



IT'S MLK WEEKEND

Martin Luther King Day is on Monday, Jan. 20. Celebrate at the Rutland Area NAACP annual MLK weekend Freedom Fund Brunch on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Page 25



By James Kent

A group of 50 supporters from all over the New England area came together at the Green Mountain National Forest Service's building in Mendon on Saturday morning, Jan. 11, in an effort to save an old-growth forest from destruction due to the pending Telephone Gap logging project.

Mind the Telephone Gap: Rally calls for preservation of state's old growth forests

By James Kent

Below-freezing temperatures and icy snow conditions couldn't deter 50 supporters from across New England from gathering at the Green Mountain National Forest Service

building in Mendon on Jan. 11. Their goal: to halt the Telephone Gap Integrated Resources project, which proposes logging 11,000 acres, including 800 acres of rare old-growth forests,

and constructing temporary roads and recreational trails in the region.

The Telephone Gap project spans parts of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon,

Pittsfield, Pittsford, and Stockbridge. The U.S. Forest Service's 149-page environmental assessment identifies ecological impacts, which Standing

Telephone Gap → 9



Submitted

First season brochure shows original plans for multi-season resort.

KILLINGTON, AHEAD OF THE PACK

The final installment of how innovations at Okemo and Killington helped grow Vermont's ski industry ends with a focus on Killington's pioneering approaches.

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WHAT TO DO ABOUT A SIGN

Is it a new election cycle? Or is this sign in violation of a Rutland City ordinance?

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BEST FILM OF 2024?

Could "The Brutalist," starring Adrian Brody, be the best film of 2024? Read an analysis.

Page 22

Nationwide data breach affects Vermont student, staff information

PowerSchool, a California-based provider of a student information system used by 39 Vermont school districts, experienced a cyberattack in late December

By Corey McDonald/VTDigger

According to state education officials, the personal data of students and staff at several dozen Vermont school districts may have been compromised in a nationwide data breach of a student information system. PowerSchool, a California-based company that provides a student information system and cloud software used by 39 school districts in Vermont, told its customers on Tuesday, Jan. 7, that the personal data of students, staff, and faculty of school districts throughout the country were hacked.

According to a report from TechCrunch, the company serves more than 75% of students in North America, and its software is used by roughly 16,000 customers to support more than 50 million students in the U.S.

Schools use the software to manage student records, grades, attendance, and enrollment.

It is unclear how many school districts in Vermont were affected by the data breach. Lindsey Hedges, a spokesperson for the state Agency of Education, said in an email that not all of the 39 districts that use PowerSchool were affected but noted that the agency "will continue to work with districts and remain in contact as the full impact of the incident unfolds."

Champlain Valley School District was among the affected districts. Adam Bunting, the district's superintendent, said in a letter to families that "the Agency of Education is actively working with PowerSchool to determine the next steps."

"We understand that the situation is concerning and will keep you informed as we learn more," Bunting wrote in the letter.

In a phone interview, Bunting said PowerSchool informed the district that the breached personal information of faculty and staff mainly included things like contact information.

Data breach → 12

The company serves more than 75% of students in North America, and its software is used by roughly 16,000 customers to support more than 50 million students in the U.S.

Chittenden to consider regulating Airbnbs

By Brett Yates

The Chittenden Planning Commission has begun crafting a potential short-term rental program that would require owners of properties listed on services like Airbnb and Vrbo to pay an annual registration fee to the town.

"Doing a quick search on Airbnb, Chittenden has several short-term rentals that we are not taking advantage of," Planning Commission chair Abigail Elliott Bradish told the Chittenden Select Board on Jan. 13. "We as a planning commission are concerned about the lack of kids in our schools and the affordability to live here."

Killington has regulated short-term rentals since 2020. In Rutland Town, the Select Board adopted a short-term rental ordinance last year on a 3-2 vote. The chair of the Rutland Town Planning Commission visited the Chittenden Planning Commission last week to discuss its development and implementation. "It took about a year to get that program up and running," Bradish related.

She described a process of collaboration in Rutland Town among the planning commission, the town administrator, the Select Board, the town attorney, and a "third party" contracted to help identify properties. Chittenden, meanwhile, has not yet advanced beyond "preliminary research."

In Rutland Town, owners of short-term rentals must pay a \$100 annual fee. Killington's fees vary according to the size of the dwelling, topping out at \$600.

The state of Vermont defines a short-term rental as a "dwelling room or self-contained dwelling unit rented to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days and for more than 14 days per calendar year." Last year, the Vermont General Assembly imposed a new statewide tax of 3% on such rentals.

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MVSU announces finalists for Woodstock Union Middle and High School principal

Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) has narrowed the field to two finalists for the position of principal for Woodstock Union Middle and High School. After a community-informed search process, the district gathered an interview committee composed of students, teachers, a parent, a school board member, and administrators. The committee then recommended two highly qualified candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment to education, leadership, and student success.

The two finalists are: Aaron Cinquemani, Ed. D. currently the interim principal at the Woodstock Union High School Middle School; and Kendra Rickerby, Ph. D. currently the head of school at the Compass School, an independent school serving grades 7-12 in Westminster, Vermont.

As part of the selection process, MVSU hosted a day of community engagement opportunities last Wednesday, Jan. 8, where parents, students, and staff can meet the finalists, ask questions, and share their thoughts. From 12:45-1:50 p.m. a diverse group of students met the candidates and provided feedback.

From 2:30-4 p.m. a group of faculty and staff met the candidates. Then from 5-6:45 p.m. parents and community members were encouraged to attend and participate and get to know the finalists and provide feedback.

Following those community engagement opportunities, the Interview Committee will be reviewing feedback from all stakeholders and plans to make a final recommendation to the Superintendent. A decision is expected to be made by mid-January, according to a news release by MVSU.

Candidate: Aaron Cinquemani

Dr. Aaron J. Cinquemani is a passionate and student-centered leader dedicated to fostering adolescent growth and development. Currently serving as the Interim Principal at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School (WUHSMS), Dr. Cinquemani is a finalist for the permanent principal position. His leadership philosophy is grounded in leveraging the human phenomenon of ambivalence—recognizing diverse perspectives to foster collaboration, accountability, and progress.

Dr. Cinquemani began his career in education as a classroom paraprofessional before becoming a middle



Courtesy MVSU

Aaron Cinquemani (left) and Kendra Rickerby (right) are the finalists for the position of principal at Woodstock Middle School and High School. A committee is expected to make its recommendation and a decision will be announced very soon.

school teacher. Over the years, he has served as a principal across preK to 12 levels, bringing a breadth of experience to his role. Since stepping into the interim position at WUHSMS, Dr.

Cinquemani has made it a priority to learn the names, interests, and experiences of students, ensuring their voices guide his leadership.

A skilled communicator, he is described as

“a remarkable communicator, adept at clearly conveying expectations to faculty and staff,” fostering transparency and trust within the school community. His strategic mindset and follow-through have been integral to evaluating and improving programs, while his presence in hallways and classrooms demonstrates his commitment to fostering a positive school culture.

Dr. Cinquemani’s expertise extends to refining the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and ensuring that all students receive the targeted support, resources and enrichment they need. He consistently engages meaningfully with stakeholders, respecting and addressing concerns while upholding high standards of professionalism. Dr. Cinquemani’s leadership reflects a deep care for students, a collaborative approach, and a clear vision for student-centered education.

Candidate: Kendra Rickerby

Kendra Rickerby has most recently been the head of school at two independent schools in this region of Vermont. Since 2020, she has been

an adjunct professor in the graduate education programs at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire. For SNHU’s doctorate program, she teaches social entrepreneur leadership, organizations and positive social change, in addition to serving as chair of dissertation committees. Her research and teaching interests focus on social entrepreneurial leadership strategies, cost-efficient education funding models, equitable systems design as well as learner-centered and community-based school organizational design.

Rickerby’s pursuit of a PhD in educational leadership came after a decade of teaching English language arts at public high schools near Burlington. She often co-taught with a special educator and social studies teacher. After a few years observing the impact smartphones were having in traditional classrooms, she set out to learn how to lead the process of redesigning school cultures to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

Rickerby is passionate about leading service-learning opportunities both close to home here in Vermont and abroad. She credits her college semester abroad in Nepal with the School for International Training as being the most influential educational experience in her professional trajectory. Passionate about learning from new perspectives, she is an avid reader as well as audience member of the performing arts. Rickerby is enthusiastic about everything that gets her outdoors and into nature.

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1 | 7:00 PM



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OBITUARIES

August D. Stuart, 94

August D. Stuart, 94, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 7, at his residence following a long illness.

He was born in Italy on April 22, 1930, the son of Pietro and Marina Sismondo.

August Stuart relocated to the United States at age 3 and grew up in Queens, New York. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War.

In 1982, he relocated to Killington, where he was an active Realtor. He established The Performance Group, where he was the owner and principal broker until his retirement in 2022.

August enjoyed wood-working.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine Stuart, of Killington; a daughter, Laura Stuart, and her husband, Stuart, of Narrowsburg,

New York; a son, Peter Stuart-Lovell, and his wife Hall, of Sequim, Wahsington; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in 2013 by his son, Robert Stuart, one sister, and two brothers.

Arrangements are with the Aldous Funeral Home.

Per his wishes, there will be no public services.



Submitted
August D. Stuart

Barrett Calvin Leete, 86

Barrett Calvin Leete passed away on Nov. 24, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center, following a battle with heart and lung disease, with his wife of 53 years, Jean, at his side.

Born on Nov. 2, 1938, in Manchester, New Hampshire, Barry was the son of Preston and Lois Leete. At the young age of 5, his mother Lois died, and his father remarried a loving woman named June Travers. The family moved to Burlington, Vermont, where his sister Debbie was born.

Barry was a proud alumnus of Guilford College, the University of Vermont, and McGill University, where his mischievous spirit shone through as an engineering student. Following his academic years, he served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy, which led to extensive travel. Barry settled in Killington and became a dedicated public servant. He directed the Killington Ski Patrol, served as treasurer, and then president of the Killington Fire Department, as well as president of the Vermont State Firefighters Association. Barry co-founded the VSFA Fire



Submitted
Barrett Calvin Leete

Cadet Academy, worked on the board to revamp the Paramount Theatre in Rutland, and developed innovative technologies to improve firefighter safety.

After completing his education and serving in the military, Barry moved to Killington in the early '60s. He worked as the engineering department director at Howe Richardson Scale in Rutland. In 1970, Barry met and fell in love with Jean Murdoch. They married in 1971, and together, they built their home in Killington. After 10 years of marriage, they added a daughter to their family when Jordan was born, who ended up with

Barry Leete → 14



By Mort Lund

Founders Sue Smith, Mary Sargent, Pres Smith, and Joe Sargent photographed for Sports Illustrated, called the Killington Kids.

Killington, ahead of the pack

By Karen D. Lorentz

Editors Note: This is Part 3 of a three-part series that explores how innovations at Okemo and Killington enabled them to become successful and popular ski resorts that also contributed to the growth of the ski industry in Vermont and the East.

Killington's pioneering approach

Killington co-founder Preston Leete Smith had been bit by the ski bug and after experiencing long waits at Mount Mansfield's old single chair thought that "there had to be a better way" to operate a ski area.

Wanting to get into the ski business, Smith went to see Vermont State Forester Perry Merrill about Mt. Ascutney in 1954. Merrill, who had been trying to interest someone in Killington since acquiring the peak (a gift of 324 acres) in 1938 and purchasing the surrounding 2,776 acres in 1945, told him to check out Killington.

After studying the mountain, Smith went back to Merrill and learned the state would lease it to him and build an access road, a parking lot, and ski shelter.

Raising the money to build the lifts and trails proved

problematic until Smith met avid skier and Hartford, Connecticut, businessman Joseph D. Sargent. Sargent, who saw Smith's plans for a three-mountain complex with European cabin lift as grandiose and beyond his means, thought the project feasible if a company with stockholders was formed and if the plans were scaled down for the first year.

Sensing a kindred spirit who also wanted the ski area to be profitably run, Sargent invested and gave Smith the names of potential investors. One was Hartford businessman Walter N. Morrison, who like Sargent would spend weekends helping to build the ski area. The three men functioned well together as a decision-making team and as the executive committee were largely responsible for Killington's success and business approach to ski area operations.

Due to various hassles — getting the 5-mile access road built and obtaining the lease — Killington didn't open until Dec. 13, 1958.

With the same tenacity he approached every challenge to Killington Kids → 13

\$2,500 Jimmy LeSage Memorial Scholarship is now accepting applications

High school seniors in Rutland County and Windsor County now have the opportunity to apply for the \$2,500 Jimmy LeSage Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is designed to support students who share a passion for wellness and a love for the outdoors as they pursue a 2- or 4-year undergraduate degree after graduation.

Honoring a pioneer in wellness, this scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate an appreciation for wellness and an active connection to nature. The scholarship was created in memory of Jimmy LeSage, a pioneer in the spa and wellness industry and the founder of the renowned New Life Hiking Spa & Wellness Retreat in Vermont.

For over 40 years, LeSage dedicated his life to promoting health, wellness, and a deep connection with nature.

For many decades, New Life Hiking Spa operated in Killington, where guests explored the beauty of Rutland and Windsor Counties through guided hikes. Many of the retreat's employees were residents of these areas, reflecting LeSage's strong ties to the local community.

LeSage's passion for helping others achieve balance and well-being earned New Life recognition as one of the coun-

try's top destination spas. Following his passing in 2024, this scholarship was created to honor his legacy and continued commitment to health, nature, and community.

How to apply

Applicants are encouraged to share what wellness means to them, how they incorporate wellness into their lives, or what hiking in Vermont represents to them. Additional entry information and application details can be found at: bold.org/scholarships/jimmy-lesage-memorial-scholarship.

A legacy of wellness and community

Kathleen LeSage, Jimmy's wife, commented, "This is a wonderful way to honor Jimmy's memory. His passing in May was around the time New Life Hiking Spa would open every season in Killington. This scholarship will be awarded in May, and of course, we will be thinking about the one-year anniversary of his passing. I think Jimmy would be happy that this is taking place during a time of year that was so special to him in a community that he loved. Our children, James and LeAnne, and I are looking forward to working on this annual scholarship together to keep Jimmy's love for learning and nature alive."



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Hal Issente, Rutland's downtown dynamo and champion of community collaboration

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my work as a strategic growth consultant to nonprofits is advising the emerging generation of optimists running charitable and educational organizations in Vermont. Nonprofit directors today must navigate an ever-changing political, social and economic landscape, in addition to juggling fundraising, marketing, and meeting donors' increasing demands for quantitative impact.

Enter Hal Issente, executive director of Downtown Rutland Partnership (DRP). Issente, 38, is a whirlwind of positivity, a relentlessly engaging advocate and ambassador for the Rutland region. The DRP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works with the City of Rutland to organize events, marketing, business development, and streetscape initiatives for the Rutland downtown.

"Right now there is a great surge in optimism about Rutland," Issente related in an interview for this article. "We [recently] did a survey, where we asked folks to rate how optimistic they felt about downtown on a scale of one to five, and generally people were voting three to five, which is really wonderful," he added.

Downtown Rutland has seen a revitalization in recent years. There's something for everyone of all ages — from diverse clothing stores, grooming salons, and independent bookshops to a renowned landmark theater and innovative children's museum designed by a former Disney Imagineer, featuring exhibits funded by local corporations such as Casella and Killington Ski Resort.



For the Greater Good
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

For Issente, the DRP's most important value is in creating and championing a sense of place, the almost intangible but palpable sensation in one's heart and soul that defines a community as connected, collaborative and compassionate.

In fact, DRP is a Main Street America™ Affiliate, part of a national network of more than 1,200 neighborhoods and communities that share both a commitment to creating high-quality places and to building stronger communities

through preservation-based economic development.

On a recent frigid Friday, Issente was in his brick lined storefront office on Center Street, fielding phone calls while enthusiastically welcoming drop-in visitors. He looked like a young college professor, wearing glasses, warm slacks, a nubby gray vest, plaid shirt, and a scarf tied nattily around his neck. With his wholesome good looks, Issente could easily play a community crusader in such popular TV series as Netflix's "Virgin River" or Hallmark's "Heartland" — which attract fans who enjoy comforting storylines while they're cozying under a quilt and munching on popcorn.

Issente is the real deal: Through social media campaigns, seasonal events like "sip-and-shops," summer's Friday Night Live festivals, the Holiday Tree Lighting, and collaborations with other organizations like Real Rutland, Rutland County Pride, and Come Alive Outside, Issente showcases local businesses and nonprofits alike, year round.

Overseen by a volunteer board of directors, DRP's workplan clearly defines objectives, strategies and tactics designed

to boost awareness, attract visitors, and, ultimately, increase revenue for Rutland's businesses.

"Some of the organizations the DRP represents don't have the advertising dollars to do radio, print and social media," Issente acknowledged. "In our social media features, we spotlight them, in effect bringing people into the stores visually, either in a video or a photograph."

