



PICO SKI SWAP FIRST OF THE SEASON

Head to Pico Friday through Sunday to get the first selection gear and clothes for the winter season.

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FINAL PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS FOR SCHOOLS' PHONE-FREE POLICY

Woodstock Middle/High School is holding its final two phone-free public input meetings Thursday, Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 4, at 8 a.m. at the school library. Implementation will follow. Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock this is your chance to have a say!



TOO MANY POT SHOPS?

The Cannabis Control Board voted last week to pause all new retail licenses in Vt.

Page 2



Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins Wednesday, Oct. 2, at sunset and ends Friday night, Oct. 4. Rosh Hashanah begins ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur, Oct. 11-12.

Killington's new owners group to invest \$30m in on-mountain capital improvements

Sale to local owners closed without debt Friday, Sept. 27

Killington Resort finalized its sale from Powdr to local, independent ownership on Friday, Sept. 27. The new ownership group, led by Phill Gross and Michael Ferri, is committed to reinvesting all profits into capital improvements "for the foreseeable future" and announced \$30 million in on-mountain investment as the first of many phases of capital improvements.

"We are all looking forward to a bright future of independence, which would not be possible without many successful years under the Powdr umbrella," said Killington President and Chief Executive Officer, Mike Solimano. "Powdr's investment and management set the tone for the great years to come."

With the sale's closure, notably completed with zero net debt, the resort will begin to undertake several projects to improve the guest experience. Planned capital investment projects for the next two seasons, totaling \$30 million, include:

- Snowguns: A two-year investment to purchase 1,000 new low-energy HKD Tower & Fan Guns. About 500 new guns are in the process of being installed at Killington and Pico ahead of the 2024-25 season, with the remainder being installed summer 2025. Four new fully automated fan guns will be installed at the bottom of the Superstar trail before this season as well.
- Superstar lift replacement: Converting the Superstar Express Quad to a high-speed six-pack. Installation is expected to happen in summer 2025.
- Skyship Gondola revitalization: All new gondola cabins (116 in total) will be installed summer 2025 and a new gondola storage barn in Northbrook will

\$30m investment → 2



Courtesy Killington Resort

Killington investors Phill Gross (left) and Michael Ferri (right) stand with resort President/CEO Mike Solimano (center) in front of the K-1 Gondola after the investors officially closed the deal with Powdr to purchase the resort, Friday, Sept. 27.



Walmart Supercenter planned at former Diamond Run Mall in Rutland

New store plans to open in 2027

Staff report

This past Tuesday, Sept. 24, Walmart told the Town of Rutland Select Board that plans will be submitted to relocate the existing Walmart store at 90 Shopping Plaza Road in Rutland City to the site of the former Diamond Run Mall, south of the city just off Route 7.

The new store will be a Supercenter, offering groceries (with produce and meats), a bakery, a deli, a drive through pharmacy and 45 spaces for online pickup, auto care, and eye care to its offerings in Rutland.

The new 170,995 square foot store is expected to create an additional 100 full- and part-time jobs, while also keeping all existing jobs from the current location, according to the news release. The project will also create 100-150 construction jobs through the relocation project.

"We look forward to the opportunity to grow in Rutland," said Chris Buchanan, Walmart's director of government affairs and state and local government relations. "This new

Supercenter → 4

Water woes in Woodstock

Town to hold two votes to acquire Woodstock Aqueduct Company

By Katy Savage

After more than a year of discussion and negotiation, Woodstock has a plan to acquire the Woodstock Aqueduct Company, which has been a private utility since the late 1800s.

Town Manager Eric Duffy presented the plan on Sept. 23. He said the Select Board will call a special town meeting on Oct. 29, where residents will be asked for town approval to use \$457,000 of the town's undesignated fund balance to purchase

Woodstock water → 5



The new owners group announced plans to invest in 1,000 new low-energy HKD Tower and Fan Guns over the next two years.

← **\$30m investment:**
from page 1

be constructed in future years.

- Summer investment including mountain bike trail expansion.

“The timing of what’s going on here is really exciting: the timing of the village and the new housing in conjunction with investment in the mountain itself. I think it’s really going to be great to see over the next several years,” said Ferri.

Details of the sale, including the complete list of 16 investors and final sale price will not be disclosed; however, Great Gulf and Powdr will remain involved as minority investors.

“The successful sale of Killington Resort represents a significant milestone for the mountain, and we are excited to play a role in its future,” said Michael Sneyd, president of Great Gulf Resort Residential. “With the new ownership group’s deep-rooted passion for Killington and the significant investments planned in the coming years, together with our vision for a four-season village, Killington will

become the worldclass destination for residents and visitors alike.”

Guests can expect the same high level of quality and service from the new ownership group in the coming seasons, the new owners group stated in a Sept. 30 news release.

“We are happy to leave operations in the capable hands of the management team at Killington,” said Phill Gross. “The third party we used to help vet Killington told us they were ‘one of the best in the business.’ And this tells us to basically leave them alone and let them do what they do to continue to make the customer experience and operations of Killington and Pico the best they can possibly be.”

The resort will also have a new board of directors, including influential local businessman and director of Casella Waste Management John Casella, owner of the Snowed Inn Carolyn Kepcher, and long-time local and Killington Mountain School

board member Mike Hone.

The news release also noted the Superstar lift replacement will affect spring skiing this season and potentially the 2025 Stifel Killington Cup.

“We do plan to make more snow in the North Ridge and Canyon areas to offer late-spring skiing and riding and are working with the lift manufacturer to finalize the construction plan for the lift before making the call on the 2025 Killington Cup and announcing firm details of our spring operations plan,” Solimano said.

Additional details on each capital improvement will be outlined at the annual Resort Update, held Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 5-8 p.m. at the K-1 Lodge. Community members are invited and encouraged to RSVP (see page 8). This will be the first time Gross and Ferri will introduce themselves to the community and speak directly about their plans for the resort.

For more info, visit: killington.com.

Cannabis Control Board to pause new retail licenses

The Cannabis Control Board voted Wednesday, Sept. 25, to temporarily close the window for new retail and tier 2 cultivation applications in Vermont.

“The Board is committed to adapting to changing market conditions,” the news release stated.

At Wednesday’s meeting, all three of the board’s members spoke of their concern for oversaturation in the regulated cannabis market.

“We know that these have dramatic consequences, and it’s not just about whether we close this licensee type or that license type, it’s how we do it,” said Chair James Pepper.

Regarding retail density, Pepper said the market is currently experiencing an “unnatural distribution” in retail locations. In its most recent session, the General Assembly passed Act 166, instructing the board to adopt rules promoting geographic distribution.

However, rulemaking is an intensive, months-long process. While it is underway, a temporary pause in new applications is a necessary interim step.

Retail applicants now have until Oct. 25, 2024 to submit a new application. For applications already in progress, applicants have until Nov. 15, 2024 to complete all requirements needed for board approval at the November meeting: a fully completed application, a certificate of occupancy (if required), and a successful site review. The board’s licensing team will reach out to those with retail applications in process.

Cultivation deadlines

Chair Pepper noted that the Vermont cannabis market is approaching a seasonal oversupply shock with the arrival of the 2024 outdoor crop, making near-term supply shortages unlikely.

Tier 2 cultivation applicants also have until Oct. 25, 2024 to complete all requirements needed for board approval at the October meeting. Tier 2 cultivation (1,000-2,500 square feet of plant cover) now joins the larger tiers 3-5 which were previously closed. Tier 2-5 outdoor and mixed cultivation licenses in seasonal closure will not reopen.

Tier 1 cultivation applications (for those under 1,000 square feet) will remain open as part of the CCB’s effort to preserve the small-scale, craft nature of the market.

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Three new homes at the Vistas at Sunrise break ground

The Vistas at Sunrise recently broke ground on the final phase of the Vistas including three four-bedroom, 4,000 square foot homes in Sunrise Village in Killington. These homes will complete the subdivision, marking a significant milestone for the community.

The first house of this final phase of construction is expected to be complete during next ski season.

Jim Haff, the zoning administrator for the town of Killington, signed off on the permits Tuesday, Oct. 1 for the final three houses in The Vista's development — adding to the existing three homes.

Haff expressed his support for the project, stating: "We are excited about the positive impact this project will have on the residents and the Killington community at large. We eagerly await the completion of these exceptional homes."

The location was originally selected for its spectacular mountain vistas and location within Killington's only ski-on and ski-off community, Sunrise Village. Sunrise has evolved through the years to include many amenities for its community plus a dedicated chair lift.

"As the Killington Resort embarks on a new era with a recent change in ownership, the timing of this ground-breaking couldn't be more fitting. This ownership change will kick off exciting new developments at the Resort, coinciding with the addition of these remarkable new homes in Sunrise Village," stated developers, Alfonse Sorrentino (principle of ACS design/build Inc. and Tanglewood Development Corp.) and Mitchell Broder (president of Construction Management Associates), who collectively boast 75 years of



Pictured at the ground breaking ceremony (l-r): John Snyder, Snyder Donegan Real Estate Group; Fran Collins, Snyder Donegan Real Estate Group; Al Sorrentino, principal of Vistas development team; Mitch Broder, principal of Vistas development team; John Punger, project foreman; Jim Haff, town of Killington zoning administrator.

combined experience. New homes in the Vistas community feature a great room with a prominent natural stone fireplace centrally located on the upper level. Window-walls frame 360-degree vistas of the ski trails at Bear Mountain and Sky Peak. Three ensuite bedrooms, each with a private outdoor balcony, are located at the mid-level as well as spacious laundry and a home office space. The lower level offers residents flexibility with a fourth bedroom, recreation room, mudroom and garage.

The developers will work with home buyers to identify finishes and other interior modifications to the house plans. "Our goal is to establish a mountain architecture which blends craftsmanship, natural materials, and a strong connection to the Vermont landscape with a functional livability befitting the four-season Killington outdoor recreational lifestyle," said Alfonse Sorrentino.

"The completion of these final homes at Sunrise Village is a significant achievement for us," said Mitch Broder, part of the development team, "These homes are more than just residences; they are part of a growing community that supports and enriches the lives of its members. We are proud to make a positive impact on Killington, its residents, and the thriving resort community."

The real estate team handling the sales is equally enthusiastic about the project. "We are thrilled to be part of the Vistas at Sunrise," shared Fran Collins of Snyder Donegan Real Estate Group. "The completion of these homes of the Vistas offers not only stunning and functional living spaces but also an exciting opportunity for residents to join this vibrant community."

For more information, visit: vistasatsunrise.com.



Three homes in the Vistas development have been built. Now, the final phase, will see three more added, completing the six-home development at Sunrise Village.

The Rutland Herald and PEGTV Presents:

LIVE Rutland County Senate Candidate Forum

Thursday, Oct. 10, at 6 pm

Moderated by Rich Clark, political science professor at Vermont State University Castleton

LIVE

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MOUNTAIN TIMES

is a community newspaper covering Central Vermont that aims to engage and inform as well as empower community members to have a voice.

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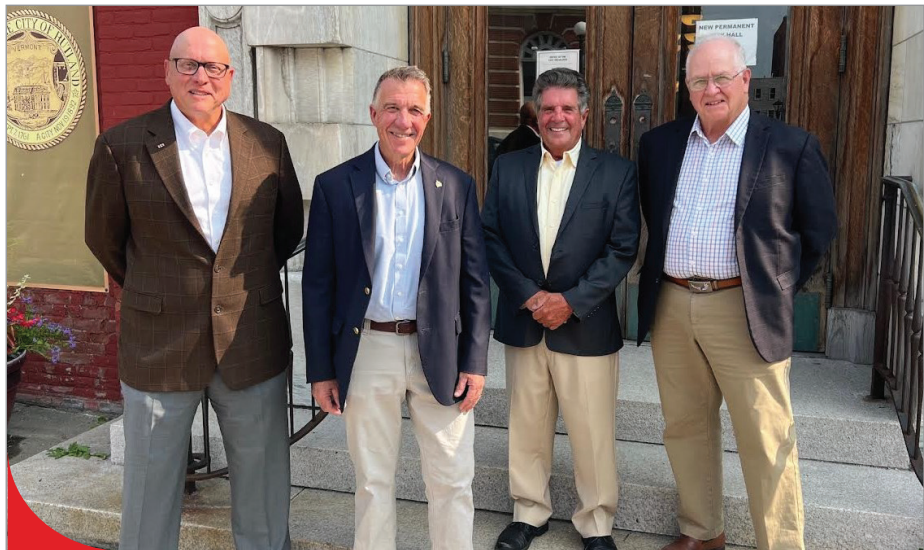
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LEFT TO RIGHT: SENATOR WEEKS, GOVERNOR SCOTT, SENATOR COLLAMORE, AND SENATOR WILLIAMS.

RE-ELECT RUTLAND COUNTY'S
WINNING TEAM

SENATOR BRIAN COLLAMORE
SENATOR DAVE WEEKS
SENATOR TERRY WILLIAMS

VOTE BY NOVEMBER 5TH

★ GROW THE
ECONOMY

★ MAKE VERMONT
MORE AFFORDABLE

★ PROTECT OUR
MOST VULNERABLE

PAID FOR BY THE COLLAMORE FOR SENATE COMMITTEE, FRIENDS OF DAVE WEEKS, AND TERRY WILLIAMS FOR SENATE

Rutland Regional Planning
Commission seeks community input

By Curt Peterson

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is about halfway finished creating its 2026 Regional Plan, and RRPC planner Logan Solomon visited the Killington Select Board Monday evening, Sept. 23, to update the board on the progress and next steps for the project.

The 2026 regional plan project has its own website (storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5018a6bc74d34a59aca763981e78355a).

Solomon said the first “public engagement” event was Wednesday, Sept. 25. The next event will be on Oct. 30 from 6-7:30 p.m. In-person attendees will go to the RRPC offices at 16 Evelyn St. in Rutland, second floor, refreshments provided, and digital attendance will be available as well, link at the project website.

A Phase 1 — December 2023 through March 2024 — survey distributed to regional residents requested their opinions and experiences that might pertain to creation of the new regional plan. Twelve hundred respondents provided valuable information, according to RRPC.

This “second phase” — September 2024 through November 2024 — of the regional plan process starts with a round of town visit events, pop-up presentations, and open-houses, “to provide a first glimpse at the Regional Plan’s goals and policies,” as developed during Phase 1, and solicit questions, comments and suggestions from the general public, as well as another survey to report and evaluate progress.

A second survey called “Report Back” will come with an incentive for respondents providing their email addresses — a random winner will get a \$200 gift card usable for Paramount Theater events. This survey will have two goals: To get the public’s reaction to what RRPC has learned from earlier research and input, and to request further comments, thoughts, questions and suggestions.

A third phase of public outreach will take place May through June, 2025. Vermont’s 11 regional planning commissions provide various forms of support for individual towns, particularly their planning commissions, throughout their defined regions. Twenty-seven towns in southwest Vermont are served by the RRPC, providing “tools and information [member towns] need to make smart decisions about land use,” according to RRPC’s website.

Logan Solomon provides technical support for local planning commissions, as well as helps with planning and zoning issues. He also aids with housing planning as leader of a separate commission.

For more information, visit: RutlandRPC.org.

← **Supercenter:**
from page 1

location will allow us to bring hundreds of daily grocery items to residents, while strengthening our commitment to local nonprofits and community members who frequent our store. We’ll create more jobs, pay more in local revenue and continue engaging with the local community.”

Walmart hopes to immediately begin the approval process set out by Act 250 in Vermont and plans to open the new store in 2027.

The new location will be the fourth Supercenter and sixth total store in Vermont. Across the six locations, Walmart has more than 1,500 associates in Vermont, where full-time, hourly associates make an average hourly wage of \$19.15.

The Diamond Run Mall is being redeveloped by A2Z Realty Inc. led by its co-founder and CEO Joe Anthony.

“I have worked with Joe and his team for many years on this project and we look forward to working alongside the developer to bring this project into reality,” stated Lyle Jepson, executive director at the

Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region.

Walmart stated that it will continue to communicate with the local community about the approval process for relocation.

A short history of the mall’s 24 years

The Diamond Run Mall (1995-2019) was first conceived of in 1986 by developer Damian Zamias who purchased an option on the 92 acres. But it would be nearly a decade later before the mall opened. After permitting delays and a recession he actually bought the property in 1993 and broke ground in ‘94. The Diamond Run Mall opened the following year.

Gemini Real Estate Advisors bought the mall for \$53 million in 2007, but ended up surrendering it to its mortgage-holder in 2013, which then resold it to Zamias and an Israeli investment firm for \$4.3 million.

It continued to operate (albeit at a loss) until October 2019. It has been vacant since.

Now, five years later, there will be new life in that location — if not for much of the building itself, which will be torn down.

Mission Farm unveils The Kitchen: A collaborative community space for culinary innovation and social impact in Killington

Mission Farm in Killington has opened The Kitchen at Mission Farm, a state-of-the-art collaborative community kitchen designed to support local artisan food makers and benefit the larger community. The Kitchen embodies Mission Farm’s core values of connection, conservation, and justice, according to a recent new release.

The Kitchen will serve as a hub for culinary creativity, featuring:

- Regular pop-up events showcasing local food artisans
- Community dinners focused on bringing diverse groups together
- Culinary education programs for aspiring chefs and food entrepreneurs
- Sustainable cooking practices and locally-sourced ingredients

“The Kitchen at Mission Farm represents our commitment to fostering a vibrant, sustainable food ecosystem,” said Lisa Ransom, executive director at Mission Farm. “By providing a space for collaboration and innovation, we aim to nurture local talent, promote food justice, and strengthen community bonds through the universal language of food.”

The Kitchen has opened the application process for food artisans to join with six month memberships. There is also opportunity for use of the space for parties or cooking demonstrations.

Part of the goal of The Kitchen at Mission Farm is to



Courtesy Mission Farm

Mission kitchen → 6 *The Kitchen at Mission Farm in Killington will host community events as well as offer memberships to food artisans.*

← Woodstock water: from page 1

the Aqueduct Company and all of its assets. If residents are in favor of the first vote, there will be a second special meeting on Dec. 10, where residents will be asked to acquire the 352-acre Vondell Reservoir property in West Woodstock and make capital improvements to the water system.

