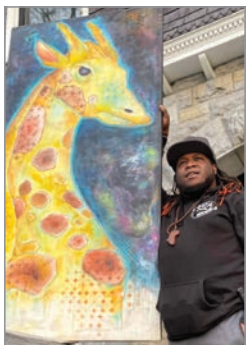




HELPING THE HUNGRY

The 2022 GMP Food Challenge hopes to hit a new record. The goal: \$35,000, set to meet skyrocketing needs locally.

Page 14



By Brittney Malik

CHAFFEE TO FEATURE BIPOC ARTISTS

In celebration of Black History Month the Chaffee Art Center will be featuring in BIPOC artists including: Congolese artist Seeko The Kid, pictured above. The exhibit runs Jan. 14-Feb. 25.

Page 26



By Brooke Geery

LEADER OF THE PACK

Larry Levac has logged over 1.5 million vertical feet, taking 1,400 lift rides — that's 300,000 vertical more than the next guy!

Page 24



ARTS, DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Find 92 local events not to miss this week.

Page 18

Rutland High School is back with controversial raiders mascot

By Katy Savage

The Rutland High School's mascot is back to the Rutland Raiders following a 6-5 school board vote on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

The controversial Raiders mascot, deemed racist by some, was changed to the Ravens in October 2020, but the move widely divided the town and led to a year's worth of contentious school board meetings.

The meeting on Jan. 11 lasted four-and-a-half hours.

The mascot item was added to the agenda after a motion by Tricia O'Connor. School board members originally voted 5-5 to approve the new agenda item, but Hurley Cavacas, who chairs the school board, broke the tie to allow it.

"You represent who put you into office, not your personal opinions," Cavacas said in an interview after the meeting. "I truly believed the people spoke. I represent them and therefore I voted to bring it back."

Many have called the school board "dysfunctional" while witnessing screaming matches between members calling each other vulgar names. The mascot issue has also led to the school board not being able to accomplish important tasks, like passing budgets and teachers contracts.

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss said he hoped the mascot issue was over in an interview after the meeting.

Board of Aldermen President Matt Whitcomb echoed Bliss. "Some people supported it, some were against it, but really people just want us to move on from it," Whitcomb said.

Whitcomb said he was optimistic the city would get back to addressing the critical issues facing the school.

But Alison Notte, a school board member, who has been widely opposed to the Raiders mascot, said the issue will continue to brew for years to come.

She said the Raiders mascot doesn't align with the mission of Rutland High School. "It's important for me to acknowledge the harm that can be done and has been done," Notte said. "It's a bad message to say, 'we don't really care.'"

On Jan. 14, days after the meeting, her husband Rep. William Notte (D-Rutland) proposed legislation that would require all Vermont schools to retire racist mascots, nicknames and imagery. The bill is modeled after a bill in Maine.

"I think it's colossal disappointment that we have backtracked

Raiders > 3



By Polly Mikula

Fresh snow, big smiles

Jason Mikula from Killington enjoys deep powder turns on Skyeburst at Killington Resort Tuesday morning, Jan. 18. Over a foot of snow fell Sunday and Monday delighting skiers and riders in town for the long MLK weekend.

Steve Finer retires from Killington Fire & Rescue, RRMC after 38 years

By Virginia Dean

For the last 38 years, Steve Finer has dedicated his time to helping those in need in the greater Killington-Rutland community. Now, he will be retiring as a volunteer from the Killington Fire and Rescue and the Rutland Regional Medical Center.

"I was always taught that you have to give to your community to make it work and be better," said Finer in a recent interview. "After 38 years of doing so, I feel that it's time for some new blood, as they say. It's very hard after all this time to go cold turkey, so I'm no longer going to be

responding to fire calls. I'll be responding less and less as time goes by for rescue calls. It really gets into your blood and system, and it's so hard to walk away."

Raised in Newton, Massachusetts, Finer moved to Killington in 1983 to run the Fractured Rooster bed and breakfast with former wife Sylvie Lavoie-Finer. Shortly upon his arrival, he started and was head of Killington First Response. He then joined the fire department with Jim Felton as chief at the time.

"He's been very involved and extremely dedicated," said Lavoie-Finer.

"He has taught many classes as well, ranging from first response, CPR, EMT certification, and different levels of fire safety, to name just a few."

According to Lavoie-Finer, he took his duties seriously and was deeply dedicated to the fire department and First Response.

