



BYO BALLOT TO VOTE

Tuesday, Nov. 5 is Election Day. Ballots can be dropped off at the town clerks' offices anytime before 7 p.m. on Nov. 5.

Approx. 450,000 ballots were mailed to registered voters in Vermont with 31% already returned — either by mail or in person to municipal clerks as of Oct. 28, according to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.

If you plan on voting in person Nov. 5, it's best to bring your own ballot but new ballots will also be available.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND DAY OF THE DEAD

Did you know? The day after Halloween is also a holiday: The Day of the Dead is celebrated Nov. 1-2. With origins in Mexico, it's a day to pay respects to the deceased.



VT GETS \$19.5M FOR RAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Vermont Railway, which passes through WRJ, is part of federal infrastructure upgrade.

Page 2



People listen during a press conference held by Downstream Vermonters, a coalition of people opposed to higher taxes and more regulations coming from the state government, at the State House in Montpelier on Thursday, May 9.

By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Vt Republicans control the narrative on property taxes Will that flip legislative seats?

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

On the campaign trail, state legislative candidates say affordability dominates conversations with constituents.

by district boards and voters. And with Democrats holding supermajorities in both the Vermont House and Senate,

bit on the defensive," said Jason Maulucci, campaign manager for Gov. Phil Scott. "The message that we're running with is, 'What we have clearly isn't working, and we need change.'"

Scott has campaigned more aggressively than in recent years for members of his party, stumping for Republican legislative candidates in an effort to end the Legislature's Democratic dominance. According to Maulucci, the governor is out three or four days a week supporting fellow Republicans.

Democrats, for their part, say the Property tax → 7

"If [voters] can't understand it, it's a bad bill, period," Boutin said. "We cannot confuse our constituents, and that's what we've been doing with our education funding."

Property taxes — and with them, the cost of education — are fueling some of the most fiery rhetoric.

This year, education property taxes rose an average of 13.8% statewide, driven by school spending approved

Republicans are seeking to capitalize on voter discontent by pointing the finger at the ruling party.

"I think it's the first time in a while that some incumbents are being held accountable and feel like they're a little

Killington Resort plans mountain bike expansion

Killington Resort wrapped up the 2024 mountain bike season on Sunday, Oct. 27 after more than 80 days of lift-accessed downhill action. Then two days later, on Tuesday, Oct. 29, the resort announced plans for a trail expansion in summer 2025 as part of the \$30 million investments from its new independent ownership. The permitting process is currently underway with the state for the new trail, which will be serviced by the Ramshead Express Quad. This portion of the expansion will cost \$300,000. Killington's bike park currently offers 30 miles of mountain biking trails.

The new trail will start at the top of the Ramshead head and continue down biker's left of Blue Magic. The trail will be coded blue (intermediate difficulty) and span over 2 miles with an intermediate pitch. It'll be mostly single track with a narrower feel than Blue Magic, the resort said. It will intersect with Blue Magic at several points, offering riders an option to easily switch between trails for new experiences on different laps. The trail will make use of natural terrain to create jumps, step downs and have wooden features including berms, diving boards, whale

Bike park → 33



Courtesy Killington Resort
Bike park season ended Oct. 27.

Fires in Barnard and Ludlow prompt statewide fire ban

By James Kent

Dry weather, high winds, and leaves on the ground are three conditions that pose the greatest threat of wildfires here in Vermont.

Over the weekend, two incidents locally illustrated the dangers of wildfires in such conditions to spread rapidly.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, a brush fire in Ludlow burned through 16 acres, requiring 15 area fire departments to contain it. The wind played a factor in the fast spread.

Then on Sunday, Oct. 27, a forest fire was reported on Morgan Hill Road in Barnard. By the time fire crews arrived, it had grown to be large forest fire. Two camps were destroyed.

Due to the dry conditions (the average rainfall in Vermont for October is 4.54", but only 1.44" has fallen) and these recent incidents of fire, the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation has issued an order for all of the state's forest fire wardens to cease issuing burning permits from Oct. 28 through Nov. 11. This order can be revoked if conditions warrant.

The Barnard fire is thought to have begun on the exterior of the building. The cause: improper disposal of ashes from a wood stove, according to preliminary investigations. The fire spread to the surrounding woods and was still being fought by the Barnard Fire Dept., along with mutual aid at press time Tuesday.

Richard Keating, one of the camp owners in Barnard, suffered non-life-threatening injuries associated with this fire. The fire destroyed the camp and its contents.

Anyone with information about local fires is asked to call the police at 802-878-7111.

Killington reappraisal is underway, data cards sent

The town of Killington has sent out data mailers to verify the data for all Killington property owners. The data cards were mailed on Monday, Oct. 28, and should arrive in mailboxes Thursday or Friday of this week, according to the listers.

“The Board of Listers is asking each and every property owner to review their data card and return it within 10 days,” the listers stated in a recent press release.

The town has contracted with Vision Government Solutions to assist in data collection of the over 3,800

parcels in Killington.

Cards may be returned by mail, fax, email or in person at the town office. Changes cannot be made by phone as a signed form is required for official records, they stated.

Anyone who needs assistance in reviewing the card or understanding the data required is asked to contact the listers office at listers@killingtontown.com or (802) 422-3241 ext 5.

For more information, visit the 2025 Reappraisal page (link at the top of the homepage) at: Killingtontown.com.

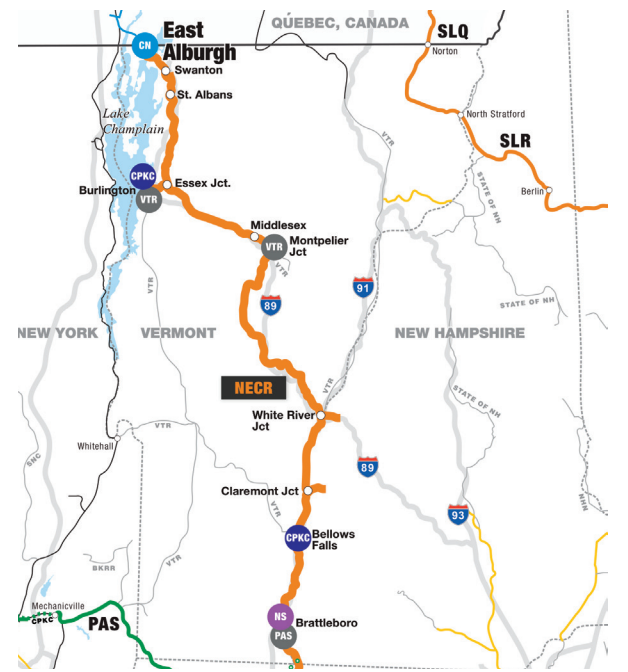
\$19.5m investment will help expand rail infrastructure in Vermont

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation (USDOT) announced Tuesday, Oct. 29, that it has invested more than \$19.5 million in new rail grant funding in Vermont. Nationally, more than \$2.4 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is being invested in 122 rail improvement projects in 41 states and Washington, D.C. These projects will make rail safer, more reliable, and more resilient, getting goods and people where they need to be quickly with fewer disruptions, lower shipping costs and less pollution, according to the news release.

Administered through FRA’s Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, the grants focus on rural communities. CRISI is the only federal grant program prioritizing smaller, short line railroads vital to the American economy and regional supply chains.

This announcement is part of a series of investments the Biden-Harris Administration has made in nearly 300 rail projects and dozens of emerging passenger rail corridors across the country through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded FRA grant programs.

It marks the most significant investment in American rail in more than 50 years.



Courtesy CRISI

Vt rail → 12 The grant includes 228 miles of rail through Vermont.

Table of contents

Local news	2
State news	5
Opinion	8
Puzzles	13
Calendar.....	14
Music Scene.....	17
Arts, Dining, Entertainment.....	18
Pets	28
Horoscopes.....	29
Columns.....	30
Classifieds.....	32
Service directory.....	34
Real Estate.....	36

Local residents, educators met with Interim Secretary of Ed Zoie Saunders in Woodstock

By Curt Peterson

Governor Scott’s controversial appointment of senate-rejected Zoie Saunders as “interim” secretary of education, after leaving the important post vacant for a year, came with his defensive endorsement: “Once you meet her, you will know she is the right person for the job.”

Secretary Saunders is touring Vermont school districts to introduce herself, and gather opinions and suggestions from public school faculties and administrators, and from the public, to inform a strategy to carry Vermont public education in the future, called the “Listen and Learn Tour.”

Last Tuesday, Oct. 22, she was in Woodstock where she met with the Mountain Views Supervisory Union administrators and educators. Saunders and her crew engaged with a small group of people in the auditorium, including journalists, public office-holders and parents of MVSU students.

Public notice for this gathering was both last-minute and understated. The “elephant in the room,” the shocking FY2026 education property tax increase that has many people questioning their solvency, would likely have attracted a bigger crowd if more people had known about it. A “Public Forum on the Future of Education in Vermont” held a few days prior in Woodstock (Thursday, Oct. 17) attracted over 100 area residents. That



By Curt Peterson
Zoie Saunders

she appeared well-versed in the realities of public education in Vermont.

Phase I of Saunders’s game plan is to gather, analyze and share as much data about the education system and condition as possible.

Saunders calls Phase II of her game plan “Regional Planning,” which, she said, includes working with educators and administrators.

Phase III is gathering public input, such as Tuesday’s session.

There are currently 80,179 students in Vermont public schools, 2,000 in independent schools, 578 in “specialty education” schools, and 842 “other” schools. Vermont’s 51 consolidated districts are comprised of 287 individual schools, she shared at WUHS.

AoE spokesperson Jill Brocker-Campbell said the total number of students in Vermont has declined 20% over the last decade and between FY2020 and FY2023 the calculated cost per pupil increased from \$21,788 to \$26,765 — a 23% increase. If spending remains static, fewer students means higher cost per pupil.

Increased budgets, she added, was partly the result of depletion of federal pandemic ESSER funds.

Saunders, predictably, mentioned further consolidation. Vermont can’t afford all the little schools in small towns, she said, and combining resources in more centralized districts

Listen and Learn Tour → 37

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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By Karen D. Lorentz
Julie Woodworth congratulates Marnie Roussel (left), the VARA Volunteer of the Year.



By Karen D. Lorentz
Five newly named racers to the VARA Team were present at the Killington event last weekend. Pictured (l-r): Hugo Vanovac, Mount Mansfield Academy (MMA); John Underwood, MMA; Jackson Stram, MMA; Patrick Meirowitz, Burke Mountain Academy; and Vivi Hermsdorf, MMA.



By Karen D. Lorentz
Chuck Hughes spoke to the crowd after being inducted to the Hall of Fame, Oct. 26.

VARA recognizes athletes, coaches and educators

Rutland native Chuck Hughes honored

By Karen D. Lorentz

The Vermont Alpine Racing Association (VARA) honored a group of student athletes, dedicated coaches, educators, and volunteers at the 2024 Awards Gala on Oct. 26 at the K-1 Lodge in Killington. A special highlight was the induction of Rutland native Chuck Hughes into the VARA Hall of Fame.

Julie Woodworth, VARA executive director, recognized the athletes named to the 2025 VARA Team, emphasizing that VARA is about more than just competition, citing lifestyle, community, sportsmanship, dedication, and teamwork among other values. It's an honor to be chosen and to represent VARA in their home programs, she said.

She also gave special recognition to Killington Resort President Mike Solimano and the Killington Resort Leadership Team, thanking them for hosting the VARA parade at World Cup events and for Killington's "extraordinary support to VARA and Alpine ski racing."

Lori McClallen, director of the Pico Ski Club program and a Rutland High School coach, gave out special student merit awards to eight students.

Head of the Okemo Mountain School Mariel Meringolo, who is a VARA treasurer and committee member, praised VARA Volunteer of the Year recipient Marnie Roussel as a VARA "rock star." She still volunteers with the Killington/Pico VARA programs even though her sons have grown, Meringolo said, noting her managing 900 VARA participants in World Cup parades and serving on the local World Cup committee. Roussel received a standing ovation from the 140 attendees.

The Alpine Official of the Year award was given to Mark Jacunski of Cochran's; the Development Coach of the Year went to Matt Prendergast of Stratton Mountain School; and the Junior Development Coach of the Year was Terry Delli-Quadri of Burke Mountain Academy.

Hall of Fame Accolades

Chuck Hughes was chosen for induction to VARA's Hall of Fame in recognition of his leadership across all levels of the sport of racing, from coaching to officiating.

"His deep understanding of the sport and commitment to fair play have earned him worldwide respect and admiration. He has not only shaped the path for aspiring racers but also for officials, exemplifying a spirit of loyalty, care, and giving. His enthusiasm and dedication make him a true ambassador and an enthusiastic leader for the sport," the

selection committee said.

The induction also honored Hughes for his outstanding commitment to the betterment of VARA, its programs, officials, athletes, and their families.

Hughes, received many accolades both from persons present and via video presentation.

"You're a myth, an institution," said Tao Smith, former KMS Head of School.

Olympian Doug Lewis praised Hughes for impacting "my life as a J2" and "impacting so many."

Mike Solimano thanked Hughes for being a "mainstay for the Killington community" and noted, "We couldn't pull off the World Cup without you."

Herwig Demschar, who was instrumental in bringing the World Cup to Killington in 2016, said, "You should be super proud," saying the honor is "not a sign of getting old, it's a sign of accomplishment." Hughes "understood the World

Mike Solimano thanked Hughes for being a "mainstay for the Killington community" and noted, "We couldn't pull off the World Cup without you."

Cup idea" and "created a classic event," Demschar added of Hughes having served as chief of course or chief of race for many of the past Killington World Cups.

Among other comments, there was a repeated theme of congratulations for "a well-deserved honor" and putting "a lot of heart and soul into ski racing" and having "trained thousands, including Olympians Doug Lewis and Diann Roffe."

How it all started

Hughes, the revered ski coach, race official, and dedicated VARA supporter thanked the people for being there for him and the other award recipients.

He enjoyed recounting how he grew up in Rutland and began skiing at Pico at the age of 5 with his four older siblings. With his dad Paul Hughes managing Wilson Sports in Rutland, he began work there, vacuuming and cleaning the bathroom, he said, but eventually worked in its various departments.

Hughes took lessons in the Pico Junior Program and later

raced out of the Pico Ski Club (PSC) and for Rutland High School. Calling himself an "OK" ski racer, he was enthusiastic in praising the coaches he had — Crandy Grant, Monk Martin, and Greg McClallen — noting in those days you did cross-country and jumping as well as Alpine ski racing.

He also played football and baseball at Rutland High School for coaches Joe Teta, Rick Eaton, Bunzi Keefe, Jim Leamy, and Bob Dickman. "I had a lot of coaches who influenced me and led to my interest in coaching. They were all good coaches. I connected with them and worked hard," Hughes said in an earlier interview, evincing respect and admiration for the teaching abilities of good coaches which he also shared with the VARA audience.

Hughes was set for a post graduate year at Vermont Academy when his father, who was opening a new sports store in West Rutland, needed his assistance. That led to a hiatus from schooling and the start of a ski teaching and coaching career.

He coached freshman and JV football at Mount Saint Joseph for three years and became an instructor in the Pico Ski School in 1975, crediting Wendy Hill and Marsha Fletcher for getting him coaching J3s and J4s. He managed the Pico Ski Club Hopefuls program, where he met his wife-to-be Betty. He attended the first USSA Coaches Academy in 1980 and became a USSS Alpine Level 300 certified coach that year.

Finding teaching and coaching to his liking, he signed on at Burke Mountain Academy (BMA) where he learned from top coaches like Warren Witherell [BMA's founder and proponent of the carve] and Finn Gundersen, he said.

During his four years at BMA, he got a bachelor of science degree in recreation with a concentration in ski area management from Lyndon State College (1983).

With a move to Killington in 1984, he and Betty raised three children who all raced and attended Killington Mountain School (KMS), where Betty was head of school for many years. As a KMS coach, Chuck took the first group of KMS athletes to train in Europe and continued to organize and manage European training camps for 15 years.

He taught and served as the director of academics and headmaster at KMS for 16 years and coached in the KSC/KMS program for over 20 years. Additionally, he manages KMS special events and helps with many of the Killington Mountain events.

Quechee Gorge Bridge inconvenience to be extended

By Curt Peterson

Drivers on Route 4 in Quechee have been calling the bridge over the gorge “Grumble Strip.” During busy times and tourist season, it can take several minutes to negotiate the way through the traffic signal and the single lane to the other end.

Grumblers have a lot of company in their misery as 9,000 vehicles use the bridge every day, according to VTrans data. Beside normal local traffic, tourism is an important part of Quec-

hee Gorge traffic — there is a state park, a tourism center, a foot path into the gorge and a cluster of retail businesses to serve visitors.

The 1911 arched steel span was originally built to carry rail traffic.

The current work started in April 2024 and involves major rehabilitation of the entire bridge structure at a projected cost of \$20.8 million. Planners originally hoped to keep two lanes open during construction, but there wasn't the

necessary road width. Currently, alternating traffic in the westbound lane is controlled by traffic lights at each end — hence the delays.

The project will continue for two or three years, according to VTrans, but work will proceed only during construction season. It was hoped that the rehabbed eastbound lane could be opened this fall, but inspectors discovered major corrosion in some steel components, causing

Gorge Bridge → 32

← VARA awards: from page 3

Hughes supplemented his coaching/ managing livelihood with officiating competitions. Having become an FIS Technical Delegate (TD) and a certified USSS Alpine official, he served as a TD for prestigious events, including the World Cup, Canadian Nationals, NorAm Cup, NCAA Championships, South American Cup, and USC-SA Regional Championships. He continues to serve as a FISTD and nationally ranked certified Alpine Official.