“It’s not going to cost you a single cent right now, but we want to be very, very clear, acquiring the aqueduct on Oct. 29 is Step One,” Duffy said. “There are capital projects that have to happen. The state is mandating them. We can’t acquire the aqueduct and then not do anything.”

Duffy said one necessary upgrade is a \$700,000 repair to the water pipe on Elm Street bridge. The pipe was damaged in flooding last August and part of the pipe is lying on the sidewalk. A preliminary engineering report from Water Creek Engineering in October 2023 made other recommendations, including replacing an 8-inch pipe with 12-inch pipe from Cox District Road to the Woodstock Rec Center for about \$4.3 million and replacing a water tank on Route 12 for about \$4.8 million.

The discussions were the latest in an ongoing conversation about

what to do with the Woodstock Aqueduct Company, which has faced financial woes and management issues. Last August, the town was without potable water for 10 days when there was a flood. Now, parts of the water system are still not fixed and if there’s a problem, residents said they can go for days without getting a call back from

Voters will be asked to purchase the Woodstock Aqueduct Company for its debts, which total \$920,000.

the company. The deteriorating water system has held up any new development or housing in Woodstock. And water pressure from the town’s fire hydrants doesn’t meet state regulations.

The town’s initial plan was to ask town voters to purchase the aqueduct company in November. However, state officials informed Duffy last month that the town must purchase the company by Oct. 30 or risk losing grants. Duffy said this led to the town asking the question to voters in two parts—first to purchase the company—and then to purchase the reservoir.

“This is one big step closer to ensuring our residents, businesses and schools have access to safe water,”

Duffy said.

Some residents were concerned about the future costs of the water system. Others questioned if it would be better for another private company to acquire the water company.

Duffy pushed back, explaining repairs and upgrades are necessary whether or not the town owns the water company. He stressed that if the town owns the aqueduct company, repair costs could be offset with grants, while a private company would likely sharply increase water rates.

“The decision we made was out of necessity,” Duffy said. “The Select Board feels we need to own the water company for the future of Woodstock.”

The October vote will be made from the floor and residents must be present to have their voices heard. The question will specifically ask voters to purchase the Woodstock Aqueduct Company for its debts, which total \$920,000. Duffy stressed the initial purchase wouldn’t cost taxpayers because half of the cost will be offset by two grants and the money to purchase the remaining \$457,000 would come out of the town’s undesignated fund balance, which totals about \$1.7 million.

Future repairs to the water system, however, would require the town to increase taxes.

“These are all expensive, long-term projects,” Duffy said.

Acquiring the aqueduct company could also bring some administrative challenges for the town. A staff member would need to have a water license, for example. Some residents said they felt like they were being held hostage and like they were being punished by having to pay for the water company’s mismanagement.

“I think it’s a tough time to be bringing forward capital improvements when we are just being hit with quite a large increase in our taxes,” resident Keri Bristow said.

The deteriorating water system has held up any new development or housing in Woodstock. And water pressure from the town’s fire hydrants doesn’t meet state regulations.

“I feel a little bit like we’re being held hostage by having to pay for it now and find money for it.”

But resident Jon Spector said customers have been enjoying low water rates and it’s time to catch up.

“I’ve been underpaying for everything,” Spector said. “We are not being held hostage by some

anonymous entity. We’re being held hostage of ourselves by the decisions that we’ve all made.”

Charlie Kimbell, a Woodstock resident and former state representative, said he has respect for those who ran the Aqueduct Company.

“They were not run as a money-grabbing company,” he said. “They’re really run as a nonprofit, trying to keep rates as low as possible for the residents and the users of the water. They’re at the end of their management line and trying to run this company. And it’s time for new leadership and new direction, and that should be the town.”

Duffy and the Select Board members are moving forward by trying to get the word out to as

many voters as they can. Duffy and board members are holding weekly meetings to answer questions. They’ll be available Mondays at 9 a.m. at South Woodstock Country Store, Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Abracadabra Coffee Co., Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Mon Vert Café, and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Soulfully Good Café.

OBITUARY

Matthew Eric Roberts, 44

Matthew (Matt) Eric Roberts, age 44, passed away Sunday, Sept. 22, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. He was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on July 6, 1980. He was the son of Charles and Deborah (West) Roberts. He grew up in Brockton where he received his early education.

Roberts moved to Brandon with his family in 1994 and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1998. He began his working career as a cashier at Grand Union in Brandon. He later worked with Dony Castonguay in the painting business. He had also worked in the pool and hot tub service business. He has been employed in maintenance for Trail Side Management since 2010.

He enjoyed the great outdoors, fishing, hunting and four wheeling. His family was his life.

He is survived by his son;



Submitted
Matt Roberts

Gavin Michael Roberts, his parents; Chuck and Deb Roberts, a brother Craig Antony Roberts, a sister; Amanda Lyn Roberts and his partner-in-life; Erin Louise Otto, all of Brandon and two special nephews; Cameron Matthew Roberts and Landen Antony Roberts. Several aunts, uncles and cousins also survive him.

A gathering “In Celebration of His Life” took place on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m., at the Miller and Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date.

Arrangements are being managed by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

A Go Fund Me page (gofund.me/e24a2132) has been set up for Roberts family. “Matt Roberts left this earth unexpectedly after experiencing chest pains and collapsing,” the site reads. “Matt was only 44 years old and nobody ever thought that something like this could happen at such a young age... He leaves behind his partner Erin (since high school), a son Gavin who recently graduated high school.”

The funding site had 40 donations and raised \$19,835 of \$22,000 goal by press time Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Rotary rocks: Bob and Dee Montgomery recognized as Paul Harris fellows

At the recent Killington-Pico Rotary club meeting, the newest Paul Harris fellows were recognized: Robert (Bob) Montgomery and Diane “Dee” Montgomery (posthumously) for their contributions to the Killington community.

With tears in her eyes, Dale Pfeifenberger recall the many accomplishments of her best friend “Dee,” including helping young adults plan for college, founding Sunday school at the United Church of Christ, being an original trustee

Award → 12



Submitted
Whit Montgomery (left) and Brian Montgomery (right) celebrate with their dad Bob Montgomery after he and his late wife Dee Montgomery were honored with the Paul Harris award at a recent rotary club meeting.



SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Location: 2981 River Road, Killington (Behind Town Garage)
Phone Number: (802) 422-4499

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Sat & Mon
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Hazardous Waste

October 5
8–10 a.m.

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



Courtesy Mission Farm
Holly Pierce manages (left) operations and programming at The Kitchen at Mission Farm.

Mission kitchen: from page 5

create and share food with the community. The Kitchen is committed to providing opportunity for all people to have access to local healthy food. Food vouchers and scholarships are available.

- To celebrate the opening of The Kitchen, two events are planned for the holiday season:
- Holiday Pie Classes (regular and gluten-free) will be offered Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m.- 12-noon; gluten free from 1-4 p.m. Join Chef Holly to create delicious holiday pies. Bake a pie (from scratch!) and take home the pie and recipes to recreate at home. Register at MissionFarmKitchen.org.
 - Grand Opening Event: Holiday Market will take place Nov. 29 from 12-4 p.m. Come celebrate the start of the holiday season and join us for an afternoon of delicious food, holiday wreaths, artisan crafts and fun. Meet our artisans, tour our kitchen and learn about our mission. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, visit: MissionFarmKitchen.org.

Bridgewater declines assistance

By Brett Yates

Regional planners want to help a trio of Windsor County municipalities win federal funds for projects that would prevent flood damage during future storms. But, so far, the town of Bridgewater isn't interested.

A new program called the Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) aims to protect communities that sit on the banks of rivers that overflowed in July of 2023. Vermont Emergency Management will forward promising local proposals to FEMA, which will cover the full costs of implementation for selected submissions.

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) has worked to develop plans for addressing vulnerable locations in Plymouth, Woodstock, and Bridgewater.

On Sept. 24, Chief Planner Kevin Geiger pitched the Bridgewater Select Board on a handful of ideas. The elected officials declined to pursue them "at this time," citing a reluctance to take on the administrative burden of managing the potential grants.

"I think we've got enough going on in the town," Chair William O. Young summarized.

According to Geiger, he hasn't encountered the same resistance in Plymouth or Woodstock. And he remains hopeful about the Bridgewater Select Board.

"I was a little surprised," Geiger told the Mountain Times. "I think we may be able to ameliorate some of their concerns."

Because the proposed work

would take place on private land, TRORC would need to secure the support of property owners as well. Geiger described an unsuccessful overture in Bridgewater Center, where he had pictured using grant funds to buy a "flood easement" for a field beside the Ottawaquechee River.

But he recounted that another landowner had expressed interest in receiving a buyout for a damaged

"If the town wasn't out millions of dollars, I think they would have been in a better mood," Geiger remarked.

property on Route 4.

The Bridgewater Mill, an important commercial complex, sits perilously close to the Ottawaquechee's northern bank. On the opposite shore, Geiger initially contemplated floodplain restoration, "where you would lower that far bank and see if you could take the pressure off of the channel on the mill side."

At this point, he would settle for flood-proofing the structure itself. TRORC has focused on two particular sections, for which Geiger envisions "a set of permanent and temporary measures to seal up things."

Half of the Bridgewater Mill actually lies in Woodstock, and Geiger expects to ask officials there to sign off on the associated grant application. But TRORC has also set its sights on the so-called Pottery Building, which houses the Shackleton/Thomas workshop and showroom, and that belongs to

Bridgewater.

Geiger theorized that Bridgewater's reluctance to take part in the RIVER initiative may owe to ongoing frustration caused by FEMA's Public Assistance Program. All over Vermont, towns like Bridgewater still await promised federal reimbursement for road repairs following the Great Vermont Flood of 2023.

"I think it's too bad that that kind of slotted over to this," Geiger remarked. "If the town wasn't out millions of dollars, I think they would have been in a better mood."

RIVER, however, targets FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which, by Geiger's account, offers much prompter payouts than the Public Assistance Program. And he pointed out that participating towns won't have to interface with FEMA directly.

"You deal with the state emergency office. They deal with FEMA. To me, it's a lot easier to do it that way," Geiger said. "Like all grants, you still have to sign some papers, keep some records, and do some stuff."

Officials in Bridgewater have time to change their minds, as TRORC has yet to begin submitting applications. But it has already contracted the engineers who will work on them.

"We've spent time looking at projects," Geiger said. "But now I'm going to be asking them to come up with the first kind of engineering analysis, and that's going to cost thousands of dollars per site. The town won't pay anything. We will pay it all."



Submitted

Vermont Adaptive supporter Rob Mather honored on Sept. 26.

Longtime Vermont Adaptive supporter Rob Mather honored with the VRPA Unsung Hero Award

Rob Mather, a longtime supporter and volunteer for Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports and a key figure in Vermont's recreational and emergency services community, received the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association (VRPA) Unsung Hero Award at the 81st annual Vermont Conference on Recreation & Trails Symposium. The award was presented during an awards luncheon on Sept. 26 at the Killington Grand Hotel.

For nearly 40 years, Mather has been the communications lead for the Vermont 100 Endurance Run and the Vermont 50 Mountain Bike Race and Ultra Run—two critical fundraising events that support Vermont Adaptive's programs for individuals with disabilities. His expertise as a ham radio operator ensures the safety of participants, volunteers, and staff at these events, which attract athletes from around the world and play a vital role in sustaining Vermont Adaptive's year-round offerings.

In addition to his work with these races, Mather has been a dedicated volunteer with the American Red Cross since 2006, serving in leadership positions such as disaster action team lead and regional duty officer. He has also played an active role in the Southern Windsor County community emergency response team (CERT), contributing to the region's emergency preparedness and response efforts.

"Rob's dedication has not only improved the safety of VRPA → 12

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RESORT UPDATE

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ON THE FUTURE OF KILLINGTON, NEW INVESTMENTS AND MORE.

Killington



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- **RESORT UPDATE** - MIKE SOLIMANO, PRESIDENT & CEO KILLINGTON/PICO SKI RESORT
- **Q&A WITH PHILL GROSS, MICHAEL FERRI** - FROM THE NEW OWNERSHIP GROUP



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Killington's donated snow cat enhances Vermont Tech students opportunities

By Brooke Geery, Killington Resort

At the end of last season, Killington Resort donated one of its well-used snow cats to Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph. The gift was the idea of Vehicle Maintenance Manager Halley Riley-Elliot, who graduated from the VTC program herself in 2021.

As the equipment had fulfilled its usefulness for the resort, which regularly replaces snow cats to keep the fleet up-to-date and operating well, donating it for student use was a great option instead of selling it for a nominal amount.

Halley explained that giving local students access to learn how to service and maintain a snowcat was beneficial not just to the students, but the resort.

"Having a cat to work on helps you learn specific things to a piece of equipment and it's incredibly hard to find anyone who has experience on cats that didn't come from another resort," she said. "To have that base knowledge is super important for the industry."

Having a snow cat to work on is a first for the program, but VTC Ground Transportation Director Steve Simpson was already familiar with snow cats, as he also works for a non-profit ski area in addition to the school. He said receiving such a donation was a huge boon for the program.

"As a teaching program, we would never be able to purchase a piece of equipment as this snow cat," he said.

The students were eager to get to work getting the cat up and running.



Courtesy Killington Resort
Steve Simpson, VTC ground transportation director (left), and Halley Riley-Elliot, Killington Resort's vehicle maintenance manager (right) stand in front of the snow cat donated to the Vermont Technical College at the end of last season.

Simpson explained, "It gives the diesel students direct exposure to 24-volt operating systems, direct working knowledge of electric over hydraulic functions, a drive by wire drive and substantial areas for hydraulic testing. It's a great asset to our Hydraulic teaching program," he said.

VTC Diesel Professor Ron Wold

agreed, "The snow cat from Killington has many mechanical aspects that are relevant to our diesel students: it is diesel powered, it has a substantially complicated hydraulic system, and of course, it has the cool factor of being a snowcat! I wouldn't be surprised if a few of our students are inspired to work in the ski industry."

Vt Agency of Education releases 2023-24 statewide assessment results, gaps remain

The Vermont Agency of Education released the preliminary 2023-24 Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (CEAP) results on Friday, Sept. 27. The assessment is administered annually in the spring to students in grades 3-9, and 11. The assessment measures students' mastery of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and the Next Generation Science Standards.

The 2023-24 school year was the second year that Vermont schools administered the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program. Now, with two years of data, Vermont can start comparing yearly trends again, something that hasn't been done since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are excited to leverage this data as a new tool to measure change and equity in the coming years," said Director

Average proficiency ... [was] the highest in English languages arts (45%-58%), followed by science (41%-46%), and then math (30%-47%).

of Assessment and Accountability Danielle Dupuis. "The smooth administration of the assessment in its second year is a testament to the hard work of our educators, and we thank them for their dedication."

Average proficiency percents remained steady compared to the previous year, with the highest in English languages arts (45%-58%), followed by science (41%-46%), and then math (30%-47%). Results continue to show significant gaps between students from historically marginalized backgrounds and their peers. These results are preliminary and final results will be made available in the winter.

"Through the Agency's Listen and Learn Tour, we've heard the call for earlier reporting of state assessment results," said Interim Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders. "The Agency is committed to accelerating this process to

State of education → 12

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Critical thinking: without it, what to expect

By Jeffrey Reel

Editor's note: Jeffrey Reel is a writer living in Hartland and author of "Uncommon Sense: The War on Hunger and Other Myths. How Our Adversarial Relationship With Life Undermines Our Best Intentions."

Critical thinking has been described as an ability to question; to acknowledge and test previously held assumptions; to examine, interpret, evaluate, reason, and reflect; to make informed judgments and decisions; and to clarify, articulate, and justify positions ...thinking carefully about a subject or idea, without allowing feelings or opinions, exclusively, to affect us.

Critical thinking requires, at minimum, a 6th grade reading comprehension in order to develop this essential skill. The U.S. Dept. of Education reports that 21% of adults in the United States are illiterate, and that 54% of adults have a literacy below 6th-grade level. The U.S. Dept. of Education reports that 21% of adults in the United States are illiterate, and that 54% of adults have a literacy below 6th-grade level — that is to say, the majority of Americans are below the level for developing and using critical thinking skills. (The U.S. now ranks 125th for literacy when compared with other nations around the world.)

This helps explain the Trump phenomenon. It explains why a majority of Marjorie Taylor Greene's constituents continue to support her. It explains why anachronistic arguments trying to disprove the existence of climate change continue to have any traction at all (thankfully with diminishing support as even the most unobservant reader can't help but recognize the growing impact of climate change).

It helps explain the backlash against, and scorn for, "intellectuals" and the professionals emerging from our ivy league institutions. Senator Ted Cruz is one of many politicians who lead that charge. Of course, he himself is a graduate of Harvard Law, but he can ignite the passions of millions of citizens in this cause because he knows his constituents don't have the bandwidth to make that connection.

