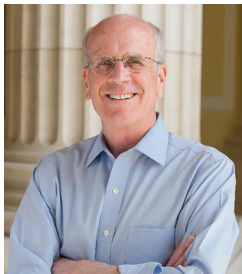




RUTLAND CITY GETS \$8M HOUSING INVESTMENT

Roofs Over Rutland promises to add to the city's housing stock. Funding includes \$3 million for new housing (1-4 units) and \$5 million for larger developments.

Page 3



U.S. SEN. PETER WELCH VISITS RUTLAND

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, U.S. Senator Peter Welch will visit Stafford Technical Center, meeting with students and educators. He'll be joined by Rutland Mayor Michael Doenges, as well as representatives from GE Aerospace and the GE Aerospace Foundation, which supports technical education and skills programs in manufacturing.



NEW MARKET OPENS

The Wallingford Village Market invites the public to a grand opening celebration on Oct. 26.

Page 23

Rutland City board of Aldermen greenlights first phase of TIF

Approval moves the city closer to infrastructure improvements, housing development, and growth

The City of Rutland Board of Aldermen approved the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply to the state for a TIF District, at its meeting Monday night, Oct. 21.

This step "marks a significant milestone in the city's strategic efforts to boost economic development, create housing, and address long-standing infrastructure needs," the city stated in a news release Oct. 22. "The initia-

tive aims to remove key building barriers to private development while improving the quality of life for residents."

Tax Increment Financing is an economic development tool designed to foster needed development/redevelopment in downtowns and compact village centers. TIF projects catalyze private development by removing key infrastructure barriers. Taxes from the

Rutland TIF → 6

Education Agency begins public engagement portion of 'Listen and Learn' in Woodstock

By Polly Mikula

The Agency of Education (AoE) announced Oct. 15 the next phase of its 2024 Listen and Learn Tour, which now invites the public to participate in community conversations to inform how the Agency delivers services and supports to Vermont's education system.

The first stop on this new public engagement phase of the tour was Tuesday evening, Oct. 22, at Woodstock Union Middle/High School.

"These public engagement sessions will help the Agency develop its strategic plan and ensure that its work is supporting the educational priorities of communities across Vermont," the AoE stated in a news release last week. "Following a series of data reports and regional planning sessions with more than 250 education leaders, the Agency is eager to expand these conversations to include educators, parents, students, and community members across the state."

There are seven in-person public engagement sessions and two virtual ones scheduled

Listen and Learn Tour → 7

Chuck Hughes to be inducted into the VARA Hall of Fame

On Oct. 26, Chuck Hughes will earn a prestigious recognition for his decades of dedicated service and support of Alpine athletics.

Hughes has lived in Killington and Rutland his whole life and served as a leader in the ski industry for most of it.

"Generations have gone through the Killington Ski Club and KMS with my parents," said his daughter Megan Trayner. "I know there will be many Killington ski community members at the event," she said referring to the VARA Gala where



Submitted

Chuck Hughes

Hughes will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Hughes is currently the Killington Ski Club (KSC)/

Killington Mountain School (KMS) competitions program director, and KMS events manager.

He's been a "cornerstone of the ski industry and a devoted supporter of VARA since the mid-1970s," according to a news release announcing the award. "His enduring commitment to the betterment of VARA, its programs, officials, athletes, and their families is evident in his extensive involvement and leadership across all levels of the sport. Chuck's passion for Alpine ski racing

Chuck Hughes → 4



Halloween happenings haunt the region this week

The biggest Halloween events across the region take place this weekend, the most famous and well-attended of which is Rutland's Halloween Parade, Saturday, Oct. 26, starting at 6:30 p.m. It's one of the largest and longest running Halloween parades in the U.S., this being its 63rd year!

This weekend in Rutland it's the Running Scared 5K at Giorgetti Park. Put on your best costume and join the family-friendly race (which supports the Halloween Parade).

Another longstanding Halloween tradition is the Pittsford Haunted House, which is hosting its 41st year of scares! It's open just two more nights: Friday and Saturday, see page 18.

Trunk-or-treat events are also popular. One last Sunday drew 4,000 to downtown Rutland (see page 2). Killington hosts its Friday. Also in Killington catch the Wobbly Barn's party — best costume earns you a season pass!

Bridge repair to start Friday

By Brett Yates

Stockbridge officials expect repairs on the Gaysville bridge to begin on Friday, Oct. 25.

The bridge closed on Oct. 1 at the recommendation of the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS), whose inspection found a risk of “imminent failure.”

Road Foreman Kevin Bagley expressed skepticism at the contractor’s anticipated three-day timeline for the work.

“I don’t want to get anyone’s hopes up,” he said.

Bagley worried that, upon arriving on site, the

contractor might find the structure in worse condition than photos had suggested.

For members of the Stockbridge Select Board, the installation of the new steel beams sounded more like a week-long job.

Built in 1929 and reconstructed in 1972, the Gaysville Bridge links Route 107 and River Road over the White River, near the Gaysville Post Office. It reopened to pedestrian traffic only on Oct. 7.

Municipal dollars will pay for the repair, town officials stated.



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By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

The second annual downtown Rutland Truck-or-Treat event benefiting Wonderfeet drew thousands of costumed participants.

Rutland’s Truck-or-Treat delighted 4,000 this past Sunday

If visitors need additional evidence that our region is a wonderful place to raise a family, they need look no further than these photos from the second annual Truck-or-Treat event on held Sunday, Oct. 20, to benefit Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum.

Organizers, including Wonderfeet Kids Museum’s founder and Board Vice President Paul Gallo, emphasized that beyond the fun, Truck-or-Treat is a vital fundraiser for the Museum, helping to ensure that Wonderfeet continues to be an affordable, enriching resource for the entire community.

“It’s so Rutland,” Gallo said to an attendee. “It was another proud moment of spreading happiness. It’s part of what gets me out of the house early each day.”

The event drew an estimated 4,000 children and adults, costumed in the spooky and the kooky, the cheery

and the eerie, to downtown Rutland. It turned out to be a gloriously sunny and crisp fall Sunday, perfect for dressing up in capes, gowns, crowns, tutus, pumpkin heads, spaceman suits, alligator appendages, and other Halloween gear.

All told there were nearly 100 vehicles taking over Center Street and Merchants Row, courtesy of such local business partners as Casella, J.P. Carrara & Sons, Inc., Carpenter and Costin, La Valley, and the Vermont Country Store.

Enormous trucks of all kinds, plus tanks, souped up cars and mega-motorcycles were decked out in monster mountains, swerving skeletons and ghoulish goblins. Kids and adults alike reveled in filling receptacles of all kinds with candy and other assorted delights pouring out of the vehicles.

Also on hand was Rutland’s beloved toymaker, Michael’s Handmade

Toys, so kids and parents could see an old-fashioned craftsman work his magic up close. And, of course, dedicated leaders from Rutland City’s Police Department, including Project VISION director Matthew Prouty (in a Mountie-esque hat) were on hand to make sure everyone had a safe and sound environment for having fun. Lastly, what’s a children’s event without a bouncy house, wildly popular with kids of all sizes last Sunday.

Even adults who were not in costume or towing toddlers seemed in awe of all the time and effort families put in to costuming their children, plus the hard work of the event’s organizers and contributors. In that sense, everyone who attended could feel they were part of a big family – gathered on a sunny Sunday afternoon, as a small town celebrated wholesome fun for everyone.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal/owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions. lizdimarcoweinmann.com.



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

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Rutland City acquires \$8 million housing investment

By Adam Davis

Housing continues to be an unmet need in most areas of Vermont, and local and state governments are taking measures to resolve the issue.

State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, Rutland City Mayor Michael Doenges, and Heritage Family Credit Union CEO Chris Gomez came together on Oct. 16 to announce an \$8 million investment program to begin building new housing within the city. The Roofs over Rutland program is a partnership between the state, the City of Rutland, and Heritage Family Credit Union to make the \$8 million investment available to developers as low-interest loans through Heritage Family. The treasurer's "10% in Vermont" program supports the initiative, which looks to add over 1,100 new homes across the state within its \$55.5 million budget. The program allows Treasurer Pieciak to invest up to 10% of the state's daily cash balance for further economic development in Vermont.

"This investment will bring new jobs and housing to Rutland, growing the local economy and strengthening our state," said Treasurer Pieciak. "The impact will be huge. It will mean that our \$8 million investment will leverage millions and millions of more private investment to come into the City of Rutland and build even more housing. It will mean hundreds of new housing units built in the city. The impact is immeasurable in some ways, but we



By Adam Davis
Mayor Michael Doenges shared details of the Roofs over Rutland program at The Hub CoWorks in Rutland on Oct. 16.

know that it will be dramatic."

Rutland Regional Medical Center's president and CEO Judith Fox also spoke at the event to further illustrate Rutland's urgent need to house potential employees looking to relocate to the area.

"Currently, Rutland Regional Medical Center needs to fill 125 open positions. We've continued to focus our efforts on developing and retaining our staff and attracting and recruiting new talent. But our employees need a place to live," said Fox. "When we talk

to new recruits, they want to work for RRMC, and they appreciate all that our hospital and our local region have to offer. This program will help to expand market-rate housing in Rutland City and will create affordable options for individuals and families that want to work and live in this community."

The Roofs over Rutland program will help to realize Mayor Doenges' five-year plan of building 1,000 new housing units within the city. Funding will provide support for both developers and homeowners, as loans of up to \$175,000 will be available at a 3.5% interest rate, with \$3 million reserved for developments of one to four units and \$5 million reserved for developments of five units or more. These funds may also be used to support the redevelopment of previously inhabitable homes.

"We've started down the path of not only trying to spur development in Rutland but also to light a fire under it to the point where we see the benefits of our investment," said Mayor Doenges. "This is one of the best things to happen for housing in Rutland, and I'm excited for the city's future."

According to a Vermont's Department of Housing and Community Development report, the state will need to add 24,000 to 36,000 additional homes by 2029 to meet growing demand and help stem the tide of rising home costs, which increased 38% between 2019 and 2023.



Screenshot Woodstock Community Television
Woodstock Police Chief Joe Swanson.

Woodstock places police chief on paid leave pending Vermont State Police probe

By Alan J. Keays/VTDigger

Woodstock Police Chief Joe Swanson has been placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation by state police, according to Eric Duffy, Woodstock's municipal manager.

In a press release issued Tuesday, Oct. 15, Duffy stated that Swanson was placed on administrative leave earlier in the day "as a precaution following a report of his alleged involvement in an incident" on Sunday.

State police will be conducting the investigation, the release added.

"The Town and Village of Woodstock is committed to ensuring that complaints regarding our police officers are addressed in an appropriate fashion," Duffy said in the release. "The Vermont State

Police will have full cooperation as they conduct their investigation."

Duffy, reached by phone late Tuesday afternoon, said he could not comment regarding the nature of the incident or Swanson's "alleged involvement" pending the outcome of the state police investigation.

"I don't want to say anything publicly that will influence the investigation," Duffy said. "What I can say is the Vermont State Police has agreed to investigate this for us, and once they're completed with their investigation, the town will be happy to speak more to the outcome of the investigation."

Duffy said there was no timetable for how long the investigation was expected to take.

Adam Silverman, a state police spokesperson, said in an email late Tuesday afternoon that the law enforcement agency has assigned a detective from outside the area to conduct the criminal investigation that involves the Woodstock police chief.

Woodstock Police Sgt. Christopher O'Keefe has been named acting police chief as the state police investigate the matter, according to Duffy's press release.

Swanson became Woodstock's police chief in July 2023, according to an article from the Valley News at that time.

Swanson had first worked for the police department as a part-time officer in 2000, joined the department full time in 2007, and in 2014 he was promoted to sergeant, the article added. He was also a former chair of the town's select board, according to the article.

Efforts to reach Swanson were not successful.

Swanson was placed on administrative leave earlier in the day "as a precaution following a report of his alleged involvement in an incident" on Sunday.

Killington announces details of Superstar lift replacement

Killington Resort announced details on the the forthcoming replacement of the Superstar Express chairlift during the summer of 2025, in a news release Tuesday, Oct. 22. The current high-speed quad will be replaced with a Doppelmayr UNI-G six-person chairlift. The new chair will be the first for the resort from that manufacturer.

With this new lift, guests will notice a few changes in addition to the chair size. The lift maze will be reconfigured for easier load and the lift will spin clockwise, like the Snowdon Six Express. But the new Superstar lift will not have a bubble both because of challenges with storage and because Superstar is a relatively quick ride, the resort noted.

Though it is a six-person lift, plans are to run it at a speed such that the overall uphill capacity will remain the same.

"Upgrading to a six-person chairlift is mostly about comfort," explained Killington President and CEO Mike Solimano. "We want to provide the best possible experience for our guests, so this new, roomier lift made a lot of sense. The heavier chairs also help with the wind, which is an added bonus."

The original Superstar lift, a first-generation detachable quad from the Yan Lift company, was built in 1987, making it one of New England's oldest detachable chairlifts. Over



Courtesy Killington Resort
Superstar → 4 Superstar Quad will be replaced with a six-pack lift this spring.



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← Superstar:
from page 3

the course of its lifetime, it was retrofitted by Poma in 1997. Superstar is the 10th longest aerial lift in Killington's fleet of 17 with a rise of 1,199 vertical feet.

The new lift will follow the same line as the old chair; however, all towers will be relocated with the exception of the terminal towers. Tower 4 will be shifted 80 feet uphill and closer to tree line. The snowmaking pipe location will also be adjusted and a small, new maintenance workshop will be added at the top of Skye Peak.

Lift installation will be completed in summer of 2025, and will affect spring skiing on Superstar this season. The project will commence sometime in April 2025; however, the resort plans to make additional snow in other key areas of the mountain including the Canyon, Snowdon and Ramshead to extend the season elsewhere.

As for the Stifel Killington Cup, Killington is confirmed to host over Thanksgiving weekend 2024. The status of the 2025 event is still to be determined as the resort finalizes the construction timeline for the new Superstar lift.

This project is part of recently announced \$30 million in capital improvements to be completed over the next two seasons. The cost for this lift replacement project is estimated to be \$12 million.

Lift installation will be completed in summer of 2025, and will affect spring skiing on Superstar this season.

← Chuck Hughes:
from page 1

has driven him to contribute tirelessly as a coach, educator, and leader, becoming a revered figure among the wider VARA community."

Starting his coaching career in 1975 at the Pico Ski Club, he quickly established himself as a guiding force in ski education. He attended the first USSA Coaches Academy in 1980 demonstrating his commitment to advancing his own skills and sharing that knowledge with others.

Over the years, he has held coaching and educational roles at prominent institutions such as Killington Resort, Pico Ski Club, Burke Mountain Academy, Winter Park, the Ontario Ski Team, and KMS. He was a pioneer, leading the first group of KMS athletes to train in Europe, reflecting his forward-thinking approach and dedication to providing unique opportunities for young athletes, according to VARA.

"He has not only shaped the path for aspiring racers but also for officials, exemplifying a spirit of loyalty, care, and giving," the news release continued. "Chuck's enthusiasm and dedication make him a true ambassador and 'rah-rah' leader for the sport and the association."

As a certified USSA coach, Alpine official, and FIS technical delegate, his influence extends well beyond coaching. He is known for his expertise in officiating, serving as a technical delegate for prestigious events, including the World Cup, Canadian Nationals, NorAm Cup, FIS UNI's, EISA Championships, NCAA Championships, South American Cup, and USCSA Regional Championships. His deep understanding of the sport and commitment to fair play have earned him worldwide respect and admiration.

Currently, Chuck continues to serve as a FIS technical delegate and nationally ranked certified Alpine official, holding a USSA Alpine Level 300 coaching certification. His leadership roles have spanned various boards and committees, including past president and long-time board member of VARA, chairperson of the Eastern Alpine Officials Committee, and chairman of the VARA Alpine Officials Committee. His current roles on the USSA Sport Committee, USSA Technical Delegate Working Group, Eastern ACC Committee, and US FIS Technical Delegate Working Group further underscore his ongoing commitment to the sport.

Throughout his career, Chuck Hughes has been recognized by numerous accolades, including the Burckett/Dodge Award for Outstanding Officiating in the Eastern Region and the VARA Volunteer of the Year Award.

"His contributions go beyond just his professional achievements; they reflect a genuine passion for nurturing the growth of Alpine ski racing and fostering a community that supports the development of officials and athletes alike," VARA stated.

Alongside him, his wife, Betty, has also been a significant contributor to the ski community, having served as the director of academics and headmaster at KMS for 16 years and coaching in the KSC/KMS program for over 20 years.

"Together, they embody a spirit of dedication and commitment to VARA and the sport of Alpine ski racing," VARA continued, adding, "Their three children, Mid Vt Council athletes, and successful elite competitors have also contributed greatly to the sport and alpine community."