In addition to his coaching, Hughes served as a leader on a variety of boards and committees and has been recognized for his contributions with numerous accolades. Those contributions reflect a passion for the sport of racing, officiating, and supporting the organizations that make

competition possible.

Insights to those professional accomplishments and contributions came through when Hughes shared some final “positive thoughts:”

“Smile. Say good morning. A positive person will perform better,” Hughes said.

“Smile. Say good morning. A positive person will perform better.

“Athletes, regardless of how well you are doing, you can do better; work harder, smarter. You have to be

successful.

“Coaches, practice what you preach. Be professional.

“Parents, there is no rulebook. Be realistic. Don't put expectations on... be supportive. Make it fun—it's all over so quickly,” he said, thanking people for listening to him.

He was escorted from the podium with an enthusiastic standing ovation.

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Lt. governor candidate Rodgers wants Republican voters. Does he want the Republican label, too?

By Shaun Robinson/VTDigger

In Vermont's race for lieutenant governor a single label has been front and center.

Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, a Progressive/Democrat and produce farmer from Hinesburg, is facing a challenge from John Rodgers of Glover, a former state lawmaker who owns a stone excavation business and also runs a hemp and cannabis business, who is running as a Republican. The race is shaping up to be the most competitive at the statewide level this year.

The candidates know each other well, having served together in the Vermont House and Senate for more than a decade. Notably, they sat on the same side of the aisle during that period — Rodgers served as a Democrat before losing his Senate seat in 2020 to Republican Russ Ingalls.

In a well-financed bid to unseat his former colleague on Nov. 5, Rodgers has not shied away from the fact he swapped party labels. To the contrary, he's made shedding the "D" beside his name a central tenet of his campaign.

"The Vermont Democratic Party, as I've said, has been taken over by the Progressives and has swung too far to the left," said Rodgers. "They seem to believe that they can spend our money more wisely than we can," he said, adding, "the taxes and fees are just out of control."

He has told voters repeatedly, in debate forums and news interviews, that he no longer sees a home for what he says are his decidedly moderate — if somewhat populist — politics in state Democratic circles, angling to tap into discontent over large property tax increases in many towns.

Some of that discontent was on display at the Statehouse this year, where Rodgers helped lead two rallies alongside a loose coalition of people opposed to the Legislature's Democratic supermajority and what they described as overtaxation and attacks on Vermont's traditions of fishing, hunting and trapping.

The newly minted Republican has sought to model himself in the moderate vein of Vermont's Republican Gov. Phil Scott, saying they both "have the same purpose in mind — and that's building a system that Vermonters can afford."

But Rodgers has also hesitated to fully embrace his new label.

"I changed the letter beside my name — literally, that's all I did. I'm not a different person. I don't have different values," he said. "I don't feel like I fit in any box," he continued. "The 'R' is hard to carry because of

"The 'R' is hard to carry," said Rodgers, who was a longtime Democrat but is now the GOP nominee. "I don't feel like I fit in any box... The 'R' is hard to carry because of the national Republican politics."

the national Republican politics. It's hard."

Just like Scott, he's disavowed Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and tried to distance himself from the national party. Attempting to thread that needle has, he acknowledged, alienated some GOP voters.

Rodgers' opponent, meanwhile, has zeroed in on his ambivalence. In debates and other forums this fall, Zuckerman has attempted to make Rodgers' GOP affiliation

a liability by tying him to Trump and vice presidential nominee JD Vance.

"People make choices, and [Rodgers] has chosen to join the Republican Party in this moment when the Republican Party is represented by Trump and his type of energy," he said in an interview. "And many rational and reasonable people are leaving the Republican Party because of that."

Zuckerman, who is running for a fourth term, has hammered this message in campaign emails in recent weeks.

"Just like Donald Trump, my opponent is offering few realistic, if any, solutions," he wrote in one last week. The email subject

line stated that both Rodgers and the former president have shown they were "not a serious man."

In another missive, the lieutenant governor wrote that "just like JD, John Rodgers only recently embraced Donald Trump's Republican Party," referring to how Vance condemned his now-running mate in the past.

Zuckerman added, "Just like Vance, [Rodgers] decided to become a Republican after the Big Lie, the Jan. 6 insurrection, and the leader of their party said there were 'good people on both sides'" during the vio-

Lt. gov → 12

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State Representative

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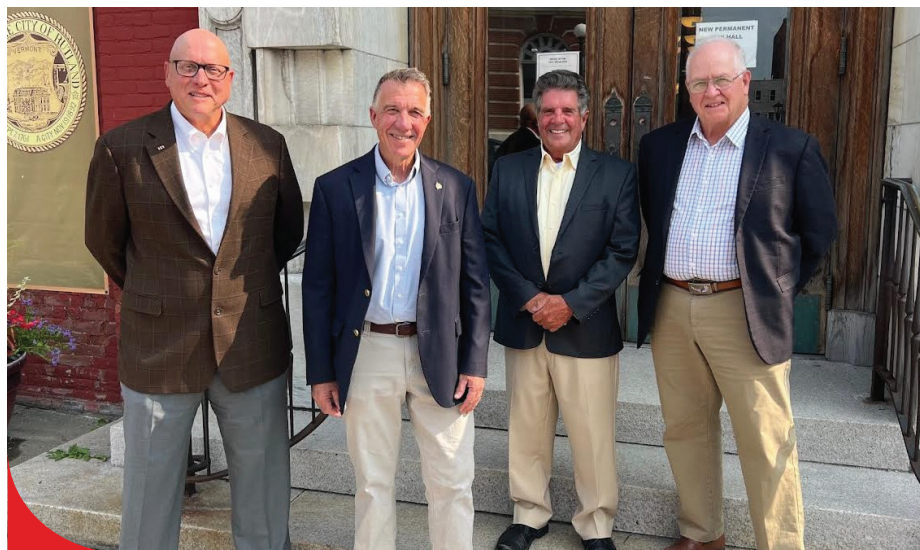


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LEFT TO RIGHT: SENATOR WEEKS, GOVERNOR SCOTT, SENATOR COLLAMORE, AND SENATOR WILLIAMS.

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The final week...

In a matter of days, the 2024 General Election will be over. Hooray! If you have not already sent in your ballot to your town clerk, you have three options according to the Secretary of State's Office:



By Rep. Jim Harrison

1. Bring your ballot to your town clerk's office in-person during their open hours.
2. Drop your ballot into an official ballot drop box at your town office any time before Election Day.
3. Bring your ballot with you to your polling place on Nov. 5. If a voter shows up to vote in-person without the ballot that was mailed to them, they can sign an affidavit of "No Ballot Cast" and will receive a new ballot to vote then and there.

As of this past weekend, close to 30% of mailed ballots have been returned to their respective Town Clerks. If you mailed yours back or returned it to your town office, you can check to see if it's been received by logging into mvp.vermont.gov.

I enjoyed seeing area residents recently during my fall "Dump & Donuts" stops at the Killington and Chittenden transfer stations. It was not a surprise to hear many concerns about rising property taxes and their impact on the cost of living in Vermont.

I was saddened to learn that a few long-term residents are on the verge of leaving the state due to the increasing taxes.

The biggest question with the election outcome at the state level, will be the resultant political balance. Currently Democrats and Progressives make up over two-thirds of the Legislature, giving them the ability to override vetoes of Governor Scott. It's probably safe to say if the make-up doesn't change, we can expect the Legislature to continue with overriding vetoes on major bills when there is a disagreement. Republicans have fielded more candidates this election cycle hoping to add more balance to enable more bipartisan solutions that will win the governor's support.

Much of the attention has been on several of the state senate races, where Republicans need to win four seats (and retain their current seven incumbents) to reach a number to block veto overrides in the Senate. The governor has been spending more of his efforts on electing Legislators that will work with him than he has on his own re-election. House Republicans have a steeper climb, needing

to have a net pick up of 14 seats to sustain any vetoes by Gov. Scott.

Most of the incumbents in the state-wide contests may have the edge, including Phil Scott for governor. However, the race for Lieutenant Governor could be close. Progressive/Democrat David Zuckerman is facing a strong challenge from John Rodgers, a former Democratic legislator and now Republican candidate. Rodgers has the endorsement of Phil Scott and is viewed as an ally that would work with him in the Senate.

Once the new Legislature takes office in January, the first order of business in the House will be to elect a new Speaker. Current Speaker, Jill Krowinski, is being challenged by Laura Sibilia, an independent from Dover. With the Democrats widely expected to maintain a majority, such a bid may be a longshot. Although the actual vote is done by secret ballot so surprises can happen. Stay tuned.

While it may be premature to predict what all the issues will be for the 2025 Legislature, they are likely to include the cost of K-12 education, education financing, the pending clean heat legislation and the cost of health care.

Education could once again prove tricky given the Legislature gave a special

The governor has been spending more of his efforts on electing legislators that will work with him than he has on his own re-election.

study committee until the end of 2025 before major recommendations are put forth. One of the drivers of increases in our education costs this past year was a 16% hike in health insurance costs for teachers and staff.

Last week the education health care plan indicated their rates would need to increase another 12% in the coming year. And as high as they may sound, it is below overall increases of 19% in the small group market for BCBS plans.

Vermont Public has provided a primer on how Vermont funds education, which you can view at: Tinyurl.com/mrjs4ez2.

In closing, I encourage everyone to vote this election if you haven't already. I will make the rounds outside each of our district's polling places on Election Day, Nov. 5, and hope to see many of you there.

And while my re-election as the state representative for Rutland-11 may not be the most exciting item on the ballot this year, I do appreciate the support I have received, including those that hosted one of my signs.

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

← Property tax: from page 1

governor's education finance ideas arrived at the last minute this legislative session and put the state at financial risk. When they hear from frustrated voters, some Democrats say they point out that the average statewide property tax increase is a matter of local choices, not state-level policy making.

"Generally, what I say to that is that I voted to fund budgets that voters around the state have approved, that they voted for and passed, and they've sent to the Legislature and said, 'Please pay the bill,'" said Rep. Carl Demrow, D-Corinth, who's facing a contested election in a purple Orange County district. "That's our job."

Maulucci, though, said he believes the local GOP is on the right side of public opinion when it comes to property taxes.

"I think our message is pretty clear, and it's been consistent: The cost of living is way too high in Vermont," he said. "Republican, Democrat, independent or progressive, you're feeling the pinch."

In Vermont, property taxes contribute to funding both municipal and school budgets. It's the latter that drives the political rhetoric on the issue, especially after the cost of education increased by about \$180 million last year.

That rise fueled a historic rejection of nearly one in three local school budgets, ballot items typically rubber-stamped by voters. That kind of voter response suggests property taxes may be driving Vermonters' decision-making.

But whether property taxes will prove the bellwether issue in 2024 legislative races remains to be seen.

'Guilty by association'

Regardless of their voting records, some Democrats are finding themselves on the back foot when it comes to property taxes.

Rep. Jay Hooper, D-Randolph, voted against the so-called yield bill, which levies property taxes in order to fund local school budgets. This year, the bill was vetoed by the governor, unsettling public school funding, until lawmakers ultimately overrode that veto, solidifying the average education tax increase of 13.8% statewide.

Despite his voting record, Hooper said he knows he has angry constituents.

"I think I will lose a lot of votes," he said. "I'm guilty by association. I don't like to be an apologetic Democrat."

Hooper said he's also heard from House colleagues frustrated by the aggressive reception they've received from voters, forced to choke down a "cold meal," as he put it, "and try not to throw it up in front of their constituents."

The campaign line for Democrats, according to Hooper, is to take the "totally irrefutable" position of telling voters "you guys voted on your [school] budgets," and lawmakers only provided the funding for those budgets.

Hooper, thanks to his votes to affirm Scott's vetoes, is the only Democrat with the governor's endorsement, despite having a

Republican challenger in his Orange County House race.

Rep. Katherine Sims, D-Craftsbury, who's running for Orleans County's Senate seat, is one of just three other Democrats who voted to sustain the governor's veto of the yield bill, though she did vote "yes" in earlier roll calls. Unlike Hooper, Sims did not receive Scott's endorsement.

"There's an attempt to paint all Democrats with a broad brush, and it's just not true," said Sims, who also supported Scott's veto of the renewable energy standard. "There are plenty of times I've voted 'no' when things aren't in the best interest of our district."

A political mailer distributed in the Orleans Senate district in support of Sims' opponent said she had "voted to raise your property taxes," a reference to the yield bill. Sims characterized the postcard as "simply not true."

Asked if she was surprised Scott endorsed her opponent, Sam Douglass, Sims said she'd had "multiple conversations" with the governor's team and "collaborated with the administration on introducing a number of bills."

"In the end, unfortunately, you know, things often end up with political leaders making political decisions," she said.

A statewide average, but local realities

While property taxes rose an average of nearly 14% across the state, actual changes varied widely from town to town, and many of the biggest increases hit deep blue communities.

Windsor County towns such as Woodstock, Bridgewater and Plymouth — considered Democratic strongholds — saw spikes of 30% or more. Other higher-than-average increases hit similarly blue parts of Addison County, the suburbs south of Burlington and the Orange County Democratic haven of Thetford.

Elsewhere in the state, increases were far smaller or even nonexistent, creating local particulars that differ from the statewide narrative.

In Barre City, local school board chair Michael Boutin is running for the House as a Republican, hoping to flip one of the district's two seats.

Like many communities, Barre struggled to pass a school budget, though the district's efforts dragged on longer than anywhere else. Boutin, who leads a board repeatedly divided over whether to support their district's spending plan, voiced his approval of the community's budget, which ultimately raised taxes less than 1% in the city.

That modest increase means property taxes aren't necessarily driving conversations in Barre about affordability.

"We thankfully did not experience that kind of [tax rate] jump that would've been devastating for our community," Boutin said.

Still, the Republican candidate said affordability is the No. 1 issue he's hearing from constituents, with the conversations centered on other costs, like energy.



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, left, confers with Rep. Carl Demrow, D-Corinth, during a break on the floor of the House at the Statehouse. Kornheiser and Demrow are the chair and the ranking member, respectively, of the House Ways and Means Committee.

"I think that most voters that I've talked to are kind of terrified about the Clean Heat Standard," he said.

Boutin, with his school board background, is still campaigning on education, even though the property tax issue doesn't resonate with Barre City residents as much as elsewhere.

For him, the primary problem is how confusing the system is, particularly Vermont's education funding formula.

"If [voters] can't understand it, it's a bad bill, period," Boutin said. "We cannot confuse our constituents, and that's what we've been doing with our education funding"

Correcting 'misinformation' and ticket-splitting

The Orange-1 House district, which includes Orange, Washington, Corinth and Vershire, has supported both Republicans and Democrats in recent years.

Demrow, the Corinth Democrat, is hoping to defend his seat against Republican challenger Michael Tagliavia, a former candidate for Vermont Attorney General.

In theory, Demrow could find himself vulnerable to attacks based on the state's rising property taxes. With his assistant leadership position in the House Ways and Means Committee, he has a front-row seat to education finance policy making.

But in much of Demrow's district, property taxes are actually falling, thanks to the latest changes to Vermont's school funding formula, which give relative tax relief to communities with students who are more expensive to educate, such as those in rural and more impoverished towns.

"I won the Act 127 lottery," Demrow said in an interview, referencing the latest pupil weighting bill.

Still, he has found voters angry about property taxes. Demrow recalled a school budget meeting this spring during which he explained that despite a rising budget, residents could expect tax bills to decrease.

"I had people come up to me afterwards and say, like, 'You're lying,'" Demrow said. "It's difficult sometimes to get messages across about this stuff."

The same dynamic has played out while he's knocked on doors — including at the home of an elderly couple last week.

"The husband said, 'You know, I was going to vote for you, but then I heard you raised our property taxes 14%,'" Demrow recalled. "Then his wife said, 'Our property taxes went down.' You know, she's the one who writes the checks and pays the bills."

Though in that instance Demrow was able to correct what he called "misinformation," the conversation points to the saturation of the Republicans' message.

The narrative is set. But actual votes? Those are still uncertain.

"I think the message is resonating," said Maulucci, the governor's campaign manager.

But in a presidential election year, he questioned the willingness of the state's Democrats to split their ticket and vote for a Republican legislative candidate, as many tend to do with Scott.

"It's just a question of whether it'll be enough to overcome some of the national headwind," he said.

GUEST EDITORIAL

We need a willing affordability partner, not just talk

By Mike Mrowicki

Editor's note: Mike Mrowicki is a state Representative for the Windham 4 District of Putney and Dummerston.

For those experiencing sticker shock from viewing their property tax bills this year, you're not alone. I get it. Or, I got it, as our tax bill soared on a 1,000-square-foot house on 2 acres, 5 miles from town on a dirt road.

My wife and I both work two jobs to keep food on the table and a roof overhead, and to pay our property taxes. Like most folks, any sudden increase, like needing a new medicine, a car repair, or a rise in property taxes, just plain hurts and quickly unbalances our budget.

I know our district school boards work hard to present a budget that tries to balance the competing needs of providing quality education at a cost we can afford. Our schools are under a lot of pressure this year because when they put their budgets together, they face line items like a 14% increase in health care insurance, which was brokered at the state level.

What's the Legislature's role here?

