



IT'S TIME TO DANCE

On Saturday Artstree Community Arts Center in South Pomfret will host Tango Norte for a *milonga* (social dance). Lessons start at 6 p.m.

Page 16



MIDNIGHT NORTH AT PICKLE BARREL

Midnight North is set to take the stage at the Pickle Barrel. Grahame Lesh, the son of Phil Lesh, a founding member of The Grateful Dead, brings a unique musical heritage to the group.

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PINE CONES AND THE COMPLICATED LIVES OF CONIFER SEEDS

Pine cones have a complex life cycle, benefiting trees by "predator swamping" and recovering energy reserves.

Page 24



By Bob Giolito

Volunteers search for missing skiers/riders via the Bucklin Trail in Mendon.

23 rescued from Killington's backcountry in sub-zero temps

By Victoria Gaither and Polly Mikula

On Saturday, Jan. 20, multiple groups of skiers and snowboarders, including six juveniles (two of whom were 5 years old), ventured past Killington Ski Resort boundaries and ended up lost in the backcountry, in an area called Brewers Brook with the closest road, Wheelerville Road, about 2 ½ miles away in Mendon.

In total 23 people were safely rescued.

Killington Resort confirmed that an employee was in the group and that person was immediately terminated.

"Several groups of skiers and riders went under a rope and out of Killington Ski Resort's boundary in violation of Killington's policy," the resort stated. "911 was called to assist. Rescue Inc., Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR), Killington Fire/Rescue, Killington Resort Ski Patrol, and State PSAP/Dispatch responded quickly and expertly, located all individuals safely, and without incident or injury. We would like to thank our Ski Patrol, all of the volunteers, and first responders who responded on Saturday."

"Safety of our staff and guests is our number one priority at Killington. As such, the Skier Responsibility Code is posted around the resort as well as on our website, and states that all skiers and riders must 'Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas,'" the resort's statement concluded.

Kristel Killary, brand marketing and communications manager at Killington Resort, added that the resort is "looking into pulling passes but have not made a decision on that at this time."

9-1-1 dispatchers received the first call at about 2:30 p.m., which spurred multiple agencies into action.

Drew Clymer, search and rescue coordinator for the state's department of public safety, helped to coordinate the response between agencies.

"Because of the makeup of the groups, conditions, etc. we had to send people in for the rescue quickly," Clymer explained.

Rescue → 4

MVSU continues information campaign on \$99m new school bond

By Polly Mikula

Ben Ford, vice chair of the Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) board, and other leaders from MVSU presented plans for the proposed \$99 million bond at the Killington Select Board meeting Monday night, as they have done and will continue to do in all seven district towns leading up to the March 5 vote.

About 50 people tuned in (in-person and via Zoom) to learn about the proposal, how it will meet the district's needs and what impact it is likely to have on tax rates in the short- and long-term — a point of disagreement between Ford and Selectman Jim Haff.

District leaders say they can't continue to support quality education in the current middle/high school building due to its state of disrepair and pointed to a statewide study of facilities in 2022 in which it ranked second to last. Superintendent Sherry Sousa said sewage had recently backed up in the school due to frozen pipes (she brought some rusted pipes to the meeting, Monday).

The district will host a tour of the facilities for interested voters to see the status of the building themselves, Saturday, Jan. 27.

See related opinion, page 8.

Killington Resort partners with Wonderfeet Kids' Museum for new interactive exhibit

A new, interactive exhibit depicting Killington Resort at the Wonderfeet Kids' Museum in Rutland opened on Friday, Jan. 19.

The Killington Resort Mountain Playground exhibit is the largest in the museum's new space on Merchants Row and spans all four seasons of mountain adventure.

"Children will be fully immersed in all the activities Killington has to offer. They'll be able to pedal bikes to get a taste of mountain biking available in the summer and experience

"We also love that it celebrates the special family memories that we create when we play outdoors together," said Monroe.

snowboarding using Burton Riglet snowboards to get a feel for the winter months. Other interactive activities include a slide, a mini rock-climbing wall, a magnetic wall to design your own trail system, photo stand-ins, and even a kids' sized Waffle Cabin," the resort stated.

Exhibit → 6



By Zach Godwin/Killington Resort

A new exhibit featuring Killington Resort was installed at Wonderfeet last week.



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OBITUARY

Leopold "Poldi" Pfeifenberger, 82

Leopold "Poldi" Pfeifenberger III, 82, passed away at his home on Dec. 31 surrounded by family and friends, as any entertainer would love to have timed properly.

Pfeifenberger was born in Salzburg, Austria on April 19, 1941, the son of Leopold Pfeifenberger II and Maria Ferner. He was raised in the city of Salzburg but loved the country as well. He would often travel to Lungau, Austria

to see other family members on the farm. It was here he grew to love animals and the beautiful mountains and fresh air. Poldi also had a passion for skiing, motorcycles, soccer, tennis, mountain climbing, community service and especially music. Poldi had been past president and long-time member of the Killington/Pico Rotary Club where his son, Gerald, is now the current Rotary president. Poldi lived life by the "Service Above Self" Rotary motto and the Rotary 4-way test as well.

Poldi started as an apprentice at 14 years old for Angermaier Plumbing in Salzburg, Austria. He worked there 4 to 5 years until enlisting in the Austrian Army in 1958 where he worked up to the rank of Wachtmeister (weapons inspector).

After being in the Austrian Army for seven years he asked his commander if he could take a leave of absence as he had been offered a job. With this opportunity, Poldi came



"Poldi" Pfeifenberger

to America to entertain, play music and teach skiing at Killington. After returning to Austria yearly at the end of the winter season he realized another opportunity. He was amazed that he could just start his own plumbing and heating business over here and earn whatever he wanted or could make.

Submitted

In 1968 he did a one-year apprenticeship in Bethel. He had taken plumbing classes at night and worked in

plumbing during the day. He was then able to sit for the master plumbing license under the grandfather clause here in Vermont. He was able to ace his plumbing exam to get his Master license with the highest grade in the class which was great for a foreigner.

For many years after becoming a master plumber, Poldi was the owner and operator of Poldi Plumbing and Heating in Killington. He worked on many if not most of the houses and condos up here on Killington Mountain.

As the area and the sport of skiing grew, so did his business. He worked with many builders and designed the plumbing and heating systems in the new condos and houses being built in the area. He did all the plumbing and heating, and the drafting board was always hot with all the planning and designs. He and his crew then did all the installation over the years and slowly built up the reputation and came up with the

Pfeifenberger → 28

David Francis Minard, 78 Nov. 9, 1945-Jan. 7, 2024

In the quiet early morning of Jan. 7, 2024 our father passed peacefully, on the knoll with family by his side. He was born on Nov. 9, 1945.

As daylight approached a cardinal pair were fluttering in his picture window to take him on his journey to join our mom who passed in 2021.

Dad was known as a man of few words. He had a kind spirit and a gentle soul. He was easily recognized by his striking white hair — (courtesy of us three girls) his crystal blue eyes and soft smile.

He enjoyed his daily visits at the Killington Deli coffee station while gassing up the truck before heading off to mow lawns or plow snow until he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 2022.

Best put by a longtime customer of his, "He was one of the good guys! He had the right stuff. He loved his family, his community — and his truck!"

We love you Dad-Pop-Papa
Not goodbye, just until



Submitted

David Francis Minard

Free Covid tests are available locally

Town offices in Bridgewater, Killington, Ludlow, Plymouth and Pomfret will receive 1,000 free Covid tests by the end of the week.

The Ludlow Fire Dept. and First Stop Ski Shop in Killington will also have some available.

Maxwell Elles, the director of Bridgewater's FAST Squad, received 5,000 free Covid tests from the federal stock that he began distributing last week. They are new tests that expire in 2025, he said.

"They are entirely free for anyone

who wants them. It's recommended that one household have as many as 40. Most people take only a few tests," he said.

The town offices have all been happy to receive the tests and to become a pick up location for them while supplies last, he added.

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports celebrates record-setting 2023

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, a leading nonprofit in the adaptive sports industry committed to providing year-round sports and recreational opportunities to people with disabilities, recently announced that 2023 marked a historic year of growth and impact for the 37-year-old organization.

Vermont Adaptive provided a record-breaking 5,336 total activities and outings to participants in 2023, showcasing a remarkable milestone in its commitment to fostering inclusive and accessible outdoor experiences. This achievement represents not only a new record for the organization but also a testament to its mission to expanding opportunities for and access to adaptive sports and recreational programs.

The organization also saw an 18% increase in total individual participants, with 1,096 individuals benefiting from Vermont Adaptive's diverse range of year-round programs including skiing, snowboarding, adaptive mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, hiking, sailing, rock climbing, veteran programs, and more. This increase in participation underscores the importance outdoor recreation and physical activity have on a person's physical and mental well-being.

"The instructors, the equipment, the facility are all necessary to create the experience that para-athletes need to succeed on the slopes," said Athlete Jordan Baker.

One of the key highlights of the year includes \$131,433 provided in scholarships to participants, reflecting Vermont Adaptive's commitment to ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder individuals from engaging in adaptive sports and continuing its mission that no one is ever turned away from programs based on the ability to pay. In 2024, the organization will provide even more in scholarships, due in part to generous grant and individual funding sources.

At the backbone of Vermont Adaptive is its dedicated team of volunteer instructors and guides, and in 2023, the organization saw a 17% increase in total volunteers, reaching a total of 428 individuals who generously contributed their time and energy. This growth in volunteer support is a testament to the strong community spirit that drives the organization's success.

"Volunteering with Vermont Adaptive is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to expose athletes from the adaptive community to the

benefits of outdoor activity," said Volunteer Liz Mead. "The smiles that light up the faces of our athletes experiencing the freedom of movement on snow, water, or bike path, are wonderful to see."

The year 2023 also marked a broader trend for the organization,

as it continued to experience an impressive 35% growth year-over-year. Over the past decade, the organization has achieved an extraordinary 356% growth, solidifying its position as a leader in adaptive sports and recreational programs for all abilities.

"As Vermont Adaptive reflects on its accomplishments in 2023, the organization remains steadfast in its mission to break down barriers and create a more inclusive world through adaptive sports," said Erin Fernandez, executive director. "The remarkable growth and impact seen this past year are a testament to the dedication of the organization, its volunteers, and the transformative power of adaptive sports."

Vermont Adaptive recreational opportunities include Alpine skiing, snowboarding, and other winter sports; kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, cycling, mountain biking, sailing, rock climbing, horseback riding, veterans' programs and retreats, and more. It operates three winter locations in Vermont: Pico Mountain; Sugarbush Resort; and Bolton Valley.

For more information, visit: vermontadaptive.org.

"The smiles that light up the faces of our athletes experiencing the freedom of movement on snow, water, or bike path, are wonderful to see," Liz Mead.

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State reaches \$2.3 million settlement to fund remediation of former dry cleaner in Hartford

Attorney General Charity Clark announced Monday, Jan. 22, a \$2,350,733 settlement with the estate of a former owner of a dry cleaner site, resolving over a decade of litigation with the state. The settlement resolves claims brought by the Attorney General's Office on behalf of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for remediation of hazardous materials emanating from a former dry cleaner site at 7 Union St. in Hartford.

"Our primary responsibility is to ensure that hazardous materials and environmental contamination are cleaned up in order to protect the environment and public health," said Attorney General Clark. "This settlement agreement ensures that the necessary remediation will be completed by the Agency of Natural Resources and that the responsible party will bear the cost."

This case has a long history. The Attorney General's Office first filed suit in 2010 against former and current owners of the property under Vermont's hazardous materials liability law. The property had been operated as a dry cleaner from approximately 1977 to 1995, first by Paul and Sandra Gendron and then by Harold and Peggy Fournier. Richard Daniels then bought the property at a tax sale in 1995 for under \$3,000, and subsequently transferred it to Hazen Street Holdings, Inc. in 2006.

Tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene, and commonly known as PCE or PERC),

a hazardous chemical that was used in dry cleaning businesses at the time, had contaminated the site and neighboring properties, including soils and the indoor air of residences surrounding the property. ANR conducted initial sampling of the area in 2006 and installed sub-slab depressurization systems in eight homes to divert soil gas vapors away from the indoor air to the outside.

In 2014, the court issued a ruling that Mr. Daniels was the current owner of the property for liability purposes, because he had created the asset-free Hazen Street Holdings to avoid liability for the site and the corporation was independent of Mr. Daniels in name only (also known as "piercing the corporate veil"). With liability established, the case went to trial in 2017 to determine the appropriate relief.

In April 2018, the court awarded the state some of its past costs and issued an order requiring Mr. Daniels to perform site investigation and corrective actions to remediate PERC at the site, which was upheld by the Vermont Supreme Court in March of 2019. Mr. Daniels started the required investigation but did not complete it or the corrective actions before his death in 2021. The state then pursued post-judgment proceedings in both Vermont and New Hampshire to ensure the necessary work would be completed, resulting in this settlement.

Under this final settlement, ANR will use funds to further

investigate the nature and extent of contamination arising from 7 Union St. mitigate exposure, assess appropriate remedial measures, implement corrective action, and determine long-term monitoring and maintenance measures for affected properties. The property owners have also granted easements for environmental restrictions and site access to ensure safety at the site and a neighboring property going forward.

ANR's Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Jason Batchelder said in response to the settlement, "We are thrilled with the final resolution of this case. ANR is dedicated to expeditiously moving forward with the final work necessary to address contaminant issues originating from 7 Union Street and, more specifically, is focused on remediating contamination impacting surrounding homeowners."

ANR recognizes that this has been a long process for the surrounding community and anticipates hosting future public meetings to address questions and concerns for upcoming investigation and remedial activities associated with the site. ANR will also be reaching out to impacted homeowners regarding next steps.

The state previously settled with the Fournier defendants for \$100,000. There are ongoing obligations to cooperate with ANR and allow access to the site.

← Rescue: from page 1

The temperatures were in the low single digits, before windchill — and dropping, Police Chief Whit Montgomery said.

Initially, dispatch communicated to the teams that there were seven to nine skiers and snowboarders lost, but more calls followed leading to a total of 23 people needing assistance out of the woods.

In the first rescue effort, which began at 2:30 p.m., two or three different groups met up with each other in the backcountry and collectively 19 were rescued, Montgomery explained.

Around 5:30 p.m. dispatch received another call from a second group of two, which required a smaller team of rescue members from KSAR and Rescue, Inc. to go back to the same region.

"The team had the last group out of the woods at approximately 7:30 p.m.," Montgomery reported.

Bob Giolito, director of KSAR, has extensive experience and certification in the backcountry, is the founder of Killington Mountain Guides and also spent 20 years in

"Team members hiked, snowshoed, and skinned approximately 5 miles in frigid temperatures to bring the 21 lost people home," said Montgomery.

Vermont law enforcement. "Over the years, you just know the terrain that people end up in," he said.

An operation this size not only takes people power but also coordination between many different agencies, Clymer explained.

On Saturday, KSAR deployed 12 members



Courtesy Killington Police Dept.

A group of 21 rescued skiers and riders hike out of the backcountry via the Bucklin Trail.

to the backcountry (it currently has 21 active members) and Rescue, Inc. added another six to the mission, so in total there were about 18 rescuers actively searching and helping people navigate the 2 ½ miles out to the Bucklin Trailhead.

Giolito and two other KSAR members headed out quickly with light gear to try and make contact with the lost skiers and riders as quickly as possible, while nine other KSAR members

followed with more supplies and equipment. About half a dozen members of Rescue, Inc. were also deployed in the search. Chris Roy, Killington policeman, was stationed at the base of the Bucklin Trail on Wheelerville Road, Montgomery said.