"On many cold winter nights the tones would go off, be it to respond to a fully engulfed fire, car accident, someone sick or injured, or even a bar-room brawl," she said. "In our family, we

Finer > 8

Woodstock Trustees vote to require face masks

By Katy Savage

Face masks are required in all public areas in the Woodstock Village, regardless of vaccination status in Woodstock, after a 4-1 Trustee vote on Jan. 11.

Trustees Daphne Lowe, Seton McIlroy, Bill Corson and Jeff Kahn supported the face mask requirement, while Brenda Blackman, the owner of First Impressions Salon and Spa, opposed it.

"It's a choice at this point, we all should know what to do," Blackman said in an interview. "I don't think we should have to treat adults like children."

Blackman said she opposed requiring masks because there's no way to enforce it. "If you're mandating something and you have no enforcement, what good is that?" she said.

Blackman said she has required face masks in her salon throughout the pandemic with no complaints from customers, but she said business owners should be able to make their own choice.

It doesn't seem to matter much what we do, even if you're vaccinated or triple vaccinated, your chances of

Masks > 9

WOODSTOCK WEARS MASKS



MASKS REQUIRED
in stores and indoor public spaces
in the Village of Woodstock

By Jeff Kahn

Woodstock will require face masks covering the nose and mouth to be worn in all public spaces until Feb. 8, regardless of vaccination status.

Get



Published

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Submitted

This property at 200 Columbia Ave garnered only one offer.



By Julia Purdy

A success story: a nice home after renovations at 31 East St.

Rutland recycles houses, too

By Julia Purdy

Editor's note: This story follows up on "Rescuing Rutland neighborhoods, one house at a time," dated April 12, 2018.

Around 2017, the city of Rutland launched an innovative plan to convert vacant or blighted city-owned properties to functioning residences by offering selected addresses for sale to contractors, investors or new owners who will rejuvenate them and get them back on the tax rolls. Many cities, including Buffalo, New York, and St. Louis, Missouri, and even small towns throughout Italy (the "1 euro House Project") have embarked on such arrangements, anxious to rescue their crumbling townhouses.

Three years later, the Rutland program has new names at the helm, but the program remains a success, according to Andrew Strniste, administrator of planning and zoning and chair of the city-owned properties committee. He told the Mountain Times that the current housing market is showing more interest than in previous rounds.

Strniste has been on the job since April 2021, replacing Tara Kelly, who helped design the program. Most recently he served as planner and zoning administrator for Underhill, and previous to moving to Vermont he worked as transportation planner for Connecticut Dept. of Transportation and a planning consultant in North Dakota.

Available properties are offered in batches, or rounds. The application period for the December round ended Jan. 7, and the city-owned properties committee was to present its recommendations at the Board of Aldermen's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Four properties were marketed: 200 Columbian Ave., 156 South St., 158 South St., and an address not listed here because it is occupied.

Columbian Avenue and 158 South St. garnered only one application each, while four were submitted for 156 South St., a mobile home that was

damaged by fire. The occupied house, located in the neighborhoods east of Route 7, attracted five applications.

The February round, which is tentatively scheduled to end Feb. 25, will include 24 Division St. (a vacant lot), 157 State St., 33 Summer St., and an address which is occupied.

Strniste is currently developing a schedule of open houses for these properties. The open houses will be announced on the City-Owned Properties webpage at rutlandcity.org.

The program's overarching goal is to transfer city-owned properties to private owners who will upgrade, reduce neighborhood blight and contribute to the housing stock while covering fees, back taxes and any city expenditures...

While the program is limited to properties taken for back taxes, it is not a tax auction. The committee makes decisions on applications received from prospective purchasers for specific houses. The amount sought by the city for each property is listed on the City-Owned Properties webpage so applicants can take it into consideration in their bid, but there is some flexibility based on the condition and expense of renovating the building, Strniste said.

The program's overarching goal is to transfer city-owned properties to private owners who will upgrade, reduce neighborhood blight and contribute to the housing stock while covering fees, back taxes and any city expenditures to keep a property up to code, if occupied prior to the transfer.

The rules require the applicant to submit a price, the redevelopment plan for the property, and what the applicant intends to do with it when completed — whether occupy it as a principal residence or as an investment. An incentive to owner-occupants is the residential tax stabilization

program, which freezes the assessed value at the time of purchase for three years and requires occupation of the property as the applicant's primary residence for that period of time.