The 2024 Legislature that concluded in May formed a commission to dig into the cost drivers that push school budgets and whether there's a better way to fund education. We can also look at the formulas and metrics used to calculate taxes and values, as this is a quickly changing real estate market. Along with inflation, these are considerations that need to be updated.

However, we need a willing partner to solve the dilemma of affordability, where school funding is only one part of a big puzzle.

While Gov. Phil Scott talks a lot about affordability, there

hasn't been much action, especially since many of us see "affordability" as the cost of food, shelter, transportation, health care, child care, etc. What has been done in the last eight years of his tenure to address the big picture of affordability?

Regarding property taxes, we need a better plan to bring property taxes down than the governor's plan to borrow money that would have to be paid back next year on top of next year's tax, leaving a \$230 million hole to start off next year. That plan goes against Rule No. 1: when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

Yet all we hear from him or his office is how the Legislature is the problem and taxes are the only reason life isn't more affordable. Health insurance companies were granted a 19% increase for next year—an increase that will touch every budget in Vermont, be it state, local, or family. Where's the governor's plan to address this?

Despite moans of uninformed discontent from the governor's office to the contrary, clean heat is cheaper heat, summarized by the latest Dept. of Public Service report in which their optimized scenario of implementing the Global Warming Solutions Act showed \$2.1 billion in societal net benefits, and many families would see lower heating costs.

Then there's housing, an issue tied to so much of our economy; from workforce housing we need to keep our economy going to keeping people from being put out into

Affordability partner → 11



Not Perfect by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Bring balance to Montpelier on Nov. 5

Dear Editor,

I'm Andrea Murray, and I am running for State Senate in Windsor District because we must make Vermont more affordable.

I'm a farmer in Weathersfield, a businesswoman, and a mom struggling too - with a soaring cost of living, high property taxes, and feeling career politicians are not hearing us. It's now time to restore balance in Montpelier with new leadership.

As a Native American woman, I carry a deep concern for the destruction of our rural way of life. Our land, traditions, and a strong sense of community are the heart of who we are as Vermonters. Too many young families leave the state because they can't afford to stay and build their lives and homes here in Vermont.

My vision is for a Vermont where we can all thrive, and our government works for the people, not partisan politics.

I'm committed to representing your interests, bringing us back to the middle - by listening, doing what's right, and working hard for the people who trust me to represent them.

Murray → 11

Context matters

Dear Editor,

In an October 23 letter to the Mountain Times, Steve Berry wrote, "John Kerry stated at a World Economic Forum panel, 'Our First Amendment stands as a major block (to getting things done)'"

You may wonder why Mr. Berry uses such odd syntax, placing part of the quote in parentheses. Maybe it's because Kerry did not say those words.

In fact, according to James Lynch in the conservative National Review on Sept. 29, 2024, 2:06 p.m., what Kerry said was, "But, look, if people go to only one source, and the source they go to is sick and has an agenda, and they're putting out disinformation, our First Amendment stands as a major block to the ability to be able to hammer it out of existence."

It's ironic that what we get from Mr. Berry is the precise thing Kerry was talking about, disinformation, a less provocative word than "lie."

Berry goes on to imply that Kerry used the words "just hammer it out of existence" toward the First Amendment. Of course, Kerry directed these words toward disinformation, not the First Amendment, but when you are on a disin-

Context → 11

Don't be fooled by false promises

Dear Editor,

There is no simple solution to the challenges that Vermonters face. There needs to be a delicate balance between what, on the surface, seems like appeal-

A reduction of income to the state...means a reduction of the services you receive.

ing short-term solutions to the cost of living for all Vermonters versus the vision for long-term planning that creates financial stability and growth into the future.

Do not be misled by promises that reducing taxes will solve your financial woes. Vermont can not operate with "deficit spending." Therefore, a reduction of income to the state and local communities means a reduction of the services you receive, and your quality of life will diminish.

Short-term solutions are precisely that—short-term—and in the end, lead to nowhere.

So be wise when you listen to the rhetoric, and don't be fooled by false promises.

Sally Laurent, Windsor

Milk cows! Not taxpayers!

Dear Editor,

I am a delivery driver and service technician for a home heating company. The candidates on the ballot who will not destroy the home heat industry, which my coworkers and I rely upon to support our families in Vermont, are Republicans. The candidates on the ballot who will not increase our home heating fuel taxes are Republicans. The candidates on the ballot that will not raise education property taxes by double-digit percentages next year are Republicans.

Which candidates will find solutions to address the opioid epidemic, the tragedy of homelessness in Vermont, an increased crime rate, and the unaffordable cost of living? Which candidates will preserve Vermont's natural environment instead of shilling for the corporate lobbyists in the alternative energy industry? It won't be the Democrats. The rampant inequality of living standards serves their interests.

I will be voting for every Vermont Republican on the ballot. Windsor County Republicans will help Governor Phil Scott slam the brakes on the supermajority's agenda.

Stu Lindberg,
Cavendish

CAPITOL QUOTES

With elections looming Tuesday, Nov. 5, rallies and last minute pleas for votes were abundant. While Trump is perhaps least popular in Vermont (being the only state to deal Trump a loss in the Primary and with just 30% of Vt. voters supporting him in 2016 and 2020, the race is expected to be close...

“We expect her to be intelligent and articulate, to have a clear set of policies, to never show too much anger, to prove time and time again that she belongs... But for Trump, we expect nothing at all. No understanding of policy, no ability to put together a coherent argument, no honesty, no decency, no morals.”

said former first lady **Michelle Obama** on Saturday, Oct. 26, at rally for Harris in Michigan.

“Donald Trump has described at length the dangerous and disturbing actions he says he will take if he wins the presidency. His rallies offer a steady stream of such promises and threats — things like prosecuting political opponents and using the military against U.S. citizens. These statements are so outrageous and outlandish, so openly in conflict with the norms and values of American democracy that many find them hard to regard as anything but empty bluster. We have two words for American voters: Believe him.”

wrote **the New York Times Editorial board** earlier this week.

“[Trump] never accepted the fact that he wasn't the most powerful man in the world — and by power, I mean an ability to do anything he wanted, anytime he wanted ... He's certainly the only president that has all but rejected what America is all about, and what makes America America, in terms of our Constitution, in terms of our values, the way we look at everything, to include family and government,”

said **John F. Kelly**, the former Marine general and Trump's longest-serving presidential chief of staff.

“I certainly have many Republicans who will say to me, ‘I can't be public’ ... But they'll do the right thing... And I would just remind people, if you're at all concerned, you can vote your conscience and not ever have to say a word to anybody. And there will be millions of Republicans who do that ... and vote for Vice President Harris,”

said GOP Rep. **Liz Cheney** at an October rally for Harris.

COMMENTARY

Making Vermont a place working families want to call home

By Rebecca Holcombe

Editor's note: Rebecca Holcombe is a Vermont Representative from Windsor-Orange 2 who served as the Vermont Secretary of Education from 2014 to 2018.

Vermonters suffer from unsustainable increases in the cost of everything from property taxes to healthcare. Too many people are working hard and stretching Social Security checks but still worry about bills. To understand why, we need to talk about demographics.

The aging of our population means more demands on our health care system, fewer kids in our schools, and fewer working-age Vermonters. We need to adjust how we operate to accommodate the reality of who we are.

A recent healthcare sustainability report drove home one impact of our changing demographics.

We expect the number of people over age 65 to increase to 31% of our total population by 2040. This means we will need more expensive healthcare, including more dementia care and more care related to cancer, heart disease, and stroke-related hospitalizations. Without changes, this means healthcare may get MORE expensive, even though we already feel we are paying too much to get too little.

As our working-age population contracts by an estimated 13% by 2040, we'll likely have fewer people to fill critical jobs, including healthcare providers. These reductions may cause gaps in preventative care and overdependence on expensive traveling providers. We will also have fewer people insured by private insurers and more insured by Medicare and Medicaid. Government payers generally pay “fixed rate” for healthcare. When hospitals want to spend more, their first lever (aside from better managing costs or collaborating to find economies of scale) is to raise private insurance rates to make up the difference. This means our shrinking work-aged population disproportionately shoulders the burden of growth in healthcare costs.

Some of the care we need could be better delivered at a lower cost outside hospital settings, including by primary care providers and community care coordinators. This won't happen without additional housing that enables our workforce to grow. In fact, this recent report singled out additional housing as one of the most important strategies for bringing down healthcare costs. The Green Mountain Care Board also identified out-of-control healthcare premium increases as one major driver of increased school budget costs.

Multiple local businesses and nonprofits worry about the shortage of workers and the harmful impact of relentless healthcare cost increases. Some had to choose between increasing wages and providing benefits. Wages in Vermont have not kept pace with inflation,

Working families → 11

Closing schools doesn't fix Vermont's education affordability problems

By Margaret MacLean

Editor's note: Margaret MacLean, of Peacham, is a retired Vermont teacher and award-winning principal. She is the founding executive director of the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative, a past employee of the Rural School and Community Trust, and served on the Vermont State Board of Education.

Roxbury parents can meet most of the challenges of school mornings, from organizing breakfast to helping their children remember assignments and lunches. Warming up the car for the up to 4-mile drive to the nearest bus stop is also on the to-do list. But one part is breaking their hearts: the 2 hours and 15 minutes per day their children now spend on the bus getting to and from school in Montpelier. They do not want endless hours on a school bus for their children. It's not what a Vermont childhood should be.

When the Montpelier and Roxbury school districts merged under the school consolidation law Act 46, Roxbury residents

received assurances their rural school would receive equal treatment in the new district. But since then, the Montpelier dominant board made the sudden decision to close Roxbury's K-4 elementary school last spring. Families in the small town have come face-to-face with the inequities caused by rural school closures. Even the smallest children have to endure punishingly long bus rides, made worse by the fact that in this 42-square mile town filled with dirt roads, Montpelier's buses only drive on pavement. That's right, Montpelier's buses do not go on dirt roads. But beyond busing issues, many parents feel dismissed by a now-distant Montpelier's dominant school system. And the town is still searching for a sustainable use for the school building that was once the heart of their community.

Roxbury greenhouse owner Tom Frazier put it bluntly. “We merged with Montpelier in good faith. The situation we are in now, they have closed our school—is a nightmare.”

Value of schools → 11

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← **Murray:**
from page 8

I support Governor Scott's plan for fiscally responsible solutions that create opportunity and growth — not more taxes. I pledge to vote "No" on the Clean Heat Standard debacle and focus on attainable climate goals instead of unsustainable mandates. Please make your voice heard and vote Andrea Murray now or on Nov. 5 for balance and affordability. *Andrea Murray, Weathersfield, a candidate for Vermont State Senate - Windsor District*

← **Context:**
from page 8

formation roll, why not keep going? That's exactly what Mr. Berry did. He "quotes" Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris without giving references so we can quickly check to find out what they said and what context their words were in. He criticizes VP Harris for calling freedom of speech a "privilege", not a right. In fact, we are "privileged" to live in a country where it is, in fact, a right. That it is a right does not mean it is not a privilege, but Mr. Berry is apparently incapable of grasping such profound logic.

← **Value of schools:**
from page 9

Roxbury is not alone. Similar patterns have emerged across the U.S. when rural schools have been targeted for closure. Including in Vermont. Research shows that closing schools is damaging to children. Studies across the U.S. show that students:

- Loose sense of connectedness with peers/community
- Face increased mental health challenges
- In the short term, have lower test scores, worse attendance, and behavioral issues
- In the long term, are less likely than their peers to complete college and secure a job
- Face negative impacts from less family engagement.

Closing schools doesn't save money Children from closed schools still need an education. National research shows that per-pupil spending tends to increase when schools close, while anticipated cost efficiencies from "economies of scale" rarely materialize. Transportation costs increase, the promised wider opportunities cost money, and empty public buildings need to be maintained. School closures most often result in the redistribution of where money is spent rather than financial savings. **Closing schools increases inequity** Research finds that the students most negatively impacted by school closures are those experiencing poverty, students of color, and those with special needs. **Closing schools destroys communities** In communities where schools are closed, research points to depopulation, declining home values, eroding social capital, and problems with attracting and retaining families with children. Closing schools without due process results in unintended consequences. An inclusive, open-minded analysis of the pros, cons, and alternatives to school closure is crucial to avoiding unintended consequences. Examination of winter transportation (likely to make long bus rides even longer), creative options, such as retaining rural schools to house licensed childcare, preschool, and K-2 students, additional community-oriented alternatives for school buildings, and other research should be documented and presented as part of a choice for voters. A town vote on closing a town's school is essential to ensure buy-in to a balanced, sustainable, and fair solution. **Vermont's children deserve better** Research shows that multiage classrooms are developmentally appropriate settings for young children, and many small schools are cost-effective and among the best-performing schools in Vermont. Small schools for elementary students can be exemplary schools. Scapegoating small rural communities for Vermont's fiscal crisis flies in the face of equity and is not based on a factual problem analysis. Closing Vermont's rural schools is an "answer" that does not fix the problem. It simply creates different ones. If you want to receive a copy of the research supporting these points, please email vtschoolsrock@gmail.com.

← **Affordability partner:**
from page 8

the streets. While we wait for a plan from the governor, families exiting the motel program receive tents, and jobs go unfilled because qualified candidates can't find housing. The Legislature wants to work with the governor on these and other issues, but that means agreeing to show up. Just before the veto session in June, the governor called a meeting with legislative leaders to hash out an agreement on school funding. Ostensibly, this was a meeting of the "deciders" from each branch to avert the veto session. When Governor Scott blew off the meeting by not showing up, it certainly raised the question of whether he wants the issue to campaign on, more than an actual solution. Where else have we heard that scenario lately? All this is playing out against a nationwide backdrop of the growing and ongoing disparities between the super-rich and, well, everybody else. With the Trump Tax giveaways, they pay less, so we pay more. Our economic landscape has devolved into a dichotomy of "have nots" and "have yachts," which makes paying everyday bills harder to swallow. Regarding property taxes and funding education, it's obvious the largest part of that local bill is for educating our children, and our children are our future. Seems to me that politicizing their education has proven to be counterproductive. Would it depoliticize education costs if we unhitched them from property taxes with a straight income tax proposal? Would that also simplify the formula so most Vermonters could understand how we arrive at their tax rates? We can do better, but I won't pretend there are easy answers. We need to hear the plan from our well-paid chief executive, other than just vetoing bills. "Veni, Vidi, Veto" is not a plan. We're ready to work together and find that balance between a quality education at a price we can afford, and all the other parts that comprise the big picture of affordability. Both we and our children deserve no less.

Our economic landscape has devolved into a dichotomy of "have nots" and "have yachts," which makes paying everyday bills harder to swallow.

← **Working families:**
from page 9

which means many working households are worse off than they were a few years ago. Low wages paired with high cost of living make Vermont a less attractive place for a family to live. Our school-aged population is expected to shrink through 2040. As student numbers shrink, the cost per pupil in our public schools increases, driving up property tax bills. Small scale equals higher cost. We need a new and less inflationary funding formula, but we also have to discuss what we spend, not just who pays. As a state, we have too much school infrastructure in some places for the children we have. In those regions, we are trading better quality and lower cost for "local control" and higher tax bills for everyone. Moreover, spending public school dollars on out-of-state prep schools and religious schools reduces scale; in contrast, redirecting those dollars to inclusive Vermont schools with a public mission would bring down everyone's tax bills. If our state population isn't growing, why is housing scarce? Many of us live in the homes where we raised our kids, but our kids are gone. The average size of our households has shrunk. We need more housing to accommodate the same size population. Worsening the challenge, almost 1 in 5 homes in Vermont is now a second home. Recent migration patterns suggest that in-migration is offsetting some of our natural population decline. However, even before the pandemic, state migration data indicated that while a handful of better-off families are choosing to relocate to Vermont, we are losing moderate-income families, especially those whose yearly income is under \$100,000. These families represent an essential part of our workforce. We can't afford to put Vermont out of their reach. We can fix our housing, healthcare, and property tax challenges. We need state-level leadership to focus our precious dollars and efforts on the most powerful strategies for building a prosperous and affordable future. Don't like high property taxes, high health care premiums, the workforce shortage and climate resilience? Get behind state expansion of wastewater treatment systems in developable regions near job centers and outside flood zones. We can't cut our way to prosperity. We need a new approach. We can't afford to use K12 school budgets to pay for every new program. We must tackle healthcare costs through reference pricing, reorganizing our hospital system, and strengthening primary care and community care coordination. We must also increase the supply of reasonably-priced, climate-friendly housing near where people work but not in flood zones. Housing will bring back the working families we need to build our future.

Scapegoating small rural communities for Vermont's fiscal crisis ... is not based on a factual problem analysis.

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← Vt rail: from page 2

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said, “Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we’re funding rail infrastructure projects that create jobs and expand workforce development, reduce costs for consumers, and directly benefit communities across the country. Each project advances a future where our supply chains are stronger, passenger rail more accessible, and freight movement safer and more efficient.”

New England Central Railroad, Inc. — which incorporates 228 miles of the Vermont Railway (with stops in Burlington, Montpelier, White River Junction and Bellows Falls) — was granted up to \$19,524,497 for the New England Bi-State Shortline Upgrade Project. The project includes upgrading track, replacing bridge components, improving a locomotive service facility, resurfacing 12 grade crossings, removing six grade crossings, improving turnouts, and reconfiguring a yard on track. The project aligns with the selection criteria by enhancing safety as the project will increase weight capacity and speed along segments of the rail corridor and address yard infrastructure and substandard clearances, low capacity and high-defect-rate rail, and improve operations which will benefit rail-adjacent communities.

