OUNTAIN IMES Your community free press - really, it's FREE! Vol. 51, No. 5 Feb. 1-7, 2023



By Anthony Ouintano

GROUNDHOG DAY IS THURSDAY Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow on Feb. 2? If so, it's said we'll have six more weeks of winter If he doesn't.

we'll have an early spring. The tradition dates back to 1887.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH February is Black History Month, which recognizes the triumphs and struggles of Black people in all periods of U.S. history.



By Tim O'Donoghue

LEARN TO **PHOTOGRAPH** WILDLIFE

Wildlife photographer and Proctorsville resident Tim O'Donoghue will give a talk entitled "How to Photograph Wildlife" Friday at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library.

Ludlow resident wins on Jeopardy Staff report

Jake DeArruda, who is originally from Ludlow, is making a name for himself on "Jeopardy!"

DeArruda has won two games in a row on the popular game show. He was scheduled to reappear on Tuesday, Jan. 31 to defend histitle.

DeArruda now lives in Massachusetts and works as a delivery dispatcher for Yale Appliance.



Submitted Jake DeArruda smiles (right).

Killington Police responded to Vail Road on Dec. 18 after someone broke a backseat window, took two vintage guitars and sold them to Be Music in Rutland. On Dec. 28, the police responded to Killington Market and

Deli for an attempted theft of beer. A few

unlocked vehicle was stolen from Rocky Ridge Road.

By Brooke Geery

Within the first three weeks of 2023, police received calls of a backpack, luggage, a purse, spare change and other Police \rightarrow 3

Killington voters asked to approve purchase of new town hall at Town Meeting

By Curt Peterson

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Killington Select Board approved an article for Town Meeting to purchase and renovate an existing building at 2046 Route 4 for it's new town hall.

Selectman Jim Haff explained the evolution from a "new town hall" concept included in a 2019 six-year plan, to the currently proposed acquisition.

"The original concept was to find a piece of land and build a new town hall," Haff told the Mountain Times.

He said building a new facility had been estimated to cost between \$4.5 and \$5 million.

The new plan will provide 8,000 sq. ft. of space for town offices, for a cost of \$1.2 million to purchase the building plus \$400,000 estimated for renovation work.

Within the new building, 3,000 sq. ft. will continue to be occupied by the U.S. Post Office.

New town hall \rightarrow 10

Killington Forward hearing draws a crowd

\$47 million TIF-funded infrastructure bond explained **Bv Pollv Mikula**

Finding an open seat in the conference room of Killington's Public Safety Building Monday night, Jan. 30, was a bit of a challenge as about 30 residents joined the public hearing in-person with another 50 attending via Zoom.

"That's about 10% of the town's registered voters," said Selectman Jim Haff. "That's a very impressive turnout!"

The hearing began with an overview of the Killington Forward project, specifically focused on the first phase, which voters are being asked to approve via a bond at Town Meeting Day, March 7.

Killington needs municipal water, improved roads, and more housing at all levels; the developer for Six Peaks Village needs basic water and road infrastructure to get started, Selectman Chris Karr summarized. Using the TIF financing mechanism to spur private development, the town has devised a plan to achieved this without raising taxes.

Phase 1

Phase 1 includes constructing a municipal water system and construct new roads and upgrading existing roads.

The new municipal water system will

commence on "The Flats" of Route 4 then run east along the Ottauquechee River, then up to East Mountain Road to the Snowshed area of the resort where it will service the planned Six Peaks Village, then down to Ravine Road. It also includes installing dry lines at the intersection of Route 4 and Killington Road up to Anthony Way.

The road portion includes constructing a few new roads within the TIF district, acquiring Killington Road from The Lookout up to the new roundabout connecting East Mountain Road to the Grand Hotel, and upgrading the base of Killington Road where it intersects with Route 4.

"We've all experienced an icy day when you come down that section and there's only like a 5- or 6-foot landing at the bottom, so if you hit your brakes you slide through Route 4," Haff explained, illustrating the current danger on the town's main thoroughfare.

"The goal is to get a 50 foot landing area," Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth explained. "From that 50-foot landing to Anthony way will be a constant slope, it'll go from 15%-18% grade to a constant 10% grade so it'll be



Page 14 Killington to vote on new town hall; Post Office building

Peace Park opens with snowsports celebration at Killington Killington's Woodward Peace Park, with its large kickers for intermediate and advanced riders, opened Saturday, Jan. 28. Local police see significant increase in crime By Katy Savage

days later, two Visa credit cards were stolen from the back of an unlocked vehicle on Priscilla Lane in Killington and used to purchase \$630 worth of food at Price Chopper in Rutland. On Jan. 2, an

WCSD voters consider planning for new high school, heating system, school roof

By Curt Peterson

The Windsor Central Unified Union School District board approved its districtwide warning for the March 7 Town Meeting Australian Ballot on Jan. 26. The vote was unanimous.

Votes in each of the seven participating towns - Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Woodstock, Plymouth, Pomfret and Reading - will count equally, and a simple majority will approve or reject each of the articles.

According to retiring board member Jim Haff of Killington, the original articles of agreement signed when forming the consolidated district, require that all individual budget items must be subject to voter ap-

<u>o</u>gger

Comedy and Music Show "the NEW and the OLD"

almost.

\$22.00

proval by Australian Ballot.

The remaining articles involve election of local town school board officials.

There will be a public in-person and/ or virtual informational meeting March 2 at 6:30 p.m. to introduce and discuss the warning at the Woodstock Union Middle and High School library, or via a Zoom link provided on the district meeting calendar.

Article 2 asks voters to approve a proposed budget of \$25,836,048 for district operating expenses, an average of about \$23,135 per "equalized pupil," an official figure to be determined by the Agency of Education. The board estimated 1,100 equalized pupils to arrive at their per-pupil cost figure.

Recent district budgets have been \$18,318,858 (FY23 - an anomaly utilizing unexpected surplus funds), \$20,216,923 (FY22), and \$19,995,250 (FY21).

Articles 7, 8, and 9 are separate because they are bonded expenses over five years.

"We're separating the warrant articles from each other because each is a separate project and borrowing decision, with different limitations/considerations," according to board finance chair Ben Ford. "For instance, at one point we considered bundling them, but were advised by counsel

that design activities needed to be separate from school construction."

Article 7 asks approval to finance \$1,650,000 for "the design, bidding, permitting, and document development for the proposed new middle/high school," to be repaid over five years.

Article 8 seeks financing approval to convert oil/steam to propane heat at the middle/high school at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, also to be repaid over five years.

Article 9 involves financing roof replacement and energy conservation measures to cost up to \$1,750,000 at Killington Elementary School, again to be repaid over five years.



Maya Sobel, center, recently returned from a 10-day educational trip to understand the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Submitted

Rutland student raises awareness on Holocaust, Jewish community

By Katy Savage

When rockets launched from the Gaza Strip of Palestine into Israel and violence escalated in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Mary Sobel was stunned by the amount of people who spoke in favor of Palestine.

Celebrities like Bella and Gigi Hadid, Palestinian descendants, posted their support on Instagram. It seemed to Sobel like everyone thought the issue was black and white

Israel was wrong and Palestine was right. "I was really frustrated by how oversimplified it was,"

Sobel said.

Sobel, 21, who grew up in Rutland, has aunts, uncles and cousins in Israel. Both her parents grew up in Israel before moving to the United States in the 1980s.

Her family, like everyone in Israel, lives within walking distance of a bomb shelter. If a siren sounds, they have one minute and 50 seconds to find safety. When her aunt, a school teacher, gets a threat at school, she presses a button which shields the windows with metal covering while students and teachers remain inside.

"How does my family live like this all the time?" Sobel said.

Sobel grew up going to Israel once a year. She said she had an elementary understanding of the conflict as a child. She decided to become an activist in college. Sobel is now a junior at the University of Vermont studying biology.

"Israel has always been a really special place of mine," she said.

Sobel was one of 40 students selected through a highly competitive application process to participate in a fellowship through the Israel on Campus Coalition. The fellowship offers a half-year immersive educational experience that includes a trip to Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Sobel and the other students recently returned from a

10-day trip where they met with politicians, entrepreneurs, activists and professionals working to mitigate the conflict, including Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum; Amir Hayek, the first Israeli ambassador to the UAE, and numerous high-tech executives and academics.

"Since the historic Abraham Accords were signed, the Middle East landscape has been changing on a weekly and daily basis with greater economic, security, technological, medical, and policy advances and cooperation than ever before." said Jacob Baime, the CEO of the Israel on Campus Coalition. "This immersive experience will help build a diverse network of thoughtful, intelligent and successful leaders who can help shape the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship."

The trip was personal for Sobel. Both her grandparents are Holocaust survivors, though they never talk about their experience. "I think at the end of the day, most people want peace and it's a difference between what the governments are doing and what the people want," she said.

The students visited a community closest to the Gaza Strip. She said the people near Gaza are most impacted by the violence. They run to bomb shelters within 15 seconds of a siren.

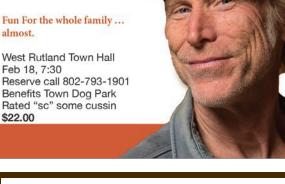
'They're always aware," she said. "Many have PTSD."

Sobel is using her experience to continue raising awareness about the issue. Sobel has brought Holocaust survivors to speak at her college.

She's also working with the Legislator. The House and Senate passed a resolution last week designating Jan. 23-27 as the first annual Holocaust Education Week in Vermont.

Sobel and the Vermont Holocaust Memorial are pushing for a bill requiring Holocaust education in Vermont high schools. The bill was introduced in the last session but stalled.

"The legislation should be reintroduced soon," Sobel said.



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Barstow Memorial principal dies

Staff report

Barstow Memorial School Principal David St. Germain of Pittsford died over the weekend.

Superintendent Kristen Hubert announced his death on Jan. 30 in an email to the school community.

The news came as a shock to me and other administrators," Hubert said. "We express our sympathy and condolences to his family."

St. Germain, a life-long educator, was named principal of the elementary school in Chittenden in 2020.

St. Germain earned a doctorate

education in administrative leadership for teaching and learning from Walden University. He was a teacher, assistant principal of a junior-senior high school, principal of two elementary schools, principal of a K-12 for four years and a Pre-K-6 for 12 years. Most recently, he served in higher education



Courtesy Barstow FB **Barstow Memorial School**

"The news came as a shock to me and other

administrators," Hubert said.

and staff who needed help.

"The adults in the building will do their best to continue to provide a supportive learning environment for our students, even as they experience their own grief," Hubert said. "Educating our children is the best way to honor David."

Police: Cases are up locally, regionally, police seek many repeat offenders and seek better outcomes from page 1

items being stolen from vehicles. Killington police report seeing a significant jump in crime. Police responded to 11 calls of theft from a vehicle in the first month of 2023. Last year, there were nine thefts in total from a car and the year before that, there were just five thefts reported.

That's something new this winter, we've not seen it to that extent in the past," said Montgomery, who has been a police officer in the town for the past 23 years.

Montgomery said people walk into parking lots and driveways, checking for unlocked doors and steal anything they can find.

Police arrested one transient person staying at Val Roc and Happy Bear Motel, which are housing homeless people under the state's voucher program. But Montgomery believes most of the crime is coming from two different couples.

"I would say it's mostly the same people over and over again for the same crimes. And it's as frustrating for the police as it is for the victim," Montgomery said.

Most of the people avoid jail time. Police caught repeat offenders Nicholas Seck, 40, and his partner,

Michelle Seck, 44, both of Rutland, after Nicholas Seck was caught selling stolen guitars to Be Music in Rutland, where he was paid by check. Police caught Michelle Seck with a refrigerator strapped to her roof in Rutland an item police believe she bought at Home Depot with a stolen credit card. Both were issued citations to appear in court on Feb. 27.

Meanwhile, Trevor Vandenburgh, 32, and Raven Blanchard, 26, both of Rutland, who each faced multiple

charges in Killington and Rutland, were involved in a stabbing over the weekend, in which Vandenburgh was killed.

Rutland police charged Brandon McRae, 36, with second-degree murder for the killing of Vandenburg in the area of Water and State streets in Rutland on Saturday, Jan. 28.

Vandenburghh and Blanchard messaged McRae on Facebook to buy cocaine, VTDigger reported, citing a

"I would say it's mostly the same people over and over again for the same crimes. And it's frustrating for the police as it is for the victim," Montgomery said.

> statement Blanchard gave to police in an affidavit.

Blanchard told officers there was an argument over the quantity and price of the cocaine, which erupted into a fight between Vandenburgh and McRae at a trailer on Water Street, VTDigger reported, according to Billings' affidavit. Blanchard said McRae attacked Vandenburgh. As she tried to stop him, she was hit in the face.

McRae pleaded not guilty to the charges on Jan. 30 in Rutland County Superior criminal court.

'They're not new to what they've been doing," Montgomery said.

The charges came as the families asked for help on Facebook.

McRae, a repeat offender, was arrested a year ago for failure to appear in court on original charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and criminal threatening. He was held on \$1,000 bail.

"It's not doing any favors by not getting these people mandatory treatments," said Montgomery.

Montogmery also suggested that the charges aren't significant enough. Larceny and embezzlement where the property stolen does not exceed \$900 in value carries a sentence of up to one year or to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 or both under state law.

at College of St. Joseph as

will all miss him," Hubert

Karen Prescott was

named acting principal

she'll remain in through the

munity. Counselors were on hand

Monday and Tuesday for students

end of February.

munity College.

To deal with local crime, Montgomery is requesting a \$296,431 budget on Town Meeting Day, an increase from last year's budget of \$205,574

and around \$150,000 more than the budget approved by voters two years ago. The Killington Police Department has three full-time officers and Montgomery hopes to add a fourth next year. He said the additional

funding will be used for salary and fuel expenses.

"It takes a lot of time to follow up and write the affidavits or write a search warrant," he said. "It does put a strain." He said the area is challenging in

the winter, when Killington sees 20,000 people on a weekend.

"It's larger than Rutland city," Montgomery said.

Montgomery is also reenergizing a neighborhood watch, an initiative he started a few years ago to deal with theft from vacant second homes in the summer.

A community watch leader acts as a liaison between the community and the police to report crime.

"One good thing about the community growing is a lot of these properties are being occupied," he said.

Police are reminding people to remove keys and valuables from vehicles and lock cars.

If you see something suspicious, you can call the police at 802-422-3200.



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OUNTAIN TIMES

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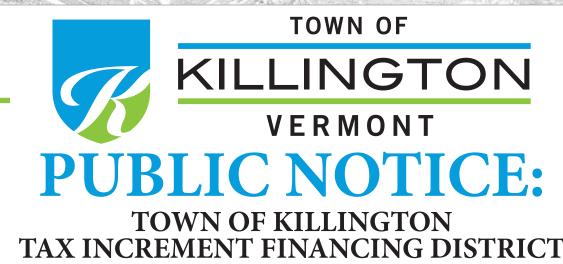
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This Public Notice is prepared by the Town of Killington to provide information to the public relating to the proposed ballot question seeking authorization to pledge the credit of the Town to borrow, to finance, or otherwise pay for tax increment financing (TIF) improvements to serve the Killington Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. If approved by the voters, the Town expects to use tax increment revenues from within the TIF District to pay for the indebtedness and direct and related costs for the TIF improvements. This notice is intended to provide the voters with information concerning (1) the proposed projects, (2) the terms of indebtedness to be incurred, (3) the related costs that may be incurred by the Town, (4) the expected source of payment for such indebtedness and direct and related costs, and (5) the expected development to occur.