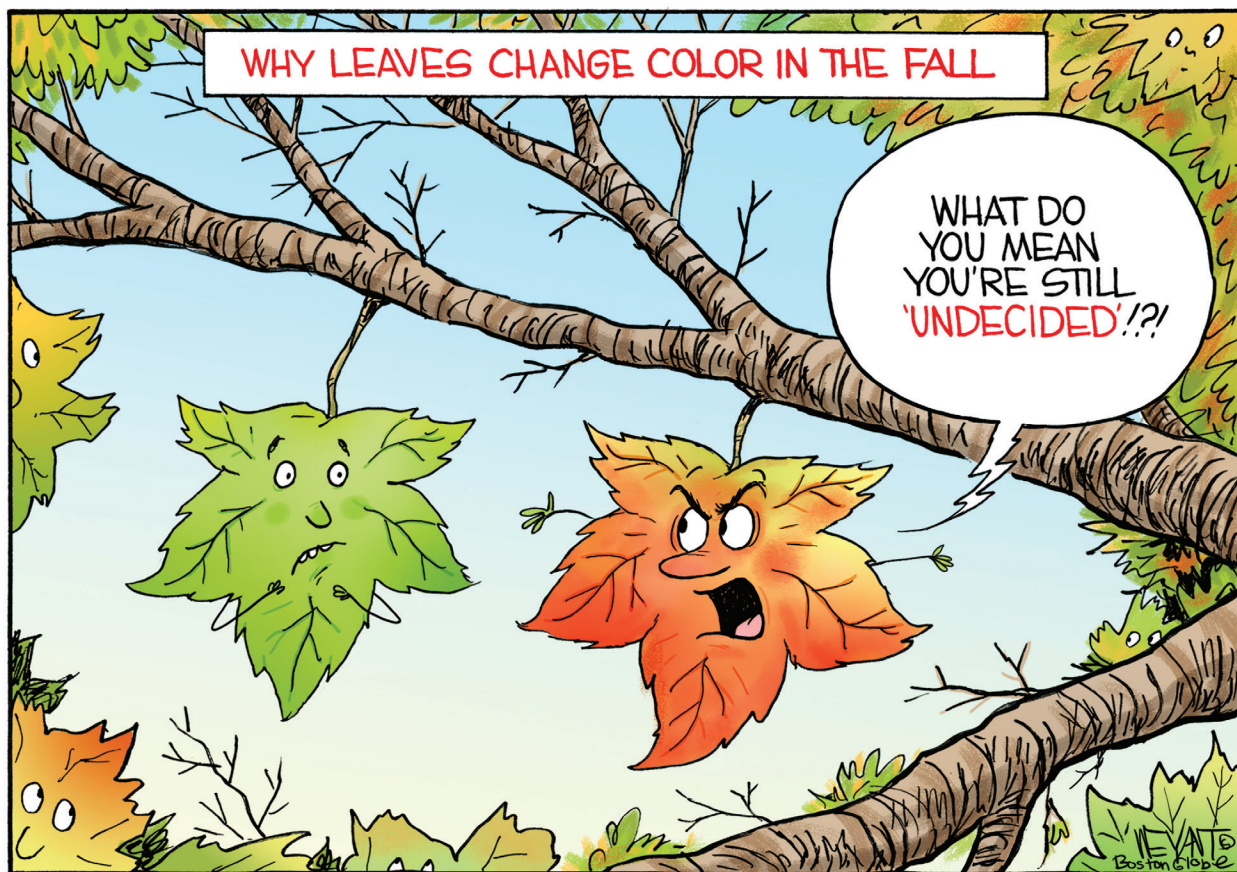
Lacking this ability to think critically is a recipe for failure in a democracy; it's a recipe for success in a fascist state. Dictators depend upon the support of those citizens possessing little or no critical thinking skills; appealing, instead, to their baser instincts and lowest nature.

At the close of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, 1787, while the parchment that framed a new and untested system of government was still wet with ink from the signatures of 39 delegates, Benjamin Franklin offered his opinion on this great experiment: "I agree to this Constitution with all its faults... because I think a general government necessary for us...; and I believe, further, that this is likely to be well administered for a course of years, and can only end in despotism, as other forms have done before it, when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other."

We have built this great nation upon a legacy rooted in our access to education and information, cornerstones for any democracy. But our educational standards have fallen precipi-

The U.S. Dept. of Education reports that 21% of adults in the U.S. are illiterate, and that 54% of adults have a literacy below 6th-grade level.

Critical thinking → 12



Why Leaves Change Leaves in Trees by Christopher Weyant, The Boston Globe

LETTERS

Re-elect Becca White

Dear Editor,

I am excited to support Becca White in her bid for re-election as one of our Vermont State Senators.

She has been dedicated to serving the people of Vermont for 10 years (four years on the Hartford Select Board, four years as a State Representative, and these

She has been dedicated to serving.... Vt for 10 years.

last two years in the State Senate). While serving in the house, she worked effectively on modernizing the transportation systems and was an active member of the Climate Solutions Caucus. She is now co-chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus in the senate, serves on the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee, and is the communications director for the Senate Democratic Caucus.

I am proud to support someone so committed to our shared belief that everyone has a right to health care, affordable housing,

Vote White → 12

Vote for Adrienne Raymond

Dear Editor,

If you live in Ludlow, Mount Holly, or Shrewsbury, like me, you probably received a mailing from Kevin Winter about running for State Representative. The headline says "It's time for moderation and reason in Montpelier." Elsewhere he describes himself as an extremist. He has said he is a First Amendment extremist. This would explain why he opposes laws that force so-called Rape Crisis Centers to be honest about who they are and what they do.

He calls himself a Second Amendment extremist. This means he will fight against common-sense laws that protect school children against gun violence and protect the mentally stressed against using weapons of war against themselves and others. He says he is a Constitutional Originalist. That means a return to the era when only white male property owners could vote and slave owners got an extra 2% vote for every slave they owned. We can see the chaos the Originalist Supreme Court has wrought.

Vote Raymond → 12

Remembering Matt Roberts

Dear Editor,

Matt Roberts' passing last week is a loss for our entire Killington community. He was a wonderful human being who dedicated his life to his family, to his work and to the Great Outdoors of Vermont.

Matt was one of a kind. Our entire team [at skion-ski-off.com] worked with Matt for the last fifteen years here in Killington and he NEVER called in sick, he NEVER blew us off and he never COMPLAINED.

During our winter seasons here in Killington, year after year, Matt always showed up. He reported to duty for every snow storm, he worked through rain and ice storms, he braved the Historic Floods of Irene and July 2023 with us, shoulder to shoulder. Matt worked through the oppressive heat and humidity of our summers. He faced our daily challenges with a calm commitment to excellence, dedication and perseverance.

Matt could do it all. He was the handyman extraordinaire! Matt was an outstanding hot tub mechanic. He was a fabulous painter and sheet rocker. Matt was the ultimate team player. Matt excelled in fix-

ing problems, big or small, with a steady hand and a kind voice of reassurance to those in need.

Matt had a special way with people. He touched thousands of Rental Clients here in Killington with a caring and helping hand, consistently, always promoting our beautiful Killington experience.

Matt helped just about every vendor here in Killington to make their job easier, to assist, to guide and to simply be available to make any service call an enjoyable experience for our vendors. Matt had a deep sense of Pride in his work, for his surroundings and environment and for the greater Killington area.

Matt knew very well that every opportunity to make a resort guest happy or satisfied, in a challenging situational call for help or service, represented a greater opportunity to improve the area that he loved and cherished. Matt's dedication and care with our owners and visitors created lasting memories and experiences where guests felt good about their visit

Roberts → 12

CAPITOL QUOTES

Helene, a Category 4 hurricane, made landfall last week killing 133 known people with 600 still yet to be accounted for as of Monday morning. Officials expect the death toll to continue to grow. The victims came from at least six states — Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Many people drowned, and others were killed by falling trees, car crashes under heavy rains and a tornado produced by the storm. A lot of the victims were still unidentified. It's being called one of the worst storms in U.S. history.

"It's flooded up to the awnings, about 10 feet,"

said **Spencer Bost**, the executive director of downtown Spruce Pine, North Carolina, the local business development association.

"When I said there could be up to 600 people lost my point was, there are 600 people unaccounted for. That's the number we're tracking right now ... as the president said this morning, we're very hopeful that some of those people just don't have cell phones working and actually are alive,"

said Homeland Security adviser **Liz Sherwood Randall**, Monday, Sept. 30 at a press conference. President Joe Biden plans to travel to North Carolina on Wednesday.

"We looked outside and there was a 30-foot-tall wall of water and rocks and tree debris just coming at us, and we all got washed downriver,"

recounted North Carolina resident **John Norwood** to ABC News. Norwood and his fiancé, Julie le Roux, had attempted to wait out the worst of the storm and sought shelter at a neighbor's house before the debris knocked the house "straight down." Norwood was rescued, but le Roux is still unaccounted for.

"This has been an unprecedented storm that has hit western North Carolina. It's requiring an unprecedented response,"

said North Carolina Gov. **Roy Cooper** after he took an aerial tour of the Asheville area.

Some accomplishments to be proud of in the fight against global warming

By Peter Sterling

Editor's note: Peter Sterling is the executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont, the nonprofit trade association representing Vermont businesses working towards a 100% renewable energy future.

Though the tragic and costly impacts of changing weather extremes on Vermont continue to (justifiably) make headlines, they shouldn't totally overshadow recent accomplishments in the fight to reduce global warming before it is too late. This progress is happening because New Englanders have demanded real leadership and action in the face of the climate crisis and our elected officials are responding by thinking globally and acting locally.

In Vermont, we have two recent pieces of good news. In June, the Vermont Legislature voted to create a 100% Renewable Energy Standard — just the second of its kind in the nation. As a result, by 2035 all Vermont residents and businesses will enjoy the benefits of 100% renewable energy while doing our part to reduce climate pollution. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Bernie Sanders, this past spring Vermont received \$62 million in "Solar for All" funding to help thousands of low and middle income Vermonters access the benefits of solar power — whether they own their homes, live in affordable housing units or access solar power through community solar programs.

Nationally, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has injected billions of dollars in private sector investments into wind, solar and energy storage while also making residential solar power an affordable reality for millions of Americans. Since the IRA passed in 2021, clean energy investments needed to reduce climate pollution have increased substantially. For every \$1 in clean energy tax credits offered by the IRA, \$5-\$6 is spent by the private sector helping bring renew-

able energy on line, reducing the need for burning fossil fuels that cause our planet to overheat. Importantly, the IRA has also supercharged the creation of a Made-in-the-USA solar panel production industry, bringing thousands of manufacturing jobs across the country and keeping even more of our energy dollars here at home.

Regionally, construction of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) is now underway. This power line running through the bottom of Lake Champlain will connect Canada's clean hydroelectric power to New

By 2035 all Vermont residents and businesses will enjoy the benefits of 100% renewable energy.

York City, supplying about 20% of that city's power. CHPE incorporates technology that would allow for two-way clean power transmission around the region — technology which will further

accelerate decarbonizing our electric grid by allowing greater movement of renewable energy generated by wind and solar to meet our real time energy needs.

Earlier this month, Massachusetts and Rhode Island jointly announced the largest offshore wind procurement in the region which, when completed, will be capable of providing enough electricity to power more than 1.4 million homes. This commitment to purchasing electricity generated by offshore wind is a critical step in meeting the growth in electricity that's expected in our region and is necessary to close down the dozens of climate-endangering, dirty fossil fuel plants that still provide much of New England's power in peak times. Collaborative purchases by Vermont utilities of affordable, stably-priced clean energy from regional offshore wind also holds great promise for the future.

While our work to avert the worst of the climate crisis is far from done, these recent accomplishments testify to the momentum building behind the clean energy solutions we need to get the job done.

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.

Please limit submissions to 300 words.

Email letters to editor@mountaintimes.info



Critical thinking: from page 10

tously and we now inform ourselves almost exclusively through the media bubbles we choose to live within, feeling most comfortable within, and defended by, our tribes instead of engaging each other on the fields of inquiry, dialogue and self reflection. Americans are informing themselves through Twitter feeds, Instagram posts and facebook pages. In short, we've squandered our inheritance. And we are about to be blindsided with Artificial Intelligence, which is developing exponentially. In short order, it will so bastardize the media landscape that we will no longer be able to discern fact

"I agree to this Constitution with all its faults... and can only end in despotism, as other forms have done before it, when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other," said Benjamin Franklin.

from fiction. Our landscape is changing at a mind-boggling rate (displaced populations, growing civil and political unrest, catastrophic weather events, the diminishing reserves of fresh water for drinking and agriculture, chronic hunger, rising seas, the loss of plant and animal diversity...). Cynics, fear mongers and opportunists who prey upon our insecurities will do their best to capitalize on these

misfortunes. What will be required is for a charismatic and inspiring leader to emerge from the detritus of our current political scene; someone who can appeal to our better nature and who can reach across a broad spectrum of ideas, educational backgrounds and political/social ideologies, because people who cannot critically think for themselves require leadership. In the absence of a charismatic leader who is intelligent, experienced and compassionate, we are unlikely to find a way out of this thicket. 236 years on, I believe that Benjamin Franklin got it right.

Vote White: from page 10

childcare, public education and is so committed to protecting our environment. Becca White is following in the footsteps of her district-mate, Senator Alison Clarkson, in her commitment to being accessible to her constituents. She is always willing to have a conversation with her fellow Vermonters and hear about the issues that are most important to them to effectively represent our community in Montpelier. Please join me in voting for White, Clarkson, and their Democratic teammate Joe Major in the general election on or before Nov. 5! Sue Schiller, Norwich

Vote Raymond: from page 10

He has also said he wants to be an Evangelical Christian voice in Montpelier. He supports MAGA Republicans and refused to say that he believed President Biden won the election in 2020. None of this sounds moderate. None of this reflects the kind of community I moved to Vermont to live in. Luckily, we have Adrienne Raymond on the ballot. Adrienne has shown through her years of service that she listens to all of us and has practical, hands-on experience with how our towns and state actually work and she has held many positions in town government. That service has given her insight to know what will work and what won't. She served on our local school boards for 20-plus years. She understands Vermont's funding system and the possible impacts of proposed changes. For almost 15 years she has been a guardian ad litem in the Rutland Family Courts working with kids in DCF custody to navigate that system. I know the societal problems that our schools have been tasked to solve. If you want someone who has lived their life here, raised their children here, and most importantly given back here, then please vote for Adrienne Raymond! I am happy to be the treasurer of this campaign. Scott Garren, Shrewsbury

VRPA: from page 7

our races but also helped sustain the programs that Vermont Adaptive offers to empower people of all abilities," award presenter Erin Fernandez, the executive director of Vermont Adaptive, said. "His leadership, service, and commitment to making a difference have truly set a remarkable example for others. His efforts to support the safety and well-being of others, not just through the endurance races, but also in his broader service to the community, is endless." Mather's work has left a lasting impact on the Vermont endurance race community and the local communities where these events occur.

Award: from page 6

and teacher at KMS and an integral partner in her husband Bob's many successful businesses. Pfeifengerger remembered specifically enjoyed playing tennis, a glass of wine, and raising their sons together: Whit and Brian Montgomery, and Gerald and PJ Pfeifengerger. Funds raised through Paul Harris recognitions support the Rotary International Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary, and its mission to improve the lives of those in need through various service projects and initiatives. Past Rotary District Governor Ben Lawton recalled some of the past world community service projects that the local Rotary district has been involved in, including through its exchange program supporting a hospital in Bandung, Indonesia, with a backup generator for the hospital's operating room and emergency services. Rotarians in District 7870 raised \$30,000, which was matched by the Rotary foundation to provide a \$60,000 generator for the hospital. Another Rotary district foundation project was a \$300,000 global grant to provide pure drinking water in El Salvador through home, sanitation filters, also during the recent Covid crisis, district Rotarians distributed more than 200,000 masks to help prevent the spread of Covid. The six key areas of focus for the Rotary Foundation include:

- Disease prevention and treatment. (Since the initiation of the polio plus initiative, the Rotary foundation has provided more than \$2.5 billion in the effort to eliminate polio worldwide, which has been reduced by 99.9% since 1985.)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development
- Peace and Conflict Resolution

Through its efforts, the Rotary foundation aims to create lasting change and improve the quality of life for people around the globe. In fiscal year 2022 to 2023, the Rotary foundation expended \$364 million. This amount reflects the generous contributions from Rotarians and other supporters, which are used to fund the various charitable local projects and initiatives worldwide. November is designated as Rotary Foundation month and donations can be accepted by mail to K-P Rotary. P.O. Box 146, Killington, VT 05751.

State of education: from page 9

ensure schools and school boards have the data they need to support timely decision making. At the same time, we will continue focusing on improving student outcomes in reading, math, and science. Our educators are dedicated to promoting academic achievement, and the agency remains an active partner. We recognize that our work isn't done until we ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed."

Assessment results

The data release was the preliminary statewide results. Final statewide results will be released in early winter and are not expected to differ substantially from the results presented below. In addition, school and district level results will remain private until all student information can be validated. These results will also be made public in early winter, according to the Agency of Education.

Equity comparisons

The data shows a comparison between students from historically marginalized backgrounds (HM) and students not from HM backgrounds. The HM group includes students from racial and ethnic minorities, students living in poverty, students on IEPs, English learners and migrant students, those experiencing homelessness or living in foster care, and students from military-affiliated families. The not HM group includes all other students. Large achievement gaps are evident, with differences in average percent proficient between the two groups ranging from 25% to 35% depending on grade and subject. Specifically, average percent proficient for students from HM backgrounds range from 19% to 43%, while the same percents range from 47% to 76% for students not from HM backgrounds.

Roberts: from page 10

and were quick to plan their return trip. Many of the clients and visitors that Matt serviced and supported have gone on to become owners here at the resort and in Matt's quiet, dedicated and caring ways, he has helped to grow our community for tomorrow and beyond.

There is a simple message that Matt's legacy tells us all. When life deals you a bad hand, get to work and make it better. When you feel like blaming your troubles and problems on the rest of the world, get busy and get to work to work it out. And if you feel that the American dream is dead, think again

because as Matt proved to this world, there is no obstacle or hurdle too large or high to prevent a persons

and yourself. While we honor Matt and celebrate his life, we are all blessed by the example of

There is a simple message that Matt's legacy tells us all. When life deals you a bad hand, get to work and make it better.

dedication, work ethic, determination and pride from providing all of us a sustained path to success in any endeavor we pursue in life! Thank you, Matt, for helping us and leading the way to understanding the power of getting busy, staying focused, working hard, being determined and loyal to us

hope, leadership and success that Matt demonstrated to us on a daily basis. We are sad to see Matt go and at the same time, we are blessed by his example of how to get busy, how to work hard, how to be determined and how to succeed! Thanks, Matt Roberts. Rest in Peace! Kevin O'Neill, Killington

WORDPLAY

Fall Season WORDSEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →28

CLUES ACROSS

1. Separate with an instrument
5. State clearly
11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
14. Broad in scope
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Caps
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Checked
25. One-sided
27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
31. Potted plants
34. We all have one
35. Lake north of the Kalahari
38. Unidentified flying object
39. Aging persons
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental waist box
45. Officials
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Extensive, treeless plains

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. We all have one
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uncomfortable feelings
11. Cross to form an X
12. Remove
13. Some pages are dog-____
18. Capital of Ukraine
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Eighth month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Irrate
37. Travelers need them
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. Form of "to be"
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Think Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The lead dancer: ____ ballerina
53. Protein involved in motion
54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
57. Popular 1920s style art ____
58. ____ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
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67					68						69			

MOUNTAIN TOP
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GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in New York on October 3, 2004. I began acting when I was six years old, and my acting teacher advised I pursue it professionally. I made my big screen debut in a Steven Spielberg film in 2015, but my role in a popular Netflix series about a group of kids really made me a household name.