"Chuck's unwavering leadership, dedication, and extensive contributions to VARA and the Alpine community across all facets of the sport exemplify the qualities of a VARA Hall of Fame Inductee," VARA summarized.

The VARA gala, Saturday, Oct. 26, is hosted by the KSC/KMS Community. It will be held at the Killington K1 Lodge from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$50.

For more information, visit: Admin-SkiRacing.com/banquet/5.

State reps hosted grassroots ed tax discussion in Woodstock

By Curt Peterson

State Representative Charlie Kimball hosted a Public Forum on the Future of Education in Vermont at North Chapel in Woodstock last Thursday, Oct. 17, featuring Rep. Emily Kornheiser, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means and chair of the Education Financing Subcommittee, and Rep. Peter Conlon, chair of the Vermont House Education Committee.

When Vermonters are asked to name the most important needs of the state, housing, jobs, health care and inflation, while important, pale in comparison with the recent increase in education property tax rates.

Over 100 area residents attended the forum, either in person or via Zoom, to participate in the discussion. Some felt the Legislature and Governor Scott should have seen the “tax crisis” coming and have done something about it. Many said they felt the tax increase came as a last-minute surprise.

A commission was created to find a solution, but any action wouldn’t take effect until at least

the FY 2027 tax calculation. So the taxpayers will most likely face another year of painful property tax bills.

Kornheiser and Conlon began the meeting last week by explaining how the increase came about, and what the Legislature is doing about it, including relief for FY2026.

During the Covid pandemic the federal government provided funds for schools to deal with remote learning, absenteeism and inadequate tools for dealing with effects of the virus. When that funding ended, continuing expenses wound up in school budgets.

The state negotiates with the Vermont Education Association (VEA) on all compensation and healthcare benefits for teachers and staff in all school districts. There was a 16% increase in healthcare premiums, which are 20-30% of total payroll.

Educators and administrators salaries were increased as well.

Total state investment in education increased \$240-\$250 million.

Mental health costs escalated as a product of the pandemic, and have continued. Advocates of property tax relief say mental health costs, and the price of other non-funded state mandates, shouldn’t be on the school districts — they should be covered by individual agencies at the state level, agencies such as public health.

When discussion turned to sources for funding education without relying so heavily on property taxes, Kimball suggested taxing second-home owners at the same rate as primary homeowners.

During the Covid period the Agency of Education suspended a penalty for spending more per pupil than the state mandated figure.

“The school budgets in half our towns include higher per pupil spending than the state figure,” Kimball said.

If the penalty is reinstated, it might control some spending and bring in extra revenue as well — but could hurt local towns most.

Hawaii was used as an example of state with a system whereby towns are given a block of education funds. Local voters decide whether to spend more or less than they received, and if more, how to raise those funds. The panel pointed out that many states use a similar model.

Some questioned the fairness of state-funding Tax Incentive Finance (TIF) Districts like the one in Killington to enhance tourism, which uses a portion of the state education tax assessed on the increased increment because of the investment to pay off debt for 10 years. However, the main qualification to be approved as a TIF district is that the development wouldn’t be done without investment in public infrastructure — thus, the education fund wouldn’t be getting that money anyway, whereas now at least it will get it once the debt is repaid.

The state also suspended school-construction funding during the 2008 recession, but hasn’t re-instituted it since — it’s the only New England state that hasn’t yet reinstated it. School

buildings are showing that neglect as maintenance costs dwindle in an ever-tightening school budget. Kimball said the condition of the Woodstock campus is rated “second worst in the state.” There is a petition available for signatures demanding a return to state construction support.

Reducing education costs by consolidating districts is a commonly discussed option, but not popular with the smaller towns, who feel their local school is the central part of their community.

School choice and public education dollars used to pay private school tuition — including to schools out of state and even out of country — also drew many comments.

Kimball ended the forum by citing the idea of a bigger picture of Vermont education. “Remember the kids in the next town are our kids too.”

A full recording of the The Future of Education Funding in VT Forum, from Oct. 17 is available at: [Youtube.com/watch?v=uZaDiliWhH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZaDiliWhH8).

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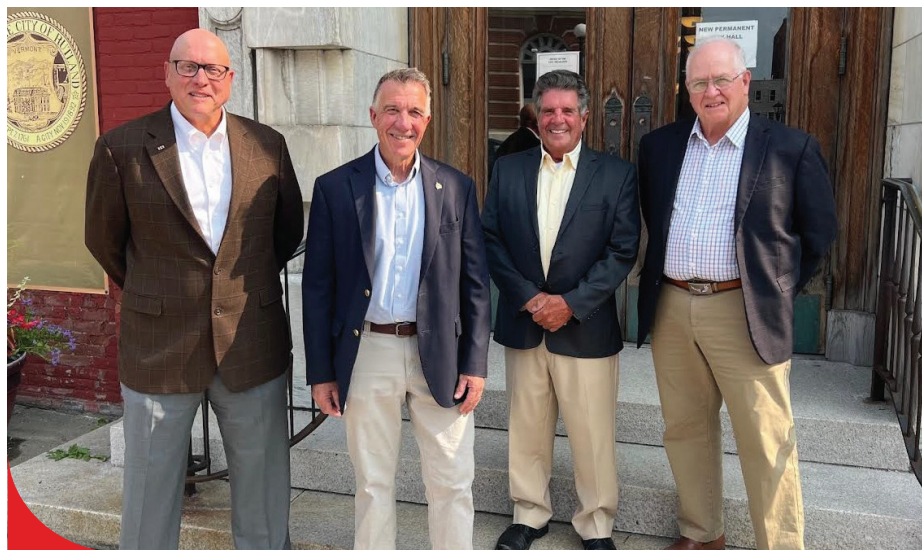
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LEFT TO RIGHT: SENATOR WEEKS, GOVERNOR SCOTT, SENATOR COLLAMORE, AND SENATOR WILLIAMS.

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Gov. Phil Scott's shelter plan met with relief and skepticism

By Carly Berlin/VTDigger

This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, was produced through a partnership between VTDigger and Vermont Public.

Some service providers and municipal leaders are suggesting that the Gov. Phil Scott administration's plan to assemble three family shelters in state-owned buildings amounts to too little, too late. For weeks, local officials, lawmakers, and service providers have been pushing the administration to intervene on behalf of the more than 1,000 people who have lost their shelter through the state's motel voucher program over the last month.

Among the many Vermonters who had called on Scott to intervene, some expressed gratitude at the news of the new shelters this week. But some have cautioned that these shelters won't meet the need.

"This has been entirely predictable since the legislation was signed by the governor," said Frank Knaack, the executive director of the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont. "We knew that these dates were coming for months. Providers have been asking the governor for months to do something about it"

The state has not yet lined up service providers to operate the shelters. The three shelters will be located at the Waterbury Armory, the former State Police barracks in Williston, and a thus far undetermined location in Montpelier. Officials are aiming to open the first two sites by Nov. 1, and said the Montpelier site will likely take longer to open.

Julie Bond, executive director of Good Samaritan Haven — the primary shelter provider in Washington County — said the organization has been in talks with state officials for the last several days about operating the Montpelier site. Good Sam doesn't currently operate family shelters, and making the call on whether the organization has capacity to step in is "a major decision," she said.

"I'm very heartened by the opportunities and the thinking about increasing shelter capacity," Bond said. But creating a new shelter that meets the standards she would expect will Shelter → 12



Rutland TIF: from page 1

original value of a property continue to go to the state Education Fund and city budget, while a portion of the "increment" (difference between the original value and the developed value of the property) is used to finance the TIF investment.

Presenting the TIF District Plan and LOI before the Board of Aldermen were Ed Bove, executive director of the Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA), which serves as Rutland City's economic development entity, as well as Stephanie Clarke, vice president of White + Burke Real Estate Advisors, who is guiding the RRA through the TIF Districting Process. Clarke was also instrumental helping Killington through its successful TIF application two years ago.

The city anticipates submitting its full TIF District application for VEPC approval by early 2025, with public infrastructure projects beginning as soon as 2026.

The next step for the Board of Aldermen is to review the TIF District Plan, which outlines the possible projects that could occur over the next 10 years. Draft plans are in no way binding, but allows for prudent planning and collaborations with developers and property owners.

Rutland City TIF plan overview:

- Private Projects: Could include workforce and affordable housing, mixed-use, and a hotel, totaling over \$63 million in increased property value over the next 7 years.
- Housing: Creation of 385 housing units over 7 years.
- Public Infrastructure: Could include

utility upgrades, brownfield remediation, site preparation, improved access, public facilities, and transportation upgrades, totaling almost \$17 million of investment over 6 years.

- Tax Revenue: Could yield approximately \$3 million of additional revenue to the City's General Fund and \$5.6 million to the State Education Fund over 20 years.

"The TIF District is key to unlocking Rutland's economic potential," said Michael Talbot, president of the Board of Aldermen. "By taking this step, we're committing to improving infrastructure in our downtown and providing much-needed housing, all while driving private investment into areas that have long needed attention."

TIF timeline:

- January 2025: Board of Aldermen vote on the finalized plan, followed by submission to VEPC.
- Spring 2025: Master TIF District review by VEPC and Board of Aldermen review of first-phase projects
- June 2025: Submit first phase projects to VEPC
- September 2025: Obtain first phase approval
- November 2025: City-wide bond vote for infrastructure funding.
- Winter 2025 / 2026: Incur first infrastructure project debt
- Spring 2026: Commencement of public infrastructure projects.

For more information, visit: Rutlandvt-business.com/tax-increment-financing.

← **Listen and Learn Tour:**
from page 1

from Oct. 22-Nov. 6. Each will take place from 6-8 p.m. at the following locations:

- Oct. 22: Woodstock Union Middle/High School
- Oct. 23: Mount Anthony Union High School
- Oct. 23: Stowe High School
- Oct. 28: Montpelier High School
- Oct. 28: West Rutland School
- Oct. 29: Lyndon Town School
- Oct. 30: Enosburg Falls High School
- Nov. 4: Virtual Meeting (ASL interpreter available)
- Nov. 6: Virtual Meeting (ASL interpreter available)

“Every session will begin with introductory information and data to support more in-depth conversations, followed by breakout sessions on topics related to student achievement and support, career and college readiness, and school budgets, among other emerging priorities,” the agency explained in the release.

“The Listen and Learn Tour is a critical part of developing the Agency of Education’s strategic plan to ensure our efforts support Vermont’s short-term and long-term educational needs,” said Interim Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders at Governor Phil Scott’s weekly press conference on Wednesday, Oct. 16. “Hearing from educators, parents, students, and community members is essential to developing a plan that reflects Vermont’s values, promotes measurable academic improvement, and maximizes state resources to achieve our collective hopes and dreams for students. This work is happening at a critical time when state leaders, including the Commission on the Future of Public Education, educators, and community members are contemplating changes to how we deliver a quality education to every Vermont student in a way that is sustainable. The Agency is fully engaged in this work and is committed to supporting our educational partners to create a high-quality public education system at a cost taxpayers can afford,” she said.

The state’s Listen and Learn Tour has five main goals:

1. To align AoE’s work to regional and local priorities by engaging stakeholders with immediate knowledge of the challenges that students and educators face every day, the agency will be better able to tailor support towards effective solutions.
2. To help identify a shared understanding of how the agency can most effectively support high quality teaching and learning.
3. To use a collaborative process to inform changes

that expand students’ access to high-quality educational opportunities.

4. To review data and share innovative best practices, identifying key opportunities for improving student achievement.
5. To develop a strategic plan that meets the state’s immediate priorities while supporting the future statewide vision for public education in Vermont. Immediate priorities include supporting landmark legislation, helping struggling school districts, and providing training and support for this budgeting cycle.

“The Listen and Learn Tour was designed to be a methodical, data-driven, and participatory process,” Saunders summarized.

First phase recap

Phase 1 of the Listen and Learn Tour involved collecting and analyzing data. The agency published the State Profile Report in August, the first in a series of reports to support planning. The report included student performance data, enrollment, staffing, expenditure, and more aimed at elucidating an understanding of the current state of Vermont’s education system.

The report reinforced some commonly understood trends and also illuminated new questions that need further investigation, Saunders said highlighting the following data points:

- Compared to other states, Vermont has very small schools, the highest staffing levels and the highest expenditure per pupil;
- According to the National Assessment for Education Progress, Vermont students perform high in reading compared to other states (though that trend has been declining); its students perform average in math;
- Overall enrollment in K-12 public education has decreased by over 14% since 2004;
- The biggest changes in enrollment and academic performance occurred before the pandemic; and
- The report also compared trends by size of supervisory union/school district and found that the smaller supervisory unions/districts tended to serve higher-needs students and, due to budget constraints, tended to pay their teachers less.
- The State Profile Report will be re-released soon to reflect additional context gathered through stakeholder feedback, the agency stated. It will also



By Polly Mikula

Woodstock Union Middle/High School hosted an AoE Listen and Learn workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

release regional reports, district reports, education finance reports, and other topical reports over the coming year.

Through the first phase of the tour, agency staff facilitate regional planning sessions with over 250 education leaders across the state. Discussions focused on important education topics, ranging from academic performance, college and career readiness, student mental health, and data needed to inform budgeting decisions.

Several common themes emerged:

- Need for reliable, accessible, and easy to use data;
- Focus on expanding access to college and career readiness;
- Need to balance local autonomy with clearer direction from AoE to support academic outcomes;
- Recognize that student mental health needs reflect community needs and require integrated solutions;
- Issues related to housing, affordability, loss of industry/jobs also impact schools in terms of teacher recruitment and student enrollment; and
- More guidance is needed on short-term cost-containment strategies and how to design and measure long-term transformation for the education system.

“We hope you will join us for the Listen and Learn public engagement sessions, starting on Oct. 22,” said Saunders. “We look forward to the ongoing collaboration. Together, we will build a brighter future for all Vermont children.”

While not required, pre-registration is encouraged using the online registration form at: [Tinyurl.com/VtEdTour](https://tinyurl.com/VtEdTour).

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Tackling Vermont's housing shortage

By John Vogel

Editor's note: John Vogel of Williston is a retired professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

The shortage and cost of housing in Vermont is a problem we can solve. Other states are showing us how.

In Minneapolis, apartment rents have declined by 4% over the last five years, according to an NBC News story, while they have soared an average of 22% across the United States. In Texas, total development costs for new apartments are half of what they are in Vermont (based on my discussions with real estate companies). That's why developers can charge \$800 a month in rent for new apartments and still make a profit.

How did these places do it?

In Minneapolis, they reduced rent and decreased homelessness by creating incentives for new construction. Between 2017-2022, Minneapolis expanded its housing stock by 12%. The key driver behind this growth spurt was apartments. A full 87% of these new homes were in buildings with 20+ units. As economists will tell you, increasing supply generally causes rent to stabilize — and sometimes even decline.

To spur this new construction, the Minneapolis City Council adopted three key policies:

1. Minimum parking requirements for new developments were eliminated.
2. Taller buildings in commercial corridors were encouraged, particularly near transit and along commercial corridors.
3. Minimum building heights were required in high density zones.

Minneapolis made it cheaper and easier to build apartments. Politicians withstood scathing criticism from loud NIMBY voices — and developers responded.

Regulatory improvements are not enough. Minnesota also backed up this program with financial resources, including a \$1 billion omnibus housing bill. This legislation, which passed in May 2023, provides funding for housing infrastructure as well as the development of workforce housing and other housing priorities.

What can we learn from Texas? Why does development cost twice as much in Vermont?

Texas has some natural advantages — land is plentiful, flat and generally less expensive. Also, the influx of new families means developers can build large complexes, and benefit from economies of scale.

There is also a less obvious but significant reason: the number of immigrants who work in construction. According to the American Immigration Council, only 17% of the Texas population are immigrants, but they make up 40% percent of the construction workforce. Also, according to the Council, a whopping 39.7 percent of all entrepreneurs in the building industry in Texas are immigrants.

These newcomers bring skills or a willingness to learn, innovation and a strong work ethic.

Vermont is short on people with construction skills, which is a key factor in the high price and slow pace of new developments in Vermont.

Only 17% of the Texas population are immigrants, but they make up 40% percent of the construction workforce.

More housing → 10



Commercials Anger Voters by Gary McCoy, Shiloh, IL

LETTERS

Vote for Windsor Dems

Dear Editor,

I urge my friends and neighbors to elect Joe Major and to re-elect Alison Clarkson and Becca White to the Vermont Senate. Major offers intelligence and extensive management experience. He listens with an open heart and an open mind. Clarkson and White have risen to the challenges of governing in a time of economic difficulties and an unprecedented, excessive number of vetoes from a generous but uncooperative governor.