KILLINGTON TIF DISTRICT

LOCAL NEWS

The Town created the TIF District on January 4, 2022. The purpose of the TIF District is to provide revenues for the costs of improvements that serve the District which will stimulate development or redevelopment within the District, provide for employment opportunities in the Town and region, improve and broaden the tax base for the Town and enhance the economic vitality of the Town, the region and the State of Vermont. In connection with the creation of the TIF District, the Town prepared its TIF District Plan after public hearings held in 2022. The Town's TIF District Finance Plan was created by the Town and provides the proposed and estimated terms of financing improvements to serve the TIF District. The Town's TIF District Finance Plan was submitted to the Vermont Economic Progress Council ("VEPC"). VEPC is an independent board created under Vermont law that serves as the approval and authorization body for the Vermont Tax Increment Financing District program. VEPC approved the formation of the Killington TIF District and the TIF District Plan on June 30, 2022. The TIF District Plan is available from the Town or through VEPC and provides more information about the TIF District and the financing of improvements to serve the TIF District.

WARNING and PUBLIC VOTE

The January 30, 2023 Selectboard meeting included a proposed resolution relating to "March 7, 2023 Annual Town Meeting – Pledging the Credit of the Town to Secure Indebtedness for Public Improvements Within the TIF District." By resolution, the Town Selectboard shall request that the following question be placed on the ballot at the March 7, 2023 Annual Town Meeting: "Shall the Town Selectboard be authorized to pledge the full faith and credit of the Town to secure indebtedness or make direct payments for the purpose of funding one or more public improvements and related costs attributable to projects serving the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, specifically:

a) Projects: acquire and construct a municipal water system; construct new roads and upgrade existing roads, and acquire those roads to ensure future maintenance.

b) Related Costs: payment of or reimbursement for TIF eligible related costs incurred by the Town for the creation, implementation and administration of the TIF District, including costs paid to outside vendors, consultants, and various related fees and other expenses related to the TIF District, as well as direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the District to the extent they are paid from the municipal and not education incremental taxes and are otherwise reimbursed in accordance with law;

in a total principal amount not to exceed \$47,000,000 (which will bring the total TIF District debt approved since the TIF District's creation to \$47,000,000) and to issue bonds, notes or make interfund loans for such purpose, in one or more series, and expend up to \$650,000 for related costs, which will bring the total related costs authorized by voters to \$650,000 since the TIF District's creation, with the understanding that tax increment from the properties within the TIF District shall be pledged and appropriated for the payment of such indebtedness or direct costs of the improvements?"

THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Town expects to utilize the incremental TIF revenues for the first phase of improvements under the TIF District Plan, which includes the following public infrastructure projects (together, the "Projects"):

In the first phase, the Town expects to use TIF revenues for the acquisition and construction of a municipal water system. The water system will be designed to provide a safe and reliable source of water for drinking and firefighting purposes to serve existing buildings and to support new growth in the Town, including to serve the Six Peaks Project (as discussed in the section titled "The Expected Private Development") and other properties in the vicinity of the Killington Resort. The water system will include wells, a wellhouse, a pumphouse and 1-3 storage tanks designed to hold 500,000 – 750,000 gallons each and will include underground transmission lines and mains among the wells, wellhouse, pump station and storage tanks, and from the storage tanks to the areas to be served by the system. Construction of the water system will also help in remediating the ongoing water quality issues further along Killington Road. This first phase of construction will include distribution to Ravine Road, following which, the water system will begin to serve properties in that area.

Additionally, a portion of the TIF revenues are expected to be used to construct new roads and upgrade existing roads. The road project will be designed to enhance the functionality of Killington Road and East Mountain Road, and will include the construction of Old Mill Road and "Road H". The upgrades to the existing roads will increase the safety and efficiency of these primary and secondary transportation arteries and will support new growth in the Town, including to facilitate pedestrian, cycling and bus traffic, to upgrade stormwater collection and treatment, and to serve the Six Peaks Project and the Killington Resort. A roundabout will be built at the intersection of Killington Road and East Mountain Road. A portion of Killington Road from approximately 150 feet south of the Killington Road and East Mountain Road intersection, and to include pedestrian crosswalks, intersection improvements and lighting and landscaping improvements throughout. The portion of Killington Road from Route 4 to Anthony Way will be rebuilt and significantly upgraded. The stormwater management system along these roads will be upgraded to better control flows and provide for enhanced treatment.

The total amount of TIF District debt to be approved by voters is expected to finance approximately 90% of the total improvement cost of the Projects. THE EXPECTED PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

THE EXPECTED PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

It is expected that the Projects proposed by the Town will help stimulate private development projects that will enhance the Town's economy and generate new incremental property taxes from the TIF District. As a result of the Town's construction of the water system and the road improvements, Great Gulf, a large and well-capitalized residential developer based in Toronto, Canada, will construct Phase I of the Six Peaks Project on property that it will acquire from SP Land Company. The Six Peaks Project is a new village that will include 239 residential units, nine single family lots and ±32,000 square feet of commercial/retail space, all situated within the Town's Village Core Development Zone at the intersection of Killington Road and East Mountain Road and continuing west of the Village Core across Killington Road within the Ramshead Brook Subdivision Development Zone.

Further, the new water system will also greatly help enhance overall water delivery and quality down Killington Road, benefitting properties and business owners in that area and encouraging development and construction of additional housing, including affordable housing.

FINANCING OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS – INDEBTEDNESS

As discussed further in this section, the Town intends to finance the Projects with a combination of bonds or notes (which may be issued in a competitive or negotiated sale, in a private placement, or through the State of Vermont's Revolving Loan Fund), USDA loans, loans from the Town's pooled cash reserve funds, and other grants.

At this time, subject to the receipt of necessary voter approvals, the Town intends to primarily finance the Projects by the issuance of bonds or notes, in one or more instances, for a total principal amount not exceeding \$47 million. Issuance of the bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness will be subject to the Town of Killington Selectboard authorization. The Town has historically sold its general obligations bonds to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank but may pursue other methods of financing if the Town Selectboard determines it is in the Town's interest to do so. The Town may also sell and issue such bonds or notes through either a competitive or negotiated sale, depending upon whether the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank approves the issuance by the Town of the full amount of debt authorized by the voters.

PUBLIC NOTICE, continued:

Whether issued to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank or through a competitive or negotiated sale, the Town expects that the terms of repayment would not exceed twenty years and the interest rate and fees would be determined based upon market conditions at the time of incurrence of the debt. Current interest rates for bonds, as of January 2023, if issued through the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank are estimated to be in a range of 3.8% to 3.9% per annum for a twenty-year bond. These rates are estimated as of January 2023 and are expected to change based upon a number of factors, including market conditions at the time of the borrowing and incurrence of the debt, federal and state tax policies, credit ratings of the issuer for the source of funding, and the type of debt instrument issued by the Town. The bonds or notes may be issued on a tax-exempt or taxable basis, depending upon federal tax laws at the time of issuance, and issued at not less than the par amount of such bonds or notes. Based on current market interest rates, if the full amount of the authorized debt is incurred, the total interest payable is estimated to be approximately \$15 million over the life of the bond or bonds. Interest rates are subject to change and the total amount of interest payable on the bond(s) will vary accordingly. The estimate of total interest to be paid is further dependent upon whether the bonds will qualify to be issued as tax-exempt obligations.

Depending upon market conditions, the Town Selectboard may authorize the issuance of bond anticipation notes and other short-term debt, which would be refinanced at a later date with long-term debt. Currently, the Town expects that it will not need to issue more than an aggregate of \$20,000,000 in bond anticipation notes and other short-term debt, though the actual amount issued may change depending on the Town's needs and market conditions. Any such bond anticipation note or short-term debt would bear interest at market rates determined at the time of the proposed borrowing. The Town currently expects that the term of any bond anticipation note would be no more than one year, and the term of any short-term loan would be no more than five years. It is expected that any such short-term notes, if issued, would be refinanced with longer-term bonds or notes, as described above.

The Town, subject to receipt of voter approval, may also issue notes or incur indebtedness through the State of Vermont's Revolving Fund. The State Revolving Fund (SRF) allows municipalities to borrow money at favorable interest rates in order to design, plan and construct improvements for drinking water or for clean water management, which includes management and handling of stormwater. The interest rates for SRF loans can vary but would likely be less than interest rates on bonds. Current projections for interest on a SRF loan for drinking water or clean water projects would be 1% interest rate per annum plus a 2% administrative fee per annum, and for a term of up to 30 years. For any such SRF loans for drinking water or clean water projects, the Town would enter into a loan agreement with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, as administrator of the SRF loan program, to evidence the repayment of such loan. Such loan agreement would contain covenants that will require the Town to construct the improvements, operate the water projects in a prudent fashion, and maintain the system in good working condition.

The Town Selectboard may also pursue obtaining loans from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to finance some of the improvements, particularly relating to extending the Town's water system to serve the TIF District and promote development within the TIF District. USDA loans are often comparable to the interest rates paid on twenty-year municipal bonds, which, as of January 2023, range from 3.50% to 3.65% per annum (depending upon credit rating). Again, like bonds that may be issued through the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, such interest rates are subject to change and could vary from current estimates. In each such case, whether for bonds, SRF loans, or USDA loans, the Town's full faith and credit is expected to be pledged to the repayment of such borrowed money.

Additionally, the Town expects to use amounts from its general fund and pooled cash reserve funds to make any debt service payments that come due and pay for other costs of improvements related to the Projects prior to the Town's receipt of sufficient TIF incremental revenue from the TIF District. Currently, the Town expects to use approximately \$1,300,000 from such pooled cash reserve funds. Any use of general fund or pooled cash reserve funds will be noted in the accounting records of the Town. To the extent such funds are used, no interest will be charged on any amounts paid from the Town's pooled cash reserve fund, and the Town expects to reimburse itself for any amounts extended from TIF incremental revenue, when available

Lastly, the Town is also pursuing grants and other forgivable loans to reduce the amount of debt that it will need to incur for the Projects. These grants are expected to be used for improvements within the TIF District, and will also be used to implement water system improvements outside of the TIF District as well. Overall, it is expected that the total amount of financing for the Projects is expected to be approximately \$52 million, which amount includes the \$47 million in indebtedness as proposed and the balance to be from projected federal and state grants and forgivable loans.

PROJECTED TAX INCREMENT REVENUES

The Town estimates that the Tax Increment Revenue from the TIF District will be sufficient to pay the debt service costs of the financing for the proposed Projects and the related costs of the Projects. The forecasts are dependent upon the expected development that will occur in the TIF District.

Additionally, under the Development Agreement between the Town and Great Gulf, in return for the Town's construction of the Projects, Great Gulf has agreed to pay property taxes in an amount at least sufficient to enable the Town to pay for the cost of the Projects. Once the Town is ready to proceed with the Projects and Great Gulf certifies that it is ready to proceed with construction of Phase I-A of the Six Peaks Project, the parties will sign a Minimum Assessment Agreement in which Great Gulf agrees to a minimum property assessment that will generate sufficient property tax revenue to enable the Town to pay debt service on the debt incurred by the Town in connection with the Projects. The Minimum Assessment Agreement will be a covenant burdening the property on which Phase 1A through Phase 1C of the Six Peaks Project will be constructed, and it will be recorded in the land records with priority over any mortgages. The Minimum Assessment Agreement will expire when the Town has repaid the debt incurred by the Town in connection with the Projects. As Great Gulf builds out the Six Peaks Project and sells lots or homes to buyers, those lots or homes will be subject to a covenant prohibiting the owners from appealing the assessed value below the original purchase price until the Town's debt repayment period expires. Because the obligation to pay property taxes is statutorily secured by a lien with priority over any other lien, this mechanism supports the Town's receipt of property taxes sufficient to enable the Town to pay for the Projects.

Only after Great Gulf has certified that it is ready to proceed with construction of Phase I-A of the Six Peaks Project and the parties have signed the Minimum Assessment Agreement will the Town actually incur any TIF debt that is authorized by the voters.

In the event that the tax increment received by the Town from within the TIF District is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the indebtedness in any year, for whatever reason, including a decrease in property value or repeal of a State of Vermont property tax source, unless determined otherwise at the time of such repeal, the Town shall remain liable for the full payment of the principal and interest for the term of indebtedness.

RELATED COSTS

The Town may use its TIF incremental revenues to pay for a broad category of items which are defined as "related costs." Related costs can be Town expenditures related to the specific public improvements or they can be related to the Town's overall implementation and administration of its TIF District. The following are expected "related costs" to be paid from TIF revenues:

- Cost of plans, studies, or reports that are specific to preparing the TIF District Plan and the Town's TIF District Finance Plan submitted to VEPC, application to VEPC, or subsequent filing or reporting required to maintain the District;
- 2. Costs of providing public notification about, and obtaining public approval for, the Town's TIF District Plan and District Finance Plan;
- 3. Costs such as consulting, design, architects, engineering, accounting, legal, project management, or other professional services incurred during preparation of a District Plan, District Finance Plan, District application, or Substantial Change Request;
- 4. Town employee and staff costs directly related to the District; however, these costs may only be paid with municipal increment generated beyond the required municipal share to service debt and related costs that are not municipal employee and staff costs;
- 5. The cost of audits by the State Auditor of Accounts required by statute, including costs billed back to the municipality by the State Auditor of Accounts and any audit-related costs incurred by the municipality during the conduct of those audits; and
- 6. TIF District-related costs of the independent annual municipal audit required by statute.

Some of the foregoing "related costs" can wholly utilize tax increment revenues, while others by law may only utilize the portion of the municipal tax increment and not the portion for the education taxes. Additionally, rules promulgated by VEPC permit soft costs such as consulting, design, architects, engineering, accounting, legal, project management, or other professional services directly related to the implementation and construction of eligible District improvements to be treated as "related costs." The Town has elected to include such costs in its calculation of costs of the Projects to be financed by TIF indebtedness. In total, the Town expects to utilize up to \$650,000 of TIF incremental revenues in order to cover related costs for the Projects for the TIF District.

The Town will maintain records of such related costs, the reimbursement of related costs, and the allocation of costs of personnel related to the creation and administration of the TIF District and the projects relating thereto. Only that portion of the municipal increment for the TIF District above the percentage required by statute to service the TIF debt will be used for related costs. PLEDGE OF THE CREDIT OF THE TOWN

While the Town projects that the TIF increment will be sufficient to pay the debt service obligations of the Town that may be incurred if such debt is authorized by voters, voters are notified that by authorizing the Town Selectboard to pledge the credit of the Town to secure indebtedness in connection with the TIF District improvements, if the tax increment received by the Town is insufficient to pay the principal and interest on the debt or any other form of District financing in any year, for whatever reason, including a decrease in property tax or repeal of a state property tax source, unless otherwise determined at the time of such repeal, the Town shall remain liable for payment of the full principal and interest for these obligations for the term of indebtedness.



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

KPAA ANNUAL MEETING **RESORT & VILLAGE UPDATE**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023, AT 5:00 P.M. KILLINGTON GRAND HOTEL

Hear from special guests Mike Solimano, President & GM of Killington Resort & Pico Mountain and Michael Snyd, President of Resort Residential with Great Gulf

TIF bond vote: Big turnout for Killington public hearing on proposed bond for \$47 million municipal investment from page 1

much more reasonable."

"So now you'll have 50 feet to slide," Haff summarized, inciting laughter from attendees at Monday's hearing. "It's going to make that area a lot safer."

Phase 1 also includes connecting the existing sidewalk up to East Mountain Road.

Future phases will includes new sidewalks on both sides of the road — an 8-foot shared use path along the west roadway, a 5-foot sidewalk along the east roadway - plus bus pull-offs, pedestrian crosswalks, intersection improvements (including two new traffic lights at Dean Hill Road and up by Choices/Domenic's Pizza), lighting, new fire hydrants, and landscaping improvements.

TIF, not taxes

All of Phase 1 (water and road) will be paid for with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - a tool that municipalities can use to finance public infrastructure serving a designated TIF district and spur private development that wouldn't happen "but for" that initial municipal investment. New private development incrementally increases the value of the grand list and that increment is used to pay the mu-

nicipal bonds.