Answer: Noah Schnapp

SUDOKU

Solutions →28

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

Level: Intermediate



Pico Ski Club Annual Ski & Snowboard Swap and Sale

WEDNESDAY 10/2

S.E.A.T. Exercises

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

Killington Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. (*Wednesdays*) The Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal, tip is covered by local donors. 908-783-1050

Wednesday Farmers' Market (Rutland)

1-5 p.m. (*Wednesdays*) Depot Park, downtown Rutland. One of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year-round. vtfarmersmarket.org

Diabetes Support Group

1-2 p.m. (*Second Wednesday of every month*) RRM Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group

Market on the Green

3-6 p.m. (*Wednesdays*) The Green, Woodstock. Produce, crafts, live music, and more. woodstockvt.com or 802-457-3555

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

Cribbage for Adults

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

Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (*Second Wednesday of every month*) Community Health Castleton, 261 Route 30, Castleton. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group

THURSDAY 10/3

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

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

Intermediate Line Dance

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

Senior Bone Builders

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

Survivors Support Group

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

Artery

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

Ukelele Group

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

Play Bridge!

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

Thursday Farmers' Market (Fair Haven)

3-6 p.m. (*Thursdays*) Village Green, Fair Haven. vtfarmersmarket.org

Harvest Supper

5-7 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm Pavilion, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Free. Join the community for a potluck dinner—bring a dish to share or pick up drinks, desserts, or bread. Bring your own dishes and utensils to help reduce waste. pittsfordvillagefarm.org

Community Dinner

5:30-6:30 p.m. 44 Main St., Windsor. Free in-person community dinner hosted/provided by the Simon Pearce Team. facebook.com/people/Windsor-Community-Dinner/61550734124745/

Feast and Field Music Series

5:30-9 p.m. (*Thursdays through 9/26*) Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard. \$5-\$25, under 12 free. Point Noire Cajun Band Tickets: feastandfield.com/tickets

Ira Allen Book Talk

6 p.m. Roger Clark Memorial Library, 40 Village Green, Pittsfield. Free. Kevin Graffagnino discusses his new book Ira Allen: A Biography, exploring the life and legacy of one of Vermont's founding figures. vermonthistory.org/calendar

Annual Fall Rummage Sale

6-9 p.m. Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St., Rutland. Shop for household items, clothing, small appliances, linens, jewelry, and children's toys. Bag Sale on Oct. 4. Enter via the Church Office entrance on Center St. Handicap accessible. gracechurchvt.org

Movie - "The Addams Family" (PG13)

7:30-9:15 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

FRIDAY 10/4

Annual Fall Rummage Sale

9 a.m.-noon. Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St., Rutland. Bag Sale. Shop for household items, clothing, small appliances, linens, jewelry, and children's toys. Enter via the Church Office entrance on Center St. Handicap accessible. gracechurchvt.org

Foodie Fridays

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Included with admission. Experience farm-to-table demonstrations that showcase historic and modern culinary techniques. billingsfarm.org

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

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

Hartland Farmers Market

4-6:30 p.m. (*Fridays*) Hartland Public Library Fields, 153 US Route 5, Hartland. Free. The Hartland Farmers Market offers a variety of local produce and goods. Contact Market Manager Trischa Wass at hartlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com or 1-360-223-0438 for more information.

TWIST: Comics and Zine Fair 2024

4-8:00 p.m. Junction Arts & Media, 5 S Main St. White River Junction. Browse zines, comics, and art by local cartoonists.uvjam.org

Pico Ski Club Annual Ski & Snowboard Swap & Sale

5-9 p.m. Pico Base Lodge at Pico Mountain Resort, 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon. New and used skis, snowboards, clothing, snowshoes, and gear for all ages and levels. Proceeds benefit the Pico Ski Club and its youth racing programs. picomountain.com

Reading Fall Festival

5:30 p.m. Felchville Village, Rte 106, Reading — Fall Festival kick-off event. Chili Cookoff. Held at the Outdoor Classroom behind Reading Elementary School. Attendees are encouraged to bring a pot of chili or a side dish to share, along with their own bowl and spoon. Beverages provided by the PTO. readingvt.govoffice.com

Drive-In Horror Movies

7 p.m. -Midnight. Estabrook Park, 760 Grove St., Brandon. \$25 per carload per film. Drive-in movies at Estabrook Park in Brandon are back. Hocus Pocus (PG) showing at 7 p.m. Friday the 13th (R) showing at 9:30 p.m. Snacks are available on-site. Presented by Dark Shadows Entertainment. darkshadowsentertainment.com

Trio of Aether

7:30 p.m. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 VT Rt. 14, Sharon. \$22.07 (in advance), \$25 at the door. Children under 12, Free. Enjoy an evening of genre-bending music with Bow Thayer's Trio of Aether. Featuring Bow Thayer, Krishna Guthrie, and Steve Ferraris. The band debuts material from their upcoming album Nineveh. sevenstarsarts.org

Ginger Billy

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$30-\$60 + tax/fees. A backwoods hillbilly turned comedian, Ginger Billy delivers a humorous look into life with his shirtless, tattooed style. Recommended for ages 16+. paramountvt.org/event/ginger-billy

SATURDAY 10/5

Flu Clinic

8 a.m. - Noon. Community Health Rutland. 215 Stratton Rd. Rutland. By appointment or walk-in. www.chcr.org

Run with a Ranger


8-9:45 a.m. (*Saturdays*) Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, 54 Elm St. (Route 12) Woodstock. Free. Join a Park Ranger for a 4.5-mile trail run with a 600' elevation gain through historic carriage roads and trails. Intermediate+ run. Water and restrooms available at the Forest Center. Bring sneakers, a water bottle, bug spray and sun protection. Meet at the Forest Center. Parking is at Billings Farm & Museum. Registration required. nps.gov

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Fair Haven Transfer station, Fair Haven Ave., Fair Haven— Dispose of hazardous waste safely. This free service is for residents of SWAC towns: Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven. Acceptable items include paints, solvents, pesticides, batteries, and more. Proof of residency may be required. Rutlandcountyswac.org

Pico Ski Club Annual Ski & Snowboard Swap & Sale

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Pico Base Lodge at Pico Mountain Resort, 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon. New and used skis, snowboards, clothing, snowshoes, and gear for all ages and levels. Proceeds benefit the Pico Ski Club and its youth racing programs. picomountain.com

 **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info.....
from page 14

Downtown Farmers’ Market
9 a.m.-2 p.m. (*Saturdays*) Depot Park, 1 Depot Park, Rutland. Free. Featuring farm-fresh vegetables, fruits, artisan cheeses, maple syrup, handcrafted breads, and Vermont crafts. Open every Saturday from May 11 to Oct. 26. vtfarmersmarket.org/markets/summer

Stamp & Postcard Show
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mid-Vermont Christian School, 399 Gilson Ave., Quechee. Free admission and parking. Semi-annual show featuring over 18 stamp, postal history, and postcard dealers. uvstampclub.com

Freedom Through Forgiveness Workshop
9:45 a.m.-3 p.m. 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. Honor the Knowing Through Self Forgiveness-A three-day retreat with therapist and healer Eleanor Pool. \$450 for all three days. Dates include: Oct. 5, 12, and 19. artistreevt.org/workshops-for-all

40th Annual Ludlow Harvest Fair
10 a.m.-4 p.m. 45 Main St. Ludlow. Crafts, food, and games all to benefit the Ludlow PTG. Over 35 vendors scheduled.

Mt. Tom Farmers’ Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (*Saturdays through 10/16*) Saskadena Six parking lot, 247 Stage Road, South Pomfret. Free. Local produce, goods, fresh vegetables, fruits, homemade items, and more.

Reading Fall Festival
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Felchville Village, Rte 106, Reading. Start with a bike parade from Reading Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. Festivities at Reading Elementary School include food vendors, live music, “Touch-a-Truck,” carnival games, and a bounce house. Free admission to the Hall Art Foundation and crafts at the Reading Historical Society. readingvt.govoffice.com

Fall Festival
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Plymouth Notch, Plymouth. President Calvin Coolidge Historic Site. Popular autumn activities include hayrides, sampling of Vermont-grown heritage apples, and cider pressing demonstrations. The Plymouth Fire Department will be serving BBQ chicken dinners for sale on-site, supporting the local community. vermont.gov

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tunbridge Fairgrounds, 1 Fairground Ln, Tunbridge. \$8 Adults, \$5 Children under 12, and toddlers free. Celebrate the 36th Annual Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival, featuring vendors, fiber classes, animal barns, and demonstrations. Enjoy handcrafted goods, fiber arts supplies, and delicious local food. vtsheepandwoolfest.org

Open Studio Weekend
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday.) Full list of participating open studios in Vermont at vermontcrafts.com

Pepper Fest
10 am -4 p.m. Honey Field Farm, 55 Butternut Rd., Norwich. \$20. Pick-your-own peppers, scavenger hunt, hot sauce tastings, pepper eating challenge, games, and more. Food vendor: Ana’s Empanadas. honeyfieldfarm.com

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club
11 a.m.-3 p.m. (*Saturdays*) 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Assoc. Inc. See an operating HO scale model railroad set up 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

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

46th Annual Harvest Supper
5-9 p.m. — Prosper Valley School, 1071 Pomfret Rd, South Pomfret. Seatings at 5 and 6:45 p.m. Family-style meal featuring Thanksgiving favorites.This community tradition, organized by students and parents, serves as the main fundraiser for the TPVS and WES PTO. Dine in or opt for a to-go meal, available for pickup from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at The Prosper Valley School. Reserve seating at bit.ly/harvest46

Sisters
6:30 p.m. (Runs through Oct. 20) Northern Stage, Barrette Center for the Arts. 74 Gates Street, White River Junction. \$27-\$77. “Sisters”, a 2022 award-winning play by Matthew Libby, traces the lives of two sisters, Matilda and Greta, over 90 years. northernstage.org

Drive-In Horror Movies
7 p.m. -Midnight. Estabrook Park, 760 Grove St., Brandon. \$25 per carload per film. Drive-in movies at Estabrook Park in Brandon are back. A Nightmare Before Christmas (PG) showing at 7 p.m. A Nightmare on Elm Street (R) showing at 9:30 p.m. Snacks are available on-site. Presented by Dark Shadows Entertainment. darkshadowsentertainment.com

Music Show
7 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10. All ages show featuring Shy Husky, Vallery Falls, Carton, and Bowtie Camera. Presented by What Doth Life. Doors open at 6 p.m. mainstreetmuseum.org

SUNDAY

10/6

Pico Ski Club Annual Ski & Snowboard Swap & Sale
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Pico Base Lodge at Pico Mountain Resort. 73 Alpine Drive, Mendon. New and used skis, snowboards, clothing, snowshoes, and gear for all ages and levels. Proceeds benefit the Pico Ski Club and its youth racing programs. picomountain.com

Ludlow Farmers’ Market
9 a.m.-1 p.m. (*Sundays through 10/13*) So. Depot St., Ludlow. Find a variety of local produce, fresh baked goods, handmade crafts, cold beverages, live music and more. Join us for fresh food, community, and fun. ludlowmarket.org

St. Francis Animal Blessing
9:30-10:30 a.m. Mission Farm VT, 316 Mission Farm Rd, Killington. Bring your pets (or photos of your Pets) to be blessed in the tradition of St. Francis. missionfarmvt.org

Pepper Fest
10 am -4 p.m. Honey Field Farm, 55 Butternut Rd., Norwich. \$20. Pick-your-own peppers, scavenger hunt, hot sauce tastings, pepper eating challenge, games, and more. Food vendor: Ana’s Empanadas. honeyfieldfarm.com

Tap to Table – An Autumn Market
10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Olde Barn Yard, 5444 VT Route 103, Shrewsbury. Free. 70 Vermont vendors offering specialty foods, pottery, home goods, art, and more. Food trucks, live music, and samples of Vermont craft beverages. facebook.com/share/GAR9iFwRrBaPU5D8

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tunbridge Fairgrounds, 1 Fairground Ln, Tunbridge. \$8 Adults, \$5 Children under 12, and toddlers free. Celebrate the 36th Annual Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival, featuring vendors, fiber classes, animal barns, and demonstrations. Enjoy handcrafted goods, fiber arts supplies, and delicious local food. vtsheepandwoolfest.org

Mountain Bike Season Passholder Appreciation Day
2-4:30 p.m. Snowshed Umbrella Bar, Killington Resort, Killington. Free with pass. Celebrate the end of Killington’s mountain biking season with a BBQ buffet, racing, music, giveaways, and a raffle for passholders. Pick up a ticket at the Snowshed ticket windows. killington.com

The Art of Storytelling: Music for Flute & Piano
3-4:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd.South Pomfret. Tickets \$20. Music for flute and piano, featuring Flutist Leslie Neighbor Stroud and pianist Matthew Odell and works by Carl Reinecke, Jeremy Gill, and François Borne. artistreevt.org.

Jazz Performance
6-8 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Suggested donation. Enjoy an evening of jazz classics performed by the Westside Jazz Combo, a talented group of middle and high school musicians from West Rutland School. The ensemble will deliver vibrant interpretations of songs from the Great American Songbook, featuring hits by composers like Kenny Dorham and Duke Ellington. Proceeds benefit the WRS Music Program. uvjam.org

Dance Performance
6:30 p.m. JAM - Junction Arts & Media. 5 S. Main St., 1st Floor, White River Junction. \$5-\$10 Suggested donation. Join dance artist Rachel Bernsen for “The Set Up,” part of the seven-performance Novel Formats series, which explores improvisation in performance. RSVP at uvjam.org

Drive-In Horror Movie
9:30 p.m. -Midnight. Estabrook Park, 760 Grove St., Brandon. \$25 per carload per film. Drive-in movies at Estabrook Park in Brandon are back. The Shining (R). Snacks are available on-site. Presented by Dark Shadows Entertainment. darkshadowsentertainment.com

MON

10/7

Community Lunch
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (*Mondays*) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Over 60, \$3.50. Under 60, \$6. Donations welcome. In partnership with the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, the Godnick Center hosts congregate meals. Make new friends, connect with pals. 802-773-1853

Monday Movie
1 p.m. (*Mondays*) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Contact the library for the title. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765

Free Yoga on Mondays
5:30-6:30 p.m. Billings Farm Visitor Center, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free. Join Farm & Forest Yoga Flow, hosted by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Bring a mat and arrive by 5:25 p.m. tinyurl.com/FarmForestFlowYoga

TUESDAY

10/8

Handcraft Gathering
2-4 p.m. (*Every 3rd Tuesday*) Abbott Memorial Library, So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abbottnmemoriallibrary.org

Alzheimer’s Support Group
4-5 p.m., (Every 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer’s caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. chr.org

Rutland Area Toastmasters
6-7:30 p.m. (*First and Third Tuesdays*) Courcelle Bldg, 16 N. St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org

Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through ‘The Change’
7-9 p.m. Paramount Theater. 30 Center St., Rutland. \$45 plus tax/fees Directed by Seth Greenleaf, the musical features Teri Adams, Ingrid Cole, Donna J. Huntley, and Katie Karel. This comedic sequel follows four women navigating menopause on a cruise, blending humor, friendship, and a soundtrack of parodied hits from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. ParamountVT.org.

Dance Night
6:30-9:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd., South Pomfret. Join Susanna Stein for an evening of partner dancing to various styles, including two-step, swing, waltz, cha cha, tango, and salsa. Beginner East Coast Swing lesson from 6:30-7 p.m., followed by open dancing from 7-9:30 p.m. All experience levels welcome. No partner needed. Dance shoes encouraged to protect the floor. artistreevt.org.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

Colorful Barn Quilts Created by Math Students
Through Dec. 1. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd. Woodstock. Exhibition of Barn Quilts from the 6th and 7th grade students of Piermont Village School. billingsfarm.org

Reimagined ... The Art of Recycling
Through Oct. 26. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. The exhibit will be both inside the mansion and outside with sculptures on our historic property. Artists of all mediums whose work includes recycled materials will be part of this Exhibit. chaffeeartcenter.org

The Woman in Black
Through Oct. 20. Weston Theater Company. 703 Main St. Weston. \$25-\$79. Adaptation of Susan Hill’s ghost story. westontheater.org

The Great Pumpkin Costume Contest: Foam Pumpkins Available
Through Oct. 26. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Pick up a foam pumpkin and decorate it to look like a book character. Return your pumpkin by Oct. 26 to enter the contest. Voting runs from Oct. 28-Nov. 2, with winners announced on Nov. 4. rutlandfree.org

Local Color Exhibit Reception
Through Nov. 2. Artistree Gallery, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. 2-D and 3-D works by over 60 local artists, celebrating the colors of Autumn. artistreevt.org/local-color-2024

IBC Stick Figure Installation in Fair Haven Park
Through Nov. 2. Fair Haven Park, 47 So. Main St., Fair Haven. Free. The 5th annual stick figure installation, a popular fall event for the whole community, with Halloween characters featured in the ‘Danger Zone.’



SKI SWAP

Consignment sale of modern alpine, snowboard, telemark, and uphill equipment (no X-C Gear)
as well as gently used clean snowsports clothing (no street clothing).