All three Democratic candidates treat global warming with the seriousness it warrants and understand that we must get honest about carbon-polluting fuels. They understand the complexities of taxation, economic development, housing, health, and safety as serious problems, not grievances to exploit. They're proud to state their positions clearly and to support Kamala Harris. They're pro-choice, unequivocally.

Sen. Dick McCormack,
Bethel

Vote Rodgers for Lt. gov

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support for John Rodgers as the next Lieutenant Governor of Vermont.

Having previously served as Commissioner of Vermont's Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation for 12 years, appointed by two different governors with a significant legislative portfolio over six legislative biennia, I worked over an extended period with both David Zuckerman and John Rodgers. Their differences are real and important, and Rodgers emerges as the best choice for Vermont.

It's not close.

During his time in the Senate, Rodgers served on two committees with essential roles relative to Forests, Parks, and Recreation: the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy — with jurisdiction over FPR's responsibilities, programs, and budget — and the Senate Committee on Institutions — with jurisdiction

Rodgers for Lt. gov → 11

Protect speech

Dear Editor,

People in positions of power and authority have been speaking out against the First Amendment. Recently, John Kerry, the former secretary of state and Democratic nominee for president, stated at a World Economic Forum panel, "Our First Amendment stands as a major block (to getting things done)." For Kerry, democracy and freedom of speech are too messy — "just hammer it out of existence," he said. Similarly, former SOS and DNC nominee Hilary Clinton wondered aloud if people on the internet should "be civilly or in some cases criminally charged" for spreading what she called propaganda. "If social media platforms don't monitor content," she said. "We lose total control." Likewise, VP Kamala Harris said in a recent interview that "freedom of speech is a privilege." To this, I would counter that, no — it is a right and an inalienable one at that. Just imagine

Protect speech → 10

Be informed

Dear Editor,


In early spring this year a small group of longtime school board members — most former, one current — got together to talk about pushing back against the steady attacks on our public schools, which are also longtime. We decided to start a grassroots effort, calling ourselves "Friends of Vermont Public Education."

Our mission is clear: "...to ensure that the distribution of public money for education in Vermont is done in a manner that is consistent with our state and federal constitutions. All schools that receive public funding must agree to comply with the state's public school rules and regulations."

A challenge, of course, is that the fairly recent ruling from the Supreme Court of the United States — *Carson v. Makin*, 2022 — bumps up against the Compelled Support and Common Benefits clauses of our state constitution. More and more tax dollars for funding education in Vermont are

Informed → 10

CAPITOL QUOTES



On Oct. 17, reports indicated Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, the presumed mastermind behind the Oct. 7, 2023, terror attack in Israel, was killed by Israeli forces during a firefight. Sinwar's death brings hope in the West for a potential end to the growing conflict, while fears and concerns circle around continued tensions escalating in the Middle East.

“To my Israeli friends, this is no doubt a day of relief and reminiscence, similar to the scenes witnessed throughout the United States after President Obama ordered the raid to kill Osama Bin Laden in 2011. Israel has had every right to eliminate the leadership and military structure of Hamas. Hamas is no longer capable of carrying out another Oct. 7,”

said President **Joe Biden** in an official statement on the Death of Yahya Sinwar.

“Sinwar’s life was the embodiment of evil and marked by hatred for all that is good in the world...His death brings hope for all those who seek to live in freedom and relief to Israelis he has sought to oppress,”

said **Mike Johnson**, Speaker of the House R-LA 4th District.)

“This moment gives us an opportunity to finally end the war in Gaza, and it must end such that Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom, and self-determination. It is time for the day after to begin without Hamas in power,”

said Vice President **Kamala Harris**.

“My reaction is he was not a good person. That’s my reaction. That’s sometimes what happens,”

said **Donald Trump**, former President and current Republican presidential candidate.

LETTERS

Vote Rodgers

Dear Editor,

Vermonters should vote for John Rodgers for Lieutenant Governor. For many of us, the Lieutenant Governor race is the only place our vote will make a difference this fall. Unfortunately, it is our only seriously contested statewide race; we know who is going to get Vermont’s three presidential electoral votes; and, in too many districts, there aren’t even local contests (although the contested districts certainly deserve voter scrutiny).

Like Phil Scott, John Rodgers is a moderate Republican. Unlike Phil, John was a Democrat during his time in the Vermont legislature.”The

Vote Rodgers → 11

Vote Rodgers for Lt. governor

Dear Editor,

There are sharp distinctions between the Progressive Democrat Lt. Governor David Zuckerman and his challenger, a former longtime legislator, Republican John Rodgers.

Rodgers left the Democratic Party this year and joined the Republican Party, because of runaway tax and spending passed by the Progressive Democratic super majority of legislators and their disregard for those of us who think differently than them. Recent super majority tax and spend laws include a \$100 million payroll tax, a property tax increase of 14%, increases on

a wide assortment of taxes and fees, and pending huge taxes on Vermonters who

John Rodgers not only supports Vermont’s traditional rural way of life, he lives it.

heat with oil or propane, up to \$4 per gallon. Sharp tax increases are likely not far behind for gasoline as part of the super majority’s march toward phasing out gas, oil, and propane.

Republican Governor Phil Scott issued a series of vetoes against these taxes

Rodgers → 11

Do truth, democracy matter? Or ‘So what?’

Dear Editor,

Don’t we all need to answer Trump’s... “So What!”

Last week, unsealed evidence in one of Trump’s legal cases regarding efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election showed that in the hours after his Jan. 6 rally turned to violence and learning Vice President Mike Pence was moved to safety, Trump responded, “So What?”

Trump’s answer to everything is: So What!

So what if I want to be a Dictator?

So what if I lie?

So what if I throw my Vice President to the wolves?

So what if I incite my followers to attack the U.S. Capitol?

So what if I leaned on state officials to fix the election?

So what if I undermine democracy?

So what if I use the office of the presidency to enrich myself and my family?

So what if I break my oath of office?

So what if the only person I care about is me?

So what America?

So what will be your answer on election day to Donald J. Trump’s “So What?”

Paul Regan, South Woodstock, vice chair of Woodstock Democratic Town Committee

Vote for leadership and selfless service

Dear Editor,

As we enter the last weeks of this election cycle, it is important to recognize the characteristics that are most critical in a candidate — integrity, honesty, transparency, and a genuine desire to be sensitive to and to understand the needs of the people of Vermont. There can be no ulterior or self-serving motives which would affect how that person votes on issues, no matter that person’s personal beliefs or religious affiliations, and above all, they should be immune from the influences of outside

lobbyists.

I am grateful that the slate of democratic Senatorial candidates in Windsor County check off all boxes — Sen. Alison Clarkson, Sen. Becca White, and Joe Major share records of dedicated leadership and selfless community service. Clarkson, as Senate Majority Leader, has guided many priorities through the Legislature. White, as the co-chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus and the youngest woman in senate history, elected in 2022, and served

Service → 10

Vote Clarkson, White, Major

Dear Editor,

There’s a reason you see lots of signs for Alison Clarkson, Becca White, and Joe Major now: They are the cream of the crop running for the Vermont State Senate, and Windsor County voters recognize these stellar candidates. These 3 share a deep understanding of our communities’ needs and have records as public servants showing they know how to get tough things done to help all Vermonters.

As Senate Majority Leader, Vote CWM → 10

Gov. Scott, please help the evicted find shelter

Dear Editor,

Editor's note: This was submitted as an open letter to Governor Scott regarding the ongoing emergency housing program crisis.

I am writing today with urgency and hope, asking you to take immediate action to address the crisis facing families evicted from Vermont's emergency housing program. As a father of two young daughters, I know firsthand the instinct to protect my children and ensure their well-being. That instinct drives me to speak up for other parents now struggling to keep their children safe, warm, and cared for in the face of houselessness.

Since making Vermont my home in 2009, I've spent a decade as an educator and continued my 20-year career in the nonprofit sector to support Vermont communities. Today, I serve as the co-founder and executive director of Dad Guild, a Vermont-based nonprofit that supports fathers and

masculine-identifying caregivers in becoming active, engaged parents. Through this work, I've witnessed how much a community can achieve when we come together with care, compassion, and shared purpose.

I also saw this in your leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic when Vermont became one of the safest places in the world. Your call for personal responsibility and solidarity inspired residents across the state, and that leadership guided us through an unprecedented crisis. We are in the midst of another crisis that demands the same level of leadership and collective action.

Over the past two weeks, I have spent time with families recently evicted from Vermont's emergency housing program after reaching the 80-day limit. I've listened to their stories, offered support, and seen the harsh realities they face. One father I met, James,

has two daughters — just like you and me — under the age of 6. But unlike our children, his daughters will sleep on the ground this Wednesday night, with temperatures expected to drop to 35 degrees. Since meeting James and his family, I've done my best to embody the community spirit you called upon during the pandemic. I organized a meal train so unsheltered families could enjoy warm evening meals. I distributed nearly 50 propane tanks to help heat their tents on freezing nights. I connected with caseworkers to ensure my efforts were meaningful and matched one family with a community member who now helps them with laundry each week. But it's not enough, and I am at a loss. They need your help, Governor.

Last month, nearly 100 of Vermont's most dedicated community leaders wrote to you, outlining key steps
Help shelter → 12

← Informed:

from page 8

being siphoned from our public school budgets to support private institutions — which do not necessarily provide benefits common to all — and now religious schools have been added to the drawdown. I know of at

November to represent us in Montpelier for the next two years regarding use of public funds for private schools. You can find candidate responses at savevtpubliced.org.

See where your candidates stand, or if they didn't re-

An obvious first step on the latter would be promoting taxpayers' understanding of how their dollars are being spent. This means the same financial transparency from all schools that receive public dollars — not just public schools, as it is currently. Then, and only then, can voters base their decisions on all of the information, and let their local reps and senators know how they feel.

At Friends of Vermont Public Education we will continue to follow the work of the Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont, which will be making recommendations to our legislators for short term and long term changes to our education system. The early focus for the commission is on property tax relief, but that can and must go hand-in-hand with student achievement in the long haul. So please stay informed, and vote.

Ken Fredette, Wallingford
Fredette sits on the steering committee of Friends of Vermont Public Education.

An obvious first step ... would be promoting taxpayers' understanding of how their dollars are being spent. This means the same financial transparency from all schools that receive public dollars — not just public schools, as it is currently.

least one school administration that has openly said they will not comply with anti-discrimination laws, or find a way to dance around them by further blurring the lines between church and state. They won't sign off on being open to all, but they will gladly take our tax dollars — violations of both clauses referenced above.

Friends sent a three-question survey to candidates who hope to be elected in

respond to our survey, ask them why not. While our position on the issue is transparent, as evidenced by our mission statement, we at Friends are not endorsing any candidate — we want voters to be able to make informed choices.

The upcoming legislative session will be dynamic as our lawmakers look to balance providing a “free and appropriate education” to all Vermont children with how to rein in tax rates.

← Protect speech:

from page 8

how astonished these same influential people will be if they succeed in collapsing the First Amendment and then silenced by opposing forces in the future.

Political theorist Sheldon Wolin, in his book, “Democracy Incorporated: Managed Democracy and the Specter of Inverted Totalitarianism,” argues America's capture by inverted totalitarianism—which he distinguishes as different from basic totalitarianism in that a demagogue doesn't lead it but rather through the faceless anonymity of the corporate state. Predictably, the corporate state and

its minions in the media constantly warn us about potential demagogues but never about themselves. As Wolin understands it, there is a fusion of political and economic power and corporate control over our national institutions so that nothing can be truly described as “democratic” anymore. His grim assessment—well over a decade old now—is that we, the people, are being manipulated by “highly managed, money-saturated elections, the lobby-infested Congress, the imperial presidency, the class-biased judicial and penal sys-

tem”—and the media.

Here in Vermont, this inverted totalitarianism has had a kind of trickle-down effect, wherein powers well outside the state have gained the ability to shape policy through well-intentioned legislators who initiate and pass laws totally out of sync with the needs of the population they were elected to serve. I call this “trickle-down totalitarianism,” the defeat of which is one reason I'm running for office. Instead of serving “the powers” globally, I believe our legislators need to serve all Vermonters and thus restore a genuinely representative

government. I also think it is incumbent upon citizens to become better informed and then exercise their alienable right of freedom of speech, which is slowly being taken away by the existing powers. Finally, we need to vote for people who advance policies that strengthen the things that remain — the topmost being our Constitution and ALL of our freedoms.

Steve Berry, Manchester
Berry is a former Vermont House rep, currently running as an independent for election to the state Senate (representing the Bennington District) and the U.S. Senate.

← Service:

from page 9

as a Windsor 6 representative prior to that. Major is the Hartford town treasurer and a proven leader, with extensive business management experience, who is dedicated to a Windsor County where everyone can thrive.

All three have a vision for moving us forward in the 21st Century, to be sure that Vermont remains a viable place for young people to live and start families, while also supporting the needs of older Vermonters, attracting

new businesses for expanded employment opportunities, developing affordable housing options which will encourage growth, and being sure that everyone is treated with compassion and respect — they are the problem solvers and leaders that we need now. Please join me in supporting Alison, Becca and Joe this year!

Sally Laurent, Windsor
Laurent is the chair of the Windsor County Democratic Committee.

← Vote CWM:

from page 9

Clarkson has spearheaded impactful measures on quality education, public safety, economic justice, and affordable healthcare. Those same policies inform Becca White's work in Montpelier and efforts to deal with climate resilience. And Joe Major's leadership as Hartford's Town Treasurer underscores his keen eye for vital policies within tight budgets. All 3 care deeply about you and

your quality of life; their track record bares this out.

With our state's many challenges, it makes sense to elect proven leaders with the experience and know-how to advocate for our community. Join me in voting for Alison Clarkson, Becca White, and Joe Major to the Vermont State Senate on Nov. 5. Thank you.

Bob Williamson, South Woodstock

← More housing:

from page 8

Is there a way to draw fresh faces to Vermont and welcome them with opportunity? Can we partner with organizations that help to settle new Americans? Reach across borders? Provide training or sponsor apprenticeship opportunities? Should we begin that conversation?

In June 2023, the Vermont Legislature and Gov. Phil Scott took a significant step toward increasing the supply of housing. The HOME Act (Act S.100) modified parking requirements for priority housing and offered a 40% density bonus

for affordable housing in areas with public water and sewer.

In 2024, the Legislature took further action and passed H.687 — which modernized Act 250 — smoothing the way for more housing projects and less duplicate regulation.

This bold legislation is clearly a step in the right direction. But, if Vermont really wants to increase its supply of housing, it needs additional legislative action.

It also needs to press forward in creative and potentially controversial ways.

← **Rodgers for lt. gov:**
from page 8

over capital appropriations and land transactions (think State Parks' infrastructure, ski area leases, and land conservation transactions).

While John and I differed on some topics over the years, he was a breath of fresh air and a welcome voice of practicality and reality all the while. He listened, asked informed and sometimes challenging questions, and consistently offered ideas and solutions, with a willingness to work together to find those solutions.

My experience with

David Zuckerman was different, characterized and summarized best as David doing a lot of talking at me — whether in the Senate Committee on Agriculture or in the hallways in advance of important floor debates in the Senate after he became Lieutenant Governor.

I've come to know John Rodgers as a friend, affording an expanded view of him and his values and ethics. John is smart, fun, talented, honest, hard-working, and reliable. He is committed to his

family, friends, land, and community. Indeed, watching John delight in engaging with our young daughter says it all—whether when fishing with her or touring her around his farm.

I am grateful for John Rodgers' significant and selfless service to our state to date and for his willingness to run and serve us as Lieutenant Governor now. He is spot on when he speaks of unsettling changes in Vermont's legislative process over the last decade or so—becoming more political and less inclu-

← **Rodgers:**
from page 9

and fees, but the Progressive Democrats defeated all the vetoes. John wholeheartedly supports the Scott vetoes, and the governor's ongoing crusade against more and more taxation.

Governor Scott has endorsed John Rodgers for lieutenant governor.

While Vermont's traditional rural land uses such

as farming, timber harvesting, hunting, fishing, and trapping are under attack by well-funded extremist organizations, we don't know for certain where many Legislators stand.

John Rodgers not only supports Vermont's traditional rural way of life, he lives it. He farms the Rodgers family's 200-year-old

farm in the Northeast Kingdom. He harvests timber off the Rodgers land and trucks it to local timber mills.

He hunts, fishes; he snowmobiles and owns an ATV. His perspective is under-represented among today's elected state officials.

If you want a lt. governor who understands and

values this traditional way of life, vote Rodgers. I am 74 years old and a former Democratic Party legislator and have been involved in state government in other capacities over the years. I am a native of Barre and currently live in Bolton. I have known John Rodgers for more than 25 years.