There are no prohibitions on resale of the rehabilitated property, and multifamily housing takes priority.

The taxes owed will be payable by the new owner, including carrying costs, upon closing. Final approval will consider the amount recovered by the city along with the plan for develop-

ment. Applicants must be in good standing with the city. The "dollar amount" offered should include back taxes, time frame for completion, planned dollar investment, preservation of multifamily buildings. Any bid that exceeds the amount owed to the city is returned to the previous deeded owner.

The city also observes landlord-tenant law in cases where renters are currently in residence. When that is the case, the city effectively becomes a "property manager," ensuring safe, sound and sanitary conditions until the property sells. After that, the new owners are responsible for health and fire safety, and to follow landlord-tenant law.

Even though the majority of city-owned houses are not in move-in condition, they must be capable of being upgraded to occupancy standards, and fire and health codes must be met in the final project.


For properties beyond rescue, demolition is not an option, but an asbestos survey and a demolition permit are required.

Renovation plans may include everything from sheetrock replacement to major rehabilitation, such as structural repair. Building Inspector Mark Sadakierski, who brings a strong background in construction to his new position, told the Mountain Times he stops by ongoing projects and keeps his office open to any and all questions.


For more information, visit: rutlandcity.org.

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Covid outbreaks force schools to close

Staff report

Some local schools are so short of staff due to the Covid outbreak they temporarily closed. Several schools in the Orange East Supervisory Union closed the week before Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Oxbow High School in Bradford was closed Monday, Jan. 10-12 and reopened on Thursday, Jan. 13.

Bradford, Newbury, River Bend, and Thetford Elementary School closed Jan. 11-12 and Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River closed Tuesday, Jan. 11-14.

"Our closure was

prompted by 103 staff being out for Wednesday of last week — this is 25% of our staff," Orange East Supervisory Union Superintendent Emilie Knisely said.

All schools were back open on Tuesday, Jan. 18. Knisely said the district would apply for a waiver so it wouldn't have to make up the days it was closed.

Springfield schools also had significant staff shortages. So many staff were out needing to quarantine that Springfield School District closed Riverside Middle

School and Elm Hill School on Jan. 14.

"There are just too many staff out in key positions to be able to open safely," Springfield Schools Superintendent Zach McLauhlin said on Facebook. "Covid continues to hit us hard."

The closures come at a time Covid-19 cases are hitting recording numbers. A total of 115 patients were hospitalized due to Covid on Monday, Jan. 17 — a new record, according to numbers from the Vermont Department of Health.

← Raiders: Rutland High School reverts to former mascot from page 1

to the Raiders mascot," William Notte said. "I don't think that white people get to decide what's racist."

He was hopeful his bill would be taken up in committee.

"This is a Legislature that has talked a lot about racial equity and doing things to promote racial equity in our state," William Notte said, explaining that he wrote his bill because of the harm caused to indigenous communities.

Carol McGranaghan, the chair of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, said she was surprised the mascot has caused so much division in Rutland.

"As a member of the Abenaki community, I am very disappointed that the name was changed back to the Raiders," McGranaghan said. "It is disheartening to see the hard work, consideration and thought students had put into their efforts to change the name to have it reversed. Personally, I don't feel the mascot honors those of us who have called this home for thousands of years."

The commission previously issued a statement condemning such mascots.

"These images, words, symbols, and the behavior that accompanies them perpetuate negative stereotypes of indigenous peoples, resulting in significant psychological, social, and cultural consequences, especially for indigenous youth," according to the statement.

Alison Notte and Cavacas have gone head-to-head on the issue in several meetings. Notte said Cavacas lacks leadership while Cavacas said changing the name from the Raiders to the Ravens was done improperly in the fall of 2020. At that time, Alison Notte was chair of the board.

"Part of the reason (the town has) been divided is because of the way it was handled," Cavacas said. "If you're going to do something like that it has to be a community decision. (The board) needs to have community-wide meetings."

Cavacas said he doesn't believe the mascot is racist. He was also critical of William Notte's legislation.

"We're going to need mascot police," Cavacas said. "You're going to have to get rid of the blue devils because the devils are anti-Christian. You're opening up a can of worms that doesn't need to be opened."

Cavacas, who has been on the board for 14 years, said he's not running for election again when his term is up in March.

Throughout the meeting on Jan. 11, school board members constantly interrupted each other. Notte repeatedly called for a point of order and brought a book of Robert's Rules of Order.