In an email for this article, DRP board chair Casey McNeil, the third-generation owner of popular men's clothing retailer McNeil and Reedy, commended Issente's dedication to boosting awareness and engagement for Rutland's downtown.

"Downtown Rutland has seen impressive growth over the past 12 to 18 months, with the DRP playing a key role in promoting this progress and highlighting the area's historic charm," McNeil wrote.

"Hal has brought the community together to showcase all that downtown has to offer," McNeil added. "His leadership has helped establish Downtown Rutland as a vibrant center for community, commerce, and culture."

While some older Rutlanders may gripe about the DRP's efforts — their common refrain summed up by caveats such as "Yes, but..." — the naysayers are in the minority. They're outnumbered by newcomers and multi-generational Vermonters alike, whose response to the bustling Rutland downtown is more in line with "Yes, please!"

Fans of downtown Rutland flock to veteran thriving businesses that, in addition to McNeil and Reedy, include SpeakEasy coffee shop, The Bakery, Roots the Restaurant, Hand-carved by Ernie's, Hop 'N Moose pub, Michael's (handmade) Toys, the Rutland

Restaurant, The Sandwich Shoppe, Fruition Fineries, and Phoenix Books, among others.

They are also welcoming the newer businesses that have sprouted downtown over the past few years, such as: Loose Loona tea salon, Prouty's ice cream parlor, GreenSpell plant shop, Wild Kind toy shop, Mad Rose cocktail lounge, Divine's boutique, Taco Fresco, and Ana's Empanadas.

A native of Woodstock, Hal Issente is a graduate of Goddard College. His partner, Spencer Fenn, works in Vermont as a recruiter for a Palo Alto-based technology think-tank. Fenn's grandmother is Ann McFarren, an octogenarian who is one of Vermont's most beloved artists. So it's not surprising that several prints of McFarren's beautiful New England landscapes grace the walls of Hal Issente's office.

McFarren's artwork is a meaningful backdrop for the mission and vision of Hal Issente, a downtown dynamo and committed champion of community collaboration, one who exudes purpose, pride and pleasure in his work.

In the uncertain political, social and economic landscape that all nonprofits are navigating, Issente is an advocate and ambassador not only for the businesses he represents but for the heart and soul of the Rutland community — and by extension, Vermont itself.

For more information, visit: downtownrutland.com.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is a strategic growth specialist, nonprofit leader, business educator, and author. Her L3C consulting firm works exclusively with charities and educational institutions, on strategic planning, organizational development, and fundraising: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.



Submitted

Downtown Rutland Partnership Exc. Director Hal Issente is a passionate voice for the reinvigorated city center.





Killington's only female member on its parks crew, Erin Alexander, attended an all-women's event in Wisconsin last month where she helped design and build an innovate park called Valhalla. By Krista Holden, Killington Resort

Killington Parks' Erin Alexander takes the rake

By Brooke Geery, Killington Resort

Erin Alexander, 21, stands alone as the only woman on the Killington Parks crew this season. Back in December, she got the chance to travel to Trollhaugen, Wisconsin, for a unique event bringing together female park builders and shapers from around the country called Take the Rake. It's an annual gathering to give women the opportunity to work together to build their dream park. This year's event brought 17 women to Wisconsin, Dec. 8-17.

This is Erin's fourth year on the Killington Park Crew, but this was her first time attending Take the Rake. She nabbed her slot via an application process on Instagram and was the lone representative from the state of Vermont.

"They try to pick women from every state, one person from each state," she said.

Alexander said it was an awesome opportunity to work with all women, especially after spending the rest of the season in a male-dominated environment.

"It was really fun to go build with girls for a week and be able to do things like singing the Frozen soundtrack in the car on the way there."

Although she is used to being the only girl in her regular life, Alexander said the experience of working with all women was great. "It's definitely more lighthearted," she laughed. "Like obviously we're all trying to get a job done and we're serious about it and passionate, but we're also having a lot more fun while we're doing it. I've also found working with girls, the communication is a lot easier. We're a lot more straightforward with things."

She also said the camaraderie was second to none.

"We're all looking out for each other all the time — making sure that we're all drinking water and we've all had food and stuff and making sure all your friends are all safe, having a good time and everybody is on the same page," she said.

The crew would work all day, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and

Alexander said they did everything from fixing broken rails to building new features. They each brought their own drawings and ideas to the table, then met in groups to determine which features would be built. The park they created is called Valhalla, and it's the largest of Trollhaugen's offerings. Each build stays up for about three weeks, giving local riders enough time to dial in all the features. The Take the Rake version of the park is the only one of the season built entirely by women.

"People ask me, 'oh well like it was all girls digging but you must've had a guy in the [snow]cat, right? Like a guy, you know, welding or something,' but it was all girls."

Erin Alexander is now back at Killington, working with the crew of 20 as the lone female. "I'm so used to it at this point that it's not super hard for me, but I do kind of wish that I had another girl sometimes especially after doing that. It was really fun to go build with girls for a week," she said.



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Killington Resort announces staff promotions for 2025

Killington Resort announced Tuesday, Jan. 14, the promotions of several team members to new roles with the organization. Continuing its tradition of promoting from within, these promotions will help streamline efficiencies across the resort with a new structure within several key departments and create opportunities for growth throughout the organization.

Kayla Sarajian

In Mountain Operations, Vice President Tait Germon has created a new position: the

mountain experience manager, who will work to advance quality controls and promote Killington's hospitality standards around the mountain. With this new promotion, Kayla Sarajian assumes a larger role within the Mountain Operations group and takes on added responsibility. Formerly the lift operations manager, in her new role, all guest-facing Mountain Operations departments will report to Sarajian. This includes lift operations (including ticket checking, tubing and summer Ad-

venture Center), terrain parks, ski patrol and race event operations.

Kayla Sarajian began her career at Killington Resort in 2014 as a team leader for the Unleashed program in the Snow Sports department, then worked summers as an attendant for the Snowshed Adventure Center, eventually becoming a foreman for the lift operations group and transferring to that department full time in 2016.

"Kayla has a proven record of building strong teams and providing superior guest service," said

Tait. "In elevating her leadership over these departments, her role is to continue to improve the guest's experience on the mountain.

By focusing on team morale, promoting Killington's hospitality standards and identifying and eliminating issues that affect our guests and staff, we inevitably strengthen our culture of guest service and improve the resort experience for everyone."

Christine Bulgini

Also in Mountain Ops, Christine Bulgini, currently Mountain

Operations administrative coordinator, is being promoted to the role of administrative manager. This change will better the crucial role she plays in overseeing Mountain Operations' extensive safety program and in auditing Mountain Operations' compliance with federal OSHA laws and state tramways regulations. Bulgini's strong organizational skills and collaborative work style make this a natural progression.

As with her previous role, Resort promotions → 38



Courtesy Divided Sky Foundation

Divided Sky Foundation appointed its first executive director, Seth Dolinsky, center (pictured with Melanie Gulde (left) and Andy Bernstein (right)) on Jan. 10.

Divided Sky Foundation appoints Dolinsky as its first executive director

On Friday, Jan. 10, the Divided Sky Foundation announced the appointment of Seth Dolinsky as its first executive director, marking a significant milestone in the organization's growth and dedication to expanding its recovery services in Ludlow.

Dolinsky, a seasoned expert in behavioral healthcare, brings over a decade of experience managing residential treatment and sober living facilities. In his new role, he will work with the foundation's board of directors to develop long-term strategies while program director and co-founder Melanie Gulde continues to oversee operations at the Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program. Since opening in late 2023, the Ludlow-based facility has supported over 125 guests in their recovery journeys.

"This is an exciting moment for Divided Sky," said Andy Bernstein, president of the foundation's board. "Seth's leadership and expertise will help us focus on future growth and sustainability while maintaining the high standard of care under Melanie's direction."

Dolinsky collaborated closely with Divided Sky and Gulde during the foundation's early stages and was instrumental in establishing its partnership with The Retreat in Wayzata, Minnesota—a similar recovery center that inspired Divided Sky's unique approach. The program focuses on immersive education in the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, emphasizing mindfulness, emotional sobriety, and finding joy in recovery.

"I'm honored to join Divided Sky in this new capacity," said Dolinsky. "Working alongside Melanie and the board, I'm eager to help expand the foundation's impact and continue to offer a supportive, life-changing environment for our guests."

The Divided Sky Foundation, founded by Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio, operates a 46-bed residential recovery program in a renovated facility in Ludlow. The program integrates group discussions, readings, support meetings, daily outdoor activities, and nourishing meals, fostering a vibrant community of laughter, learning, and hope.

For more information, visit: dividedsky.org.

A sign of the times?

Route 7 banner appears to violate the city ordinance

By James Kent

Perhaps you've seen it as you drive along Route 7. In an abandoned lot next to Godnick's on the corner of 259 N Main St. in Rutland City, erected atop a leftover sign from a long-shuttered mini golf course, a Trump/Vance election sign is affixed overhead. Even those with a cursory knowledge of Rutland City's sign laws know that political signs should be displayed no earlier than three weeks before an election and removed one day later. The sign, a replacement for a slightly smaller one torn down at the end of October, has hung there since the election on Nov. 7. That was two months ago.

Readers want to know: Is this sign legal? Should it be allowed to stay up so long after the election? Who owns the property? Does the city know, and are they taking any steps to remove it?

The Rutland City ordinance states that the City of Rutland has the power to regulate signs within the municipality. This ordinance sets forth the specific regulations and procedures by which this power is enacted.

All signs must be designed and installed by the provisions of its ordinance. The building inspector must issue a sign permit before any sign is installed, erected, enlarged, replaced, reworded, redesigned, or

altered in any way except as specifically exempted.

Posters are exempt as defined in the following ordinance: "Maximum 2 square feet posted on private property only. Any person erecting a poster is responsible for its removal immediately upon the conclusion of the advertised event. This exemption does not apply to commercial entities seeking to post additional signs not otherwise permitted in this ordinance."

"Signs providing information or promotion of an item that will appear on an election ballot are allowed, provided they are erected no more than three weeks before an election and are removed the day after the election. Such signs shall be no more than 6 square feet.

Any person erecting a sign of this nature is responsible for its removal.

"The maximum sign area for a temporary sign is a 6 square feet area with a height no larger than 4 feet."

It also states: "a decorative or event banner shall require liability insurance naming the City of Rutland as an additional insured protecting the City of Rutland's interest in an amount not less than 1 million dollars."

The sign in question appears to violate several of the ordinance's guidelines.

Enforcement & penalties

Rutland City's website lists the following enforcement and penalties for sign violations:

"1. A violation of this

Sign → 12



By James Kent

Passersby on Route 7 next door to Godnick's furniture in Rutland City will notice a large Trump/Vance sign displayed in a vacant lot.



Submitted

The State House and Christmas tree early Friday morning, Jan. 10. The newly elected and re-elected state representatives and senators returned to the State House on Jan. 8 to begin the 2025 legislative session.

“Recalculating...Recalculating”

Before Apple Play and phone navigation apps, we had a Garmin (we referred to it as Gladys) to help us with directions to unfamiliar destinations. If we made a wrong turn, Gladys would start saying, “Recalculating...” To make it more annoying, Gladys would keep repeating it until we got back on track. The message was clear: You made a mistake. Own up to it and move on.

During Governor Scott’s inaugural speech last Thursday, he essentially shared the same message, “You somehow got off the trail, took a wrong turn, it starts to get dark, and it hits you: I went the wrong way. When that happens to me, I stop, get my bearings, and get back on course. But when it comes to politics, I know it can be hard to admit when you’ve gone down the wrong path and need to turn around. But we’re not here to worry about egos. We’re here to do what Vermonters need.”

The governor’s point was that perhaps we made some mistakes along the way and need to recalculate. He challenged lawmakers to work with his administration to make bold changes to our education system and reduce Vermonters’ costs. Making such changes will not be easy or, in many cases, popular, but in his view, they are necessary.

Housing was another of Scott’s priorities, as was his call to make Vermont more affordable. This may mean recalculating some of the recently passed legislative initiatives like the Clean Heat law.

Governor Scott also talked about the continued demographic challenges Vermont faces and what it means in terms of education costs, health care expenses, and our workforce. He referred to the numbers 14, 28, and 48 and said, “According to the Joint Fiscal Office, from 2010 to 2022 alone, we saw 14,000 fewer Vermonters under the age of 18; 28,000 fewer age 40-54 (which is prime working age) and 48,000 more over the age 65.”

Scott closed his speech with, “This year, we’ve once again been asked to step up, solve big problems, and help people. And there’s no doubt our challenges are great.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

But if we meet them head-on – accept reality but refuse to settle for it – I know that when this session comes to a close, we will be able to go back to our communities with our heads held high, proud of the work we did here. We will go home with a renewed sense of duty and hope for the brighter future that all Vermonters deserve. That’s what they asked us to do. And we cannot – and must not – let them down.”

While there were times the Republican members stood and applauded and Democrats stayed seated and quiet, for the most part leaders of both parties well received his message of working together. The exception was a few Progressive members who didn’t stand and rarely applauded in the Chamber. Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky (P-Chittenden Central) even boycotted the governor’s speech for not doing more for the homeless and limiting access to the hotel voucher program.

The first week of the new session closed out on Saturday with the governor’s inaugural gala, which saw a large bipartisan group of attendees. Vermont food and beverage producers from all 14 counties offered samples of their products. The governor’s No. 14 race car was on display for all to see (but not test drive!). This marked the first return to the gala since the pandemic.

Other items of note:

A joint assembly of the House and Senate confirmed John Rogers’ election as Vermont’s new lieutenant governor. Rogers, a former Democratic legislator and now Republican, beat David Zuckerman, a Progressive/Democrat, but did not reach the 50% threshold. Under our constitution, the Legislature must vote on statewide elections if no candidate receives a majority of the total votes.

House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, was re-elected house speaker over Laura Sabilia, I-Dover. Senator Phil Baruth of Burlington, D-Chittenden Central, was re-elected Senate leader.

Harrison → 12

← Telephone Gap: from page 1

Trees Executive Director Zack Porter said amounts to releasing carbon emissions equivalent to 60,000 gas-powered vehicles annually. Porter emphasized, “National Forest logging supplies only 1% of Vermont’s annual timber harvest volume, making this project as unnecessary as it is destructive.”

The period for public comments on the project ends Jan. 17, and Porter encouraged Vermonters to contact local representatives and submit objections through the Forest Service website.

Voices from the rally

Earl Hatley, a citizen of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, highlighted the region’s cultural and ecological significance: “Abenaki peoples have sacred sites throughout these mountains... burial sites and homesteads that go back thousands of years. We stayed here to protect our homeland and sacred sites.”

Hatley called for a shift toward preservation: “Allow our forests to repair and become old-growth again... When Mother Earth thrives, we thrive. This is for future generations.”

Environmental organizer Chris Gish recounted his experiences in the Telephone Gap area, describing it as “An extremely special place... stretches of big trees, mature forest, and open understory.” Gish expressed frustration with the project’s rationale: “The idea that mature forests need to be perpetually managed to reach some desired future condition...denies the fact that forests naturally balance themselves.”

State Representative Amy Sheldon, through a statement read by Sarah Stott, underscored the importance of preserving core forests. “Large roadless areas like Telephone Gap... are rare and necessary to support biodiversity and climate mitigation. We must protect these forests for future generations.”

Justin Lindholm of Vermonters for a Clean Environment recalled the origins of Vermont’s National Forests. “The Green Mountain National Forest was created because of horrible logging practices... We’re repeating history.” Lindholm argued for limiting logging to private lands in Vermont, which already generates the majority of timber activity in the state.

In the final speech of the morning, Porter criticized the outdated forest management framework: “The forest plan guiding this project is two decades old and doesn’t address climate change.”

Porter called for a visionary approach: “If New York can protect 3 million acres as forever wild, Vermont can do the same. Let’s honor that legacy and preserve these forests.”

Neighboring New York state prohibits logging in public forests, while Vermont does not.

Beyond sustainability, what are the costs?

How much will the Telephone Gap project cost taxpayers? It is unclear how many resources have already gone into the environmental analysis and project planning to date. Still, as for cost estimates for the Telephone Gap project, Jay Strand, a forest planner and environmental coordinator with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture—Forest Service—said that his department did not track expenditures for project development or the environmental analysis. The project’s quantitative cost and benefit estimates were limited to timber harvest and other habitat treatments.

When the Mountain Times asked Strand for further clarification, he indicated the cost of harvesting the trees, including construction and maintenance of temporary or system roads, would be reflected by timber sale bids at the time they were advertised, and additional project costs such as trail construction would be determined after they were fully designed and implemented only if funds were available as allocated by Congress. After confirming that these cost projections would come later in the project approval process, Strand said the Forest Service anticipated it may take up to 10 years to implement all project activities included in the proposal once it was approved in a final decision notice. The initial work could start as early as this coming spring, but pending available funding.

The Telephone Gap Integration Resource project is by no means a done deal. For now, 11,000 acres of public land in Vermont get to grow a bit longer.