← Lt. gov: from page 5

lent white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017.

Rodgers — who has been adamant he has never supported Trump in the past, and does not support the former president now — has balked at that messaging, accusing the lieutenant governor in recent debates of spreading “misinformation.”

He charged that Zuckerman is “willing to do and say anything, even if it

hurts somebody that was supposed to be a friend, to hold on to office. And I am struggling with that.”

Paul Dame, chair of the Vermont GOP, said he thinks Rodgers is a candidate who, like Haley, could encourage Democrats to split their ticket — in his view, something that would benefit candidates like Rodgers and Gov. Scott, who is also seeking reelection this year.

If Rodgers were to succeed, it would be a first

side him.

Dame contended that Rodgers’ 20-point margin of victory in this year’s GOP primary for lieutenant governor — 56% of the vote to just 35% for Gregory Thayer, a vocal Trump supporter who attended the Stop the Steal rally that preceded the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 — shows that the state party is eager to support him.

Rodgers also has Scott’s endorsement in the lieutenant governor race. Dame said the two started appearing alongside each other in television ads in recent days.

“He’s part of this process of changing what the party looks like in Vermont,” Dame said of Rodgers. “That’s going to come by more intentionally modeling ourselves after Gov. Scott — and having the governor’s coordination this year in a way that’s been unprecedented.”

Trump has been deeply unpopular in the state for years. He won just 31% of the vote in the 2020 election and 30% in the 2016 race.

The Progressive/Democrat has argued that he is merely pointing voters to the facts. Zuckerman has charged in recent forums that Rodgers has been mischaracterizing his background, and the candidates have clashed over differences in their upbringing and personalities.

The advantages of linking a political opponent in Vermont to the former president are clear: Trump has been deeply unpopular in the state for years. He won just 31% of the vote in the 2020 election and 30% in the 2016 race.

This year, Vermont was the only state to award Nikki Haley a win in the Republican presidential primary, though her success was likely a product of indepen-

in a long time. Since Scott was elected lieutenant governor, also as a Republican, in 2010 — and then, after six years in that office, made the jump to the state’s highest office in 2016 — no Republican has been able to win statewide office along-



By Mike Dougherty/VTDigger
Sen. John Rodgers on the Senate floor a few years ago.

WORDPLAY

POPCORNWORDSEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

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

BOWL
 BUTTER
 CARAMEL
 CARNIVAL
 COMBINATION
 CONCESSION

ENJOY
 EXPLODE
 FAIR
 FIBER
 INFLATE
 KERNELS

MAIZE
 MICROWAVE
 MOVIE
 POPCORN
 POPPER
 SALTY

SEASONING
 SNACK
 SODA
 TASTY
 THEATER
 UNPOPPED

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →28

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 5. Highly impressed
- 11. Pronoun to identify something specific
- 12. Uttered in an impassioned way
- 16. Outfits
- 17. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 18. Stewed game casserole
- 19. Indignities inflicted on others
- 24. Blood type
- 25. Says beneath one's breath
- 26. Taxes
- 27. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 28. NFL great Randy
- 29. Where college students live
- 30. Brief Yankees sensation Kevin
- 31. Condiment
- 33. -frutti
- 34. Polish city
- 38. Astronomy unit of distance
- 39. Romanian village
- 40. Bears first overall pick Williams
- 43. Irritated from
- 44. Clothing for

- 45. One-time world power
- 49. When you anticipate arriving
- 50. Farm building
- 51. Organize thoughtfully
- 53. Detective
- 54. One who reduces
- 56. Nursemaids
- 58. Partner to "Pa"
- 59. World's longest river
- 60. Commemorates
- 63. Compound
- 64. The Lannisters and Starks fought for one
- 65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

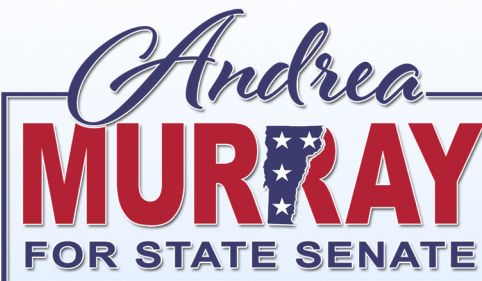
- 1. Open-roofed entrance
- 2. Japanese religion
- 3. Dancer's garments
- 4. Distributes
- 5. Yemeni port
- 6. Spanish doctors
- 7. It cools your house
- 8. Engine variant
- 9. Makes more manageable
- 10. Days (Spanish)
- 13. Milliliter
- 14. Spread out from
- 15. With two re-

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10									
11					12							13	14	15					
16					17				18										
19					20	21			22	23						24			
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43								44								45	46	47	48
49								50								51	52		
53																55			
56																58			59
60																61	62		
																			63
																			65

- placeable hydrogen atoms
- 20. Respectful title for a man
- 21. Equally
- 22. Scarlett's home
- 23. Big Blue
- 27. Subway dwellers
- 29. One-tenth of a liter
- 30. Central European river
- 31. Distress signal
- 32. Expression of sympathy

- 33. Bar bill
- 34. Football equipment
- 35. Dance music
- 36. Russian river
- 37. Mary __, cosmetics
- 38. Gym class
- 40. Autos
- 41. Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
- 42. Defeats (abbr.)
- 44. A way to color
- 45. Planet

- 46. Form of humor
- 47. Taken without permission
- 48. Go over again
- 50. Auto parts manufacturer
- 51. Detective's source
- 52. Home of the Flyers
- 54. Short official note
- 55. Emit coherent radiation
- 57. In the year of Our Lord
- 61. Atomic #18
- 62. Not from, but...



Tired of partisan politics?
 So is Andrea. As a local farmer and small business owner, Andrea puts people over politics and will work with Gov. Scott for balance and fiscally responsible solutions that help all Vermonters.



In the Senate, she'll work to:

- Lower taxes to keep families in their homes
- Achieve practical solutions for the affordability crisis
- Exempt all Social Security benefits from Vt income tax

Vote for Andrea Murray!
 Windsor-District
 Now or in person on Nov 5th

AndreaForVermont.com

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in Minnesota on October 29, 1971. I had a breakout role in a Tim Burton film about a pesky ghost, and then had a string of hits through the 90s. I was out of the spotlight for awhile, and have since turned up on a popular Netflix series. I will soon reprise a popular role in another ghost movie installment.

Answer: Winona Ryder

SUDOKU

Solutions →28

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

Level: Intermediate

Woodstock Halloween Trick-or-Treat

THURSDAY AT 5 PM



WEDNESDAY
10/30

NAMI Vermont's 2024 Conference: Together for Mental Health

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Killington Grand Resort Hotel, Killington. \$95 for NAMI Vermont members, \$125 for non-members. Join NAMI Vermont's annual conference for a day of workshops, keynote presentations, and networking with mental health professionals, peers, and advocates. Keynote speaker Dave Melnick, LICSW, will explore trauma transformation and collective healing. namivt.org/conference-2024

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

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

Public Skating

2-3:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

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

Halloween Costume Runway Show

4:30 p.m. JAM, 5 S. Main St., White River Junction. Free. Trick-or-treaters of all ages are invited to show off their costumes at JAM's televised Halloween Costume Runway Show, hosted by Tatum Barnes of Valley Improv and Hartford Parks and Rec. The event will be live-streamed on YouTube and local cable. Parents must accompany children under 14. uvjam.org/event/halloween-costume-runway-show

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. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group

Trunk or Treat at West Ridge Center

5-7 p.m. West Ridge Center, 1 Scale Ave., Building 10, Rutland. Free. Join the West Ridge Center for its first Trunk or Treat event, where staff and community partners will distribute candy from decorated vehicles. Families are invited to enjoy a fun, safe Halloween celebration. Information on prevention and treatment services will also be available. rrmc.org/services/addiction-recovery

Come Alive Outside: Ghost Edition

5:30 p.m. Depot Park, 25 Evelyn St., Rutland. Join Come Alive Outside for a spooky 1-mile stroll through Rutland, exploring truths and urban legends. Costumes are encouraged! No pets allowed. Costumes may disturb some participants, so please plan accordingly. No RSVP needed. Meet at Depot Park, and the walk departs promptly.

Shoulder Opening Stretch Class - Five-Week Course

6-7 p.m. Artistree Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd., Pomfret. Refer to website for details. This class, led by certified stretch coach Rob Lamprey, focuses on improving shoulder and neck health through targeted stretches and mobility exercises. hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules/activity-set/848288

Halloween Wildlife Festival & Jack-O'-Lantern Hike

6-8 p.m. Kehoe Education Center, Point of Pines Rd., Castleton. Free. Join Vermont Fish & Wildlife for a family adventure featuring educational stations, crafts, campfire activities, and a jack-o-lantern lit nature walk. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Open to all ages, no registration needed. Email corey.hart@vermont.gov.

THURSDAY
10/31

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

Stick & Puck

3-4:10 p.m. (Thursdays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. All ages. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

Thursday Farmers' Market (Fair Haven)

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

Woodstock Halloween Trick-or-Treat

5-8 p.m. High St., Maple St., and Golf Ave., Woodstock. Free. Join the annual Woodstock Halloween Trick-or-Treat event as the streets of High St., Maple St., and Golf Ave. are closed for a safe and festive trick-or-treating experience. Families from the Upper Valley are welcome to enjoy this fun tradition with candy and costumes. Woodstock Emergency Services will be on hand to ensure safety. woodstockvt.com

Performance: 'Young Frankenstein'

7:30 p.m. BarnArts Center for the Arts, Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd., Barnard. \$18-25. BarnArts production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," an adaptation of the 1973 film featuring songs, dance numbers, and Brooks' signature humor. barnarts.org

Movie - 'Halloween' (R)

7:30-9:00 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Experience the 1978 John Carpenter classic film on the big screen. Starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Pleasence. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

FRIDAY
11/1

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

Carnage 27

1-11 p.m. Killington Grand Resort, 228 E Mountain Rd., Killington. \$40-\$90. Join Northern New England's largest tabletop gaming convention for a weekend of board games, role-playing games, card games, miniatures, and more. The event features scheduled gaming, open gaming, tournaments, vendor rooms, and Indie Alley. tabletop.events

Super Seniors with Joe Carroll

1:30 p.m. The Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8 for non-members. WCAX feature reporter and producer Joe Carroll shares stories from his Emmy-winning series "Super Seniors." learn.uvm.edu/oili/rutland

Holiday Artisan Gift Show

4-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. 4th Annual Holiday Artisan Gift Show featuring unique, handmade items perfect for gift giving. Enjoy a free hot beverage bar and a free cookie cutter with purchase. Make-your-own card station available for young artists. chaffeeartcenter.org

Carnage 27

FRIDAY-SUNDAY



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



Rock N' Rescue - A Howl-O-Ween Bash with the American Vinyl All Star Band

FRIDAY AT 7 PM

Rock N' Rescue - A Howl-O-Ween Bash with the American Vinyl All Star Band

7 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$45 General Admission, \$100 VIP. Support the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society at this legendary rock concert featuring the American Vinyl All Star Band, including members from Steely Dan, Boston, The Waiters, Bon Jovi, and more! VIP tickets include premier seating and a meet-and-greet. Silent auction starts at 7 p.m., and the band takes the stage at 8 p.m. eventbrite.com

Soul Asylum: The Slowly But Shirley Tour

7 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. Rutland. \$35-\$55. Concert with Grammy award-winning band Soul Asylum, with support from The Juliana Hatfield Three performing "Become What You Are." paramountvt.org

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

7-8 p.m. Gymnasium, 11 Cottage St., Rutland. \$15 per class. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com

Performance: 'Young Frankenstein'

7:30 p.m. BarnArts Center for the Arts, Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd., Barnard. \$18-25. BarnArts production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," an adaptation of the 1973 film featuring songs, dance numbers, and Brooks' signature humor. barnarts.org

SATURDAY
11/02

Carnage 27

8 a.m.-1 a.m. Killington Grand Resort, 228 E Mountain Rd., Killington. \$40-\$90. Join Northern New England's largest tabletop gaming convention for a weekend of board games, role-playing games, card games, miniatures, and more. The event features scheduled gaming, open gaming, tournaments, vendor rooms, and Indie Alley. tabletop.events

Maple Sap Line Drop Off

9 a.m.-noon. South Woodstock Fire Station, Intersection of VT Rte. 106 and Morgan Hill Rd., South Woodstock. Pre-registration required by Oct. 31. Join the Windsor County Maple Producers Association to drop off maple sap lines (spouts not accepted). Contact Mary McCuaig at (802) 353-3035 or marymaple13@gmail.com

Small Group Training Open House at UVAC

10 a.m.-noon. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Ln., White River Junction. Free. Explore TRIBE formats and Pilates Reformer machines with demos and meet instructors. No registration needed. Demos at 10, 10:30, 11, and 11:30 a.m. TRIBE classes at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Raffle prizes include a free Reformer class or TRIBE session. uvacswim.org

Winter Farmers Market at Vermont Farmers Food Center

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Open every Saturday from Nov. 2, 2024, to May 10, 2025. Shop from over 50 local vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, and more. 802-417-8661

Artist Reception: Heather Wishik - 'The Family Star: A Memoir in Pollages & Other Images'

2-4 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. An artist reception for Heather Wishik's exhibit, showcasing a memoir in pollages and other images, open in the Mezzanine Gallery. NormanWilliams.org

Holiday Artisan Gift Show

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. 4th Annual Holiday Artisan Gift Show featuring unique, handmade items perfect for gift giving. Enjoy a free hot beverage bar and a free cookie cutter with purchase. Make-your-own card station available for young artists. chaffeeartcenter.org

Arts & Crafts Fair

10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. Reading Greenhouse, 786 Route 106, Reading. Arts fair with 40+ vendors, musicians, food truck, cider pressing, demonstrations, tastings, farm animals, and tarot card readings. 802-484-7272

Elevate Women's Expo

10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Rutland Recreation Community Center, 134 Community Dr., Rutland. \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. Naturally You Childbirth presents the first annual Elevate Women's Expo, gathering local and semi-local businesses from VT, NH, NY, and MA for a day of shopping, connection, education, and support. This unique event is designed to uplift and bring together women and those who identify, or don't, from the surrounding areas. vtnaturallyyouchildbirth.com/elevate

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

North Chapel's Annual Red Flannel Hash Dinner

Noon-1:30 p.m. North Chapel, 7 Church St., Woodstock. \$18. Annual Red Flannel hash dinner, available for takeout. Meal includes hash, pickles, beans, slaw, home-baked bread, and choice of apple or pumpkin pie. Place your order before the Nov. 2 pickup date. Pick up your order in front of the church. Contact Ann Wynia at 802-457-2217 or annwynia0516@gmail.com

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

Domestic Violence Awareness Project:

Making Art to Share Joy

1-3:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 320 Route 5 South, Norwich. Free. Join this accessible art workshop to share joy and raise awareness about domestic violence. No experience needed; all supplies provided. Everyone is welcome. Register at mitchbeckatsafeart@gmail.com

Opening Reception: 'The Family Star: A Memoir in Poellages & Other Images'

2-3:30 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. The exhibition by Heather Wishik features works that combine poetry and collage, exploring the fusion of words and visual art. normanwilliams.org

2024 SVA Artist Members' Show at Stone Valley Arts

3-5 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. Free. The 2024 Artist Members' Show opens with a reception featuring over 20 Vermont artists showcasing a variety of media, including painting, photography, pottery, and more. Gallery hours: Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. through December 13. stonevalleyarts.org

Dia de los Muertos Celebration

3:30-7 p.m. Cavendish Library, 573 Main St., Proctorsville. Free. Join the Cavendish Historical Society for a Dia de los Muertos celebration, including a workshop from 3:30-5:30 p.m. to create items for the community. Activities include papel picado, paper flowers, tin ornaments, mask making, and more. A potluck supper will follow from 5:30-7 p.m. cavendishhistoricalsocietynews.blogspot.com

Jack and the Beanstalk by No Strings Marionette Company

4 p.m. Pomfret Town Hall, 5233 Pomfret Rd., Pomfret. Free. Join the Abbott Memorial Library for an all-ages performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, featuring marionettes, life-size body puppets, and more. The show includes a sing-along and a Q&A session with the puppeteers. abbottmemoriallibrary.org

Musical Meditations on Death

4-5 p.m. St. James Episcopal Church, 2 St. James Place, Woodstock. Free. Wrensong presents a concert of a cappella choral music, featuring selections from the Renaissance to the contemporary, with compositions by Monteverdi, Purcell, Schütz, and more. facebook.com/wrensongVT

Roast Pork Dinner at Pawlet Community Church

4:30 p.m. Pawlet Community Church, 38 VT Rt 133, Pawlet. \$15 for adults, \$6 for age 12, free for kids 5 and under. Enjoy a delicious roast pork dinner with all the fixings, including stuffing, mashed potatoes, and dessert. Indoor dining or takeout available. Call 802-325-3022 to place orders for pickup.