In a later interview, Notte said the last-minute addition of the mascot issue to the agenda wasn't proper procedure.

One resident, who said she is an alum of Rutland High School, called the board an "embarrassment" to the city.

"It's like you don't understand you work for the taxpayers of the city," she said, while explaining the Raiders best represents the school. "No one says 'Go Ravens.' I feel like the teams have an identity crisis. They don't know who they are because nobody identifies them as Ravens."

After a half-hour of bickering about the mascot issue, Superintendent Bill Olson asked the board to move on to the agenda. Senior student Isabella LaFemina, a student representative to the school board, had a similar request.

"The board cannot get anything done under these circumstances," LaFemina said as she read from a written statement. "The board is elected to serve students like me yet we cannot get to important agenda items."

LaFemina later said the Raiders mascot was racist and divisive, but she was shut down by school board member Stephanie Stoodley.

"You should represent the entire student body and not an individual or segregated group," Stoodley said.

Cavacas said later he respected LaFemina's opinion but didn't think she represented the entire student body.

Little has been done at Rutland High School since the board voted on the Ravens name.

Cheerleaders have stopped using some cheers with the Raiders in it, said Alison Notte, but Notte said some students have been critical of the cheerleaders for doing so at games.

Score signs in the gym were changed from the "Raiders" to "Rutland" in the fall. New school uniforms, estimated to cost \$100,000, had not been purchased yet.



Courtesy of Cobra Gymnastics

The Diamond and Platinum teams of Rutland's Cobra Gymnastics competed last weekend.



Courtesy of Cobra Gymnastics

Amelia Gibbs (left) takes first place on bars and floor and Hazel Mabey (right) takes first in vault, bars and all around. The winners were treated to a photo opp in a throne.

Cobras capture 1st at the Royal Classic

After 22 months of training and only a couple quiet competitions, Rutland's Cobra gymnastics team attended a traditional gymnastics meet (while masked) at the Royal Regal Classic in Essex Jan. 15-16. The 2021-22 team consists of 53 girls competing under the USA Gymnastics Xcel Program. The team is divided into five levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond and train at Cobra Gymnastics & Dance Center in Rutland.

Owner and head coach Shelby Barsalou said, "It was amazing to attend this meet feeling prepared and excited. The girls showed their passion and diligence for the sport and exemplified that they have not let this pandemic curtail their dreams."

On Saturday evening the reigning 2021 State Championship Diamond Team — consisting of six veteran Cobra members — captured first place with a score of 109.925. First place event winners included Robin Tashjian of Manchester (all-around 36.40), Lissa King of Manchester (floor 9.375), Jada Hughes of Wallingford (vault 8.875) and Maleah Jones of Rutland (bars 9.275 and beam where she garnered the highest event score of 9.775).

The platinum team captured fourth place with a 103.075 and teammate Iris Tucker of Ludlow won a gold medal on vault with a 8.80.

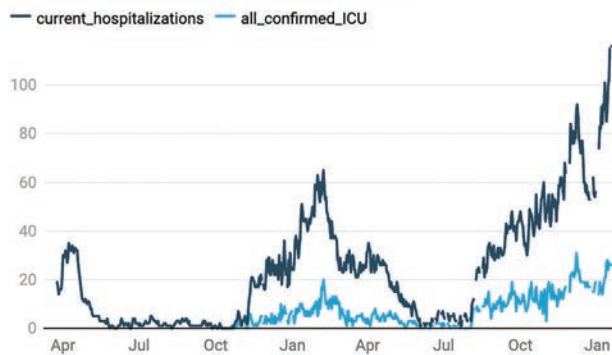
On Sunday, the silver team captured second place with a 111.15 and teammate Amelia Gibbs of Brandon won gold medals on vault 9.325 and floor 9.525.

The gold team captured fifth place with a score of 107.925 and the bronze team captured second place with a score of 112.70. First place event winners from the bronze team include Hazel Mabey of Wallingford (vault 9.60, bars 9.575 and all-around with the highest AA score of 37.70), Ella Lamson of Middletown Springs (vault 9.30), Amelia Falco of Rutland (floor 9.40) and Grace Mical of Middlebury (floor 9.625).

Silver medalist (2nd place) from all teams and events include: Lily Crowningshield, Ella Lamson, Hazel Mabey, Alice Charron, Olivia Gibbs, Alexa Kojak, London Febbie, Amelia Gibbs, Robin Tashjian, Maleah Jones, Lissa King and Karena Kuehl.