In 2023, after many contentious months

with a new fire chief's leadership, dozens of KSAR members resigned. After some dust had settled, the Killington Select Board voted to move KSAR from the fire department to the police department. Some former KSAR volunteers have rejoined KSAR, but others now serve under Rescue, Inc. a regional organization based Brattleboro.

Rescuers Dave Coppock and Joel Blumenthal are two who now volunteer with Rescue Inc. On Saturday, they showed up with "a determination like no other," according to Bob Giolito and Drew Clymer.

"Dave found the group of 18, so Dave hung back and was standing in the woods by himself, and he picked up another who was about to call 911," said Clymer.

Joel Blumenthal was on it the whole time and never gave up, making sure the lost were found, Clymer added.

"Team members hiked, snowshoed, and skinned approximately 5 miles in frigid temperatures to bring the 21 lost people home," Montgomery said in a statement. "Those [KSAR members] who deploy into the backcountry are fit and certified in WFA [Wilderness First Aid] at a minimum, with some team members being certified Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), National Ski Patrol, Outdoor Emergency Care (NSP/OEC), Wilderness First Aid (WFA), Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFR) and CPR."

"Ski Patrol is also a tremendous asset with such searches," added Montgomery. "Many times they will be put in contact with those lost and determined where they entered the woods and where they are. This gives us a good starting point on where to search and saves time getting to those in need."

Usually, dispatch, rescuers and or ski patrols are able to get lost skiers'/riders' GPS coordinates from their cell phone and can often coach them over the phone to safety, but that night was different.

"Going out of boundaries in cold weather. You are putting everyone at risk — frostbite, hypothermia, and if someone breaks a leg or goes into shock faster, the body shuts down," said Giolito.

Due to the coordinated efforts, all 21 were brought to safety with no significant injuries.

"This all comes together as a unified search, with many different groups and individuals coming together to work as one solid unit. Searches like this are very complex, with a lot of moving parts," Montgomery said.

Voters will be asked to support 75 acres for conservation

By Curt Peterson

The Hartland Conservation Commission will be adding an article to the 2024 Town Meeting warning, asking voters to approve “setting aside” funds for part of possible purchase of approximately 75 acres near the Three Corners village center.

The amended article reads:

“Article 10: Shall the Town vote to direct the Selectboard to make available up to \$100,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund toward the possible purchase and conservation of the Pohl property?”

The commission would also raise funds separately, as part of the \$100,000. If part, or all, of the set aside amount isn’t required at time the land is purchased, no taxpayer funds will be used.

A large Asher Benjamin-designed brick home, studio building, pool and patio will not be included in the proposed purchase. The Fast Trash property across from the Hartland Fire House and Town Garage has an easement allowing access to the land from Route 12.

Upper Valley Land Trust’s option to buy the land expires near the end of this year. A conservation easement would protect the land from development.

The state will actually hold the conservation easement, according to Conservation Commission chair Rob Anderegg.

Andrea Ambros said conserving the property would provide continuing protection for a Hartland Winter Trails link. Also, the current agreement with a local farmer to grow hay on the property would be continued, according to Peg Merrens, vice-president of conservation, UVLT.

Another suggested use is community

gardens which would provide fresh vegetables to local food banks.

Selectboard Chair Phil Hobbie has been promoting affordable housing for years, including for employees and residents of mixed ages, on part of the same parcel. Twin Pines Housing Trust, with whom Hobbie had been speaking, recently announced municipal water supply will be required for future developments, precluding their involvement in any Pohl property housing.

Peg Merren, representing UVLT at the meeting, said purchase of the property will include provision for affordable residential

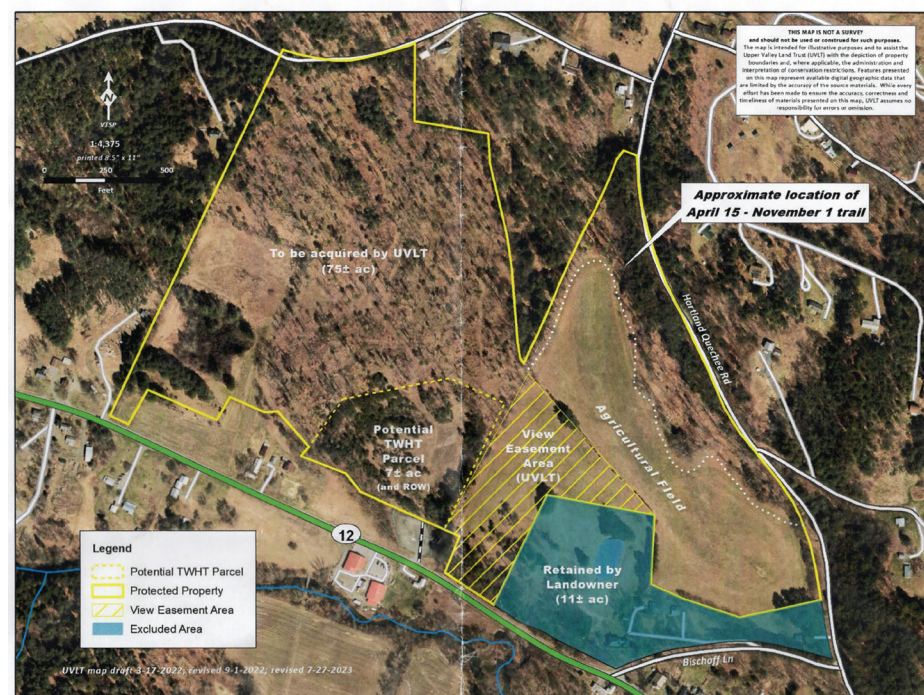
Taxpayers can’t get the money back if the land is transferred to another organization or entity, but the conservation value will remain intact, and that is in what the town is investing.

building of some type, should it be arranged.

Select Board members supported the concept with reservations about last minute changes in their FY2025 budget, already completed.

The conservation easement will be held by the state, or another entity or agency, Anderegg told our reporter. The land will belong to ULVT.

Hartland taxpayers would be providing funds to purchase the land and a conservation easement that cannot and will not ever go away, said Merrens. It’s sort of a 99-year lease with automatic renewal. Taxpayers can’t get the money back if the land is transferred to another organization or entity, but the conservation value will remain intact, and that is what the town is investing in.



Map shows approximate parcel that the town of Hartland will vote to conserve March 5.

Hartland town budget increases 6.4%

By Curt Peterson

The Hartland town budget and warning are set for the March Town Meeting. Interim Town Manager and Finance Director Martin Dole said a copy, including proposed budget figures, will be mailed to residents shortly.

The proposed General Fund budget, which doesn’t include appropriations, as they are voted separately, is \$2,055,243, 6.41% more than the FY2024 budget.

The proposed Highway Fund budget is \$1,624,137, 4.65% more than the FY2024 budget.

Phil Hobbie, select Board

chair, told the Mountain Times three budget areas represent the largest budget increases: policing, health-care and benefits, and paving.

The proposed policing budget is \$140,000, as the town replaces the state police, who can no longer provide contracted services. The town has approached four entities about becoming Hartland’s contracted police: Hartford, Woodstock, Windsor, and the Windsor County Sheriff’s Dept.

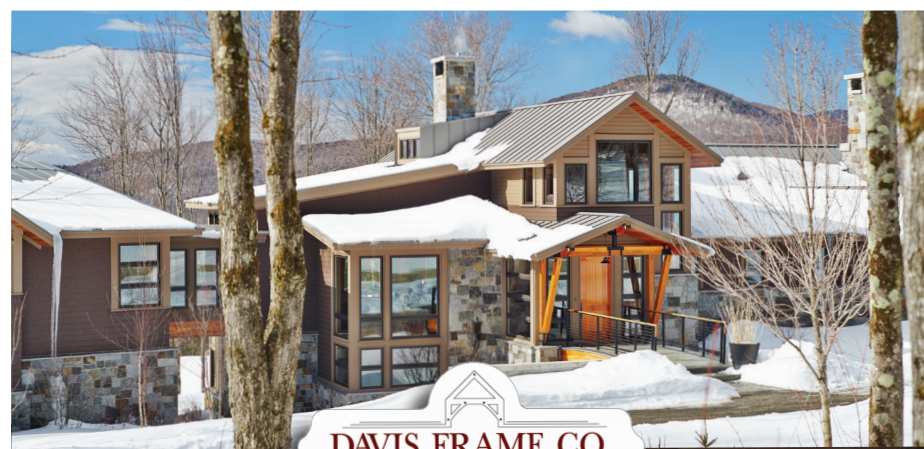
Tom Yennerrell, who led the search for the new town

manager, is helping the board with this and other challenges.

“Hartford said ‘no,’ the sheriff has given us a proposal, Woodstock’s proposal was too high, and Windsor is working on a proposal,” Hobbie said. “We hope to have a firm figure well before Town Meeting.”

The healthcare, insurance and other benefits are determined by statutes and cost is out of the town’s control, Hobbie explained.

The town plans to pave one mile of road each year. Hartland budget → 29



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Submitted

The Rutland Community Cupboard is an essential humanitarian resource

“Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think,” said Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Many Killington-area residents and visitors are familiar with a popular fundraising event for the Rutland Community Cupboard (“the Cupboard”) that features local luminaries volunteering their time and talent as “Celebrity Servers” — i.e., waitstaff — at a local restaurant. Last December, the multi-evening event attracted hundreds of diners to the Southside Steakhouse as the “celebrities” one-upped each other to earn the highest tips on the Cupboard’s behalf.

The event itself is a marvel, but the essential work of the Rutland Community Cupboard itself bears spotlighting, as does its cheery Executive Director Audrey Bridge. The following is a snapshot of this organization’s humanitarian work, why it’s crucial that it receives ongoing support, and a list of straightforward ways people of all ages and abilities can contribute.

The Rutland Community Cupboard is a 25-year-old 501c3 nonprofit that accomplishes extraordinary feats in alleviating food insecurity in the Rutland region. Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, it serves about 500 families and nearly a thousand individuals each month, including children and seniors. Individual donations fund 100% of its operating expenses, and its paid staff consists solely of Bridge and one part-time employee, working with an illustrious group of board members.

In Rutland County, 1 in 4 people struggle with hunger on a regular basis — a struggle made even more untenable by the Covid pandemic. Individuals faced with low income and job loss, illness, and lack of health insurance, for example, rely on the Cupboard for part of their food supply.

Bridge became executive director in 2022, after 15 years as the director of a Ludlow food-shelf organization. In a recent video interview her beaming smile and gracious demeanor never wavered. The daughter of native Vermonters, Bridge was born in Connecticut, where her family lived for a while before returning to Vermont. She graduated from

Woodstock High School, where she first met her husband; they’ve been married 38 years.

When I commented to Bridge that 15 years at one charity is a long tenure for any nonprofit leader, her reply exuded New England positivity: “I’m like a barnacle when I’m happy!” she exclaimed.

Becoming serious, Bridge added, “Helping people who are hungry is the most essential work. It is so important not only to the people we serve every day but to the community overall. Contributing to my community makes me very happy.”

In an email, Jeff Weld, director of communications at Casella Waste Systems, Inc., and longstanding board member of the Cupboard, confirmed that Bridge’s direct experience in running a similar organization made her a top candidate for the executive director post.

“Through further discussions it became clear that Audrey was highly focused on delivering on the core mission of the Cupboard, on ensuring those who need food in our community do not go without,” Weld wrote. “She has really excelled in engaging our customers, our volunteers, and our board.”

He added, “We operate with minimal overhead costs and that means that more of the money we raise goes straight to purchasing food and getting it out to the community efficiently. The need has doubled year-over-year, food costs have risen, and our organization is uniquely positioned to meet those needs thanks to Audrey, our volunteers, and our board.”

Asked when the Cupboard experiences its greatest need, Bridge noted that the hardest times are summer and early fall, because people tend to give to nonprofits more in late fall — which is when everyone else is also fundraising.

In fact, there are many ways community members can contribute to this essential nonprofit any time of the year, such as: conducting a food drive at their workplace or in their neighborhood; hosting a fundraising house party; obtaining products for stocking shelves; donating in honor of a loved one or setting up a planning giving fund. (Tax

deductible donations can be sent directly to The Community Cupboard, 65 River Street, Rutland, Vermont.)

Of course, the Cupboard always needs volunteers.

“Volunteers are the ones that literally do the heavy lifting, unloading pallets, and doing other helpful tasks,” said Bridge. “We have Cub Scouts packing food for us, and we would love to have high school students volunteer too.”

The annual Celebrity Server event raises operating funds as well as generating awareness. Servers — who include CEOs of publicly traded corporations, physicians, attorneys, accountants, HR directors, utility executives, nonprofit leaders and educators — dutifully enlist their families, friends, and colleagues to reserve tables at Southside Steakhouse for their designated evenings. Last December’s event raised \$32,000, with Casella Waste Systems Inc. CEO John Casella, Sr. reportedly generating the highest tally.

“We have been blessed with a consistent core of people who are willing to step up and help through the years,” Jeff Weld acknowledged. “It’s a high-energy evening with positive sentiment from the diners, the servers, and the staff at Southside. We’ve seen servers do pushups, serenade diners, and even tango to help grow their tips.”

The Rutland Community Cupboard transcends the traditional notion of a food pantry. Donors and volunteers who support the Cupboard are helping to strengthen an essential humanitarian resource, one that plays a crucial role in bolstering vulnerable populations, fostering resilience, and generating immeasurable social good.

Bridge makes sure all volunteers abide by rules of confidentiality, that if they know someone getting food from the Cupboard, they must not divulge that information to anyone.

It’s the type of charity that evokes the essence of Longfellow’s immortal words: “Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think.”

For more information: rutlandcommunitycupboard.org.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: lizdimarco-weinmann.com.



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

← Exhibit:

from page 1

Wonderfeet Executive Director Danielle Monroe said, “This exhibit engages children of different ages in imaginative play as they develop gross motor skills, balance, and strength; but we also love that it celebrates the special family memories that we create when we play outdoors together.”

The exhibit was made possible by funding from Play Forever, Killington Resort’s commitment to support environmental and community-focused nonprofit organizations.

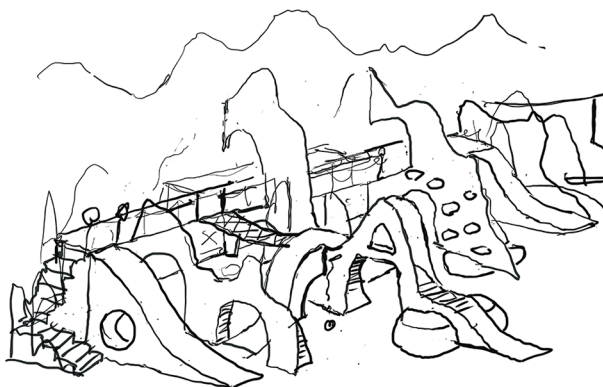
“Through Play Forever, we are committed to ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities for an adventurous life that we enjoy today,” the resort stated.

“We are all about sharing the love of mountain adventure at Killington,” said Kristel Killary, Killington’s brand marketing and communications manager. “As a local parent myself, it is very exciting to partner with Wonderfeet in its new, bigger location to bring this exhibit to fruition.”

Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum’s mission is to play and learn together to build healthy children, stronger families, and a more vibrant community. In its 8,000 square feet of colorful and creative space, it is dedicated to bringing families together and supporting healthy childhood development.

Wonderfeet welcomes over 30,000 visitors this year to their location at 66 Merchants Row in Downtown Rutland.

For more information visit: WonderfeetKidsMuseum.org.



By Zach Godwin/
Killington Resort

The new Killington Resort exhibit at Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum in downtown Rutland opened last Friday, Jan. 19. It is currently the largest exhibit in the museum with many interactive elements.