SALE DATES AND HOURS:

LOCATION: PICO BASE LODGE AT PICO MOUNTAIN RESORT

Friday, October 4: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday, October 5: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 6: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Consignment drop off dates and locations:

at Pico Ski Club:

September 21: 12:00 - 3:00

September 28: 12:00 - 3:00

September 29: 9:00 - 1:00

October 2: 4:00 - 7:00

October 3: 4:00 - 7:00

at Pico Retail Shop:

October 4: 12:00 - 3:00



**PLEASE enter all consignment items online
PRIOR to the drop off date that you choose**

(entering items online prior to drop off will make the drop off process MUCH faster)

**Go to www.picoskiclub.com/swap or scan here:
to read the full instructions for consigning**



[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
10/2

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Open Mic with Danny Lang

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND

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

THURS
10/3

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Marc Edwards

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by Josh Cote

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

FRI
10/4

BRANDON

7:30 p.m. Town Hall – The Mamajamas: Co-ed Acapella group

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Breanna Elaine

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rick Webb

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice and Liz Reedy

6 p.m. The Foundry – George Nostrand

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jamie Livesey

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

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

QUECHEE

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

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Reggaeton Dance Party with DJ Chele

RUTLAND

6:30 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

SHARON

7 p.m. Seven Stars Arts Center – Bow Thayer

SOUTH POMFRET

6:30 p.m. Artistree – Upper Valley Partner Dance Party

SAT
10/5

BRANDON

7:30 p.m. Town Hall – Blues Without Borders

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Headliner James Pontillo and featured act Kitty Reynolds

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. The Umbrella Bar at Snowshed – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rick Webb

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Mowgli

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

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

PITTSFORD

8 p.m. The Hilltop Tavern – Aaron Audet Band

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Blue Fox

STOCKBRIDGE

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

SUN
10/6

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter

LUDLOW

10 a.m. Farmers Market – Sammy B

SOUTH POMFRET

3 p.m. Artistree – Matthew Odell and Leslie Stroud

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
10/7

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with King Arthur Junior

TUES
10/8

KILLINGTON

7:30 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

MENDON

5 p.m. Aallen Pools and Spas – Cancer Fundraiser with Aaron Audet

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

6:30 p.m. Vermont Tap House – Trivia Night

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www.missionfarmVT.org

Discover local art at Vermont's Open Studio Weekend

Oct. 5-6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Various locations throughout Vermont. This weekend, Vermont's vibrant art community prepares to welcome visitors for its annual Vermont Open Studio Weekend. Over 120 private studios across the state will open their doors, offering art lovers a unique opportunity to explore where creativity comes to life.

Organized by the Vermont Crafts Council, the event features an easy-to-navigate map system, helping participants visit any of the studios throughout the state. This weekend celebrates Vermont's artistic talent, where you can meet the artists, explore their workspaces, and purchase handcrafted goods.

For those in Rutland and Windsor counties, the Open Studio Weekend provides a chance to visit a diverse array of regional artists and their studios. Below is a list of participating studios from these two counties:

Rutland County Studios

- A Little Twisted Gallery - 7 Carver St., Brandon
- Ann McFarren - 56 Terrill St., Rutland
- Brandon Artists' Guild - 7 Center St., Brandon
- Form and Function Pottery - PO Box 291, Proctorsville
- Joan Curtis - 10 Union St., Brandon
- Karen Deets Stained Glass - 728 Moscow Rd., Fair Haven
- Mountain Heart Farm - Andrea Myklebust - 1276 Easy St., Danby
- Rising Meadow Pottery - Nicholas Seidner - 50 West St., West Middletown Springs
- Sanford Stragnell Metal Art - PO Box 394, Castleton
- Thomas Merwin Gallery - 557 Main St., Castleton
- The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center - 636 Marble St., West Rutland
- Vermont Gallery of Folk Art - 24 Park St., Brandon

Windsor County Studios:

- Bridgewater Mill Artists - 102 Mill Rd., Bridgewater
- Doris Ingram - 83 Trout Club Rd., Weston
- Robert O'Brien Watercolors - 2811 Weathersfield Center Rd, Perkinsville
- Todd Reuben - 100 Brown Rd., Bridgewater

For a complete map and more information on all the participating studios across Vermont, visit the Vermont Crafts Council website: vermontcrafts.com.



By Karen Deets

Stained glass will be on display at Karen Deets' studio in Fair Haven this weekend.

White River Junction Hosts Third Annual TWIST Comics and Zine Fair



By Pat Wise

Friday, Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. — WHITE RIVER JUNCTION — The third annual Twin State Comics and Zine Fair (TWIST) returns to White River Junction on Oct. 4 at The JAM (Junction Arts & Media). Known as a hub for independent cartoonists and home to the Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS), the town earns its nickname as Vermont's "Cartoon Town." TWIST provides a platform for local cartoonists, offering a rare opportunity to

showcase and sell their work without the need for costly travel or convention fees.

Unlike traditional conventions, TWIST embraces a DIY ethos, welcoming new and seasoned artists without the typical high costs. The event charges no tabling fee for artists and is free for attendees. Participants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis, creating an inclusive space for various cartoonists and zine makers, from CCS students and alums to local creators of all levels. "You don't need a whole convention center or a million-dollar budget to organize a zine or comics fair in your town, just a couple of friends and some folding tables," Cedar O'Dowd, TWIST co-organizer and JAM coordinator, said. The fair aims to lower barriers to entry, making it accessible for artists to share their work and for the community to celebrate the art form.

TWIST occurs at the JAM, 5 South Main Street, 1st Floor, White River Junction.

For more information, visit uwjam.org/event/twist-3.

The Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival returns for a weekend of fiber arts, animals, and fun

Saturday- Sunday, Oct. 5-6 — TUNBRIDGE — The 36th Annual Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival arrives this weekend, Oct. 5-6 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Admission to the Festival is \$8 a day, \$5 for children under 12 years; toddlers are free. The Festival enjoys a classic setting amidst the Vermont hills at the peak of Fall Foliage. Hours Saturday are 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday it's 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This year's Festival celebrates the International Year of Camelids. Visit the llamas and alpacas, view the camelid fiber contest entries, and learn more about camelids through talks and demos.

Central to the Festival is a marketplace of vendors, including farmers and artisans, offering fiber for hand spinning and felting, yarn, patterns, needles & hooks, buttons, books, and dyes. Also on offer will be a wide variety of equipment and supplies for spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting, and other fiber arts. Handcrafted garments, accessories, household items, pottery, jewelry, baskets, soaps, and other handmade and farm-raised products will be available. The Fleece Show & Sale will highlight top-quality fleeces from a variety of animals. Licensed local farm producers will feature meat, cheese, and more.

The Animal Barn includes sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, and angora rabbits, which provides an excellent opportunity to talk directly to producers about raising fiber animals.

Fiber classes begin Thursday, October 3, at the Tunbridge Town Hall and include spinning, felting, weaving, and more.

For those interested in showing off their fiber arts skills, this year's contests will offer a chance to compete for ribbons and prizes. Contest rules and entry forms are available at vtsheepandwoolfest.org.

Various workshops and demos allow vendors, farmers, and fiber artists to share their knowledge and skills.

Music by Royalton Community Radio will provide a background rhythm as visitors wander from building to building and visit outdoor demonstrations including the popular Border Collie herding demos with Jim and Ian McRae.

Food vendors will offer local food featuring everything from lamb, pizza, soups, salads, sandwiches, and desserts to the best maple creamers.

Come support local and regional farmers and artisans at the 35th Annual Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival.

For more info, visit: vtsheepandwoolfest.org.



Courtesy of Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival

A shearer trims a sheep at a recent Sheep and Wool Festival. The 36th annual Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival returns Oct. 5 and 6.

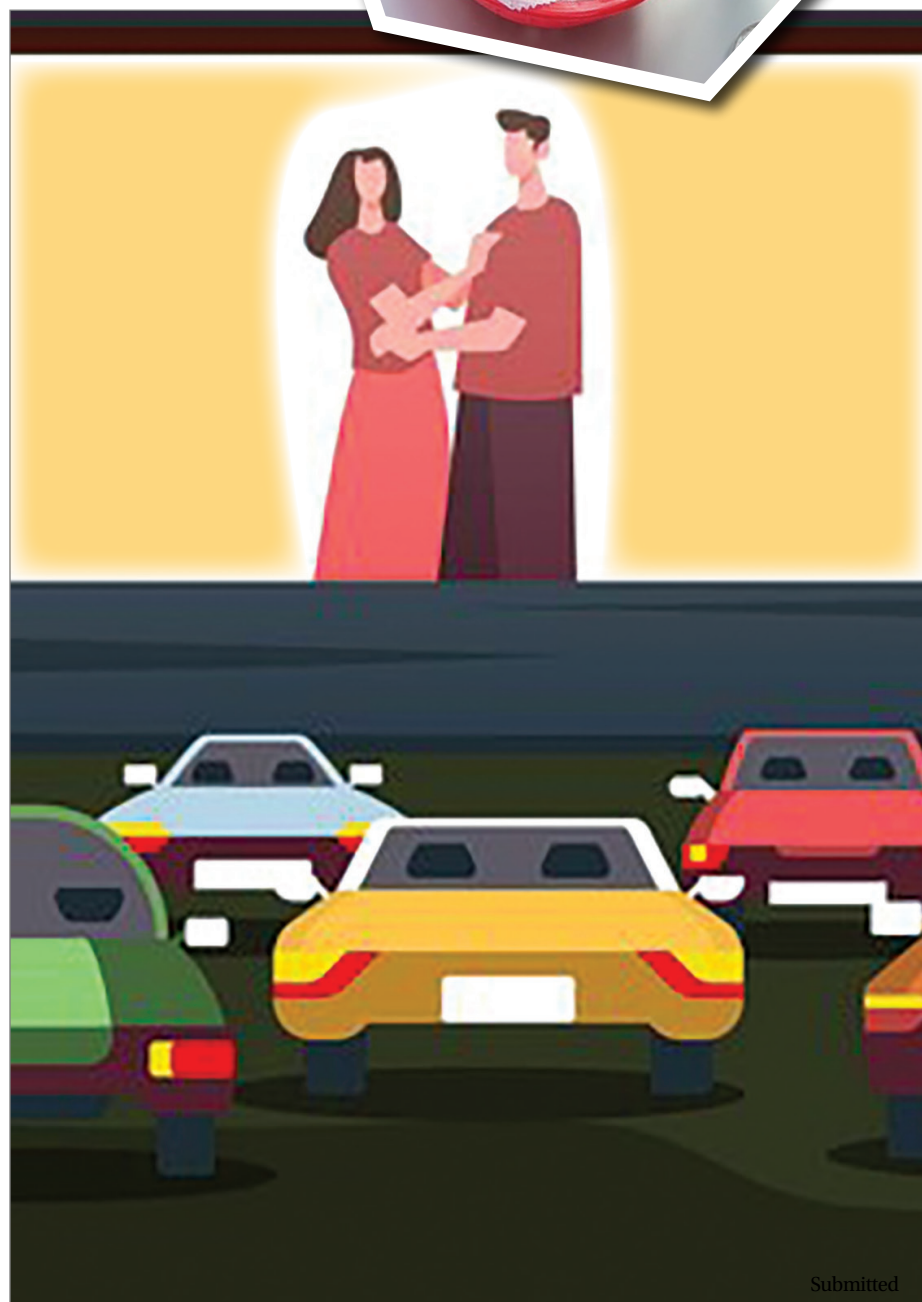
Brandon conjures up a spooky weekend at the drive-in

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 4-6—BRANDON—\$25 per carload per film. Fans of scary Halloween movies can rejoice. The drive-in movies at Estabrook Park in Brandon are back. This weekend offers several horror classics presented by Dark Shadows Entertainment.

On Friday evening, spend time with the Sanderson Sisters in the Disney favorite, "Hocus Pocus" (7 p.m. start time). This will be followed by a 9:30 p.m. showing of "Friday the 13th" for late night scares. Jack Skellington drops in for a 7 p.m. showing of "A Nightmare Before Christmas" on Saturday night. Freddy Krueger haunts the drive-in a even later, at 9:30 p.m., in "A Nightmare on Elm Street." And Sunday evening promises frights a plenty at 8:30 p.m. with Jack Nicholson and Shelly Duvall in "The Shining."

Snacks will be available on-site. It's a great way to kick off the scary season under the stars. Come support the drive-in, so Brandon can secure more movie nights next year. First showings on Friday and Saturday begin at 7 p.m., and late showings at 9:30 p.m. Sunday's screening begins at 8:30 p.m.

For more info, visit: darkshadowsentertainment.com



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October
26 & 28

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Website: killingtontown.com/transferstation

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

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



Rockin the Region with Chad Hollister

I've known Chad Hollister for about 25 years now. I've seen him solo, duo, trio, quartet; I've even seen him when he was in Entrain. Needless to say I'm a big fan of his music, but I've never seen the big band. I've always wanted to so I'm excited I finally get to see it, Friday Oct. 11 at the Woodstock Town Hall Theater at 7 p.m. After reading this article, I think you'll be excited too. Please visit chadmusic.com for more info. You can also find him and his music on all the social media and music platforms.

Chad said you can expect to experience extreme joy at the show. He added, "It's a vision of community, family and amazing live music. It's extreme passion to play music that we love. Two favorite compliments I get are when people tell me how inspired they are at the shows, and we look like we're having so much fun. We are, we live for these shows. There aren't that many of them, it takes a lot to get us all together. I'm just really excited to have people get to see this full-band because they're something special."

This will be a nine-piece band, who Chad couldn't praise enough. Drummer Tommy Diehl, who I know from Spookie Daly Pride, among others, Chad said, "It's like a piece of yours and mine history up in the band. Fresh off the Talking Heads tour is percussionist Yahuba Garcia, who was with Ryan Montheau for 15 years. Chad said, "He's an amazing percussionist, and an amazing human. The thing is these guys are all family, almost all of them have spent time at my house, eaten meals with us, the kids know them. The band membership is not just a job, it's being part of the family." Speaking of "like family," there's no band member like best friend/like a brother Jeff "Primo" Poremski on lead guitar and vocals. Chad said, "He's the keyest member of the band." Chad and Jeff have been "Boys" for decades. They tour together and truly are best-friends. Rudy Dauth is on bass. Chad said, "He's incredible." Chris Peterman, on sax, leads the horn section. He's the co-writer of all the horn parts, and been in the band for 10 years, something Chad was very excited about. Jake Whitesell is on baritone sax. Chad said, "He plays with everybody; Kat Wright, his own band. He's a beautiful human." Kevin Avery, of the Avery Twins, is on trumpet. Chad said, "He's an amazing part of our horn section, and always delivers killer parts and tasty solos. Chad just met Mike Zsoldos, who's on sax, a few weeks ago at the Imagine Zero Festival. Chad said, "As soon as this dude played 2 notes, I was like holy s---. As soon as I met him, we became immediate bros. I told him we just had to play together. He's a brilliant player. Imagine Zero was put on by Ben Kogan, who will be playing upright bass in the band, as a special guest. Chad said, "He's become a really good friend, an amazing player, and an amazing human." Chad is part of "Musicians for Sustainability" which is Ben's project. Chad added, "That's everyone, all 9 of us, and I'll be

there too (laughing)."

"The energy that's in that room is what I live for. I've always wanted to do the Woodstock Town Hall Theater. I never look at any gig as being better than any other but when we get a chance to play these beautiful theaters, we take it."

Chad is bringing his lighting team for this show. That's Kyle Rose who does all of Chad's big shows, like the 7 years in-a-row of sold-out

shows they played at Spruce Peak in Stowe, pre-covid. He's partnered with Jason Liggett, who's now a lighting guy for Saturday Night Live.

Since they live all over the place, sound check will be key since getting together to practice will be tough. Chad said, "I'm bringing some old tracks into the mix. I like every show to be different, even though we don't get to play together that much. The beauty about the horn parts is, with the exception of

Zsoldos, they've all done the gig. The charts are so good, thanks to Chris Peterman, that I can hire any Cat in the world that's a good reader, and they can torch it. That's also part of being a pro. Not ever to say we don't practice, because we practice. The core band will get together on occasion, and Rudy, Primo and I work on our harmonies often, and in warm-ups. There's a lot of rehearsal that goes on, away from the show. Then it's the magic of these pros, these family members, that when we get together, it's kind of this big party of camaraderie, family, and love. I'm just so excited you're going to be there. You'll see these smiles, of s--- that's never happened before. Every solo is always different. Just the other night Primo played these tones I've never heard him do. I looked over and just smiled. At the end he said, "That was fun." There's always magic in so many different ways. It's so cool."

You can definitely say Chad prides himself on having a great band, and it's very important to him. He said, "I've had a bunch of lineups but there's nothing that can touch this nine-piece band. What I look at my job is to float on top of this masterful cloud/rainbow/unicorn. Nobody would have any idea that we don't do this 5 nights a week."

Chad really appreciates the show sponsors. He said, "These shows are really made possible through our sponsors plus we love to give back to the community. We're doing a silent auction that night and all the money raised will go to "Love your Brain." For more details on that charity, go to loveyourbrain.org. The sponsors are: Woody's Mercantile, Blizzard Skis (A pair in the silent auction), Rose Capital Advisors, The Tea House Dispensary, Barr Hill and Lawson's Finest. Chad added, "They'll be running the bar that night and there will be Barr Hill cocktails named after our songs, which is cool." Minute Man Press is doing the posters, and the Village Butcher is feeding them that night.

Chad's music is a blend of his many musical influences. He said, "I'm a big melting pot of everything I listen to. It all meshes together

Rockin' → 23

36th Annual VERMONT Sheep & Wool Festival



October 5-6, 2024
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Tunbridge, Vermont

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Demos: sheep shearing, herding & vendor demos

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Local Food, Music and Maple Creemees
vtsheepandwoolfest.org

'How to Love a Forest' a new book from Vermont forester, author, and digital creator Ethan Tapper asks what it means to truly love a forest

Vermont author Ethan Tapper's first book: "How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World" will be published on Sept. 10 by Broadleaf Books. The launch of "How to Love a Forest" will be celebrated with a book tour throughout New England.

How to Love a Forest, which has received the endorsements of prominent environmental authors such as Bill McKibben, Doug Tallamy, Ben Goldfarb and others, is – in the author's words – a reimagining of forests and other ecosystems and what it means to care for them. It asks: what does it mean to love a forest? How do we respond to the harmful legacies of the past? How do we use our species' incredible power to heal rather than to harm? How do we reach toward a better future?