“The idea that mature forests need to be perpetually managed to reach some desired future condition...denies the fact that forests naturally balance themselves,” said Gish.



By James Kent

The Jan. 11 rally was concerned over the potential logging of more than 800 acres of old growth forest.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Just saying 'no' is not an effective or affordable agenda

By Angelo Lynn

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

In a written statement released the opening day of the 2025 legislative session and a day ahead of his fifth inaugural address, Gov. Phil Scott encouraged Vermont residents to watchdog the Legislature for excessive spending.

"It's more important than ever," he wrote, "that Vermonters pay attention to what's going on in the Statehouse this session. It's no secret, over the past two years, we've had our share of disagreements with the Legislature, particularly over new taxes and fees, including a property tax increase, that's making it harder for Vermonters to make ends meet."

We agree with the governor that the public should pay close attention, but for very different reasons.

Throughout his previous four terms, Scott has successfully tagged the Democratic legislative majority with the state's rising cost of living. His political strategy has been to propose almost no solutions, but rather act as a counter to Democrats' legislative action. As the "brake" on Democrats' spending, he's been able to tout an effective slogan — "Keeping Vermont affordable."

It has been an effective political strategy because it's simple for the public to understand. But it's also kept Vermont from addressing key problems like affordable housing, affordable health care, an affordable education system, and providing an adequate labor pool to meet demand. As he enters his fifth term in office, his do-nothing strategy has arguably left Vermont in worse shape on those four key issues than when he took office.

In paying attention to what's going on in Montpelier, citizens should ask what Scott's administration is doing to solve any of those problems.

Two recent Legislative initiatives prove Scott's approach is wrong, and that proactive legislation can be effective.

1) When the Legislature passed Act 76, the 2023 Child Care Bill, finding access to childcare had been a major concern for Vermont families for the previous decade. The annual tab for care was over \$15,000 per child with scant subsidies for most families. Middle-income families got no support and consequently were leaving the state because childcare was almost impossible to find, and if available it was prohibitively expensive.

In essence, the bill did two things: It created higher pay for childcare workers, which increased the number of childcare providers, and it expanded those who qualified for subsidies. Within a year more than 1,000 childcare slots opened, more are being created to meet demand, and more young families can afford childcare today. How did this happen? Democrats worked with childcare providers to understand the problem, researched what other states were doing, proposed a solution and got it passed. For his part, Gov. Scott and his administration played no role in developing the legislation, but did veto the bill saying simply that any taxes made Vermont less affordable. Democrats were able to override that veto. Fortunately.

For thousands of young Vermont families — the very demographic the state is desperate to attract and hold — childcare is now affordable and no longer the crisis it once was.

2) Earlier this week, Vermont Treasurer Mike Pieciak reported the state's key pension programs were not only solvent but hit a decade highpoint. That's a big change since 2020, when

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Trump inauguration by Guy Parsons, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Overcomplicated or simple, the message must still deliver

Dear Editor,

Since the November election, many Vermont Democrats have been reflecting on the results and lessons learned. To some, a significant problem was messaging.

A funny thing about Democrats is that we often can't stop explaining everything. "If only we could explain [insert idea/program/policy here] in a way that people could really understand, they would vote for it!" We anguish over this and develop all sorts of complicated messaging. My experience has been that if it's too complicated to explain, people aren't going to take the time to understand it.

Democrats also tend to have difficulty seeing the forest for the trees. When we hear voters' concerns about an issue, we say, "Yes, but have you considered...?" We want to show voters we care about their concerns, but we also want to show them that we are doing lots of other good things. Voters respond, "Yes, but none of those good things directly

address my concerns. Also, they're too expensive."

We saw this on the national level. Across the country, Democratic candidates acknowledged that inflation was still a problem but then explained all the other ways the economy was strong. That may have been true, but it was not what voters wanted to hear. They wanted to hear that Democrats would deal with the thing they most cared about. They heard Democrats telling them they shouldn't care about that so much.

Then there's the issue of what we say versus what we do. Vermont Democrats acknowledged that flood recovery costs and inflation were crushing family budgets and small businesses. They agreed that the property tax situation was pushing family finances to a breaking point. But what Vermonters heard was lots of explaining that amounted to, "It's complicated." What they saw was a stop-gap, expensive fix for

Messages → 14

Sen. Williams—we will not 'get over it'

Dear Editor,

The new vice-chair of Senate Natural Resources, Terry Williams, kicked off the legislative session with a rude and dismissive response to a constituent's concerns about trapping. A constituent wrote Williams a polite, lengthy email outlining various concerns with trapping—Williams' response: "Get over it..." Sure, Williams lists trapping as one of his recreational pastimes on the Legislature's website, but he must not place his personal agenda before the people he was elected to serve. Is Williams emboldened by similar hot-headed antics and partisan favoritism with the new lieutenant governor in office? Probably. I was the target of similar hostile treatment by Lt. Gov. John Rodgers when he sat on Senate Natural Resources.

Is this the Republican party that Phil Scott is proud of? For a governor who often talks about turning down the temperature and vitriol, he surely stands

Trapping → 26

Vaccines are our lifeboats

Dear Editor,

Dreaded diseases that we have forgotten about because vaccines have eliminated them are threatening to return.

Along with public health and sanitation efforts, vaccines are the single most lifesaving interventions in the history of medicine. Before vaccines, 10% of infants were dying of what are now preventable diseases; 30%-40% of children did not live to their 5th birthday, dying of preventable infectious diseases. Today the death rate is 95% lower. Walk through any cemetery in Vermont and look at the little headstones. Most are the graves of young children who died of preventable diseases.

I've been a pediatrician long enough to have cared for infants with pertussis, babies who cough so hard and frequently that they often stop breathing. They can't eat, they can't sleep and it lasts for weeks to months. It is heartbreaking because there is nothing we can do for them, except

Vaccines → 14

CAPITAL QUOTES

Wildfires broke out in the Los Angeles area on Jan. 7, ravaging several communities through 23 wildfires. At least 24 people have died in these fires, and the damage could reach a total of more than \$40 billion, according to estimates, making it one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. Politicians disagree on how to respond with some Republican leaders calling for tying disaster aid to forest management reforms and debt ceiling increases.

“There can’t be a blank check on this. There will be strings attached to money that is ultimately approved ... [because of California’s] gross failure to prevent the blazes,”

said Senate Majority Whip **John Barrasso** (R-Wyo) on CBS’ “Face the Nation,” Jan. 12.

“Republicans never ask for ‘strings’ attached to disaster funding for Republican states. This isn’t about helping California. This is about punishing California because it votes for Democrats,”

said Senator **Chris Murphy** (D-Connecticut) on X.

“The tragedy in Southern California is the result of decades of self-destructive policies by foolish politicians,”

said California Republican **Tom McClintock** in a Wall Street Journal, blaming environmental laws for the widespread devastation.

“Relief for disaster victims should never be held hostage, particularly in an effort to help President Trump and Republicans raise the debt ceiling so they can dole out more tax cuts to billionaires,”

said Senate Appropriations ranking member **Patty Murray** (D-Wash.)

“80,000 people told to evacuate. Blazes 0% contained — eight months since the area has seen rain. The scale of damage and loss is unimaginable. Climate change is real, not ‘a hoax.’ Donald Trump must treat this like the existential crisis it is,”

said Senator **Bernie Sanders** (Ind. Vt.) on Jan. 9.

COMMENTARY

Vermont’s housing crisis: A call for decisive action

By Miro Weinberger

Editor’s note: Miro Weinberger is a former mayor of Burlington (2012-2024) and a former affordable housing developer. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School’s Taubman Center.

Abundant housing is the cornerstone of an affordable, vibrant, and inclusive Vermont. Yet today, that vision of our beloved state is at risk as we face an unprecedented housing shortage that threatens not only our economy but also the very fabric of our communities.

The statistics are stark: Vermont has the second-highest homelessness rate in the country. The median home price has soared beyond the reach of working Vermonters. Half of all renters are cost-burdened, and one in four spend more than half of their income on housing. Yet despite these intense demand pressures, for the past 15 years, the state’s growth rate of new, permanent homes has only been about 1/3 the rate of the 1980s. These numbers point to a simple but painful truth: too many Vermonters cannot afford a place to call home.

The housing crisis doesn’t exist in isolation—it ripples through every corner of our state’s social and economic systems. With Vermont’s population aging, the lack of housing exacerbates healthcare and education challenges, making these systems increasingly unaffordable and unsustainable. Unless we change course, we face closing more rural hospitals and schools, further hollowing out many communities.

Instead, we must step up with impactful solutions that rebuild and reinvigorate our state. Addressing the housing crisis isn’t just about shelter—it’s about creating a more extensive tax base, bringing more families into our state and children into our schools, and fostering vibrancy and diversity in our towns.

Last summer, a report by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) highlighted the challenge’s scale: Vermont needs 30,000 new homes by the end of 2029. To achieve this, we must sustain and double our housing production rate from the last decade. This is a tall order, but it is possible—if we commit to decisive, sustained action.

We’ve seen what’s achievable when we make housing a priority. From 2012 to 2024, Burlington increased its housing production by 400%. This was no accident; it was the result of targeted regulatory changes, quadrupled investment in the local Housing Trust Fund, major infrastructure upgrades, and public-private partnerships like those at CityPlace and Cambrian Rise.

What worked in Burlington can work across Vermont, but it requires a statewide effort. This crisis is not an accident; it is largely the result of decades of overly restrictive land use and development policies that have made it far too challenging to build the homes we

need. The HOME ACT and Act 250 reforms of the last two years were important steps in the right direction, but that legislation is just a start. In the coming biennium, we need bold reforms and investments in three key areas:

- **Infrastructure Investment.** Only a small percentage of Vermont is served by adequate water and sewer infrastructure; even in those areas, new housing often requires significant upgrades. Expanding this infrastructure is essential, and revenues generated by new housing can fund this investment. However, Vermont’s restrictive and convoluted tax increment financing (TIF) laws make it difficult to direct those revenues back into housing infrastructure. A new housing infrastructure program could transform how Vermont funds essential upgrades needed to support housing development.
- **Appeals Reform.** Vermont’s current appeals system gives a single individual the power to delay, or even derail, housing projects our communities have planned for and need. This “vetocracy” drives up costs and kills projects before they can get off the ground. Public engagement must happen early in the process, during discussions about growth areas and land use policies. Once those policies are set, property owners and housing developers need the ability to move forward “by right” without the threat of years of costly delays.
- **Act 250 Tier Maps that enable growth.** Last year’s reforms to Act 250 represent a promising step, but the process of drawing tier maps is in the early stages, leaving considerable uncertainty about whether the reforms will ultimately significantly expand housing opportunities or simply lead to more of the same. We need to finish the job and ensure that in the future, Act 250 supports, rather than hinders, the housing development in established communities and targeted growth areas that Vermont desperately needs.

But policy changes alone won’t be enough. To truly solve this crisis, we must embrace a vision of Vermont’s future that balances our cherished natural beauty with the need for growth and diversity. A Vermont where everyone who wants to live, work, and raise a family here can do so.

There is a movement building to achieve this vision—a Vermont that is bigger, more dynamic, and more inclusive. It will take all of us to make it a reality. To learn more and join the effort, visit letsbuildhomes.org.

Together, we can create a future where everyone has a place to call home.

CARTOONS



Women's Right to abortions by Guy Parsons, PoliticalCartoons



Move to Canada? by Harley Schwadron, CagleCartoons

Just saying no:
from page 10

the state's pension programs were tanking and threatening the life savings of many teachers, highway patrol offices and state employees.

What changed? Two years ago, the Democratic Legislature researched, drafted and passed Act 114. The law required teachers' unions and state employees to agree to lower cost-of-living adjustments and higher employee contributions. In exchange, lawmakers promised a \$200 million lump-sum payment (which the state was legally obligated to pay) and agreed to pre-fund retiree health benefits.

With the compromise, the fund is now on track to be paid off on time. That's important because it improves the state's bond rating that has deteriorated under Scott's tenure. In 2018, two years after Scott was elected, Moody's dropped the state's longstanding triple-A rating down to its lower AA1 rating, citing "slower-than-average economic growth, demographics and pension obligations." Fitch

lowered its ratings in 2019, and in 2020, S&P affirmed the state's AA-plus rating but revised the state's outlook from "stable to negative."

Since Act 114 went into effect, all three firms have signaled that the policy changes have put the state back on the right track. In an October 2024 report, S&P wrote: "Our view of the state's risk management for pension governance has improved... [and is now] on a more sustainable long-term cost trajectory."

Gov. Scott also vetoed Act 114, saying the immediate cost was too high while ignoring any positive outcome. Again, his veto was over-ridden by the Democratic majority.

These two examples illustrate an important lesson: Just saying no to expenses is not always an effective plan, and it's not necessarily "more affordable" either. On the contrary, having no active plan — and countering those who do — is a recipe for allowing state problems to become the crises they are today.

Data breach:
from page 1

"The information, as far as we understand, does not include things like Social Security numbers," he said. "The initial information we have is that it's more about contact information."

Student information, Bunting said, may include names, addresses, emails, and birthdates. A spokesperson for PowerSchool, Beth Keebler, said in an emailed statement that the company "takes our responsibility to protect student data privacy and act responsibly as data processors extremely seriously... Our priority is to support our customers through this incident and to continue our unrelenting focus on data security."

TechCrunch reported that hackers successfully breached the company's system, and it was made aware of the breach on or around Dec. 28. "As soon as we learned of the incident, we immediately engaged our cybersecurity response protocols and mobilized a cross-functional response team, including senior leadership and third-party cybersecurity experts," the company stated, adding that it does not anticipate the data being shared or made public.

Zoie Saunders, Vermont's secretary of education, said in correspondence to superintendents of the affected districts that the impact of the breach may vary from district to district. "We understand that this news may be concerning, but please be assured that the agency takes incidents involving student information very seriously and is committed to ensuring that all necessary measures are in place to safeguard it," she wrote.

Sign:
from page 8

Ordinance shall be a civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA §1974a and 1977 et seq.

2. When a sign is in violation of this Ordinance, the Building Inspector shall provide written notice to the owner, person, or firm responsible for maintaining the sign. This notice will identify the actions that need to be taken to remedy the violation and a deadline by which those actions must be taken.

3. Failure to take the required actions within the timeframe presented shall result in a civil penalty in an amount for the first offense not to exceed \$50. A second offense of this ordinance

The City of Rutland may file a lien upon the property for the purpose of recovering all reasonable costs.

will result in a minimum civil penalty of \$150, and a third offense will result in a minimum civil penalty of \$500. Each and every day of noncompliance will be another day of violation and can result in an additional civil penalty.

4. Failure to take the required actions within 45 calendar days of the compliance date of the notice may result in the City of Rutland removing the sign or causing it to be removed at the expense of the owner and/or lessee.

5. Where the owner of the

property fails to take the actions required related to any of the above, the City of Rutland may file a lien upon the property for the purpose of recovering all reasonable costs associated with enforcing the violation and/or removing the sign if allowed by the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §3115 and 24 V.S.A. §4303(27)."

As of press time, several inquiries made to Rutland City Building Inspector Mark Sadakierski remained unanswered. Look for more information about whether it violates the Rutland City sign ordinance in future edition of this newspaper as well as if it violates Vermont's billboard law.

Harrison:
from page 9

In recognition of Republican gains in the House, Speaker Krowinski named a second Republican committee chair and five more Republican vice chairs (now 9). There are 14 committees in the House.

In the Senate, Republicans gained two chair positions for a total of three out of the 11 committees. Senator Brian Collamore, R-Rutland, a hard-working local legislator, is now Chair of Senate Government Operations.

Yours truly got a bit of a promotion and was appointed Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. I expect to enjoy a good working relationship with the new Chair, Robin Scheu, D-Middlebury. The committee is tasked with developing the House version of the state budget. In addition, all bills advanced by policy committees that require new spending must make a stop in Appropriations before going to the full House for a vote.

The Republican effort to repeal the Clean Heat law, of which I am the lead sponsor,

has been introduced as H.16 and was referred to the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee. According to a study done for the Public Service Department this past fall, the law will dramatically increase heating fuel prices if the proposed rules are adopted by the legislature.

The administration presented its mid-year budget adjustment proposal to the House Appropriations Committee Friday afternoon. It includes \$85 million in additional spending from the General Fund to address cost pressures in various areas, including state employee health care, a deficit in the state's liquor fund, the Vermont Veterans Home, Medicaid, and more. The money for the adjustments will come from an increase in the state's revenue forecast from state economists last summer.

Jim Harrison is the state representative for the Rutland-11 district, which serves Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield. He can be reached at: JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us.

← Killington Kids:

from page 4

ski operations, Smith persevered. Not only did he raise \$127,500 through the sale of stock (at \$250 a share) to open Killington, he eventually fulfilled the goals of becoming a world-class ski area and taking the company public.