In need of housing, updates to Act 250 may help

Addressing Vermont's housing crisis is one of the Legislature's top agenda items this year — as it has been for the last four years. There are many factors creating the challenge we face. Vermont been underbuilding new housing units since the 1980s, and add to that the Covid pandemic, the loss of housing because of the flooding of 2023, an increase in homelessness, the conversion of units from full time housing to short term rentals, Covid and Climate refugees, inflation, and the ever-increasing cost of building.

Thanks to the infusion of Covid related federal dollars, Vermont has invested over \$500 million in the last four years into housing: new affordable and mixed income housing, the conversion of motels into residential housing, supportive housing, middle income housing, renovations of vacant, blighted, and non-code compliant housing, the creation of accessory dwelling units and tax credits which enable a great deal of this construction. And, we have created more "by-right" opportunities for growth and reduced some of the regulatory barriers to development in our downtowns and village centers.

Obviously, our state government is not in the business of building homes. But we can support private development by creating incentives which enable the public good — more housing. Through direct cash investments, tax credits, reducing duplicative zoning and permitting, and reducing regulatory burdens we can encourage housing and commercial development in areas we have prioritized for growth.

As a result of our work in the last four years, thousands of units have been built or are being built. They will not be enough.



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

According to the Vermont Housing and Financing Agency, Vermont needs to build 30,000-40,000 more housing units ASAP. So, the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee (SEHGA), my 'morning' committee and the one of which I am vice-chair, is in the process of developing part two of last year's HOME bill, S.100/Act 47.

While we are just beginning this work, I thought I'd share some of the measures we are contemplating now. One of the first aspects of this year's bill is to embrace the recommendations to update aspects of Act 250. Even though the vast majority of Act 250 permits are approved in a timely fashion, many developers view Act 250 warily and try to avoid triggering its application. The Legislature asked for a task force to review Act 250, and the Natural Resources Board (which manages Act 250) oversaw this huge task. The result is a report entitled: "Necessary Updates to Act 250." A summary presentation is here: [Tinyurl.com/Act250updates](https://tinyurl.com/Act250updates).

This report envisions development in compact settlement areas and facilitates rural economic development while further protecting critical natural resources and our back country by creating tiers 1 (1A and 1B), 2 and 3 to clarify what kind of development is appropriate where. The hope is to establish a clear, consistent, and navigable permit process and minimize redundancies with other local, state, and federal regulations. For the tiers' system to be fully implemented, further mapping work needs to be done by our towns and regional planners.

This is a consensus report, and while the task force agreed on a great deal, they

Clarkson → 10

Finding consensus proves difficult

Late last Friday, Jan. 19, members of the House Appropriations Committee unanimously agreed to proceed with this year's budget adjustment bill. Called the BAA (Budget Adjustment Act) at the State House, it is an annual mid-year amendment to the current year budget approved the prior session.

Any individual member of the committee can find provisions of the BAA package to disagree with. While some accommodation was made to allow all of us to advance the draft prior to the weekend, new information and clarification on parts of the bill that came to light Monday, Jan. 22, caused a split vote in the end.

One of the major sticking points was related to the hotel voucher program. The program was once again extended (from April 1 to June 30), although language was added limiting what the state can pay for a hotel room night to \$75. This contrasts with the average \$133/night that the state currently pays. However, the eligibility guidelines were expanded from what they were a year ago, leading some to believe the expanded pandemic era program will never end.

The bill includes \$30 million towards FEMA flood recovery matches, \$10 million in municipal flood assistance, \$9.5 million towards the EB-5 lawsuit, \$9 million for housing, \$4 million for shelters and up to \$13 million for the hotel program.

Recap of other issues of interest:

- Key lawmakers are having second thoughts about the unintended impact of a 5% cap on homestead tax rates approved last year if local school spending didn't increase more than 10%. They now believe the cap incentivized spending increases in some cases. In a letter to school districts, the two tax chairs

said, "It [the cap] was not intended as free money—in fact nothing in the education fund is free."

- State economists upgraded Vermont's general fund revenue by \$10 million for the next fiscal year. The good news is that it was a slight increase and not a decrease some were fearing. However, the total is still a reduction from this year.

This Tuesday, Governor Scott will address a joint assembly of legislators with his budget proposal for the next fiscal year. The overall spending increase is expected to be around 3%, which is less than the increases in wages and benefits of state employees. Some legislators have expressed doubt that spending can be capped at that level.

- The House Judiciary Committee continues its work on changing retail theft laws. Last week Rutland County States Attorney Ian Sullivan and Rutland Mayor Michael Doenges traveled to Montpelier to testify before the committee to advocate for needed changes to the law in this area.
- Environmental groups along with Democratic/Progressive lawmakers are proposing establishing a climate change superfund. The legislation, dubbed "Make Big Oil Pay!" would assess oil companies a cost recovery demand for their share of fossil fuel extraction or refinement contributing to greenhouse gas-related costs in Vermont. Skeptics have expressed doubt that such charges would be easy to prove in court.
- A group of lawmakers, led by Rep Brian Cina, P-Burlington, have

Harrison → 10



By Rep. Jim Harrison



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Spoiler alert: It doesn't matter what Killington wants

Select Board leaders choose to divert voter attention to a known dead-end instead of addressing hard choices for school facilities

By Polly Mikula

The Select Board meeting Monday night, Jan. 22, meant to inform voters about the proposed \$99 million bond for a new middle school/high school, but instead sowed confusion. Instead of focusing on the main question: how the proposal addresses the needs of the Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) district, the meeting devolved from a discussion about tax implications into magical thinking.

About 50 people tuned in (in-person and via Zoom) to hear Ben Ford MVSU board vice chair and chair of the finance committee other leaders from MVSU present plans for the proposed \$99 million bond, as they have done and will continue to do in all seven district towns leading up to the March 5 vote. But attendees Monday didn't get much of a chance to learn about the project or ask questions, instead being dragged into the weeds of proper formula in a spreadsheet.

Voters most certainly left more confused than ever and with no clear picture of the originating need or the options to solve them (if they made it through the 4+ hour long meeting at all.)

Let's start with what seemingly everyone agreed on: 1) We all support quality public education, 2) The district middle school/high school is in desperate need of repair — to the tune of 10s of millions of dollars at least — in large part due to lack of sufficient maintenance of the current facility over the past decades, and 3) No one wants to pay higher taxes.

District leaders say they can't continue to support quality education in the current middle/high school building (indeed, the school ranked second to last in a statewide study of facilities in 2022; and Superintendent Sherry Sousa said sewage had recently back up in the school due to frozen pipes and classrooms were within 1 degree of being too cold to occupy.) So something needs to be done and whatever it is will have a tax impact. A MVSU committee studied options in 2019 and decided that building a new school would be the best return on investment. They have been working on a design and budget that they felt meets the needs of the district community and have now put that plan up for a district vote.

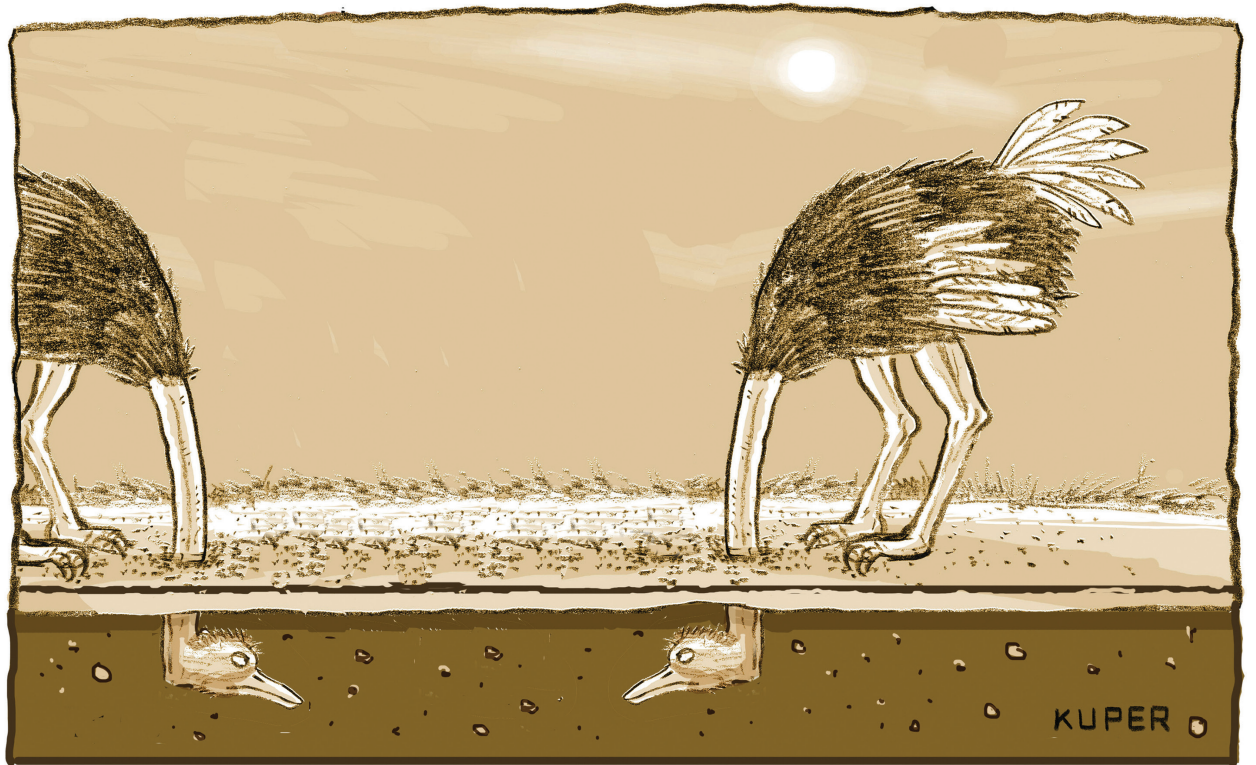
"Real numbers" and the multitude of factors that make estimating future tax impacts impossible

Disagreements are easy to understand given the many unknowable factors when estimating local tax implications, which prevents voters from getting what they really want from leaders: "real numbers," i.e. the dollar impact the budget and/or bond will have on each of our pocketbooks.

In fact, calculating the exact tax impact of any budget or bond beyond this year is impossible. Both Ford and Haff, I believe, were genuinely trying to show voters what the tax impact might be, given a dozen factors that could affect one's tax bill.

Spoiler alert → 10

The meeting devolved from a discussion about tax implications into magical thinking.



"I take it you're not up on the news?"

Up On The News by Peter Kuper, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

The cost of an inaccurate enrollment forecast

Dear Editor,

I am concerned about the upcoming community decision on the proposed new middle and high school. The plan is based on a model that is out-of-sync with recent enrollment trends and future projections. Since education funding in Vermont is based on enrollment, it is a critical element of any funding plan. Indeed, the School Board's hope to increase students in grades 7-12 from the current 452 to 700 has been highlighted in presentations as a way to help fund the school and keep tax rates from skyrocketing. But if their growth projections do not occur, our already high taxes will rise beyond affordability for most people.

How likely is this desired increase in enrollment to come to fruition? The enrollment trajectory at Woodstock Union over recent decades and forecasts on the impact of decreased birthrates on school-age populations can help answer this. Enrollment in FY2001 dropped from 721 stu-

dents, to 663 in FY2004, to 511 in Oct 2020 (the peak of the Covid "bump"), to 486 in Oct 2021, and is now 452 in January 2024. Applying a U.S. Department of Education projection of an 11.2% drop in Vermont statewide enrollment between 2021 and 2030 (reported in nesdec.org), enrollment would be down to 432 by 2030.

I fully appreciate the importance of public education, support investment in education, and support a major project to address the school's obvious needs. But the choice that we must make must be based on actual needs (enrollment) and resources (tax base). I am worried that the planning has been based on a laudable optimism but is not realistic. We must live within our means while we invest in education, ensuring the health of the community in every way.

Sincerely,
Pamela Fraser
Former WCUUSD
School Board member;
parent, and WUHS Class
of 2023

Sex is in DNA

Dear Editor,

I just read the result that the judge ruled against the snowboarding coach.

What world do we live in? Boys cannot be girls and girls cannot be boys.

They can pretend, change clothes and mutilate their bodies but that's it.

This is mental illness disguised as compassion.

You don't humor an anorexic by agreeing with them that they are too fat.

These people's skele-

tons are dug up thousands of years from now and they can still tell the sex. It's in the cellular level, DNA and

unchangeable. Come on people, get real!

Boys should not be competing with girls in

athletic events.

It's cheating.

That is why a women's category was invented.

Thank you for your consideration.

George de Luna, New Jersey and Killington

WRITE TO US:

The Mountain Times encourages readers to contribute to our community paper by writing letters to the editor. The opinions expressed here are not endorsed nor are the facts verified by the Mountain Times. We ask that opinions remain focused on issues; we will not print name-calling.

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CAPITOL QUOTES



The Supreme Court sided with the Biden administration, allowing federal officials to remove parts of a concertina-wire barrier along the Mexican border, which Texas erected to prevent migrant crossing.

“The absence of razor wire and other deterrence strategies encourages migrants to make unsafe and illegal crossings between ports of entry... This case is ongoing, and Governor Abbott will continue fighting to defend Texas’ property and its constitutional authority to secure the border.”

Said **Andrew Mahaleris**, a spokesman for Mr. Abbott, according to the New York Times.

“It is a foundational constitutional principle that the federal government is not bound by the laws or policies of any particular state in its enactment and implementation of federal law,”

U.S. Solicitor General **Elizabeth Prelogar** told the court according to the USA Today.

“Federal agents have developed and implemented a practice of destroying Texas’s concertina wire to encourage, induce, and assist thousands of aliens to illegally cross the Rio Grande and enter Texas... Federal agents in some cases attempted to ease aliens’ ability to illegally climb up the riverbank into Texas by attaching ropes or cables to the back of pickup trucks. Federal agents regularly cut new openings in the wire fence, sometimes immediately after Texas officers have placed new wire to plug gaps in fencing barriers.”

Texas Attorney General **Ken Paxton** said in a statement in October 2023.



TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

TOWN OF KILLINGTON SELECTBOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN OF KILLINGTON ZONING BYLAWS and KILLINGTON ZONING MAP

The Killington Selectboard will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Town of Killington Zoning Bylaws and the Town of Killington Zoning Map on Monday, February 12th, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont. The hearing will also be held remotely via zoom. The link to join remotely will be posted on the Town of Killington calendar on its website: KillingtonTown.com/calendar.

The principal purpose of the proposed zoning bylaw amendments is to provide standards for permitting and regulating cannabis establishments within the Town of Killington. These amendments will affect the Killington Basin Commercial District and the Valley District of Killington. The Town of Killington Zoning Map has been amended to provide 2 Commercial Districts – one of which is labeled the Killington Basin Commercial District and one of which is labeled the Route 4 Commercial District.

The section headings affected by the proposed zoning bylaw amendments are:

- SECTION 120 – DEFINITIONS and SECTION 302 – CONDITIONAL USE - CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS.

The full text of the proposed Town of Killington Zoning Bylaw Amendments may be found at the Town Clerk’s office, 2706 River Road, Killington and on the Planning Commission page of the Town’s website at: KillingtonTown.com.

Amendments approved by the Planning Commission on January 10th, 2024 at a duly warned public hearing.

Public Hearing warned by the Selectboard on this
22nd day of January 2024
Michael Ramsey,
Town Manager, Town of Killington, Vermont

← Clarkson:

from page 7

could not come to agreement on limiting the appeals process. Our SEDHGA committee will try and identify ways to limit the time and number of appeals possible with a project. Our hope is that this effort, coupled with the work of the task force will reduce regulatory barriers in our areas designated for density and growth.