Tapper started writing How to Love a Forest in 2018, after realizing that there was no book that captured what forests truly are, how they work, and what it means to care for them. He wrote the book one hour at a time — from 5-6 a.m. — over the following five years, finally completing it in 2023. The resulting book has been called "tender and fearless," "a new land ethic for the modern world," "a manifesto against apathy," and "a love story for our time, beautiful and revolutionary."

For over a decade, Ethan Tapper has worked as a service forester and a consulting forester — advising landowners, municipalities, conservation organizations, foresters and loggers and responsibly stewarding thousands of acres of public and privately-owned forests.

Today, Tapper writes, runs his own consulting forestry company (Bear Island Forestry), maintains social media channels with tens of thousands of followers, manages his forest and homestead in Bolton and plays in his punk band: The Bubs.

How to Love a Forest's book launched with a celebration in Burlington City Hall on Sept. 10. He then embarked on a book tour throughout New England. Locally, he can be seen on:

Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester

Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. at Norman Williams Public Library in Woodstock

Oct. 19 at 4:30 p.m. at the Vermont Woodlands Association Storytelling Event in White River Junction

Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at Farm & Wilderness in Plymouth

For more information about his full tour schedule, visit: [EthanTapper.com/tour](https://ethantapper.com/tour).



Submitted

Vermont author Ethan Tapper's first book: "How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World" will be published on Sept. 10 by Broadleaf Books.



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Rockin':

from page 20

into a style that's really all our own." I agree with that. If you want to know who he sounds like? He sounds like Chad. It's a unique sound, it's upbeat. I like music that moves you and you can't help but be moved by Chad's music, both mentally and physically.

Chad is working on a new album. He said, "It's a slower process now. I wish I had more time to write but there's always something going on. I try and do it as much as I can. I'd love to be doing it more and make more time for writing. I love it." Chad likes his music to tell a message or a story.

Chad emphasized how important it is to support artists. Just because you can stream it for free, doesn't mean you're helping the artist. He said, "Go buy their music. It's really important for people to know if somehow I was to get a million streams, it's maybe \$1500. Nobody makes any money through streaming. If you really love an artist, go to their website and buy a CD, a t shirt, vinyl. That's a big thing for me."

Chad loves to inspire. He said, "If I can inspire one person, then I'm good. Our world is so f---ed right now that we're in dire need to regroup as a country, and I feel that music can heal. I feel that when people are at that show on October 11th, they will forget about everything for a couple of hours. If I can take people away from their world and inspire them to take that energy out into the world, the next day, month, year, decade, then I've done it. If we can do, what we do, I feel it makes a difference."



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“Menopause The Musical 2” cruises through Rutland for one night only

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m. — RUTLAND — GFour Productions, winners of 68 Drama Desk and 54 Tony Awards, will present “Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through ‘The Change’” at The Paramount Theatre for a one-night-only performance on Tuesday. This uproarious sequel to the internationally acclaimed Menopause The Musical continues the comedic exploration of menopause, friendship, and self-discovery set against the backdrop of a cruise ship.

Featuring a talented cast of leading ladies, including Teri Adams (Iowa Housewife), Ingrid Cole (Earth Mother), Donna J. Huntley (Professional Woman), and Katie Karel (Soap Star), the production is a lively celebration of women navigating the ups and downs of “The Change.” The story picks up five years after the original musical, following the quartet as they embark on a cruise filled with hilarious moments, heartfelt confessions, and a soundtrack of parodied hits from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Directed by Seth Greenleaf, with choreography by Jonathan Stahl, scenic design by Sean McClelland, and music direction by Peter Aylin, the show promises to deliver laughs and poignant moments alike. “Menopause The Musical 2” brings a unique blend of comedy, music, and relatable life experiences, showcasing how menopause can be more than just hot flashes and mood swings—it’s about friendship, resilience, and embracing life’s changes.

“Menopause The Musical,” the original production, debuted in Orlando and became a long-running Off-Broadway hit, with performances world-wide in over 500 cities and translations into nine languages. The sequel continues this legacy, providing a fresh, energetic look at life after “The Change.”

“Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through ‘The Change’” will take the stage at The Paramount Theatre, in downtown Rutland. Attendees can look forward to an engaging evening that blends humor with relatable life stories, set within the unique atmosphere of one of Rutland’s cultural landmarks.

All tickets are \$45 plus tax/fees.
For more information, visit MenopauseTheMusical.com or ParamountVT.org.



By Mark Garvin

“Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through ‘The Change’” New Hope 2023 comes to the Paramount. The cast includes: Kimberly Ann Harris, Teri Adams, LaDonna Burns, and Katie Karel.

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Cover crops provide stability and sustainability

By Bonnie Kirn Donahue, UVM Ext. Master Gardener

Rather than leaving a field or patch of soil open over the winter, consider cover crops. A cover crop is basically a temporary seeding of an area that would otherwise have exposed soil. The crop is a placeholder for future crops that will be grown there. There are lots of reasons to use cover crops. First, soil is stabilized during transition times, preventing erosion and soil movement that may occur when not vegetated.

Second, vegetating exposed areas prevents rain and stormwater runoff from depositing soil particles and nutrients into nearby rivers and streams. The cover crops help to absorb and capture water, and help hold nutrients in the soil.

Third, cover crops are typically meant to be annual or one-season crops. Once the crop is no longer needed, it can be tilled back into the soil, which will provide organic matter and nutrients to the soil as it decays.

There are many species that can be used as cover crops. Keep in mind, the purpose of the cover crop, the timing of planting and what your soil needs.

Cover crops also can be used when planting seed mixes with slower-growing seed species. Native, pollinator seed mixes often need a cover crop, which will provide quick establishment and erosion control while the native species become established.

If you are seeding an area in the spring, using oats (*Avena sativa*) works well as it grows quickly in warm weather, and it will be killed by frost in the fall. For planting in late summer or fall, winter or cereal rye (*Secale cereale*) is recommended because it grows well in cold conditions.

Annual rye (*Lolium perenne ssp. multiflorum*) is often already included in seed mixes for lawns. It establishes quickly and creates great (temporary) cover while the other grass seeds are getting established.

Crops → 26



By Bonnie Kirn Donahue
Red clover, a good source of food for bees and other pollinators, also boosts soil health by fixing nitrogen.



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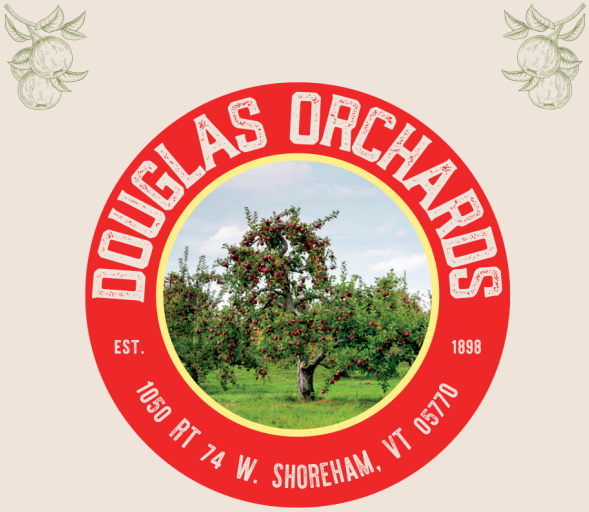


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← **Crops:**
from page 25

Be careful though as planting too much annual rye or letting it grow too tall can smother the seed that you actually want to grow. Make sure to follow the manufacturer’s seed rate recommendations, and mow the grass when it grows taller than eight inches.

For areas where you just need temporary cover, you could use one of the grass or grain species listed above, or you could plant other species that have other useful features.

Hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and winter peas (*Pisum sativum*) are species that fix nitrogen, boosting soil health. Both species flower profusely, so they offer food for pollinators while planted.

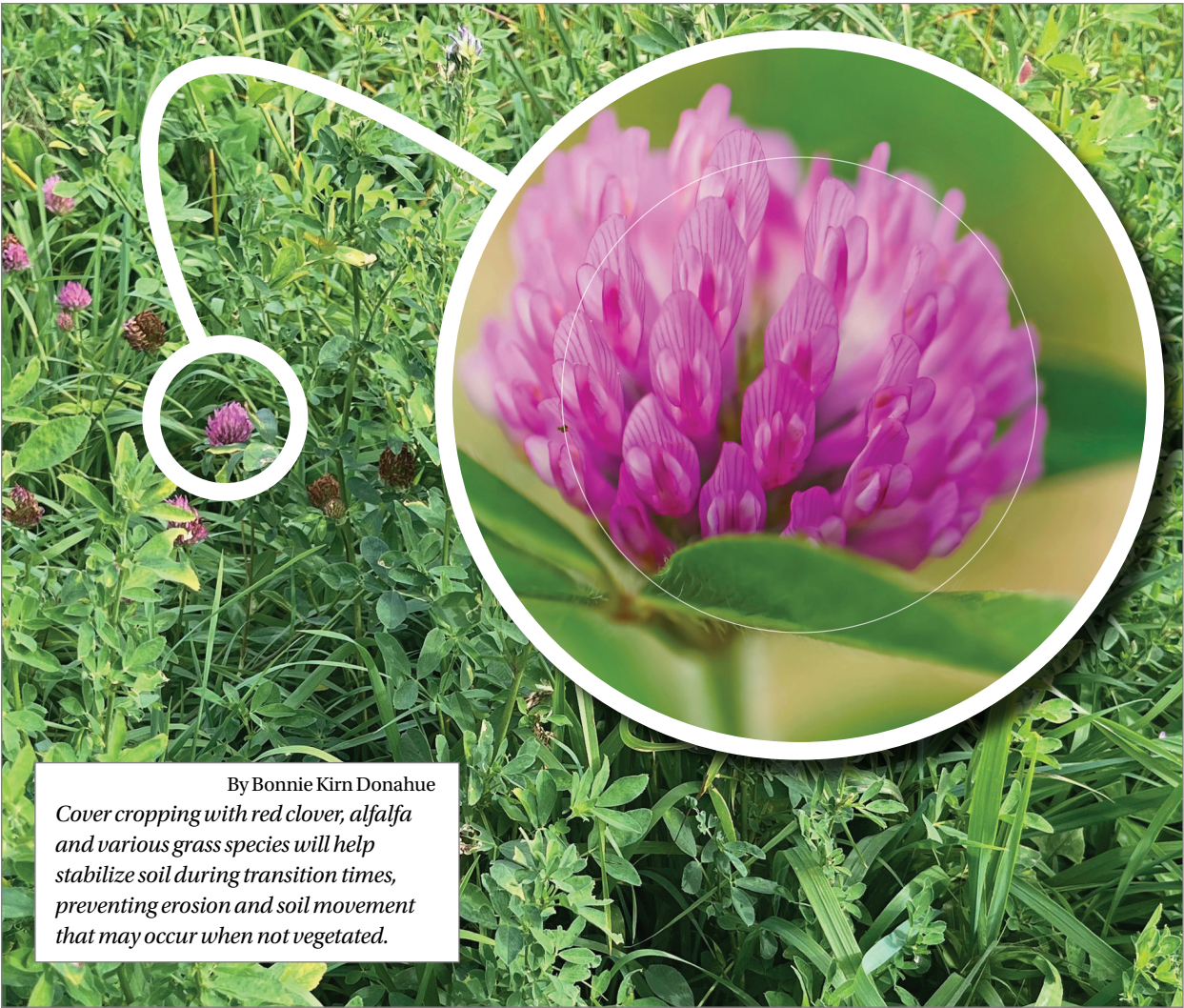
Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) are also great multipurpose cover crops that produce flowers that attract pollinators, establish quickly and suppress weeds.

If you have compacted soils, consider using a brassica cover crop such as tillage radish. Its hearty taproots will break up the soil and improve soil aeration.

To determine the quantity of seed needed, you will need to know the size of the area you want covered. Then, look for the seed rate on seed manufacturers’ bags or websites to calculate how much seed you need. You might need to do some conversions, so keep a calculator handy.

Cover crops are an excellent way to give back to the soil and environment around us. Give it a try this season and see how you feel about it!

Cover
crops are an
excellent way
to give back
to the soil and
environment
around us.



By Bonnie Kirn Donahue
Cover cropping with red clover, alfalfa and various grass species will help stabilize soil during transition times, preventing erosion and soil movement that may occur when not vegetated.

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Fox US Open of Mountain Biking Returned to Killington Resort

The Fox U.S. Open of Mountain Biking took place this past weekend, Sept. 26-29, at Killington Resort. Professional and amateur racers competed in events like Downhill, Dual Slalom, and the crowd-favorite USO Best Whip, with free spectating and access to approved areas of the Bike Park. See more photos at MountainTimes.info.



Courtesy Killington Resort



By Paul Holmes

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Crossword

Solutions from page 13

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W	I	D	E		G	A	U	C	H	E		E	R	A
E	X	O	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N		C	A	R
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Sudoku

Solutions from page 13

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

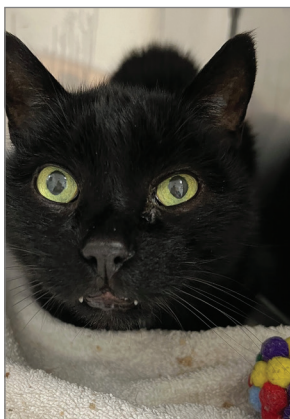
Rutland County Humane Society



Roxie—5-year-old. Female. Domestic shorthair.



Grover—1-year-old. Male. Hound mix.



Midnight—13-year-old. Male. Domestic shorthair.



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

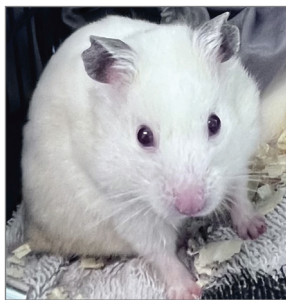


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PIPER

Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

This week, ask yourself whether the juice is worth the squeeze. In other words, you need to choose your battles because it's likely you've got too many and it's affecting your relationship. That said, sometimes a relationship actually needs affecting. However, if there is more drama in your life at the moment that is good for you or for your certain someone, then you do need to let go of some battles. Be wise.

Leo July 21 - August 20

Sometimes all it takes to really change a situation is to just decide to change your mind. When you choose to be, you can be quite stubborn. However, you really do need to ask yourself whether that is worth it or not. There is truth on your side and on their side. More often than not, it's the middle ground where the truth actually lies. This week, it's up to you to try and find that place in the middle.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

It's important that you keep your cards close to your chest this week. Those who talk to you will talk about you so do remember that loose lips can sink ships. I've thrown a bunch of phrases at you there, so I hope you do get the picture. Big stuff is happening for you right now, but you do need to be cautious of what you tell to whom. Generally speaking, a good rule of thumb is to keep quiet until it's done. Be wary of the evil eye.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

You might reach that fork in the road this week where you decide you either can or you can't. It's one thing to work hard for a purpose or an outcome, but it's quite the other to work for the sake of working. If you feel you can do better, then that is what you have to do. Balance is required between playing nice and going straight for the jugular. It's not an easy balance to strike. Be chill and avoid pushing buttons.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

Whatever you are currently invested in — financially or emotionally, ask yourself whether it's paying off, or not. You see, it may take some time to actually reach a dividend of some description but you may need to strike a balance right now. Someone or something may be asking more from you now than you're in a position to give. Be cautious your helpful nature doesn't get taken advantage of. There is no need to rush in just because someone else wants you to.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

As you stand upon the mountain top, do you like the view? Perhaps you're filled with regret because you didn't even take the first step to reach the summit. Regardless, of your current position, you do need to think differently about it. Your career, your reputation or what your next summit will be depends on the events of this week. Strategy is everything. Don't let frustration of feelings sabotage your efforts thus far nor the results that are possible for you.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

It's a good thing you are one who can stick to the facts. Right now, you're implicated in an issue that involves a child or a romantic issue. While there may be aggravated feelings involved, don't let lies or slander impact on the right choices you need to make. Sometimes we don't choose battles but the battles choose us. Fight for what's right. Stay factual. You have the moral high ground in this situation.

Libra September 21 - October 20

It's often darkest before dawn. The hours also feel the longest. Your mission this week is to go the distance. Even if the road is long and dark, you must traverse it. You must go where others fear, even where you've feared. Success, achievement and all that you've ever wanted it exactly on the other side of where you are now. You've closed the gap a fair bit in recent months, but you're not done yet. Dig deeper. Keep going. You're almost there.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

Life tends to improve for you dependent on your willingness to compromise, or not. You see, your world is about to change in large scale and dramatic ways. Whether you think this is a bad thing, an exciting thing — then you are right! Whatever your current perspective is on life, chances are, it needs an adjustment. Do remember in every war, you have to lose a battle or two along the way. This is part of the art of compromise. Stop being so stubborn!

Cancer June 21 - July 20

Your apple cart is likely to be upset this week, especially on the home front. You may do your best to engage in conversations and attempt to reach a compromise. Don't. Just sit this one out. The battles you're fighting right now are actually within yourself, not with others. If you feel you're getting hot under the collar about something or someone, then know that is something within yourself you need to deal with. Do not start what you cannot finish.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

Pretty much the only thing that holds you back now is your own state of mind. You might be surprised to hear this, but you also know it's true. It's the messages you see and hear but write them off as co-incidences. It's the intuition you push down because you don't always like what it tells you. You really do need to be paying attention to your inner voice right now. It's way more helpful to you than crowd sourcing opinions from strangers on the internet.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

When you peel back the layers of tea and niceties, you get the chance to see what things are all about. Sometimes you can be oblivious to the motivations of other's as well as your own. Right now, you can continue playing nice but then you have to ask yourself what is the cost of that — both financially and emotionally. This may not be easy for you, but you may need to consider that it is time to take the gloves off!

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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.

Consider the facts

T'would be wise to tread gently over the next few days. Notice I didn't say, "back down," "re-treat" or "give up?"

Alas, it's even more important than ever to hold your ground and fight for what's right. With many voices of confusion lying, scheming and twisting things, it can be easy for some to lack clarity — especially of the moral kind.