Innovation rules

With Smith's drive to create a better ski experience, Killington became a pioneer in ski-area innovations. The area developed the ticket wicket; opened earlier and closed later, extending its ski season to six months; changed the snow reporting format to Smith's more objective factual report — inches of new snow, base depths, terms like powder, frozen granular — that was then adopted by the Vermont Ski Areas Operators Association and eventually used nationwide; debuted a try-before-you-buy concept in 1967-68 with free skiing for the first hour of lift operations so skiers could sample the snow before buying a lift-ticket; pushed lift manufacturers to produce higher capacity lifts; and took grooming and snowmaking technology to new heights as well.

In the process, Killington earned a reputation for offering the most terrain and the longest ski season in the East (and some years in the U.S.), dependable snow conditions, and an avant garde ski school that revolutionized ski instruction in the 1960s and 1970s.

Snowshed lift and trails

A willingness to experiment and find a better way to meet skier needs was set in motion by Smith when he designed and built the Snowshed beginner area in 1961. The lift manufacturer actually believed Killington had made a mistake in its specs because they had never received an order for a chairlift to be built on such a flat hill.

Killington's former General Manager Paul Bousquet said, "This idea to cater to beginners with what was at the time considered to be very flat terrain was unheard of in the ski industry and was tremendously risky. It was scary because we didn't know it would fly."

But seeing the rising popularity of skiing and need to teach beginners, Smith was willing to invest in a new concept and the three-quarter-milelong Snowshed became a popular learning hill that was eventually expanded many times.

Snowmaking, grooming dedication

Another phenomenon where R&D was to have lasting effects—not only at Killington but on the ski business—was snowmaking. Although Killington wasn't the first to install snowmaking, it was the first area to pioneer improvements and implement its own systems.

This stemmed from the disastrous installation of snowmaking on Snowshed in 1963, when the company responsible for the system misjudged the pressure that built up in the aluminum pipe and it blew up. Smith

dismissed the company, and thereafter Killington used its own engineers to oversee snowmaking, design its own guns and systems, and adopt the use of computers.

In 1971, snowmaking was installed top-to-bottom on Snowdon Mountain and expanded to Killington Peak in 1972 and by 1974 its 1,642-vertical-foot drop was covered top-to-bottom with snowmaking on the challenging Cascade trail.

In the 1974 Annual Report, Smith announced; "In the future we believe that if ski areas are to be viable, complete snowmaking facilities will be necessary, not only to forestall the consequences of snow drought, but also to insure quality skiing conditions throughout the season."

He noted that due to the wear and tear skiers were exerting on the slopes, "snowmaking is here to stay. Henceforth, ski operators will depend solely on machine-made snow to ensure the quality of their skiing experience."

But with the high cost of snowmaking systems and the 1970s' rising liability insurance rates and escalating energy costs, it would be the mid-to-late 1980s before most Vermont (and other northeastern) ski areas committed to snow being the product that they sell.

Killington also sold its patented guns and systems to other ski areas, seeking not only business for themselves but to help the industry along.

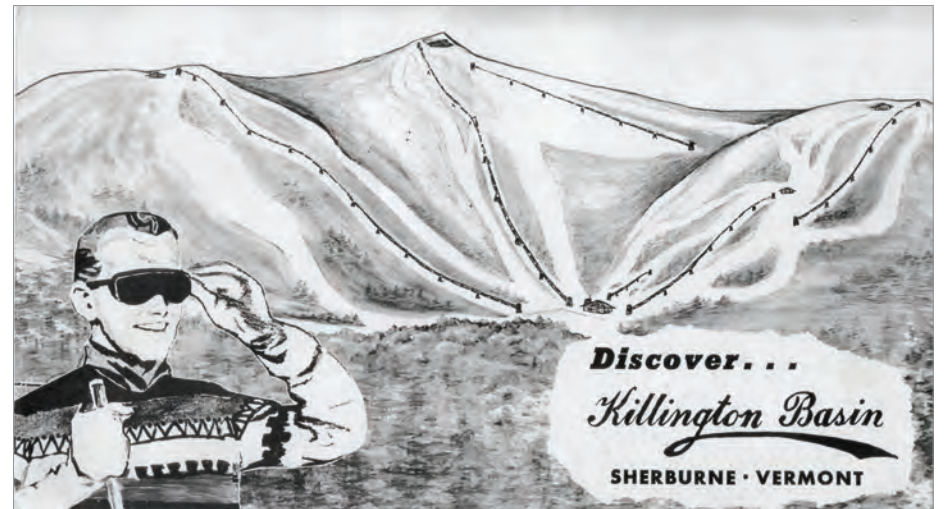
Smith later saw that the technologies of snowmaking and grooming — notably the development and refinement of Kassbohrer's Pisten Bully 200W winch cat, which largely occurred at Killington in 1984-1986 — would make it possible to offer lift-served skiing on Skye Peak (previously deemed too wind- and weather susceptible to be skied) and Bear Mountain, once thought too steep to hold snow. Thus, Outer Limits became the steepest, longest bump run in the East, and Superstar, another steep, proved to hold snow into May thanks to generous snowmaking.

Ski instruction spurs growth

Smith was the only ski area operator to accept Ski magazine's invitation to see if a short ski could serve as a learning tool to improve and accelerate the learning process. Again, there were many who were skeptical and some scoffed at the notion of using "baby skis." But Ski School Director Karl Pfeiffer saw the potential

in preliminary tests in 1964 and worked in conjunction with Ski to develop the Graduated Length Method (GLM), which involved learning on a 39-inch ski for two days, 5-footers for two days, and skiing on a regular-length ski on the fifth day of a GLM Ski Week.

With the promise of parallel skiing in five days, Killington inaugurated a Uni-Ski Vacation for the 1966-67 season. It included a 5-day learn-to-ski package with GLM equipment and daily 2-hour lesson, lift



Submitted

The cover of Killington Resort's first winter brochure, then called Killington Basin in Sherburne.

ticket, après-ski social program, food, and lodging at a total cost of \$97 (\$944 in today's dollars). The Uni-Ski Week made it easier for the new skier to take up the sport, and Killington became the first ski area in the country to market a comprehensive ski package (offering both traditional and GLM learning options).

With snowguns making it possible to guarantee snow, Killington saw its ski week attendance skyrocket. The area was soon processing 800 to 900 beginner ski-weekers on a Sunday evening and saw that climb to "2,000 and even more at peak times well into the mid-1970s. Weekend ski school added even more," noted Leo Denis, former ski school director and vice president-skiing.

"It was the phenomenal midweek revenues from ski school that enabled Killington to grow, expand, and become so successful," Denis said, adding that as a result Killington became one of the first areas in the U.S. to include the ski school director as part of the management team.

Gondola innovations

The original Killington gondola was considered unbuildable by most lift engineers. But Carlevaro and Savio thought that Smith's requirements for a 4-passenger, higher capacity, 3.5-mile lift with automatic entry and exit from both sides of the cabin would be doable if done in three sections. The prototype Killington Gondola became the longest lift in the world and operated in three stages, running either independently or as one continuous lift and had a capacity of 1,500 rides per hour, about 50% greater than any gondola at the time.

The \$875,000 lift ended up costing \$3.5 million (\$30 million in today's dollars) and took three years to build instead of one. With parts not working and transfer systems under-designed for the heavier four-passenger cabins (hoses popped, hydraulics failed, and cabins had to be hand pushed through the terminals), Killington redesigned and rebuilt the system with its own engineers. In 1994 the two-stage, 2.5-mile, eight-passenger Skyship, which terminates at Skye Peak, replaced the prototype gondola with the world's first

heated gondola cabins.

Computers, marketing, profitability

Killington's business approach saw an office manager and a systems analyst hired in 1960. It also included the use of computers in the 1960s and specially designed cash registers for automatic ticket printing and control. In the 1970s, Killington developed computer programming for ski area management, and, in 1984, a management information services department was formed. It utilized sophisticated computers and fostered the efficient use of computers in other departments.

This business approach to ski operations also included the 1961 addition of a news and public relations department which eventually became part of a professional marketing department that sought to attract people from all walks of life. Killington established a market research program that could track how other areas were doing; studied skiers through surveys and exit polls; and pioneered a variety of advertising and promotional innovations like the insertion of trail maps in ski publications and the development of the comprehensive ski-week vacation package.

Through these innovations (among others) and a business approach focused on assured consistent profitability, Killington contributed to the wellbeing of the skier and ski industry and became a very successful ski area (No. 1 in the East for skier visits). That led to fulfilling an original ambition to go public and to own and operate other areas, which it did as S-K-I Ltd., before being sold in 1996.

Interestingly, three owners later, Killington and sister Pico Mountain are now privately owned by another group of enthusiastic skiers who are honoring the resorts' accomplishments by keeping its leaders in place and continuing to work co-operatively with Great Gulf toward the goal of developing a world-class resort village.

Karen D. Lorentz is author of books on Killington and Okemo. She is working on a history of Vermont skiing and would like to hear (karenlorentz@icloud.com) from skiers with roots in early Vermont skiing.



Submitted
A sign celebrates Killington's snowmaking prowess.

← Messages:

from page 10

the immediate problem of property taxes and a continued focus on the Affordable Heat Act and other initiatives that Democrats know voters see as too costly.

Making the situation even more challenging is that we're dealing with complex problems we have little control over. For the most part, inflation cannot be controlled at the state level. Flood recovery is largely dependent on federal funding, and states are at the mercy of FEMA and insurance companies. Vermont's property tax formula

voters to blame Democrats for last year's double-digit property tax increase. They saw legislative priorities like the Affordable Heat Act, the recently enacted child care contribution, and increased DMV fees as unaffordable, and they voted out those Democrats who supported them.

They voted in Republicans who shared Governor Scott's simple message that Vermont just isn't affordable anymore and joined him in blaming the Democratic supermajority for it. The Republican

We must not take the Republican approach of using a simple message as a shield to hide a lack of solutions.

is so complicated that very few understand it, and it will take years to design and implement a less complex and more fair system.

But not all voters know these things. Many are busy living their lives, trying to pay their bills, and not thinking deeply about the larger forces that make our lives difficult, which brings me back to messaging.

Democratic losses in November were primarily due to simple messaging targeted at Vermonters' biggest concern: affordability. This led

message was so simple that even though they had no solutions to offer, voters bought into it because they desperately want change—so much so that Democrats lost more seats in our state legislature than anywhere else in the country.

The ball is in Governor Scott's court now. The enormous pressures Vermont faces, in addition to unsustainable property tax increases—things like housing, addiction, healthcare, and infrastructure—haven't improved in the last eight

years. Governing by just saying no to ideas proposed by Democrats hasn't made life in Vermont more affordable for anyone.

That's the flip side of simple messaging—it may seem appealing on the surface, but often, there's nothing there.

Where does that leave Democrats? There's still a Democratic majority in both the House and Senate. But voters have sent a clear message that affordability is their priority and they expect results.

Democrats cannot ignore the effectiveness of a simple message. However, while we tend to overcomplicate our messaging, we must not take the Republican approach of using a simple message as a shield to hide a lack of solutions. We should not take advantage of voters' fears to win races. Democrats have an excellent track record of delivering strong programs that help Vermonters. It's our job to make that clear to voters.

Elaine Haney, Essex Junction

Editor's note: Elaine Haney is one of Vermont's Democratic National Committee members. She is also an Essex Junction city councilor and the executive director of Emerge Vermont.

← Vaccines:

from page 10

put them on a respirator as a last resort. I lost a patient to chicken pox in the '80s. My teachers told me about rubella-associated birth defects, deafness and sterility from mumps, and perhaps more than any other disease, the ravages of polio. Summer epidemics of polio left behind death, children in iron lungs to breathe for them, paralysis, a lifetime of disability.

Vaccines have largely relegated these diseases to the past. But political forces now threaten to resurrect them and their ravages for no good reason. President-elect Trump told Time magazine in an interview in late November that he would consider getting rid of some vaccines for children, "if I think it's dangerous, if I think they are not beneficial." He has repeated the disproved association of MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella) with autism. The paper that speculated on this association in 1998 was retracted by the medical journal, The Lancet, and its author, Andrew Wakefield, who continues to promulgate this dangerous lie, has been stripped of his medical license.

Trump's nominee to run the Dept. of Health and Human Services, RFK Jr., has suggested the polio vaccine might have caused a wave of cancers "that killed many, many, many, many more people than polio ever did." And he has said the idea that the vaccine resulted in a drastic decline in polio cases is "a mythology" that is "just not true."

These statements and

conviction are demonstrably false and engender distrust of the medical profession and public health. And the lawyer who advises RFK Jr. is going to request that the FDA review the po-

down, as it did when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, infectious diseases quickly surge back. Diseases as horrible as diphtheria killed thousands (more than 140,000 cases and more

We are always swimming in a microbial sea and vaccines are our lifeboats. We're all in this together.

lio vaccine and suggest it be removed from the market.

While RFK Jr. recently said he wasn't going to take away anybody's vaccines, he also said, "People ought to have a choice, and that choice ought to be informed by the best information."

In fact, Trump and RFK Jr. oppose school vaccine mandates, leaving parents to decide whether to vaccinate their children. But if even a small percentage of parents decide not to immunize their children, our herd immunity will fail, and these diseases will return. Leaving vaccine decisions up to each state's health department will likewise guarantee the return of these diseases.

Consider the injected polio vaccine used in the U.S. It helps the immune system recognize the virus and fight it off before it gets to the nervous system and causes paralysis and death, but it doesn't stop transmission of the virus. Vaccinated people can still carry and shed the virus in their stool. Though not ill with polio, they can be a reservoir of the polio virus that can easily infect the unvaccinated.

When a national immunization system breaks

than 4,000 deaths).

We are always swimming in a microbial sea and vaccines are our lifeboats. We're all in this together. Vaccine success depends on a social contract we have all adhered to for more than 70 years.

Without immunizations and robust public health measures, children will die. I worry about unvaccinated children spreading dangerous infectious disease to vulnerable populations: newborns before their routine first vaccines, children under the age of 1 before they receive their MMR vaccines, children and adults whose immune systems are compromised, the elderly.

Untoward reactions to vaccines rarely occur, and CDC officials monitor a large database where the public, doctors and vaccine makers report vaccine side effects. Surveillance is robust.

Although Trump is known for his frequent lying, I take him at his word about vaccines, and I worry. We all should worry. His policies are most likely to make America sick again.

Jack Mayer, Middlebury
Editor's note: Mayer is a retired pediatrician and writer who has practiced in Vermont since 1976.

← Barry Leete:

from page 4

him wrapped around her pinkie finger from that day forward.

Barry was known for his intelligence, strong will, and occasional (frequent) stubbornness.

He was deeply devoted to his family and friends and had a passion for his many interests, including his inventions, railroads, the fire service, theater, and opera. His early life was filled with adventure—riding trains to New York City with a neighbor as a child and later working for both the Canadian National and Vermont Railways. As a teen-

ager, Barry joined his father and cousin in climbing Killington Peak to scout terrain for what would later become the world-class resort we know today.

Barry is survived by his wife, Jean Leete; daughter, Jordan Leete; two sisters, Deborah Leete Flannery and Virginia E. Strahan; and a brother, Gerald W. Strahan.

A celebration of life will be held on May 10, 2025, at the Killington Fire Station.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Vermont Fire Cadet Academy or the Rutland County Humane Society.



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WORDPLAY

AT THE RINK WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- AXEL
- BLADE
- BREAKAWAY
- CHECK
- COAST
- COMPETITION
- DISCIPLINE
- EDGE
- FLIP
- HOCKEY
- ICE
- JUMP
- LIFT
- NOVICE
- PROGRAM
- RINK
- ROLLER
- SEASON
- SINGLES
- SKATING
- SPEED
- SPIN
- WARMUP
- ZAMBONI

SUDOKU

Solutions → 30

How to Play

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

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 30

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpent deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. "Sir" in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward
- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. "The world's most famous arena"
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partner to "oohs"
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of

1	2	3	4					5	6	7			8	9	10	11
12				13				14					15			
16						17		18					19			
20								21					22			
				23		24						25				
26	27	28	29					30								
31								32								
33												34	35	36	37	38
				39	40	41		42	43							
			44	45				46								
	47							48								
49							50			51		52	53	54	55	
56							57			58						
59							60					61				
62							63						64			

- Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow "A"
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between
- northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas
- city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in Australia on January 13, 1990. Before becoming an actor, I worked in the construction industry. I am best known for a prominent role in "The Hunger Games" series, as well as my high-profile marriage to a pop singer.

Answer: Liam Hemsworth

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WED
1/15

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.

Winter Naturalist Series: Nordic Ski Adventure

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Prosper Road Trailhead, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock. Free. Enjoy cross-country skiing on moderate trails through northern hardwood forests, led by park naturalists. Recommended for intermediate and advanced skiers. Trail passes (\$20-\$35) and rentals available at Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center. nps.gov/mabi.