In this bill the committee will also address how we further protect our community centers from further flooding, convert commercial and underused properties into housing units, incentivize more middle income housing, prevent homelessness, increase public safety in housing

developments, enhance people's credit scores by including their timely rental payments, create a state-wide rental registry, and incorporate recommendations from our Mobile Home Task Force of 2023 and proposals to streamline our designation programs.

Sen. Alison Clarkson can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov.

← Harrison:

from page 7

formed a caucus to advance discussions on taxpayer funded universal health care in Vermont.

The voluntary paid family leave program promoted by the Scott administration and insured by The Hartford will be open to employers on Feb. 15. Participating employers with two or more employees can opt for a variety of benefit options, including length of time off and percent of wage replacement. More information on the Vermont FMLI program is available at: fmli.thehartford.com.

In a Vermont vs. Vermont case, State Auditor Doug Hoffer filed a suit against State Attorney General Charity Clark to require

the AG's office to provide his office with legal opinions when they are conducting audits. AG Clark called the suit a waste of resources.

Now that the House version of the BAA is almost complete, perhaps I will be able to recover from the hundreds of extra emails and lobbying that appropriation committee members receive from individuals and groups advocating for extra funding. That is until we begin the new budget for next year.

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

← Spoiler alert:

from page 8

Statewide factors such as how Act 127 is amended (which created new student weighting formulas for this year's district budget and a 5% cap on rates for the next five years) and the base state education rate, simply cannot be known. Likewise, local/individual factors such as changing CLA/real property values and the upcoming reappraisals (in which some property owners will pay less than the 0.52 current CLA estimate and some more), true enrollment changes in the district, whether or not a person qualifies for income-based refunds, etc. cannot be known.

But because we need some way to estimate the impact, Ford and Haff both made assumptions about those unknowns to derive a series of scenarios to give voters a sense of what's likely. Ford was accused of painting an "overly rosy picture" and underestimating impacts; Haff the opposite, painting an overly pessimistic picture of possible tax rates.

But before diving headfirst into those weeds, it's important to remember the landscape. Let's back up: What's the problem and what choices do we actually face to solve it?

New school? Old school? Leave district?

MVSU, which serves the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Pittsfield, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock, operates six schools in the district offering free full-time Pre-K to area 3-5-year-olds (saving those families about \$15,000 per child per year). The quality of education and offerings are strong across the district, with Woodstock middle school/high school ranking No. 3 out of all Vermont high schools, according to the 2023-24 U.S. News and World Report rankings. Additionally, the report notes that the AP participation rate at Woodstock Union Middle/High School is 73%. It's also the No. 1 school in the state for college curriculum breadth and No. 2 for college readiness.

Many folks at the meeting Monday night reiterated the ultimate purpose of preserving this educational quality and some expressed concern that a costly new build may come at the sacrifice of high learning standards or programing.

Other attendees expressed frustration that Ford and the district board presented only one "very expensive" option to the voters and felt "bullied" into accepting it, without discussion about alternative plans. (Note: an analysis of facility needs and funding to study options began in 2016 and there have been numerous meeting and stories published, including in this paper about the developments and options being considered by the board and its committees. But we understand. It's hard to keep up and many are just tuning into these discussions now.)

So let's now again explore all the possible options to better understand the range of choices we have as a community.

1. Do nothing. This will likely lead to the middle school/high school building being condemned in the not-to-

distant future. The district could choose to go without a middle school/high school, or renovate or build new at that point.

2. Make some repairs (\$20-\$30 million). This option saves the school in the near-term, but will likely come with a high budget line-item to keep up with on-going fixes each year.
3. Renovating the existing building (\$51 million according to a 2019 estimate), not all needs are met, but many voters expressed interest in learning more about these options.
4. Build a new middle school/high school (\$67 million according to a 2019 estimate, now estimated to be \$99 million after \$16 million in recent cuts).

These cost estimates are not perfect (all estimates have risen significantly since these studies were done in 2019), but the options remain: condemn the building, or renovate it for the short-term, or build new for the long-term.

The middle options, repairing/renovating, at first seem like the prudent choice given the high taxes we face already, but may actually be the worst financially over time as they could lead to us invest 10s of millions of dollars into the old building only to tear it down anyway *and* then face much higher costs for construction than today.

Higher taxes due mostly to increased property evaluations (which are entirely outside of voter control) may make any additional tax burden impossible for voters to swallow this year. But the problems will remain when we face choices again next year and the costs will only go up (no matter what we choose) the longer we wait.

But wait, there's a worse choice!

And the Killington Select Board chose it...

Instead of facing any of these hard choices, we could pretend like there's a way out. On Monday night, Selectman Haff proposed — and the entire board accepted without discussion — to add an article (Article 5) to the Town Meeting Day ballot asking voters if they want to study the option of leaving the MVSU district and either pursuing school choice or designating Rutland middle school/high school. A few members of the audience cheered. And that's understandable: who wouldn't be for lower taxes and more choice?

But it's not a real possibly for Killington and Jim Haff knows it. Therefore, it's a disingenuous proposal — instead of bringing us closer to a solution, he's chosen to play a game. Haff as a bit of fun proving... what exactly? Whom does it benefit if we all have to face the same choices with higher costs later?

The options remain:
condemn the building,
or renovate it for the
short-term, or build
new for the long-term.

While Act 46 forced school districts to merge, there is a way for a town to leave a district, but it's not conceivably possible for Killington as it would require not just the town to vote out but also ALL of the other towns in the district to agree to let us go, and then the state board to allow it. I don't doubt that Killington taxpayers would vote for this (we had a vote to secede from the state and join New Hampshire in the '90s in order to avoid taxes, remember...) but there is absolutely no way the other towns would let us go. Without Killington the district is even more expensive for those that remain in it. Why should they let us out? And even for whatever reason if all six

surrounding towns agreed to vote to leave too, Woodstock never would, thus, the plan is dead-in-the-water. The state laws were written to force consolidation, and made it intentionally hard for any one town to upend it.

So, if Article 5 passes, we will simply waste time and money studying alternative education options for Killington

students, the results of which will be utterly useless since Killington will not be let out of the district. So what value is it to study what Killington wants, regardless of the context in which we actually exist? It's an option untethered to reality.

Article 5 will only serve to be a temporary distraction. We will inevitably find ourselves at the dead-end, banging our heads against its wall (likely screaming "but it's not fair!") and then will have to crawl back to this same juncture and face the same tough choices, just with higher price tags.

By pursuing Article 5, the Select Board has chosen to prove a "political point" (to whom, is unclear) intentionally sowing false hope in all of us eager to find a lower-tax solution to get out of the mess we've helped to create (by not funding existing building repairs and/or not creating a capital fund for an eventual new building decades ago). The "solution" to leave the district, preys on the ignorance of voters and erodes trust in the leaders we rely upon. Leaders whose responsibility it is to uncover and help clarify the best solutions, not cover them up with distracting dead-end games.

The "real numbers" that were the point of contention for the first 4 hours of Monday's meeting were completely sidelined in 2 minutes in favor of a motion to ask voters to approve the study of this false "choice."

So now, on March 5, Killington voters will have to choose whether we want to pursue this "path of the ostrich," head in the sand, hoping the problems will disappear with magical thinking — or face the hard decisions now that will be waiting for us as soon as we are forced to resurface and face reality.

Whether you vote up or down the district budget or the \$99 million bond, please vote 'NO' on Article 5 — the study of fake alternatives — and join the hard conversations of how to best house our middle and high school students.

WORDPLAY

BATHSAFETYWORDSEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- ANTISKID
- BALANCE
- BARS
- BATH
- BENCHES
- ELDERLY
- FALLS
- HANDHELD
- HOT
- INSTALLATION
- LIGHTING
- MATS
- MOISTURE
- RAILS
- REACH
- RETROFIT
- SAFETY
- SEAT
- SENIORS
- SHOWER
- SLIP
- SUCTIONCUPS
- TOILETRIES
- TRANSFER

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SUDOKU

Solutions → 19

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 19

CLUES ACROSS

1. Winged nut
7. ___ Humbug!
10. One who sets apart
12. Circle above a saint's head
13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
14. Expressed pleasure
15. Feminine given name
16. Company of badgers
17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
18. Witty sayings
19. Leader
21. Autonomic nervous system
22. Premolar
27. Atomic #28
28. Holiday decorative item
33. Exclamation of surprise
34. Rusk or cracker
36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
38. Eat
39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
40. Ceases to

- exist
41. Male Arabic name
 44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
 45. Places where bees are kept
 48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
 49. Church office
 50. Single lens reflex
 51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN

1. Classify
2. Dismounted
3. Produced
4. Consumed
5. Director
6. The products of human creativity
7. Thai monetary units
8. Away from wind
9. Builder's trough
10. Relating to Islam
11. It can sometimes ache
12. Small quantities (Scot.)
14. Poisonous

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50							51				

- plant
17. Laugh at
 18. Vogel
 20. C. European river
 23. Type of cat
 24. Exclamation of disgust
 25. Stephen King novel
 26. Without armies
 29. Expression of sympathy
- pathy
30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 31. Previously
 32. Illegal drug
 35. Kiloelectronvolt
 36. Large, flightless birds
 38. For smoking
 40. Binary
41. Competition
 42. Mark resembling an arrow
 43. Containers
 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
 45. Commercials
 46. I.M. ___, architect
 47. 007's creator

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Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in California on January 23, 1964. I was crowned Miss Beverly Hills USA in 1982. My mom was an actress/model and my dad was a former Mr. Universe. I've gone on to be an Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning star.

Answer: Maviska Hargitay

WEDNESDAY

1/24

Sustainability Film Series—'Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island'

Virtual screening Jan 24-27. Free. Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts present the documentary "Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island," in this series of films and documentaries focused on climate change and sustainability. Four mothers, a legal team, and a reporter discuss the Three Mile Island nuclear partial meltdown of 1979. To register, go to sustainablewoodstock.org/event/radioactive-film-screening/

Public Skating

Wednesdays, Jan.-Feb. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock.

2-3 p.m. Seniors, parents with toddlers.
3-4:10 p.m. All ages. Ages 13+ \$6; ages 4-12 \$5; ages 3 and under, free. Rental skates available, \$6/pair.
unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions

**Public Forum: Conflict of Interest****Issues in Vermont Medicaid**

2 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Health Management Associates and the Vermont Agency of Human Services will host a public forum to gather community feedback and address conflict-of-interest concerns in the state Medicaid home- and community-based service programs. rutlandfree.org/calendar-events/

Silent Reading Group

4 p.m. Wednesdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join us for an hour of silent reading in front of the fireplace. Tea, coffee, and cookies provided. Foster your reading habit in a structured environment. Optional post-reading discussion. Everyone is welcome. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join a gathering of adult cribbage players at the library's meeting room. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/ or 802-436-2473

Bone Builders

3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. Pricing and info: chaffeeartcenter.org

Adult Open Gym: Coed Pickleball

7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Partially punched cards from last year are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration and no leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

The Red-tailed Hawk Project

5:30-7 p.m. Virtual event. Vermont Institute of Natural History, Quechee. Free or \$10 donation. Suggested \$10 donation. Join VINS for a presentation with Bryce Robinson from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, co-founder and leader of the national Red-tailed Hawk Project, to learn about its work to better understand this iconic species. Bryce will share preliminary results from the project's extensive tracking efforts. Register to attend via Zoom at eventbrite.com/e/the-red-tailed-hawk-project-registration-780860092557

Mihali Presents: 'The Winter Sessions'

8 p.m. Wednesdays in January. Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. \$20-\$25. Join Mihali & Friends on the Pickle Barrel main stage for a 4-show residency. Each show will feature different guests and take place in a special venue. Must be at least 21. picklebarrelnightclub.com.

THURSDAY

1/25

West Rutland Marsh Bird Monitoring Walk

8 a.m. Monthly. Marble Street, West Rutland. Free. Join Rutland County Audubon for our monthly monitoring of the West Rutland Marsh, a prime natural habitat for many species. Go the whole 4-mile route or go halfway. rutlandcountyaudubon.org/events

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Virtual screening Jan 24-27. Free. Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts present the documentary "Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island," in this series of films and documentaries focused on climate change and sustainability. Four mothers, a legal team, and a reporter discuss the Three Mile Island nuclear partial meltdown of 1979. To register, go to sustainablewoodstock.org/event/radioactive-film-screening/

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Killington Grand Hotel, 228 East Mountain Road, Killington. All donors will be entered for a chance to win a trip to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. Visit redcrossblood.org/superbowl for details. Consider making a Power Red donation if you are an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor. Streamline your appointment by completing your pre-donation reading and health history questions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass (only on the day of your appointment). Register at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Killington Bone Builders

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

Artery at Chaffee Art Center

10:30am-noon. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10-\$20. Adult group for connection and inspiration. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, participants will work on their own. Info and registration: chaffeeartcenter.org.

Ukulele Group

Noon-1 p.m. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Musician Steven Wilson leads the group through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org or 802-775-0356

Michelob Ultra Race World

1-3 p.m. Thursdays, to March 14. Pico Mountain: Lower Pike or Exhibition. \$50 per individual. Weekly race series at Pico featuring 8 races, where participants can race as individuals or form a team of up to 5 racers. Each race is followed by a party at the Last Run Lounge from 4-6 p.m. Register for the race series: tfaforms.com/5031843. picomountain.com

Play Bridge!

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

Create a Book!

3-4 p.m. Hartland Public Library, 153 U.S. Route 5, Hartland. Create your own book for art, stories or journaling. All ages welcome. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/

Learn Ballroom Dancing with Patti Panebianco

Final class
5-5:50 p.m. Kids – Tango & Cha-Cha
6-6:50 p.m. Adults – Foxtrot
7-7:50 p.m. Adults – Salsa
Waldron Gym, Green Mountain Community School, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. pattidance@gmail.com

Vermont Futures 802 with Kevin Chu

5:30-7 p.m. The Hub CoWorks, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland. Free. Vermont Futures Executive Director Kevin Chu will lead a vital discussion on shaping Vermont's economic future through data-driven solutions. Food and beverages provided. Network, share ideas, and help craft a sustainable path forward for our state. RSVP at rutlandvermont.com/the-hub-coworks/

Letter Writing Party

5:30 p.m. Rutland. Speakeasy Cafe, 33 Center St., Rutland. Sponsored by the ACLU of Vermont. Let your lawmakers know your concerns and engage with the issues. ACLU provides materials, talking points and guidance. info@aclu.org

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

6-8 p.m. Okemo Ski Resort, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow. Free. Meet at the Ice House parking lot at Jackson Gore for a guided snowshoe hike with local guide Joe Karl from William Raveis Vermont Properties. okemo.com

Adult Open Gym: Basketball

7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 each time. Partially punched cards from last year are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration and no leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

Midnight North

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road Killington, \$20-\$25. The Bay Area rock band has released their fifth studio album, "Diamonds in the Zodiac," influenced by bluegrass, country, soul, blues, funk, jazz, and gospel. tinyurl.com/mtxdtv3n

FRIDAY

1/26

Sustainability Film Series—'Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island'

Virtual screening Jan 24-27. Free. Sustainable Woodstock and Pentangle Arts present the documentary "Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island," in this series of films and documentaries focused on climate change and sustainability. Four mothers, a legal team, and a reporter discuss the Three Mile Island nuclear partial meltdown of 1979. To register, go to sustainablewoodstock.org/event/radioactive-film-screening/

Story Time at the Library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org, 802-422-9765 or 802-422-4251.