Thus paid as described, it does not raise municipal taxes.

At Town Meeting Day, Killington residents will be asked to vote on Article 5, which states: "Shall the Town Select Board be authorized to ... secure indebtedness ... not to exceed \$47,000,000 ... with the understanding that tax increment from the properties within

the TIF District shall be pledged and appropriated for the payment of such indebtedness or direct costs of the improvements?"

The math

Stephanie Clarke, vice president of White + Burke, real estate advisor to the Killington Forward project outlined the over arching TIF math for Phase 1 at the hearing Monday:

- \$52 million in infrastructure investment (\$47 million of which to be voted on for debt in Phase 1) will produce an estimated
- \$295 million in increased property value, a portion of which will be used to pay off the debt. But even after the debt service, an estimated
- \$2.58 million of additional tax revenue will go to the town's general fund over 20 years; and
- \$24.3 million of additional tax revenue will go to the state Education Fund over 20 years.

After 20 years, when the debt is retired, the full increased property value will be taxed by the state and town for perpetuity.

Please RSVP at killington.com/rsvp

"Currently our grand list is about \$800 million, we're projecting it to grow by about \$300 million — that's over a 30% increase. Our only new cost increase is maintaining a few more roads, users will pay for the maintenance of the water system. So I actually see this very likely to lower our municipal tax rate over time," Haff said.

The guarantee

The long awaited Six Peaks Village has an Act 250 permit for over 32,000 square feet of commercial space, approximately 239 new units of housing consisting of condos, townhomes, and single-family homes and 9 single family lots. The town's financing plan requires only a portion of the village to be developed to cover its Phase 1 investment costs - only about 180 units.

"But what happens if it's never developed?" residents asked at the hearing Monday.(Understandably, many are a bit wary as other such village plans have fallen through over the decades.) "Could taxpayers be stuck with the bill?"

No, the Select Board clarified.

"Currently our grand list is about \$800 million, we're projecting it to grow by about \$300 million - that's over a 30% increase ... So I actually see this very likely to lower our municipal tax rate over time," Haff said.

> Great Gulf, the developer, has guaranteed the minimum bond payment in a development agreement with the town signed Oct. 28, 2022. The increased in property value, once the water infrastructure has been built, guarantees it.

"The developer has agreed for us to raise the property value to pay for the bond," Haff explained. "If the developer doesn't pay, it goes to a tax sale, and ... that's just not going to happen. So this development agreement has that threat taken away ... the developer is pledging 180 units will be sold, if they're not [sold] they still have to cover that cost."

The development agreement is "bullet proof," Haff said. Diving deeper, resident Art Malatzky asked what the annual revenue requirement to pay off a debt of the \$47 million bond was specifically.

"It starts off at \$2.5 million and grows to \$4 million [annually]," specified Michael Sneyd, president of the North American Resort Residential division of Great Gulf. Adding for context: "Great Gulf is the second largest private home builder in the United States. We build about 5,000 units a year in the U.S. We're also one of the largest home builders in Canada... the City of Toronto selected Great Gulf to develop 4,000 units along the waterfront on their behalf. So we're a very large, very successful company, we've been in business since 1975 and we've got several different business units... so if one sector of the business isn't doing well the other sectors make up for it. It's a very successful, very diverse company North America-wide."

Proportionally, the \$4 million commitment to Killington is "not very big," Sneyd summarized.

Affordable housing

Another common line of questioning at the public hearing was about the need for and timing to build out affordable and market rate housing.

"Municipal water and sewer are required before housing trusts will talk to us," said Haff. "We have sewer, but we need a plan for water before we can even begin the conversation about affordable/market rate development. All this is contingent on a positive vote on Article 5. We simply need that to get started."

Clarke added that once municipal water was available down Killington Road, the town would likely see current properties add more housing and that could happen possibly sooner than a new development could be built.

For more information and past stories related to TIF and Killington Forward, visit: mountaintimes.info/tif.

On a different page

As I begin my third year on the House Appropriations Committee, I have often marveled how the 11 member (now 12) could reach consensus on the major budget bills each session.



That doesn't mean we all agreed on every appropriation, but enough compromises were made to achieve unanimous votes in committee.

Unfortunately, last Friday, I was the first to break that trend with our first committee informal vote on the annual Budget Adjustment Bill before us (official vote will be Jan. 30, so it's still possible things may change as I write this column). The BAA as it is referred to, starts with a proposal from the administration that is a

series of revisions to the current budget we are operating under. It includes revised line items in various agencies after they have six months of actual expenses to review.

Additionally, this year's proposal included the utilization of more federal funds, especially Medicaid, which helped free up state dollars for several one-time investments, like \$30 million more for broadband and \$9 million for a secure youth residential facility.

Essentially, the committee agreed to almost all of the administration's proposed changes. However, various House committees and advocates weighed in on extra funding requests for a total of over \$90 million, roughly a 25% hike from the initial proposal. And while there are current state surplus dollars to pay for the additional one-time requests, it begs the question of what won't be funded in next year's budget or which of the proposed tax breaks from the governor will now be

Places like Rutland have seen a significant uptick in crime and drug usage attributable to some of the individuals in the hotel program.

put on hold or conversely create pressure for future tax hikes.

I will admit I was getting a bit cranky on Friday afternoon. What put me in the "no" column was an extra \$21 million to extend the hotel voucher program without limits to participation for the last three months of the current fiscal year. Up until now, the expanded hotel program for the homeless, has been paid for by federal funds. The new \$21 million being appropriated will be from Vermont taxes. I tried to find a compromise by suggesting some parameters as to who would still be eligible (families with children, disabled, seniors over 65), but those recommendations were rejected by the committee.

Under the expanded eligibility, which is the only one of its kind in the country, virtually anyone can get a room if they are available. We have young working age individuals that come to Vermont to get free rooms and other benefits. Places like Rutland have seen a significant uptick in crime and drug usage attributable to some of the individuals in the hotel program. The state does not help those communities with their extra law enforcement costs, which means local taxpayers get stuck with that bill, too. The only area we could agree on was to add a request to the Dept. of Children and Families to meet with various stakeholders to come up with a longer-term plan to reduce the need for the hotel vouchers. This is an approach that has been undertaken before, but unfortunately failed.

Other items of interest:

- Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore, told a Senate committee that the legislative proposal for a Clean Heat Standard, could increase heating fuel prices by an estimated 70 cents per gallon, although acknowledging the program could offer overall savings perhaps by 2030.
- The House Appropriations Committee set aside \$9.2 million to help an estimated 139 organic dairy farmers get through the winter.

Retired legislators honored

About 70 Vermonters gathered at Baxter's at the Rutland Country Club Saturday, Jan. 28 to honor five of our county's recently retired Republican legislators: Senator Joshua Terenzini, Representatives Tom Terenzini, Bob Helm, Larry Cupoli, and Peter Fagan.

Former representative and county GOP vice chair Mark Candon was the MC with Representatives Tom Burditt and Butch Shaw sharing stories and much appreciation for the honored five. A slide show ran in the background with memories of the retirees' legislative days. Each retiree was presented with a beautifully framed watercolor print by Peter Huntoon of the Vermont State House in winter.



Submitted

Submitted

Treasurer reminds Vermonters to search for missing money on National Unclaimed Property Day

National Unclaimed Property Day is this Wednesday, Feb. 1 and the state is partnering again with the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA) to remind Vermonters to search for and claim their missing money. The Treasurer's Office currently holds \$119 million of unclaimed property. In 2022, the office paid out over 15,000 claims totaling over \$5.3 million that went back into the pockets of Vermonters. "Our staff works tire-

lessly to return unclaimed

property to its rightful owner, and with over \$100 million held by our office, I encourage Vermonters to take a few minutes this week to check our website and see if money is waiting to be returned to them," said Treasurer Mike Pieciak. "The average claim last year was over \$400 and our staff stands ready to make the process of reclaiming your money quick and easy."

You can search online at MissingMoney.Vermont. gov or call the Unclaimed Property Division at (802) 828-2407 or toll-free in Vermont at 1-800-642-3191.

Vermont Supreme Court rules Montpelier can allow noncitizen voting in local elections

By Erin Petenko/VTDigger

The Vermont Supreme Court issued a decision Friday, Jan. 20, in favor of Montpelier allowing noncitizens to vote in its local elections.

The court ruled that the Vermont Constitution does restrict voting in statewide contests to citizens.

Montpelier City Council President Jack McCullough told VTDigger that the initiative began when town residents noticed that it was "not fair" that some noncitizen residents who paid taxes and participated in the community "were not allowed to vote on on the local elections and the local issues that affected their lives."

About 11,000 Vermonters are not United States citizens, according to the Census.

Montpelier voters supported a charter change to allow noncitizens to vote in local elections by an almost twoto-one margin in 2018, but the measure has since had a long journey toward

implementation.

The state Legislature approved the change in 2021, only for Gov. Phil Scott to veto the measure. The Legislature then overturned Scott's veto that same year.

Last year was the first time that noncitizens turned out to vote in Montpelier elections, according to Seven Days. John Odum said that nine noncitizens voters are currently registered with the city, and Noncitizen voting \rightarrow 9

Harrison \rightarrow 10

GUEST EDITORIAL

Sheriff reform needed; not so easy

Opinion

By Angelo Lynn

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

A bill introduced last week to reform the way Vermont sheriffs operate is a step in the right direction, and sorely needed. Currently Vermont sheriffs have an unseemly way of earning money and very little effective oversight - a combination ripe for abuse.

S.17, the act related to sheriff reforms, was proposed in the Senate Committee on Government Operations. Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, chair of the committee and one of the 10 cosponsors of the bill, noted the uniqueness of the sheriff's salary arrangement. Not only are sheriffs awarded a handsome salary, but they also have add-on contracts for special events of all sorts - from directling routine traffic flow during road work, to working sporting events like road races, to providing additional security.

"Some literally increase their own salary, and it's the only office in state government that has such a provision," Hardy said.

Nor is there a direct community board to provide oversight. Sheriffs are elected in a countywide popular vote

The state constitution limits lawmakers' oversight of sheriffs since they are elected members of another branch of government.

and serve at the will of the people. But because Vermont has no county government, there is no effective way to directly govern their actions. The only person who has a direct say over the sheriff is the High Bailiff, who has two responsibilities: 1) has the authority to arrest the Sheriff, if that ever becomes necessary; and 2) he is to take over the Sheriff's Department in the event that the elected sheriff cannot continue to perform their duties for whatever reason.

This became an issue in Addison County this past summer when Sheriff Peter Newton was arrested in June on felony charges of sexual assault and unlawful restraint. Newton, who pleaded not guilty, did not seek reelection in November but resisted calls to resign and has remained on the job, though without police powers, until newly elected Sheriff Michael Elmore takes over on Feb. 1.

"That is what really spurred me to want to look into what could we do to provide better oversight for sheriffs, because there just seems to be every few weeks another issue (arises) with sheriffs or sheriff's deputies," Hardy said.

Meanwhile, in Franklin County, former Sheriff's Deputy John Grismore was elected to head that county's department this past November despite facing a simple assault charge. He is accused of using excessive force in August, after he was recorded on video kicking a man in the department's custody, according to the VtDigger story. Grismore, who has denied any wrongdoing, will take office in February. The only way Franklin County residents can get him removed is through impeachment by the state Legislature.

The lack of board or professional oversight can only be considered an egregious shortcoming. The police chief of any town or city, for example, not only serves under the town manager, but also the selectboard of that community.

It seems obvious that county sheriffs should be held accountable in similar ways.

But it's not that easy. Why? Because the state constitution limits lawmakers' oversight of sheriffs since they are elected members of another branch of government.

Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, who also co-sponsored Sheriff reform $\rightarrow 10$



LETTERS

Rutland Mayor Dave Allaire seeks reelection

Dear Editor,

Let me begin by saying thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. I am truly honored and humbled to be vour mavor.

I want you to know I am totally healthy and cancer free, working every day, and am as motivated and excited about the next two years as I could be. The city is poised to move forward now more than it has been in a long time. There are exciting projects in the works. Yes, we have our issues. Public safety and crime are on everyone's minds. Mine also. We need to address these issues together. Communities across Vermont are facing these same issues. We need to address Public safety issues head on. And we will.

At the police department there are signs we are having some success in our more aggressive recruiting to help bolster our numbers. We have been in contact with the incoming Legislature and governor's office that we need bail reform to eliminate the revolving door for repeat offenders. We need to lock up the bad guys, and appropriate more funding for mental health and substance abuse issues which underlie many

As you know, I have been actively involved in monitoring the state's homeless program at the hotels that will be ending next March.

Public safety, housing, infrastructure, fiscal responsibility. These are my priorities.

The state needs to step up and work with our community to find a solution to the homeless population when this program ends. The city is ready to partner with everyone involved, the state and non-profits, but we can't do it alone.

In order to move forward in the area of economic development the housing shortage will continue to be a top priority. I continue to serve on a steering committee with all the local players at the table to address strategies both long and short term to address housing.

Among the projects currently moving forward are the Center Street redesign, the TIF project, the redevelopment of the western campus of the College of Saint Joseph's property, and last but not least, I believe the ultimate goal of building a downtown hotel is well within our reach. If there ever was a need for hotel

space in the Rutland region it is now.

As a reminder, we have had many successes in the last few years. We built a new municipal swim-

ming pool. We opened a new park in the middle of downtown. We proposed and passed a bond to accelerate our paving and sidewalk infrastructure with the neighborhoods looking better than ever. We continued to work our underground infrastructure that had been neglected for

much too long. And we asked the voters for your support to purchase the athletic facility at the Saint Joe's Campus. We now have a community center that all of us can enjoy, young and old alike. What a gem and win for the community. And we did a



lot of this during a once a hundred year pandemic. We followed the guidance

and kept everyone safe. Our city finances continue to be strong. We have clean audits. We have been a good steward of the public's funds. And as I have for the last several years, I will continue to put forth thoughtful, reasonable budgets and provide the services the citizens of Rutland expect and deserve.

So going forward, public safety, housing, infrastructure, fiscal responsibility. These are my priorities.

I have a track record of delivering. I answer my phone. I am accessible. I came from humble roots. I know what it's like to struggle. And I also have never forgotten I work for you.

Again thank-you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to the campaign. I ask for your support. Mayor Dave Allaire, Rutland



COMMENTARY

Reflecting on Dr. King's dream

By Mary E. Mendoza

Editor's note: Mary E. Mendoza is an assistant professor of history and Latino/a Studies at Penn State University. She lives in Weybridge.

Because I teach about the history of race in America, I often ponder the differences between equity and equality. In addition, the start of my current semester teaching Latino History coincides with our national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. All of which is to say that race, equality and equity are never far from my mind in the beginning of any given January.

Dr. King is frequently remembered for his "I Have a Dream" speech. The major take-away people tend to get from that speech and from Dr. King is that he dreamed his children would "one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." In short, people associate Dr. King and his dream with the notion of equality, or the idea that all people would be treated as equals.

That was certainly part of Dr. King's dream. When he delivered his inspiring and impassioned speeches and sermons, I am sure Dr. King did dream of a world in which unarmed black, brown, and native folks were not brutally killed at the hands of police in much higher numbers than their white counterparts. I am sure that he dreamed of a world where students of all backgrounds saw themselves reflected in their teachers and the media in equal measure. I am sure he dreamed of a world with equal access to education.

I am not sure Dr. King dreamed of a world where BIPOC people earned the same incomes as their white counterparts for the same jobs.

I am a Latina living in a very progressive, very white state. I love Vermont, but certain populations here, particularly the more privileged, can seem like their own little bubble of ignorance. I say this with love, but occasional frustration.

Two days after MLK Day I found myself in a conversation with some lovely folks who see themselves as incredible allies - and in many ways, I am sure they are. In it, they explained to me that if we could just close the wage gap between top and bottom and pay everyone the same wages, it would solve all of our problems.