Annual Basin Blast-Off Party

5-8 p.m. Basin Ski Ride & Bike, 2886 Killington Rd., Killington. Free entry, \$5 raffle tickets. Celebrate the start of ski season with music, raffles, and \$1 Fiddlehead Beer, supporting Killington Search and Rescue. Prizes include ski and snowboard combos, gift bags, and more. facebook.com/KillingtonSAR

Star Radio Hour! - "Pastures of Plenty"

7-9 p.m. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 VT-14, Sharon. \$20. Enjoy an evening of music, stories, skits, and a sing-along with emcee Jim Rooney, followed by a Swing Dance Party. Broadcast live on Royalton Community Radio at 96.5 FM. royaltonradio.org



Soul Asylum: The Slowly But Shirley Tour

FRIDAY AT 7 PM

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 15



Winter Farmers Market at Vermont Farmers Food Center

SATURDAY AT 10 AM

Performance: 'Young Frankenstein'

7:30 p.m. BarnArts Center for the Arts, Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd., Barnard. \$18-25. BarnArts production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," an adaptation of the 1973 film featuring songs, dance numbers, and Brooks' signature humor. barnarts.org

Movie - 'Saturday Night' (R)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Film about the debut night of "Saturday Night Live" in 1975. Directed by Jason Reitman. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

The Odd-Ball

8-11:30 p.m. Main Street Musuem, 58 Bridge St. White River Junction. \$10 OBO at the door. DJ Dagon plays Industrial, EBM, Harsh Dance, Darkwave, Electro, and Goth. mainstreetmuseum.org

SUNDAY
11/3

Carnage 27

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Killington Grand Resort, 228 E Mountain Rd., Killington. \$40-\$90. Join Northern New England's largest tabletop gaming convention for a weekend of board games, role-playing games, card games, miniatures, and more. The event features scheduled gaming, open gaming, tournaments, vendor rooms, and Indie Alley. tabletop.events

Geology Walk with Helen Mango

11 a.m. Smokey House Center, 426 Danby Mountain Rd., Danby. Free. Join local geologist Helen Mango for a guided walk through the unique geology surrounding Smokey House Center, exploring sedimentary and metamorphic rock formations that tell Vermont's ancient geological history. smokeyhouse.org

Public Skating

11 a.m.-12:10 p.m. (Sundays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

Performance: 'Young Frankenstein'

2 p.m. BarnArts Center for the Arts, Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd., Barnard. \$18-25. BarnArts production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," an adaptation of the 1973 film featuring songs, dance numbers, and Brooks' signature humor. barnarts.org

Sushi Yoshi's Good Guys Card Swap Party

3-10 p.m. Sushi Yoshi, 1807 Killington Rd., Killington. Exchange last year's Good Guys Card for a new one or purchase a new card for \$10 per person. The Good Guys Card offers 50% off select items during Sunday-Friday from 3-6 p.m., excluding Saturdays and holidays. The discount applies only to the cardholder. Cards are valid year-round for 10% off dine-in and take-out. The swap starts at 3 p.m. sushiyoshivt.com

Movie - 'Saturday Night' (R)

3-5:00 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Film about the debut night of "Saturday Night Live" in 1975. Directed by Jason Reitman. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Science Pub: What Does Data Sound Like?

4 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge, 2551 Rte 30 N, Bomoseen. Free. Join Matt LaRoca, Artistic Advisor and Project Conductor for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, as he explores the fascinating world of data sonification—transforming numbers into music. Learn how spreadsheets can be turned into sound and hear sample compositions, including one created by LaRoca. This event kicks off the 15th season of Science Pub.

Mt. Tom Star Lighting Ceremony and Fundraising Gala for Thompson Center Meals on Wheels

5-7:30 p.m. Woodstock Inn, Rockefeller Room, 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$100 per person. Join the Woodstock Rotary Club for a special lighting ceremony of the newly constructed Mt. Tom Star, followed by an evening of hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and a live auction to support the Thompson Center's Meals on Wheels program. Tickets must be purchased in advance. All proceeds benefit the program, which serves nearly 14,000 meals annually. Email woodstockrotary@woodstockvt.com for tickets.

MONDAY
11/4

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

TUESDAY
11/5

Handcraft Gathering

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

Stick & Puck

3-4:10 p.m. (Tuesdays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. All ages. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

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. chcr.org

Learn to Skate Lessons

5:30-6:30 p.m. Union Arena Community Center, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$140. Join Union Arena Skating Club for Learn to Skate lessons on Tuesdays, from Nov. 5 to Dec. 18, 2024. Levels include Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Helmets required. Register at uaskateclub.com

Line Dance Classes

5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays) Bradford's Methodist Church, 186 N Main St., Bradford. \$10. EZ line dancing at 5:30 p.m., perfect for novices, followed by a 6:30 p.m. beginner-level class. All ages welcome. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No need to register in advance. jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com

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

Creative Writing Class

6-8 p.m. (Tuesdays, Oct 22 - Nov 12). Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd., Pomfret. \$30 non-refundable registration fee, full tuition refund available if canceled 14 days before class start. Pre-registration required at redballooncreativecontent.com

Celtic Thunder: Odyssey

7-9 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$55-\$85. Experience traditional and contemporary Irish music with Celtic Thunder's latest show, Odyssey, performed by lead vocalists Ryan Kelly, Damian McGinty, Neil Byrne, and Emmet Cahill. paramountvt.org

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

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.'

UPCOMING

11/28

13th Annual Killington 5k Turkey Trot

9:30 a.m. Pickle Barrel, 1741 Killington Rd., Killington. \$30 before race day, \$35 on race day. The 13th edition of the Killington 5k Turkey Trot Run/Walk welcomes participants of all ages. Proceeds benefit the Pico Ski Education Foundation. Race day registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Pickle Barrel. Register now at runsignup.com/Race/VT/Killington/Killington5KTurkeyTrot

18th Annual 5K Turkey Trot for Zack's Place

10 a.m. Woodstock Elementary School, 15 South St., Woodstock. \$35. All proceeds benefit Zack's Place. Participants can race in-person or remotely. T-shirts provided to participants who pre-register by Nov. 18. Post-race festivities include food, a band, and awards. No pets allowed. Main registration takes place on Nov. 27 from 3-5 p.m. or on race day from 8-9:30 a.m. zacksplacevt.org

11/29-12/1

The Stifel Killington Cup.

Celebrate the history and passion for alpine ski racing and cheer on Mikaela Shiffrin, who is on track for her historic 100th win. Tickets on sale now. Killington.com

Sushi Yoshi's Good Guys Card Swap Party

SUNDAY AT 3 PM



[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED 10/30

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
5 p.m. Moose Lodge – Birthday Moose Jam with Liz Reedy and Nick Bredece

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

THURS 10/31

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS
5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredece

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto
6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

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
7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Halloween Bash with Super Stash Bros

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

RUTLAND
8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic

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

SOUTH ROYALTON
5:30 p.m. Fable Farm Fermentory – Bow Thayer presents The Choirs of Aether in a special Halloween Event

FRI 11/1

BOMOSEEN
6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Aaron Audet

CASTLETON
6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – James Joel

6 p.m. The Foundry – Silas Hamilton

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

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Rhys Chalmers

LUDLOW
8 p.m. Off the Rails – Daniel Brown

PITTSFIELD
9 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Jabbawaukee

POULTNEY
6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jon Clinch

RANDOLPH
8 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Throwback Dance Party w/ DJ Sound Syndicate X DJ Bay 6

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

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – DJ EG

SAT 11/2

BRANDON
7 p.m. Red Clover Ale Co – Rambletree

7 p.m. Town Hall – Maiden Vermont

KILLINGTON
6 p.m. Rivershed – James Joel

6 p.m. The Foundry – Josh Jakob

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

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – House Pass Party with The Idiots

QUECHEE
5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jake Geppart

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

WOODSTOCK
6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Theta Waves Trio

SUN 11/3

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

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

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

MON 11/4

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

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

TUES 11/5

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 Davis30

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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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 | 7:00 PM



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 7:00PM



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 3:00 PM



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 7:30 PM

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Rockin' the Region with Jabbawaukee



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

Get extra use out of your Halloween costume and head to the Clear River Tavern the day after Halloween for their Day of the Dead party with the band Jabbawaukee at 9 p.m. The band, which hails from Rhode Island, will be making their debut at the Clear, and they're very excited about it.

Jabbawaukee is a four-piece band consisting of bassist/vocalist Brendon "Low B" Bjorness-Murano, guitarist & vocalist Dave Hobson, keyboardist & vocalist Jack Skiffington, and drummer & vocalist Stu Taylor. They've opened for several national acts, many of whom have played in Killington, like Twiddle, Pink Talking Fish, Hayley Jane, and the Ryan Montbleau Band.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Jack to learn about the band. He described them and said, "From a physical standpoint, we look like four regular guys, but once we get on the stage and start playing, that's when the magic really happens. You can expect high energy, blast-in-your-face style jams, raunchy and raw but very technically proficient at the same time."

They're a heavier jam band which Jack said, "I like to call it Jam Core. We take a lot of inspiration from your general jam band troupes like the Grateful Dead, Phish, and all that then combine it with elements of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Primus, Queens of the Stone Age, and all kinds of that stuff"

Each of the guys has their own musical tastes that influence what they play and how they play the music: the sounds they create and the textures and chords they use. Brendon likes death metal, Jack likes jazz and EDM, Dave likes jam bands and classic rock, and Stu is into modern rock. Jack said, "Once it all blends together, it comes out as our own. The influences are there. It's not what we're trying to emulate; it's just what comes out."

Jabbawaukee plays originals and covers. Jack said, "In regular jam band fashion, we like to blend things together. We'll do a cover that goes into an original or an original that goes into a cover, just to keep things fresh and fun. A lot of the times we do a cover, we like to put our own spin on it." A good example of that is The Grateful Dead's "New Speed Boogie," which they released as a single. Jack added, "You listen to it, and until you hear the words, you don't even know it's that song." Jack likes any RHCP, or Primus covers they do. Jabbawaukee has done a whole set dedicated to each of those bands. Jack also likes the Talking Heads covers they do.

They all take turns writing songs for their originals, so each guy has written songs for the band. Jack said, "There are songs in our collective that we have written all together, all on the spot essentially. There's a song called 'Spread,' where we all took turns writing the verses. All of us have equal contributions to the song, and the song writing. We try and keep it that way to make sure we all feel we have a tug and pull of what we're doing, and to where the creative direction is going. We even have some songs from someone outside of the band. We have a friend, 'Bird,' who has written some songs for us"

I'm looking forward to seeing this band for a few reasons. One, I dig jam bands and all the bands they cover. More importantly, I love bands with multiple lead singers and harmony. These guys all take lead on a few songs, but harmonizing is their jam, pun intended. Jack said, "We like to switch it up. We all have songs we like to sing. At the end of the day, there's only four of us. I see this with a lot of duos/trios; the harmonies are key because you don't have as many people there to fill up the space or as many instruments. You need the extra voices to bring it up to another place. Let's be real here, when you hear a whole church choir sing, a whole church sing, forget the choir, it sounds so beautiful when many people are singing all at once. It's next level."

The band has been together for eight years, with Jack the past five. Jack used to live in Vermont and is friends with Alex, who works at the Clear, so that's how this came to be. They play all over New England, and in the summer months, they like to hit festivals like StrangeCreek and Wormtown in Greenfield, Massachusetts. StrangeCreek is a great music festival, and the band has been playing it every year since 2019. Jack said, "It was my first real music festival, and it absolutely changed my life in how I viewed music. To me, a music scene was something that happened in the '70s in New York, and then I come to this for the first time, and I'm wowed away. There's so many people here that like the same type of music I like to listen to, and even the music that I like playing, this is insane."

Jack said when he plays in the band, "It feels like I'm sharing energy with people like it's a form of communal magic, a way to share ideas. It's not just me sharing my ideas with other people but for people to respond and give me back inspiration. All that really, truly makes it a magical, transcending experience that I'm very happy, as a human being, to experience that over and over again."

Their debut album is a five-song EP, "Five from the Shack," released in 2018. Their latest album, "Live Worms," is a live recording of their show at Wormtown in 2023. They also have that single I mentioned earlier, and they're currently finishing up their sophomore studio album, which should be released early next year.

They have some cool shows coming up after the Clear. They're at the Middle East in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Nov. 27th, the Ocean Mist in Rhode Island on Nov. 30th, and Stella Blues in New Haven, Connecticut, on Dec. 28th.

You can find Jabbawaukee on all the social media platforms, and their music is on all the sites you can stream music from, like Spotify, YouTube music, etc. Jack said, "Anywhere you can type our name in, you can find us." You can also find them on their website, jabbawaukee.com.

Rock N' Rescue: Legendary lineup comes to Woodstock for Howl-O-Ween bash

Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—Get ready to rock for a cause! Woodstock Town Hall Theater will host Rock N' Rescue – A Howl-O-Ween Bash, a fundraising event for the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, this Friday. This one-of-a-kind concert will feature the legendary American Vinyl All-Star Band, showcasing rock royalty from some of the greatest bands in music history.

The band includes Jeff "Skunk" Baxter of Steely Dan and The Doobie Brothers, Barry Goudreau, formerly of Boston, Leroy Romans of The Wailers and Third World, Tim Archibald of Peter Wolf and RTZ, Robert "Mousey" Thompson of The James Brown Band, and Danny Beissel of Fosterchild. Notable guest stars include Hugh McDonald of Bon Jovi and Sharlotte Gibson, known for performing with Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin.

This event offers the chance to see these iconic musicians up close in the intimate Woodstock Town Hall Theater. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the night starts with a silent auction featuring locally sourced items from 7-8 p.m. The band will take the stage at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$45, and for those looking to enhance their experience, VIP tickets are available for \$100, which includes premier seating and a meet-and-greet with the band.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, helping to support their ongoing efforts to care for and rescue animals in need. Rock fans and animal lovers alike won't want to miss this exciting night of live music and community support. Tickets are limited, so be sure to purchase yours today at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

For more information, call 802-484-5829 or email Jackie Stanley at jstanley@lucymac.org.



Courtesy of the Lucy Mackenzie Society

Woodstock prepares for annual Halloween trick-or-treat

Oct. 31, from 5-8 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—It's officially Spooky Season, and Woodstock is gearing up for its Halloween tradition of closing off High Street, Maple Street, and Golf Avenue for trick-or-treating. These streets will be transformed into a safe, festive Halloween wonderland as local residents welcome costumed kids from across the Upper Valley.

Woodstock Emergency Services will be on hand to block off the streets and ensure a safe environment for the hundreds of families expected to attend. This long-standing tradition has become one of the most popular Halloween events in the area, drawing 700-800 trick-or-treaters

each year. Families and visitors come from all over to experience the festive atmosphere Woodstock provides.

A critical factor in the event's success is the dedication of homeowners along Maple Street, High Street, and Golf Avenue. These residents go above and beyond, handing out thousands of pieces of candy to eager trick-or-treaters. Through candy donations and additional purchases from the Town and Village of Woodstock, these extra efforts help keep the fun going, making it a standout event in the Upper Valley. If you're in the area on Halloween night, join in on the fun for an unforgettable evening of trick-or-treating!

Annual holiday artisan gift show at Chaffee Art Center

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 1-2—RUTLAND—The Chaffee Art Center invites the community to its 4th annual holiday artisan gift show on Friday, Nov. 1, from 4-7 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This much-anticipated event at the Chaffee Art Center offers free admission.

Featuring an array of handmade, unique, and affordable items, the holiday Artisan gift show is the perfect opportunity to shop for one-of-a-kind treasures and start on holiday gift shopping. In addition, shoppers will receive a free Ann Clark cookie cutter with every purchase (limit one per person).

Visitors can also enjoy a complimentary hot beverage bar, serving cider, cocoa, coffee, and tea. For families, a make-your-own card station will be available to keep young artists entertained while parents shop.

This event helps support local artisans and is an excellent way to purchase distinctive gifts while enjoying the creative atmosphere of the Chaffee Art Center.

For more information, contact the Chaffee Art Center at 802-775-0356 or info@chaffee-artcenter.org.



Courtesy of Chaffee Art Center



Submitted

Claire Drebitko, MD, (left) smiled with Norm Frates (center) and Todd Kortekamp (right) at last year's fundraising gala.

Celebrate the community with star lighting and gala fundraiser

Nov. 3, from 5-7:30 p.m. —WOODSTOCK— Gather at the Woodstock Inn front garden for the Mt. Tom Star Lighting Ceremony from 5-5:30 p.m., celebrating a newly constructed steel star, a symbol of hope and resilience for the town. Following the ceremony, the Woodstock Rotary Club will host the Thompson Center fundraising gala for Meals on Wheels in the Woodstock Inn's Rockefeller Room from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and a live auction to support the delivery of nearly 14,000 meals to local seniors. Advance-purchased tickets are required, \$100 per person. Last year's fundraiser raised \$78,000 to help towards the construction of the new star.

For more information and to purchase tickets, e-mail woodstockrotary@woodstockvt.com.

Stone Valley Arts announces the opening of its 2024 Artist Members' Show

Saturday, Nov. 2 from 3-5 p.m.—POULTNEY—Stone Valley Arts announces the opening of its 2024 Artist Members' Show on Saturday, Nov. 2, with an artists' reception from 3-5 p.m. The show runs through Dec. 13 and features over 20 talented Vermont artists presenting works across a variety of media.

This year's show includes an eclectic mix of painting, photography, wood-carving, pottery, collage, and mixed media. The artists explore various subjects, from abstract and whimsical creations to depictions of landscapes, wildflowers, and wildlife. Visitors can expect to see the works of well-known Vermont artists such as Donna Ciobanu, Joan Curtis, Ruth Hamilton, Chuck Helfer, and many more.

Gallery hours for the fall season are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m., offering visitors multiple opportunities to view the collection. The opening reception is free and open to the public, with refreshments provided.