Bone Builders

11 a.m.-Noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. Pricing and info: chaffeeartcenter.org

Relaxing with the Arts

1-3 p.m. Fridays through Feb. 16. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Heather Wilson. \$120 4-week workshops or \$35 for one class. Explore different art forms in a relaxed and mindful environment. Painting, pen & ink, marker, and music-guided art. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Movies at the Library

3-5 p.m. Community Room, Hartland Public Library. Free. Join us for a showing of "Ratatouille" and enjoy refreshments. library.com.

Paint Party for Child and Caregiver

5-7 p.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 66 Merchants Row, Rutland. \$25. Join a paint party and create two matching 9x12 canvases. All supplies included. Fundraiser for Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events/paint-party-child-caregiver

Owl Prowl

5:30 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$20 general public; \$17.50 VINS members. Search for owls on the trails at the nature center and learn about these nocturnal residents of New England and their secret lives. Bring a flashlight/headlamp and dress in layers. Ages 13+ only. Snowshoes available at no charge. vinsweb.org.

**Wobbly Barn: Sean Patrick and the Alibis**

Doors open at 6 p.m. Wobbly Barn, 2229 Killington Road, Killington. This featured act will take the stage as the late-night performance. Cover charge may be required for entry. Enjoy the high-energy performance of Sean Patrick and the Alibis and sing along to your favorite songs at this New Jersey band scene. killington.com

Blue Cat Music Series—Patrick Sargent Music

6-9 p.m. Fridays through March 22. Blue Cat Bistro, 575 Main St., Castleton. No cover. Live performances by the hottest acts. 802-468-2791

SATURDAY

1/27

Free State Ice-fishing Day & Festival

All day: Any angler may ice fish on any waterbody open to ice fishing statewide without a fishing license. To celebrate free ice fishing day, there is an ice fishing festival at 11 a.m. at Elmore State Park. See the 11 a.m. listing. For details and the list of recommended fishing spots, visit vtfishandwildlife.com.

**Kids' Art Activities at Chaffee Art Center**

Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. chaffeeartcenter.org
10:30-11:30am — Make & Take Saturday Kids' Class
11am-12:30pm — Pour Painting Balloon Technique
12-2pm — Drop 'N' Paint, all ages

Super Saturday Fun Day at Castleton Free Library

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Castleton Free Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. Free. Activities include building a top-secret superhero hideout with Legos, watching a Ninja Turtle movie, playing Bingo, and ongoing Turtle trivia. castletonfreelibrary.org

The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year round. Find seasonal harvest, winter veggies, handcrafted gifts and more. vtfarmersmarket.org

Ice Fishing Festival

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Elmore State Park, Elmore. Free. Join the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. for a day of ice fishing, skill-building, and community. Learn ice fishing skills, fishing regulations, and fish identification. The festival typically draws between 500-700 participants. Enjoy a fish fry and cocoa. Dress appropriately and bring your own equipment or borrow from the event. Register online in advance at register-ed.com/events/view/206074



Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Weekly. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Association, Inc., the historic depot is now a museum that houses an operating HO scale model railroad setup and displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. rutlandrailway.org

'A Response to Our Times: Reversing Climate

Change Through Plant-Based Eating'

1-3 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join the Plant-Based-Eating Initiative for a program and panel discussion on how a plant-based diet can help reverse climate change. Learn about the positive impact on the planet, animal welfare, and personal health. The event features presentations from experts in climate science, vegan advocacy, and personal health. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion. RSVP appreciated. normanwilliams.org

Apres Afternoons at the Clock Tower: Derek Rando

Duo

All afternoon. The Bull and Base 68 Patio at Clock Tower Base Area, Okemo Ski Resort. Join us for live music, games, food, drinks and more. okemo.com

Auditions: 'Little Shop of Horrors'

2-5 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. The Paramount Players and Stage Write team up to produce one of off-Broadway's longest running hit favorites, "The Little Shop of Horrors," on April 26, 27 and 28, 2024 at Rutland's Paramount Theatre. Sign up for an audition time at signup.com/go/pwOuPek. Rehearsals starting in early-March. paramountvt.org/event/auditions-little-shop-of-horrors/

Woodstock Film Series: 'All That Breathes'

3-4:30 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$12-\$15. In this Academy Award-nominated documentary, two brothers in New Delhi care for thousands of black kites in their makeshift bird hospital. The film explores the collapsing ecology and rising social tensions of the city. billingsfarm.org/events/woodstock-vt-film-series-all-that-breathes/

The 1933-35 Antarctica Expedition: One Man's

Experiencee

4-6 p.m. Shrewsbury Library, 98 Town Hill Rd, Cuttingsville Join Sally Deinzer as she shares her father's experience as a radio operator for Admiral Byrd's expedition to Antarctica. shrewsburylibrary.com

Catholic Mass at Our Lady of the Mountains

4:30 p.m. Saturdays. The "little white church," 4173 US-4, Killington. Free. 802-457-2322 or info@vermontcatholic.org

Let's Go Skating

5:15pm-7:15pm. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. Suggested donation: \$5 per family. Ice skating for unboxed families receiving coordinated services. There are bathrooms and a warming area available. Plastic crates are provided for new skaters to use.

Argentinian-style Social Tango with Live Music by

Trio Tango Norte

7-10 p.m. ArtisTree, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$20. Cash bar, empanadas available separately. Optional: Tango lesson with Eva Zimet, \$15; lesson plus dance, \$30. Details and tix at artistreevt.org/special-events

SUNDAY
1/28

Introduction to Stained Glass

9-11:30 a.m. The MINT 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. \$35 for members, \$55 for non-members. Learn the art of stained glass and create your own sun catcher. No prerequisites needed. Closed-toe shoes required. Instructor: Lisa Steckler. Contact: 802-579-4544. register: mint.com

Auditions: 'Little Shop of Horrors'

2-5 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. The Paramount Players and Stage Write team up to produce one of off-Broadway's longest running hit favorites, "The Little Shop of Horrors," on April 26, 27 and 28, 2024 at Rutland's Paramount Theatre. Sign up for an audition time at signup.com/go/pwOuPek. Rehearsals starting in early-March. paramountvt.org/event/auditions-little-shop-of-horrors/

Woodstock VT Film Series: All That Breathes

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Wobbly Barn: Sean Patrick and the Alibis

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Science Book Club

7 p.m. Shrewsbury Library, 98 Town Hill Rd, Shrewsbury. Free. Join the Science Book Club at Shrewsbury Library for a night of engaging discussions and exploration of scientific literature. shrewsburyvt.org

Adult Open Gym: Pickleball

7-9 p.m. Runs Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

MONDAY
1/29

Killington Bone Builders

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

Okemo Innkeepers Race Series

10 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 8.- Mar. 11 Okemo Ski Resort. A Ludlow tradition. Teams and individual skiers and snowboarders compete in 8 age categories. There is an après race gathering hosted by a local bar from 5-7 p.m. okemoracing@gmail.com

Monday Movie

1 p.m. The Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Please call the library for the title of the film. sherburnelibrary.org, 802 422-9765

Auditions: Little Shop of Horrors

2-5 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. The Paramount Players and Stage Write are excited to team up to produce one of off-Broadway's longest running hit favorites, The Little Shop of Horrors, on April 26, 27 and 28, 2024 at Rutland's Paramount Theatre. Sign up for an audition time at signup.com/go/pwOuPek. Rehearsals starting in early-March. paramountvt.org/event/auditions-little-shop-of-horrors/

Poetry Group

4-5:30 p.m. Monthly, 1st and 3rd Mondays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join the poetry group at NWPL for sharing and critique in a workshop format, focusing on different elements of poetry such as theme, language, sound and rhythm, structure, and context. This group is open to all interested in poetry and offers feedback on poems. RSVP. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

Adult Open Gym: Indoor Soccer

7-9 p.m. Runs Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

TUESDAY
1/30

Play Chess & Backgammon

5 p.m. Tuesdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join us for chess and/or backgammon on Tuesday evenings. All skill levels are welcome, and coaching is available. Bring your own set or use one of ours. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

Fundamentals of Handbuilding

5:30 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. Members \$175; Non-member \$200. A comprehensive introduction to pottery, covering pinch pot, coils, and slab techniques, with a focus on creating unique projects. Explore tools, texture, and learn how to glaze your pieces. Instructors: Tiffany and Caitlin. themint.com Read Between the Lines:

Paint Party at Killington

6-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays thru Feb. North Star Inn at The Star Lounge. \$25. Join us for a fun paint party at Killington. Scan QR code or look up #TwifitiesPaint on Eventbrite.com for tickets. Call Lauren at 914-420-2194 to reserve.

Adult Open Gym: Indoor Soccer

7-9 p.m. Runs Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

WOODSTOCK VT
FILM SERIES: ALL
THAT BREATHES

SUNDAY 3 PM



Rockin the Region with Midnight North

This Thursday, Jan. 25, don't miss Midnight North at the Pickle Barrel Nightclub. I had the pleasure of speaking with co-founder Grahame Lesh (guitarist and singer-songwriter) to learn about the band. We may have spoken about his father, Phil Lesh, who you might know.

Midnight North falls in the Americana genre, but Grahame said, "We sound like a crazy amalgamation of everything we like and all the music we listen to that we like playing. We're a little bit out of the jam band world, but we're definitely in Americana/country rock. Sometimes we call ourselves a rock band, and sometimes we're a jam band too. There are a lot of

different worlds we're coming out of, the main one being the sort of Grateful Dead world because my dad was in the Grateful Dead, so that's an inescapable, not in a bad way, place that we're definitely coming from musically, in terms of our whole vibe. We're there to play our songs; we're super proud of them." Joining Grahame are Elliot Peck (guitar/singer-songwriter), Connor O'Sullivan (bass), TJ Kanczuzewski (keyboard), and Nathan Graham (drums/banjo). Grahame said, "It's fronted by myself and Elliot. She and I are the main singers, and we founded the band fourteen years ago with Connor. Elliot and I sort of split off. The songs she writes, she leads, and vice versa."



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

Back in 2011, shortly before Midnight North began, Phil Lesh and his family started Terrapin Crossroads, a live music venue in San Rafael, California. Grahame said, "My brother, Dad, and I played some shows at Levon Helm's barn. We got to really know him, Amy (Levon's daughter), and his family. My parents got really interested in the idea of having a place where people could come to them. That closed in 2021. For all those years, it was our community music gathering place for most of the Bay Area, at least for the Grateful Dead scene. Midnight North got to grow up as a little baby band as Terrapin did. It gave us a place to play and a chance to get our garage band started, but in front of people. It was invaluable, and a couple years later we started going out on the road, and here we are, five albums in."

Their latest release, "Diamonds in the Zodiac," came out in November. It was produced by Amy Helm and has some special guests on it, like Grahame's dad Phil, brother Brian, and Jason Crosby, who Grahame said is a good friend and one of their favorite musicians. Grahame added, "He's kind of on all of our records. The one before this one, we tracked in full and then went to Jason's house, where he listened one-time to each song and then played through each song once, and it was perfect. He's awesome. In this one, we were lucky. We did two, four-day sessions and brought Amy out to California to Sonoma County, a great studio called Space Camp. We rocked all these songs. The title track has a Phil and Friends connection, where my dad sort of worked with Robert Hunter, the Grateful Dead's lyricist, to write all this material in the mid-2000's, which they never got around to writing. It's called 'Jupiter,' so I finally put music to it. That one was especially important to me to have my dad play on. Things like that—we're lucky to have the family and friends around that we do to help us complete the vision."

This tour is focusing on that record, but they have five, so they have plenty of material to choose from. Grahame said, "Our set list will definitely skew towards the new one, for sure."

Grahame said his brother Brian is one of his favorite songwriters and a great player and singer. He was involved in the early days of Terrapin but stepped back musically because he didn't want to do the touring part. Grahame: "He filled in for our last tour in California, around the time we released this album. He played guitar and mandolin for us because Elliot hurt her hand, so she was just singing for those shows. It was really special to play live with him again. When we get him, we're really happy about that." He wrote "Old Country," one of the tracks on the album. Grahame added, "Obviously we had to have him play on that."

I spoke with Grahame about his "famous dad," and he said, "My parents built Phil and Friends into probably the most successful, until Dead and Co., post-Jerry spin-offs of the band. They would do The Dead and the Other Ones with Bob and the drummers too, but I grew up with Phil and Friends, so it was kind of this niche thing. When I'm growing up, your parents are never cool. Even if they're the coolest people in the world, they're not because they're your parents. We had as normal a Bay Area upbringing as you could have with one of your parents being in a band like that. I was eight when Jerry passed, so the super crazy Grateful Dead stadiums thing was not as big a part of my immediate upbringing until I was older. I was in my twenties when the Fare Thee Well shows happened." I attended those in June 2015 in San Francisco, which were the first Dead and Co. shows.

Grahame started on the piano and was encouraged to play music. He said, "My folks said you're going to play an instrument. You're going to learn music like you would any subject in school, like math or something. My brother and I took piano lessons, and then I switched to guitar lessons when I was 12. Eventually, I stopped taking lessons and just started playing for fun, and that's when I really started playing. I was a young teenager. I had bands in high school and college, but it wasn't until Terrapin started that it became more of a living. I was playing all the time."

Terrapin Crossroads had free music every night, and Grahame said, "It was amazing music." There was a bar/restaurant side and a 400-seat, ticketed venue. Midnight North plays almost every Sunday in the bar. He added, "That bar scene was where a lot of us sort of grew up as musicians. The place was super unique."

Grahame has musical influences that others have, but not only did he get to see them play live, but he knew them as well. He said, "For me on guitar, most of my influences were the other guitar players in Phil and Friends. I earned a lot on guitar and singing from the Q, the Phil Lesh Quintet, which was the Phil and Friends Band with Warren Haynes, Jimmy Herring, John Molo, and Rob Barraco. I was just picking up the guitar at that point and having my mind blown by those players. These days, for songwriters, I'm super into Brandi Carlisle and Jason Isbell. Those are some folks I haven't been lucky enough to meet or play with, but it's a little different when it's friends, but I'm very influenced by all my musician friends, obviously Amy and our friend Allison Russell, who I met through Amy, Luther Dickinson, and the guys from Dawes, Hiss Golden Messenger, and Mihali. These are all people I look up to, in all kinds of different ways."

Grahame said making music is such a cool, spiritual experience and added, "Getting to do it with your friends in front of people who came and spent their hard-earned money to come see you is a really special thing. It's kind of a different, specific moment each time you're up there. I just love doing it."

You can check them out at midnightnorth.com, and from there, you can get links to all their social and music sites.



By Sam Watson

Midnight North will perform at the Pickle Barrel this Thursday. The band was formed in early 2012 by singer/songwriters Grahame Lesh, son of Phil Lesh who founded and played with The Grateful Dead, and Elliott Peck, along with bassist Connor O'Sullivan. The band's current lineup was completed when drummer/banjo player Nathan Graham came aboard.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED 1/24

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rhys Chalmers

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Mihali & Friends

7 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Tommy T-Bones

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

THURS 1/25

BARNARD

5:30 Fable Farm – Old Time Music Jam led by Randy Leavitt and Julia Wright

BRANDON

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

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Duane Carleton

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

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. The Freerider – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Midnight North

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

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

7 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand

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

FRI 1/26

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Patrick Sargent

KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown Duo

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Nick Bredice

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto

3 p.m. Rivershed – Aldous Collins

4 p.m. The Foundry – Jamie's Junk Show

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Lounge – Dan Skolar

7 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – McMurphys

7:30 p.m. Rivershed – Wintersong: A Celebration of Women Songwriters

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Garden State Radio

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Sean Patrick and the Alibis

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jamie's Junk Show

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Last Chair Band

LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Bobby Sheehan

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Reed Foehl feat. Jeff Berlin on Percussion

RUTLAND

6 p.m. VFW – Ryan Fuller

WOODSTOCK

2-5 p.m. Live music by ocal Sonny Saul.