Women wouldn't earn more than men. White men and women wouldn't earn more than their BIPOC colleagues. I have had this same conversation countless times over the past two decades living in this state with myriad people and it always surprises me how people here seem to obfuscate the core of King's dream a dream that I know these same Vermonters actually share with him and with me.

Equality is not equity. Dr. King made this point repeatedly. He argued that while white Americans were acquiring free land in the American West, Black Americans, Asians, and Latinos were cultivating that land with zero or little compensation. Once freed, the formerly enslaved received no compensation. Dr. King argued that white Americans "never stop to realize a debt they owe." He maintained that while generational wealth accumulated for many white Americans, generational oppression wreaked havoc on the African American community as well as other BIPOC groups.

In short, his point was that equality was and is not enough. If you put everyone on an equal plane today, those with generational wealth will still come out ahead. True equity and investment in diversity means compensating BIPOC folks beyond normal pay ranges for a while to allow them to catch up. It is reparations for African Americans. It is understanding that a Latino/a/x person pulling themselves out of poverty is a huge achievement, and one that should be rewarded. It is returning native land, repatriating indigenous possessions and bodies, and truly recognizing and respecting native sovereignty. For different minoritized groups, reparations would look different, as the paths toward dispossession, exploitation, and exclusion have not been the same for each of them.

Equity gets us closer to justice, which was a critical aspect of King's dream. Until this critical difference is widely understood and accepted, we will never be able to realize King's ideal of racial justice. For those living in poverty because of these historical patterns of generational disparity, equality will never be attainable until we go through an extended period of radical, equitable practices that allow historically oppressed groups to make up for lost time.

Noncitizen voting: Who gets to decide local elections, not all taxpayers from page 7

But when it comes to the

itself, the court's decision

a close reading of Chapter

legality of the charter change

said that legal precedent and

II, Section 42 of the Vermont Constitution proved that lo-

cal election qualifications can

be different from statewide election qualifications.

five noncitizen voters participated in last year's Town Meeting Day votes. McCullough said the

process was "complicated" because the city clerk must maintain a separate list of who can vote in local elections.

In April 2022, a Washington County Superior Court judge rejected the plaintiff's arguments that noncitizen voting was a violation of the Vermont Constitution. Friday's Supreme Court decision upholds that ruling.

The Supreme Court ruled

that the parties had stand-In 2021, the Republican ing to challenge the charter National Committee filed a similar challenge against change because eligible voters had an "interest" in ensur-Winooski's noncitizen voting, ing the voter pool was conwhich was dismissed. stitutional to "preserve the When the RNC originally effectiveness of their vote." filed its complaints against Winooski and Montpelier, it

issued a statement calling the charter change a "scheme" by Democrats to "allow foreign citizens to decide elections."

McCullough countered, "I don't really don't understand the impulse of preventing people from voting... It's not the American way.

CAPITAL QUOTES

Moderna announced plans to quadruple the price of its Covid-19 vaccine, raising it from \$26 to between \$110 and \$130 per dose. The announcement came just months after Pfizer's CEO Albert Bourla announced the company would be increasing the price of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine to \$130 per dose. Moderna earned \$12 billion in net income in 2021 and was projected to earn another \$5 billion before the price hike. Lawmakers are urging Moderna to reconsider...

"Moderna's reported plans to charge as much as \$130 per dose for its Covid-19 vaccines could prolong the public health crisis caused by Covid-19 and leave many uninsured Americans simply unable to afford the vaccine,"

Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) said in a letter with a series of questions to Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel.

"In other words, you propose to make the vaccine unaffordable for the residents of this country who made the production of the vaccine possible. That is not acceptable ... Now, in the midst of a continuing public health crisis and a growing federal deficit, is not the time for Moderna to be quadrupling the price of this vaccine. Now is not the time for unacceptable corporate greed,"

Sen. Bernie Sanders said in a letter to Moderna.

"We will do everything we can to make sure that the cost of a Covid vaccine remains affordable,"

said Xavier Becerra, Health and Human Services Secretary.

"While we are still in discussions with stakeholders on the price of our Covid-19 vaccines, Moderna is committed to pricing that reflects the value that Covid-19 vaccines bring to patients, healthcare systems, and society,"

a Moderna spokesperson told ABC.

Harrison: I disagreed; hotel vouchers go too far from page 7

- The House Judiciary Committee has been holding hearings on H.89, which proposes to shield Vermont health care providers for serving patients who come here for reproductive health care services that may not be legal in their own state.
- The Chair of Senate Government Operations has introduced legislation, S.39, which would extend health care and childcare benefits to members of the legislature and asks for a study on legislative pay. The bill is co-sponsored by every member of her committee, which is where the legislation will be reviewed.
- Over 50 House members have introduced legislation that reintroduces Vermont to a path towards a singlepayer state-funded universal health care plan. This comes nine years after former Governor Peter Shumlin pulled the plug on such a plan because of the new taxes that the initiative would have required.
- The governor signed into law H.42, which continues to give municipalities flexibility with remote meetings as well as voting by Australian ballot at town meetings. However, he criticized a provision that no longer requires school districts to disclose per pupil costs to Vermonters when voting.
- The Dept. of Financial Regulation announced a decrease in workers compensation rates paid by employers on policies beginning after April 1 by an average of 6.9%.

Over the next few weeks, House and Senate committees will be busy reviewing their priority bills for the session. It remains to be seen if middle ground can be found on some of the larger policy initiatives that will be considered. And perhaps whether the member from the town of Chittenden can land on that same page?

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

New town hall: Killington voters to decide from page

"There's a current 15-year lease from Post Office on this property," Haff said, "that will transfer to the town when and if we take ownership of the building."

"Going this route instead of building new space will save taxpayers a lot of money," Haff said.

Voters will be asked to approve Article 4 on Town Meeting Day, to secure the purchase and move forward with the planned move.

The article reads: "Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal

"Going this route instead of building new space will save taxpayers a lot of money," Haff said.

grants-in-aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a period not to exceed ten (10), years, be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2046 US Route 4 to become the new Town Hall?'

One online attendee at the meeting Monday referred to "the old town hall which we all know and love," and asked Haff what had triggered the drive to replace it.

Haff said the town had outgrown the current building on River Road. Plans for the site included updating the Recreation Department area, the town pool and the town offices, all to be completed during FY2025.

"It was part of the sustainability budget the Select Board created six years ago," Haff answered.

Additionally, the town historical society has already expressed interest in using the existing security vault for its records. Steve Finer said the old town hall, which has an elevator, could provide space for Killington's seniors as well as other recreation activities.



Submitted

Sheriff reform: Needed, S.17 would help from page 8

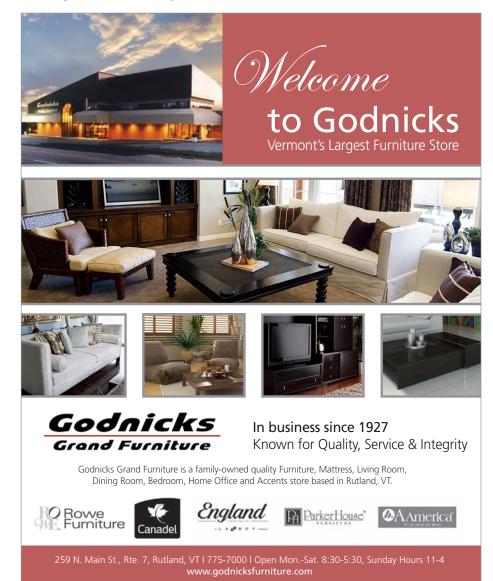
S.17 as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told VtDigger his committee "started out with higher goals, but every time we tried to look at some area, we were rebuffed by constitutional separation of powers."

Sears said state legislators were "studying other options they have to institute better checks and balances on sheriffs' departments, and that the bill "also directs the Vermont Secretary of State and the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs to study potentially restructuring county sheriffs' departments."

In the meantime, S.17 will add a few guidelines for the Vermont Criminal Justice Council to consider when evaluating police certifications, including "gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of duties" as well as "abuse of the powers granted through law enforcement officer certification."

That's a start, but until sheriffs can be dismissed outright for unprofessional behavior — just as a policeman, police chiefs or state troopers can - the state won't have done enough.

TOWN OF



KILLINGTON VERMONT **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** Monday, Feb. 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

The Selectboard of the Town of Killington will hold a public informational hearing to consider the ballot item for Town Meeting Day (March 7, 2023) on a bond vote for the Killington Tax Financing District (TIF), to be serviced by tax increment financing. At this hearing, information will be provided to the voters on the amount of TIF District debt proposed to be incurred, the expected improvements to be financed to serve the TIF District, the estimated amount and type(s) of financing, the estimated related costs to be paid from TIF incremental revenues, whether interfund loans or interim financing will be used, and the anticipated development expected from the financing for the TIF District.

The public hearing will take place on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Killington Public Safety Building at 800 Killington Road and via Zoom. Visit KillingtonTown.com/calendar for a link to attend the meeting online.

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12. Calendar



Early Literacy Playgroup 10 a.m.-noon. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. A fun playgroup for your 2-5 year old. Miss Allie, A certified teacher hosts

Storytime! 10:30-11 a.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Join Kimball Library for songs, books, and crafts during storytime. Recommended for ages 2-6 but all are welcome. The event will be held outside, weather permitting. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

Winter Story Time 10:30-11: 30 a.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, Ludlow. Free. Story Time is the perfect opportunity for children and caregivers to make new friends, practice early literacy and language skills and have fun! Each week features stories, songs and hands on art or STEM activities. For more info visit: fmlnews.org.

Movers and Shakers 11 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. Free. This free program of low-impact exercise is designed for people with Parkinson's, or anyone else who wishes to maintain or improve flexibility, strength, and balance in a supportive and relaxing environment. Start your week off right and work out with us. Call 802-773-1853 to reserve your spot.

Reading with dogs 4:30-6 p.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Yep, four-legged friends will be at the library! Join them by signong up at the front desk or calling the library at 802-422-9765. Each slot is 20 minutes. First come, first served. This program is open to all ages. For more info visit: sherburnelibrary.org.

Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class

7-10 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit odysseyeventsvt.com

Wild Woods Music Song Circle 7:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. Free. Music lovers, singers, players of acoustic instruments, and listeners are welcomed. The atmosphere of the circle is easy-going and encouraging to beginners or anyone developing their interest in music. This is a good place to break-in that new instrument or to play a well used and loved one. For more information: call Jack Crowther at 802-775-1182 or e-mail Gus Bloch, song circle leader, at gusbloch@gmail.com.

What is trauma informed journalism? 7 p.m. Trauma informed journalist Lori Yearwood explores what it means to be a trauma-informed journalist when reporting and engaging with populations facing systemic poverty. For more info visit rutlandfree.org.



Bone Builders Mendon Seniors 10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Road, Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday. For more info call Pat 802-422-3368.

We're ALZ in this Together: Destigmatizing Dementia in the State House

8 a.m.-1 p.m. The State House in Montpelier. The Vermont Chapter of Alzheimer's Association will host a coffee bar for legislators and advocates in the statehouse. Meet your Senator or Representative to discuss your connection with dementia. From 11:30 to 1 p.m. Advocates are invited to have lunch at the Statehouse with legislators and key committee leaders. For more information, contact Meg Polyte at mmpolyte@alz.org or 802-316-3839. More at p2a.co/VH7gzMF.

Winter Death Race

4:30-6 p.m. Riverside Farm. 57 Tweed River Dr Rd, Pittsfield. Cost is \$350. The world-renown Death-Race created by Spartan Founder Joe De Sena. Participants to challenge the mind-bending mental and physical winter challenge designed to break the strongest of individuals. For more info visit peakraces.com

Circle of Parents 10 a.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual. Circle of Parents is a professionally facilitated, peer led self-help support group for parents and other caregivers. Participants meet weekly for 60-90 minutes online in virtual meetings. For more info and to join a group contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or 802-498-0603.

Storytime: Groundhog Day 10 a.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. No registration required, free and open to all. Fox Room, Geared towards ages 2-5. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit: sherburnelibrary.org.

Drive-up pick-up meals 12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. For more info. visit namivt.org/support/ peer-support-groups.

Circle of Parents in Recovery 3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Support group meets weekly online on Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

NAMI Connection peer support group

9 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info visit: namivt.org.

Circle of Parents for Grandparents 4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Meets weekly online. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

Yoga with Kellie

4-5 p.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Kellie for yoga weekly in the Fox Room. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

VINS: A Forest of Lights 5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

Book Art

6:30-7:30 p.m. Kimball Library in Randolph. Free. Create art with discarded books. Supplies available at the Library. Bring your ideas. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

Open gym: basketball 7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Thursdays will be basketball. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.



All about the arts for ages 3-5 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. Free. Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, Precession of the students will have full creating and doing activities will art, music, literature, and more with instructor Lori Sullivan. One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4 and must pre-register by Wednesday each week. The class requires a minimum of three students. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Art Adventures for ages 2-6 9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. \$20/class. Every Friday students will create an art project based on an adventure into the land of Book Nook Discovery. One free book will be given every class thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Lego Play 2-5 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Come to the Kimball library on Friday afternoons for free play and creative building. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.



Explore drawing animals, age 6-12 3:45-5 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. \$100 per participant. All supplies included. Students will learn about the principals of drawing with instructor Helvi Abatiell. The four-week course will focus on drawing animals. Course dates are: Jan. 20, Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and Feb. 10. Attendees will receive their own sketchbook. A minimum of five students are required. All must pre-register. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

VINS: A Forest of Lights 5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org



Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 92, Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers market bring together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellys and jams, maple products, honey, CBD Products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more, the Winter Market is a great place to shop, eat and visit. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

The Hard Mile Uphill Race 7-9 a.m. Saskedena Six Ski Resort Cost is \$15. Enjoy the beauty of the resort as contestants skin up the "Easy Mile" with a free ski to bottom before the lifts open. No 4-legged ones unless they are in your back pack. Awards for top 3 as well as best dressed. For more info visit: woodstockvt.com

21st Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby: 7:30 a.m.-noon. Dewey's Pond Free. Join us for the 21st Annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Dewey's Pond On February 4th! Youth Anglers will be laced in age appropriate divisions based on the number of registered participants. Prizes will be awarded to the participants who win the categories within their age division. Food and refreshments, fishing holes, bait and limited equipment will be available. For more info visit:recreation@hartford-vt.org

Let's Go Ice Fishing Clinics 8:30-11:30 a.m. Dewey's Pond Free. Come learn the basics on the ice with Hartford Parks & Rec. You'll learn jigging, how to use tip-ups, how to use an auger and more! A lifelong skill and a great hobby! Registration is required as equipment is provided. A free program, open to anyone from age 5-105, but anyone under 15 needs an adult with the and For more interviewer interviewer interviewer interviewer. them! For more info visit:recreation@hartford-vt.org

A Park Affair at Killington Resort 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.Killington Ski Resort Killington Ski Resort Cost is \$220. A park-focused progression camp designed for snowboarders who are comfortable in a women-led space and open to all ability levels. 14+ For more info visit killington.com/events

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 12

Youth Ice Fishing Derby 7:30 a.m.-noon. Dewey's Pond Free. Join us for a day of fun on the ice! Youth Anglers will be placed in age-appropriate divisions based on the number of registered participants. Prizes will be awarded to the participants who win the categories within their age division. Food and referencements, fishing holes, bait and limited equipment will be available For more info visit: recreation@hartford-vt.org

The Friends of Ilsley Library Book Sale

Ilsey Library Community Room, 75 Main Street, Middlebury. Free. The Friends of Ilsey Library will hold a used book sale featuring We have a wide selection of children's, teen, and adult fiction and nonfiction, priced at \$2 or less as well as some specially priced treasures. All proceeds benefit llsley programs for all ages.