I encourage you to consider John Rodgers' candidacy and hope you, too, will conclude he is the right person at the right time to serve as our next Lieutenant Governor, regardless of party affiliation.

Michael Snyder, Stowe

values this traditional way of life, vote Rodgers.

I am 74 years old and a former Democratic Party legislator and have been involved in state government in other capacities over the years. I am a native of Barre and currently live in Bolton. I have known John Rodgers for more than 25 years.

Steve McLeod, Bolton

← **Vote Rodgers:**
from page 9

Democratic Party, when I first entered politics in 2003, looked after working class and poor people," Rodgers said. "And they don't do that anymore."

Many of us who usually vote Republican feel that our national party has also moved away from us, especially at the presidential level. In the Republican primary this summer, Rogers ran against Gregory Thayer, who allegedly attended the Stop the Steal rally in Washington, D.C., that preceded the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

Rodgers said: "I would never vote for Trump." And Rogers won the Republican primary and helped set the future of both parties in Vermont with 56% of the vote.

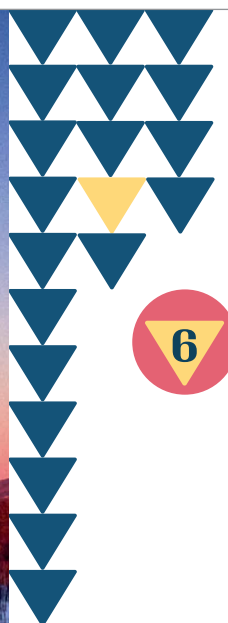
Did people who usually vote in the Democratic primary crossover and vote for Rodgers? Almost certainly. Is that a bad thing? Hell, no! I hope those crossovers will stay Republican and, along with Scott and Rodgers, help rebuild a two-party

system in Vermont. Notably, although more moderate people ran in some of the local Democratic primaries, they failed to unseat even the most extreme progressives. Hopefully, their supporters will vote for Rodgers and moderate candidates in those contested local races.

Rodgers' website says that he "will strongly advocate for policies that will stem unsustainable government spending and fight against the unnecessary increases... Vermonters deserve to be able to afford to live in Vermont, and Gov. Scott needs an ally in Montpelier... Rodgers believes strongly in an individual's bodily autonomy and personal and property rights."

A vote for Rodgers is not only a vote for sanity in Montpelier; it is a vote against the extreme partisans on both sides of the aisle who serve us so poorly.

Tom Ellison, Stowe, former Vt. Secretary of Transportation (1980-81) and Vt. Stimulus Czar (2008-2009.)



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BUY YOUR SEASON PASS BEFORE RATES INCREASE ON NOVEMBER 1.

THE STANDING MOUNTAIN saskadenasix.com
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Image by Bob Crean

Public investment in child care is an investment in our workforce.

LEARN HOW
ACT 76,
VERMONT'S NEW
CHILD CARE LAW,
GROWS OUR
ECONOMY.



LET'S GROW KIDS
CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

PAID FOR BY LET'S GROW KIDS



vermont
creamery
Crumbled Goat Cheese
12/4 OZ

PHOTO TAKEN AT VERMONT CREAMERY

← Help shelter: from page 10

to address this crisis. Today, I ask that you please act on those recommendations. With the Legislature out of session, you are the only one who can fix this.

Use your power under the state's emergency management provisions (20 V.S.A. § 1) to proclaim a state of emergency and provide within each region of the state 24-hour, trauma-informed, safe, accessible, stable, and non-congregate emergency shelter for vulnerable Vermonters unsheltered by the changes to the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program in Act 113;

Use your power under Chapter II, Section 20, Vermont Constitution to call a special session of the Vermont Legislature to remove the caps that

limit the number of hotel/motel rooms available per night and the number of nights available to eligible participants under the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program; or

Direct the Vermont Agency of Human Services to exercise existing authority and spending capacity within the Vermont Agency of Human Services to provide within each region of the state 24-hour, trauma-informed, safe, accessible, stable, and non-congregate emergency shelter for vulnerable Vermonters unsheltered by the changes to the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program in Act 113.

Governor, I appreciate the complexity of homelessness and its sheer numbers, but the beauty of local governance lies

in creating meaningful, incremental change that families can feel in their everyday lives. Beyond macro-level statistics and policies, these tangible, human moments—the chance to offer warmth, stability, and dignity—define effective local leadership.

You and I both know that childhood is fleeting. The moments when our children feel safe, loved, and supported shape the adults they become. We have a narrow window to help these kids build memories of joy, safety, and belonging. If action is not taken immediately, their memories will be of cold nights and survival, perpetuating cycles of hardship we are meant to break and protect them from.

*Keegan Albaugh,
Burlington. Keegan is the
executive director of Dad
Guild.*

← Shelter: from page 6

take time — creating one in a matter of weeks isn't realistic, she said.

"We still need an even quicker solution to house people in the immediate term, and that just simply means keeping the motels fully operational without the 80-day-cap until we can do this correctly," Bond said, referring to a new time limit on voucher stays that has resulted in the current wave of evictions.

The 80-day time limit, along with an 1,100-room cap on the motel program, will both be lifted during the winter months, beginning Dec. 1. But facing a severe housing shortage and a lack of family shelters, some families evicted from the motel program this fall have had little option but to pitch tents outdoors — a situation that has become increasingly dire as temperatures drop.

The Department for Children and Families has not provided numbers on how many families the three shelter sites will be able to accommodate. At a Wednesday press conference, Scott said the shelters will differ from the large, congregate shelters the state stood up last spring, and will provide private spaces for individual families.

The municipalities slated to host these shelters have had varied responses.

The town of Waterbury has signaled its pushback. A statement from the town, shared by its zoning administrator, Mike Bishop, last Wednesday, said the town had not been contacted by the state about this latest attempt to use the Armory building. The state can do so now only if it uses state employees to staff it, the letter says — if officials want to use a third-party, they need a new zoning permit.

Bill Fraser, the city manager for Montpelier, said the city learned about the state's plans to open a family shelter there through news

reports over the last several days. The city doesn't yet know what site is under consideration, he said.

"We certainly support having more shelter space in the city. It's a huge need," Fraser said.

On Sept. 18, one day before people sheltered through the motel program began to hit their 80 days, Fraser led a group of municipal officials calling to open up state-owned buildings for temporary shelters and to oversee sanctioned encampments on state land.

"You would have thought that having additional shelter spaces, or whatever alternative was going to be available for people, would have been in place and functional by Sept. 19," Fraser said. "Not, you know, we're trying to figure it out here on Oct. 15 or 16 or 17."

Williston Town Manager Erik Wells said his town is supportive of the state's effort.

"These are our fellow Vermonters that are in need of assistance right now, families with children as we're entering the cold winter months. I mean, we had our first 30 degree day this morning," he said.

State lawmakers — many of whom voted in favor of the state budget, the legislation that has resulted in the motel evictions — had also called on Scott to intervene.

Scott has emphasized that the cost of the motel voucher program is unsustainable. Lawmakers passed the current caps on the program in an effort to rein in costs.

Everyone already in the motel program this summer and fall met vulnerability criteria previously set by the state.

What's happening now, "is what the governor calls 'weaning people off the program,'" Baruth said. "And what that means, in effect, is putting them on the street and hoping they go away."

WORDPLAY

RUN A BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

X	V	B	Q	H	A	K	T	N	R	U	T	E	R	B	V	Y	B	E	Q
B	E	L	B	A	Y	A	P	A	T	A	V	C	I	U	Y	I	K	S	P
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ACCOUNTING
ACCOUNTS
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AFFILIATE
BALANCE
BUSINESS

CAPITAL
CATEGORY
COSTS
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EXPENSE
GROSS
LIABILITIES
LOCATION
MARGIN
MARKETING

PAYABLE
RECEIVABLE
RETURN
SHEET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →28

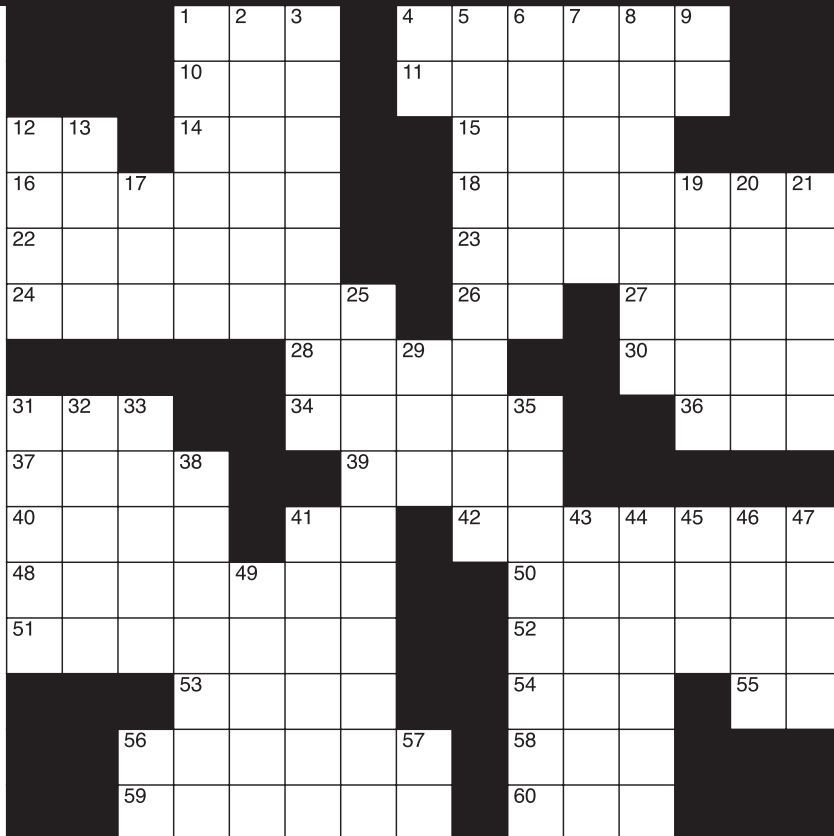
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "60 Minutes" network
- 4. Train line
- 10. Go quickly
- 11. Straightforward
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. At any rate (abbr.)
- 15. Genealogy
- 16. Make changes
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. In a way, turned up
- 23. Type of ship
- 24. Agents of one's downfall
- 26. Not out
- 27. Something to scratch
- 28. Round water pot
- 30. Refreshing green fruit (slang)
- 31. Promotions
- 34. Primordial matters
- 36. One-time world power (abbr.)
- 37. Source of illumination
- 39. The content of cognition
- 40. An Arab ruler
- 41. South Dakota

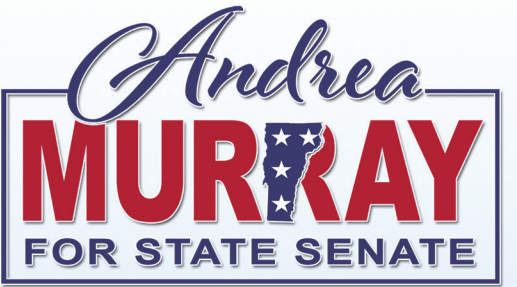
- 42. Gnawed at with teeth
- 48. Hawaiian island
- 50. Smaller
- 51. Of a single person
- 52. Rigid bracelet
- 53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)
- 54. Not even
- 55. Specific gravity
- 56. Engage in petty bargaining
- 58. Boxing's "GOAT"
- 59. Split between parties
- 60. Notable offensive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A place to lounge
- 2. Skewed views
- 3. Peacefully
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Auxiliary forces
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Take out again
- 8. Sharp and forthright
- 9. Knight (chess)
- 12. Source of fiber
- 13. Flesh covering some birds' beaks
- 17. Energy
- 19. Night monkeys genus
- 20. Small, sharp nails
- 21. Pleasant-smelling liquid
- 25. Affirms one's hold
- 29. CNN's founder
- 31. Texans can't forget it
- 32. "Oppenheimer" actor Matt
- 33. Expression
- 35. Vessel
- 38. Lacking poetic beauty
- 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
- 43. Sports personality
- 44. Robber
- 45. Liquefied natural gas
- 46. Snakelike fishes
- 47. The most worthless part of something
- 49. City in Crimea
- 56. Bad grades
- 57. Reichsmark



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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 a singer born in California on October 25, 1984. As the daughter of two pastors, I was only allowed to listen to Gospel music growing up. Eventually I found my way to popular music, and had several hits involving kissing, being a dream and having a tiger's eye.

Answer: Katy Perry

SUDOKU

Solutions →28

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

Level: Intermediate



Trunk-or-Treat Halloween

FRIDAY AT 6 P.M.

WEDNESDAY
10/23

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) RRCM 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

Wednesday Farmers' Market (Rutland)

9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Wednesdays) Depot Park, downtown Rutland. One of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year-round. vtfarmersmarket.org

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

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

CEDRR Annual Meeting

5-7 p.m. Paramount Theater, 30 Center St., Rutland. Join the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region for an evening of networking, food, and drinks. During the event, five teams from StartUp Rutland's generator Accelerator Program will compete in a live Pitch Competition. Awarded teams will receive services and support, provided their company remains in Rutland. rutlandvermont.com

Castleton Historical Society Potluck

6 p.m. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St., Castleton. Free. Castleton Historical Society annual potluck supper and business meeting, followed by a special program on Vermont's 250th anniversary commemorations, featuring guest speaker Laura Trieschmann, the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer and chair of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission. Bring a dish to share and a place setting. Wheelchair accessible. castletonvermont.org/home/pages/castleton-historical-society

An Evening of Bicycles & Pumpkins

6:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, Fox Room, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join storyteller Angus Chaney and illustrator Ethan Nelson for an evening of whimsical tales and illustrations from their Proto-Cycology series. Expect mountain biking myths, giant pumpkins, and farcical post-apocalyptic bike gangs. rutlandfree.org

Discussion with author Jackson Ellis

6:30 p.m. Phoenix Books, 2 Center St., Rutland. Free. Vermont author Jackson Ellis discusses his latest novel, "Black Days," in conversation with Asher Ellis. The story follows Daniel Fassett, a man who, after a near-death experience, hatches a plan to hibernate through winter, with unexpected consequences. phoenixbooks.biz/events

Wilson Castle Discussion

6:30 p.m. Castleton Free Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. Free. Join curator Douglas Probst for a discussion about Vermont's own Wilson Castle. Learn about the history and the spirits said to haunt this iconic destination for paranormal investigators. Hear spooky stories, see photos, and watch videos from ghost hunts. Light refreshments will be served. castletonfreelibrary.org

Green Mountain Fly Tyers Meeting: Fly Tying Demonstration

7:30 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St. The Green Mountain Fly Tyers present a demonstration by professional fly tyer Paul Buccheri, showcasing the techniques behind tying two flies, the Scraggly and the Brown and Black Woolly Bugger. Open to the public. greenmountainflytyers.com

THURSDAY
10/24

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

Mural of Memories Unveiling: Celebrating Older Vermonters

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Join SVCOA and VFFC for the unveiling of the "Mural of Memories," a tribute created by local artist Colleen Wilcox to honor the stories and contributions of older Vermonters. Lunch provided by VFFC and TRIO Community Meals. svcoa.org or contact jmortelliti@svcoa.net

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

Stories from the VT Queer Archives

12:30-2:30 p.m. Jeffords Auditorium, RM 122, 62 Alumni Dr., Castleton. Free. Meg Tamulonis discusses the VT Queer Archives and its documentation of milestones in LGBTQ+ history, including Pride events and legal rulings. Presented by the VTSU Castleton Soundings Program and Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau. vermonthumanities.org

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

Wheels for Warmth: Tire Drop-Off

2-6 p.m. Casella Construction, 1385 US Route 7, Pittsford. Donate good tires or discard worn-out tires for \$5 each. All proceeds support heating assistance through BROCC Community Action and Capstone. wheelsforwarmth.org

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

Pre- and Peri-Menopausal Preparedness

Masterclass

5:30 p.m. Wright's Mountain Wellness Collective, 214 Main St., Bradford. \$50. Join certified menopause coach Shayne Brunet for an educational masterclass on understanding hormones, nutrition, supplements, and treatment options for pre- and peri-menopause. Learn how to balance hormones and prepare for the menopausal transition. A gluten- and dairy-free meal provided. RSVP to shaynebrunetwellness@gmail.com

Myra Flynn at Fable Farm

5:30 p.m. The Rumney Barn at Fable Farm, 22 Orchard Hill Rd, Barnard. Pay what you can/want. Join singer/songwriter Myra Flynn for an evening of indie/soul music at the Rumney Sessions, the extended edition of the beloved Feast & Field event. Enjoy local food, wood-fired pizzas, and craft drinks. feast-field-at-fable-farm.square.site

Just Getting By – Film Screening and Q&A

6-8:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Film screening of "Just Getting By," a powerful documentary exploring food and housing insecurity in Vermont. Following the film, Director Bess O'Brien and local nonprofit leaders will participate in a panel Q&A. Learn more about the challenges facing Vermonters and the efforts to address them. pentanglearts.org/movies

Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense

Presentation

6:30 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N Main St., Fair Haven. Free. Join film historian Rick Winston for a presentation on filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock. Hosted by the Vermont Humanities Council and the Friends of the Library. Refreshments served. fairhavenfree.org

Documentary Club: "Ocean Deep" Screening & Discussion

6:30 p.m. Upper Valley Food Co-op, 193 N. Main St., White River Junction. Free screening of "Ocean Deep" from the Planet Earth series, followed by a discussion led by Olivia Streit from the New Hampshire Academy of Sciences. uppervalleyfood.coop/event-calendar

Open Mic Night

7-9 p.m. Artistree, 2095 Pomfret Rd. South Pomfret. All levels and abilities are welcome to participate in music open mic nights. Alternating Thurs. through Dec. 19. artistreevt.org.