Bronze medalist (3rd place) from all teams and events include: Amelia Falco, Bay Sparks, Ella Lamson, Hazel Mabey, Eda Mae Fioretti, Alice Charron, Phoebe Tashjian, Lillie Mae Sheldrick, Ava John, Olivia Gibbs, Alexa Kojak, London Febbie, Amelia Gibbs, Mia Harrington, Nadia Tarbell, Karena Kuehl, Lissa King, Robin Tashjian.

Number of people currently hospitalized for Covid:



By Erin Petenko/VTDigger, source: VTDOH via VCGI
Vermont hit a new record for hospitalizations, Tuesday, Jan. 18, with 116. A boom also occurred at long-term care facilities.

Covid continues its spike, hospitalizations high

Staff report

The state reported 715 new Covid-19 cases, Tuesday, Jan. 18, with 116 hospitalized — a new record.

Just prior, the state reported 806 cases Monday, 2,217 on Sunday, and 1,766 cases Saturday. The seven-day average is 1,604 cases per day with a positivity rate of 12.8%.

The state has seen an increase of 245% in cases over the past 14 days.

The number of people hospitalized on Tuesday, Jan. 18, hit a record high. Hospitalizations had been hovering in the low 100s, but hit 115 on Sunday, then dropped to 104 patients on Monday, before hitting 116 on Tuesday. Of those hospitalized, 55% are unvaccinated. Of those in critical care, 63% are unvaccinated. As of Jan. 11, there were a total of 58 hospital beds and 11 ICU beds available statewide.

December 2021 was the second deadliest month in Vermont with 62 deaths. Only December 2020 topped it with 71.

The number of cases associated with long-term care facility outbreaks has also exploded — from 58 a week ago to 268 as of Tuesday, according to a report from the Department of Financial Regulation.

Rutland County

In Rutland County, there's been 1,684 new cases in the past 14 days, 50 of those were reported Tuesday. In total, the county has had 4,561 cases — or about 7.8 cases per 100 residents — and seen 30 deaths. Rutland county has seen an 80.72% increase in cases from two weeks ago.

Windsor County

In Windsor County, there's been 871 in the past 14 days, Covid > 14

Woodstock hotel opens under new ownership

By Virginia Dean

The Shire Woodstock opened its doors to guests last Thursday, Jan. 13 under new ownership at 46 Pleasant Street in Woodstock. The 50-room hotel has been sold to Turnstone Ventures, a Boston-based real estate investment firm led by developer Jeff Glew. In a move that is growing increasingly common in the hospitality industry, Turnstone has hired a New York-based firm, Life House Hotels, a hotel branding, management, and software company, to market and operate The Shire on a contract basis.

The sale of The Shire was completed on Dec. 14. The hotel had been closed since the end of October, while previous owners Saltaire Properties, a boutique hotel firm based in Cohasset, Massachusetts, continued negotiations to complete the sale. Bryan Dunn, the managing director and head of growth at Life House, confirmed that The Shire reopened and began welcoming guests on Jan. 13.

"We are honored for the opportunity to steward The Shire Woodstock, one of the most prominent assets in the high-barrier-to-entry town of Woodstock," Turnstone Ventures Managing Partner Glew said. "We look forward to working with Life House on a restoration project that will honor the property's history while enhancing the experience for future visitors to southern Vermont."

Dunn indicated that The Shire Woodstock will operate "as-is" under its existing branding prior to being reimag-

"We are honored for the opportunity to steward The Shire Woodstock" Glew said.

ined as a locally rooted boutique hotel that will feature elevated interiors and enhanced public space programming.

"We are thrilled about Life House's first project in southern

Vermont," said Dunn. "We believe the Green Mountains region is underserved by sophisticated independent hotel operators and look forward to expanding our presence to include additional unique and historic properties."

The hotel will be managed by Penny-Ellen Terr who has led operations and property management teams on several major renovation projects, including South Street Seaport in New York. She has also helped to reconfigure customer traffic pathways at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Prior to moving to Vermont, Terr lived on the mid-Maine seacoast where she was an on-air radio personality and copywriter as well as property management and hospitality. She holds a degree in communications and marketing from Marist College as well as a pair of degrees from Le Cordon Bleu Paris where she was a recipient of the French Diplome and the Medallion of Excellence.

Terr has been advertising for various positions at the hotel on the Woodstock listserv.