When the mind feels confused, this is when you have to tread gently. It can be easy to get caught in the he said/she said side of things. It can be easy to get so emotionally wound up over something that you can no longer see the facts.



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

If your feelings don't like the facts, you need new feelings, not new facts. After all, this week's solar eclipse happens in the rational air sign of Libra, alongside Mercury. If you're feeling swept up in emotions, keep in mind that in that state, it is easier to be taken advantage of.

However, if you stick to the facts and keep your feelings in check, you're likely to make the right choice. Regardless of whether you're trying to decide whom to vote for, who are the good guys and the bad guys, or if it's a personal battle you're undertaking — facts, even if you don't like them, matter.

Spring's Queen

Tucked away
In a sea of brown and gray
Just beyond the travelers smog
Lives a specimen of unadulterated beauty

Thriving in solidarity
Harmoniously lending guidance to the kingdom
A single organism
Promoting unity in the shadow of the mountain

Your supple, verdant wings spread wide
Ignoring your stagnant surroundings
Your crimson tiara reaching for the sun
Grasping for its love

The first sign of life as the woods wake up
Courageously flaunting in the forest
The beginning of a wonderful spring season
When we return, will you remain?

Following the rushing waters
Shaping our mountain terrain
We spot your purple and magenta hues
The same Wake Robin, but changed



Dream in Color
By Will O'Donnell

Dream in Color →33

A haircut and a lesson; a nostalgic memory

Editor's note: Bruce Bouchard is former executive director of The Paramount Theatre. John Turchiano, his friend for 52 years, was formerly the editor of Hotel Voice, a weekly newspaper on the New York Hotel Trades Council. They are co-authoring this column to tell short stories on a wide range of topics.

We all have memories from early childhood, and one that I remember so well is the neighborhood barbershop. I can smell it now, the Lilac Vegetal permeating the

air around me. And the buzz. I remember that buzz. The electric hair clippers and the constant conversation combined to make the barbershop's sound resemble a beehive.

To a precocious kid wanting to grow up fast that buzz was music. The barbershop was less than 100 feet from my house, and I didn't have to cross any streets to get there. Because of this my mom allowed me to go there by myself starting when I was in Kindergarten.



Insights & Inspirations
By Bruce Bouchard and John Turchiano

Insights & Inspirations → 32

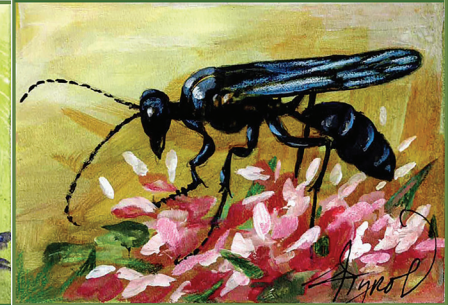


Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

The great golden digger wasp (left) is easily distinguishable from the great black digger wasp (right).

The benefits and misconceptions of digger wasps

On warm days through early fall, you can find two large species of "digger" wasps flitting about late-blooming flowers. Like many wasps, these species elicit strong, often negative reactions in humans. But digger wasps inhabit a critical niche in invertebrate communities — and can lend a natural hand in pest control.

Two of the most common digger wasps in northern New England are the great golden digger wasp (*Sphex ichneumoneus*) and great black digger wasp (*S. pensylvanicus*). These hefty wasps first appear in July in the Northeast and persist into fall for as long as daytime temperatures remain elevated. The great golden digger wasp, which is a striking combination of orange, black, and gold, averages about half an inch in length. The great black digger wasp is jet black and slightly larger, measuring around 1 inch long.

True to their name, digger wasp females excavate nest tunnels up to a foot deep in loose soil. Nests may be clustered together in patches of bare ground or sand, although each wasp is a solitary nester that only looks after its own offspring. Each female constructs a series of brood chambers that branch off the nest's

attempt to steal the catches of female great golden digger wasps as they transport them to their nests.

Digger wasps' predation of other invertebrates serves a crucial ecosystem need, according to Frank Drummond, professor emeritus of insect ecology and insect pest management at University of Maine. Digger wasps "help regulate the populations of prey species" and thus keep grasshoppers and other herbivorous insects from decimating the plants and

trees on which innumerable species rely. Gardeners and farmers, in turn, benefit from a natural check on species that can harm crops, which also reduces the need for insecticide applications.

Predation is not the digger wasps' only ecosystem offering. Although the young rely on prey insects, the adult wasps consume nectar. Fine hairs on their bodies transfer pollen granules between flowers as the wasps forage. Drummond also noted that digger wasps "aid in soil aeration and soil-nutrient turn over"

when they burrow into soil to establish their nests, another win for farmers and gardeners.

Despite these vital ecosystem services, digger wasps often get a bad rap. Their size and foreboding colors prompt a

"A good rule is: if they are not bothering you, don't bother them," said Charlene Donahue.

strong — and usually negative — human reaction. Margaret Skinner, an entomologist at University of Vermont Extension, said that she often fields calls from people alarmed about golden digger wasps in their yards or gardens. "People tend to be concerned when they see them flying around their plants," she said. "They make a fairly loud noise, are big compared to other wasps, and their colors suggest, 'Warning, keep away!'"

In truth, digger wasps pose little risk to humans and generally only show aggression when provoked.

"A good rule is: if they are not bothering you, don't bother them," said Charlene Donahue. Outside Story → 38

Riding the storm out

I've lived through one major hurricane in my life...and it wasn't pretty.

It was 2016 and my wife, mother, mother-in-law, and I were living in Jacksonville, Florida, in a vacation home directly on the beach. In fact, it was so "on the beach" that you could walk out the back steps and step directly into the ocean.

That sounds like a dream scenario, but we weren't there for the happiest of reasons. Jacksonville, Florida, while home to some beautiful beaches and eclectic Southern flair, is also the location of the Mayo Clinic, the leading academic research hospital in the United States, and my best chance of surviving stage 4 cancer.

Eight years ago, I was in the fight of my life when an unruly tumor threatened to extinguish my existence. I was told that, without immediate intervention, I would be dead in 12 months. I was also told that there was one hospital in the country that specialized in eradicating this type of tumor, but the only way they would treat me is if I relocated there for three months.

In the course of a few weeks, I went from joyfully hitting golf balls and having cocktails on the deck, to moving into a rental home hundreds of miles away so I could have multiple surgeries, daily radiation, and a course of crippling chemotherapy. Talk about head-spinning!

The whole concept of cancer was difficult to fathom. I had heard about cancer, and

watched movies about cancer, and listened to stories about cancer, but I never dreamed I'd have cancer growing inside of me. It's almost as if, overnight, you realize your body has been invaded by an alien intent on killing you from within.

Thankfully, I had my family around to look out for me, but I basically handed my life over to a group of medical professionals who promised to save me.

So, right in the middle of this rather uncomfortable process, we received word that a major hurricane was headed toward Jacksonville. We figured it would only pose minimal risk, but the closer it got, the more intense the rhetoric became. And before we knew it, we were being forcibly evacuated away from the coastline.

At that point, the pain associated with my treatments had reached extreme levels, so I was heavily sedated on narcotics. I could walk and move around, but half the time I didn't know where I was. So, while my wife,

mother, and mother-in-law frantically searched for an inland spot to relocate, I sat in a chair staring at the wall somewhat oblivious to the severity of the situation.

Luckily, they found a Hampton Inn with one room left that was reserved for a handicapped individual (which I was embarrassingly qualified to fill). In one afternoon, my family packed up our gear and drove away.

I have no recollection of Hurricane Matthew hitting landfall other than a brief memory of staring at the television. **Movie Diary → 35**



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



October is all about embracing change, just ask the trees

October is the month where cozy sweaters become a fashion statement and leggings become an essential food group. The cool air, the color and the smell of pumpkin spice make me a happy camper.

There is also the anticipation of Halloween. It also provides an excuse to be a perfect witch. But, the scariest thing about October is we also begin to realize just how many days left until Christmas [there are 55 days between Halloween and Christmas].

L.M. Montgomery said it best. "I'm glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

At my age I'm happy to learn something

new. Last week I learned a new word, "gatha." Gathas are short verses that we can recite during our daily activities to help us return to the present moment

and dwell in mindfulness. As exercises in both meditation and poetry, gathas are an essential part of Zen Buddhist tradition. I had never heard the word before so did a little research and came up with a book called "Present Moment Wonderful Moment" by Thich Nhat Hanh. We all have bad days or bad moments within those days, some more serious

than others. Using a gatha at certain times **Senior Scene → 33**



Senior Scene
By Gerrie Russell

Autumn is a fine time to call a hump day

A girlfriend and I made a new tradition a few months ago. We decided that no matter what, how busy our schedules were or how far away we now live from each other, that at one point this autumn we would call a Hump Day.

It would have to be the perfect day, where the weather was just the right temperature, the wind was minimal and the sky just the most wonderful shade of blue. Maybe with a few clouds thrown in for dramatic effect. And no rain. I certainly wasn't going to embark on this mission when I could be nailing out office work and cleaning my house.

We confirmed about two weeks before, when we could estimate that the weather was going to be absolutely awesome. I mean, really this whole week was the most ridiculously glorious fall weather, with the fog lingering until almost ten in the morning and then lifting to reveal stunningly blue skies. So, the colors haven't reached their brightest point yet, but we all know that doesn't happen until 2 p.m. on Monday so not to worry.

We confirmed the night before, both of us threatening the other that we each would be willing to pull a solo Hump Day if the other couldn't make it. We both have

crazy weird schedule jobs, where things come up at the last minute that you sometimes cannot ignore or push off, so that possibility was always there. But after years of planning, it was finally happening!!

I was up early, driving through the dark and fog, headed north on Route 100. The drive itself was stunning, up and over Mad Gap, and getting to see the colors through Moss Glen. The best part? Since I was up so early, there were no leaf peepers going 10 miles per hour under the speed limit and I could actually reach my destination in a timely fashion! Driving home took about 20 minutes longer.

Turning onto Camel's Hump Road, I almost "pulled a tourist" to stop and get a picture. The fog was climbing up the hill of some farmland with the mountains in the background and the whole thing looked like a black & white image overlaying onto the foliage. I am actually kind of mad at myself for not getting out and taking the picture. Damn it.

From the Burrows parking lot, we took the connector trail over a sketchy bridge to the Forest City Trail. Our goal was to hit the Long Trail to the summit, because it's one of the most fun sections of trail in the state

Living the Dream → 37



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

School days back in the '50s and '60s

By now the school year is in full swing. Students have decided if they like their classes and their teachers.

Going to a Catholic school back in the 1950s meant having a teacher clothed in a black and white habit with only her face and hands showing. The teachers at Christ the King School in Rutland were from the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Their garb wasn't a complete surprise to students as most of us had seen the nuns at Mass.

If your teacher was kind and made learning a fun experience then you looked forward to going to school each day. Our first grade teacher, Sr. Gerard, met all those requirements! I loved school. My cousin, Betty, had some reservations about being there. She wanted to follow Sr. Gerard everywhere including the kitchen. At a teacher conference the nun told Betty's mother that the only place she didn't follow her was to the bathroom! Later in life, Betty turned out just fine. She became a very independent and outgoing person. It just took awhile. (Since Betty reads Mountain Times I will certainly hear about sharing that story!)

Back in the 50s it was rare to have a lay teacher. I had my first experience in the 6th grade with Mrs. Noonan. Another unique

experience that year was being in a double grade. The 5th and 6th grades were taught in the same classroom. I quickly learned that there were very few girls in the 6th grade with last names toward the end of the alphabet like mine. I remember not being happy about being separated from my friends.

Apparently I wanted to be a "published writer" back in the 8th grade. One day after school another girl and I brought an article about our upcoming graduation to the Rutland Herald. I had written the article and my friend just came along for moral support. Apparently

the newspaper had no problem publishing it. However, the principal, Sr. Saint Michael did! There was an assembly in the school basement the day the article was in the paper. As I was leaving she beckoned for me to get out of the line and go to her. She said, "Well there's my little reporter!" She promptly told me that I needed permission to publish any article about the school. Then she smiled and said, "Good job...just don't do that again!"

Leaving Christ the King and moving on to Mt. St. Joseph Academy (MSJ) was a fun experience. Most of the students in Rut-

Looking Back → 35



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

← Dream in Color:.....
from page 30

Now storing up any warmth
One last chance to breathe in the heat

Hanging on as long as possible

Saving all of the bright energy

The days are getting shorter
Light will be harder to find
Soon the air will sting
The morning dew will become frost

It will be harder to push through
To remain steadfast
To stand out from the darkness
Once the heavy breeze settles in

The biting cold and snow will cover you
Keeping you safe and protected
As you hang your head and rest
You stay confident you will grow from this

Your efforts will not go unrecognized
The joy you bring will not be forgotten
Because when the light returns
You will rejoin us stronger than ever

And when we come back to visit you
To admire your new crown
We will write the world together
In our vibrant mountain town



Trillium

Submitted

← Insights & Inspirations:.....
from page 30

ten. She would watch me walk there and one of the barbers would watch me walk back home. If I had to sit and wait to be called for my turn, I didn't mind. There were magazines to look through. Even if I didn't understand what I was "reading," I could act like I did. There were some magazines that were stored on a high shelf that youngsters like me couldn't reach. I later learned those were the magazines the men looked at for their pictures, if you know what I mean.

Our barbershop had two Italian-American barbers, Mario and Vinny, and a third, a man named Abe, who was Jewish. All were really nice guys. It was easy to tell how friendly they were because they chattered away as they worked.

Three languages were spoken: Italian, Yiddish and Brooklynese.

Mario once pointed through the shop's large storefront window to a woman walking across the street and said, "Well, get a load of Miss Earl." All the men chuckled, so I did, too. But I later asked my father about it. Dad had to think for a minute and then he laughed and speculated that the woman Mario pointed out was probably very skinny because Earl was how people from Brooklyn pronounced the last name of Popeye's girlfriend, Olive Oyl. All three barbers spoke a form of Brooklynese, and to this very day I distinctly remember Vinny saying that Bill, a regular customer, was in the hospital and unfortunately had taken "a toin for the woist."

I particularly liked that while Abe, the Jewish barber, called me Johnny, Mario and Vinny called me "bello," an Italian term that my grandmother used in addressing me. I knew it meant "handsome" and it was a crushing disappointment when I later learned that Mario and Vinny called all the young boys "bello."

The stories I heard in the barbershop concerned baseball, the war, politics, the war, the neighborhood and, of course, the war. Many of the men were veterans and they spoke of World War II like it was yesterday. I heard nicknames like Old Blood and Guts, Desert Fox and Vinegar Joe, and sometimes I heard the men speak in hushed tones about neighborhood guys who didn't come back. There was also a lot of talk about the Dodgers and Giants, two beloved New York baseball teams, as if they had not abandoned the city that had strongly supported them since the 19th Century. And, yes, the barbershop was a hotbed of gossip, but that didn't interest me as much as baseball, at least not until I was older.

Listening to that barbershop talk led me to believe that communism was a menace, flat tops and D.A. haircuts should cost extra, and the name of the team owner who moved the Dodgers out of Brooklyn was S.O.B. O'Malley. At the time I didn't know what S.O.B. stood for, so I asked my mom. She said it was a dirty expression, and my father agreed with her. My dad said, "Don't use that kind of language, John." He then added, "Even though O'Malley really is one stinkin' S.O.B."

There was one story from the barbershop that I had actually forgotten until my father told me about it when I was in high school. It was of the sad news that Abe the barber, who had retired a few years earlier, had passed away.

My father began, "Do you remember your first Holy Communion?"

Now let me tell you, every Italian remembers his first communion. It was a big deal. White shoes, white pants, white jacket, white shirt and even a white tie. You had to walk down the church aisle with your arms folded in prayer, heel to toe, heel to toe, and hope you didn't lose your balance. You received your first communion after you had reached age 7, what the Church considered to be "the age of reason."

It was important, too, because a big party was held at your house and all the relatives and neighbors came bear-

ing gifts in the form of cash-stuffed envelopes. You weren't allowed to open the envelopes. Instead, you had to give them to your parents so they could see which people were generous and who the cheap bastards were. If you were lucky your parents let you keep \$10 or \$15 from the windfall.

This was such a tradition in Italian families that when there was an adult who was frugal or, as they said in Brooklyn, "one cheap S.O.B.," it was said of that person, "Oh, that guy? He still has his communion money!"

My father told me that the day before my first communion, a viciously hot and humid Saturday in June, he and I went to the barbershop together, as we both had to look our best for the big event. When my turn came it was Abe, the barber who spoke Yiddish as well as Brooklynese, the man who called me Johnny. As my dad sat and talked with the other men, Abe, a very kind man, engaged me in conversation, something I so appreciated because it made me feel more like an adult than a kid.

Not many homes and shops had air conditioning in those days. Everyone just had electric fans that blew the hot air around and always seemed to rattle. Because of the muggy atmosphere the barbers wore short sleeve shirts instead of their customary barber jackets. According to my dad, this apparently led me to notice numbers tattooed on Abe's arm. I was a curious kid, and since Abe and I were making conversation I asked him why he had numbers tattooed on his arm. My father told me that my question brought the barbershop buzz to a halt. Everyone cringed. Silence prevailed, as everyone waited for Abe's answer. It took the friendly barber a few seconds, my dad said. And then Abe kindly looked at me and asked, "You don't know, Johnny?" He then explained. "I have these numbers tattooed on my arm . . . in case I ever forget my phone number."

My father said I accepted this explanation and a difficult moment eased instantly as the barbershop buzz resumed. How nice a man was that to answer an innocent 7-year-old's question that way? Rather than telling me the tattoo was a ticket to death stamped on his arm by the Nazis in a concentration camp a quarter century earlier, Abe chose a diplomatic way to save everyone from an uncomfortable situation. And my father told me something else. He told me that when my haircut concluded Abe refused payment and a tip, and instead handed me two dollars, an absolute fortune to a 7-year-old, and he said, "For your communion, Johnny. Mazel Tov."