Fierce Friday Halloween Edition

8-11 p.m. Rutland Elks Lodge, 44 Pleasant St., Rutland. \$25-\$30. Join Rutland County Pride for a thrilling night of drag performances featuring Donna Rhea, Bethadone Clinique, Carmen Gettit, and more. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. rpride.org/events-1/fierce-friday-halloween-edition

FRIDAY
10/25

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

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

Running Scared 5K

SATURDAY AT 9 A.M.



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

Lecture—Frano Violich

1 p.m. Chaplin Hall Gallery, Norwich University, Northfield. Free. Open to the public. Frano Violich, founding principal of KVA Matx, discusses his interdisciplinary design career, focusing on material fabrication, digital technology, and public building projects. norwich.edu

Osher Lecture: Behind the Scenes at the Olympic Games

1:30 p.m. The Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$8 for non-members. Sports journalist and author Peggy Shinn shares her experiences covering the Olympic Games from 2010 to 2024. Get a unique look at the highs and lows of the world's largest sporting event. Register at learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland

Wheels for Warmth: Tire Drop-Off

2-6 p.m. Casella Construction, 1385 US Route 7, Pittsford. Donate good tires or discard worn-out tires for \$5 each. All proceeds support heating assistance through BROCC Community Action and Capstone. wheelsforwarmth.org

Life & Death Tour of Billings Farm and Marsh

5-7 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd., Woodstock. \$18. \$16 for Billings Farm members. Costumed guides explore Victorian-era superstitions, mourning traditions, and stories of life and death at Billings Farm and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller estate. Intended for ages 13+. Advance tickets required. billingsfarm.org/events/life-and-death-tour/all

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. The Gymnasium, 11 Cottage St., Rutland. \$15. Pre-registration required by email to Karen at Vtwestiebest@gmail.com

HTRC's Raise the Roof Halloween Spooktacular

6 p.m. Southside Steakhouse, 170 S. Main St., Rutland. \$50. Join Community Health for the Housing Trust of Rutland County's annual Halloween party with food, music, dancing, and a photo booth. Proceeds support affordable housing initiatives in Rutland County. htrc.org

Haunted House

6-9 p.m. 426 Plains Rd., Pittsford. \$15 adults, \$5 children ages 6-12. Not recommended for children under 6. Join the spookiest event of the year at the Pittsford Haunted House, celebrating its 41st year. Tickets sold on-site at the gate.

Trunk-or-Treat Halloween

6-7:30 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library Parking Lot, Killington. Free. Join Killington's 3rd annual Trunk-or-Treat for trick-or-treating from decorated trunks, games, costume parade, live DJ, and costume contest. Best pumpkin contest—children must bring their already carved pumpkin for judging by 6:15 p.m. Open to children of all ages from Killington and neighboring towns. This year's event anticipates 100-125 children. killingtonvt.myrec.com

Kirtan at Body and Soles

7 p.m. Suite 208, 58 North Main St., White River Jct. Join Pure Kirtan's Angie, Josh, and Ko for an evening of uplifting spirit and grace through music. This event is by donation, and no pre-registration is required. angiefollensbeehall.com

Gemstone & Chocolate Tasting

7:30 p.m. The Spa at the Woodstock Inn & Resort, 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$30. Explore rare gemstones and artisan chocolates with expert Melissa from All The Brilliants and Vermont-made Tavernier Chocolates. Includes a welcome glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage. 21+ only. Call 802-457-6697 to sign up. woodstockinn.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

10/26

Wheels for Warmth: Tire Sale

8 a.m.-noon. Casella Construction, 1385 US Route 7, Pittsford. Purchase inspected tires for \$15-\$30. All proceeds support heating assistance through BROCC Community Action and Capstone. wheelsforwarmth.org

Running Scared 5K

9 a.m. Giorgetti Park, Oak St. Ext. Rutland. Put on your best costume and join us for the Running Scared 5K, a family-friendly race supporting the Rutland City Halloween Parade. The stroller-friendly route follows the Creek Path and is open to all ages. Prizes awarded for top finishers and best costumes. Registration closes October 24. For more details, visit rutlandrec.com

Woodstock Youth Hockey: Little Bruins "Learn to Play" Program

9 a.m. Union Arena, Woodstock. \$199. Ages 5-9. Try hockey with the Little Bruins "Learn to Play" program. The fee includes brand-new, head-to-toe hockey gear for each participant and four consecutive Saturday on-ice sessions. Open to beginners. For details and registration, visit leagueapps.com. Questions? Email wyhmanager@gmail.com

Arts & Crafts Fair

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

Halloween Happenings at the VINS

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Included with general admission. Pumpkin carving, scavenger hunt, Peeps & Squeaks for young children, predators of the sky, raptor feeding, scale and serpents, and songbird aviary tour. vinsweb.org

Beginning Tunisian Crochet

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E, Rutland. \$30. Learn the basics of Tunisian crochet with Ruth and create your own Purl Soho Tunisian Washcloth. Perfect for beginners. greenmountainfibers.com

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Saturdays) 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Assoc. Inc. See an operating HO scale model railroad set up and displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs, and memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. rutlandrailway.org

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

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

Rock Weaving Workshop

1-2:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E, Rutland. \$25. Learn how to weave a twill structure on a rock. The fee includes weaving needles. Participants must purchase 1 skein of Jamieson's of Shetland Spindrift yarn (available in-store) and bring a rectangular rock at least 2" in size. Register at greenmountainfibers.com

CHS Plant Workshop: The Invasives

2 p.m. Cavendish Town Library, 573 Main St., Proctorsville. Free. A Cavendish Historical Society workshop on invasive plants like Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, barberry, and more. Learn about their impact on ecosystems and their surprising medicinal uses. Dr. Charis Boke, Dartmouth faculty member and expert on contemporary herbalism, will lead the discussion. Call 802-226-7807 or e-mail margocaulfield@icloud.com

Life & Death Tour of Billings Farm and Marsh

4-6 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Rd., Woodstock. \$18. \$16 for Billings Farm members. Costumed guides explore Victorian-era superstitions, mourning traditions, and stories of life and death at Billings Farm and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller estate. Intended for ages 13+. Advance tickets required. billingsfarm.org/events/life-and-death-tour/all

Hoots & Howls

5:30-8 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$13-15. Children 3 and under free. Evening nature tour, lighted pumpkin forest, puppets and stories, and costumed fun. vinsweb.org

Weston Theater Company 2024 Gala Fundraiser

6 p.m. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. Enjoy an evening of cocktails, locally sourced fare from The Brownsville Butcher & Pantry, and live entertainment in celebration of Weston Theater Company. The event features a live auction with luxury items, a silent auction with over 25 items, and the chance to support the Malcolm Ewen Young Professional program. westontheater.org

Learn to Curl

6-8:30 p.m. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$40. Open to all ages 12 and up, this Learn to Curl event introduces the sport to newcomers. No prior experience is necessary, and all equipment is provided. The \$40 fee includes instruction on the basics of curling. uppervalleycurling.org.

63rd Annual Rutland City Halloween Parade

6:30 p.m. Downtown Rutland. Celebrate the 63rd annual Rutland City Halloween Parade, featuring creative floats from local schools, businesses, and community groups. This fun-filled event is a Rutland tradition. Watch for the unveiling of the Mystery Jack O'Lantern. rutlandrec.com/halloweenparade

Arts & Crafts Fair

SATURDAY AT 10 A.M.



Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 15



63rd Annual Rutland City Halloween Parade

SATURDAY AT 6:30 PM

Haunted House

6-9 p.m. 426 Plains Rd., Pittsford. \$15 adults, \$5 children ages 6-12. Not recommended for children under 6. Join the spookiest event of the year at the Pittsford Haunted House, celebrating its 41st year. Tickets sold on-site at the gate.

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 - 'Lee' (R)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Bio-pic about American photographer Lee Miller, starring Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, and Andy Samberg. Directed by Ellen Kuras. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Craig Ferguson Pants on Fire

8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$35-\$50. Age 16+. Emmy and Grammy-nominated comedian Craig Ferguson brings his stand-up to Rutland. Known for his sharp wit and diverse career in film, TV, and on stage, Ferguson promises a night of laughter. paramountvt.org

Gory Daze Parade

8-9 p.m. Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Free. Don your costumes and join the Gory Daze Parade led by the Brass Balagan. The parade will wind through downtown WRJ and end at Hotel Coolidge. mainstreetmuseum.org

Gory Daze Afforda-Ball

9 p.m. Briggs Opera House, South Main St., White River Junction. \$10. Dance the night away at the Gory Daze Afforda-Ball with live music by B-52.0's, a B-52's cover band. Cash bar available. mainstreetmuseum.org

Wobbly Barn Halloween Party

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn Nightclub, 2229 Killington Rd., Killington. Ticketed event. Halloween costume party, featuring DJ Stevie B and costume contests with big prizes. Best Costume wins a Killington Unlimited Season Pass, Best Couple's Costume gets 2 Pico Mountain Season Passes, and Best Group Costume earns dinner at the Wobbly Barn. All proceeds benefit Killington Fire & Rescue. Valid ID and costumes required for entry. Costume judging from 9-11 p.m. killington.com

SUNDAY
10/27

A Family Halloween: Spooktacular at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Free for children in costume with a ticketed adult. Enjoy costume parades, hayrides, crafts, pumpkin bowling, and explore the Farmstead Gardens. Seasonal treats available for purchase. billingsfarm.org/events/a-family-halloween-2024

11th Annual Firehouse Pancake Breakfast

7:30-10:30 a.m. Teago Fire Station, 2026 Pomfret Rd. South Pomfret. \$10. All-you-can-eat breakfast featuring pancakes, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, coffee, and cider. All proceeds benefit the Pomfret-Teago Fire Department.

Community Road Race & Block Party

9 a.m.-3 p.m. 66 Cascadnac Ave, White River Jct. Free. A fun-filled day of running, walking, BBQ, and snacks! Feel free to bring food to share or donate for block print shirt-making supplies. Race day sign-up available. abbiecastriotta@gmail.com

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

Honey Field Halloween

Noon-4 p.m. Honey Field Farm, 55 Butternut Rd, Norwich. \$5 per carload. Enjoy family-friendly Halloween activities including games, scavenger hunts, a haunted house, face painting, pumpkin painting, spooky crafts, and more. Perfect for little adventurers, with an extra spooky section for older kids. honeyfieldfarmvt.com/eventsFair

Haven Charter Day: "A Dramatic

Constitution" Presentation

2 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 N Main St., Fair Haven. Free. The Fair Haven Historical Society celebrates the town's

245th anniversary with a presentation by Dr. Meg Mott, Professor Emerita of constitutional law. Seating is limited. Refreshments served following the event. fairhavenvt.gov

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

Pittsford Halloween Spooktacular

2-4 p.m. Pittsford Recreation Area, 223 Recreation Area Rd. Pittsford. Trunk-or-treat, pumpkin painting, Halloween crafts, and trunk-or-treat contest for favorite decorated trunk. Hosted by Lothrop PTO, Pittsford Rec, Maclure Library, and Pittsford Village Farm. pittsfordvillagefarm.org

Movie - 'Lee' (R)

3-5 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Bio-pic about American photographer Lee Miller, starring Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, and Andy Samberg. Directed by Ellen Kuras. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Library Halloween Party

3-5 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Explore the haunted library with games, activities, and seasonal snacks. Costumes encouraged. Children under 11 must be accompanied by a caregiver 14 or older. normanwilliams.org

Para La Tierra Gala Dinner

5 p.m. Woodstock Inn and Resort, Woodstock. Annual Para La Tierra gala dinner, featuring a three-course autumn meal prepared by Chef Matthew McClure. The menu includes roasted squash, oxtail ragu, and white chocolate pumpkin cheesecake. Enjoy a night of delicious food and exciting auction items, all in support of reforestation efforts in Costa Rica and the local work of Change the World Kids in Vermont. For more information and tickets, visit changetheworldkids.com

MONDAY
10/28

Community Lunch

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

Monday Movie

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

Free Yoga on Mondays

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

Movie - 'Lee' (R)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Grn #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Bio-pic about American photographer Lee Miller, starring Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, and Andy Samberg. Directed by Ellen Kuras. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

TUESDAY
10/29

Met Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann Live in HD

1-5 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$20 + fees. Offenbach's Les Contes d'Hoffmann kicks off the Metropolitan Opera's season of Live in HD performances, starring Benjamin Bernheim as Hoffmann, with Erin Morley, Pretty Yende, and Clementine Margaine as his three loves. paramountvt.org

Handcraft Gathering

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

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

ONGOING

Colorful Barn Quilts Created by Math Students

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

Reimagined ... The Art of Recycling

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

The Great Pumpkin Costume Contest: Foam Pumpkins Available

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

Local Color Exhibit Reception

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

IBC Stick Figure Installation in Fair Haven Park

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

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
10/23

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 – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND

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

THURS
10/24

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Sammy B

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic hosted by Krishna Guthrie

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

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – Open Mic

SOUTH ROYALTON

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Nick Bredice

FRI
10/25

BARNARD

7:30 p.m. Town Hall – Young Frankenstein

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. The Foundry – Nancy & Barry

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

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Halloween Party with Wally & Geoff

8 p.m. The North Star Lodge – Arc Light

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Carl Anton

LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Krishna Guthrie

QUECHEE

4 p.m. Vermont Spirits – Jazz Trio with Grace Wallace, Billy Rose and Peter Concilio

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Kind Bud

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room - Halloween Show with The Village Idiots and Of Conscious Mind

RUTLAND

6:30 p.m. Hathaway Farm – Cornmaze and Outdoor Movie

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

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – DJ EG

SAT
10/26

BARNARD

7:30 p.m. Town Hall – Young Frankenstein

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – George Nostrand

BRANDON

7 p.m. Town Hall – Brandon Town Players: Radio Shows

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rick Webb

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

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Halloween Party with Wally & Geoff

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Josh Jakob

8 p.m. The North Star Lodge – Arc Light

LONDONDERRY

5 p.m. Magic Mountain's Black Line Tavern – Nick Bredice

LUDLOW

7 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jennings and McComber

RUTLAND

9 p.m. (Immediately after Parade) The Mad Rose – Halloween Party with DJ Flood and Tarot Readings with Jessica

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – DJ EG's Annual Boogie Bash & Costume Contest

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Twigg & Jeff

SUN
10/27

BARNARD

2 p.m. Town Hall – Young Frankenstein

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

2 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Jeremiah Strauss

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

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

LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Nick Bredice

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Grace Church – Illuminaire: An Evening of Poetry and Music

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
10/28

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Jim Yeager

TUES
10/28

KILLINGTON

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

PITTSFIELD

6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

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

GOLD SPONSORS: Rutland Regional Medical Center, Killington, HERITAGE FAMILY CREDIT UNION, Community Health, CARRIS, VELCO

SEASON SPONSORS: FOLEY, M&T Bank, ACE, PEGGY, SAMESUN

UPCOMING SHOWS

VISIT PARAMOUNTVT.ORG FOR THE COMPLETE LISTING

CRAIG FERGUSON PANTS ON FIRE

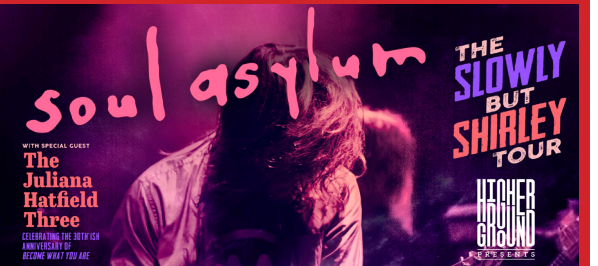


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:00 PM

The Metropolitan Opera



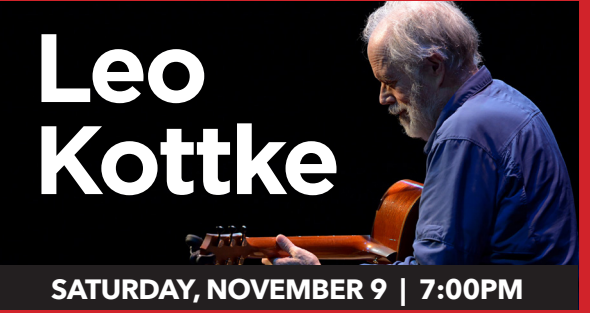
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OFFENBACH
LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN
Tuesday, October 29 | 1 PM



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 7:30 PM



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 | 7:00 PM



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 7:00PM

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Killington and Pittsford: A tale of two haunts

By James Kent

Perhaps all of the recent construction in Killington is to blame for stirring up nearby spooky spirits because this past weekend, more than a few of these seasonal haunters had taken up residence in the basement of the Killington Welcome Center.