"The hiring process is indeed challenging," said Dunn. "But Penny-Ellen and I have seen a lot of talent in the community, and we're hoping to hire really great people within the next few weeks."

Hartland-based nonprofit supports rural entrepreneurs

By Curt Peterson

Five years ago popular Hartland politician and businessman Matt Dunne founded the Center of Rural Innovation (CORI) in a yoga center in downtown Hartland to help rural towns strategize successful development in the tech-driven 21st Century economy.

"A single town would struggle on its own," Dunne told the Mountain Times. "Our goal is to network 50 towns with accelerated innovation programs, to share ideas, assets and opportunities in order to meet challenges that will face tomorrow's entrepreneurs."

CORI's network now includes 25 rural towns, and there are 10 more "in the pipeline."

Projects in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota and Maine among others, are operating, according to the CORI website. The non-profit employs 44 full-time, plus eight AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers.

The 2008 recession produced a narrative implying one can't build a tech enterprise in a rural community, Dunne said. Urban areas recovered, and rural America has not — 15% of workers live in rural areas, and only 5% of tech jobs are available to them. People leave small towns and don't return.

Gov. Phil Scott hopes to attract people to Vermont to work remotely for urban businesses while they enjoy the more rural lifestyle.

Dunne feels that's not a sustainable strategy. Long-term success will require attracting entrepreneurs to create and build businesses here.

"Zoom towns are not the answer," he said.



Submitted

The Hartland yoga center was the starting place of the Center of Rural Innovation.

Dunne and Scott agree universal broadband internet access is necessary to attract new and returning Vermonters.

"Broadband is the electrification of our time," Dunne said, referring to the New Deal Rural Electrification project. "Both are necessary to make progress possible."

CORI's first project supported development of the Black River Innovation Center in Springfield — it helped raise \$2 million, giving them "street cred" with federal, corporate and foundation funders.

Grants from sources such as Walmart, Land O'Lakes and Linked-In were now attainable. Towns have raised \$18.5 million with CORI's help.

And CORI raised \$4.1 million for its own seed fund for start-ups.

"Springfield had good internet access," Dunne said.

Randolph, with ECFiber internet, has another CORI-supported project. "High-speed internet isn't as rare in rural areas as the post-2008 narrative portrays," Dunne said. "Rural communications isn't two Dixie cups and a string anymore."

Internet access is just one qualification for prospective CORI beneficiaries.

"Is there a college or university within 40 minutes? Is tech talent already in evidence? Are there local amenities, a brewery, good health-care, schools, childcare? If people

Rural entrepreneurs > 15

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Killington town answers frequently asked questions about its proposed TIF district

Editor's note: After two public meetings, Nov. 29 and Jan. 4, regarding the proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district in Killington, the town has compiled answers to frequently asked questions. These were updated on Jan. 10. At the meeting Jan. 4, the Select Board approved the TIF application to the state. In the next few months the state's Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) will review the application. Their decision is expected in March or April. For more information about the TIF district in Killington visit mountaintimes.info/tif or killingtontown.com.

FAQs

What is TIF and how does it work?
Geographically, it is a district, created by a municipality, where investment in public infrastructure is needed to encourage private property development. Financially, a portion of the new incremental tax revenues generated by the new private development within the district are set aside for a certain period of time to service the public infrastructure debt.

What private developments are expected?
The three projects the town intends to catalyze using TIF are the Six Peaks Killington project (known also as the Village Master Plan) and workforce and affordable housing projects on two substantial parcels in town, and major improvements to Killington Road.

How does the town benefit and what's in it for town residents?
By incentivizing new private investment through public infrastructure, the town can drive Grand List growth that will benefit all taxpayers. This growth would not otherwise happen without the town's investment, as has been the

these sites shows that the remainder of the units that could feasibly be built would be market rate workforce housing.

What is the difference between market rate and affordable housing?

Market rate housing is priced according to the local market, does not have income limits, and is without direct subsidy. Market rate units can vary based on the size, location, and demand for the units. They are generally priced competitively for the area. Affordable housing is defined by statute 24 VSA § 4303. Essentially it means that the housing cost — either as an owner-occupied unit or a long-term rental — should be within a range that allows the household to have income remaining like food, transportation, and healthcare. In Vermont, affordable housing costs cannot exceed 30% of the gross annual income of a household at 120% median income for owner-occupied units and 80% median income for rental housing.

Are there requirements for bidding the sewer work under the TIF program?