Michelob ULTRA Ski Bum Race Series

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays through March 12. Highline ski trail, Killington Resort, Killington. \$60 per individual. Open to skiers, snowboarders, and telemark skiers ages 21+. Compete weekly for Ski Bum glory, followed by après parties with food, drink specials, and prizes from 4-6 p.m. Training course available 10 a.m.-noon. Registration required. killington.com/ski-bum-race-series.

Active Seniors Lunch

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

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Road, Woodstock. \$15 or \$30 for three classes. Yoga class for seniors. wisepines.com/events.

Diabetes Support Group

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

Public Skating

2-3:40 p.m. 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.



FRIDAY @ 4:30 P.M.

**TORCHLIGHT
SNOWSHOE**

Cribbage for Adults

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

Public Skate

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

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

Annual Community Resource Fair & Coffeehouse

5-7:30 p.m., Keefe Gymnasium, Rutland Middle School, 22 Stratton Road, Rutland. Meet 35 regional service organizations providing support and enrichment for adults and youth. Coffeehouse performances in the library, art and music activities for children, and light refreshments provided. Two 20-minute presentations on substance use awareness by Doug Norford, director of Child and Family Services at the Community Care Network. chris.vansciver@rcpsvt.org.

Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (Monthly, 2nd Wednesday) 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.

Alla Prima Oil Painting Workshop

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$35. Learn the Alla Prima oil painting technique, applying wet paint to wet paint in one sitting, with instructor Spencer Pelkey. All supplies included. Pre-registration required. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

Speed Dating with Wingman Of the Year

7-9 p.m. Prouty's Parlor, 62 Merchants Row, Rutland. \$16. Join Wingman Of The Year co-founder Hunter Werner for a speed dating event designed for ages 24-45. Check-in begins at 6 p.m., with speed dating starting promptly at 7 p.m. The event promotes a welcoming and positive environment with mocktails, ice cream, and non-dairy options available. Late arrivals may not be included in the main rotation. wingmanoftheyear.com.

THURS
1/16

Riding with Researchers

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), 149 Natures Way, Quechee. General Public: \$125, VINS Members: \$112. Join the VINS Research team for a day-long exploration of Addison County, Vermont's winter raptor hotspot. Participants will search for hawks and owls, observe trapping and banding efforts, and learn about raptor ecology and field identification. Registration required makeup date is Jan. 10. vinsweb.org.

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.

Survivors Support Group

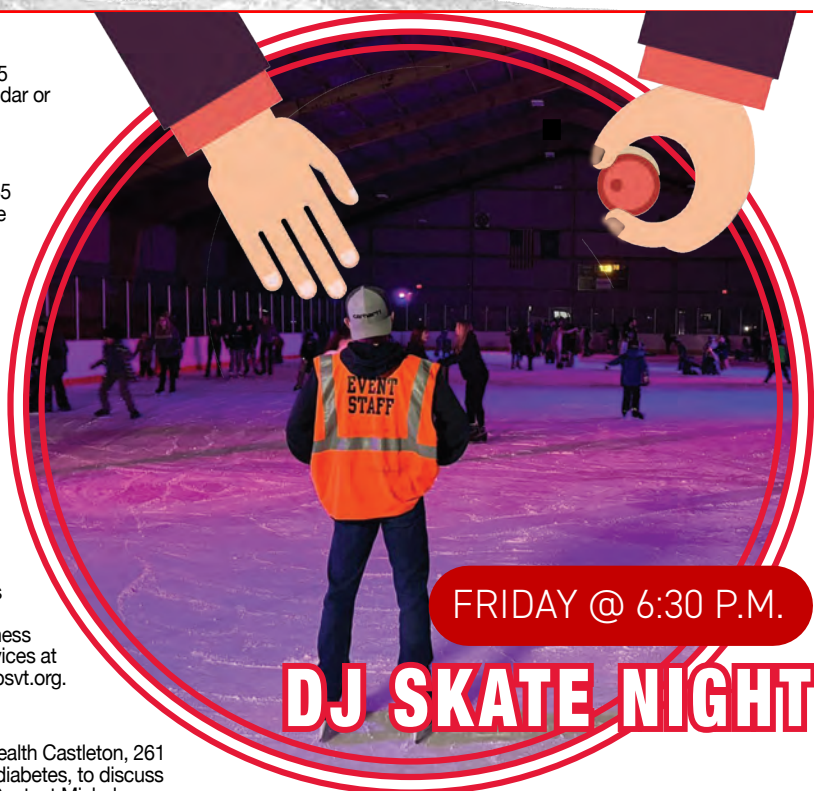
10 a.m.-noon. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Fliers are available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick.

Bone Builders

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

Lunchtime Skate

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. Discounted admissions and skate rentals. Check site for pricing and details. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.



FRIDAY @ 6:30 P.M.

DJ SKATE NIGHT

Chaffee: 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.

Michelob ULTRA Race World

1-3 p.m. Thursdays through March 13. Pico Mountain, 73 Alpine Dr., Killington. Refer to website for details. Weekly race series featuring individual and team competitions, followed by after-parties at the Last Run Lounge with food, prizes, and Michelob ULTRA specials. picomountain.com.

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.

Public Meeting

5:30-6 p.m. Fox Room at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. 10-minute powerpoint presentation, followed by a speech by Mayor Michael Doenges and an open Q&A to discuss the proposed civic center at 88 Merchants Row. rutlandfree.org.

Fly Tying Evening

6-7 p.m. Woodstock Inn Nordic Center, 76 South St., Woodstock. Free. Join an evening of fly tying, fishing stories, and camaraderie. Beginners are welcome, with vises, materials, and guidance provided. Drinks and snacks available. guvtu.org/events-1/fly-tying-pdijt.

'Mediated Lives: The Family Historian'

6:30-8 p.m. Junction Arts & Media, 5 So. Main St., White River Junction. Donations accepted. Dena Rueb Romero and Richard Neugass discuss family histories impacted by the Holocaust and the role of family historians in preserving memory. The event includes insights from Romero's book "All for You" and Neugass's exploration of his father's remarkable story. junctionartsandmedia.org.

Film Screening: 'Still Alice'

7:30-9:10 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Based on Lisa Genova's 2007 novel, the film explores the life of Dr. Alice Howland as she navigates a diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Starring Julianne Moore, Alec Baldwin, and Kristen Stewart. Presented the night before Bookstock's event featuring Lisa Genova. pentanglearts.org.

Stick & Puck

7:45-9:15 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 16

FRI
1/17

SAT
1/18

Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sales

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland, VT 05701. By donation. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and rare selections. Proceeds support library programs and projects. Limit two grocery bags per family; no book dealers. rutlandfree.org.

Bone Builders

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

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

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

Stick & Puck

1:30-2:50 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net.

Stick & Puck

3-5 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Tubing Night Presented by bubly

4-6 p.m. Killington Tubing Park, 3861 East Mountain Road, Killington. Enjoy family-friendly tubing, free bubly seltzer samples (while supplies last), giveaways, and s'mores. Tickets required for park access and include tube rental and lift service. killington.com.

Torchlight Snowshoe

4:30-6:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$7-\$12, free for ages 2 and under. Billings Farm members: \$5 adults, free for children. Enjoy a torchlit trail along the Ottauquechee River with views of Woodstock, wildlife insights, and complimentary s'mores, hot cocoa, and coffee by an outdoor fire. Snowshoes available to borrow; headlamps recommended. billingsfarm.org/torchlight-snowshoe.

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (upstairs), 35 Marble St., West Rutland. \$15 per class. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com.

Plant Bingo

6-7:30 p.m. Speakeasy Cafe, 35 Center St., Rutland. \$30. Join GreenSpell Plant Shop and Speakeasy Cafe for six rounds of Bingo with prizes and gift card raffles. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and a special event menu will be available. Tickets required; limited to 30 players. green-spell.com.

DJ Skate Night

6:30-8:30 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 residents, \$8 non-residents, \$5 skate rentals. Enjoy public skating with music by Sunset Entertainment. 802-775-7976.

Lisa Genova in Conversation with Neuroscientist Melodie Winawer

6:45-8:00 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Best-selling author Lisa Genova discusses her new novel "More or Less Maddy" and her previous work, including "Still Alice," in conversation with neuroscientist and novelist Melodie Winawer. The evening includes a Q&A and book signing. Admission requires a free ticket. Sponsored by Bookstock, The Yankee Bookshop, and Pentangle Arts Council. zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/lisa-genova-event.

Almost Queen: A Tribute to Queen

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland, VT. \$50-\$75. Experience the music of Queen with Almost Queen, a band that captures the legendary group's iconic sound and energy with four-part harmonies, authentic costumes, and a meticulously curated setlist. Presented in partnership with Higher Ground Presents. paramountvt.org.

Introduction to Trout Fishing

Through the Ice

8-11 a.m. Knapp Pond #2, 1426 Knapp Pond Road., Cavendish. Free. This hands-on clinic covers ice fishing techniques for trout, including safety, equipment, and best practices. Registration required. register-ed.com/events/view/222279.

Sugar Hollow Ice Bowl Disc Golf Tournament

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pittsford Recreation Area, 223 Recreation Area Rd., Pittsford. Join the second annual Ice Bowl event hosted by Lumberjack Disc Golf and Pittsford Recreation Department. Play disc golf with refreshments, warming stations, and a commemorative disc for the first 35 registered players. Registration closes at midnight prior to the event; no walk-up registrations accepted. Funds raised support local charities to fight food insecurity. gofund.me/4784b86b. discgolfszene.com/tournaments/2nd_Annual_Sugar_Hollow_Ice_Bowl_2025.

Docent-Led Tour: 'Thomas Struth: Winterthur Landscapes'

10-11 a.m. Hall Art Foundation, 544 VT Route 106, Reading. \$6-\$12. Enjoy a one-hour docent-led tour of the exhibition, followed by self-guided access to the galleries. QR code information is available; visitors are encouraged to bring devices and headphones. Cafe refreshments for purchase. Advance registration required; punctuality essential. hallartfoundation.org.

Billings Backyard Workshop: 'Visible Mending'

10-11:30 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road., Woodstock. \$15/person, \$10/member. Learn creative mending techniques with local fiber artist Tiana St. James. Transform worn garments into revitalized pieces using sewing, darning, and decorative stitching. Workshop includes a 30-minute Q&A. Registration required. billingsfarm.org/billings-backyard.

Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sales

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland, VT 05701. By donation. Browse thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and rare selections. Proceeds support library programs and projects. Limit two grocery bags per family; no book dealers. rutlandfree.org.

Vermont Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Shop local produce, crafts, and goods every Saturday through May 10, 2025. vtfarmersmarket.org.

Rutland Area NAACP Freedom Fund Brunch

10 a.m.-noon. Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St., Rutland. \$50. Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with keynote speaker Xusana Davis, Vermont Racial Equity Director, and honor local leaders. Proceeds benefit Vermont State University Castleton Campus NAACP Chapter. naacprutland.org/freedomfund.

Rutland Railway Association & Model Club

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

Beginner Cardigan Knitting Class

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Green Mountain Fibers, 34 Merchants Row, Rutland. \$165 for five sessions. Learn to knit your first cardigan with Amanda using Jennifer Hagan's Fundamental Top-Down Women's Cardigan pattern. This course is ideal for beginner sweater knitters who are comfortable with basic techniques. Class meets Saturdays: Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1, 15; and March 1. Students must preregister and provide their materials. Registered participants receive a 10% discount on class yarn. greenmountainfibers.com.

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

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



SATURDAY @ 5 P.M.

TORCHLIGHT PARADE CELEBRATION

Vermont Specter Squad Paranormal Investigation

1-3:45 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join fellow paranormal enthusiasts to investigate the Fox Room, a former jail and courthouse, for ghostly activity. Bring your own gear or simply observe as the Vermont Specter Squad delves into this historic and eerie location. Ouija boards and seances are not permitted. rutlandfree.org.

Opening Reception: 'Hiding in Plain Sight'

2-3:30 p.m. Mezzanine Gallery, Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Meet artist Amy Schachter at the opening reception of her "Hiding in Plain Sight" exhibition. Enjoy light refreshments and engage in a Q&A session. normanwilliams.org.

Film Screening: "The Eternal Memory"

3-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$12-\$15. Academy Award-nominated film showcasing the enduring love between TV reporter Augusto and actress Paulina as they navigate Augusto's Alzheimer's diagnosis with affection and humor. 802-457-2355 billingsfarm.org.

Kids' Corner Activities

4-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Lodge, 3861 Killington Road, Killington. Free. Join kid-friendly activities on the 3rd floor, including DIY bookmarks, slap bracelets, a coloring corner, and board games. Live music for adults at Long Trail Pub nearby. killington.com.

Public Skate

4:15-5:45 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$5 per person; skate rentals and sharpening available for \$5 each. Season passes also available. Enjoy public skating at this family-friendly venue. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

Torchlight Parade Celebration

5-7 p.m. Okemo Base Lodge, 77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow. Free. Enjoy a family-friendly celebration featuring the Torchlight Parade, presented by Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates. Register for a chance to win a \$250 gift card to Boot Pro. 802-228-8811 marketing@davisandcompany.com.

Stick & Puck

5:30-7 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

Cabaret & Silent Art Auction: 'Faces in Harmony'

6-9 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$15-\$120. Enjoy local musical entertainment, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent art auction featuring pieces from the Chaffee collection and donated works. Ticket options include complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres. chaffeeartcenter.square.site.

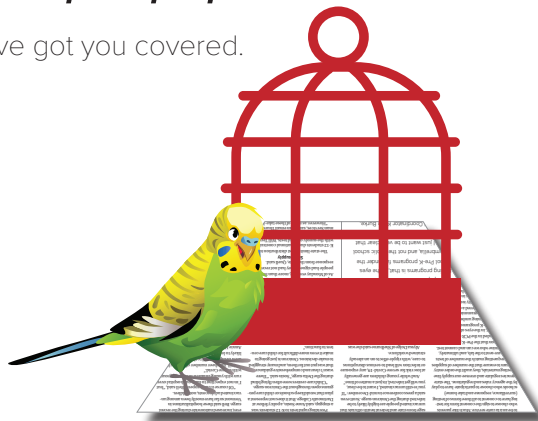
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Woodstock Vermont Film Series

JAN 18 & 19

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Matthew Carey
DIRECTOR

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From Academy Award® nominee Maite Alberdi
director of *The Male Agent*

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Calendar:
from page 17

Bob Marley: Live Comedy Show
8 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$40-\$45. Maine-born comedian Bob Marley performs his standup routine, known for appearances on late-night TV and Sirius Radio's "Blue Collar" and "RawDog" comedy shows. Complimentary vouchers not valid for this event. paramounttv.org.

SUN
1/19

Stick & Puck
9:40-10:50 a.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net.

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.

Film Screening: "The Eternal Memory"
3-5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$12-\$15. Academy Award-nominated film showcasing the enduring love between TV reporter Augusto and actress Paulina as they navigate Augusto's Alzheimer's diagnosis with affection and humor. 802-457-2355 billingsfarm.org.

Public Skate
3:15-4:30 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$5 per person; skate rentals and sharpening available for \$5 each. Season passes also available. Enjoy public skating at this family-friendly venue. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

Kids' Corner Activities
4-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Lodge, 3861 Killington Road, Killington. Free. Enjoy family-friendly fun, featuring cookie decorating, a coloring corner, and board games on the 3rd floor. Live music for adults at Long Trail Pub nearby. killington.com.

'The Art of Life': Opening Reception
5-7 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Celebrate the opening of "The Art of Life," featuring photographs and collages by Robert Black. Enjoy wine, refreshments, and meet the artist while exploring the galleries. Works by Chaffee artist members will be on display and for sale. Donations appreciated. Exhibit runs through March 1. chaffeeartcenter.org.

MON
1/20

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

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.

Public Skate
1:00-3:00 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, 451 Highland Ave., White River Junction. \$5 per person; skate rentals and sharpening available for \$5 each. Season passes also available. Enjoy public skating at this family-friendly venue. hartfordvt.myrec.com.

Drop-in COED Hockey
7:45-9:15 p.m. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. \$5 for city residents, \$8 for nonresidents, and \$5 skate rentals. rutlandrec.com/giorgetti.

TUES
1/21

Intro to Cabochon Stone Setting
1-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 4. CraftStudies Studio & School, 87 Maple St., Hartford, VT 05001. \$250 (for all four sessions). Learn to add gems to your jewelry in this four-session class. Beginners will complete a pair of earrings, while returning students can enhance previous projects. Includes bench time and basic materials. Registration required. craftstudies.org.

Stick & Puck
1:30-3 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net.

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

Alzheimer's Support Group
4-5 p.m., (Monthly, 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.

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

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

Gather Together with Social Tinkering
6-8 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Enjoy a welcoming, inclusive community social with games, puzzles, and activities for all ages. Bring a musical instrument, game, or crafting project to share. socialtinkering.org/gatherttogether.

Cuban Partner Dance
7:15-9 p.m. Tuesdays in January. St. Barnabas Church, 262 Main St., Norwich, VT. Beginner: \$25/4 weeks or \$10/class. Intermediate: Free with beginner class or \$10/class (instructor approval required). Learn the elegant Cuban dance "casino" in a welcoming community. No partner needed. Mini social dancing between classes. Bring clean shoes. uvcasineros.square.site.