ONLINE Sculpture Workshop for Young Artists

(Ages 12-16) 10:15-11:30 a.m. The Carving center and Sculpture Studio. 636 Marble St. West Rutland. Cost is \$50. In this 4 week workshop, we will meet for 1 hour and 15 minutes at a time, every Saturday through February, and explore how to create a successful and meaningful sculpture. We will do so using super sculpey clay. For more info visit:info@carvingstudio.org

Sally Ride Experience with Sheryl Faye 11-11:45 a.m.Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Sheryl Faye Presents Historical Woman is coming to Rutland. Part play and part science lesson, Sally Ride, the United States first woman astronaut will invite kids t help with science experiments and ask questions. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Rutland Railroad Museum & model club

11 a.m.-1 p.m. 79 Depot Lane (off Route 4) Center Rutland. Free. Children of all ages will delight in the HO scale model railroad operating display (HO is a rail transport modeling scale using a 1.87 scale). The depot is now a museum that displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and diverse memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad caboose #45. For more info visit: rutlandrailway.org.

Benson Polar Bear Obstacle Challenge

12 p.m. Shale Hill Adventure Farm. 517 Lake Rd, Benson. Cost varies. The Benson Polar Bear Obstacle Challenge is a Obstacle & Mud Runs race in Benson, Vermont consisting of a 8 Hour Obstacle Run. For more info visit: mudrunguide.com/event/benson-vermont-shale-hill

Learn to Spin

1-4 p.m. Green Mountain yarn & Fiber. 217 Woodstock Ave Suite E, Rutland. Cost is \$50 Learn to spin your own yarn on our wheels or bring your own. 3 students per class. Pre-registration required. Visit greenmountainfibers.com

Woodstock Film Series screens "The Automat"

3 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road in Woodstock. Tickets are \$15 for all regular screenings, and \$12 for Billings Farm & Museum members. The Automat recounts the lost history of the iconic restaurant chain Horn & Hardart, which served affordable food to millions of Philadelphians and New Yorkers who had been ignored . They served workers, immigrants, the working class, blacks and woman with slot machine vending restaurant technology that captured the public's imagination and revolutionized the nation's restaurant scene. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

Next Steps In Handmade Books

1-3 p.m. Gallery at the Vault. 68 Main St. Springfield. Cost is \$7-30. Learn to create sewn and adhesive bindings. For more info visit: galleryvault.org

Science Pub: Science, Wine & Food. "Embracing Solitude."

4 p.m. The Taproom in Lake Bomoseen. Free. Solitude and loneliness



are not at all the same, as Professor Virginia Thomas' research confirms. Solitude is a positive state that plays a significant role in psychological well-being. Prof. Thomas will walk us through her findings: why people seek solitude, how to enjoy and benefit from time alone, and how social media and Covid-19 have affected solitude positively and negatively.

VINS: A Forest of Lights

5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. To purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.



Open gym: intermediate/advanced pickleball

2-4 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Sundays will be pickleball (for intermediate/ advanced level players). The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

6-8 p.m. Okemo Ski Resort in the Jackson Gore courtyard. Free. Community guided snowshoe hike in the trails among the trees. Nature Valley granola bars will be provided. Must bring your own snowshoes but headlamps and whistles will be provided. For more info visit: OkemoInfo@vailresorts.com

Ethan Allen Homestead Museum's Book Club

3 p.m. Via Zoom Cost: Adults \$15, students (ages 5-17) \$7. Under 5 are free. Seven Years of Grace: The Inspired Mission of Ascha W. Sprague by Sara Rath published by the Vermont Historical Society. Seven Years of Grace is an historical novel, based on a true story and steeped in primary source research, about Achsa W. Sprague (1827–1862) of Plymouth, Vermont, one of America's best-known Spiritualists of the 19th century. In addition to Spiritualism, Sprague was active in the abolition of slavery, women's rights, and prison reform. Her muse? Another woman's husband. For more info visit: ethanallenhomestead.org

Woodstock Film Series screens "The Automat" 3 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road in Woodstock. Tickets are \$15 for all regular screenings, and \$12 for Billings Farm & Museum members. The Automat recounts the lost history of the iconic restaurant chain Horn & Hardart, which served affordable food to millions of Philadelphians and New Yorkers who had been ignored . They served workers, immigrants, the working class, blacks and woman with slot machine vending restaurant technology that captured the public's imagination and revolutionized the nation's restaurant scene. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.



Babies and Toddler Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months with Linda McFarlane. Free and open to all. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

A Community of Parents 10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center Street, Rutland. Free. The community meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Snacks provided, siblings welcome. Find connection, education, and a community to share with. They're here to support you during the transition of adding a new baby or child to your family - or whenever you need a community of parents to listen! All parents including expecting parents and carciners welcome. For more info visit bit k// expecting parents and caregivers welcome. For more info visit bit.ly/ frontlineworkerssupport.

Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

Innkeepers ski and snowboard weekly race 10 a.m 12 p.m. Wardance Trail at Okemo Resort. Free. For over 20 years, Okemo has staged a weekly locals ski and snowboard race called Innkeepers. Traditionally held on Tuesdays, it has been switched to Mondays this year. Both individuals and teams of up to 7 sponsored by local restaurants, ski shops and businesses compete in this weekly race series. Both skier and snowboarder courses are set on the Wardance

trail. Competitor categories: skiers / snowboarders, male / female, and the appropriate age category ranging from 18 – 70- plus. There is a wide range of abilities from the very competitive to the intermediate skier or rider just out to have some fun. End of the year trophies and of course bragging rights are awarded to the fastest team for the season as well as the team with the highest point total across the various age brackets. This season there will be eight weekly races on Mondays, starting Jan. 2, from 10 a.m. - 12-noon. Following the race, the tradition is to be hosted by a local bar for an après-ski get-together from 5-7 p.m. For more information contact okemoracing@gmail.com.

Puppett Making 10:30 a.m.-noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. Cost is \$25. Saturdays 2/4-2/25/23. Pre reg. required. Puppet-making for ages 5-9. Learn to make various types of puppets from paper bag puppets to paper plate and sock puppets. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Drive-up pick-up meals 12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. Call (802)773-1853 for information or to make a reconciliant for pick up make a reservation for pick-up.

Bingo 1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. Cost varies. Come play bingo at the Godnick Center in Rutland on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. This is a drop-in activity.

Knit Night

or other handicraft - and enjoy an evening of crafting and socializing.
 For all ages and experience levels. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

Open gym: indoor soccer 7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run Mondays until March for indoor soccer. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt. myrec.com.

NAMI Connection peer support group 7 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info visit: namivt.org



Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Rd in Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday.

Stories on a string 10 a.m. Fox Room Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Ms. Helen, of Green Mountain Music, for interactive storytelling, folk tales, and songs for all ages! No registration required, free and open to all. Geared for ages 2 and up. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

Chess Club

4 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Like Chess? Come challenge an opponent to a friendly game and hone your skills. To register call 802-855-4533.

Circle of Fathers 4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Fathers Support Group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

Circle of Parents in Recovery 5:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual support group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: pcavt.org.

Grief support

Grief support 6 p.m. VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office at 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland and virtually. Free. The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, (VNAHSR) will provide grief support services both in-person and virtually every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. at the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office on 7 Albert Cree Drive. Led by Spiritual and Bereavement Coordinator, Collin Terenzini. Space is limited. For more info visit: vermontvisitingnurses.org.

Open gym: beginner pickleball 7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Tuesdays will be pickleball for beginner level players. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be according and You get purchase punch parted by acting a conditioner. be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

Compete Saturday in the "Hard Mile" uphill race

Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7 a.m.— SOUTH POMFRET — Support our local Woodstock Ski Runners at the first ever Saskadena Six Uphill Race deemed: "The Hard Mile!"

Is it competitive? Yes. Do you need to compete? No. Enjoy the beautiful setting that is Saskadena Six and take a skin up the Easy Mile with a free ski down the empty hill before the resort opens. Go as fast as you want, alone, with friends (no 4-legged ones please unless they are in your backpack), this will surely be a great community event for the ever building skinning community here at Saskadena Six (S6). Turn the Easy Mile into the Hard Mile! The race start is at the bottom of Easy Mile (near the Woodstock Ski Runners Clubhouse). Finish Line will be at the top of Easy Mile adjacent to the ski patrol hut. Upon finishing at the top,

Feb.

participants can leisurely swap out their skins and free ski/ride to the bottom. Awards for men's and women's first, second and third as well as best dressed male and female. Meet on the back deck of the S6 main lodge after your free ski down the hill for coffee, pastries and awards.

Entry cost is \$15 per person. Skis equipped with skinning/touring gear and/or split boards are required (no snowshoes). Saskadena Six does not have uphill equipment rentals.

Registration is open through Feb. 3 at 12-noon (there will be no same-day registration).

Bib pick-up: 7-7:45 a.m. Men's start time is 8 a.m.; women's start time is 8:05 a.m.

Courtesy Woodstock Inn & Resort Saskedena Six will feature the "Hard Mile" uphill skinning race, which will challenge folks to race or just make it to the peak, this Saturday. Dress in layers as it's likely to be cold.

"How to Photograph Wildlife" talk in Proctorsville

Friday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. — CAVENDISH— Noted wildlife photographer and Proctorsville resident Tim O'Donoghue will present a slideshow and talk entitled "How to Photograph Wildlife" illustrated with his wildlife photos Friday evening. The presentation will take place at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 573 Main St. in Proctorsville.

O'Donoghue is an accomplished photographer, especially concentrating on all kinds of wildlife. He has been an avid outdoorsman since his youth, always curious about plants, animals and why they lived in particular places. That led to a degree in wildlife management from UConn and a career with the State Parks Division in Connecticut. After retirement he has pursued his passion as a wildlife photographer.

O'Donoghue will discuss his bird and other wildlife photos and discuss techniques and equipment used, with an emphasis on wildlife biology and specific skills needed to photograph wildlife. The presentation is recommended for ages 12 and up. In case of inclement weather, the presentation will be held on Feb. 10.

This is the latest in the Walk and Talk series, a committee of the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association. The CCCA is an umbrella organization supporting the work of different committees in our community. The series is designed to present topics of general ecological interest to the public in the Cavendish area. Anyone can attend, space permitting, and the presentation is free. For more information, please contact Robin Timko at 802-259-2327, or email: cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com.



Tim O'Donoghue to discuss his birds and wildlife photos, as well as photography tips at the Cavendish Library in Proctorsville this Friday. Come learn how he captures "wild" moments so well.

Submitted

The Mountain Times • Feb. 1-7, 2023

MUSIC Scene



KILLINGTON 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy

6 p.m. Rivershed - April Cushman

6 p.m. The Foundry - James Joel 8 p.m. Jax Food & Games - King Arthur Jr

LUDLOW 7 p.m. Off The Rails - Liz Reedy QUECHEE 6 p.m. The Public House – Lily Welch

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

RANDOLPH 7 p.m. Kuvas at One Main - Open Mic with host Silas McPrior

RUTLAND 5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Duane Carleton

9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Rick Urbani

WOODSTOCK 5 p.m. Sante - Jim Yeager



BRANDON 6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

CASTLETON 6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Josh Jakab

KILLINGTON 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge -Daniel Brown and Silas McPrior

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

5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub -Duane Carleton

5 p.m. The Foundry - Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. Liquid Art - Open Mic hosted by Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain ed Daisy Revival

7 p.m. Rivershed - Chris Pallutto 8 p.m. Pickle Barrel - Annie in

the Water 9 p.m. Jax Food & Games

Jenny Porter & Friends

LUDLOW 7 p.m. Off The Rails – Mark Harding

POULTNEY 7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

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

RUTLAND 6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub -Trivia Night

6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic hosted by John Lafave

SOUTH ROYALTON 6 p.m. 802 Pizza – Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand



BOMOSEEN 5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Aaron Audet

KILLINGTON p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge - Pallutto

and Prior 2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge -**Rhys Chalmers**

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub –Daniel Brown

4 p.m. The Foundry - Just Jamie 6 p.m. Rivershed – Kevin Herchen

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – King Arthur Jr

6 p.m. The Summit Lodge – Duane Carleton

7 p.m. The Foundry – Live Music

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub - Mance

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel - Lost in Paris

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn - Steal the Sky

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Super Stash Bros

1111

LUDLOW 7:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Blue and Beyond/80's Dance Party with DJ Dave

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

POULTNEY 7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

QUECHEE 5:30 p.m. The Public House -Rust & Ruin

SOUTH ROYALTON 9 p.m. 802 Pizza - Zach Nugent Duo



KILLINGTON 1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Aaron Audet Duo

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Normand, Burgess and Brown

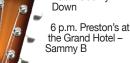
2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge -Chris P Duo

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Bandits

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel - Happy Hour with Jamie's Junk Show and special guest opener Jenny & Liz

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – All Request Apres Ski with DJ Dave





the Grand Hotel -Sammy B 6 p.m. Rivershed -

6 p.m. O'Dwyers

Pub - County

Kevin Herchen 6 p.m. Still on the Mountain - Jim Yeager

6 p.m. The Foundry – Live Music 6 p.m. Wobbly Barn -

Krishna Guthrie Band 7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub Mance

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub -Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games -Chris Pallutto

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel - Lost in Paris

> 9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn Steal the Sky

LUDLOW 8 a.m. Okemo's Sunburst Six Bubble Lift Party with DJ Dave

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with Acoustik Ruckus, Free Smores, Games and Fire Pits

> 3 p.m. Okemo's Sitting Bull Lounge – Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. Calcuttas -James Joel

8:30 p.m. Off The Rails -Conniption Fits

QUECHEE 5:30 p.m. The Public House – Live Music



KILLINGTON 12 p.m. Rivershed - Brunch with Kevin Herchen

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge - Pallutto and Prior 2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Gully Boys

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art - Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic hosted by Silas McPrior

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

LUDLOW 7 p.m. Off The Rails - Karaoke

PITTSFIELD 7 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Scott Forrest



KILLINGTON 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

5 p.m. Mary Lou's - BAK'n 6 p.m. Rivershed – Acoustik

Ruckus 6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with the Chris P Trio

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games -Josh Jakab

LUDLOW 7 p.m. Off The Rails – Sammy B 8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic hosted by King Arthur Jr

WOODSTOCK 5 p.m. The Village Inn – Jim Yeager and Jeff Stedman



ARTS, DINING, ENTERTAINMENT • 15

KILLINGTON 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Silas McPrior

TUES

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – Mountain Music with Bow Thayer & Jack Snyder

6 p.m. Jax Food & Games - Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

6 p.m. Rivershed - Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

SOUP DOG

OMEMADI

8 p.m. Off The Rails - SINGO

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim

POULTNEY 7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Open Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

6

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LUDLOW

Music lovers to gather for the Wild Woods Music Song Circle

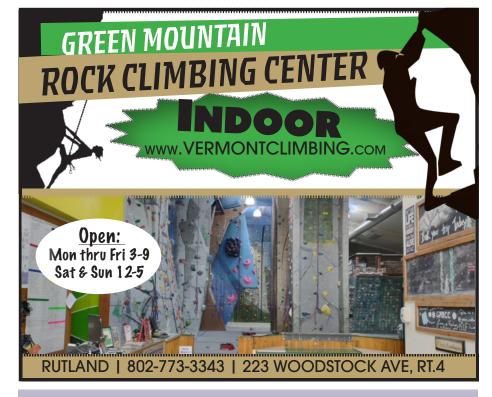
Valentine's Day is fast approaching when you might want to play an appropriate song or two, or perhaps get some ideas for the day. We love music, song, and the people who make it, so on Wednesday, February 1st, come along and join our song circle from $7{:}15$ to $9{:}15$ p.m., at the Godnick Adult Center in Rutland. Music lovers, singers, players of acoustic instruments, and listeners are welcomed. The atmosphere of the circle is easy-going and encouraging to beginners or anyone developing their interest in music. This is a good place to break-in that new instrument or to play a well used



The Wild Woods Song Circle that meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, has gathered musicians and singers continuously since 1993 to share their music.