SAT 1/27

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Co-Headliners Alec Preston & Mac O'Hara

KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Rhys Chalmers

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto Trio
2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Aaron Audet Band

5 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

6 p.m. Rivershed – Aldous Collins

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – KGB

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

7 p.m. Casey's Caboose – Ruby Street

7 p.m. North Star Lodge Lounge – Dan Skolar

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – McMurphys

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Garden State Radio

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet Band

9 p.m. Moguls Sportd Pub-Gully Boys

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Sean Patrick and the Alibis

10 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crows Nest – Jamie's Junk Show

LONDONDERRY

2 p.m. Black Line Tavern at Magic Mountain – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW

9 a.m. Okemo's Sunburst Six Bubble – Lift Party with DJ Dave

2 p.m. The Bull and Base68 Patio at Clocktower – Apres Afternoons: Derek Rando Duo

8 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Blue Fox

RUTLAND

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

SOUTH POMFRET

6 p.m. Artistree – Milonga with Live Music by Trio Tango Norte

STOCKBRIDGE

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

SUN 1/28

BRIDGEWATER

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Red Daisy Revival
1 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Kenny Mehler

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Rhys Chalmers

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

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Preston's at the Grand Hotel – Kenny Mehler

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic Night hosted by Indigenous Entertainment

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Hayley Jane with special guest Jelly

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

MON 1/29

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Chris Pallutto

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

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

LUDLOW

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

TUES 1/30

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

6 p.m. The Killarney – Trivia with Rick Davis

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

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Artistree Community Arts Center presents *milonga* with live music by Trio Tango Norte

Saturday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m.—SOUTH POMFRET— Artistree Community Arts Center, on 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret will present Tango Norte for a *milonga* (social dance). There will be a tango with a lesson starting at 6 p.m. with guest violinist Jakob Breitbach.

Eva Zimet will teach a few steps of the Argentinian style of tango, which is a social and improvisational style of dance. There are many versions of tango, but the Argentinian style is not choreographed. Trio Tango Norte will provide live music.

Options for the evening include a lesson for \$15 or the dance for \$20. The lesson and the dance is \$30 for the two. There will also be empanadas available for purchase.

About Tango Norte

Bob Merrill, Piano—

"In live performances, my goal is to find joy in the music. When I find it, everyone else feels it,"

Merrill said.

Merrill began



Submitted

playing piano when he was 5 years old and has played bass and piano professionally for more than 30 years, spanning a spectrum of styles. He can often be found playing jazz at local venues or playing private engagements with area musicians.

Merrill has been performing in the Upper Connecticut River Valley for more than 20 years. He has accompanied ballet classes for Pacific Northwest Ballet, for Jacques d'Amboise's National Dance Institute tour of New Hampshire schools, and for Michael Blevin's artist-in-residence theater projects at the Pomfret School. He has produced albums, jingles, and music for video and film, and he has been the composer and accompanying artist for Dartmouth Film Society's silent films since 1989. By day, he is a composer, producer, audio engineer, and technical consultant at his studio, Sweet Spot Digital. He grew up in Oregon and now makes his home in South Pomfret.

He has studied with Fred Haas, Tom McClung, Miro Sprague, and Latin Grammy winner Gustavo Casenave.

Thal Aylward, Violin—

A multi talented multi instrumentalist, Thal is also a multi genre specialist. He plays English Country Dance, Western Swing, Straight Ahead Rock, and Straight-Ahead Jazz, as well as being a serious classical violinist and violist.

He has been a pillar in Carlos Ocasio's Frydaddy, plays with the Stone Cold Roosters, not to mention numerous contradances with some of the finest players around.

Peter Concilio, Bass—

The founder and artistic director of the Hartland JazzFest, Peter continues to promote First Fridays at Skunk Hollow Tavern in Hartland, where he performs with local and regional jazz musicians each month.

In 2014, he launched "Silo Jazz" on the third Friday of the month at Silo Distillery in Windsor, where he performed with pianists Fred Haas and Bob Merrill and guitarist Billy Rosen, among others.

More recently, he has joined Tango Norte and looks forward to touring and recording with the quartet in the coming months.

For more information on the event, visit: artistreevt.org.

Rutland's Paramount Theatre will hold auditions for 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Sat. Jan. 27-Sun. Jan. 28 at 2 p.m.—RUTLAND—The Paramount Players and Stage Write will team up to produce one of off-Broadway's longest-running hit favorites, "The Little Shop of Horrors," on April 26-28 at Rutland's Paramount Theatre., 30 Center St., Rutland.

Featuring a live band, professionally designed costumes, and one much larger-than-life man-eating plant, this show will surely help kick those winter blues.

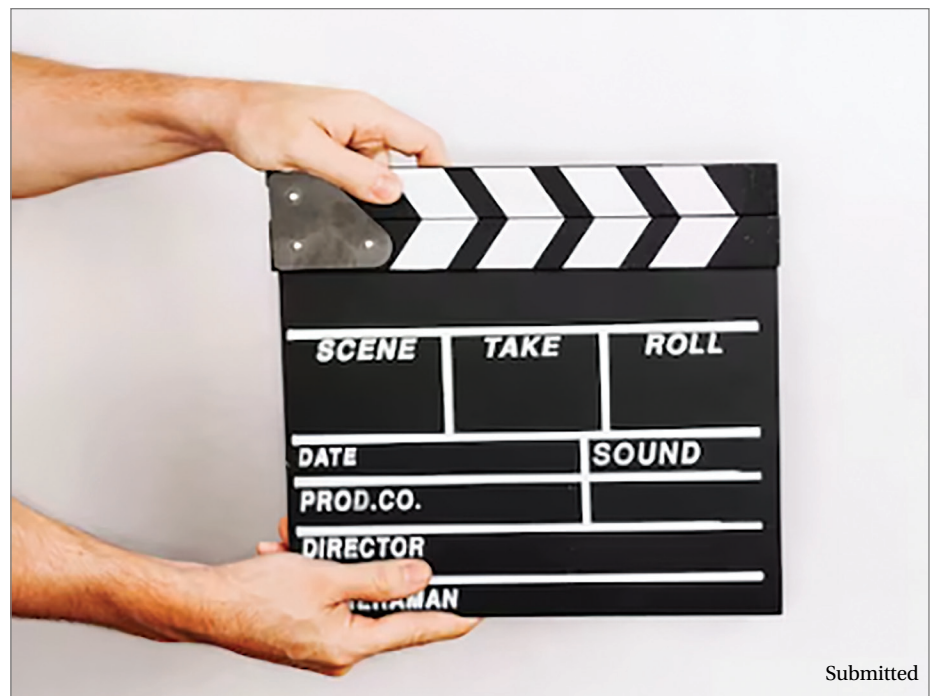
Auditions are Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 27-28, from 2-5 p.m. (in 10-minute increments) at The Paramount Theatre. No advance preparations are necessary for the audition.

Those interested must sign up for an audition time at: signup.com/go/pwOuPek.

Rehearsals (starting in early March) will be Sunday afternoons (1:30-6:30 p.m.) in addition to Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6-9 p.m.) on stage at The Paramount.

This production will feature an all-adult cast of 12-15 actors and actresses.

For questions and further information, e-mail: Hello@ParamountVT.org or visit: paramountvt.org/events-calendar.



Submitted

Killington provides an opportunity to give blood at the Grand Hotel

Thursday, Jan. 25 at 10 a.m.—KILLINGTON—The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Killington Grand Hotel from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

All donors will automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. Visit redcrossblood.org/superbowl for details.

Registration

Visit redcrossblood.org and enter KILLINGTON to schedule an appointment, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to reserve a donation time slot over the

phone.

If you are an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component. Maximize your blood donation and help more patients.

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daily specials to make your breakfast one of a kind. Just the right heat Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellini, VT Craft Brews, Coffee and hot chocolate drinks. Maple Syrup and VT products for sale. Check Facebook for daily specials. 802-422-4411.



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pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.



Inn at Long Trail

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Moguls

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Free shuttle and take away and delivery options are available. mogulssportspub.com 802-422-4777.



Mountain Top Inn

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Sugar and Spice

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www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832.



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Soup Dog

With a focus on soups and hotdogs, this restaurant offers a delicious and comforting menu for visitors and locals alike. Opening in the winter of 2023, Soup Dog invites guests to stop by and enjoy their tasty offerings.

The menu features a wide variety of soups, paired with delicious bread, as well as specialty hotdog toppings. Guests also have the option to create their own hotdog combinations. (802) 353-9277. Visit us on Facebook.

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Vermont's Free Ice Fishing Day includes an ice fishing festival to be held at Elmore State Park

Saturday, Jan. 27 at 11 a.m.—STATEWIDE—Vermont's state-wide Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January. The day is geared toward giving new ice anglers an opportunity to try ice fishing before purchasing equipment, but any angler may ice fish on any waterbody open to ice fishing statewide without a fishing license on Free Ice Fishing Day.

To celebrate, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. is holding an Ice Fishing Festival at Elmore State Park in Elmore. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free and open to all ages.

"The Ice Fishing Festival typically draws between 500-700 participants for a day of fishing, skill-building and community," said Education Specialist Corey Hart. "The annual event is moved around the state each winter, and we are excited to be back at Lake Elmore for 2024."

Vermont Fish & Wildlife staff, as well as instructors from Vermont's Let's Go Fishing Program, will be on-hand to teach ice fishing skills. These include knot tying, baiting and using

an ice fishing rod, and most importantly, how to stay safe on the ice. They will also discuss fishing regulations and fish identification. Dress for the weather, and ice cleats are strongly recommended.

"Ice fishing is one of the most accessible forms of fishing and can be a great way to introduce people to how much fun fishing can be," said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "This festival will demonstrate that ice fishing isn't just about catching fish. It's also a great way to spend some time outdoors with friends and family. You can skate, sled, make a snow fort, and have a cookout - all while waiting for the flags on your tip-ups to signal when you've caught a fish."

Fishing equipment will be loaned for this fun day on the ice, or participants may bring their own. For more information, visit the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website. Registration can be completed online in advance at register-ed.com/events/view/206074 or people may register when they arrive, although registering in advance will enable participants to get on the ice faster.



Courtesy Vt Fish & Wildlife Dept.
To celebrate Free Ice Fishing Day, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. will hold an Ice Fishing Festival for kids and others new to ice fishing at Elmore State Park in Elmore on Saturday, Jan. 27.

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Solutions

From page 11

Crossword

		S	A	M	A	R	A			B	A	H			
I	S	O	L	A	T	O	R			H	A	L	O		
S	T	R	I	D	E	N	T			A	A	H	E	D	
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I	M	A	M							A	N	S			
B	I	C	U	S	P	I	D			N	I				
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E			
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				R	M	A				E	R	S	E		
				C	H	E	W				L	T	V		
				D	I	E	S				R	A	B	I	A
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Sudoku

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

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Blue Cat Music Series begins its winter series

Fridays at 6 p.m.—CASTLETON—Last fall, Castleton's neighborhood hot spot, the Blue Cat bistro, partnered with George Nostrand of Rutland's A Sound Space to bring 10 shows to their venue, Fridays from mid-October through the end of the year.

Owner John Rehlen reached out to Nostrand after hearing about his successful bookings at Scotch Hill Brewing and Poultney Pub.

"We heard good things about George and have been wanting to do more music here," said Rehlen. "There are so many things to manage around here that having someone who knows a lot of musicians and how to coordinate this type of thing is really helpful."

The fall series was very successful and before it wrapped up Rehlen and Nostrand decided to host another series.

"It's very refreshing to work with a businessman like John and his team," said Nostrand. "Honestly, there are many venues that don't take presenting music seriously. John and his staff worked with me to install a p.a. system, put up lights and build a small stage. They have made it a welcoming place for musicians and a place where people will come to hear live music."

This time the series has been extended to feature several duo acts as well as solo artists. It will run every Friday, from Jan. 19-March 22.

"I'm really excited about this line-up," said Nostrand. "We're really building something here."

The first show is a duo, Ruby Street (Rob and Shelly Parker), who filmed some videos at Nostrand's business, A Sound Space.

Nostrand said, "I really fell in love with these two - musically and personally. It was fun working with them in the studio and I'm glad I get to bring them to Castleton."

The series wraps up with Krishna Guthrie, another client of A Sound Space, whose lineage is astounding.

"Sometimes I have to pinch myself when I think about the fact that Krishna is right here in Vermont," said Nostrand. "We've become close friends. He's one of the most humble people I know, but also one of the most talented. People should make it a point to come out and see him in these smaller venues while you still can."

Nostrand started booking musicians in recent years in an effort to support the local music scene and help facilitate professional working relationships between venues and artists.

"It's truly an honor to work with both the established musicians I've known for years and to get the opportunity to showcase some new talent."

For questions call, text or email George Nostrand at facebook.com/george.nostrand.1, asoundspacevt.com, or 802-417-7411

Winter 2024 Blue Cat Music Series Line-up

- Jan. 19 - Ruby Street
- Jan. 26 - Patrick Sargent Music
- Feb. 2 - Mitch Terricciano
- Feb. 9 - Scott Forest
- Feb. 16 - Laura Molinelli & Bay Campbell
- Feb. 23 - Des & Jim Gilmour
- March 1 - Rebecca Padula
- March 8 - Jared Johnson
- March 15 - Pat Daddona
- March 22 - Krishna Guthrie



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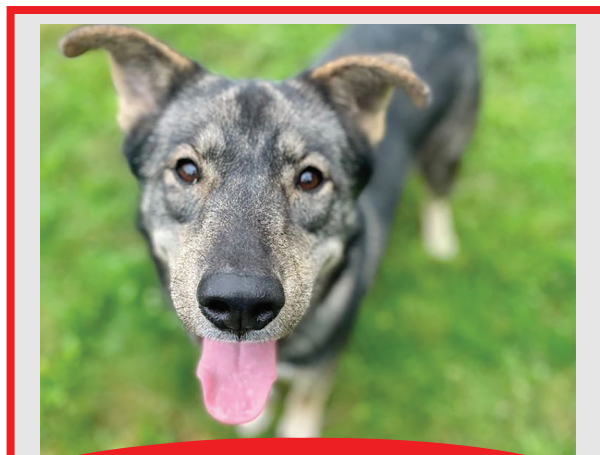
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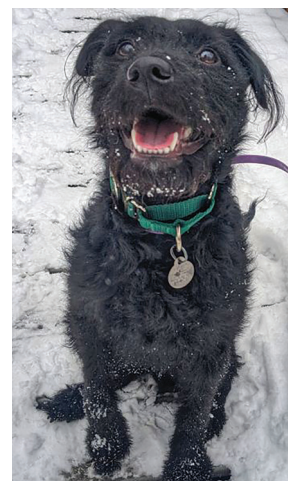
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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

You may begin to feel freer within your professional sphere than you've felt in many years now. You've learned many lessons, had many battles and now you're stronger for it. On a personal note, it may be more about your overall life direction and your big picture plans that you feel free to grasp. You now have a better idea of what deeply satisfies you in life. Your mission now is to chase it! What are you waiting for?