ONGOING

Cooking Classes at Mission Farm
Check website for classes and registration. The Kitchen at Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Learn to cook, host an event, or teach a class in Mission Farm's open kitchen space. missionfarmkitchen.org.

Okemo Innkeepers Race Series
Mondays, January - March, 10 a.m.-noon. Wardance slope, Okemo Mountain Resort, Ludlow. The 43rd annual race series welcomes skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels, ages 18-80, competing as teams or individuals. Enjoy a fun, competitive league with awards at season's end. Social gatherings follow on Monday evenings, 5-7 p.m., at local establishments. Contact Ken at okemoracing@gmail.com.

Skating Lessons
Tuesday Jan. 8 - March 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, Jan. 9 - March 6, 4:20-5:20 p.m. Union Arena Community Center, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Skating lessons for all abilities, including Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Winter session includes participation in the Annual Ice Show on March 9. Registration and details at uaskateclub.com.

UPCOMING

'Faces in Harmony' Exhibit
Jan. 24 - Feb 28. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Photo submission deadline is Jan. 18. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Craft Supply Swap
Jan. 25, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Poultney Public Library, 205 Main St., Poultney. Free. Drop off clean and usable craft supplies from Jan. 18-24 during library hours, then return on Jan. 25 to shop for free materials and inspiration. All supplies are free while available, and no swap is necessary to shop. 802-287-5556.

'King James'
Jan. 29-Feb. 16. Barrette Center for the Arts, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$34-\$74, \$24 youth and student tickets. Rajiv Joseph's play follows superfans Matt and Shawn as they bond over LeBron James' tenure with the Cleveland Cavaliers, navigating their friendship through shared love of basketball. northernstage.org.

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED
1/15

KILLINGTON
2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge- Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – Jeremiah Strauss

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel - Mihali

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND

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

THURS
1/16

BRANDON

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

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown

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

5 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – Nick Bredice

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Dave Matthew Tribute Band

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 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 Caber Wilson

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

WOODSTOCK

6 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club – Sammy B

FRI
1/17

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Bryce O'Brien

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Live Music

KILLINGTON

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Nick Bredice and Liz Reedy

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown

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

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

6 p.m. Rivershed – Glimtvis

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

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – JD and the Stonemasons

7:30 p.m. The Foundry – Marc Edwards

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – The Zoo

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – George Nostrand

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Jazz with Rev Leon Dunkley and Stephen Stuntz

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Bow & Krishna

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

6:30 p.m. Giorgetti Park – DJ Skate Night

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – DJ EG

SAT
1/18

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Show with headliners Thomas Lewis & Lauren Festa

KILLINGTON

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

1 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Rhys Chalmers

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

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

3 p.m. Rivershed – Stevey Burke

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Jamie's Junk Show with special guest opener Jenny Porter & Krishna Guthrie

4 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

5:30 p.m. Killington Wine Bar – Rick Webb

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Public House at the Summit Lodge – Rambletree

6 p.m. Preston's – Liz Reedy

6 p.m. Rivershed – Glimtvis

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Sammy B

6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7 p.m. Vermont Craft – Nick Bredice

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – JD and the Stonemasons

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

8 p.m. North Star Lodge Star Lounge – All-Request Dance Party with DJ Dave

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – The Zoo

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

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

LUDLOW

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

11 a.m. Okemo's Sunshine Quad in SouthFace Village – Beats and Eats on Snow with Sammy B

2 p.m. Okemo's The Bull – George Nostrand

5 p.m. Clock Tower Base Area – Okemo Classic Torchlight Parade with music by Soul Tsunami and fireworks

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Rivalry Band

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

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler's Pub – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club – Livingston Leo

SUN
1/19

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Plymouth Rock

KILLINGTON

Noon. Rivershed – Brunch with Stevey Burke

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

1 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Jamie's Junk Show

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

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Stevey Burke

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

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

6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band

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

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Zac 'n' Fried

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Liz Reedy

LUDLOW

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

11 a.m. Okemo's Sunshine Quad in SouthFace Village – Beats and Eats on Snow with Sammy B
2 p.m. Okemo's The Bull – Chuck and John

QUECHEE

2 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Jaded Ravins

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE

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

MON
1/12

KILLINGTON

Noon. Rivershed – Stevey Burke

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

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

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

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

LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Sammy B

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

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

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Angler's Pub – Trivia hosted by Sunset Entertainment

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottaquechee Yacht Club – Rhys Chalmers

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Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

The torchlight snowshoe event will occur on Friday, Jan. 17, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Torchlight snowshoe event at Billings Farm offers a unique winter experience

Friday, Jan. 17 at 4:30 p.m. — WOODSTOCK—Billings Farm & Museum invites guests to light up their evening with a torchlit snowshoe adventure along the Ottauquechee River.

This leisurely 1-mile trail, illuminated by glowing torches, offers sweeping views of Woodstock, the East End Park, and the historic farmstead.

Participants can snowshoe, ski, or stroll under the stars, guided by insights from Billings Farm staff and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Rangers, who will share stories about the land, wildlife, and animal tracks in the snow.

Families and friends can gather by an outdoor fire to enjoy complimentary s'mores, hot cocoa, or coffee. Snowshoes are available to borrow on a limited basis, with additional rentals available at the Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center before 4 p.m. Headlamps are recommended.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7 for children ages 3-15, and free for children under 2. Billings Farm members pay \$5 for adults, with free admission for children. Advance registration is recommended, though walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org/torchlight-snowshoe.

Killington's Johnson Recreation Center Ice Rink kicks off hockey season

The Johnson Recreation Ice Rink started the season early with some cold December weather. It has been operating since the first week of December.

The rink continues with its Winter programming on Monday nights, when the Recreation Dept. holds its Double Diamonds hockey practice from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"This year, the ice is as good as I have ever seen. A lot of thanks goes to the Rec-

reation ice team led by Griffin Van Niel. I hope people get out there and enjoy it," said Killington Recreation board member Arra Dederian.

Public skating is open every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., weather permitting. Helmets are required, and some skates can be borrowed.

For more information and to register your child for the hockey program, visit: killingtonvt.myrec.com/info/default.aspx



Courtesy Killington Recreation Board

Members of the Killington Double Diamonds hockey program attended a recent practice at the Johnson Recreation Center.

Woodstock Film Series presents 'The Eternal Memory'



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 18-19, at 3 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—The Woodstock Vermont Film Series continues with a screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary "The Eternal Memory" at the Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater.

Directed by Maite Alberdi, the film chronicles the love story of Augusto Góngora, a renowned Chilean cultural commentator and television presenter, and his wife, Paulina Urrutia, a celebrated actress and former minister of culture. Over their 25 years together, their lives took a profound turn when Augusto was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Through affection, humor, and resilience, Paulina became a caretaker and memory guardian as the couple navigated individual and collective memory complexities.

Praised by the Los Angeles Times as "exquisitely humane and a beautiful and affecting love story," the film is presented in Spanish with English subtitles.

The Woodstock Vermont Film Series showcases compelling, place-based stories to engage audiences and inspire meaningful conversations. Screenings occur on select Saturday and Sunday afternoons through Feb. 23. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$12 for Billings Farm & Museum members.

For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org/filmseries.



Submitted

Cami (left) and Chloe (right) Blount continue their mission to fund cancer and diabetes research at the annual Runs4Research ski and ride fundraiser at Okemo on Feb. 1.

Sisters combine a passion for skiing with fundraising to battle cancer and diabetes

Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — LUDLOW—Runs4Research (R4R), an annual ski and ride fundraiser at Okemo Mountain Resort, returns for its eighth year, benefiting cancer and diabetes research. Founded in 2017 by sisters Cami and Chloe Blount of Ludlow, Vermont, R4R combines the Blount sisters' love of skiing with a mission to support those affected by these diseases.

The inspiration for R4R began when one of their elementary school teachers passed away from cancer, and the sisters wanted to make a difference. The mission grew even more personal in 2022 when Chloe was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, prompting the expansion of their fundraising to include diabetes research.

The daylong event includes races on the NASTAR course from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by an après ski and ride event at Calcutta's Restaurant in Ludlow from 5-8 p.m., featuring food, beverages, awards, and a silent auction. Over the past eight years, R4R has raised more than \$100,000, thanks to the community's generosity, sponsors, and volunteers.

In 2024, R4R became a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, allowing the sisters to expand their fundraising efforts and help even more people.

To donate, participate, or learn more about volunteering or sponsorship opportunities, visit: runs4research.org.

Cabaret & Silent Art Auction brings 'Faces in Harmony' to the Chaffee Art Center

Saturday, Jan. 18, from 6-9 p.m. — RUTLAND. The Chaffee Art Center invites the community to its 2nd annual Cabaret & Silent Art Auction fundraiser, "Faces in Harmony." This special evening features live musical entertainment, a silent art auction, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Performances will include piano, guitar, and vocalists filling the Queen Anne Victorian mansion with song.

The silent auction will span the downstairs galleries, offering attendees the

chance to bid on unique pieces of art, including works from the Chaffee's collection and new donations by local artists. Tickets include two glasses of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and access to the musical performances.

Ticket options range from \$15 to \$120, with any remaining tickets available at the door for \$20. Proceeds support the Chaffee's mission to inspire creativity and strengthen community through the arts.

For more information, visit: chaffeeart-center.org.

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LOCAL

'The Brutalist' is a monumental achievement in film

Brady Corbet's epic renews faith in cinema's enduring potential



Screens and Streams

By James Kent

With home viewing becoming the preferred way to watch movies, it's a rare delight to encounter a film that demands to be seen in a theater. Brady Corbet's "The Brutalist" is one such film. This 215-minute epic, shot in stunning VistaVision and presented in 70mm, is a cinematic experience that makes the journey to the theater worthwhile and essential.

Corbet, a one-time film actor, may be best known, to me anyway, as the creepy, malevolent, tennis outfit-wearing companion to Michael Pitt in Michael Heneke's English-language remake of "Funny Games." Corbet established himself as a potential filmmaking force to be reckoned with in his first two films of uncompromising vision, "The Childhood of a Leader" and "Vox Lux." While each has its merits and flaws, one thing was clear: these were the brainchildren of a director with a mission and talent. However, nothing Corbet previously put forth in those two efforts could prepare me for what he unleashes in his latest offering, "The Brutalist."

Adrien Brody delivers a towering performance as László Tóth, a Hungarian-Jewish architect and Holocaust survivor navigating post-war America. Haunted by the weight of untold horrors, Tóth arrives in Philadelphia in 1947, physically and emotionally scarred yet determined to start anew. Brody's performance reminds audiences that he is a high-caliber actor, and it's difficult to imagine anyone else playing this role. He's brilliant in the film.

A story of struggle and genius

The film spans 1947 to 1960, with an epilogue in 1980, tracing Tóth's journey from refugee to reluctant participant in the American Dream. Upon his arrival, he finds refuge with his cousin, whose assimilation into American culture—complete with a Catholic wife and an Anglo-Saxon name—only highlights Tóth's alienation.

Corbet masterfully explores how America's post-war optimism coexisted with xenophobia and anti-Semitism, both of which Tóth encounters as he tries to rebuild his life. There are no flashback scenes of the Holocaust, but its shadow looms over every frame, embodied in Brody's performance, where every gesture and pause conveys a history of pain.

Despite his struggles, Tóth's genius as an architect shines through. When commissioned to remodel a home library, his



A "The Brutalist" film poster and booklet accompanied special 70mm screenings of the film for its limited engagement.

By James Kent

transformation of the space elicited an audible gasp from the audience at my screening—a rare moment of collective awe and another reminder of what the communal experience of seeing a film in a theater packed with 550 other filmgoers can bring.

Yet, Tóth's journey is far from smooth. His potential rise is thwarted when the industrialist who owns the library, Harrison Lee Van Buren, objects to the surprise renovation. Played with smarmy charm by Guy Pearce in a career-best performance, Van Buren offers Tóth a second chance—a monumental project to design a community center. The job comes with enticements: Van Buren promises to help Tóth reunite with his wife and niece, still trapped in Europe.

A Faustian bargain

Van Buren is both liberator and oppressor, representing the intoxicating allure and insidious dangers of power. His dynamic with Tóth becomes the film's emotional and ethical core. Pearce imbues Van Buren with an unsettling charisma, his interactions with Tóth oscillating between mentorship and manipulation.

Van Buren is a monster, at times an affable monster, but a monster all the same. His demons may be different from Tóth's, but they will threaten Tóth in ways more damaging than

Tóth's already destructive behavior ever could.

Van Buren's son Harry, is played by Joe Alwyn, whose inability to match his father's dominance adds another layer to the film's exploration of power and identity. The younger Van Buren lives in his father's shadow, and he can dress, present himself, and even mimic the same pretentious affectation of his more successful father, but he'll never measure up. And by the end of the film, you'll understand that measuring up to this man is not something you'd want to do in the first place.

Corbet captures these tensions with striking visual precision, aided by Lol Crawley's luminous cinematography and Dávid Jancsó's innovative editing. VistaVision, a process rarely employed since the 1960s, lends the film a period authenticity and a painterly quality that digital cameras struggle to replicate.

An unforgettable cinematic experience

Following the intermission, we meet Erzsébet (Felicity Jones) and Zsófia (Raffey Cassidy), whose arrival in America brings relief and heartbreak. Erzsébet, once a celebrated journalist, now bears the physical and emotional scars of years spent under Nazi and Soviet rule. Her reunion with Tóth is fraught with tension, as both struggle to reconcile the people they once were with who they have become.

Screens & Streams → 23



Adrian Brody gives the performance of his career as architect in "The Brutalist," now playing in select theaters.

Courtesy A24

← Screens & Streams

from page 22

Jones delivers one of the film's many standout performances, capturing Erzsébet's resilience and quiet strength. Her scenes with Brody are among the film's most poignant, as they navigate the complexities of love and survival of two souls trying to reconcile what once was with what is after so many lost years under the worst of circumstances.

The visual splendor is unparalleled for those fortunate enough to see "The Brutalist" in 70mm. The Somerville

Theater in Massachusetts, where I saw the film, offers a perfect showcase for the format, ensuring that every detail of Corbet's vision is preserved.

A testament to cinema

"The Brutalist" is more than a film; it reaffirms cinema's potential to inspire and challenge. Whether experienced in its full 70mm glory or on a more conventional screen, it's a journey worth taking.

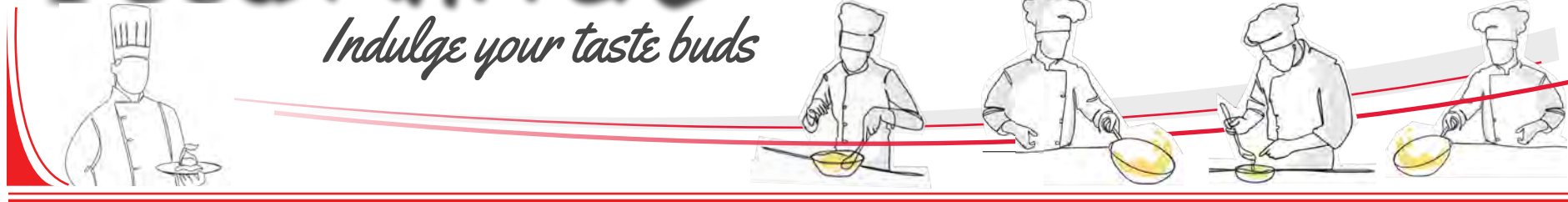
As Corbet's film reminds us, when it comes to art, it's not the journey but the destination that matters. And this destination is unforgettable. I have several more 2024 films on my must-watch list, but nothing I will see will topple this film from the top of my best-of-the-year list.

James Kent is the assistant to the publisher at The Mountain Times and the co-host of the "Stuff We've Seen" podcast at stuffweveeseen.com.



Courtesy A24





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Rutland Area NAACP hosts annual Freedom Fund Brunch

Saturday, Jan. 18, from 10 a.m. —RUTLAND—The Rutland Area NAACP will hold its annual Freedom Fund Brunch at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. Held over Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, the event celebrates racial and social justice achievements and honors the legacy of Dr. King and the NAACP.

This year's theme, "love," highlights the foundation of justice and progress. Branch president Mia Schultz remarked, "Love fuels our work, strengthens our community, and honors the legacy of Dr. King. Together, through love in action, we move closer to equity and hope."

Honorees and keynote speaker

The event will feature Vermont Racial Equity Director Xusana Davis as the keynote speaker. Honorees include:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Rev. Arnold Isidore Thomas, B.A., M.Div., D.Min.

Community Service Award: Maggie Ganguly, executive director of the Rutland County Restorative Justice center

Youth in Action Award: Emily Maikoo, Mount Anthony Union High School senior
Executive Leadership Award: John McKenna, branch treasurer

Proceeds from sponsorships and ticket sales will support the Vermont State University Castleton Campus NAACP Chapter, Vermont's only collegiate NAACP chapter.

