick my nose in anywhere — my idea of fun.”

Hanley developed the “ticket wicket” during the summer of 1963. It was an 8-inch piece of high-grade stainless steel wire bent in such a way as to allow the wire to be slipped through a zipper talon, belt loop, or buttonhole. The folded ticket could be stapled over the wicket legs (before the day of computer-printed, sticky-back tickets).

This small device saved the inconvenience of staple holes leaving tears in ski clothing, but just as importantly, it also allowed ski areas to control the switching, sharing, and reselling of tickets. Part of the built-in security feature was a specially manufactured gold-colored staple and a modified staple gun.

In its first season, Killington sold three-quarters of a million ticket wickets to 67 ski areas in the United States and applied for a patent, which was granted on March 22, 1966. The souvenir lift ticket no longer left six holes in a skier’s clothing, and dishonest types found it more difficult to cheat the ski area (and other skiers) because “a better way” had been found. The corporation later sold the ticket wicket business and patent.

Another Hanley brainstorm was the regiscope, a camera device that took a picture of the person renting equipment with his check. “It solved the ski rental theft problem cold because a picture is intimidating to a thief. It worked so well that we never even had to develop the film,” Hanley said.

A new snow report

Snow reporting changes introduced by Killington’s founder, Preston Smith, in 1964 were not readily accepted at first. Smith was attempting to eliminate the subjective descriptions “poor, fair, good, and excellent” from ski-area snow reports as he campaigned for the use of factual information and the education of skiers in understanding the reports.

He established a new system at Killington that employed standard procedures for measuring and reporting snow conditions, organizing this information in a compact, simple, and easy-to-understand manner. Under his system, the depth of snow base, type of surface, depth of new snow, air temperature, and weather conditions were given, but the qualifying judgments were not.

This left the individual skier to interpret the facts in light of his skiing ability and knowledge of the area’s terrain, sun exposure, wind, snow surface, and skier traffic.

Part of Smith’s rationale for the new system was to eliminate evaluative judgments, which would vary from skier to skier depending upon skiing ability, preferences, and experience. Then, too, the weather was a variable that could change snow conditions quite rapidly, as could heavy skier traffic.

Killington even ran surveys to compare skier assessments of conditions to their own. They found that, regardless of how the ski area rated its conditions, a significant percentage of skiers disagreed.

Smith noted that this difference of opinion was a significant source of disgruntlement not only among the skiers but also among the media.

Although snow reporting had long been a subject of complaints and a few ski area operators were already interested in the idea of deleting judgments, Smith and Killington were the first to propose and initiate an entirely new system.

It was a risky thing to do, but the sparse snow season of 1964–65 proved to be a good time for the transition. Some questioned the changeover that first season, especially in light of the lack of uniformity of all areas using that reporting system, but many more applauded. The Vermont Ski Areas Operators Association, the Eastern Ski Areas Operators Association, and the New England Council of Ski Areas adopted the new system for the 1965–66 season, with Smith’s half-inch-thick booklet of methods, procedures, terminology, and other information providing the basis for the new snow reporting system. Still, Smith recalled that the effort met with resistance from individual ski areas before becoming the standard in the East several years later.

Innovations like these, GLM, and the adoption of snowmaking were instrumental in attracting attention to Killington, contributing to the area’s reputation, and improving the skiing experience for skiers.

Comments and insights are welcome: email klorentzski@vermontel.net to share thoughts about skiing in the 1950s-70s.



Submitted

Samples of a fall 1965 issue of Ski Area Management that ran info on new ticket system, and a ticket wicket.



Submitted

Pico and Killington tickets and passes through the years.



Submitted

Charlie Hanley posed with the ticket wicket and patent.

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Local road construction plans for Fourth of July week

The following is a weekly report that lists its planned construction activities that will affect traffic on state highways and interstates throughout Vermont for the week of June 30. Most construction projects will pause work for the 4th of July. Local roads in Rutland and Windsor County, include:

I-89 Royalton

Construction continues Monday through Thursday on the I-89 bridges near Exit 3. Traffic is reduced to a single lane. Southbound traffic will use the travel lane, while northbound traffic crosses the median and returns north past the bridges. The Exit 3 North off-ramp uses a crossover to the new ramp. Speed limits are 55 mph in work zones and 25 mph on the Exit 3 off-ramp. The speed limit on VT 107 is reduced to 30 mph with a 14' height restriction.

Ludlow

Daily lane closures are scheduled for VT 100 and VT 103. Flaggers are anticipated to be controlling one-way alternating traffic patterns and to be staffed in intersections throughout the project limits. Expect delays. Sidewalk detours will be in place as needed. Pedestrians should watch for signed detour routes on VT 103 and project fencing leading around closed areas on VT 100S.

Pittsford

For the bridge replacement project, motorists on U.S. 7 can expect little to no traffic impact. Flaggers may be present to allow for truck traffic in and out of the work area.

Plymouth

The southbound lane of Vermont Route 100A is closed, while the northbound lane remains open and is controlled by a temporary signal. Motorists should expect delays. Full road closure at the bridge site will occur on Aug. 18.

Quechee Gorge Bridge

The eastbound lane closure and one-way alternating traffic controlled by a traffic signal will continue until mid-season when the closure switches sides to the westbound lane. The trail at the bridge underpass is closed through fall 2025. The adjacent trail is open via a signed detour through the visitor center.

Rutland

A railroad crossing project will require West Street to remain closed at the railroad crossing near Forest Street, with traffic maintained via detour routes through Monday at 8 p.m. Local traffic on West Street will be detoured via Meadow Street, School Street, Forest Street, and Pine Street. Through traffic (including trucks) on West Street will be detoured via Columbian Avenue, State Street, and Merchants Row. On Tuesday and Wednesday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and on Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., there may be single-lane closures with alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers on West Street near Forest Street. Crews will be off-site by 12 p.m. on Thursday for Independence Day weekend.

Woodstock

Detour signs will direct traffic to Stimets Road, an unpaved route located about 0.20 miles north of the junction with VT 12, where drivers should use caution. Flaggers will assist with truck traffic near Log Cabin Drive.

For more information, visit: vtrans.vermont.gov.



← **Gov, where are you?:**
from page 8

since that date. I am angry every single time I read the news. This is our reality, and we must face it.

Phil Scott called what's going on "national rhetoric."

He further wrote: "To move the Nation past the chaos Washington is causing, we need to rise above it and lead by example."

We do need to lead by example. The leaders who have preceded me on stage here today have done just that. If we

Phil Scott frequently reminds us about how he is the governor of all Vermonters. All of us. Well, Phil, at this moment, we need you. We've never needed you more. Where are you? Why aren't you here, with us, right now?

followed our governor's lead, we would not be here today at all.

There are Republicans who are opposed to what the president is doing. I believe Phil Scott is one of them. Imagine if he, as governor, took a clear, moral stand against the wrongdoings of the Trump administration. Imagine his leadership

inspiring other Republican governors to stand up and do the same. Imagine the difference that would make for our country.

We need Phil Scott to oppose the cruelty of the administration in Washington in the strongest possible terms. We need him to oppose its recklessness in the strongest possible terms. We need him to oppose its outrageous corruption in the strongest possible terms.

Phil Scott frequently reminds us about how he is the governor of all Vermonters. All of us. Well, Phil, at this moment, we need you. We've never needed you more. Where are you? Why aren't you here, with us, right now?

Rep. Larry Satcowitz, Randolph

Editor's note: Satcowitz is a Democrat representing the Orange-Washington-Addison District in the Vermont House and the ranking member of the House Environment Committee.



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