There is no charge for attending or performing, but the Center likes you to register by completing a simple form on an annual basis. Simply show up and enjoy good music.

For further information, call Jack Crowther at 802-775-1182 or e-mail Gus Bloch, song circle leader, at gusbloch@ gmail.com.

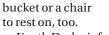




Let's Go Ice Fishing clinic held in conjunction with the Youth Ice Fishing Derby, Saturday

Saturday, February 4 — HARTFORD/ QUECHEE- Learn the basics of ice fish-

ing during a free clinic at Dewey's Mills Pond. Topics covered will include safety, equipment, regulations and more, providing you with the skills to ice fish on your own. All equipment will be provided. Participants should dress for the weather and for walking on ice. Consider bringing something warm to drink and a



Youth Derby is from 7:30 a.m. to 12noon. Learn to fish clinic is 8:30-11:30 a.m.

VT Fish & Wildlife instructors will

teach the basic skills of ice fishing like rigging, and using a tip-up, using an

auger to bore your fishing hole. Also included in the program is information about basic ice safety and how to determine adequate ice thickness for fishing.

Clinic is open to all ages; children under the age of 15 must bring an adult. Each person participating must register with the Hartford Parks & Recreation Dept. at: hartfordvt. myrec.com.Location details will be given

Hook, line and sinker

upon registering. For more information, call 802-505-5562 or email letsgofishing@vermont.

gov.

Submitted

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center offers four-week online sculpture workshop for youth this month

Feb. 4-25-VIRTUAL-The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center has announced a new workshop exploring polymer clay. Participants ages 12-16 will meet online over four Saturdays Feb. 4-25. Instructor Amelia LaChance will discuss the process to create a successful and meaningful sculpture, from molding and carving to final painting and finishing. The Carving Studio is located at 636 Marble St. in West Rutland, but this workshop will be

held virtually. To register, or for more information, visit: CarvingStudio.org or call 802-438-2097

or email info@carvingstudio.org.



The Carving Studio in West Rutland will teach youths how to mold, carve and paint with clay.

Local folk-rock bands return to West Rutland

Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m.— WEST RUTLAND - Two noted Rutland musicians will return and team up for an evening of rock and roots, when George Nostrand and Phil Henry each brings his own band to West Rutland. The two bands, called George's Back Pocket and Phil Henry and the News Feed, will present a concert at the West Rutland Town Hall this Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

On Feb. 1 of 2020, the two bands performed at the same location, with no idea what the coming weeks would bring. It was the last time either would play with their bands for quite some time due to to the pandemic. Last fall the two met and decided returning to the West Rutland Town Hall would be both meaningful and fun.

"The 2020 show seems like a decade ago," said Nostrand. "I think we're at the point where it's important for people to get out and experience live music. Things are not back to what they were prior to the pandemic and may never be, but people need live music and musicians need to play."

Nostrand and Henry have been friends and collaborators for many years. Henry has produced albums and videos with Nostrand, while Nostrand, in turn, has consulted and aided Henry in promotion and music business. Both have stayed busy with various projects but are excited to share a real stage and appreciative audience again.

George Nostrand has been a fixture of the Rutland music scene, leading a rotating cast of the area's best musicians that he calls George's Back Pocket. Over the years many local musicians have taken the stage with GBP, but it would be inaccurate to call it a pick-up band or project. This is be-

cause he pulls in professional level musicians who love to play and have been doing

it for years. His songs are infectious and written with a band

in mind. This show's lineup is completely different than in 2020, which should come to

no surprise. The line-up features Jesse Peters on guitar, Ryan Dubois on bass, and Aaron Normand on drums.

"George's shows are a high-wire act," praised Henry. "You really don't know what you're in for, but you know it's going to be fun."

Phil Henry is a music educator, music and video producer, and singer-

songwriter. While local performances are rare, his music has taken him to Northeast coffeehouses such as Club Passim and Caffe Lena, and festivals as far away as Texas. He crafts old-school story songs with strange, beautiful chords and a big acoustic sound. His new ensemble, Phil Henry and the News Feed, features Brendan Coyle on drums and Mitch Barron on upright and fretless bass. The band offers audiences layered textures of sound, Seven Days calls the sound "vivid lyrical imagery that captures the imagination."

"I'm constantly telling people Phil is hands down one of the best songwriters out there," said Nostrand. "I've been a fan since I reviewed his first CD for the Herald and feel privileged to work with him."

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, at the West Rutland Town Hall Auditorium, located at 35 Marble St. in West Rutland. Doors open at 7 p.m. The hall is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are available in advance at Eventbrite for \$15 in advance, and at the door for \$20. Premiere passes are available for \$30, which includes preferred seating, meet-and-greet, and some sweet George-and-Phil merchandise.

Ticket at: FebruaryThawII.eventbrite.com.



(L to R) George Nostrand and Phil Henry



Full moon snowshoe hike held at Okemo, Sunday

Sunday, Feb. 5 from 6-8 p.m.-LUDLOW-Grab your snowshoes and meet at 6 p.m. at the Ice House parking lot at Okemo Mountain Resort. This free community event is a great way to enjoy winter in beautiful Vermont. The guided snowshoe hike starts at 6 p.m. and we will have Nature Valley granola bars for all to enjoy. This opportunity is perfect if you love the sport or looking for something new. Get in a good workout, meet some new people in the community, seek adventure and have fun! Headlamps and whistles will be available.



Please bundle up and bring your own equipment. There will not be snowshoes available to rent. Joe Karl, from the Ludlow community, will be guiding these hikes through the swoops and loops of trails among the trees. For many years, Karl has guided groups along the Okemo forest and trails with his amplitude of knowledge from historical moments, to environmental awareness, to personal stories. For more info, email: OkemoInfo@vailresorts.com.



Have a big (or small) event coming up? Let us know!

Email: events@mountaintimes.info



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West Rutland marsh boardwalk is refurbished

Through a generous donation, Rutland County Audubon has been able to successfully refurbish nearly the entire boardwalk on Marble Street at the West Rutland marsh. Carpenter Dennis Duhaine did a wonderful job of making the well-worn, oft-used, (and unfortunately, vandalized) structure look fresh and new, as well as making it safer for all to use. Please come out and see it for yourself and enjoy the view and the birds at our feeding station there.

At the boardwalk entrance is an informative kiosk. which is also awaiting refurbishing due to weather and vandalism. Next to the kiosk is the feeding station with various feeders and seeds, surrounding an old cellar hole. One

of the chapter board members reached out on Facebook for information on the history of the building once resting on that foundation. Below is the response from the "You Know You're From West Rutland" page courtesy of the West **Rutland Historical Society:**

"There were several tenement houses near the spot before 1930. Where the boardwalk is located, there was a one family (may be the cellar hole we have all seen) and anther three family tenement, possibly facing Water Street. There were two tenements on the narrow strip in front of the old lime plant. There was also a tenement just beyond the marble wall. These faced Marble Street.



The Rutland County Audobon has refurbished most all of the boardwalk at the West Rutland marsh.

Annual tree/plant sale now open

The Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District (PM-NRCD) has opened its annual plant sale fundraiser. This year it's offering a variety of native trees and shrubs for landscaping, naturalizing and foraging including balsam fir, sugar maple, serviceberry, elderberry, and winterberry) as well

as a variety of berries (blueberry, raspberry, and strawberry) and fruit trees (apple, peach, pear, and cherry).

There are many benefits to using locally grown, native plants in your landscape, PMNRCD stated in its announcement. "Native plants are more likely to thrive in our regional climate and they provide critical resources for wildlife. Consider these plants for backyard birds and pollinators, stabilizing stream banks and shorelines, or for use in rain gardens."

Many of the native plants are locally grown at the Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery located in Poultney. The Champlain Valley Nursery is a partnership between the

Poultney Mettowee Conservation District and the Nature Conservancy, with support from the village of Poultney. "We grow native species from local seed sources which are then used in

wildlife.

tices across the state," the PMN-RCD announcement continued. "Through the District, the Nursery also provides educational

conservation and

restoration prac-

opportunities for local schools and the community. All funds generated by this sale are used to support District and Nursery educational and technical programming."

Orders will be taken until April 14. Pick up is Saturday, May 6 at the Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery. If ordering after March 24th, please inquire about availability before sending payment and mailing an order.

For more info or to view our catalog and order form, visit: pmnrcd.org/ champlain-valley-native-plant-restoration-nursery or email averie@pmnrcd. org or call 802-287-6606.

RNRCD offers spring plantings

Trees beautify, help save energy and protect our waterways. For these reasons and others, the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD) is offering a spring planting program. All stock is bare root and is offered at a reasonable cost.

It is necessary to plant bare-root trees immediately, to keep the roots from drying out. The RNRCD has been offering this program for over 20 years and has sold thousands of plants.

Some of what is available are: balsam fir, fraser fir, white spruce, blue spruce, sugar maple, river birch, highbush cranberry, hazelnut, elderberry, buttonbush, lilac, apple, and peach trees. Strawberry, blueberry, and raspberry are also available.

Orders will be taken until March 31 or until supplies last.

This sale helps to generate funds to support the districts many programs. For more info, visit: vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland or email nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net.

Native plants provide critical resources for

Imagination Library at Rutland Free Library celebrates second anniversary

The Imagination

Library was founded

by Dolly Parton in

1995, inspired by

her father. She said

he was "one of the

smartest people she

knew but had never

learned to read."

RUTLAND—Since the Imagination Library at Rutland Free Library program began on Feb. 1, 2021, an astounding 7,352 (and still counting) free age-appropri-

ate books have been mailed out to children, from birth through their 5th birthdays, living in Rutland City, Rutland Town, Mendon, Tinmouth, and Ira. Approximately 400 books are distributed per month.

The Imagination Library was founded by Dolly Parton in 1995, inspired by her father. She said he was "one of the smartest people she knew but had never learned to read."

Through Parton's philanthropy and the support of many others, this program has now gifted almost 198,000,000 books worldwide; 1 in 10 children age 5 and under in the United States receive a book from the Imagination Library.

As Parton put so aptly, "You can never get enough books into the hands of children."

According to Joan Gamble, local program champion, "This program would not be sustainable without our dedicated band of volunteers, the Rutland Free Library, the generous support from Rutland City Schools, organizations like the United Way and Rotary, as well as individuals who have contributed."

 This free program is accessible to all children (birth-til their 5th birthday) who reside in the towns served by the Rutland

 nation
 Free Library.

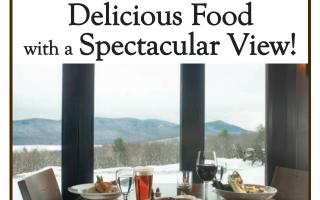
 Gamble added, "The Imagi

nation Library wants this to be a shared experience among children of all backgrounds and income levels."

There is a team of experts made up of librarians, Kindergarten teachers, and child psychologists, who carefully curate the high-quality collection of books to ensure they are suitable for each age group, being especially mindful of diversity and inclusion. The books are mailed directly to the children at no cost to the families.

Registering for the program is easy. Parents and caregivers can register online at rutlandfree.org/imagine or visit the Rutland Free Library on 9 Court Street, and do it in person. To learn more about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library or register online visit: Imagination-Library.com.





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

Dream Maker Bakers

Dream Maker Bakers is an all-butter, from-scratch bakery making breads, bagels, croissants, cakes and more daily. It serves soups, salads and sandwiches and offers seating with free Wifi. At 5501 US Route 4, Killington, VT. No time to wait?

Call ahead. Curb-side pick up available. dreammakerbakers.com, 802-422-5950.

Killington Market

killington market

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Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches, hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken,

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

Inn at Long Trail

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Guinness not your favorite? They also have Vermont's largest Irish Whiskey selection. Visit innatlongtrail.com, 802-775-7181.



Liquid Art



Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their

signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain, liquidartvt.com, (802) 422-2787



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Lookout Tavern

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MOUNTAIN TOP

Moguls

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some of the food that's on the menu. Free shuttle and take away and delivery options are available. mogulssportspub.com 802-422-4777.

Mountain Top Inn

Whether staying overnight or visiting for the day, Mountain Top's Dining Room & Tavern serve delicious cuisine amidst one of Vermont's best views. A mix of locally

inspired and International cuisine - including salads, seafood, poultry and a new steakhouse menu - your taste buds are sure to be satisfied. Choose



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The only place like it in Killington! Soups served hot or in a 32 oz that you can heat up when convenient.

We have a great selection of hotdog toppings to choose from. Mountain photography, clothing, syrup, and gifts in this quaint mountain side hidden gem! 2822 Killington Rd, behind Domenic's Pizzeria 802-353-9277.



ILLINGTON VI

Sugar and Spice

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832

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20 craft beers on draft. We are chef-owned and operated. Serving lunch and dinner. Delivery or take away option available. Now open year round. www.vermontsushi.com 802-422-4241.





Take part in an experiential learning opportunity and be inspired by first female astronaut.

Sally Ride Experience: Students grades K-5 invited to interact with science, history

Saturday, Feb. 4 from 11-11:45 a.m. — RUT-LAND— "Sheryl Faye Presents Historical Women" is coming to Rutland! Join in for this immersive experience as we learn about Sally Ride, the United States' first woman astronaut. Part play and part interactive science lesson, Sheryl (or, rather, Sally Ride) will invite kids to help with science experiments and ask questions. This experience is perfect for in grades K-5.

Who was Sally Ride? Here's an excerpt from Sheryl Faye's website:

"Sally Ride is glued to the classroom television as astronaut John Glenn blasts off into space. 'I want to do that,' she quietly says to herself, only to be reminded that girls can't be astronauts. They can't be shortstop for the L.A. Dodgers either, another early aspiration, and she soon sets her sights on tennis, learning teamwork and good sportsmanship.

"Her insatiable curiosity leads to a passion for science, and children will join in Sally's discoveries through fun, interactive experiments, all of which they can do again at home. As she matures, she studies the wonders of the universe and finally, when girls can, she becomes America's first woman astronaut and a passionate advocate for STEM. Her compelling story will ignite students' curiosity and inspire them to dream, dare and develop their own gifts and talents to the fullest."

The event will be held in the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library, located at 10 Court Street in Rutland.



Sally Ride became the first woman to travel into space on June 18, 1983. Her story inspires!



Submitted

A 10k race at beautiful Silver Lake is open for registration. Register early and start training!

Registration open for Race Around the Lake 2023

'The most beautiful race in Vermont' raises funds for BarnArts youth programming

BARNARD—Registration is now open for "The most beautiful race in Vermont:" The Race Around the Lake, which will take place Sunday, May 21, around Silver Lake State Park in Barnard. The events include a 10K run, 5K run/walk, and virtual 10K and 5K.

Early registration for adult 10K is \$45, 12 & under: \$25. For adult 5K it's \$35, 12 & under: \$25. Virtual 10K and 5K is \$25 and \$15, respectively.

- The 10K race begins at 10:30 a.m.; 5K race begins at 11 a.m.
- Sign-up by April 30 to receive a free Race Around

the Lake T-shirt. Races begin and end at Silver Lake State Park, with courses encircling Silver Lake on town roads, dirt roads and singletrack wooded trails with intermittent views of the lake. The challenging 10K route pops out of the woods on Royalton Turnpike and loops back to the state park via Tower Road.

After-race activities along Silver Lake include a chef's table lunch free to all racers, live music and an award ceremony. For more information

visit: Barnarts.org.