For more information about the show and upcoming events at Stone Valley Arts, visit www.stonevalleyarts.org.



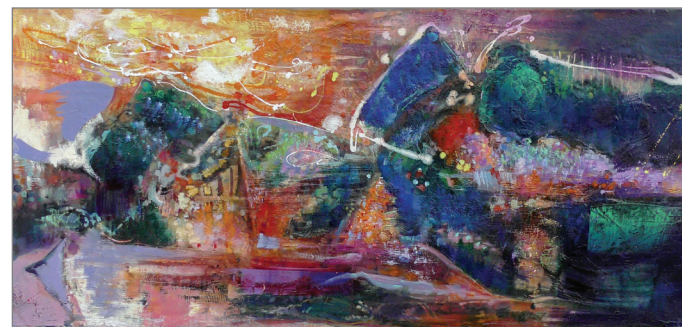
Country Farm

By Denise Letendre



By Brigit Krans

Early Autumn at Rimborg Castle



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63rd annual Rutland City Halloween parade winners announced

Another successful parade is in the books. It was a chilly and breezy evening, but those who lined the parade route on Saturday did not leave disappointed due to the bounty of creativity on display from this year's floats, bands, and participants. At the night's end, winners in several categories received some seasonal bragging rights.

This year's parade winners include:

- **Most Original** - Jack O'Lantern, Come Alive Outside, Miss Lorraine's School of Dance
- **Most Original Runner up** - Rutland Appliances
- **Best in Parade** - Rutland Regional Medical Center, VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, Community Health Center, Rutland Mental Health Services
- **Best in Parade Runner up** - Casella Construction and Casella Waste on Behalf of Wheels for Warmth
- **Most Creative** - Green Mountain Squad-501st Legion and Rebel Legion
- **Most Creative Runner up** - Westminster Cracker
- **Best Costumed Marching Band** - West Rutland School Marching Band
- **Best Costumed Marching Band Runner up** - Rutland Town School
- **Best Costumed Marching Unit** - Drum Journeys of Earth
- **Best Costumed Marching Unit Runner up** - Castleton Alumni Association
- **Tom Fagan Award** - Rutland County Pride
- **Honorable Mention** - Honey
- **Honorable Mention** - The MINT
- **Honorary Mystery Jack O'Lantern** - Bill Olsen, Retired Rutland City Public Schools Superintendent

Putting on this annual event takes the talents and efforts of many in front and behind the scenes, and their hard work make the results worth it every year.



By James Kent

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A murder mystery unfolds in downtown Rutland

By James Kent

It was a gorgeous late October evening. The temperature was unseasonably warm, still a comfortable 72 degrees, not a breeze blowing on Evelyn Street, at 6:35 p.m. on that hidden corner of downtown Rutland. You know, the one just a knee scrape away from the train station, where the social interactions of the city sophisticates hold court at Prouty's Parlor for a birthday celebration of Al Spumoni. That's right, the bootlegger and ice cream tycoon. Sure, the kids may love him for his quick hand with the scoop, but the man's got enemies. When you are dealin' in bathtub gin, you're bound to ruffle some feathers, and this operator's a first-class chicken-plucker.

A crowd of guests surround Spumoni, ready to raise a glass, make a toast, and celebrate his special day. It turns out that this vintage of gin comes with a three-letter label on the bottle, and those letters are R.I.P. Before the candles on Al's birthday cake go out, Al's lying dead in his seat. Someone's poisoned his drink, and that someone is at the party. The thing is, Al was collecting gripes like a kid's prized bag of marbles, and from the dirty looks of faces on these attendees, Al could fill a potato sack with them.

Prouty's serves up more than ice cream at its parlor

It's 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, and Sherri and Paige Prouty are scurrying about Prouty's Parlor, making last-minute preparations for their first murder mystery party since opening their downtown Rutland ice cream shop this past spring. Guests, 18 in all, are starting to arrive for a 6 p.m. start time. As part of a \$50 admission price, the party includes a delicious food spread, drinks, an evening of fun mystery game-play, and, of course, there would be ice cream for everyone before the evening was through.

For ambiance, owners Sherri and Paige transformed their nostalgia-infused ice cream parlor into something more fitting of the 1920s than the 2020s. Hot-jazz music fills the room, and both Prouty proprietors wear period-inspired flapper dresses. In addition to the "Roaring 20s" theme, Sherri and Paige have some modern-day inspiration prepared to provide guests with a keepsake from their evening of murderous mystery. Local DJ Brian Hodnett, owner of Sunset Entertainment, set up a unique digital selfie machine in the back of Prouty's. Every guest had the opportunity to get their photo taken, with an optional twist: this device will



By James Kent

Paige Prouty, Matthew Prouty, and Sherri Prouty host their first murder mystery party at Prouty's Parlor for Ice Cream.

transform any image into a 1920s AI-infused creation to make you look as if you stepped out of a gangster film from the era. It's a unique way to capture the spirit of the evening, and pretty much everyone takes advantage of the opportunity for a fun souvenir.

While this is the first murder mystery event Sherri and Paige have hosted at Prouty's, it isn't the first event to occur here. "Our 'Puzzle Palooza' event was probably our first truly successful event," Paige said. "We sold out the first evening that we put it on, which is pretty crazy, considering it's just putting together puzzles as fast as you can."

In addition to the ice cream parlor, a Rutland community success over the past six months, these special evening events are just the beginning for the mother/daughter duo. They recently held a baby shower at Prouty's and a couple of celebrations of life. But they need a bigger, more flexible space to do all the ideas they have in mind. Sherri

and Paige have already begun that process.

"We've had a lot of requests to have private gatherings that we can't host during the times that we're open," Paige said. "With a new space, we'll be able to accommodate people so they can have an intimate experience while we can have our regular ice cream service happening at the same time." If all goes well, Prouty's will reopen in a new downtown location in early 2025.

By 6:15 p.m., most of the evening's guests, all decked out in period dress, are comfortably mingling at Prouty's, enjoying food, drinks, and the photo booth. One Rutland Town couple, Mary Beth Poli and her husband Matthew Poli, came out to support Prouty's and enjoy a unique experience.

"I saw the posting on Facebook," Mary Beth said. "We love Prouty's, and we've wanted to do something like this for a long time. I've heard murder mystery parties are really fun."

At 6:35 p.m., the murder mystery begins. Al Spumoni, played to perfection by Sherri's husband, Matthew, keels over on queue. For the next 90 minutes, there is a flurry of activity as each participant learns details about their characters and possible motives each one may

Mystery → 23



By James Kent

Matthew Prouty aka "Al Spumoni," dealt his final hand on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Prouty's Parlor for Ice Cream in downtown Rutland.



By James Kent

Sherri Prouty played host to some murder mystery participants at Prouty's Parlor murder mystery event, Oct. 23.

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killington market

Killington Market

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The relentless pursuit of bountiful sweets

By Pat Wise

When shadows grow long on All Hallows' Eve,
Prizes are sought or tricks will unsleeve.
Draped in disguise, your image transformed,
Haunting for gains, or victims be scorned.

The streets seem to whisper, this horror-filled night,
Faint glows of lanterns cause shadows of fright.
Ghouls approach doors with intentional grace,
Offering greetings with mask over face.

Each house's decor is hauntingly grand,
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By James Kent

Matthew Prouty steps in front of DJ Brian Hodnett's digital photo booth for a transformative new look.



By James Kent

Through the power of AI, guest Matthew Poli transforms into a "Roaring 20s" gangster.



By James Kent

Murder mystery guest Mary Beth Poli aka "Kix Higher."

Mystery:.....
from page 21

have for killing Spumoni.

Mary Beth Poli's character, Kix Higher, a speakeasy dancer, zeroes in on two possibilities: could it be Texas Lil, the brash speakeasy owner, or maybe Kylmor Kydd, a young gangster wannabe? Other guests peg Goldie Eggar, a greedy flapper, as Spumoni's assassin. In the final phase of the game, Mary Beth accused Kylmor Kydd of the murder, and she guessed correctly.

At the end of the evening, Sherri and Paige handed out awards for best costume, best period accent, and best acting. Still, everyone who attended Wednesday's murder mystery party at Prouty's went home a winner. This evening was a reminder that downtown Rutland has a lot to offer the community. Sherri and Paige hope to be a continued part of the downtown's

success by providing fun experiences for everyone who chooses to take part. Ice cream is the conduit. As Paige says, "Life's a party, and so many people have such fond memories with ice cream that it's really easy for people to connect over a good cone."

On Oct. 27, Sherri and Paige announced they've secured their new location for Prouty's in downtown Rutland, and they plan to re-open in that space in January 2025. The last night for ice cream at their current location on Evelyn St. will be Halloween night. Follow Prouty's Facebook page for updates on the new location.

For information on booking Brian Hodnett for an upcoming event, contact Sunset Entertainment at SunsetEntertainmentVT@gmail.com or Sunsetdj.net.

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Basin Ski Blast-Off Party to Support Killington Search and Rescue

Nov. 2, from 5-8 p.m.—KILLINGTON—Basin Ski Ride & Bike's Annual Blast-Off Party, a hallmark event for kicking off the ski season, will take place on Saturday at The Lookout Tavern. The event promises an exciting evening for attendees, complete with raffles, music, and refreshments, while raising funds for a crucial local cause—supporting the Killington Search and Rescue (KSAR) Foundation.

Proceeds from the night's activities will go directly to KSAR Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that supports Killington's all-volunteer search and rescue team. As the ski season approaches, KSAR's needs are particularly urgent, such as funding for essential cold-weather gear and advanced training for volunteers who work to keep the community and visitors safe in the backcountry. The event also kicks off a month-long donation drive aimed at further strengthening KSAR's readiness for the challenging winter season.

Event highlights:

Fundraiser raffle: Attendees can purchase \$5 raffle tickets for a chance to win high-value prizes, including a snowboard and binding combo, men's and women's ski and binding combos, and a variety of gift bags. Winners do not need to be present to claim their prizes, making them accessible for those who wish to contribute and support the team from afar.

\$1 Fiddlehead Beer: A selection of Fiddlehead Beer will be available throughout the night for just \$1.

Live DJ: A DJ will be on hand to provide entertainment and keep the energy high as attendees gather to celebrate the start of the ski season.

In addition to funds raised through the event, KSAR's month-long donation drive seeks contributions from both businesses and individuals to help cover costs not included in the town's budget. This drive is essential to ensuring KSAR is fully equipped with the advanced cold-weather gear and training necessary for backcountry rescues during the winter months, helping to reduce the financial burden on volunteers and supporting the team's safety efforts.

About Killington Search and Rescue

KSAR's volunteer rescue team is relied upon for its expertise in handling emergency and backcountry rescues under some of the area's harshest conditions. While the town covers basic needs, donations support equipment and training beyond this scope, enabling KSAR to maintain the highest level of readiness.

Donations to support KSAR can be made directly via Venmo at account.venmo.com/u/KSAR-Foundation or by cash or check (payable to KSAR Foundation). Every contribution helps secure vital resources that directly impact the safety and well-being of the Killington community and its visitors.

The public can join the celebration on Nov. 2 to launch the ski season while making a meaningful difference in the readiness and safety of local rescue efforts.



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Courtesy of Killington Search and Rescue
KSAR volunteers practice search and rescue missions in preparation for the upcoming ski season.

Benson's Chevrolet hosts its annual Trunk-or-Treat event in Ludlow

Thursday, Oct. 31, from 5-7 p.m. —LUDLOW—Benson's Chevrolet hosts its annual Trunk-or-Treat event on Halloween. This free, family-friendly event at the dealership offers candy, games, and Halloween fun.

Kids of all ages are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite costumes, whether as ghosts, goblins, or superheroes, to enjoy trick-or-treating from creatively decorated car trunks in the dealership's parking lot.

Local businesses are encouraged and welcome to participate by sponsoring a trunk, offering a fun opportunity to showcase their brand while contributing to the Halloween excitement. It's a great way to give back to the community and make this event even more memorable for the kids.

For more details on the event, visit Benson's Chevrolet's Facebook page.



Submitted



Courtesy of Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Big Pops Sandwich Shop celebrated their grand opening day on Friday, Oct. 25 at their new location at 57 Pond St. in Ludlow.

Big Pops Sandwich Shop expands to Ludlow, bringing gourmet sandwiches

Big Pops Sandwich Shop marked a new chapter with the grand opening of its Ludlow location on Friday, Oct. 25, at 57 Pond St. Big Pops has grown from its roots in Manchester, which launched in June in an Airstream.

Open daily, Big Pops Sandwich Shop offers a range of menu items, including sandwiches, salads, soups, French fries, and subs.


The ribbon-cutting ceremony saw owners

Jan Giejda and Luca Sena joined by team members Paisley Barr, Karen Vargas, and Michael Reyes, along with Okemo Valley Chamber Executive Director Carol Lighthall and Assistant Director Leah Kriebler.


Inspired by his grandfather, known as "Big Pops," Jan Giejda's vision for the sandwich shop reflects a deep connection to family and community.

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GOT NEWS? GOT NEWS? GOT NEWS? GOT NEWS?

BarnArts' 'Young Frankenstein' has some additional treats in store for their Halloween show



Oct. 31-Nov 3—BARNARD—Four opportunities are left to catch BarnArts' production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" at Barnard Town Hall, including a special Halloween Night show. Last week's shows were a big hit with audiences, and the show on Oct. 31 promises a festive twist, with Halloween-themed improv woven into the performance and plenty of candy tossing for the audience.

Audience members are encouraged to come in costume, whether as their favorite "Young Frankenstein" character or in a Halloween disguise of their choice. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes at the end of the show, adding to the evening's excitement.

Showtimes for all remaining performances:

- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$18-\$25 and can be purchased online at barnarts.org.



Crossword

Solutions from page 13

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

Sudoku

Solutions from page 13

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

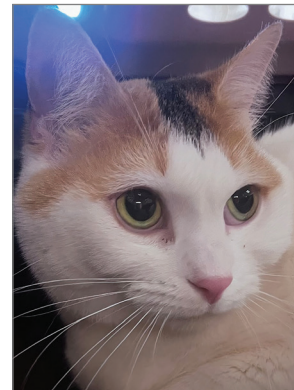
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Moth—2-month-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



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Briar—7-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic long hair.



LOUISE

Louise—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic long hair.

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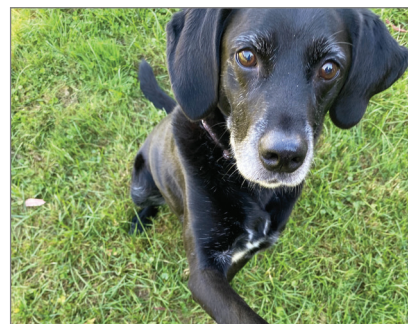
Cookie—4-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Parakeets



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ROSEY

Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

You know what they say about speak up now or forever hold your peace? This phase you're in is a bit like that, especially this week. Sure, you could lose your temper, or did you just find your power? A temper you can't really lose, but in doing so, you could find what really motivates you. What is it you want? Stop looking for your choices everywhere except for in your own heart.

Leo July 21 - August 20

There are always blessings and joy when you're open to receiving them. Right now, you're in an astrological double-luck phase. Friends, groups, communities—even the online space—provide wonderful benefits. If you can continue putting your energy there, even if you're not feeling the rewards, the desired results will arrive. You also have to adopt a positive mindset too. Keep the faith, it will pay off.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

You can look at the areas of your life that are not working out the way you want. Or, you could look at everything that is going so right for you. You see, life has a way of going in the direction of where your energy is and what your thoughts are. If you keep believing in yourself and those who support you, all the right outcomes will inevitably arrive. Look for opportunities to improve your situation, and that's what you'll get.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

When things appear to be going wrong, they could be going right. Sometimes, rejection is redirection. Other times, a missed opportunity is a bullet dodged. So much of what appears to be happening to you is actually for you. Perspective is everything. This week, you have to decide whether you're willing to change your mind or if you are going to continue on the same trajectory. This thinking doesn't have to stay the same, you know.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

You may have to ignore any politics or power plays, either collectively or in your personal life. The more success you experience, the more likely you'll deal with negativity. Unfortunately, that seems to be the way things are. Sometimes, the best thing to do is to keep all your blessings and good fortune close to your chest. Keep things on a "need to know" basis with some people.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

If you've been walking on eggshells with a particular person in your life, then this week, it may pay off to walk even more gently. Walking away is also an option too. Right now, you've reached a limit with what you are willing and unwilling to put up with. It's not an easy call to make. However, if someone isn't willing to meet you halfway, you must reconsider how much you can continue to give.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

Your job this week is to recognize an opportunity when it presents itself. Even if it doesn't seem to appear, you have to stay in alignment with it anyway. Energy begets energy, and thoughts become things. This is the way you have to approach things now. Block out the noise around you and focus on the things you're trying to manifest. They are closer to you than you think they are.