The frights began last Thursday, Oct. 17, when the spirits leaned a bit on their gentler nature. Halloween is a time for scares and fun, and this night was all about the young adventurers seeking thrills. The ghosts at the Killington Welcome Center flicked on the lights for the first hour of this evening so the grade school area kids could enjoy all of the creepy without all the nightmares.

One 7-year-old thrill seeker we know was apprehensive about going through the haunted house at first, but after two more walkthroughs, she was ready to go for a third run with all her classmates. The kids attending the family-friendly version of the Killington haunted house deemed it a success.

On Friday night, some of us older thrill seekers (me, my wife, and my nearly 13-year-old) dipped in to take a lap at the Killington Haunted House to see what was real. We arrived before the crowds hit, and the wait times grew. A mystical wizard was our tour guide through the basement. Once inside, our pent-up trepidation was not without merit. There were most assuredly some scares to be had amongst the fine assortment of haunted décor, courtesy of a recent generous donation of Halloween supplies to the Killington/Pico Area Association (KPAA), and these impressive accouterments added authenticity to the experience.

Again, a haunted house shouldn't be all jump scares and ghoulish trimmings—you need a little humor and fun to cut the tension, lighten the mood, and lower the blood pressure. And here, the Killington Haunted House did not disappoint. Our wizardly guide took us through the ghoulish Butcher of Bakersfield's shop, where the one-liners and banter were non-stop. The Butcher of Bakersfield was definitely a highlight of the tour.

A final delight of the evening occurred at the tour's end. We came out of the basement and into an elaborate haunted dining setup. Beyond that room, we entered the main welcome center, where delicious baked treats awaited our purchase. Our youngest tour member enjoyed a cake pop while my wife took comfort in a tasty rice crispy treat.

This past weekend marked the inaugural running of the Killington Haunted House at the Welcome Center, and there is no doubt this event has all the potential to become a seasonal favorite. Kelly Morrisey, director of the KPAA, said this first go around met their expectations regarding attendance, and the haunted house will return as an annual signature event.

Over on the other side of the pass

We had so much fun at the Killington Haunted House, our desire for more frightful delights lifted our spirits enough to tempt fate and head out on Saturday night for another spooky adventure. This time, we were off to Pittsford to brave the legendary Pittsford Haunted House, put on by the Pittsford Volunteer Fire Department.

The Pittsford Haunted House, nestled in an abandoned children's hospital up a long wooded hill, has a well-established 40-plus-year street cred amongst aficionados of Halloween fright activities. For many folks in the area, it's an annual ritual for the season and not to be missed despite long lines that can keep latecomers waiting well into the late hours of the evening.

Our family had heard all about the Pittsford Haunted House since moving to Vermont 10 years ago, but until this past weekend, we had never been. It sounded too scary for our kids when they were small, and then the pandemic came (which was frightening enough) so we just never made it. But this year, we were ready. Our oldest was unavailable to attend, so once more, it was a party of three: me, the wife, and the 12-year-old.

One critical piece of information we learned from the people we spoke to about the Pittsford Haunted House is you need to come early. Officially, the haunted house is open from 6-9 p.m. Unofficially, they don't close until the last person has made it through the tour (alive). But, if you don't arrive before 9 p.m., you won't get to go on the tour.

We arrived at 5:30 p.m., where a long line awaited us. At 6 p.m., the volunteers began taking people up the hill in hitched wagons that looked to hold 100 people per wagon. It took us an hour to reach the ticket-purchasing window and board a wagon.

At 6:30 p.m., the sky wasn't quite in its complete darkness, but it was still plenty dark to add mystery and uncertainty to our journey through the woods, our path lined by lit tiki torches. Saturday was a pleasant fall night; the temperature was warmer than Friday, and there was no breeze—perfect conditions for such an autumnal activity.



Eye-popping decorations delighted crowds at the Killington Welcome Center's first annual Haunted House.

By Polly Mikula

But then, we entered Clown Town.

Clowns are this year's overarching theme of the Pittsford Haunted House, and if you are someone with a deep fear of clowns (I know people have coulrophobia), I'd say you don't want to go to the Pittsford Haunted House. Of course, if your goal is to try and overcome your coulrophobia, this event could be your best shot—or it could just make things worse for you.

Passing through Clown Town on our way up to the main house was our first taste of the horror-filled fun in store for our evening in Pittsford. Scary clowns raced to our wagons, scaring passengers with loud, buzzing chainsaws. At one point, I lost sight of my wife, who'd shifted her position from an outer wagon seat to an inside one for safety. Uncertainly filled her face, but it was too late to turn around now. We came for the haunted experience and were going to get it.

Upon arrival at the house, it was time for another wait in a queued line. The Pittsford Haunted House is not a quick walkthrough, and they let in groups of 5-6 people in 5-minute intervals, so we were in for another 90-minute wait for our turn inside. And that was okay

because the fine folks running the haunted house understood the value of keeping waiting folks entertained. Set up alongside the house was a stage set where the Bones Brothers performed for the crowd.

The Bones Brothers, a mock band decked out in skeleton costumes with instruments, mime their way through DJ-played rock and country hits that had the crowds in line grooving and dancing while the Bones Brothers provided additional entertainment. It's all a show that generates an atmosphere worthy of the \$15 per adult ticket charge. Our 12-year-old qualified for the \$5 under 13 price.

Food stations were also available at strategic points throughout the line. Sodas, snacks, hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, and fried dough, your standard festival fare, were readily available for purchase, so if you forgot to eat dinner before you arrived, there was no need to go hungry in line. Portable toilets were also on the premises.

At various times during our wait, some familiar horror characters appeared to frighten and delight the crowd. Beetlejuice and Lydia Deets popped on through the line, as did Leatherface. Stalking the queue was Haddonfield's infamous resident, Michael Myers. Setup

Haunts→20



The Bones Brothers Band keeps things lively outside the Pittsford Haunted House.

By James Kent

Wobbly Barn Halloween party to support Killington Fire & Rescue

Saturday, Oct. 26 at 9 p.m.—KILLINGTON—The Wobbly Barn Nightclub will open its doors for its annual Halloween party, with proceeds going to support Killington Fire & Rescue. This year, the event requires purchasing advanced tickets to ensure smoother entry and to prevent turning people away at the door.

Burlington's DJ Stevie B will kick off the night, bringing music and energy to the event.

Entry to this event requires costumes, and with big prizes up for grabs in the costume contest, the more elaborate the costume, the better.

Prizes include:

- Best costume prize: Killington Unlimited Season Pass
- Best couple's costume prize: 2 Pico Mountain Season Passes
- Best group costume prize: Dinner at the Wobbly Barn

Proceeds from ticket sales will support Killington Fire & Rescue, making this a festive event with a meaningful cause. The party offers a chance to enjoy a great night out while helping the local community.

For tickets and more information, visit killington.com.



Courtesy Wobbly Barn

It's time to get costumed up for a night of Halloween fun at the Wobbly Barn.

Celebrate Halloween Fun at Honey Field Farm

Sunday, Oct. 27, Noon-4 p.m. — NORWICH — Stop by Honey Field Farm, for a family-friendly Honey Field Halloween event. Activities include a kid's haunted house with sections for all ages, face painting, pumpkin painting, and spooky crafts at DIY stations. Classic Halloween games will provide entertainment, while trick-or-treating will occur from 12:30-2 p.m. The Box Food Truck will offer San Diego/Baja-style Mexican food on-site. Admission is \$5 per carload. Costumes are encouraged, and all are welcome.

For more information, visit honeyfieldfarmvt.com/events.



Courtesy of Honey Field Farm

Honey Field Farm's Halloween event has fun for every age.

Mystery Jack O' Lantern contest returns

RUTLAND — Just in time for Halloween, the Mystery Jack O' Lantern contest is back for another year of fun! A tradition of the Rutland Halloween Parade, this contest keeps participants guessing until the big reveal at the parade's finale. Rutland residents of all ages are invited to solve the riddle and submit their guesses for a chance to win frightful prizes.

This year's contest introduces a brand-new pumpkin head for the Mystery Jack O' Lantern, as the previous one retires after years of service. The Mystery Jack O' Lantern will ride on a Haunted Island-themed float designed by Miss Lorraine's School of Dance.

The following riddle offers plenty of clues for Rutland residents to uncover the identity of the Mystery Jack:

"Gather round, Rut-riddlers, it's that spine-chilling time,
When pumpkins grin, and curses bind,
Darkness creeps as shadows grow,
With mysteries only the strange can know.
The 64th Halloween Parade is nearly here,
And the Mystery Jack O' Lantern draws near!
Guess who's lurking behind the mask,
Solve the riddle—it's no easy task.

This Jack is tall, with a Bostonian start,
Yet Rutland holds a place deep in their heart.
From teaching teens to a leader's post,
They've haunted the schools, like a friendly ghost.

A quiet soul, but don't be fooled,
They're the reason learning is cool.
They recently traveled to Japan,
And taught and lived in far-off lands.

They savor lobster, pizza, and lasagna too,
But if you need more clues, here's a few:
They've crossed paths with three popes and a president,
Glimpses of history, rare and eminent.

So who's the figure behind the Jack?
A sage in learning, now stepping back,
A community legend with a heart true,
The answer to this riddle rests with you!"



Courtesy Come Alive Outside

Residents can submit their guesses online at comealiveoutside.com by Friday, Oct. 25, at midnight. Winners will be drawn from correct guesses and awarded special prizes on Oct. 29.

For more information, visit comealiveoutside.com.

← **Haunts:**
from page 18

next to the Bone Brothers' stage was a witchy hangout where a couple of the Sanderson Sisters were holding court. All of this fun helped distract from the wait time, and from thinking about the frights that lay in store once you get inside the actual haunted house.

At last, it was our turn to go inside the Pittsford Haunted House. Our group consisted of five, including two young boys who thought themselves brave enough to go inside without their parents. These two (Carl and his buddy), who we placed somewhere around 10 years of age, were all bragging and blustering during most of the wait time, but they became a bit more unsure and worried as they got close to entering the house.

Our group was assigned a front and back guide, intimidating and scary-costumed clowns. Our back clown was a familiar face: Art the Clown from the "Terrifier" film series. He didn't speak much, but he menacingly cackled a lot—mostly any time we bumped into a wall or screamed from one of the many horror "pop out jump scares" awaiting us inside.

I won't spoil all the surprising, fun, and terrifying things we encountered during our 25-minute tour through the haunted house, but I can say there were various inventive horror-themed rooms inside, each with its unique flavor and spin. Some were heavy on the scares, others leaned more on fun, originality and showcasing their talent of a well-executed and designed scare room. Extra impressive was one section devoted to "Beetlejuice" that knocked our socks off.

Poor Carl and his buddy survived the experience, but not before enduring some pretty hefty scares. The ghouls inside the house stuck Carl inside a coffin, shut the lid on him, and made our group leave Carl before releasing him. And when Carl loudly proclaimed to his friend that he hoped there wouldn't be anyone with chainsaws coming, he was thoroughly chased by two chainsaw-wielding creepers. Do yourself a favor: if you are in a haunted house and hear the sounds of chainsaws in the distance, don't announce to the two creepy clowns leading you through the tour that you are afraid of chainsaws.

My wife survived the experience—barely, and my 12-year-old had a blast. He caught up with some school friends on the wagon ride back down the hill, and they compared notes as to which part was their favorite. We heard from other riders that the first night of the Haunted House (that Friday) had about 600 visitors, a surprisingly low number for opening night. Still, on this Saturday, our estimations based on the crowds at the top of the hill and the long lines still waiting to go up by the time we got back down had to have made Saturday a good 1,500 people.

All in all, this past weekend was a delightful one to experience two different local haunted attractions, and we're already looking forward to 2025. While Killington's signature haunted house will need to wait until next October for new visitors, the Pittsford Haunted House is open this Friday and Saturday (Oct. 25-26) for one more weekend of thrills. Enter if you dare!



By Polly Mikula
Visitors explored the spooky sights at Killington Welcome Center's first annual Haunted House.



By James Kent
You're guaranteed a spooky fun time at the Pittsford Haunted House.



Killington native Charmaine Willis publishes groundbreaking book on economic sanctions

Charmaine N. Willis, a native of Killington and political science scholar, recently published "Trading with Pariahs: Trade Networks and the Failure of Economic Sanctions." This new book, co-authored with Keith A. Preble, examines the effectiveness of economic sanctions, particularly its impact on countries considered international "pariah states" due to their violations of international norms.

In "Trading with Pariahs," Willis and Preble utilize social network analysis to explore how sanctions alter trade networks of targeted states like North Korea and Iran. The book sheds light on how some states manage to maintain or even enhance trade relationships despite sanctions while others experience significant disruptions. Drawing on data from the UN Comtrade system, the authors show that while sanctions can drastically change trading patterns for some countries, others, such as Myanmar, see little impact due to their reliance on key trading partners who refuse to impose sanctions.

The book unravels the theory of "weaponized interdependence," which posits

that the success of sanctions depends heavily on who imposes them. Sanctions by the "right" sender states—those that hold leverage in global trade networks—are more likely to achieve their goals. However, as Willis and Preble argue, isolationist strategies alone are insufficient, and a broader strategy to effectively change the behavior of pariah states must support these sanctions.

Willis, who earned her PhD in Political Science from the University at (SUNY) Albany, has long had an interest in international relations and economic policy. Her research focuses on understanding the real-world effects of sanctions and other international economic tools, with a particular emphasis on their geopolitical implications. In her book, she explores why sanctions on North Korea have largely failed to change its behavior, attributing this failure to North Korea's ability to shift its trade to countries willing to bypass international sanctions.

Raised in Killington, Willis has since lived in Maine, Washington, DC, and New York. She is an avid traveler, having visited numerous countries across Europe, Willis → 22



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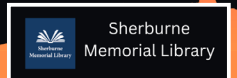
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killington market

Killington Market

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← Willis from page 21



Asia, and North America for work and leisure. When not working on her research, she enjoys knitting, watching "Star Trek," and spending time with her husband, Scott, and their two dogs, Jelly Bean and Norah. Willis's book, "Trading with Pariahs," is now available on Amazon. It is a critical contribution to understanding international economic sanctions and how global trade networks influence their success or failure. For local readers, it's also an opportunity to celebrate a Killington native's remarkable academic achievement.

Wallingford Village Market and Mamma Tamara hold grand opening celebration

Saturday, Oct. 26, from noon to 7 p.m. —WALLINGFORD—Celebrate The Wallingford Village Market and Mamma's at the Market's joint grand opening this Saturday. The event, held at the Village Market's location on Main Street, just south of the intersection of Routes 7 and 140, announces the joining of two local establishments. Attendees can enjoy food samples, meet local suppliers, and taste some of Mamma Tamara's Italian specialties throughout the day.

Wallingford Village Market, a project spearheaded by owner Monica DeLorme, aims to offer a community hub for groceries, fresh produce, and prepared foods. Since its soft opening in August, the market has become a key destination in Wallingford, providing locals and visitors with healthy options, including grab-and-go sandwiches and gourmet pizza nights.

"We've heard from so many people how much having a market in town means to them," DeLorme said. "We're excited to grow and continue offering more products based on community feedback"

Mamma Tamara, known for her southern Italian cooking, relocated her business into the market's kitchen, offering favorites such as lasagna, pasta Bolognese, and cheesesteaks. Tamara Musto is eager to see familiar faces and welcome new customers to her new home at the market.

The grand opening will feature Italian food samples, exclusive deals, and the opportunity to get to know the faces behind the two businesses. Both the Wallingford Village Market and Mamma's at the Market are open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more info, visit wallingfordvillagemarket.com



Views of the new Wallingford Village Market, located at 15 S. Main Street, Wallingford.