22 · PETS

KELLY & LYNN

Kelly and Lynn are 5-month-old spayed lop mixes looking for an indoor home together. They are friendly girls that love their veggies and if adopted before Christmas promise to share their carrots with Rudolph. We have reduced their adoption fee to \$75 for the pair. These sweet girls deserve a loving home to grow up in. To adopt them go to our website spfldhumane.org and fill out an application or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

This pet is available for adoption at **Springfield Humane Society** 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT· (802) 885-3997 *Open by appointment only. spfldhumane.org



My name's Jessica and I'm an 8-year-old spayed female. My life took an unexpected turn, due to no fault of my own, which is why I am at Lucy Mackenzie. Sometimes I sleep so soundly that I get a bit startled when I hear my cage door open. The kind doctor and people here think that "hearing" may actually be a problem for me, which is a good reason I get such good slumber! The wonderful people here make sure to give me plenty of affection while I'm awaiting finding my very own forever home - a place where I can lovingly spend my golden years. It would be nice to have a warm, cozy fireplace to snuggle up near, or a chair that's my very own to cuddle up in. I just know that my new family and I will have so much love to give each other - it'll be a perfect way to spend the next chapters of my life.

This pet is available for adoption at **Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society** 4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829 *(By appointment only at this time.) Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.



Rutland County Humane Society

Ruger-10-year-old.

Neutered male. Domestic

shorthair. Brown tiger with

white. Ruger was brought to

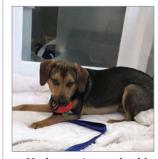
RCHS on Dec. 31 because his previous owner could

no longer care for him. He

may be 10 years old, but he

has so much love left to give

(and receive).



Harbour—9-month-old. Male. Hound mix. Black and tan. Harbour is vocal at times and will need to work on basic puppy manners such as not jumping on people and on a leash.



Bucky—18-month-old. Male. Treeing walker coonhound. Tri-color. He loves plenty of exercise. He is affectionate, and his manners could use some fine-tuning.



Prince—4-year-old. Neutered male. Pit mix. Chocolate. If you are looking for a stoic, smart, and sweet pup, please consider Prince! He came in with a large mass on his belly, which we have removed and it is no longer an issue.



Grace—2-year-old. Spayed female. Pitbull mix. Black. Grace is a sweet girl, who needs someone to give her patience .She will get the zoomies and prance around in excitement when it is time to go for a walk.



Waffles—3-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Gray tiger. Waffles was adopted from RCHS as a kitten and was returned on Dec. 6 due to him being too stressed around the kids. He does well with other cats and has a very easy going demeanor.



Zeus—2 year old. Neutered male. Pit bull. Zeus is a resilient fella who came to RCHS as a stray looking for a nice warm place to live and food to keep his belly full. He has been a model resident at RCHS and is ready to start the next chapter of his life. Since he was a stray we have no information about his past including living with children, other dogs or cats. He's ready to go to his forever home.

All of these pets are available for adoption at **Rutland County Humane Society** 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT • (802) 483-6700 Tues. - Sat. 11-5 p.m. for adoptions ***(By appointment only at this time.)** Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org

February is national pet dental health month

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to remind you that February is National Pet Dental Health Month. An astonishing 80% of dogs and 70% of cats shows signs of oral disease by age 3. Symptoms of gum disease in dogs and cats include yellow and brown build-up of tartar along the gum line, red and swollen gums, persistent bad breath, or pain or bleeding when you touch the gums or mouth. Watch for a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth, and depression. If you notice any of these symptoms, please seek veterinary care. Pet owners should have a regular dental care regimen at home, which includes brushing the pet's teeth with specially formulated toothpastes.



Mathews—10-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger with white. Mathews has so much love left to give (and receive).



Dasher—1-year-old. Spayed Female. Domestic shorthair. Torbie with white. Dasher is sociable with other cats here. She would do well in a home with other confident cats.



John Smith—9-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Black with white. If you are looking for boy who has an extra special personality, please consider John Smith.



Ophelia—2-year-old. SpayedfFemale. American rabbit. Gray. Ophelia is a very sweet and social lady who has an easygoing disposition.



Sooprise—1-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger. Sooprise is a very sweet boy who was timid at first but warms up pretty fast. He is doing well here.

Wellness Center

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• PLIABILITY

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• WINTER SPORTS CONDITIONING

• STRENGTH





our social and creative life is un-I der the spotlight this week. If you feel hemmed in by certain friends, social circles or networks, you may need to begin reshaping that paradigm by turning your attention to your own creative efforts. If you feel less than yourself when with certain other people, don't expect them to remain in your sphere for too long. Rejection is protection - and you'll get a good dose of what that means soon enough.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

The reality of life is, we all have The reality of the to, we taken the lights on - so to speak. The problem with that is when the energy you spend keeping the lights on detracts from a path that satisfies the soul or quells your hunger for knowledge. This week you may have to make some compromise here. Just don't "cut your nose of despite your face" due to expectations or obligation.



ife may take on an "anywhere Jut here" vibe for you right now. You're likely fully aware of the expectations or the work load that lies ahead of you. That may be even more of a reason to dive into a spiritual path or discovery of knowledge. While it may seem like you're procrastinating on what needs to be done, think of it as adding a log to your fire that will keep your sense of meaning and purpose alive.



This Full Moon illuminates your money zone. Thus, you may have to make some choices regarding how you earn, spend and save. Compromises may be required between what you want and what your responsibilities are regarding other people. Lucky opportunities in your professional life may be boosting things for you financially too, putting you in an ideal situation to realign your financial perspectives. Whatever you decide, aim at your long-term goals.



t's all about you this week as the Full Moon lights up your sign. As it does, you might like to reflect on the challenges of the last couple of years and what you've learned and what you might like to keep in your rear view mirror. As you reawaken the fire within, you'll be reminded of what you're available for and what you're not, as a new chapter of challenges and renewal begins.

iust 21 - Sent

Pperimenting with your creative and social life. Perhaps you've pushed the boundaries a little bit in the dating, mating and relating arena. Maybe you've had to stretch beyond a comfort zone regarding children. It could be your professional path in question. Whatever you've been dealing with, a solution is likely to arrive this week. Thinking outside the box at every opportunity now will encourage you to find new solutions to existing issues.



You tend to be the most social-orien-tated of all the signs. In the recent past, when it comes your social life, you've opted for quality over quantity. Finding those who are aligned in spirit, ideals and goals has been your top priority. This week, the Full Moon will bring a turning point in your social life which you may have to revisit midyear. Your challenge is to remain sovereign among the crowd.

Scorpio

In your ideal life scenario, what would you like it to look like? How much time and effort exactly would you put in to your professional life versus your family and/or private life? These are questions that require exploration this week as the Full Moon lights up your career zone. You may need to straddle a fine line between being seen and doing the hard yards that actually yield the results you want.

possible. Even if it's just meditation, more sleep or taking more opportunities to relax, it will be worth it. Soon, you'll have to take life a little more seriously and these chances to go against the frantic pace of life may become increasingly rare. The insights you gain this week will help you find your focus.



Virao or a while now, you've been ex-

you dedicate yourself with diligence to a financial goal or developing your confidence - or both! This week sees a Full Moon light up your Money Zones and you may realize you're in a better position than you thought! If not, you may become acutely aware of what you need to do to turn that situation around. Hint: the more you know, the further you'll go!



Relationships and personal develgrowth and discovery for you in recent years. Learning to change your mind isn't always your strong suit. This week, a Full Moon will illuminate your relationship zone, encouraging you to open your heart and see things for what they could be, rather than what they should be. This can be a really happy time for you, if you decide to let it be!



ou might opt to escape from re-Y ality a little bit this week, if at all





Leo

Now that there appear to be mini-mal barriers to travel, are you making the most of being on the move again? Even if passports and airports aren't your thing, exploring what your life philosophy looks like is something that might be under focus this week. In other words, are you actually living or are you existing from day to day? If you're not focused on some kind of spiritual pathway, seek to embark upon one.



Sagittarius

nber 21 - December 20





Columns **Cosmic greenlight**

As January morphs into February this week, you'll capture more vivid glimpses of a new astrological chapter that closes $2022\,$

and opens 2023. Since December, you may have been toying with new ideas, concepts or innovations around a particular area of your life. Some may have been tabled, while others scrapped. This week brings another proverbial "fire from the gods" opportunity that could radically reshape, inform or inspire your direction. Old ideas may resurface or a piece of insight or wisdom from the past -

either your own past or lost ancient wisdom - may ignite a new philosophy, a way of

being or thinking. This week may also signify anything that has been slow and stuck since December gets a cosmic green light.

A Leo Full Moon puts confidence, authenticity and individuality under the spotlight. If you've been restless for something more out of life, the cosmos invites you to walk the road less traveled. In order to find the satisfaction you desire, you may have to look beyond your current circumstances and recognize that old roads won't take you to new destinations. If you feel shackled by responsibility or obligation, this Full Moon will remind you only

you can break free from your chains - no one is coming to save you.

Willpower part 2 Closing the door on a seasonal addiction

The

Funologist

By Sandra Dee

Owens

Cosmic

Catalogue

By Cassandra

Tyndall

I bought another half gallon of eggnogmy fourth of the season. Dammit.

What began years earlier as a benign, seasonal treat, has blossomed into a

full-blown, eggnog addiction. How did I get here?

Each year, when eggnog arrived on grocery store shelves, I gleefully bought a carton, raced home to drink a glassful, then another-then another. Within minutes, I felt sick, waited an hour-then started over.

Recognizing how unhealthy this was, I assessed my eggnog behavior pattern and discovered that the only 'stop button' I had, was a short season of availability. I had no stop button of my own.

A Line in the Sand

Years ago, I would buy the first carton I saw in mid-December and by the time it was gone, the holidays were over. It was a delightful annual treat. In the last few years, however, eggnog is available from October through January. Yikes!

As availability has increased, so has my consumption of it. So this year, I resolved to shift my relationship with eggnog, before the first cartons arrived, I closed the door on it.

This mindfulness practice has worked really well (for me) with other unhealthy substances like Pop-Tarts and dirty vodka martinis, so I wanted to try it with eggnog.

Imagining the doorsills of my home as a line in the sand, eggnog went on the list of things not allowed over this line.

It stays out there-as a treat to have occasionally, somewhere else.

Using this practice, I am not telling myself I "can't have" (something the gremlins would say). Instead, I recognize the location where this unhealthy behavior pattern is at its worse, and no longer bring it there. There is no void, no lack, no want. I have a glass now and thenout there.

I was very excited to put my "line in the sand" practice in place for eggnog this holiday. Well-Meaning

But in early October, my well-meaning husband bought a half gallon of eggnog-for me.

He can't stand the stuff but knows I love it and was unaware I had closed the door on eggnog. I forgot to tell him.

Not wanting to hurt his feelings, I thanked him, put the carton in the refrigerator, and before dinner, drank three glasses.

And there I was, just weeks into the new year, with my fourth half-gallon of the season in my refrigerator. I felt bloated with defeat. But I'm not a quitter.

Breathing deeply, I remembered how successful my "line in the sand" practice has been in closing the door on other invasives in my life. Carrying the eggnog carton to the sink, I poured the remaining

contents down the drain.

Though I hate wasting food (and money), I view my health as more valuable than what was in the box. The sacrifice of wasted food, helped me imagine sending my eggnog addiction down the drain and once again, I returned to the practice of closing the door on eggnog. Then I told my husband, so he would know.

The shift Since my unhealthy behavior patterns

begin in my mind, that is where I go to change them. In order to change my mind, I need to understand who I am-and who I am not.

Though I have great determination, strength and willpower in other areas of my life, I tend to lack snack-willpower. This is a personal fact.

Instead of berating myself as weak, or setting expectations that I will magically become someone I am not-I just own it. There is a certain freedom in getting off the hamster wheel, and, with confidence, living my own life.

The standard approach to changing behavior with "just try harder," for me, is not sustainable. And if it's not sustainable, what worth does it have?

Designing wellness practices that work is exciting, liberating, and fun.

I do have a stop button, and I use it every time I engage in my own wellness practicesand sweep those pesky gremlins out the door.

To learn more about Sandra's journey visit: sandradeeowens.com.

Oh, dear! How deer contribute to the spread of invasives

such as hemlock, fir, and

A winter walk in the forest reveals a

flurry of wildlife activity that often goes unnoticed during other times of the year. Often among the many tracks in the snow are the nearly heartshaped prints

of deer. The white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) is common throughout the United States, with an estimated population of

Story

By Jen Weimer

30 million nationwide. In the Northeast, numbers range from roughly 100,000 deer in New Hampshire to 133,000 in Vermont and more than 300,000 in Maine. Deer are an important part of the ecosystem, but their foraging behavior can wreak havoc in forests, where browsing may contribute to the spread of invasive plants - and decrease species diversity.

Deer are herbivores and feed on acorns, beechnuts, and green vegetation including woody plants. One animal can consume up to nine pounds of food per day, and deer will forage urban backvards when food is scarce, making them a pest in some areas. Deer can live almost anywhere. but do best in areas with a combination of fields and forest. In the north - where winters are harshest - they populate forested valleys with areas of dense conifers that provide cover.

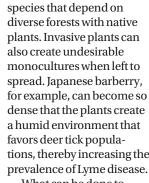
Some of these conifers

pine are at risk from invasive forest pests, includinghemlock woolly adelgid, balsam woolly adelgid, and red pine scale. Deer can spread these The Outside pests from one place to another as they move through infested

areas and pick up eggs and crawlers on their fur.

Deer can also spread invasive plants, directly and indirectly, through their feeding habits. When deer consume the fruit of invasive plants such as multiflora rose, Oriental bittersweet, and Japanese honeysuckle, the animals pass the seeds of these fruits in their droppings, allowing the plants to spread to new areas. Even seeds of invasive plants that deer don't eat, such as Japanese stiltgrass, can spread if they are picked up on the animals' hooves and dropped in other areas as deer move through the forest

Deer avoid eating other invasive species - including glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, and Japanese barberry - which are either unappetizing or contain thorns which deter foraging. Overbrowsing of native plants in areas with large deer populations enables these invasive species to flourish and displace native species. This change in forest composition negatively impacts the native wildlife



What can be done to preserve our diverse forests? In the Northeast, deer populations are managed primarily through hunting. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, for example, works with the public to develop a 10-year management plan aimed at achieving a desired population level of deer throughout the state. The department monitors deer populations within 20 wildlife management units (WMU) annually throughout the state. Objectives outlined in the plan vary for each WMU, depending on a 2-year average of adult buck kill during the hunting season. Deer harvest is increased by issuing more permits in areas where deer populations exceed the carrying capacity of suitable habitat, impact animal and plant biodiversity. or create too many conflicts with humans. Other states in the Northeast follow similar management practices.

Forest managers should also consider deer populations when managing invasive plants. Studies show that overstory tree species such as maple, oak, The Outside Story ightarrow 27



The truth of the matter they tend to form a little community to sup-

I just spent the past week in Florida with my mother. She's been returning to the

same little community on the Gulf Coast seasonally for over 50 years. Over the years, on the occasions when I've visited, the nostalgia of the area has always overwhelmed me.

When I drove in this past week, after not being there for over a decade, I literally had tears in my eyes as the memories of my childhood washed over me.

I first went there around 5 years old. That was when Disney World had just opened, so I

was in the first wave of kids to visit the Magic Kingdom in Orlando. I still have several trinkets that I purchased on that initial trip, including a set of Mickey Mouse ears with my name embroidered on the back and an original program guide that's tucked away somewhere in my attic.

I've always loved visiting Florida with its epic sunsets, tranquil palm trees, and endless sunshine. The allure and ambiance never get old.

In particular, the area where we visit also offers wonderful beach combing. After a

storm, you never know what might wash up. Sharks' teeth are one of the most beloved treasures. There's always an endless supply washing in because one of the planet's main burial grounds for sharks is just off the coast. I used to come

home with a coffee can full of sharks' teeth every year I visited. My mother would eventually glue them onto a wooden shark cutout board and then give them away as presents. There's

also a quaint little village in the area

that offers wonderful dining options, drinking establishments, and souvenir shops so you can always bring home a little slice of the Sunshine State.