Libra September 21 - October 20

Try not to be too disappointed if things don't work out as you hoped. You see, sometimes things happen that way because what you thought you wanted wasn't best for you. Career progress and big-picture life direction stuff are undergoing a process of being reinvented. Anything that doesn't work out now aids bigger things to come. Don't push for progress if it means you have to push more than normal.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

It's OK to lean into your friends for support because you don't have to do things alone. That said, there are times when you are alone, and you find out who your friends really are, too. You've been through too much at this point to continue to fake it. Figure out who is in your corner and who isn't. More often than not, those you least expected support from are those who so freely give it.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

Everything reaches its tipping point, and you'll likely get there this week. Whether it's your mood or what you are and aren't willing to put up with in a particular situation or with someone. Chances are, things will arrive at a point of no return. Sometimes, things have to get worse before they can get better. That said, you also get to choose by your own behavior how bad things need to get.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

Despite putting your best foot forward, you may have to ask yourself whether you're going in the direction you want. You should consider this over the upcoming weeks and months. You might be receiving financial rewards from your work, but unless it provides a pathway to meaning and purpose, you might need to course correct. Reconsider what your True North really is and start heading there.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

You do have it within your power to control joy. Yes, it's true. Sometimes, it can be as simple as deciding that despite all your worries and woes, you are choosing to be happy. This week, do look for the blessings because they are there in great abundance. There are also problems too. Don't ignore those, but be mindful of how much energy you give to problems versus solutions. Control your mindset, and you'll be so much happier.

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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.

Following the crowd

Following the crowd is always an option. So is listening to all the talking heads out there tell you what to think, what to say, and what to do. To be honest, it's hard not to hear them these days, but you don't have to listen. In fact, I recommend it, especially if it leaves you feeling confused, uncertain, and depleted of energy.

Everyone has their agenda, and they likely believe they are doing what is best for you. Are they, though? Despite their plans and promises of being your "savior," you have to remain their "victim," or else their role becomes obsolete. The boot remains on your neck;



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

you feel hopeless, looking for someone to save you.

This is the political game and it works. It works for as long as you surrender your power to it. Almost every spiritual teaching explains that the abundance, happiness, and joy you seek are already within you. Your role is to identify the cross-currents within that steer you off course from the things you say you want. Be wary of identifying with your self-fulfilling prophecies.

As the powers that be seek to dominate the discourse, remember you still get to choose joy if that is what you want.

'Lee' offers snapshots instead of a complete picture

Ellen Kuras' film reminds that someone higher up holds the strings to freedom of the press.

This past week, two billionaires, who also own two of the most influential newspapers in the United States, showed that money can buy many things, but it can't buy courage.

The Washington Post's motto is "Democracy Dies in the Darkness." After the Post's current owner, Jeff Bezos, blocked the Post's editorial board plans to endorse Kamala Harris for president, in a move widely seen as not wanting to rock the boat against a potential second Trump administration, Democracy went up for sale, and it isn't even Cyber Monday yet.

Patrick Soon-Shiong, owner of the Los Angeles Times since 2018, arguably has more to gain from a Trump presidency

since he's part of big pharma and only worth an estimated \$7.1 billion to Bezos' estimated \$177 billion, so maybe it wasn't as big a surprise when he blocked the Los Angeles Times' editorial board from also endorsing Harris. Shiong tried unsuccessfully to join Trump's cabinet in 2017. He did get a Health Information Technology Advisory Committee appointment, so who knows—is that an acceptable consolation prize? Perhaps he'll do better if things work out for him on Nov. 5.

The most exciting aspects of Ellen Kuras' debut feature "Lee" lie in finding out just

how free that precious freedom of the press actually is. For the better part of her career,

Screens and Streams → 39



Screens and Streams
By James Kent

Making Halloween

Whether you went to the Wobbly to be seen and dance to club music, went to see Phish from Vermont at the charity event in Albany to support addiction recovery, or you're just trick or treating somewhere with the littles, Halloween time is accessible and fun for everyone. Halloween has been my favorite holiday, since I was a kid. I always thought of it as they time where being weird was OK. A time where those of us with a sweet tooth can indulge guilt free. While this day may be known



Dream in Color
By Will O'Donnell

for giving us the opportunity to dress up and play a different part, I always saw it as a time when I could really just be myself. Of course, I dressed up, too.

As children, we would decorate the house with hand drawn decorations of spiders, zombies, pumpkins and monsters. We would hang fake webs from the front lights and put glowing lights in the window. Picking a design to carve into a pumpkin and roasting the seeds with plenty of salt. Watching scary movies with plenty of sweet treats.

Dream in Color → 35

Closing Time: How (some) turtles shut their shells

In cartoons, when a turtle is spooked, it retreats into and closes up its shell. While used for comic effect, this imagery is based in fact – although not all turtles are capable of this protective feat. In the Northeast, three native turtle species have hinged shells: the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), the common musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*), and the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*).

Turtles have a lower shell, called a plastron, and an upper shell, or carapace. The bony-plated shells are covered with scale-like "scutes" in hard-shelled turtle species. The scutes are made of keratin, the same protein found in our fingernails and hair, and give turtle shells their color. Hinged-shell turtles have a split in the plastron just behind the turtle's front legs. The plates along this hinge are connected by cartilage, and specialized joints allow these turtles to pull the plastron toward the carapace; some hinged-shell species can completely close their shells, while others can only partially close.

While most turtles can retract their heads and limbs into their shells, being able to seal these body parts within is an effective defense against predation. Several animals, from coyotes to otters, will eat turtles. "If you're a fairly adept critter like a raccoon, you can pry out a leg and have a snack," said Jim Andrews, coordinator of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. "It's not at all unusual for us to find wood turtles or painted turtles with missing legs."

Hinged-shell turtles, however, particularly eastern box turtles, are well protected. Flexing its hinge joint, a box turtle can completely close its plastron against its high-domed, yellow-patterned carapace. Blanding's turtles can close their yellow-spotted black shells most of the way, so raccoons and otters, their most common predators, can't make them into an easy meal. However, there are slight gaps between the Blanding's plastron and carapace.

Licensed wildlife rehabilitator Dallas Huggins of New Hampshire Turtle Rescue said that while many of the turtle species they rescue have lost limbs to predators, that is rarely the case with box turtles and Blanding's turtles. In fact, these hinged-shell species are so good at protect-

ing themselves that it poses a rehabilitation challenge. "They have a lot of strength in that [hinge]," Huggins said, noting that wildlife rehabilitators often have to prop the shells open with corks "to keep them from shutting on your finger during a procedure."

Musk turtles have the slightest hinge of all, said Andrews, adding, "I've never seen them use it." Andrews said the musk turtle hinge may be vestigial, a remnant of evolutionary history.

After all, these turtles have another form of defense: they smell. Also known as stinkpots, these small, dark-brown turtles release musky fluid when threatened. The odor discourages predators, although everything from snakes to minks still eat the little stinkers. Blanding's and musk turtles can also slip into their wetland homes to swim away from danger. Box turtles, on the other hand, "are entirely terrestrial," Andrews said, preferring open areas such as shrublands and fields. "They're out, and they're exposed."

However, hinged shells do not protect these species from other dangers. Blanding's and eastern box turtles are listed as species of concern in New Hampshire, and musk turtles have the same status in Vermont. Wildlife biologists blame much of the decline of these and other turtle species on habitat loss and road fatalities, as turtles often cross roads to reach egg-laying areas. All three of our region's hinged-shell turtles have also been subject to the illegal pet trade; in June, a woman was caught attempting to smuggle 29 box turtles into Canada by carrying them via kayak across Lake Wallace, which spans the Vermont-Canadian border.

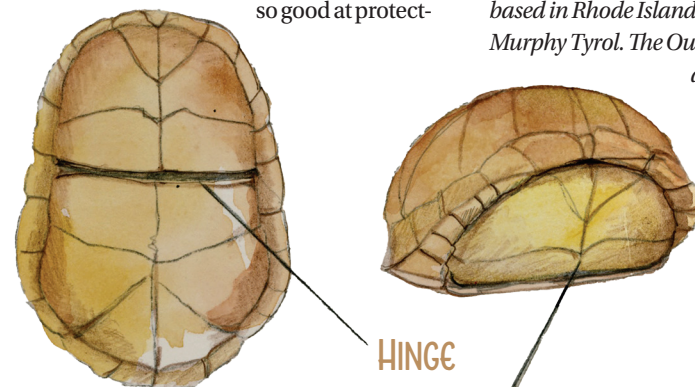
Like other northeastern turtles in autumn, these species are preparing to brumate, which means their metabolism will slow down, and they'll become sluggish, entering a state of torpor that may last until spring. Blanding's and musk turtles usually overwinter at least partially buried under mud and leaves on the bottoms of ponds and sluggish streams, while box turtles usually find a sandy spot on land and dig down under the leaf litter to settle in for the winter. Come springtime, these – and other – turtle species will emerge and head back to their nesting grounds, facing dangers from cars to predators.

Jenna O'del is a biologist and science writer based in Rhode Island. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. *The Outside Story* is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands

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The Outside Story
By Jenna O'del



HINGE

'Stone in Love'

I have a poignant memory involving the song "Stone in Love," released by the band Journey in 1981. I can't tell you the exact date of my memory, but it probably coincided with the popularity of the aforementioned song, likely around my sophomore year of high school.

The memory revolves around a weekend night in the fall when a friend and I decided to locate a keg party thrown by some upperclassmen at a local golf course. Normally, I wouldn't have attempted such an endeavor, but I was sleeping at this friend's house, so I was more easily persuaded.

I remember the cold as we wandered around the golf course. After traversing the apparent spots, my friend concluded that the party must be over, and if that had occurred, the next logical spot would have been through the woods to a nearby baseball field.

As we were hiking through the woods, my friend announced he saw something in the distance. Sure enough, in the clearing, we could see a bonfire burning with the silhouettes of a small gathering of people milling about.

We could also hear music emanating from the group as we headed across the field. I remember being excited but also nervous. I had only been to a few real parties in my young life, and certainly not many that involved upperclassmen.

Once we became visible to the gathered crowd, everyone stopped and stared in our direction. Luckily, my friend was on the varsity hockey team and well-known to many upperclassmen. The group relaxed once they recognized him but glanced blankly toward me.

After standing next to my friend for a few minutes as he made small talk, I decided I needed to be closer to the fire since I was shaking from the cold. I wandered over and stood alone with my hands outstretched towards the flames.

After a few moments, a couple of girls strolled over and started making conversation. I was wholly appreciative of their interest, partly because I felt awkward standing alone and partly because two older females felt compelled to acknowledge my existence.

One of them turned out to be the older sister of my classmate. I knew who she was, but she had no idea who I was. They were both cute, but my classmate's sister was

really cute, and her personality made her even cuter. I stood there transfixed, doing everything I could to avoid coming off like an immature underclassman.

I can't recall what we talked about, but my memory is that I conducted myself in a way they found endearing.

And before I knew it, they went and got me a beer from the keg, which, to me, meant immediate acceptance. I wasn't particularly fond of beer, but I certainly enjoyed that one.

So, there I was, a fumbling underclassman somehow making social progress with two cute girls that, under normal circumstances, would have had nothing to do with me. The discomfort of wandering around a barren golf

course for over an hour had paid off in spades!

While all of this was happening, "Stone in Love" was blasting on a nearby boombox. That song, coupled with the cold Vermont evening and an even colder draft beer while two beautiful girls were chatting me up, forever burned the memory into my young psyche.

I don't remember what happened after that. I'd like to tell you that the girls took me away in their car, but I'm

confident my friend and I walked home in the cold. Whatever the case, I'm pretty sure I was in a good mood.

So, every time I hear "Stone in Love," I remember that evening. And for a moment, I am transported back to that awkward teenage kid who had a chance encounter that helped transition him from child to young adult.

In this week's feature, "We Live in Time," starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield, we are introduced to another chance encounter, except in this case, the encounter leads to an extraordinary love story.

Delivered with a non-linear structure (the story chronologically jumps throughout a decade-long relationship), "We Live in Time" ultimately is a story about grief and the poignant exploration of that subject.

Check this one out if you revel in love stories, especially ones where the two key characters exhibit immense chemistry. Garfield and Pugh are perfect together, giving this film the juice needed to make it a winner.

A heartwarming "B" for "We Live in Time," playing in theaters everywhere.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Vermont's Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame celebrates the spirit of the slopes



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Baseball has its Hall of Fame decorated with the green serpentine marble from the Rochester Quarry in Vermont. Football has a Hall of Fame. And the Basketball one is right down the way in Springfield, Massachusetts.

But here in Vermont, our versions are a little different. We have the Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum, which does a yearly induction of Vermonters. It honors those athletes, pioneers, and special contributors to the sports we all love so very much. This year, Killington Resort's Hanke Lunde, who started as Construction Manager and was later President under SKI Ltd., was inducted, as were three other amazing Vermonters (including Kelly Clark!) Then, the Vermont Alpine Racing Association has its Hall of Fame, awarded for dedicated service over decades this year to our own Chuck Hughes.

I was lucky enough to be at both of these ceremonies this year and got to listen to these great men talk about their experiences of sharing the sport of skiing with so many of us over the years. It was amazing to hear them speak about their experiences in the industry and postulate on how important sharing this sport with others has been in shaping who they had become as people.

As Hank Lunde finished his acceptance speech there was not a dry eye in the house. You could tell that his years in service to our sport, in making sure that every guest felt welcomed as if they were your friend or neighbor and every employee felt loved, had deeply touched him. He spoke of ski resorts as pioneers of change and that they must be educated risk-takers. One cannot sit blindly by and hold onto the past without making adaptations that will grow both the business and the sport. He spoke of our sport as centered on real and natural interaction.

Social interaction with real-life humans and interaction with nature are two things that just might be missing so much in today's world. We are all off running somewhere, so busy that coming up to Killington and skiing

Living the Dream → 33

Remembering fads from the '50s, '60s

Every generation has its fads and they produce some fond memories as you look back at what they were. I grew up in the '50s and '60s and will share with you some interesting fads from that time period.

Drive-in movie theaters were very popular during those years. There was one located in Rutland Town that actually dates back to 1948 when it showed its first drive-in movie — a Jerry Lewis film. Watching a movie from your car on a beautiful summer night was a whole lot better than being inside a movie theater. You could watch drive-in movies there until 1975.

If you needed to make a phone call from somewhere other than your home or place of business you could use a pay phone and deposit coins to cover the cost. Some of these phones were located inside booths, which were scattered around cities and towns everywhere. People relied on them for necessary calls. The booths allowed you to stay dry while making calls on a rainy day. They were also an attraction to teens who sometimes tried to stuff as many kids as possible into the phone booth. The size of most booths was 32"x32" and 7 feet tall. From my research it appears that 25 kids

"squished" into a booth were about as many as you could pack in! I saw a photo online with the phone booth door open and kids crammed in with their feet, arms and legs protruding in various directions.

Women's clothes had some fads that if you saw them today you would know exactly what time period they came from. One of them was a poodle skirt. Many of them had a dog's leash that began at the waist line and extended down to the poodle's collar at the bottom of the skirt. I had one of them. My skirt was pink and the poodle was black. I remember wearing it to an elementary school dance and my "date" wore a pink shirt so we would be coordinated.



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

One of the oddest fads from my college days was the popularity of olive colored rain jackets from army surplus stores. There was nothing pretty about them but everyone wanted one. I went to college in Burlington and when the store there sold out I came home to Rutland and bought a rain jacket for myself and two of my friends.

There are numerous ads on TV these days with products to lose weight. Well, the '60s had its own version in a product

Looking Back → 33

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← Gorge Bridge: from page 4

predictions of further delays – the eastbound lane will remain unusable until next spring.

Pedestrians wishing to look down into the gorge will also be limited to one side of the bridge. The project includes improvements to sidewalk length and safety.

Among the bridge improvements will be increased safety for pedestrians.

This is in part a result of a tragedy on April 2021 when 21-year-old Hartlander, Derek Cooper, easily climbed the simple fence on the eastbound side of the bridge and fell to his death 165 feet below, where the Ottauquechee River tumbles through the narrow, stone-sided gorge.

Derek's mother, Regi Cooper, provided a written condemnation of safety features of the bridge.

"According to a witness, Derek climbed over the railing, and attempted to climb back over to the roadside. But Derek couldn't pull himself over the top railing on

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← Looking Back: from page 31

called Metrecal. It was a shake that was rather chalky in taste. I tried it but that fad was lost on me as no flavor could win me over. Back then I didn't really need to lose weight (wish I could say the same now!) so there was no problem when that fad didn't appeal for me.

Photo booths were a fun fad. Woolworth's Store on Merchants Row had one. You put in a coin and posed for photos as you sat in the booth. They came out on a strip of paper. Of course, part of the fun was making funny faces during the process. I believe the cost was 25 cents and you got a strip of photos — four I think. My friend, Betty Clark, and I went to the booth quite often and we divided up the photos to keep.

A college fad was getting "pinned." It was a step up from the high school fad of putting your boyfriend's class ring on a chain around your neck to show you were "going steady." In college your boyfriend gave you his college pin which you wore every day. It was proof that your relationship was serious and was often the first step to an engagement.

There is one fad that I wish would come back — soda fountains. Oddly enough in Rutland one of the easiest places to find one was in a pharmacy. Shangraw's, Carpenter's and McClallen's had one. My father worked at all those pharmacies over the years but I was too young to remember the soda fountain at Shangraw's. However,

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I recall stopping at the other two stores with my friends after school. My dad paid for the sodas so my friends appreciated that. Woolworth's also had a soda fountain and I believe that Kresge's did, too. Many of these stores also offered sandwiches but after school it was "all about" ice cream sodas.

The hula hoop was popular with the girls on our street. We all had one and twirled them around our waists for hours. It was great exercise but we didn't care about that back then. We just wanted to keep it going. A friend told me that the exercise class she attends uses hula hoops. So for a "senior" it's another proof that what "goes round... comes round" again!

Sideburns were a fad for young guys in the '50s. Elvis Presley may have been the driving force behind that fad! Add a leather jacket and you were a product of the era for sure!