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Pittsford Village Farm hosts Turkey Trot Fun Run

Pre-register by Oct. 28—PITTSFORD—Get ready to lace up your sneakers for a great cause! The annual Turkey Trot Fun Run takes place at Pittsford Village Farm on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The event raises funds to support Pittsford Christmas For Kids, providing gifts and holiday joy to families in need.

This rain-or-shine 5K run through the picturesque surroundings of Pittsford Village Farm offers prizes to the top three finishers, including a turkey donated by Kamuda's Market, a breakfast basket from the Maple Museum, and two apple pies from Unity Wellness Farm in Proctor.

The deadline for pre-registration is Oct.28. Those who pre-register by this date will be guaranteed an event shirt. The entry fee is \$15 for pre-registered participants, while day-of-race registration will cost \$20. Participants can register online via the Pittsford Village Farm website or submit their forms to Pittsford Auto by mail, drop-off, or Venmo.

Help spread the word and secure your spot (and your shirt)! For more information and to register, visit pittsfordvillagefarm.org/events.

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1970s Killington skiers reunited for a night of fun and memories

Roughly 75 people relived Killington's 1970s glory days, turning back the hands of time last Saturday, Oct. 19, at Charity's 1887 Saloon.

"It was a joyous afternoon filled with getting reacquainted, reminiscing, and just plain fun at this skiers' reunion," said Jack Oliver who helped organize the event.

The event was held at Charity's 1887 Saloon and put together with the assistance of Chris Carr, Carol Moriarty, Nancy Finn, Stacey Maznio and Jack Oliver.

"It was so much fun, that everyone agreed it should be an annual event," said Oliver. "See you next year?"



By Jack Oliver

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Wheels for Warmth provides opportunity to help your community by donating or purchasing tires

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 24-25, from 2-6 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m.-noon.—PITTSFORD—Wheels for Warmth is back, offering an excellent opportunity to give back to the community while ensuring you're ready for winter. Whether you have tires to donate or need affordable tires for the cold months ahead, this event has you covered. Proceeds from the sale and collection of tires support heating assistance for families in need, thanks to BROCC Community Action and Capstone.

Tire Drop-Off Details:

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2-6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 25, 2-6 p.m.

Location: Casella Construction, 1385 US Route 7, Pittsford

Donate good tires or discard worn-out tires for \$5 each.

Your tire donations will help raise funds for heating assistance to those in need. Discarded tires will help improve the environment by keeping them out of our streams and landfills.

Tire Sale Details:

Saturday, Oct. 26, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Location: Casella Construction, 1385 US Route 7, Pittsford

Inspected tires will be sold for \$15-\$30 each, offering an affordable option for those in need of good winter tires.

All proceeds from the sale go directly to supporting local families with heating assistance through BROCC Community Action and Capstone.

Why Participate?

Money raised provides heating fuel to those in need during the winter.

Affordable, inspected tires help ensure safer driving before winter hits.

Environmental impact: Keeps bad tires off the roads and discarded tires out of streams.

This event is a win-win-win for the community, offering a chance to support local families, improve road safety, and protect the environment.

For more information, visit wheelsforwarmth.org.



Courtesy of wheelsforwarmth.org

BarnArts is getting Abby-Normal for 'Young Frankenstein'



By Linda Treash

The Monster (Greg Pomeroy) proves he's a cultured man as he performs "Puttin' on the Ritz" with his creator (Fergus Ryan).

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2 p.m.—BARNARD—\$18-25. BarnArts kicks off its production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" at Barnard Town Hall this weekend. Running through Nov. 3, this adaptation of the classic 1973 film promises an evening of laughter and spooky fun, perfect for Halloween.

Directed by BarnArts Executive Director Linda Treash, this production, based on Brooks' satirical take on the Frankenstein legend, provides audiences with all the beloved lines and characters from the movie, brought to life with new energy in the form of catchy songs and dance numbers. This version of Young Frankenstein offers a slightly toned-down experience from the film, making it suitable for wider audiences while keeping Brooks' signature style of humor intact.

BarnArts' cast is a mix of seasoned performers and newcomers. Fergus Ryan leads as Dr. Frankenstein, with Greg Pomeroy making his BarnArts debut as the Monster. Familiar faces like Jill Clough (Igor) and Adrienne Sass (Frau Blücher) add their special comedic touches to this quirky ensemble. Taylor Herbel joins as Inga, while Killian White portrays Frederick's fiancée, Elizabeth. Supporting the cast is an ensemble of passionate villagers and medical students, rounding out the production's vibrant community feel.

The show also brings some new elements to the BarnArts stage. The production will feature projection art created by Corey Doughty and AJ Davis to enhance the set design, with August Doughty crafting costumes that will surely dazzle. A team of dedicated crew members, including Stage Manager Frankie Bouchard and Master Carpenter Eben Farinas, ensure the chaos onstage is smoothly executed behind the scenes.

BarnArts is no stranger to putting on engaging and fun productions. "We had such a great time with 'The Addams Family' in 2022," says Director Linda Treash. "We knew 'Young Frankenstein' would be the perfect follow-up, offering just the right mix of laughter and creativity as we head into the colder months."

Opening weekend performances begin Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-26, at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee performance on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2 p.m., and additional shows running through Nov. 3.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit barnarts.org

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Crossword

Solutions from page 15

		C	B	S		A	M	T	R	A	K			
		H	I	E		D	I	R	E	C	T			
B	C	A	A	R		L	I	N	E					
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				D	I	C	K	E	R		A	L	I	
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Sudoku

Solutions from page 15

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

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MAJOR

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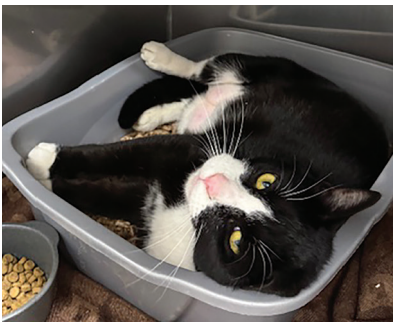
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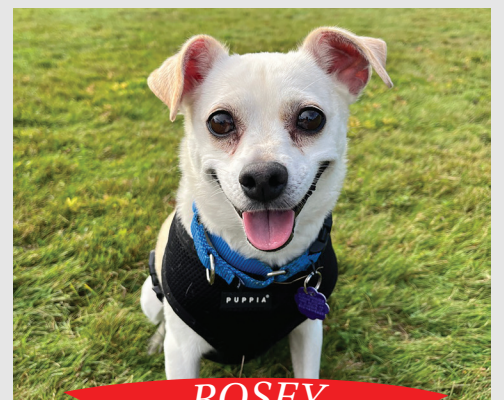
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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

This is your season to really pierce the veil of everything you think and know. Of course, there is always an option to ignore the things you cannot see. However, if you choose to do that, the problems you're currently avoiding will only grow worse. Whether it's emotional or financial, or you're facing family or living situation issues, you must dig deeper than what you think the problems are. Do tread carefully and sensitively, though.

Leo July 21 - August 20

Instead of radiating your light anywhere and everywhere, you're being asked to focus your energy at home. It's one thing to be kicking goals at work, with study or other personal priorities you have, but it's also important to not ignore the reason why you do everything you do. You may have to find ways to incorporate your big-picture aspirations, including those of your family. The best of both worlds is possible if you want that.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

Your stars are actually quite good right now. As the road rises up to meet you, things may start to work in your favor. This may give you some much-needed time for personal reflection and relaxation. While this may seem counterintuitive to you right now, look at it like this—the longer you take to draw back your bow, the more likely you'll hit your target. Do take the time you need to decide what it is you really want!

Taurus April 21 - May 20

The spotlight is now shining bright on your relationships, including the personal and professional. This may be a little uncomfortable as you may need to see things that were either hidden from you or you just chose not to see a situation for exactly what it was. Be honest with yourself, first and foremost. This isn't the time to trade in all your newfound authenticity for a little bit of comfort or familiarity.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

You don't have to stick with a mistake just because you spent a long time making it. Not that you've made a mistake, per se. It's more that you're probably trying to fix an issue or a problem when it's likely best that you sever ties from it. Sometimes, you must admit that an external circumstance isn't yours to correct. The only thing you have to get right is how you think about it. It's ok to change your mind.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

If you need an escape from the grind, then your friends, groups and communities may be just the outlet you need. The more you can do for your extended circle, not only will you feel better, but your life will also get better. If you've been frustrated by the lack of progress in an area of life, rather than complain about it and hope it will change, do something. Action is really the only thing that can generate change.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

You might begin to feel the intensification of the pressure you've been under recently. That said, good things will result if you can keep focus. Don't allow things that detract from your energy to derail you from what is important. This week, do remember that if it's not in your hands, then it's not on your mind. Focus on what your priorities are and let peripheral issues stay exactly there, on the periphery.

Libra September 21 - October 20

If your confidence has taken a hit recently, then it's time to adjust your position. A strategic approach with cash may be what is required now. Do you do what you've always done or try a new approach? More often than not, you have to take some kind of action rather than no action at all. Make a choice and then stick to your guns about it. This isn't the time to be uncertain or indecisive.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

It's time for you to put your hands back on the wheel. You've had a break and hopefully had some rest. That said, resting on your laurels is the last thing you can afford to do right now. This week, give some thought to the direction you want your life to go in – both professionally and personally. Taking charge now will help you get on the front foot prior to life throwing you another curve ball. Taking action will help you gain confidence, too.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

What is life if you're not living it to the fullest? To be fair, most of us simply can't be doing what we want when we want it. Though it would be nice sometimes, wouldn't it? That said, there is no reason why you can't make living your best life a priority at least some of the time. Even little things matter. Spritzing on perfume you reserve for special occasions or light candles while you eat dinner can make you feel good – then, life will be good.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

The Sun arrives in your sign this week, heralding the annual season of You! This time around, the Sun may be a little bit more reflective or even angsty as you realize you may be facing problems or issues that will need fixing in your life. As your personal compass undergoes a recalibration period over the next few months, do know that what you want now may not be what you want by the time this process is over.

Pisces February 21 - March 20

Now and then, it's beneficial and necessary to take a step back and look at your life's big picture. Maybe it's about having something to aim for or to strive toward. This week, give some thought to the ways in which you need to nourish your soul. Faith and philosophy could be a theme. Perhaps you need a holiday. Whatever it is, cast your gaze – literally or metaphorically upon broader horizons than you currently are.

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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.

The dark creeps upon the light

It is the season where the dark creeps up on the light. In many cultures throughout the world, what we call “Scorpio Season” is the time of year when the veil between this realm and the next grows thin.

In the ancient traditions of the far North, the children would embark upon a journey to the ancestral burial mounds to recover treasures from their ancestors and remember their past life. This tradition has morphed into children dressing up in scary costumes in the hunt for candy, which we now call Halloween. When the veil is thin, and we are brave



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

enough to peek through it, we’ll glean insights into who we were, who we are, and what we still can be. Some may need to do battle with ghosts and ghouls or what would be known as inner demons. For others, the journey will be sweeter than expected.

For those unwilling to see the darkness we all have within, the darkness will have no choice but to consume the light. As my own son said to me yesterday, “Mum, Limp Bizkit was right, you know, because hate is all the world has ever seen lately.” The song “Take a Look Around” might be what you need to do this week.

In ‘The Substance,’ beauty is in the eye(s) of the beholder(s)

Satirical horror is back in a big way with “The Substance”

Those lamenting the death of cinema need only know where to look for its rebirth. In the 1960s, when Hollywood lost touch with the tastes of a changing audience, filmgoers searching for the daring, the new, and the fresh turned their eyes to international cinema. Perhaps that is the starting place to breathe fresh air into the cinematic lungs of a gasping industry trying to find itself in this post-pandemic streaming era.

In recent years, South Korean auteurs Bong Joon Ho and Park Chan-wook have dazzled American audiences with their films “Parasite” and “Decision to Leave.” Last year’s award-winning “Anatomy of a Fall” from French director Justine Triet added to the recent crop of exciting European films from Norway’s Kristoffer Borgli and France’s Julia Ducournau and Céline Sciamma. The



Screens and Streams
By James Kent

latest find from France is director Coralie Fargeat. Fargeat’s first feature, 2018’s “The Revenge,” got the conversation going with its unique spin on the revenge genre. But even the fans of that film, and “The Revenge” does have a devoted fan base, couldn’t possibly have seen Fargeat’s follow-up, “The Substance,” coming.

“The Substance” debuted at Cannes this past spring, where it caused a sensation and won Best Screenplay. It’s an English-language film starring Demi Moore and Margaret Qualley, with a supporting performance by Dennis Quaid. This independent film didn’t score much of a release when it came to theaters several weeks ago. The film is now available to stream on-demand, and when it hits one of the mainstream streamers, I’m sure people will

Screens and Streams → 35

Bring on the snow!

As New Englanders, we are a rare breed. While people elsewhere are dreading the change from the bright and warm summer fading into a gray and humbling winter, we have been waiting for this all year. The snow is a chance to prove ourselves to ourselves. To challenge ourselves. To cleanse ourselves, in a way, from all that has happened since last winter. We can feel the cold in our blood.

Very few things in Vermont are accomplished through the easiest method. We boil the



Dream in Color
By Will O'Donnell

kettle to fill the French press. We use the cloth napkins. We travel only north to south, making a 20 mile drive take well over an hour. We live in one of the toughest climates in the world. Whatever we do out here, we have to work hard for it.

Soon we will be visited by thousands, who look to peek their head into our snow globe. To catch a glimpse into our tightly woven ecosystem. Where new folks from all over head up the hill and can give a wave to Santa watching over us from the Killington Mall.

Dream in Color → 35

The Not-So-Itsy-Bitsy Joro Spider

‘Tis the season for spooky stories, and just in time for Halloween, the spider that news headlines have described as “giant,” “flying,” and “venomous” has made its way to New England. While it may be a nightmare for anyone with arachnophobia, the invasive Joro spider (*Trichonephila clavata*) is quite docile and, if given a choice, will run rather than attack. It also doesn’t have wings, and its venom is not harmful to humans.

The reference to flight comes from the Joro spider’s propensity to ballooning – a process by which spiders move through the air on silk threads, which they release to catch a ride on the wind. Naturally, the spiders disperse at a rate of about 10 miles per year; any long-distance travel is a result of human transport. The Joro spider’s venom effectively subdues insects and small vertebrates, but a bite is less painful for humans than a bee sting.

Native to parts of Asia, the Joro spider was first reported in the United States in Georgia in 2014 and has spread across the Southeast. Earlier this year, scientists predicted the species would soon spread up the East Coast, and in September, there were reports of six Joro spiders near Philadelphia and a single pregnant female in Boston. With the spider’s tolerance for cold temperatures, scientists expect them to continue spreading northward.

The Joro spider belongs to the orb-weaver family, whose members are known for their spiral wheel-shaped webs. Joro spider webs are extremely strong and can stretch up to 10 feet across, with support strands that may be more than 20 feet long. These webs can extend between the tops of trees and can catch large insects and other prey. Webs are golden in color and typically built in trees, shrubs, or on the outside of structures. If a web is disturbed, the spider will quickly rebuild.

Female Joro spiders have bright yellow and greyish-black bands on their bodies, distinct red markings on their undersides, and can grow up to 4 inches long (including leg span). Their legs are black with yellow bands. Immature female spiders have brown heads, narrower abdomens, and a blotchy black and yellow pattern on their backs. Males are about a quarter of

the size of the female and are dull brown. Joro spiders are most conspicuous in September and October when they reach maturity and grow to their maximum size. Females lay egg sacs containing 400 to 500 eggs in dense white silk from mid-October through November. Eggs hatch in spring.

A couple of Joro spider look-alikes you may encounter in the Northeast include *Argiope aurantia*, commonly known as the black and yellow garden spider, and *Leucauge venusta*, the orchard orb-weaver. The garden spider is similar in size to a Joro spider but has a black and yellow abdomen without the red coloration seen on the underside of the Joro spider. Garden spider legs are brown near the abdomen and black near the tips. The orchard spider, most often spotted in spring and early summer, is much smaller than a full-grown female Joro spider and is silver and green in color.

A study published in the journal Ecology and Evolution reported that Joro spiders are becoming dominant among orb weavers where they occur, suggesting that native spider biodiversity declines are associated with its presence. Although Joro spiders may pose a threat to native ecosystems, they might also help control other pest populations that are disrupting local biodiversity. Joro spiders will eat anything that falls into their giant webs, including other invasive species such as beetles, lanternflies, and stink bugs.