On this trip, I wasn't interested in Disney World, souvenirs, or sharks' teeth. On this trip, I just wanted to hang out with my mom and relax.

I'm lucky in that my mom is pushing 90 and still has an extremely sharp mind and healthy body. But with age comes a host of struggles that you never consider unless you experience them yourself. On this trip I just wanted to be with her; I just wanted to talk, tell stories, and share in the beautiful, lucky life we've had together.

While in Florida, my mom stays in a relatively small apartment that is encircled in a courtyard with other retirees. As such,

port each other. My mom is one of the older residents, so many of the other folks are good about looking after her.

During the week I was there, she started her mornings off with a short walk with a friend and upon her return, we'd sit and have coffee. We'd chat and watch the news and at some point, find a reason to drive into town, usually for groceries, lunch, or to run an errand. After returning, I would usu-

ally go on my run. Running in Florida this time of year is nice. It's flat and the temperatures are mild.

I found a 5-mile loop that took me through a massive senior community. It was fun to see all the elders out enjoying their well-earned retirements. I saw very few runners, but the bikers were plentiful.

One thing I did find interesting was, whenever I passed a couple, the husband rarely acknowledged me while the wife was generally cordial and friendly.

I wave or nod my head and smile to everyone I pass regardless of age, gender, or race, and I've always found it interesting that certain groups are reliably friendly or unfriendly.

> Normally, in my hometown, every senior is friendly, but in Florida, the men were decidedly different.

I started to ruminate on this point as the days passed and then it finally occurred to me: The men in Florida are mostly on their last leg and may be physically compromised. So, a much younger male, with a full head of hair, and enough energy to actually jog down the street, could pose a threat to their relationship, or sense of self.

I laughed out loud when this thought passed through my head, knowing there was just enough truth to make it humorous, but certainly not enough statistical fact to make it believable.

This week's feature, "Vengeance," written, directed, and starring B.J. Novak, also wrestles with truth and facts as one young man travels from New York City to a small Texas town to investigate the death of a onenight stand.

Check this one out if you're interested a contemporary comedic thriller that imagines a unique scenario ripped from the modern lifestyle of the millennial crowd.

A retaliatory, "B-" for "Vengeance," now available to stream on Amazon Prime.

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

Through the eyes of a child

Livin' the

Dream

By Merisa

Sherman

"The next challenge," I yelled out, "is to see who can stand on one foot the longest!"

The kids all scrambled into position, making sure they had just enough room to flail their arms as they were going down. It was a tight space, but not a single one of them was going to put themselves at the known disadvantage of not being able to wiggle when their little bodies needed the extra oomph to be the winner.

After two months of program, they are actually getting pretty

damn good at this contest, as one little one explains how their hip is starting to get tired and they can feel the burn. But they keep trying to hold on, waiting until one of the coaches gives up on the challenge first. There's only much attention a grownup can give to a one legged contest.

But the kids hold on, waving like trees in the breeze and as they start to drop, you can hear the cheers from the the crowd as they start to draw

attention to themselves. They are very good at that – both fighting through a challenge

and having grownups stare at them while they are doing it. They love it. Especially when we are causing chaos in the liftline with stationary balance exercises.

If you had asked my sister and I what our favorite chairlift was when we were little, we would, of course, have answered the Giggle Chair. That silly bend made us laugh every single time and we would beg to ride it every chance we could. But if you had asked us what our favorite liftline was, we would have answered Needle's Eye Double. Because that liftline was absolutely awesome.

A simple merge-merge pattern (not these new attendant-called ones), we learned the art of shuffling forward and sliding past bigger people. But that wasn't why it was our favorite. The liftline there was a show. There was a ticket checker/liftie who would somehow stand on the divider so that everyone could see him and yell out trivia questions, heckle the crowd and lots of other fun things. He would get the entire line participating in whatever the experience was and we would all be interacting with each other and just having the best time, not noticing the frequently one hour wait time.

That changed liftlines for me. Instead of an experience obviously designed to torture the skiers that have to get 25 runs in an hour or else their entire world falls apart, liftlines became a time to play games and be silly. We practice all kinds of awkward balance postures, ones that will stretch our quads and hamstrings as we get older but for now it's all about trying not to fall on the person next to you in the liftline.

I've spent so much time in liftlines since childhood, I don't even want to begin to calculate the number of hours. But any

time on skis is a good time, right? Have you

· 25

ever taken your pole and placed the tip directly underneath the heel piece of someone's binding and slid it forward when they weren't paying attention? Nothing makes me giggle harder than, when watching when one ski slide out from underneath them, they flail about and then look around trying to figure out what happened. I can laugh for hours on that one.

Or how about the one where you slide your ski sideways to put snow on the tip of your

ski? Once you've got enough snow built up, you can then flick your ankle to send the snow flying into the air. If you're good enough at it, the snow might even go down the back of the jacket of the skier waiting in line ahead of you or create a huge snowstorm if you all work together. That can bring on a huge set of giggles - just be prepared to start a snow flicking war.

This past weekend, we got creative and

We had so much fun skiing Killington as kids, I refuse to stop looking at Killington through the eyes of a child.

put our skis on backwards. You know. when you put the heel of your boot into the toe piece of your binding

and then click in so that you are looking at the tails of your skis? We used to do that back when I was a kid in Superstars. I think I even did the ski offlike that one time, just to aggravate PK and Bruce. We had so much fun skiing Killington as kids, I refuse to stop looking at Killington through the eyes of a child.

So I am probably not the best person to ask if the lines were long or how people felt about the liftlines on a particular day. Unless they are clearly out of the maze, then it doesn't matter to me. We are so busy having fun and learning balance, muscle control and equipment knowledge that we don't even notice.



By Merisa Sherman Skiing as kids was a full time fun affair





Diary

By Dom Cioffi





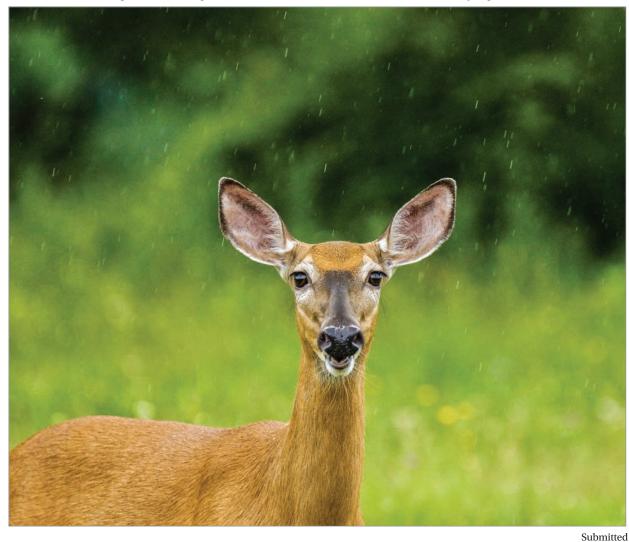
The Outside Story: In the Northeast, deer populations are managed primarily through hunting. from page 24

and ash benefit when fencing is used to exclude deer from areas of forest regeneration. This is an expensive management option requiring ongoing maintenance, however, and is not always feasible.

Prevention of invasive plants is especially critical in areas with high deer populations. Foresters may employ various management practices to limit the spread of invasives. These include scouting for invasives in advance of a timber harvest, laying out skid trails to avoid areas with invasives, and removing or treating invasives where possible. Operating tactics such as harvesting in uninfested areas first, and moving from lesser to greater infested areas, will also help to limit spread. Lastly, cleaning equipment after a harvest will ensure seeds are not spread to a new site.

With planning and proper management, foresters can help turn deer encounters from "Oh, dear!" to "Oh look, a deer!"

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



Keeping deer out of areas of forest regeneration is an expensive, yet vital management option.

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PUZZLES page 11



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Vermont house prices have had the third highest increase of any state, up 16.9%

A new study by Santa Monica realtors released Jan. 19, revealed the states where house prices rose the most over the past year. It should come as no surprise to anyone in Vermont that they have risen at a rapid pace since the beginning of the pandemic. A new study based on 2022 home values shows that Vermont had the third highest increase in the nation.

The research by Santa Monica realtors analyzed data from Zillow for the past year, across all 50 states to determine which state had seen the biggest rise in housing prices.

The data revealed that Florida had the biggest increase in house prices over the past year, rising 19.9%. The average house price for a home in Florida currently stands at \$404,939.

South Carolina has seen the second biggest increase in house prices during 2022. The average house price in the state has risen by 19.2%, just slightly less than Florida's increase. A property in South Carolina currently has an average cost of \$300,667.

The state with the third highest increase in property prices is Vermont. The average house price in Vermont is now \$386,285 after increasing 16.9% over the past 12 months. Of the five fastest growing states, Vermont had the sec-

ond highest home value, just behind Florida.

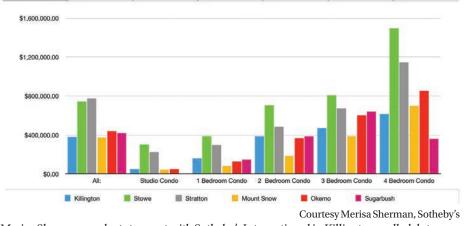
Tennessee and North Carolina rank fourth and fifth respectively. House prices in Tennessee have skyrocketed 16.3% over the past year, resulting in house prices currently sitting at an average of \$311,333. North Carolina, which places fifth in the state rankings, have had house prices increase 15.7% during 2022 which means the average house price in North Carolina is \$329,634.

State Rank Increase Florida 1 19.90%

South Carolina 2 19.20% 16.90% Vermont 3 Tennessee 4 16.30% North Carolina 5 15.70% Georgia 6 14.70% South Dakota 7 13.80 13.80% Montana 8 Alabama 9 13 60% 13.00% New Mexico 9 13.00% Arkansas 10 12.90% 13.00% Oklahoma 10 12.90% New Hampshire 12.80% 11 Texas 12 12.60% 13 12.00% Missouri 11.70% Maine 14 11.50% 11.20% Mississippi 15 Kentucky 16 Hawaii 17 11.10% Indiana 18 10.80% New Jersey 19 10.40% Alaska 19 10.40% Ohio 20 10.20% Wisconsin 21 Connecticut 22 10 10% 9.70% Delaware 22 9.70% Rhode Island 23 9.20 9.20% Pennsylvania 24 9.00% Iowa 25 8.70% Virginia 25 8.70% 8.60% Nebraska 26 27 8.50% Louisiana Kansas 28 8.40% 29 8.20% Wyoming 29 8 Illinois 30 8.10% 30 8.10% Michigan West Virginia 30 8.10% North Dakota 31 Colorado 32 7.80% 7.20% 33 7.10% Massachusetts Maryland 34 6.70% Washington 35 6.60% Utah 36 5.90% Arizona 37 5.80% Nevada 37 5.80% 37 5.80% New York Minnesota 38 5.60% 39 5.50% Oregon California 40 4.40%1.30% Idaho 41

Vermont Ski Resorts - 2022 Market Comparison

	Killington	Stowe	Stratton	Mount Snow	Okemo	Sugarbush
All:	\$383,140.00	\$746,088.00	\$776,633.00	\$378,730.00	\$441.954.00	\$421,093.00
Studio Condo	\$54,550.00	\$307.000.00	\$225.000.00	\$45,250.00	\$50,800.00	\$0.00
1 BR Condo	\$159,705.00	\$389,028.00	\$296,400.00	\$84,524.00	\$127,590.00	\$148,861.00
2 BR Condo	\$386,204.00	\$708,484.00	\$486,750.00	\$187,023.00	\$370,577.00	\$390,728.00
3 BR Condo	\$473,642.00	\$811,596.00	\$671,248.00	\$387,860.00	\$602,171.00	\$641,958.00
4 BR Condo	\$617.000.00	\$1.497.092.00	\$1.146.104.00	\$699,562.00	\$853,090.00	\$360,000.00
Condos	114	93	66	163	109	67
	Killington	Stowe	Stratton	Mount Snow	Okemo	Sugarbush
AII:	\$854,636.00	\$1,390,242.00	\$1,196,000.00	\$611,789.00	\$848,209.00	\$728,621.00
2 BR Home	\$540,583.00	\$659,600.00	\$259,000.00	\$262,150.00	\$465,000.00	\$414,000.00
3 BR Home	\$910,840.00	\$995,659.00	\$552,500.00	\$453,685.00	\$579,729.00	\$637,388.00
4 BR Home	\$829,714.00	\$1,469,159.00	\$1.725.000.00	\$575,336.00	\$971,600.00	\$787,250.00
5 BR Home	\$1,462,500.00	\$3,216,219.00	\$2.169,000.00	\$1,073,983.00	\$1,286,550.00	\$975,000.00
Single Family	30	76	13	142	62	22



Merisa Sherman, real estate agent with Sotheby's International in Killington, pulled data comparing Killington to other resorts around Vermont for her email blast Jan. 12. The data compared condos and single family homes, based on bedrooms in Stowe, Stratton, Mountain Snow (Dover & Wilmington), Okemo (Ludlow) and Sugarbush (Warren). Killington is in blue. Sherman notes that several high end condos/townhouse projects are currently in the development process at Killington, including the Base Camp at Bear Mountain Project and The Six Peaks Village.

At the other end of the scale, the state that has seen the smallest increase in house prices is Idaho. There has been just a 1.3% increase in house prices in 2022 in Idaho. The average house price in the state is currently \$459,947.

California has seen the second lowest increase in house prices out of all 50 states. The average house price in California is now \$760,644 after increasing 4.4% in the past 12 months.

The state with the third lowest increase in house prices is Oregon. The average house price in Oregon is \$510,401 after increasing 5.5% in 2022.

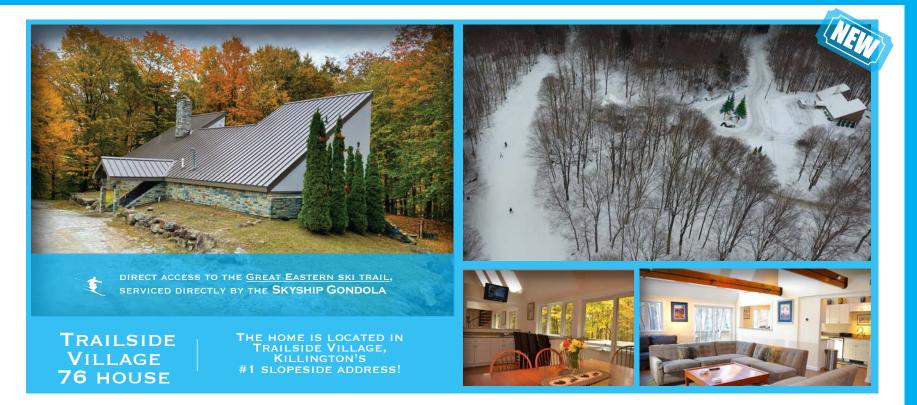
In Minnesota, there has been a 5.6% rise in house prices over the last year, just slightly more than Oregon, making the state have the fourth smallest increase in house prices. House prices in Minnesota currently average at \$333,294.

Three states have had the fifth lowest increase in house prices, all with a 5.8% increase in house prices over the past year – New York, Nevada and Arizona. The average house price in New York is \$782,365 whilst in Arizona the average house price is \$419,675 and Nevada's average house price is \$433,100.

Commenting on the findings, a spokesperson from Santa Monica realtors said: "The housing market has indeed been turbulent over the past few years, with house prices being affected by inflation, the pandemic and many more factors. This study provides a fascinating insight into which parts of America have seen the highest increases as well as the lowest. It will be interesting to see if this ranking remains similar throughout this year or if they fluctuate."







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