That's the kind of community in which I grew up. This story has always dwelled inside my head since my father told it to me. I have grown to realize what an extraordinary man Abe was, a survivor who was appreciated and admired, a man who was a real asset to the neighborhood. Today, I'm sure the two dollars he gave me was spent quickly, probably to buy friends sodas, milk shakes and sundaes. There's a reason I'm sure about this. You see, by the time I was 7 years old I had already firmly decided that for the rest of my life no one would ever be able to say about me, "Oh, that guy? He still has his communion money!"



← Senior Scene:.....

from page 31

can get you back on the right track and move you to a more positive place.

My bad place every day is 7 a.m. because my golden-doodle wakes me up to be fed. She has a built in alarm clock. I like to sleep late so you can see immediately this is not a good match. We have compromised in that I get up and feed her but I go right back to bed and she has learned to do the same. I am still not smiling but there is a gatha that I can recite that might help put a smile on my face.

When we focus our mind on a gatha, we return ourselves to a good place and have more peace, calm and joy. Each day I am going to say, “Waking up this morning, I smile.” Apparently there are gathas for every moment of our day and they will help keep us in the moment and maybe learn to like doing laundry, cooking dinner seven nights a week, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow. It’s worth a try. I will let you know if I am smiling at 7 a.m.

The Fairy Tale Festival was a great success last weekend with about 800 people attending. The library thanks everyone who helped not only leading up to the event but during the whole day. We will sit back now and evaluate how we can make next year’s event even better.

Library events this month

For all of you history buffs, the Pittsfield Library is presenting Kevin Graffagnino, author of “Ira Allen.” While he was not as famous as his brother Ethan, Ira was still an important part of Vermont history. Graffagnino will talk about his book on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 6-7 p.m. Please call the library to let them know you are coming, 802-746-4067.

October marks the beginning of fall/winter programming at the Sherburne Memorial Library in Killington and the first event for adults will be an introduction to Vedic Astrology. Vedic Astrology is related to other ancient Indian practices including Yoga and Ayurveda and similar to western astrology, it offers us a guide or a road map to a better understanding of our physical, emotional, spiritual and even monetary experiences. Alex Lemesciuc will be at the Sherburne Library on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. to introduce Vedic Astrology and maybe give some insight into the present state of affairs and the future.

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting activity that uses GPS-enabled devices. In geocaching participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the “geocache,” which is usually a container or marker at a certain location. There are literally thousands of these treasures across New England and one has been recently set up here at our very own library. It’s a fascinating program so come learn all about this awesome activity for all ages. Geocaching for Beginners will be offered on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10 a.m.

Are there movies this month? Of course, there will be a movie every Monday at 1 p.m. with popcorn and comfortable chairs.

The Book End Book Club will meet the last Wednesday of the month, Oct. 30, at 1 p.m. The book to be discussed is “The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Martha Molnar. This is historical fiction inspired by the letters of Johanna Bonger van Gogh, the sister-in-law of the famous painter, Vincent

van Gogh.
The book tells two stories: Emsley Wilson, an auctioneer in present day Los Angeles and Johanna Bonger, sister in law of van Gogh living in the late 19th century Netherlands. Copies are available at the library.

Have you walked your 10,000 steps today?

That 10,000 number originally came from a Japanese marketing company trying to promote a pedometer named manpo-kei which translates into 10,000 steps. Since then it’s become a global standard and while it’s a great target, it’s not the only amount of activity that will deliver benefits. Since then other studies have suggested 5,000 steps three times a week. The average person only gets between 3,000-4,000 steps a day. Is that enough? Some say this will add three years to your life, which is certainly welcome news. A third of us are currently considered “inactive” because we do less than the recommendation. Research has found that regular walking does add years to the life expectancy of physically inactive men and women. In fact, the benefit increases the older we are. Actually the more you do the better off you are. Every daily step above 2,200 lowers the risk of heart disease and early death. So we all need to get out there and move. Actually stop focusing on the number of steps and walk briskly for 10 minutes every day.

Above all minimize sit time. Sitting is a major health risk. At the very least do more than you did yesterday.

Scams...

Some of us work for our money and others sit at a desk all day trying to scam money from the rest of us. I was the victim of a scam a few weeks ago and it was scary because they knew where I lived. According to the FBI over \$724 million was lost to scammers in 2022 with more than 13,000 complaints of fraudulent charges for products that were never delivered. Here are a few of the top scams:

- Ordering items that never arrive. Avoid by sticking to well known platforms
- Tech support scams that tell you your computer is infected
- Fake password reset emails
- Fake package delivery notices
- Robo calls that trick you into saying “yes” to a question,

which is then recorded

- Sweepstakes and lottery scams saying you have won
- Stolen mail and check fraud

There are many more so always beware. A word on passwords: A tech friend of mine said to change them often like every three months and to use the first letter of a sentence. For example “I Am Happy In Killington” would be @IAHIK84 after adding a symbol and a number.

Save the date

Killington’s annual fall block party is Monday, Oct. 21 and we are all invited. This has been a tradition in Killington for many years. I will share more details as we get nearer to the date.

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

Even in failure, Coppola dreams big

By James Kent

On Sept. 25, the Rutland area received word that its derelict and defunct anachronism of a retail mecca, the Diamond Run Mall, will soon receive its long-awaited transformation into something more purposeful. In Rutland’s future, the decision-makers and innovators of progress decided on — a Super Walmart. Not exactly the stuff to inspire young and old, but perhaps on brand? As for what will become of the existing Walmart, that story is unwritten. However, despite the pleas from area residents to consider a movie theater, Rutland City Mayor Michael Doenges has already all but ruled that out as a realistic possibility.

The naysayers may have a point regarding the woes of cinema today. People were already used to staying home and watching films in the comfort of their living rooms. The pandemic exacerbated the issue, and with most films available to stream on-demand within weeks of a theatrical run, it’s hard to make the argument for building a new cinema in the area, no matter how many fans of the in-theater experience still exist in our region.

We filmgoers and regional dreamers could use a visionary architect like Adam Driver’s Cesar Catilina in Francis Ford Coppola’s new film “Megalopolis.” Catilina is a mysterious figure who can see a future no one else can envision, and somehow, he can stop time. Maybe?

It’s all a bit unsure in Coppola’s unwieldy 2-hour and 20-minute kaleidoscope filled with images, ideas, special effects, wild performances, uneven performances, and every other type of performance one can imagine being conjured up in the name of cinema, plus lots of people wearing capes. People love wearing capes in this alternate reality of a New York City metropolis. I can’t explain it, and I won’t.

Bearing all the trademarks of the most McGuffin of film plot points, Driver’s Catilina’s genius, and perhaps his superhuman abilities, come from a mysterious building alloy called Megalon. Is it an alloy, or is it a power of memory? I couldn’t tell you for sure. Coppola doesn’t try hard to explain these details, which seem essential to the plot for a filmgoer more so than to the writer/director who created this mechanism.

The plot, as it were, is an allegory of the decline of the Roman Empire for some reason. And while using the Roman Empire as a metaphor for the fall of a modern business empire, family is not a new idea. When it took the form of HBO’s “Succession,” there was at least people dressed in modern-day attire. In this film, everyone is sporting a Cesar haircut and names like Clodio, Fundi, Cicero, Crassus, Cesar, and just for fun, Wow Platinum.

I could try to hash out the plot of “Megalopolis” for you, but I don’t think it would matter much in the end. The story makes sense up to a point, but then it goes off into tangents or, even worse, speeches. Oh, the speeches. There are a lot of speeches in this movie, and none are ones you’ll remember or be inspired by, but there is a never-ending supply.

It’s challenging to find a character to root for in this movie. Everyone is pretty much a bad guy or gal, and even those you think are supposed to be good are not nice either. Adam Driver’s Catilina is the architect we’re supposed to root for, but Driver appears to stop caring about being in the film and goes morose somewhere along the way.

Judging from Driver’s past film roles, you don’t bring him on board for a comedy, so I understand the understatement in his performance. But Driver doesn’t appear to be having anywhere near as much fun as Aubrey Plaza, Shia LaBeouf and Jon Voight. Did Coppola slip these three actors separate notes to camp it up because that’s what the three of them

Employment

BARTENDERS WANTED RUTLAND. Rutland American Legion Post 31 is hiring licensed part-time bartenders. Starting wage is \$9.00 per hour with reevaluation after a 90 day probationary period. Send requests for applications to Will Ellis, Post 31, 33 Washington St. Rutland, VT 05701 or email at: wdellis1658@gmail.com.

INN AT LONG TRAIL Seeking part-time & full-time cook, email resume to karen@innatlongtrail.com

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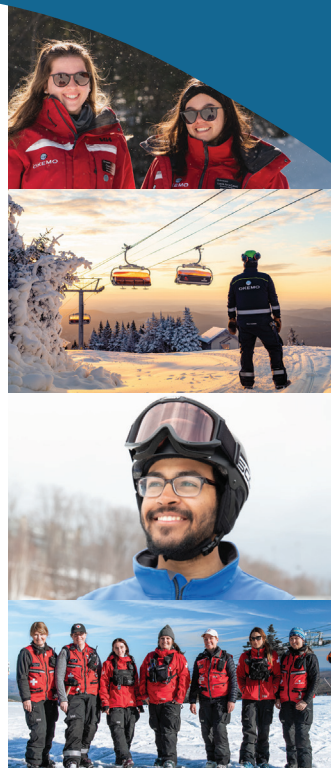
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Closing Date: October 25, 2024.
MVSU reserves the right to refuse any bid.

← Looking Back:.....

from page 31

land's three Catholic elementary schools continued their education at MSJ. It didn't take long to make friends from the other schools. We wore uniforms back then. They consisted of a green jumper with a white blouse and a sweater that could be either green or white. No problem figuring out what to wear each morning... We all looked alike and I think it's fair to say that it was a long time before most of us selected any green clothing when we went shopping, MSJ had mostly nuns but there were a few male and female lay teachers. We could choose college prep classes or business classes. The college prep classes were all on the second floor and business classes were on the first floor.

A whole new world of knowledge opened up as we learned another language and did experiments in science labs. We changed classrooms throughout the day and had lockers for our books and coats. There was a little of the "devil" in some of the students as they smoked a cigarette in the girls' bathroom. Kids will be kids and they were usually caught as the faculty checked the bathroom periodically.

For the boys there was the opportunity to play team sports. The girls could be cheerleaders and lead the school cheers while joined by fans in the bleachers. If you were a music lover you could join the marching band and girls could become majorettes. There was a glee club for those who wanted to sing. I tried joining it but each year I was told my voice hadn't changed yet! I thought that was a "guy thing!" I admit that I can't carry a tune but I wanted to be with my friends. There was actually a club for just about everything, which meant that your high school life could be very full "back in the day."

College school days in the '60s will be the topic for a future column!

← Movie Diary:.....

from page 31

sion, which had persistent news coverage of the storm, and then turning my head slightly to look out the window where the storm was actually raging. I remember struggling to interpret which of the two visuals was my actual reality.

When the storm was over, we drove back to our rental property on the coast only to find that it had been utterly devastated by the storm. In fact, the ocean surge had compromised the foundation, leading to the home being condemned and eventually torn down.

Luckily, we found another rental home where I finished out my treatments. I don't remember much after the storm, but every time a hurricane threatens (like this past week's Hurricane Helene), I reminisce on how insane that time of my life was.

In this week's feature, "We Need to Talk About Kevin,"

we meet a woman who is in the throes of her own apocalyptic event, except in her case, everything was initiated by her own son.

Tilda Swinton stars in this devious psychological thriller where a loving mother must deal with the aftermath of her psychopathic son's unspeakable act.

This is one of those films that's incredibly difficult to watch (especially with Swinton's frayed portrayal), but still worth the time and effort given how well it was crafted. This movie won't appeal to the masses, but if you like biting visuals and poignant character studies wrapped in an extremely difficult storyline, then this is a film for you.

An anguishing "B" for "We Need to Talk About Kevin," now available to stream on Amazon Prime Video.

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



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The Town of Killington Public Works Department is looking for a Full-Time Highway Maintenance Crew Member. Maintenance workers are responsible for routine maintenance and repair work of Town highways. Duties typically require the use of a variety of tools and vehicles. Overtime work is required, particularly during the winter months, and is considered a condition of employment. A newly hired employee must complete all training and safety requirements and demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of maintenance and/or construction activities. Work is performed under the supervision of the Highway Foreman.

Minimum qualifications include having a high school diploma (or equivalent); a Class B Commercial Driver's License (or obtain within 6 months at town expense); knowledge of the methods, materials, tools and equipment used in the maintenance, repair and maintenance of highways, bridges and other related highway and facilities operations including safety precautions.

Starting pay is between \$21 and \$25/hour depending on experience and qualifications. The Town of Killington offers a robust benefits package including paid time off; medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; retirement benefits through the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System; uniforms; golf privileges at the Green Mountain National Golf Course; and membership with the Killington Pico Area Association.

For a full job description, please visit www.killingtontown.com/jobs or request it by calling 802- 422-3241 ext. 7. To apply, please send a resume to Kevin Hewitt, Highway Foreman, kevinh@killingtontown.com, or PO Box 429, 2706 River Road, Killington, VT 05751. The position will remain open until filled.

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← Living the Dream: from page 31

of Vermont. Here you are, having this nice long distance walk and then the Long Trail decides, nope. The time for walking is over for a bit. Make sure you have everything in your pockets, because you are going to need two hands to maneuver up and over these rock sections.

Don't get me wrong, it's mostly up and mostly rock. It's similar to the Spur Trail from Cooper's to the Peak, but instead of being 0.2 miles it's around 1.7 miles. I always joke about what it must feel like to do that with your thru-hiking backpack, especially if you are heading SoBo. Must be super sketchy descending that route, backpack or no. I always choose to go down the main route. It's fun. You get to see all the people walking up as you walk down, see their off-lead dogs and listen as our conversations cross. Other groups were not discussing their Q4 goals.

As you get to the alpine zone, the world opens up. The trees are gone and you are literally up there above the clouds. It is so different from Killington Peak, 200 feet lower

in elevation but so much more exposed. The exposed rock is younger by just a bit and the ascent of the hump is slightly sketchy but oh so rewarding.

Local rangers have nicely laid two pieces of string on either side of the path. These aren't to assist you in any way but finding the path during a weather event and protecting the alpine plants from human wanderers. I would hate to be up here in a thick fog wandering around and fall off the hump. Or if the rock was icy. Yikes.

So what exactly is "Calling a Hump Day?" It is our Vermont tradition that on a day where the autumn weather is perfect, one can call in sick to work so they can hike Camel's Hump. Because it's one of those Vermont foliage moments you just don't want to miss. Another moment of magic in our beautiful little state.

Merisa is a long time Killington resident, global real estate advisor and Coach Pom-Pom. She serves as a Town Lister and member of the Development Review Board. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@SotekhysRealty.com

← Coppola: from page 33

go for in this whackedout bacchanalia fantasy? Voight is the gazillionaire Hamilton Crassus III, LeBeouf is his scheming grandson Clodio Pulcher, and Plaza is the scheming entertainment newscaster/social climber, Wow Platinum. They scheme and scheme in scenes that play out throughout this film, but Coppola doesn't make much effort to weave this together into something that makes sense, creates drama, or provides engaging entertainment.

"Megalopolis" is a movie Francis Ford Coppola tried to get made for over 30 years. Finally, he made the decision to finance the movie himself, to the tune of \$120 million. That's a lot of wine at the Coppola vineyards!

If anything, "Megalopolis" is a cautionary tale for film schools to use and demonstrate why scriptwriting and a strong screenplay are essential to a movie, and without it, don't shoot a film hoping to find something magical.

By all accounts, this "Megalopolis" could be Coppola's farewell. He's 85 years old now, and it's unlikely any studio

is going to pony up the money to allow him to make another film. So, whether or not "Megalopolis" is worth the expense of \$120 million is irrelevant. Of course, it wasn't worth it in terms of making its money back. The movie made a paltry \$4 million over its first weekend. And, even if the film received praise from every critic writing a review (it definitely didn't), the movie could never hope to make back the money required to recoup its investment.

The movie, for all its faults, isn't terrible. I've seen far worse movies in 2024. Coppola may have failed to bring a cohesive vision to the screen, but that doesn't mean he didn't have a vision. Far from it. Every frame of this movie finds its way into the light. From cinematographer Mihai Malaimare Jr.'s striking colors to the sensational set design, to Coppola's purposeful mise-en-scène, the master behind "The Godfather" series, "Apocalypse Now!," and "The Conversation" hasn't lost his ability of how to put a story on film, just how to tell it.

"Megalopolis" is one of the most uneven film experiences around, but it's never dull. It bursts with creativity, even when the creator doesn't know how to realize the dream inside his head. I long for the Coppola of "The Godfather," but I got the Coppola of "One From The Heart" instead.

I rewatched "One From The Heart" recently, and was surprised at how much that financial disaster from 1981 had in common with "Megalopolis." Both films suffer from the excesses of a talented director trying to push the film medium into new areas. Each comes up short of greatness, but at least Coppola was striving for greatness in new territory. And, in a time when lofty goals equate to safe bets like a Super Walmart, it feels good to know there are still those out there dreaming of something bigger and better and willing to risk it all to make those dreams come true.

James Kent is the publishers' assistant at the Mountain Times and the co-host of the "Stuff We've Seen" podcast.



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TOS:.....
from page 30

ing you, don't bother them," said Charlene Donahue, a retired Maine Forest Service entomologist, who noted that though their sting is painful, digger wasps

Native plants that bloom from mid-summer into fall, such as aster, goldenrod, mountain-mint, coneflower, ironweed, milkweed, and beebalm, will attract digger wasps.

will only resort to that defense if harassed. Farmers and gardeners hoping to attract these wasps to their property as a means of natural pest control have several landscaping options. Native plants that bloom from mid-summer into fall, such as aster, goldenrod, mountain-mint,

coneflower, ironweed, milkweed, and beebalm, will attract digger wasps. meadows, and gardens untreated by pesticides, which tend to harbor greater numbers of grasshoppers and other prey species, are more likely to support great golden and great black digger wasps by offering a steady stream of prey.

Colby Galliher is a writer who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. To learn more about his work, visit colbygalliher.com. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

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