It may be too early to tell how this new invasion will play out, but one thing is sure: if the Joro spider shows up in your neighborhood, there will be no need to buy fake spiderwebs for Halloween. Suppose you do spot one of these relatively gentle giants. In that case, you can report it to jorowatch.org, a monitoring program developed to collect data to help scientists better understand the spread and distribution of Joro spiders.

Jen Weimer is a forest health expert, photographer, and writer living in the forests of New Hampshire. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



Fall Insect Pests

By Ann Hazelrigg, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Vermont

When the weather turns cold, four common insect invaders may appear uninvited in your home. None of them breed in the house or cause any damage to humans, pets, food items, or structures. These nuisance pests are looking for a warm, protected place to overwinter and hibernate.

The western conifer seed bug (*Leptoglossus occidentalis*) is the largest of the four insects. It feeds primarily on seeds and developing cones of several conifer species. The range of these true bugs (order Hemiptera) currently extends across the northern U.S. into Canada.

Adults are about 3/4 of an inch long, brownish in color, with alternating light and dark bands running along the outer wing edges on each side of the abdomen. The lower hind leg is widened on each side and looks like a tiny leaf has been attached. These insects move slowly and can fly, often making buzzing sounds when airborne, and will give off a pungent odor if you handle them.

The brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) can be confused with the western conifer seed bug but is smaller. It is brownish, shield-shaped, and about 5/8 of an inch long, and the next to last (fourth) antennal segment has a white band. Several abdominal segments protrude beneath the wings, alternatively banded with black and white, hence the term “marmorated.”

This insect was introduced to the U.S. from Asia in 1996 and has become an invasive, destructive fruit and vegetable pest in the mid-Atlantic states. Their numbers have been low in Vermont, and they are considered home invaders as opposed to crop pests. During the several weeks of peak flight, they can enter homes through any small opening. Once inside, they will often fly, causing a buzzing sound. They do not reproduce, damage structures, bite people, or harm pets. They can exude a pungent chemical when they are handled or crushed. Adults mate outdoors in the spring about

two weeks after emerging from a resting phase.

The multicolored Asian lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*) is a more colorful nuisance insect introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a predator of aphids and scale insects. Asian lady beetles are slightly larger than native lady beetles and are oval and yellow to red in color. They can have no spots or as many as 19.

These beetles congregate on sunny south/southwest sides of houses in the fall and can inundate homes from September through April. It is common for tens of thousands of beetles to congregate in attics, ceilings, and wall voids. Due to the warmth of the walls, they will move around inside cavities and exit into living areas. The little beetles can exude a foul-smelling defensive chemical, which will sometimes cause spotting on walls and other surfaces.

Boxelder bugs (*Boisea trivittata*) are about 1/2 inch long by 1/3 of an inch wide. They are dark brownish black with three lengthwise red stripes on the thorax (area behind the head).

They become particularly annoying in the fall when adults and large nymphs tend to congregate in large numbers, primarily on the southwest side of structures and on boxelder trees. They migrate indoors, and adults overwinter by hiding in cracks and crevices in walls, door and window casings, around foundations, and other protected places. Once inside, they can spot curtains, furnishings, and clothing with their excrement. When crushed, they give off an offensive odor.

They do not breed indoors, and they eventually die when trapped in the house. Removing boxelder trees may decrease their numbers in the fall; however, they can fly up to two miles. These bugs do little damage to landscape or ornamental plants.

Mechanical exclusion is the best control method to keep all of these nuisance pests



By Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org
Adult boxelder bug



By Louis Tedders, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org
Asian lady beetle

Vermont's regulated trapping seasons open Oct. 26

Vermont's regulated land and water trapping seasons will open on Oct. 26, 2024, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The season will allow trappers to set traps for various species, including fisher, coyote, and raccoon, on land through Dec. 2024 and for beaver, muskrat, and otter in water or under ice through March 2025.

These species have healthy populations in Vermont, and the regulated trapping seasons help ensure the sustainable management of fur-bearing animals, providing opportunities for trappers to collect fur and food.

Wildlife Biologist and Furbearer Project Leader Brehan Furfey emphasized the importance of awareness during the trapping season: “If you plan to enjoy Vermont's outdoors this fall and winter, it is important to know when trapping season is open and to be aware that trappers may be using the same public lands or, with landowner permission, private lands.” Furfey noted

that Vermont has a strong tradition of safely sharing the landscape among hikers, hunters, skiers, and trappers.

As of Dec. 2023, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board implemented new regulations requiring trappers to use traps that minimize harm to captured animals and follow additional safety measures to reduce conflicts with pets and other outdoor users. While pets caught during Vermont's regulated trapping seasons are rare, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department provides resources on its website to help free pets from traps in the unlikely event it happens.

Anyone who finds traps violating Vermont's regulations is encouraged to contact a game warden. Additionally, it is illegal to interfere with legally set traps.

For more information on the trapping season and regulations, visit the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website or contact the department directly.



Courtesy of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
A trapper makes a beaver set beneath the ice during Vermont's regulated season for this species.

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Vermont communities can help hurricane-affected pets

By Kerry McKeel, Best Friends Animal Society

With the devastation wrought in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee due to Hurricane Helene and more damage anticipated from Hurricane Milton, Best Friends Animal Society urges Americans to foster or adopt from local shelters and rescue groups to make room for incoming dogs and cats from impacted areas.

"This is an all-hands-on deck situation for animal shelters that have been or are going to be decimated or greatly diminished by these devastating back-to-back hurricanes," said Julie Castle, CEO, Best Friends Animal Society. "By adopting or fostering from your local shelter or rescue group, you'll make room for dogs and cats displaced by the storms, in hopes that they can eventually be reunited with their families."

Best Friends, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters, has deployed staff to the affected areas to help shelter staff on the ground with animal care, transports, supply distribution, and clean-up operations. The organization has also sent grants to several severely impacted shelters.

Now, Best Friends is calling upon the public to provide direct assistance.

"The tragic reality is that many shelters are already having to make tough choices due to overcrowding, so the hurricanes are only going to exacerbate the situation," Castle said. "That's why community lifesaving is so important. If you can adopt a dog or cat, this is the time. If you can't commit to adoption but can foster a pet, please do it now. Run, don't walk, to your nearest shelter."

Fostering terms can range anywhere from a few nights to several months, depending on the Communities → 36



Submitted

Best Friends Animal Society urges Americans to foster or adopt from local shelters and rescue groups to accommodate incoming dogs and cats from impacted areas during hurricanes.



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Vermont Superior Court
Environmental Division
24-ENV-00091
802-951-1740
EnvironmentalDivision@VTCourts.gov

Case No. 24-ENV-00091

Case Name (for Court Use only) 143 Rabeck Road Wetland Permit Application

NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

DECISION OR PERMIT NUMBER 2020-283
NAME OF PROJECT BEING APPEALED William Takacs Individual Wetland Permit
ADDRESS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT 143 Rabeck Road, Killington, VT
After-the-Fact and proposed construction of a single-family residence

Notice is given that Maureen Vavolotis, Appellant in this appeal process,
(name of party appealing)

appeals to the Environmental Division from Request for Reconsideration of Wetland Permit #2020-283
(describe decision being appealed)

entered on the 17th day of September, 20 24.

The statutory provisions under which you claim party status 10 V.S.A. 8502(7), 8504(a) and 8504(d)(2)

/s/John A. Facey
Signature

Name: John A. Facey, III
Mailing address: 71 Allen St, Suite 401, Rutland, VT 05701
Phone: 802-665-2720
Email address: jfacey@fgmvt.com
Attorney for: Maureen Vavolotis

All interested persons must enter an appearance in writing with the Court within 21 days of receiving this notice.

NOTE: This form must be filed with the Environmental Division court clerk and served on counsel of record for each represented party, and any self-represented party. V.R.A.P. 3(b)

*Please provide a copy of the decision being appealed.

300-00029 – ECourt Notice of Appeal (04/2024) Page 1 of 1

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October 26 & 28



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← Screens and Streams

from page 30

be talking more and more about this movie. I just caught up with the film, and the experience left me wishing I could have seen this one in a packed theater.

In the 1980s, a film like “The Substance” would have been the precise horror-laced hidden gem that I would have raved about to anyone who would listen. It’s got the perverse body horror and sly dark humor of a David Cronenberg film. It pays homage to Stanley Kubrick’s “The Shining” in several set-piece references and audio cues. Look carefully enough, and you’ll detect nods to “A Clockwork Orange” and the ending of “2001.” A layered examination of the intricate shot designs in Fargeat’s direction will see some sneaky shot-by-shot references to Alfred Hitchcock’s “Psycho.” And when “The Substance” reaches its bonkers, dialed up to 11 final minutes, horror film connoisseurs might find a twisted kinship of a little-known cult classic called “Society.” But to pull off such odes to horror movies past, it takes a director in command of their vision, and Fargeat never lets you forget she’s in the driver’s seat and what an expert driver she is.

The story comes wrapped as an alternate reality version of Hollywood, a fairy tale fable, or cautionary tale, about the dangers of trying to get the impossible through a “too good to be true” device. In this case, the device is a mysterious substance that offers what every aging actor in Hollywood wants: a new lease on life, i.e., a younger body—or a younger face. Demi Moore plays the one-time, super famous Elisabeth Sparkle, whose luster is now as dull and worn as the Hollywood Walk of Fame star that bears her name. She hosts a popular exercise show, and with her 50th birthday upon her, Sparkle’s career candle is about to get snuffed out at the hands of her misogynistic studio head, Harvey, played by Dennis Quaid. He’s as cartoon and paper-thin as they come. Fargeat makes it clear from Quaid’s over-the-top performance and wide (almost fish-eye) angled close-ups of him scarfing down crawfish during a meal this movie is a satire of the industry, albeit one where the truth in the fiction bares so much truth that it probably wouldn’t feel like a satire to specific audiences.

Out of a job with no friends, no prospects, and seeing no future, or indeed nothing like the fame she worked so hard to perpetuate for the past 20-30 years, Moore’s Sparkle finds herself desperate enough to roll the dice on the mysterious, black-market wonder-drug called, “The Substance.” She places an order and heads to the shady part of town, where she picks up her supply in an assigned locker.

The instructions are straightforward but direct. Taking this drug will create a manifestation, a younger self that will allow a part of the person to live out their best life for seven days. After seven days, the bodies must switch places. And while there are two different bodies, they are part of the same self. “You are one,” Moore is told by an unseen voice over the phone. She is not supposed to forget that.

The manifestation scene, where a second self regenerates from Moore’s body, is one for the books and will either excite or repulse a viewer, depending on one’s tolerance for body horror.

Soon, Moore’s second half, Margaret Qualley’s Sue, is living the life Moore no longer had, including her old exercise host job. And it isn’t long before the younger self begins to crave something too—more time. Seven days is not enough when life is going great. And that is the point at which Moore’s Faustian bargain begins to have consequences.

Sue begins to borrow time away from Moore’s body (which is in a comatose state during the off week), and taking from Peter to pay Paul exerts damage to Moore’s version. Like any fantastic fable, the journey for the hero is about the cost of getting what you want through magical means. How many consequences are too much? When is enough enough? Throughout the film, Demi Moore transforms from someone far from old but ancient in Hollywood’s standards to something obscene, worn, broken down, and consumed by her younger creation. At some point, Moore could stop the process. Ultimately, she is the primary host and holds a power the younger Sue does not. But with a lure so strong as fame and adulation, can Moore pull the trigger?

The film posits a perplexing philosophical dilemma, and such complexities baked into a darkly comic horror soup is not something most films of this genre dare to do, yet that is the essence of what makes “The Substance” so great.

At this late stage in the film’s narrative, we see where this film is going and what the logical conclusion of the movie will be or should be. Even if we haven’t seen this exact package before, we can surmise where the plot will take us in the third act. But no. That’s where Fargeat’s “The Substance” makes its boldest stand; she risks and gives us an unforgettable conclusion. It’s sheer gonzo greatness, a gross-out, body horror extravaganza that will appall many and have plenty of viewers looking between their fingers if they can dare look at all. I’ll admit I loved every second of the film’s conclusion, and it left me smiling.

I came for “The Substance,” but I walked away with something far more substantial. I wasn’t expecting that out of a horror movie, a film this confidently made, with such stellar performances, outstanding cinematography, set design, costumes, and directing so exciting it leaves me eager to see what director Coralie Fargeat will offer next. One thing’s for sure: whatever that movie is, I’ll be seeing it in the theater.

“The Substance” is in theaters and available to stream “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 stuffweveeseen.com. Got a film or show that you’d like James to review? Write to him at editor@mountain-time.info.

← Dream in Color:

from page 30



As the weather gets colder, let’s take the opportunity to become warmer to each other. Warmer to the people that live in our community. Warmer to the weekend warriors who spend all week waiting to let loose with us. Warmer to the people coming from different countries to experience our community and to help things run smoothly for us.

Let us use this winter season as an opportunity to evolve what we have here. Let’s use this as an opportunity to invite people in. To include people. To strike up a conversation with someone wearing a silly avocado butt cushion while skiing down the hill for their first time. Every one of us was new once.

Let’s take time to think of what makes this a place worth visiting. It’s more than just the mountain. Let’s consider the idea that the strength of this community is defined by our weakest links. Let’s not gatekeep this wonderful place.

As the mountain village is built let’s fight the urge to become a members only VIP club, and instead show everyone what this community is about. Let’s use these next few seasons to take our joy for the snowy adventures and include it in every interaction. Even with the people that we are least close to. Let’s take this season to show everyone here, and all of our visitors, how different we are from other ski communities and that we always bring the love and good vibes. Let’s take this opportunity to make some new friends and to welcome back in old friends.

Every one of us took our first run at one time. Every one of us came here, wondering how we could fit in and found our place. Let’s not forget that without the welcoming and inclusive energy of the locals, we may have not chosen to stay here. Let’s remember what it was like to spend our first year here and treat each other the way we wish we had been treated at the beginning, before we found our place in the community.

Let’s try to see this season under different light. A different angle. So we can see it almost for the first time. Let’s make this the best season yet and remind people why they should ski the East.

Bring on the snow!



Image Courtesy of MUBI (2024)

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← **Communities**
from page 32

pet's needs and the foster home's availability.

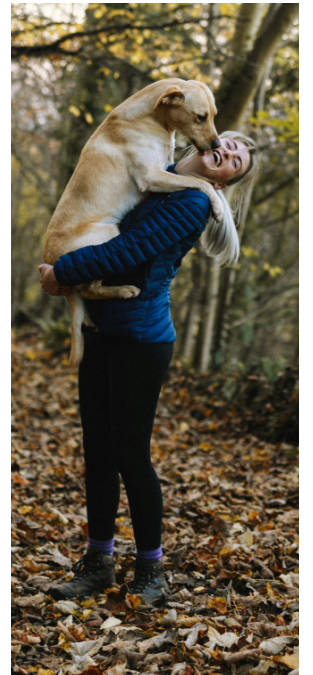
Typically, foster caregivers are given all the necessary food, supplies, and medical care while dogs and cats are in their care. They just need a safe place to call home.

To find a shelter or rescue near you, visit bestfriends.org/adopt-and-foster.

Best Friends continues to raise funds to help with hurricane efforts through a dedicated digital fundraiser.

About Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters and make the country no-kill in 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to 415,000 last year. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs across the country, as well as the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 5,000 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide, Best Friends is working to Save Them All®. For more information, visit bestfriends.org.



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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

The recently updated 1-bdrm unit is offered completely furnished. Whether you're looking for an efficient mountain getaway, an easy to rent investment property, or both, this Edgemont unit checks a lot of boxes. Located on the Killington Resort shuttle route and the Killington ski home trail.



Mountain Green 1-B-1, \$145,000

Corner unit 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath with outdoor pool views located in Building 1 on the Killington shuttle route. Mountain Green is located next to the Killington Golf Course and a short walk or shuttle ride to Snowshed Base Lodge. *Current assessments are ongoing and units are cash only sales.*



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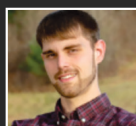
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Pests:
from page 31

from entering homes—seal cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes, behind chimneys, and underneath the wood fascia and other openings with good quality silicone or silicone-latex caulk.

Damaged screens on doors and windows should be repaired or replaced. Cover attics, fireplace chimneys, and exhaust vents with # 20 (or smaller) screen mesh.

Exterior applications of insecticides may offer some relief from infestations where completely sealing the exterior is difficult or impossible, but this is usually not warranted.

The use of a vacuum is still the most efficient method of collecting beetles in the home. It is advisable to empty the bag and beetles after each vacuuming.

Dr. Ann Hazelrigg is the University of Vermont Extension plant pathologist and director of the UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic.



By Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org
Adult brown marmorated stink bug



By Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org
Adult western conifer seed bug



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PHOTOGRAPHER: Jack Affleck

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Killington



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