Sock hops were popular at some schools. One of the reasons for having one was to not scuff up the gym floor when you were dancing. You arrived in your shoes, took them off until the dance was over and then you hunted for your shoes from the pile outside the gym.

One of the popular dances was the twist. You would twist at the hips and swivel down to the floor and back up. I remember my dance partner saying, "Let's go down!" and we did!



Submitted



Courtesy Killington Resort

Killington Resort debuted a new learn-to-ride zone with three separate tracks (pictured above) at Snowshed this past season. The resort is planning a series of larger bike park expansions.

← **Bike park:**
from page 1

tails and more.

“The goal is to provide more options for riders to mix and match sections of different trails to add more variety to that side of the Bike Park,” said bike park manager Taylor Zink. “We hope to break ground in the spring and have some sections of the new trail open before the season ends. We have a lot of opportunity for future trail expansion, it’s very exciting.”

The new trail will add to the improvements to the bike park this past season, which included the debut of a learning zone on Snowshed, as well as new programming.

For more information visit: Killington.com.



← **Living the Dream:**
from page 31

for even a few short hours can make folks remember that the natural world exists outside the concrete jungle that so many of us live in.

He spoke about listening to your passion and how that passion comes from the mountain, whether it’s the excitement of the sport, the views from the mountain, or just the massive variety of the weather. It is this that keeps our souls going and growing. This spiritual connection to the mountain is fostered by spending a few hours on snow or going for a snowshoe or hike, no matter the season. We need ski areas to help us reconnect with nature after hours at our desks.

Lunde finished by saying that if you want to be successful, you have to put people first—and that is just what Chuck Hughes of Killington Mountain School does every day of his life. Family first, of course, but we have all watched Chuck spend more than his fair



Submitted

Chuck Hughes

share of time helping build up the youth of the sport or the adults who work so hard to make it all happen. And he does it with a smile, making everyone feel like he has all the time in the world for them. I’m honored to have worked for Chuck for almost a decade and serve as a ballot clerk next

He loves people. And he loves skiing. So it feels like his entire essence in life is to help people love skiing.

to him during elections.

He loves people. And he loves skiing. So it feels like his entire essence in life is to help people love skiing. And for those who love the sport, he works tirelessly to ensure they have the training and support to make their competitive dreams a reality. Who else could

pull off a World Cup race in Vermont where we hadn’t seen racing anywhere near that level in decades?

Chuck would make it happen, obviously, with a team, but also through his sheer determination and dedication to years of building up the system needed to support an event of this caliber. I’ve heard it often said that there would be no World Cup racing in Killington without Chuck.

So, as Killington readies itself for its 57th ski season, I would ask our entire community to think about what they themselves are doing to help bring more people into the sport, to help those who love skiing and riding be able to get one more day on the hill or to get one more step closer to living out their dreams of a ski bum life. To learn from the Hall of Fame inductees and work to make our sport that much better, that much stronger and more resilient, and to take just a little time to make sure to have fun, reconnect with the mountain, and simply breathe in the magic of the mountains.

Merisa is a long-time Killington Resident, Global Real Estate Advisor, and Coach PomPom. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.

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← **Dream in Color:**
from page 35

I would roam the neighborhood with my friends and siblings gathering candy. Walking up and down the road, house to house. I was lucky to have so many neighbors nearby with as many nearby doors as I could knock on. My closest friend and I would try to scare kids as they walked past his childhood home. Sometimes a few of the neighbors in the neighborhood would set up little haunted houses in their yard, garage or on their front porch. There was always something fascinating about the unusual and the frightening.

As I moved on from trick-or-treating, I still find any excuse to celebrate Halloween. I see it as a chance to open up and let loose a little bit. I always seem to find myself at a party or concert every year. A few years after high school, I lost one of my best friends on Halloween. They were into all of the spooky things and darker music and artists that I was into. They were what most people would refer to as Gothic. They wore dark understated clothing and were mostly only out at night. Their energy seemed exude the sounds of eerie organ and cello music. They were very quiet and only opened up in rare company. As I got to know them, I asked why they loved Halloween so much. I knew why it was my favorite holiday, but I wanted to hear it from them, too. They told me because it is the time when everyone is accepted.

While other holidays may focus on gratitude, family, remembrance or unbridled patriotism, this one celebrates acceptance. It's the one time of year when you may see a T-Rex dancing with a vampire and a Transformer. Come as you are; all are welcome. A day where there is no pressure to compete. No pressure to appear a certain way. No one to impress. A day that encourages people to really open up and push themselves to be judgment free. It's the one time of year that remind us that no matter who we are under our mask, we are worthy of being invited in.

It's a time when the freaks come out (and freaks are my kind of people). Where being weird is not only acceptable, but encouraged. And when I think about what being weird means, I guess it just means being unique. To show your creativity and individuality. Where your darker side can be seen as OK because it makes up part of someone greater. A celebration of individuality and non-conformity.

So as someone who is unabashedly myself, my vibe surprisingly (sarcasm) does not always go over well with everyone. So when I am feeling a little down about my sometimes prickly personality and my affinity for laying down cold facts, I can always count on All Hallow's Eve to remind me that all ghouls are good ghouls.

Have a wonderful Halloween this year and enjoy your chance to be unapologetically and fully you! And if you're looking for a place to get rid of any extra Reese's, I know a guy. Happy spooky season.



By Hans/Pixabay

Consider adding spring-blooming flowers such as snowdrops, which emerge beneath the snow and provide welcome color at the beginning of the season.



By Kate Cox/Pixabay

Inventory, clean and sharpen garden tools in the fall to prepare for spring.



By WalkersAlmanac/Pixabay

Test your garden soil in the fall to learn what nutrients it contains.

Thinking spring this fall

By Deborah J. Benoit, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

Fall foliage color has peaked, and leaves are falling. Temperatures are dropping, and it's time to put the garden to bed. It is also a perfect opportunity to prepare for spring. What you do this fall can provide significant benefits when the garden wakes up next year.

Spring flowering bulbs will be the most visible reward for work done in the garden now. If you don't have early blooming plants such as hellebores or witch hazel, consider adding spring blooming flowers such as low-growing crocus and snowdrops or showy daffodils and tulips. They bloom early (snowdrops will emerge beneath the snow) and provide welcome color at the beginning of the season. If deer are visitors to your yard, keep in mind they'll love nibbling on tulips but will avoid daffodils.

Plant spring bulbs in clumps for a colorful splash, or scatter them between perennials for a sprinkle of color. If you have the time, create a new bed or two, adding spring blooming bulbs for an early show. As an added bonus, once you've prepared the bed for bulbs, it will be ready and waiting for additional plantings come spring.

If you're planning on adding new beds next year, you can get a head start now. Mark out the area and trim grass or weeds as close to the ground as possible. Then, cover with a layer of moistened cardboard or multiple sheets of newspaper. Top with a layer of mulch to keep everything in place. By the time you're ready to plant next spring, the grass or weeds will be smothered, and the bed will be ready to be prepared for planting.

Fall is an excellent time to have a soil test done. Why do a soil test? Without knowing the nutrients available in your soil, you may be adding unnecessary amendments and omitting those needed. A soil test can tell you your

soil pH and available phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), micronutrients, and more, along with recommendations for amendments and fertilizer for specific crops. The University of Vermont Extension offers soil testing services. You can use a kit (available at UVM Extension offices and many garden centers) or print out a form from the website and mail in a soil sample—just 1/2 to 1 cup. Follow the directions at go.uvm.edu/soiltest.

You'll thank yourself next spring if you clear weeds from existing beds now and add amendments recommended in your soil test results.

If you lost the war on weeds this year, you can get ahead of them now for next year's garden. Most annual weeds have begun to die back and should be easier to pull. Just watch out for any seedheads. Avoid putting them in your compost pile to slow the spread of weeds to your garden in the future. Carefully remove seed heads and put them in the trash along with any diseased plant material.

The last item on your fall to-do list is likely storing garden tools for the winter. Take the time to clean them and sharpen those that need it. While doing that, inventory your garden tools. Over the winter, you'll have time to repair or replace items and purchase what you don't already have. When spring arrives, you won't have to make an emergency run to the garden center.

It's always sad to see the end of the gardening season, but doing a few simple tasks now can put you ahead of the game come spring.

Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Massachusetts, who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

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Courtesy of Castleton Community Seniors

M&T Bank supports community center van service

M&T Bank representatives Marcella Hay (left), retail sales manager SVP, and Tara Buxton (right), branch manager VP, present a \$2,500 donation from the M&T Charitable Foundation to Jo Ann Riley (center), Castleton Community Seniors director in support of the CCSI Older Adult and Disabled Transportation Program. The CCSI van service helps older adults and disabled residents who cannot drive or access fixed-route public transportation to remain in their homes and improve their quality of life.

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Artist Retreat

3755 River Road, Killington \$1,500,000

Tucked away at the end of a quiet drive, this stunning Killington property is situated at the confluence of the Ottauquechee River, Roaring and Brimstone Brooks. The timber-framed home boasts big, high-ceiling living areas with impressively large windows for natural light and pleasing views. Must see property!



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Killington Condominium, \$285,000

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← **Listen and Learn Tour:**
from page 2

will improve education opportunities for the students.

Attendees asked about the problematic shortage of bus drivers. Consolidation would provide a much higher demand for that already scarce resource.

“What will small towns do with their little empty schools?” someone asked.

There was no answer.

WUHS attendees divided into two “work groups” and AoE professionals facilitated discussions, including: How would you know if a student is successful? Would comparing the student’s performance with data from the state, the school, or from the students themselves provide accurate measurement? How do students measure their own success?

One of the more objective measurements is the graduation rate among a school’s students. More subjective questions, included, “Has the student, through their school experiences, discovered their interests?”

“There have to be basic standards,” attendees agreed. “And consistent among all schools.”

Focusing on educators, Keri Bristow, chair of the MVSU board and a language teacher for more than 30 years, said, “No one wants to be a teacher now. There’s not enough money, the kids are very difficult, and just when teachers implement a suggested new strategy, another new strategy is announced.”

Elizabeth Burrows, who represents Windsor County in the House, and is a member of the school board at Mt. Ascutney School District, said, “I think we have to provide more support for our teachers in their field ... If students’ math scores are falling, we should work with the teachers to improve their methods.”

“And teachers deserve to be respected,” she added.

One attendee pointed out that discussions of education



Zoie Saunders

By Curt Peterson

treat it as if it is in a vacuum, but all the issues in the state are dependent on each other and require immediate change in how education is financed. An important need is for more students in the public system, which requires attracting young families, but houses are super expensive and the taxes make them even less affordable. New home construction is made less attractive by high taxes that make the finished product more expensive. People struggling to pay rent find increases caused by higher taxes on the landlord’s property.

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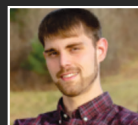
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Amazon to pay \$400,000 to Vermont for violating online sales ban on vaping products

Attorney General Charity Clark announced that Amazon has agreed to pay \$400,000 to the State of Vermont to settle a dispute regarding violations of the state's delivery sales ban, which prohibits the direct shipping of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vaping products, to Vermont consumers. The settlement resolves allegations that third-party sellers on Amazon's platform were able to circumvent the company's rules and sell vaping products in violation of state law.

The Attorney General's Office investigation revealed that over several years, third-party sellers exploited loopholes in Amazon's system by listing products under misleading titles and images. Once approved by Amazon, the sellers would change these listings to reflect prohibited vaping products. The investigation found that this practice allowed Vermont consumers, including minors, to purchase vaping products without proper age verification, further

contributing to the youth vaping crisis.

"Amazon failed to follow the rules put in place to protect children from harm," Attorney General Clark said. "I won't stand for illegal sales of vaping products that not only harm our youth but also evade state taxes."

As part of the settlement, Amazon has committed to improving its platform's controls to prevent future illegal sales of vaping products. It has pledged to work with the Attorney General's Office to enforce the ban against sellers attempting to bypass these controls.

Anyone aware of illegal online sales of vaping products to Vermont residents is encouraged to report the activity to the Attorney General's Office.

For more information, visit the Vermont Attorney General's Office website at AGO.TobaccoEnforcement@vermont.gov.





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← Screens & Streams:

from page 30

one that's currently into its fourth decade, Kuras may be familiar to most cinema-going audiences for her cinematography work, from her "fly on the wall" cinematography of "Unzipped" to her eye-popping visuals in Spike Lee's "Summer of Sam" and "Bamboozled" to her acclaimed work on "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

In 2008, Kuras began branching out into directing work, where she's helmed episodes of many popular television shows and series like "Ozark," "The Umbrella Academy," "Catch-22," and "Inventing Anna." It's little surprise, then, that for her first feature film, Kuras would turn her attention to the life and times of renowned American female war photographer Lee Miller.

Miller, played by Kate Winslet, is a decade or so older than the real Miller was during the bulk of the film's focus, and that age difference is somewhat of a distraction. Still, we've seen male actors do this in biopics for decades, and no one seems to bat an eyelash, so I am more than willing to take the journey. And it's Kate Winslet, people. She's a professional and one of the best in the business, so lead on, Kate.

Things get off to a sluggish start. The film serves audiences a tired plot device: a young man played by Josh O'Connor (you know, Prince Charles from "The Crown,") interviewing an aged Lee Miller at the end of her life. There is some unspoken mystery in these conversations, which the film cuts back to several times during the movie, that pay off in the end, but a more successful film would have handled things differently. The payoff isn't that great and certainly not worth the investment of this plot convention. The opening 25 minutes of the movie feel both too long and too short at the same time. The story is begging to get to the good stuff, and the first 25 minutes serve as an awkward introduction to Lee Miller's life at the onset of WW2. We meet her friends and eventual husband, but it's a light establishment here. Either skip all of this or give the audience a richer introduction to who Lee Miller is. If the remainder of the film is a journey devoted to showing how the horrors of the war shape and change a person, a film audience needs to know who that person is at the beginning. And that is not something clearly defined in "Lee."

I couldn't help wondering if there was a longer film here. The movie is a tight two hours, and in today's film-going, that feels about a half hour shorter than one typically gets in a biopic. It's as if a test screening audience found an original cut with a more expansive beginning that is too long and itchy to get the action moving faster. And what is left is a film that feels like snapshots of life instead of a complete picture of who Lee Miller was.

The good news is that once these first 25 minutes flicker past the screen, the movie picks up and is never dull. Kuras tells a story of Lee's time working for Vogue magazine as a photographer and war correspondent, and it's an interesting angle, showing the male-dominated hypocrisy of the era, where freedom of the press and the right to cover a story pretty much belonged to a white man. Winslet's Lee Miller fights for every opportunity to ply her craft, with her trusty 120-film Rolleiflex twin reflex camera always in tow. Interesting side note: a 120-film Rolleiflex camera takes 12 shots. This film never bothers

to show Miller loading or unloading the film, and these little details add up. The authenticity of the craft is a small thing, but in films like "Lee," their absence matters.

However, where Kuras' expertise as a cinematographer pays off is the recreation of some of Lee Miller's most famous photographs during WW2. Those unfamiliar with the work of Lee Miller before this film might not connect these moments in the movie to her portfolio. An ending montage during the closing credits confirms what I suspected during the movie, and once more, I think there were more interesting screenwriting choices that would have enhanced the experience. When you finally see these images, what does pay off is how well Kuras set these moments up and composed them on screen. One particularly stunning scene in the movie has Winslet's Miller and photographer partner Davy Scherman, played by Andy Samberg in a dramatic role here, staying in Hitler's abandoned apartment at the end of WW2. Miller composes a shot in Hitler's bathtub, and the moment displays the brilliance of Miller's photographic eye and shot composition, and that of director Kuras in recapturing it.

Where the film ultimately finds its power is not in showing the brutality of war and the havoc and chaos left in the wake of an unchecked dictator who once tried to overthrow his government, got jailed for that crime, was released from prison early, and forgiven by his people with his past crimes seemingly forgotten, who then rose back to power, seized control of the government through lies and fake promises, asked for all-encompassing power by his country, was given it, and then nearly destroyed all of Europe in the process, all while killing millions. No, that story is cursory in this film and does serve as a backdrop, but what was chillingly on point for a story set 80 years ago is Lee Miller's struggle to achieve freedom of the press.

There is always a gatekeeper. For Lee Miller, military war censors stopped specific photos from making it past the front lines and back to the publisher, so she had to censor her image compositions. Then, there is Miller's publisher, Vogue magazine. They decide what they will and won't print, and when Lee Miller dares to show the true horror of the Holocaust, European Vogue won't print the evidence. They offer that tired old phrase, "The people just want to forget. They might get upset by what they see."

This part of the movie resonates and hits home. What truths are we not allowed to see and learn about today? In a society where 24-hour news bombards us, what news doesn't make it that might make a difference or the people should know? When billionaire owners of the news get to decide what the people who make those news outlets can say, do, endorse, not endorse, keep silent, and sit on the sidelines, even when the very state of democracy is on the line, what does freedom of the press even mean? So, while "Lee" isn't a complete success or as successful a film as it could be, there is a powerful message that comes across loud and clear.

"Lee" is in theaters and available on demand.

James Kent is the publisher's assistant at The Mountain Times and the co-host of the "Stuff We've Seen" podcast at stuffweseen.com. If you have a film or television show you'd like him to review, please email him at editor@mountaintimes.info.



Courtesy of Sky UK
Kate Winslet as WW2
photographer Lee Miller
in Ellen Kuras' "Lee."

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