Highlights of 2024 Accomplishments

In 2024, the Rutland Area NAACP made significant strides across various initiatives.

Community Engagement: Sponsored Vermont's first combined Juneteenth/Pride event and co-hosted Juneteenth celebrations in Bennington and Manchester. Partnered with the American Red Cross to raise awareness of sickle-cell anemia and supported the Bright Power Fellowship to prepare BIPOC Vermonters for leadership roles.

Justice and Education: Advocated for police reform, collaborated with Vermont Law School on racial justice discussions, and sponsored workshops to improve financial literacy for BIPOC communities.

Arts: Sponsored the unveiling of a commemorative statue on Rutland's Sculpture Trail honoring Ernie and Willa Royal and supported the inaugural Black Fae Day in Vermont.

This community event is open to the public. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: naacprutland.org/freedomfund.



Submitted

Vermont Racial Equity Director Xusana Davis will be the keynote speaker at the annual Freedom Fund Brunch on Saturday, Jan. 18.



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← Trapping: from page 10

behind politicians who do the exact opposite.

I've sat in on countless committee hearings on both the House and Senate sides where the trapping issue has come up. Leaders, including former Senator Chris Bray (Democrat), were always inclusive, respectful, and fair when communicating with trapping lobbyists and trappers themselves. The same goes for the leadership in the House, where leadership would work with sportsmen's lobbyists to accommodate their schedules, only for the lobbyists to accuse them of preferential treatment. Wildlife advocates cannot expect the same treatment from people like Williams.

The topic of trapping will never go away. Despite Vermont Fish & Wildlife's desire to greenwash trapping by promoting so-called "best management practices" for trapping, the evidence of extreme suffering is obvious. A woman was walking her dog in Pownal on Dec 31, 2024, on a trail she's enjoyed

since childhood, only to have her dog painfully ensnared in a leghold trap. She and her partner could not remove the trap from her yelping dog and had to enlist help from a third person. When the dog was released and brought to the vet, it was determined that the dog had broken teeth with painful exposed tooth pulp and also soft tissue damage to the paw. The dog was only in the trap for 25 minutes. Imagine the injuries that wild animals like bobcats, coyotes, and foxes endure while trapped for a day or longer.

Various surveys reveal that the majority of Vermonters want to ban trapping, but due to Vermont Fish & Wildlife essentially operating as a lobbying arm for trappers, we are not surprised by their tone-deaf response to this reality. The University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies survey revealed that 75% of Vermonters who responded want to ban all leghold, kill, and drowning traps. Vermont Fish & Wildlife's 2022 survey conducted

by Responsive Management, a company that conducts surveys for state fish and game agencies, revealed that only 26% of Vermonters approve of trapping for recreation, which is the bulk of trapping performed during the legal season. Their survey also revealed that only 42% approved of trapping, and when asked if they support "regulated" trapping, they responded at 60% (the 60% figure is what they publicize).

Approval of "regulated" trapping could mean that people approve of Fish & Wildlife having regulations that govern trapping, not that they approve of trapping as an activity. The survey has been accused of using persuasive and craftily worded questions to elicit a desired response. Despite that, the answers still reveal that trapping is not well-supported by Vermonters, even when greenwashing efforts are attempted.

In addition, when the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association conducted a survey, 66% did not approve

of traps, even those under the guise of "best management practices" approved traps.

Retired veterinarian Dr. Peggy Larson has repeatedly stated, "As a veterinarian, I have treated cats and dogs caught in traps—most required amputation of the affected limb. The tissue damage was extensive and infected. Some dogs had broken teeth from biting at the trap."

Let's pull the proverbial band-aid off. Not until Vermont bans the leg-hold traps will Fish & Wildlife and the legislature rest. The Vermont public will continue to demand that these indiscriminate land mines that are responsible for such senseless and torturous suffering be banned just as other states including Colorado and Arizona have done.

Senator Williams, we will not "get over it."

Brenna Galdenzi, Stowe
Brenna Galdenzi is the President of Protect Our Wildlife Vt.

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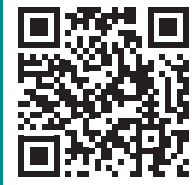
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Rutland County Humane Society

Solutions

From page 15

Crossword

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

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

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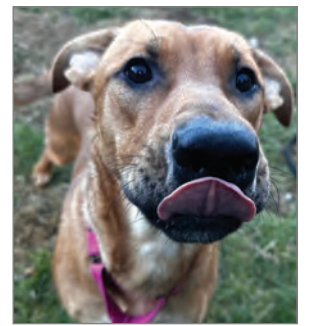
PINKIE—9-year-old. Spayed Female. Domestic Shorthair.



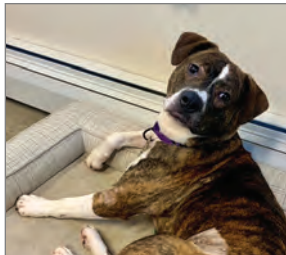
GYPSY MAE—5-year-old. Spayed Female. Husky/Rottweiler.



PIGGY—2-year-old. Spayed Female. Pit Bull.



CARLY—8-month-old. Female. Hound Mix.



EMMA—1-year-old. Female. Terrier Mix.

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DAISY

DAISY—3-year-old. Spayed Female. Pitbull Mix.

MAYA

MAYA—2-year-old. Spayed Female. American Staffordshire Terrier.



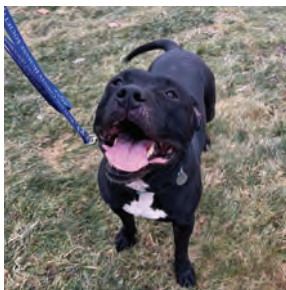
GRAHAM—1-year-old. Neutered Male. Great Dane/Pitbull Mix.



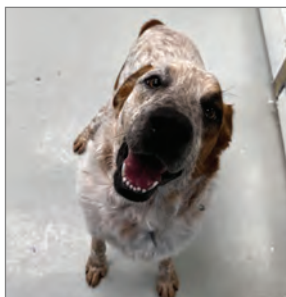
ARIES—3-year-old. Neutered Male. American Staffordshire Terrier.



LUNA—5-year-old. Spayed Female. American Staffordshire Terrier.



KANE—5-year-old. Male. Pit Bull.



CHILI—2-year-old. Neutered Male. Cattle Dog Mix.



BULLY



NOVA

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Springfield Humane Society
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997
*Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org

Cosmic Catalogue

 **Aries**
March 21 - April 20

If you continue to grapple with things left over from your childhood or family life, how do you ever really enjoy what you have now? In reality, you can't go back to when you were a kid, but it can be very useful to open the lid on your stuff from then. Sure, take a look, but avoid looking for too long. If you want to be happy, take action on the here, now, and what's to come.

 **Leo**
July 21 - August 20

We all have an inner beast that requires taming, and you're no exception. It's the beast inside your mind that requires slaying now. Do take a look back on your past and your emotions related to that. Does any of it serve your future? Take with you what is good and leave behind everything that isn't. The past doesn't need to determine your future reality. If there was a time to trust in your inner fire, it's now.

 **Sagittarius**
November 21 - December 20

Whether it's your finances or the emotional entanglements you share with other people, you need to figure things out. Avoid getting stuck in the past because things may or may not have worked out how you wanted them to. Learn from the things that went well for you and learn from what didn't. You don't have to hold on to the past if it has nothing to do with your future. You get to determine what comes next.

 **Taurus**
April 21 - May 20

Where people really get stuck in life is the way they think. This week, do watch the thoughts that circle through your mind as well as the words you speak. Would you think and say these things about your best friend? A child? Probably not. If you've caught yourself in a negative feedback loop of thoughts, you need to cut them out and install some new ones. It's simple, but change your thoughts, and you'll change your life.

 **Virgo**
August 21 - September 20

Your theme now is cleansing and renewal. This goes for you overall, but you may also see it in your friendship circles. Personal priorities change, and as a result, so can the company you keep. You may need to give some thought to those you spend time with. Are you attached to them for no other reason than history? You don't need to make any choices, but it helps to understand what drives you.

 **Capricorn**
December 21 - January 20

A lot of people make the error of thinking their relationship is a problem. In reality, though, it's more that there is a problem in the relationship. Whether it's you or your special someone, be mindful if a situation gets overblown more than it should. Emotions are frayed right now, and it may be up to you and your cool, calm, and collective nature to regain control. If you have some underlying anger, you need to deal with that.

 **Gemini**
May 21 - June 20

Much of what you're going through now relates to issues of worthiness. Many people say your net worth is a reflection of your self-worth. While there is some truth to that, it also suggests that your bank balance determines how you view yourself and life overall. It does not. Money comes, and money goes, but who you truly are is something that cannot be measured, even by coins of gold.

 **Libra**
September 21 - October 20

Nothing worth having comes easy and you're discovering that now when it comes to your career and overall life direction. Just because you may be experiencing some challenges doesn't mean all is lost. Perspective really counts, and now, you can see things more clearly than you did before. The obstacle is the way. So welcome everything that isn't easy, knowing there are always rewards after the work. A boost to your physical energy and vitality will also help a lot now.

 **Aquarius**
January 21 - February 20

You can continue to twist yourself into a pretzel trying to be everything to everyone, or you can simply say, "Enough is enough." If you've got too much on your plate right now, you can either complain about it or change it. This week, cut yourself some slack and do what you need to do to keep your cool. Nothing changes unless nothing changes, and right now, start with the little things. Get back your peace of mind.

 **Cancer**
June 21 - July 20

Avoid playing the blame game this week, whether you're blaming yourself or others for what you perceive to be an issue. The more control you can take of your reactions, the easier it will be for you to respond. It's a big difference. Don't let past actions – yours or someone else's be the determining factor for how you view everything. Life can change, but not if you keep looking back. You either win or you learn but you have to move forward to do so.

 **Scorpio**
October 21 - November 20

It's not enough to simply go through the motions and expect life to feel the way you want it to. You have to go deeper. Lucky for you, the capacity to do that comes fairly easily. If your daily life lacks substance or meaning, then you need to dive into a deeper sense of purpose. Update your daily rituals. Let your habits and choices on a day-to-day basis reflect what you say you want. Actions must align with desire.

 **Pisces**
February 21 - March 20

You've been working so hard for so long that you may have forgotten how to have fun. As adults, fun just doesn't happen spontaneously; you have to make the effort. Whether it's doing things you enjoy, having more quality time with children, or investing in your romantic life, you don't receive the rewards if you don't make the effort. The rewards will arrive in the not-too-distant future, so you don't want to miss out!

Shaping what's ahead



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

History tends to demonstrate that humans aren't too fond of change. Sure, we progress and adapt over time and with technology, but do we fundamentally change? Not much.

Rather than change and actively work towards a better future, we tend to dwell on the past. Make sure things are great again. The good ol' days, they don't make them how they used to. Remember when?

Then there are those who believe in anything and everything new because, according to them, they know better. The past has no future. They want to create a world without sin, but the catch is that they want you to obey.

This week, we reach a spectacularly dramatic tipping point, at which each of us as individuals must choose how we grapple with the past, present, and future.

Some may view learning from the past as dwelling on what's gone, but in reality, it's about preserving what truly matters.

When painful memories bubble up to the surface, confront them directly. Challenge them with resilience and determination. Then, move confidently in the direction of everything you've ever wanted. Goliath doesn't appear unless you have David within you.

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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.

Bohemian waxwings: Intrepid winter wanderers

Walking along a dirt road last winter, I heard a collection of pleasant, sputtering trills coming from a stand of conifers and hardwoods nearby. I'm used to the winter conversation of chickadees around feeder and woods, the cawing of crows and blue jays in the yard, and the high-pitched calls of golden-crowned kinglets sounding from the trees in winter—but I didn't recognize this sound.

Although I typically keep my phone tucked away on walks, I was glad to have it with me now. My Merlin Bird ID app told me the twittering I heard was Bohemian waxwings. A few days later, just around the corner

from the spot where I'd heard them before, a huge flock—more than 100—rose from a giant white pine tree as I passed along the road, then alit in another tree and nearby snag.

I'd seen these birds before, during two different winters, when a much smaller group descended on the highbush cranberry in our yard and gobbled up all the fruit. Then, I'd mistaken the birds for their cousins, cedar waxwings. While cedar waxwings are year-round residents in most of the Northeast, Bohemians, as their name suggests, are wanderers. Typically, if they show up in winter, or any time of year, it's because they're on the hunt for fruit and berries that linger into the coldest season.

"As their name implies, Bohemian waxwings are among the most intrepid of the winter wanderers," said Pamela Hunt, senior biologist for avian conservation at New Hampshire Audubon. "They show up in the Northeast irregularly—roughly every two years, but usually at least a few birds most years—and the nearest place they breed is the western edge of Hudson Bay. They're more likely to show up here in years when fruit, especially mountain ash, is scarce in their breeding grounds."

While many of our summer songbirds fly south for the winter, for Bohemian waxwings,

the Northeast is south. This species breeds in the open evergreen and mixed forests of areas far to our north—Central Alaska, western Canada, Scandinavia, and northern Russia. Cedar and Bohemian waxwings eat fruit in winter,



The Outside Story

By Meghan McCarthy McPhaul

and both species tend to gather in flocks—sometimes with each other, along with robins and other frugivorous winter birds. Bohemians are slightly larger than cedars, but the two waxwing species exhibit similar behavior, and males and females within each species look alike. Both species have crested heads, yellow tips on their tails, and distinct black eye masks. So, how can you tell one waxwing from another? There are a few ways, but you'll have

to look closely. While cedar waxwings have yellow-hued bellies and brownish breasts, Bohemians have gray breasts and bellies with rufous coloring on the undersides of their tails. Bohemian waxwings also have distinct yellow markings on their otherwise black wings, a feature their cedar cousins do not have.

Because they don't generally return to a specific breeding area or defend breeding territories, Bohemian waxwings don't have a true song, only the twittering calls I heard from high in the trees last winter. Breeding pairs may form as early as January and remain monogamous through the breeding season. Without the benefit of singing, male Bohemian waxwings have other ways to make a good impression. A male will fluff up his feathers and raise and lower his crest to attract a female's attention. Once she takes notice, he'll pass her a bit of food. If she's interested, she'll pass it back, and they'll carry on this way for a while.

"The gift isn't always even edible," Hunt noted, "So this is a more ritualistic than practical behavior."

Come springtime, Bohemian waxwings will expand their diets to include sap dripping from maple or birch trees, and they'll eat insects during the warmer months. But in winter, it's an all-fruit diet, and they'll eat apples, crabapples, juniper berries, mountain ash berries, and—lucky for me—highbush cranberries.

Bohemian waxwings will stay in one winter area only as long as it takes to consume the fruit there. The year they appeared in our highbush cranberry, they stayed only a couple of days, stripping the branches of what had been a bountiful crop of berries. This winter, that broad shrub is again adorned with numerous red fruits. And I'm keeping a lookout for waxwings, both cedar and Bohemian.

Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is the editor of Northern Woodlands magazine. 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.



Civil engagement: Brown M&Ms

In the late '80s, the rock band Van Halen was taken to task when journalists discovered that their concert contract contained a clause stating, "There will be no brown M&M's in the backstage area, upon pain of forfeiture of the show, with full compensation."

Immediately dismissed as the excess of party-band celebrity and unrestrained hubris, the brown M&M brouhaha led to an aha moment when, years later, it was explained that the clause was actually a genius management tool.

The presence of brown M&Ms indicated to the band that the details of the contract had not been thoroughly adhered to, which means that there may be other errors, such as in the electric supply or stage weight capacity.

The presence of brown M&Ms indicated that those in charge had not read the contract.

When it comes to municipal governance, I believe that the State of Vermont's open meeting law is the brown M&M. If a municipal authority fails to adhere to the simple specifics of properly conducting the people's business in public, with required notification, open and transparent process, and appropriate engagement and participation of the public, it's time to shut it down, get the contract, and do a complete municipal line check.

Vermont's open meeting law is the bare minimum standard that must be met, and it is the law.

In general, the open meeting law requires public bodies to:

- Post notices and agendas in advance of meetings
- Conduct business in public
- Provide for public participation
- Take minutes and make them public

This sounds simple enough, and it's only the bare minimum, and yet it seems that the enemies of the open meeting law are:

- "That's the way we've always done it."
- "Nobody has complained."
- "It doesn't really matter."
- "I didn't know."

If you want to know where you stand with your local authorities and where they stand on a commitment to open and transparent governance, visit their website to look for their position on the open meeting law.

Do they state a commitment to open and transparent governance and follow that up with the processes and procedures they have in place to ensure that the public can navigate City Hall and participate in the business of the people?

Do they communicate how the local boards, commissions, committees, and workgroups are formed, what they do, when they meet, what the different rules are, how

to engage with them, how to communicate with them, how to get on an agenda, how to simply get an agenda, and how to partner with our elected, appointed, and hired municipal partners to ensure that the public is engaged, involved, and working together to improve the quality of life in our

neighborhoods? Or do they settle for the legal minimum, hoping nobody will notice when they fall short?