Leo July 21 - August 20

Whether you're single or partnered, relationships of all kinds are going to be your biggest area of influence now and over the upcoming several years. If things have seemingly gone south all of a sudden, then this week's Full Moon will help you reignite your spark and help you remember who you are. You're renowned for your generosity, be that your heart, your emotions, your words or your time and money. Don't forget that just because you're feeling unsure.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

There's some planetary play through your cash flow zone right now. Thus, as the first month of 2024 gets closer to becoming February, it's not too late to start thinking about your goals for the year. If you want to be in a different position this time next year, it's the small steps you take now that will make all the difference. A little frugality today will add flexibility for tomorrow. If need be, you may need to learn how to do this.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

The broad brush stroke this week is that your career and life direction is now set on an entire new trajectory that will last for decades. Now that you know this, use the energy of this week to think about what would bring increased meaning and purpose to your life. Sure, you can chase the next big thing career-wise but if it doesn't light you up spiritually or otherwise, then really, what is the point?

Virgo August 21 - September 20

All this Pluto in Aquarius talk may seem a little lost on you. While this event happens in the backdrop of your solar horoscope, it still has influence. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today. In other words, if your health is something you're wanting to improve, start now. If time management is something you want to be better at, figure it out. Life will bring you additional problems only you can solve!

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

What a glorious time it is to be you! As heavyweight Pluto leaves your sign, Venus arrives. For the first time in a very long time, you can look at life without intensity, drama or feeling like everything and everyone is some kind of test. For the first time, you can truly see dandelions and sunshine ahead. Do something special for yourself to mark this magical moment. The road ahead is actually quite wonderful for you.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

The world truly is your oyster right now. Whether it's been adventure and travel, spirituality or something greater in life, you're filled with excitement about these transformative possibilities. The catch? It's great to have these wonderful plans, but how will you finance them? There are some practical realities and careful planning you'd be wise to pay attention to. This also includes what you may share in partnership with someone else too.

Libra September 21 - October 20

Profound changes to the way in which you enjoy life and all its simple pleasures are now possible. Though recent years did serve up some limitations in this area, chances are, that thanks to them, you have a better idea of what you do and don't want. As you move forward this week and beyond, be laser sharp in your focus, settle for nothing less. At the same time, be open to possibilities you couldn't have imagined three years ago.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

The moment you've known about for some time now has arrived. Resist and fight if you must, but it's coming nonetheless. Or, you can start to get honest with yourself about the ways you know, deep down, you need to process, heal and grow. What you're going through is no walk in the park. You must know, however, that the other side of this journey is quite remarkable and worth every step of it.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

All of a sudden, it may feel as though a massive weight has been lifted from a key relationship in your life. The good news is, that drama or intensity you've been experiencing is all but gone. You now have a deeper understanding of what you do and don't want in partnership. Now, you're being invited to add some sweetness into your connections and patch up any parts that may need some TLC or that special nurturing touch you're renowned for.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

Life will get better and a little less intense if you just try and communicate more. I don't mean just talk or engage in conversation, neither. What I mean is that if you add some sweetness to the words you yourself speak, more sweet words will be spoken about you. It's a high tide raises all boats kind of thing. Let your guard down. Pay a compliment. See the good in people's flaws. You will feel so much better.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

You may be in a deeply reflective phase now that a very long friendship and networks cycle has now come to a close. Whoever still remains have likely stood the test of time in your life. Some, you may have lost in ways you wish you hadn't. While there may be cause for celebration and regret simultaneously, it's still important to be grateful and appreciate those you can draw in close. Life is short. Love your tribe ferociously.

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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.

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What if?

Well, it happened. Pluto entered Aquarius over the weekend. Apart from tying up a few loose ends in Capricorn later this year, Pluto — the Great Revealer, will spend the next 20 years reshaping our collective and personal lives.

If you've found yourself recently deeply questioning the shifting sands of time, then you're likely on track. If you're walking through life with your blinkers on and not thinking at all, then brace yourself!

Historically, Pluto in Aquarius tends to pose the question: what if? Thoughts and ideas that shape societies, the politics and people get put under the cosmic

microscope. Pluto behaves with increased intensity, rigidity and forcefulness when it tours fixed signs. While in Aquarius, an air sign, obstinate adherence to ideas and concepts that lack much basis in reality, soon morph into dangerous ideology.

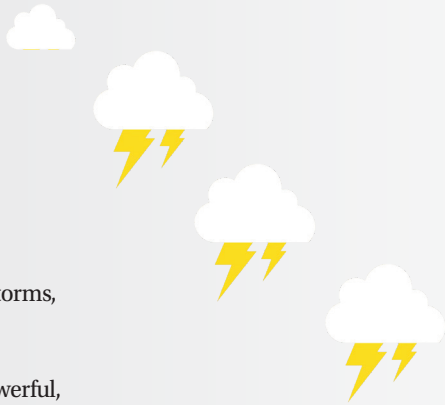
So while I loathe to tell you what or how to think or what opinion you should hold, I do dare you to question. An independent mind is powerfully creative and interesting. A mind that finds comfort in the crowd is blinded by propaganda. As Pluto in Aquarius finally takes a hold, the greatest challenge will be not to get caught up in the ideas of tyrants.



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

You are stronger than a storm

Storms,
The wind whistles,
The trees sway,
The snow flutters down.
The air is cold,
The wind bites your nose.
Icicles sparkle in the sun,
The world glitters,
As the storm rages on.
There are many types of storms,
Whether it's rain,
Wind or sea.
Storms are strong and powerful,
Just you see.
The world sends you storms all the time,
Tough problems and challenges,



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

But you are strong and powerful,
You get through them.
You are stronger than a storm!

Think Snow and the Zen mogul flow

When I was 5 my dad taught me to ski on a tiny slope in northern New Jersey. I remember the first time I grabbed a rope tow. I grasped it tightly with mittened hands and catapulted forward above the ground. The snow was soft and it didn't hurt in spite of doing a somersault. Dad picked me up and dusted snow off, then I tried again 'til I grasped it just right.

We skied High Point in the Catskill Mountains 'til Dad bought two acres in Killington under 6-feet of snow from Oren Bates in 1958. Killington Ski Area had just begun. We built our ski lodge on weekends and vacations and drove up from Montclair, New Jersey. Once we had a basement to stay in, Dad and I skied Pico Peak and Okemo where the infamous Poma lift sent me sky high. I landed in a snow drift on my derriere like many of its riders unexpectedly did.

Soon we began to ski Killington Mountain. I practiced the snowplow on the bunny slopes, then little by little skied parallel. The Cat Walk required a brand new technique. Dad taught me to side-step and slide down safely.

I went on to schuss and gained confidence in speed. Eventually I realized my favorite thing was skiing over moguls, a series of mounds, that covered the slopes that I loved most with bumps. I

learned to lean forward with bended knees, hips swerving and swiveling, while maneuvering the curves. Once over the top, I flew through the air then landed, changed direction, and began once again. When I mastered the Zen Mogul Flow, I overcame fear and no longer fell while conquering trails with moguls galore. The movements resembled an exhilarating dance.

I skied out West in powdery snow, a different experience from ice in the East. One time at Snowbird I was mistaken. The trail had ended and turned to the side. I had no idea and

Mountain Meditation → 27

Pine Cones: The Complicated Lives of Conifer Seeds

My yard is full of Eastern white pine trees, and every three years or so, it is full of pine cones. This is one of those years. Pine cones have fallen all over the yard, the sidewalk, the driveway. The neighborhood wildlife seem pleased by this bounty. A resident gray squirrel has made a fallen log in my yard its snack site. Pine cone fragments are neatly arranged in a circle around the squirrel's perch.

Synchronized conifer mast cycle—or the yearly variation in the number of cones produced—vary by species. For Eastern white pines, cone “mast years,”—when the trees produce a large number of cones—occur every few years. Mast years benefit the trees through a phenomenon ecologists call “predator swamping.” When multiple trees produce masses of seeds all at once, there are more seeds than predators can eat, and some of these seeds therefore have a chance at germinating. Non-mast years give trees time to recover their energetic reserves, and also to starve out seed predators. By the time the next mast year arrives, the predator population—having diminished with less available food—will be relatively sparse.

A white pine tree produces both male and female cones. The cones we find on the ground are female. Male cones look like miniature versions of the female cones and release yellow pollen during spring. You've likely noticed this pollen coating your driveway – and, perhaps, causing sneezing fits. Conifers are wind-pollinated, so the powder-like pollen grains reach female cones on the breeze. Pollen grains that land inside the developing female cone fertilize an embryo there, and that embryo becomes a seed.

After seeds have developed, pine cones open in dry weather, and seeds are dispersed by wind. If you hold a freshly dropped female cone with the pointed end facing up, you'll see the seeds sitting close to the stem, just above the pine cone scales, those individual woody pieces that give the cone its shape. A white pine seed looks a bit like a maple seed lodged inside the cone, with a papery tail extending the length of the scale. This tail acts like a kite. During rainy weather, the moisture-sensitive scales of a pine cone close to keep the seeds dry and protect them from rot.

Pine seeds contain plentiful nutrients and protein, which are necessary for a new pine tree to get its start – and also a prize for animals seeking calories. Small mammals collect seeds during autumn and cache them for winter snacking. Some seed predators, such as red squirrels, cache the whole cones. Many bird species are frequent pine seed eaters. Red-breasted nuthatches cache pine seeds underneath tree bark, while red-

and white-winged crossbills have specialized beaks that allow them to pick seeds from the cones. Gregarious pine siskins are also frequent conifer seed eaters and during winter may appear in large flocks in areas with abundant pine cones.

These seed collectors can help propagate the next generation of pines. Squirrels and nuthatches forget some of their caches, giving these seeds a chance to grow into trees. Seeds cached by squirrels are already buried in the soil, offering them a head start toward growth.

Eastern white pine is one of the most common pines in the Northeast. White pines grow fast and well on old agricultural

land, giving this species the nickname of “old field pine” or “pasture pine.” However, there are several other conifer species in the region that have their own masting cycles.

If you live in northern New England or New York, you may have white or red spruce, which drop their cones less than a year after the cone starts to develop. Jack pines may take more than a decade

to drop cones. Pitch pines, found across much of the East Coast, can take 10 years to drop cones, but these won't open until the heat-sensitive cones have experienced fire.

Rather than gathering and disposing of the pine cones that have dropped in your field or yard, consider leaving them for wildlife. If you must clear the yard, perhaps leave some cones in a pile for the resident squirrels, mice, and birds. Keep an eye on the pile – the pine cones may soon be stripped of their seeds.

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 the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: www.nhcf.org.



The Outside Story
By Jenna O'del



Kicking things off

The company I work for just had our annual managers' meeting. It was a chance to bring our satellite teams together in one room to share information, highlight wins and losses, and engage in some supportive training. We try to make it fun and informative since most of the people involved must travel away from their families to participate.

The teams arrived last Tuesday morning and checked into the conference center where the event was taking place. It was a nice, clean location, albeit a little dated. The plan was to get things started by lunchtime, have a full day on Wednesday, and get them out the door by noon on Thursday.

Since I am part of the corporate management team, I was busy doing important things like setting up the projector in the conference room and making sure there were enough bags of chips and water available at the snack table.

In the weeks leading up to this event, I took it upon myself to make sure the flow of information was presented in a palatable manner. With 13 speakers on the agenda, the scenario was ripe for failure if the content was not engaging.

Anyone who has ever sat through a multi-day corporate presentation knows that it can be brain-draining, and if the event is not handled correctly, you'll lose your audience before they get through the second speaker.

Being a wily veteran (and someone a bit creative), I told the guy running the event that we had to have a theme for the occasion. Since we had already been referring to it as our "kickoff" meeting, we opted to go with a football metaphor.

Over the last month, I went to work bringing this idea to fruition. The first thing I did was order 50 of those tiny stress footballs with our company logo screen printed on the side. The plan was to put them at each table as a cool gift that might initiate an impromptu game of catch with the more outgoing participants.

Then I ordered a bunch of football party supplies from Amazon.com (it's amazing how much stuff you can get for \$20). This meant that the tables we had reserved for food would be covered with cloths resembling football fields. The plates, cups, and napkins all had the same football theme emblazoned on them as well.

The beverages and snacks we picked out were what you would expect at an actual football game (minus the alcohol, of course). And while raw peanuts in the shell would be an obvious addition, we opted against it given

the mess that would likely create.

When it came to the actual presentation, I made sure all the speakers delivered their slides to me well ahead of time so I could adapt them to a central theme. My years of creating corporate presentations have taught me that disjointed slides that have no coherence make for an uncomfortable flow of information.

It took a solid week to put together everyone's slides, but the end result was worth it. The final tally was 257 slides, which seems like a lot. But the truth is, the more slides you use during a presentation, the better chance you have at holding your audience's attention—especially if they are visually enticing.

However, what really made things jump was the short, 45-second intro videos I did for each speaker. As each speaker approached the podium, a video would play, featuring the NFL theme song accompanied by a football motif that would allude to that speaker's department (e.g. top management was a barrage of coaches cheering on players; the HR team was linemen creating openings; and marketing was the flashy touchdown celebrations).

The icing on the cake was a replica Vince Lombardi Super Bowl trophy that we planned to award to the top region at the end of the year. We sat it on a table under cover at the front of the room for all three days, making it a mystery until our COO unveiled it during the last hour.

And other than someone getting hit in the eye with a tiny football on the second day, things couldn't have gone better.

This week's feature, "Bye Bye Barry," is a documentary film that follows the career of one of the NFL's most explosive running backs and someone known to be able to take a hit both in and out of the game.

At the height of his career and on the verge of breaking the league's all-time rushing record, the Detroit Lions' marquee player, Barry Sanders, quietly walked away from the game of football. Mystery has surrounded his decision for years; this film attempts to put the rumors to rest.

I remember watching Sanders as he burst onto the scene during the 1990s. He was humble and yet electrifying. Watching his highlights (which abound in the film) gives you a wonderful glimpse at the talent he embodied.

Check this one out if you're curious how someone at the epoch of their career could quietly walk away.

A hasty "B+" for "Bye Bye Barry," now available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Lifelines and stationary drills

We all know the feeling. You ski or ride around the corner, stoked to get back on the lift and head up for another run. As the lifeline comes into view, your shoulders droop and all your energy seems to immediately swoop away. You quickly calculate the odds. Would it be better to wait in this lifeline or take your chances and ski down to the next lift. With a sigh of reluctance, you make your choice and ... queue up with the rest of them. And wait.

As the commercial season has finally commenced and the weather has been running havoc on our lift system, the lines have grown measurably. I know our lift team has been working extra hard, climbing frozen cables as they work to hammer off the ice and all other dangerous measures just so we can ski or ride. I am certainly not going to complain that so many people want to be at Killington; I want to be here, too. So I certainly cannot fault anyone for that.

What I can get frustrated at is the missed opportunity these lifelines create. So many people just stand in line, getting crankier and crazier because they could have taken another run if the line wasn't so long — I remember hour-long lifelines at the Needle's Eye Double as a kid — where we had a blast!

When we were kids, my dad played all kinds of games with us in the lifeline, so much so that we would actually ask to ride the NE Double just so we could stand on the line with him. Unbeknownst to us, my dad had my sister and I doing classic stationary drills with a purpose — to make our skis become extensions of our feet.

Our poles were just longer arms. Over these lifelines, our equipment became part of us, of who we are.

Try and lift the tip of your ski with only your toes — are your shin and ankle strong enough to actually lift the tip off the ground? Now that you have that lifted, hold it there

Living the Dream → 27



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Handwritten recipes

With the ease of finding recipes online the cookbooks and recipe cards of yesteryear will become history. And so will the stories that go along with them.



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

I wish I had saved my mother's cookbook with its iconic green cover. But when my husband, Peter, and I moved into my family home it was one of the things that got thrown out to make room for my own cookbooks. Space was limited and only mine would fit in the rack. With age comes wisdom, as they say. Now I can understand that you make room for things like that ... somewhere else in the kitchen!

In searching online it appears that my mother's cookbook was called An American Woman's Cookbook. I remember numerous markers throughout the book so she could find her favorite recipes easily. Over the years I have often wondered what those were and wished I could have tried making them myself.

My own favorite cookbook is the Better Homes and Gardens Cookbook — with the red and white checkered cover. It is also filled with markers so I don't have to consult the index to find the things I frequently make. Over the years some pages have come loose and are tucked in where they belong. Spills are evident showing the remains of whatever I was making.

Recipe cards have a history all their own. Many of them say "From the kitchen of" with a line where the person writes their name. Peter made me a wooden recipe box to hold the cards. When the box was full I began using binders with plastic inserts designed to hold recipe cards.

I hadn't looked at the box or the binders for quite some time. Today I decided to browse through them and see what I would find. The recipes were all given to me from the '70s through the '80s.

The best part was finding my mother's handwritten cards. Apparently in the early days of our marriage I needed recipes for party hors d'oeuvres. I found a tasty sounding one that used bite-sized hot dog pieces and another one called "chili con queso." I hope they were a hit!

There were also some recipes from my mother that were marked "Pete's favorites." Those included meat balls, meatloaf and goulash.

My mother ended some meals with "Angel Cake a la crème." It consists of layered cake pieces with whipped cream between the layers and topped with coconut. That recipe could be resurrected in the near future for sure!

My late relative, Loyola McDonough, gave me a recipe for Watergate Salad and the card says "from Royal's." I wonder if she asked restaurant owner, Ernie Royal, for the recipe. Loyola's friend, Cecily Powers, contributed a recipe for spinach dip. An interesting side note says, "Use only Carr's water chestnuts from Grand Union."

Looking back → 27

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← **Mountain Meditation:**
from page 24

skied straight ahead, jumping gracefully over a ridge. Lucky for me, the powder was deep. Nothing was broken. I had no injuries.

While studying in Europe I lugged my skis from Monaco to Paris, and then through the Alps. While summer skiing on a glacier in Austria, a sunny day turned to a raging storm. I could barely see my hand in front of my face and climbed to a cave to ascend to the lodge. While catching my breath at its entrance (Kitzstein Mountain is 3,200 meters high), a bolt of lightning struck the ground. I felt the shock and explosion. I was shaken and pale but still okay. My ski boots were grounded and saved my life.

Another near miss was due to my poor German language skills. I didn't understand "Achtung Spalten." When I saw the signs, I continued on, not realizing I was crossing crevasses skiers could fall into and never be found.

The other danger I was spared from (like a cat with nine lives), by the grace of God, was skiing in areas where avalanches were common. I didn't know. I hadn't a clue. But I didn't yodel and never hollered, so the snow decided to stay where it was.

I wish I could still ski but several injuries have made me stop bicycling and skiing. But if I close my eyes and visualize, I can recreate the way I felt, swaying and zig zagging up over moguls on my favorite Killington slope. If you ski and head up the lift, please take a run down the Mountain for me.

Marguerite Jill Dye is an artist and writer who divides her time between Vermont and Florida.

← **Living the Dream:**
from page 25

for as long as possible. Take a quick break, lift the tip back up and now use your small twitch muscles to slowly twist the ski left and right. Think about engaging your big and little toes to move the ski side to side with only the tail on the snow. You just became a better skier.

Now try the same thing, but lifting the entire ski off the ground. Start by using your poles for balance but eventually try to sink into your boots and step relying on your poles. They won't be there when you're skiing, so don't rely too much on them now. Next, work on rotating your entire leg left to right, slowly twisting the ski in the air. Can you actually feel your femur rotating in the hip socket? You just became a better skier.

These are just two of a million different stationary exercises you can practice in the lifeline instead of just standing there being cranky. If you think about how much time you spend in the lifeline not becoming a better skier, think about how much better you could be if you practiced instead of simply standing and pouting. You don't even need your skis — you can do these on the gondola line with just your boots. You won't get stronger, but your muscles will get smarter. You just became a better skier.

When we were kids, we rode the Poma for hours. Over and over again, up the Poma to run gates on Upper Bunny Buster. And we did those exercises while being pulled up the hill. We thought we were playing games. But you know what? I know exactly where my skis are at all times, how long they are, how they move whether on snow or in the air. My skis are a part of me, not just something that I strap onto my feet for a few hours a day.

Redirect your thinking and contemplate how you can use the waiting period to become a better skier. Strike up a conversation with the person in line next to you and work on becoming a better person. Skiing and riding present us with so many opportunities to be greedy and selfish and powder hungry that we forget that it also brings us moments where we can choose to be grateful for the opportunity to elevate our existence (pun totally intended).

If you see Team PomPom doing crazy weird things in the lifeline, I dare you to join us on a challenge. I bet my kids can hold their ski in the air longer than you can!

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local realtor, bartender and ski bum. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@FourSeasonsSIR.com.



← **Looking back:**
from page 25



Submitted

Some of my mother's friends had contributed recipes that were in the box. Locals may remember their names: Loretta Mulhern (seafood casserole), Mary Murphy (chicken divan) and Margaret Leamy (corned beef casserole). A person can get hungry just browsing through that box!

A specific time in my life unfolded as names from the '80s showed up representing my days of working at New England Telephone. Florence Abel wrote a recipe for delicious velvet almond chocolate cake. Bea Holliger contributed directions for making snow drop cookies and ginger snaps. She used to bring those into the office and they were a hit!

My neighbors over the years have given me cards that I found in my recipe binders. Apparently I had an abundance of zucchini during a gardening season back in the '80s. Nancy Canfield helped me out with a recipe for beef zucchini pie and also zucchini bread. Sue Roberts wrote out a recipe for a no crust quiche made with Bisquick. It's easy and delicious. I have made it multiple times when there is an abundance of zucchini. The quiche can be frozen in individual slices.

Moving on to my days at Rutland City Hall from 1984 until 2004...Cathy Cioffi (now Taggart) gave me a great recipe for no-cook frosting. She brought cakes into the office topped with that and they were delicious. Meg Grace gave me a recipe for microwave pickles that became an annual treat.

I think you get the picture! Handwritten recipes take you through the various stages of your life as you remember the people who took the time to write out a recipe for you. You may get recipes digitally but to me they will never take the place of handwritten cards and the "forever memories" that go with them.

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← Pfeifberger : from page 2

slogan or tagline "With Poldi a Flush Beats A Full House" which he displayed on sweatshirts for marketing. He happily handed them out to many people especially the pretty ladies in town.

During his skiing and entertaining years, Poldi met an attractive young lady, also a professional ski instructor at Killington, and Summit Lodge employee, where he played music and she waitressed. The zipper on her coat had broken, and it was a freezing cold day, so he offered to take her ski class, and little did he know the relationship had begun. At the end of the ski season, he finally asked her out just before going home for the Summer. After 4 years of going back and forth to his homeland eventually asked for her hand in marriage to be the love of his life, forever. He married Dale Hardy on Oct. 11, 1969, in Littleton, Massachusetts down the hill from where Dale grew up.

In 1972 the happily married couple purchased their first condo at Hemlock Ridge off the Killington access Road. A shag carpet where a soft cushy bean bag finally worked and their son, Leopold "PJ" Pfeifberger IV was born nine months later in Oct. 1974.

Poldi's business was growing, and he now had six employees who were able to put a deposit on a piece of land in North Sherburne. Eventually through the help of another friend and the best Austrian builder around, Adi Staudinger, Chalet Pfeifberger had been constructed and they moved in the fall of 1979 and continued to add to it over these years.

PJ had his 5th birthday party at the new house where Dale's father, Daddy Dana did an amazing magic show for the birthday goers and pulled a new baby rabbit out of a cake pan that we had had for many years.

Later that night as things were winding down the phone rang, and the news changed our lives forever. It was Klaus, Poldi's youngest brother, calling to let us know that there had been a terrible accident and that they had lost their middle brother, Peter, and his sister In-law, and grandma in a horrific car wreck. The only ones to survive were the kids. A son of whom was in a coma and the other daughter, Ulrike was paralyzed from the waist down. The good news was that the son's health eventually improved, and he came home to America and gave PJ a new 22-month-old baby brother, Gerald. The daughter ended up staying in Austria with a loving aunt and her husband. Gerald's sister, Ulrike, has become a doctor. Poldi was very proud of all the children.

He is survived by his wife Dale H. Pfeifberger; sons Leopold "PJ" Pfeifberger IV of S. Burlington and Gerald Pfeifberger of Killington; brother Klaus Anton Pfeifberger and wife Edith of Salzburg, Austria; Dana Hardy, Dale's brother from New Hampshire & Florida and several cousins, nieces, and nephews. He also has one handsome grandson Leopold "Leo" Pfeifberger V from South Burlington.

He was predeceased by his parents, Leopold and Maria Pfeifberger. Also, his middle brother Peter Pfeifberger and wife Elfrieda.

Friends and family may call on Friday Jan. 26, 2024, from 4-6 p.m. at the new Killington Fire Station, 800 Killington Rd. Killington.

A Funeral service will be held at Our Lady of the Mountains Church at 1 pm on Saturday Jan. 27 in Killington. Arrangements were made under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorial Contributions may be made to the Killington Pico Rotary Club.

Anthony Russo reclaims painting passion

By Victoria Gaither

French Painter Henri Matisse said, “Creativity takes courage.” It took a lifetime of courage for Painter Anthony Russo to find his brush stroke as a painter and artist.

“I always liked painting, but getting a regular job got in the way, and I had three boys,” said Russo.

He also thought “that I wasn’t good enough and switched majors” in college to have a successful career as a tax accountant later.

Somewhere inside Russo, the math wasn’t adding up, and he ventured into picking up the brush and painting again.

Russo lives on the New Jersey Shore but spends winter in Killington and serves as a Killington Ambassador, also known as the “green coats” on the mountain, who greet guests and answer questions.

“There are a lot of things I get out of the program. I have met all kinds of people. I enjoy meeting people and being out on the mountain. It’s a cool way to give back,” he said.

Two years ago, finishing up his day on the mountain, he saw a beautiful sunset over the ski patrol hut, and as he explained, “The sky lit up, and I was waiting for the last chair and saw this sky. I took a picture.”

On advice from another ambassador, he later painted the scene. “I decided to paint the Killington ski patrol hut,” he said. He sold 50 prints, with all monies donated to the Vermont Adaptative Ski and Sports Program, something he is still proud to speak about

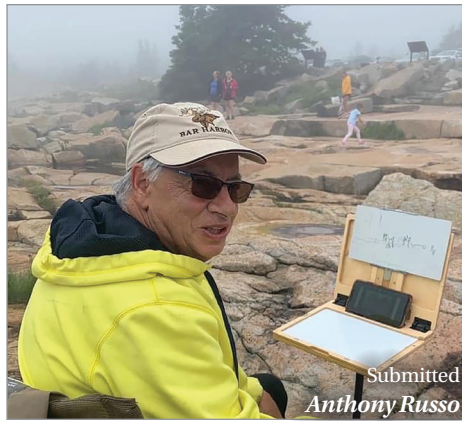
today. Russo uses acrylics, oils, and inks as his medium. He finds inspiration in everyday life and on social media.

Russo has seen picture-worthy scenes through social media and will turn them into a painting with permission from the photographer. His work has won competitions, been sold, and been seen on walls, but what’s most important is the ability to create.

“I want to do good things. Art is a reminder when it’s on the wall of something that brings you joy and evokes some feeling,” he said in a recent phone interview.

Art connects him to the mountain, helping charities like Mary by the Sea and Vermont Adaptative Ski and Sports Program. And it feeds his soul.

To learn more about his work and see other pieces, visit his website: the3sart.com.



The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce honors grocery stores

OKEMO VALLEY—Following the 2023 summer flooding, grocery stores around the region have gone above and beyond, demonstrating exceptional dedication and community spirit. The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce selected six grocery stores as the January 2024 Members of the Month to honor their commitment and the work that they do to serve the region.

The January 2024 Award recipients are:

- Chloe’s Market at the Plymouth Country Store
- Londonderry Village Market
- Shaw’s Supermarket (online only with local pick-up)
- Singleton’s General Store
- Smitty’s Chester Market
- Springfield Food Co-op

At the heart of their operations, these stores care deeply about their customers, and they continue to provide high-quality and wide-ranging selections during this busy winter season.

The 2023 summer flooding has been difficult, and many have had to spend considerable effort and finances on rebuilding; however, stores in the area have remained committed to serving the community.

They’re focused on creating convenient and welcoming shopping experiences with ease for all.

Recognizing the importance of the busy ski season as a prime time for visitors and locals, these grocery stores have taken proactive measures to cater to the needs of their customers this winter. From carefully curating their inventory to stocking up on essential supplies to expanding their grocery offerings, they are committed to providing seamless and enjoyable shopping opportunities for everyone.

For more information, contact: Carol Lighthall, executive director, Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce at clighthall@yourplaceinvermont.com, or call 802-228-5830.

← Hartland budget:..... from page 5

This year Quechee-Hartland Road is also going to be “re-engineered” in addition, and paving prices have risen significantly.

The warning will include two independent spending articles, Hobbie said.

Voters are asked to approve \$150,000 for installation of lights at the new intersection. VHB Engineering Consultants omitted the new lights when designing the project.

VHB has agreed to provide extensive engineering services at their cost, leaving only the labor and materials, which Hartland would have had to pay for if lights were in the plan.

“We expect to receive grants to replenish the capital fund,” Hobbie said.

Article 10 asks voters to commit up to \$100,000 for purchasing 75 acres, and a conservation easement preventing development, of the Pohl property on Bischoff Road. The Conservation Commission hopes to raise part or all of the \$100,000 in time to cover the town’s part in the possible purchase.

Meanwhile, John Broker-Campbell will start as Hartland’s new town manager on Feb. 5, relieving Dole of his interim additional duties.

“Martin and the Select Board have performed the town manager job since previous town manager David Ormiston was put on leave in March 2023,” Hobbie said. “John will shoulder the burden that the board and Martin have carried, and we’ll become his support team rather than town managers.”

“There will be a ‘honeymoon’ period during which Broker-Campbell can rely on us for support,” Hobbie said, “but in diminishing amounts over time.”



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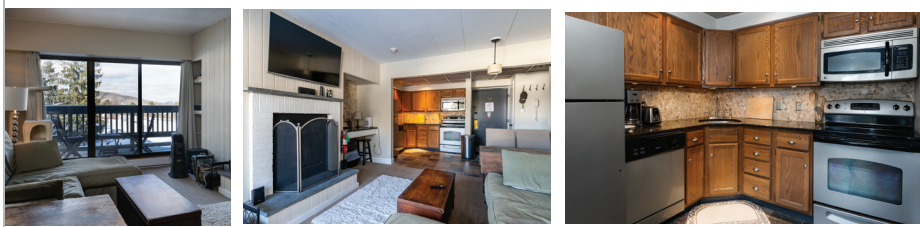
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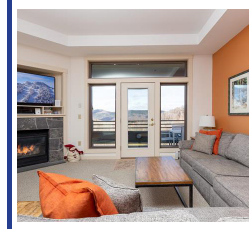
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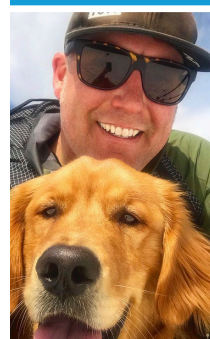
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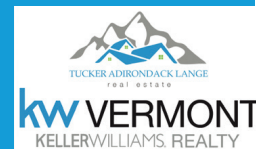
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