On the one hand, one might argue that the many hoops that a municipal authority must jump through can be cumbersome. That's a fair argument. Engaging the public can be messy, complicated, and involve lots of moving parts.

On the other hand, one might argue that ignoring the law and the public can be even more cumbersome. It's hyperefficient to conduct people's business without public participation, but at what cost?

For starters, it's against the law. Knowingly and intentionally violating the provisions of the open meeting law is a misdemeanor.

Second, it's counterproductive. The most resilient communities are built on a foundation of an engaged public that partners with those in authority and participates in improving the quality of life in the community, not as spectators but as vital contributors of knowledge, insight, wisdom, and sweat.

In response to a recent experience I had where a city meeting violated the open meeting law, I'm asking the following questions:

Does an agenda for a hybrid meeting (in-person and remote access) need to include information on the hybrid nature of the meeting and how people can attend both in person and via remote access?

When the chair of a committee circulates a survey to the members of the city's board of aldermen, soliciting feedback on a draft short-term rental ordinance, does this initiate a serial meeting where members of a body communicate online or in person but out of the public's eye? Does the public have the right to offer public comments on all agenda items and public comments on items not on the agenda?

When a supermajority of aldermen attend a committee meeting, does the nature of the meeting become a board of alderman meeting?

At the end of the day, I am committed to ensuring the public is aware of its right to participate enthusiastically in the people's business, and it starts with a welcome mat at City Hall.

Stephen Box is a housing provider in Rutland County, developing, renovating, and managing residential properties. Contact Stephen at VermontHouser@gmail.com or 802-342-4940.



The Accidental Activist
By Stephen Box

The sweet sound of success: ‘Norman’s Rare Guitars Documentary’

In September of last year, I put my son on a flight to Australia, where he would spend the next month backpacking throughout that country’s eastern coast. He then flew to Bangkok, Thailand, for another month, this time enjoying the jungles and beaches in the surrounding regions. Finally, he concluded his Pacific trek with a jaunt to Japan, where he spent three weeks in Tokyo, taking in the historic sites and reveling in the nightlife.

We hoped it would be the trip of a lifetime, and it was. But my son got something extra from the experience that none of us (including him) ever expected: He fell in love.

My son met a fellow traveler and they got fairly attached to each other over their three-month journey. My wife and I sensed something was brewing when he referred to this young woman more frequently during our weekly calls. At one point, he finally came clean and admitted that they were not only an item but a pretty serious one.

My son has always had girlfriends, but never anything that I would have termed “serious.” Both my wife and I could tell by how he was talking that this scenario was definitely different. At one point, I asked if this was going to continue after the trip was over. He was emphatic that it would.

That’s when I inquired where she was from. Now, I’m not saying that my son always makes things harder for himself, but it has been a trend in his decision-making. So, when he said that she was from Los Angeles, my first thought was, “Couldn’t you have found someone a little closer to home?”

Like any dad, my brain immediately went to “That’s a six-hour flight,” “How many times can you legitimately see each other in a given year?” and “Please, God, don’t move to L.A.” Logistically, the distance seemed like a massive hurdle to overcome.

But like any lovestruck kid, none of that seemed to matter.

When he arrived home just before Christmas, he announced that the only thing he wanted as a present was a plane ticket out to see her. And since we’re accommodating parents, that’s exactly what we gave him.

So, just after New Year’s, my son boarded a flight to California to see his

new girlfriend and meet her parents. Surprisingly, the parents agreed to house him while he was there.

Before his departure, I gave my son a long talk, explaining the intricacies of dads and their daughters and how he should handle himself when he arrived. I told him that his parents would be sizing him up when he walked out of that airport, and it was imperative that he be on his game, especially during the first 48 hours.

I rarely see my son nervous, but he was a wreck the day before he left. He couldn’t eat and barely slept, so I knew that this trip was really important to him.

My son also doesn’t do anything without adding a little excitement to the mix, and this trip was no exception. Two days after he arrived, the Palisades Fire broke out in the hills surrounding Los Angeles. And guess where his new girlfriend’s parents’ house is located?

Needless to say, after barely getting to know my son, this family was leaning on him to help evacuate to a safer location. Thankfully, they were able to return, and their house was spared, but the experience was traumatizing for everyone involved.

Unfortunately, the Los Angeles Lakers also postponed their games that week, which meant the surprise tickets I had purchased for the lovebirds would be wasted. However, his girlfriend was nice enough to take him to many other major attractions around L.A., including the most famous guitar store in America, Norman’s Rare Guitars on Ventura Boulevard. Not only did my son get to meet Norman that day but he also had the opportunity to play several of the instruments in his collection.

So, I suppose it was serendipity when we all realized that a documentary about Norman and his famous guitar store had been released just two weeks earlier. When my son arrived home this past weekend, we sat down and watched the film together.

“Norman’s Rare Guitars Documentary,” tells the unlikely story of how a young man with a love of music mistakenly fell into the world of collectible guitars. The film also highlights a multitude of top-tier guitarists and their pilgrimages to Norman’s to pay respects, play, and purchase the greatest guitars in the world.

If you have any interest in music (especially guitars), put this endearing documentary on your list to watch. There’s nothing special to note other than how one man formed a life, family, and community around his love of the guitar. And that’s pretty special.

A vintage “B+” for “Norman’s Rare Guitars Documentary” is now available to stream on Netflix.

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



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Working it out on the skin track

“How much longer until we get to where you are taking me?” I hear the voice reach out from behind me. We’d been skinning (or climbing uphill with our skis on) for about an hour when my ski sister finally decided to ask where we were going. We had started with some work road and were now deep into the forest, switchbacking repeatedly as we headed toward what she could see was perhaps nothing.

I had waited for her question, as it comes every Sunday as we head up for a tour through the backcountry. It’s the only time we get to spend time together, and the best way to guarantee that we are not interrupted by some outside source is by hiding in the woods. We tried a coffee date once—we both ended up with our phones out and our faces filled with blue light. Neither of us had the energy for the forest, but we didn’t get replenished either. So, the next week, we were back in the woods.

We also tried lift service. We would chat on the chairlift, but oftentimes we would forget the very important topic from the last ride and be unable to finish. Or there would be other people on the lift who didn’t really need to hear about our mental health struggles—or worse, the perimenopausal ones. I hate being a grownup sometimes.

Nope, those discussions are best worked out on the skin track. There is something about the repetitive motion combined with forest-bathing that seems to make solutions embrace us. I feel smarter in the woods, more focused, and more connected with my body and with nature. I study the topography beforehand, so I have a general idea of where we are going, but as my Sunday compatriot likes to say, “We aren’t lost, but we don’t quite know where we are.”

And if that isn’t a metaphor for life, I don’t know what is. Meandering through the woods and trying to find meaning and solutions is the best weekly therapy that I know of. In this particular case, we were searching for the most beautiful woods we had ever seen. Because we can go downhill and fly by the forest anytime. That’s what lift service skiing is for. And don’t get me wrong, I absolutely love floating down the mountain after dancing with Jay & Omar at the bottom of the Bubble.

But I love a good skin track. And this one is my favorite. I’ve been working on it for years. I finally figured out the best Turning Tree in this one section, and I got spun around for a while. And then this second section got hit by a bunch of blowdowns a few years ago, and it’s been tricky finding a way through that didn’t involve climbing on a bunch of fallen branches. Not the best when you’re quite a ways out from medical support.

We’re both trained. I was a Wilderness First Responder in my youth, and she was

an EMT. We’re both retired from emergency medical services, but we’re still reading the books and keeping up on our rescue skills. As I told the Team PomPom athletes - you’re not ready to go in the woods without a grownup until you’ve read all the books and done all the things. And since they cannot read yet...

Yes, I take the kids into the “backcountry.” We find low-angle woods that we can shuffle through. We work on taking care of our buddy and staying with the group. Our ski control also becomes essential as we maneuver over fallen logs and duck under heavily snow-laden branches. The goal for them is (a) teamwork, (b) training their skis to be a part of them through flat skill work, and (c) teaching them

the beauty of the forest. My greatest hope is that whatever type of skier they become, they will always be willing to stop and appreciate the nature of the mountains.

That they can spot the light glowing through the trees and have to pause at the grandeur of it all, that they will notice the thickness of the rime and not just be inclined to whack the tree branches off, that they learn to respect nature, not just ski by it, and most important, that on a powder day, they want to head off into the woods rather than lap the course.

We ski down to the bottom, stopping several times as we go just to catch our breath and enjoy the descent. Oh yeah, and rest our legs from the hours of ascending. But one thing never changes—we always end our tours with a hug—a hug full of gratefulness and gratitude for the beautiful adventure, the rejuvenation of our souls, and our life-long friendship. Hopefully, we’ll be skiing together for the next 35 years.

Merisa is a longtime Killington resident, global real estate advisor, and Coach PomPom. Share your ski stories at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman



By Merisa J. Sherman
Mira Clark glides along the skin track

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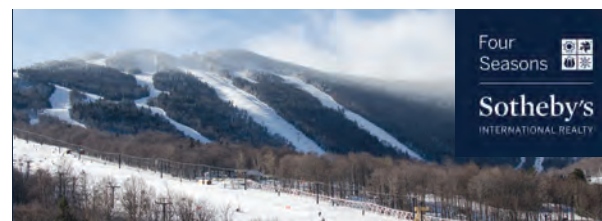
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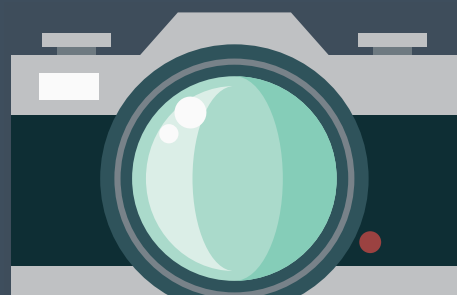
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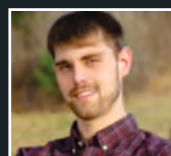
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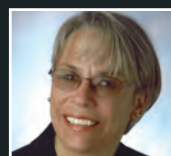
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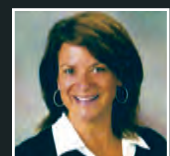
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Jordan Spear



Eric Rusch



Christine Bulgini



Kayla Sarajian



Nate Stoodley



Sophie Parvez



Rebecca Reed

Resort promotions

from page 8

Bulgini will continue to facilitate communication, disseminate information and provide timely and relevant reporting. In order to consolidate efforts and increase efficiency, the Mountain Operations Dispatch Supervisor Matt Poli, will now report to Bulgini.

“With this structure, Christine can leverage the knowledge and expertise of that team in providing consistent oversight and reporting,” said Tait.

Scott Harrison

Senior Vice President of Hospitality Scott Harrison will now oversee all base area operations, including lodges and parking. Accordingly, Parking Manager Ryan Gosselin will now report to Harrison.

Harrison is also pleased to announce promotions within his department.

Eric Rusch

Eric Rusch has been promoted to food and beverage director of the Grand Hotel and Northside Dining. Rusch recently expanded his role to include front of house food and beverage operations in the Grand Hotel. These additions include Preston’s, Banquet Events, the Yurt and Clubhouse Winter Operations. His promotion will include the oversight of our Hotel Culinary team.

Rusch started his career in 2010 as the executive sous chef in the Grand Hotel exhibiting strong interpersonal and leadership skills, as well as culinary excellence. He was then promoted to open the new Peak Restaurant as Peak chef/manager. In this role he was instrumental in making the Peak our premier on-mountain dining location.

Soon thereafter, Rusch and team elected to bring to life The Jerk Jamaican Mountain Grill, which has become a must

stop for many of our skiers and riders. Thus, he was a natural to be selected to also manage and assist in designing and opening the K-1 Lodge, which has quickly become our largest and finest on-mountain dining experience at Killington.

“Eric has done an exceptional job creating a well-balanced team and improving our staff culture and guest experience,” said Scott.

Sophie Parvez

Sophie Parvez has been promoted to hospitality business manager. Her new duties will include financial/budgetary management for the resort’s food and beverage and lodging operations. Sophie will also assume oversight of the Conference Sales team operations and provide technical support for operating sales platforms.

Parvez moved to Vermont to complete her education at Green Mountain College in 2010, graduating in 2012 from the Resort and Hospitality Management Program. During college, she worked at Bear Mountain Base Lodge for her co-op and internship. After graduating, she worked in various food and beverage roles at Bear Mountain, Skyship, and the Clubhouse Grill until she left Killington in 2014 to accept a role at Riverside Farm until 2017. She returned to Killington as Grand Hotel banquet supervisor. In this role Parvez excelled as a supervisor improving its culture and guest experience while also showing great organizational skills and proficiency in financial management.

In 2023 Parvez accepted the role of food and beverage administrator, where she became proficient in all operating systems, managed menu costing and content, and served as Department of Liquor Control liaison with the state.

Parvez also manages the resort’s commissary operations.

“I look forward to seeing Sophie excel in her new role. Her great organizational skills are ideal for this role and she is sure to go above and beyond,” said Harrison.

Nate Stoodley

Nate Stoodley has been promoted to K-1 Base Lodge manager. In his new role, Stoodley will oversee all food and beverage operations in K-1, as well as acting as a liaison with other departments and events in K-1.

Stoodley began his career at Bear Mountain in the rental shop, then transferred into the food and beverage dept. to eventually become Bear Mountain Base Lodge manager. Prior to being promoted, he was K-1 Base Lodge F&B front of house manager. His duties included oversight of public area attendants, front of house staff and pub operations. Stoodley will continue to transition into his summer role at Snowshed Base Lodge, where he assists Ellen McDonough with operations and works closely with the Events Team.

“I look forward to seeing Nate continue his growth within our F&B team and sharing his interpersonal skills and passion for our resort and guest satisfaction,” said Harrison.

Rebecca Reed

In Human Resources, Rebecca Reed has been promoted to employee experience manager. In this role, Rebecca will helm the day-to-day operations of HR. Rebecca began her career at Killington in 2021 as international recruiter before expanding to focus on all recruitment efforts. Danielle Hewitt and Susanna Foster will continue their roles as recruiting specialists under her guidance. Kathy O’Rourke reports to Angelica Probst, who, along with

Roberta Hefner round out the HR team reporting to Reed. Rebecca Reed reports to Vice President of Employee Experience & Technology Chris Condon, another relatively new role in the company.

Jordan Spear

On the Resort Leadership Team, Jordan Spear has been promoted to the role of Vice President of Resort Services & Sales. In this expanded capacity, Spear will oversee all skier service revenue and guest service areas, unifying these key functions under one leadership team. This alignment will allow us to streamline operations and continue delivering outstanding service to guests.

Spear began his career at Killington as part of the Resort and Hospitality Management program at the now Vermont State University. During his 17 years at Killington, he has served as guest services manager, tickets manager, marketing manager, and director of product

marketing and sales. As part of this transition, Dave Beckwith, director of mountain sports will now report to Spear. Beckwith will continue to oversee the mountain sports school, rentals, daycare, and golf, maintaining his strong leadership and focus in these important areas. In addition to this new oversight, Spear will continue leading tickets, guest services, marketing technology, group sales, and reservations, ensuring these functions remain well-integrated and optimized.

“This reorganization represents an exciting step forward for our team, fostering greater collaboration and operational excellence, and continuing our tradition of promoting from within,” said Killington President and CEO Mike Solimano. “Please join me in congratulating everyone on these well-deserved promotions and in recognizing Dave for his continued contributions to our success.”



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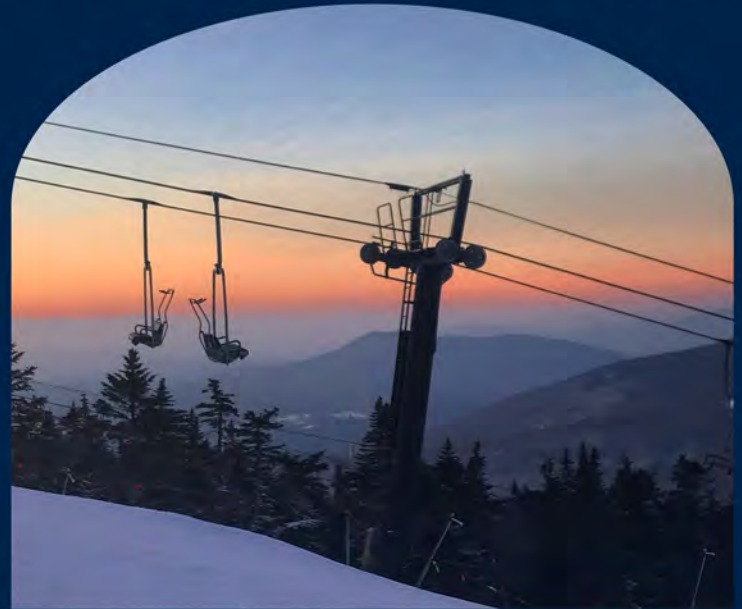
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