There are no TIF program requirements for bidding out the sewer work. However, the town does have bidding requirements, which recommends requesting at least three bids, which will be followed.

What happens if the town does not pass the TIF bond vote?
If the town does not pass a bond vote for a TIF project, it will hold additional bond vote(s).

Will the proposed retail development at the mountain take away from retail development along Killington Road?

No, in fact it should benefit the businesses along Killington Road. There will be relatively little retail included within the new development and some of that space will replace existing resort retail currently in the same location. More activity at the top of Killington Road will help all businesses along Killington Road and Route 4.

What happens if the developer does not do the project?

If the developer doesn't do its project, the town won't construct the public infrastructure improvements. The town will negotiate and enter into development agreement(s) with the developer(s). This will set forth the respective obligations of the town and the developer. Under the terms of the agreement (which have not been finalized) the town will not commence construction on the public improvements until it has substantial assurances the development will occur. In a circumstance in which the town would need to begin construction sooner, the town will require substantial guarantees of the developer before it does so. In a worst-case scenario, though, the town's General Fund is ultimately responsible for the debt service. This is a risk, but one that the town Select Board believes is prudent in order to stop the stagnation of the Grand List.

What is proposed for the 30,000 square feet of retail at the mountain?

It is anticipated to be a mix of existing and new businesses. No firm tenant agreements are in place yet. SP Land Company has stated that Snowden Wells has sufficient capacity to serve Phase I of their project.

Why are additional wells and water supply needed?

It is correct that the Snowden Wells has the capacity for Phase I. However, the full buildout of the Six Peaks Killington project is much bigger than what is known as "Phase I" of their project. [Please note: Six Peaks Killington "Phase I" is not to be confused with the TIF District Plan's infrastructure "Phase I!"] "Phase I" of Six Peaks Killington is a small portion of the Village Core. Within the TIF district, the buildout of Six Peaks Killington consists of the village core and Ramshead Brook subdivision. The Valley Wells — the water source for the proposed water system — are needed to supply water for the full build-out of the Six Peaks Killington project. A developer will not invest in the first phase of a project without having a guaranteed water source for the future phases needed to make the economics work for the whole project.



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In Vermont, affordable housing costs cannot exceed 30% of the gross annual income of a household at 120% median income for owner-occupied units and 80% median income for rental housing.

case with the long-stalled Village. In addition, while a portion of the incremental new taxes from the developments are used to repay the infrastructure debt service, there is also a portion that goes to the General Fund. Of the incremental new taxes, 15% goes directly to the General Fund (and 30% of the state portion goes to the Education Fund). This is revenue that would never have otherwise occurred but for the use of TIF. More broadly, the town's TIF-funded infrastructure investments will enable these important private investments which are expected to significantly grow the economy, resulting in stronger local businesses, more jobs and with more workforce and affordable housing.

The affordable housing projects are a good idea. How can we make sure this happens?

While the town cannot develop the housing itself, it can help remove barriers, bring the right parties to the table, and proactively help put the deals together to create more affordable and workforce housing. Providing water to the two most eligible housing sites in town is the first step. The town has also already begun the process of working with the local housing trust and reaching out to prospective developers. This will be an ongoing effort.

How much housing is required for the TIF district?

There are no specific requirements for the quantity of housing. That said, part of the TIF District approval from the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) will include a requirement to work toward the creation of more affordable housing units within the life of the TIF District plan.

Why do the buildout projections for the housing projects consist of approximately 40-50% affordable housing?

The estimates for affordable housing vs. workforce housing in each housing development are based on discussions with affordable housing developers. They typically only construct approximately 30 units of affordable housing on any given site. The town's concept for

OBITUARY

Willem Jewett remembered as energetic and personable lawmaker

By John Flowers/Addison County Independent

Though former State Rep. Willem Jewett retired from the state Legislature in 2016, the Ripton Democrat continued in private life what he'd become synonymous for during his 14 years in the Vermont Statehouse: helping other people.

The only thing that stopped him was his own premature demise, at age 58 in the face of cancer Wednesday, Jan. 12.

As first reported by VTDigger, Jewett died after using a prescription obtained through Act 39, a "death with dignity" law that he helped establish and sought to improve, right up to his death.

While it was common knowledge that Jewett was terminally ill, his passing came as a jolt to those who knew him. House members, from their disparate, virtual work sites, were scheduling a time to unite for a moment of silence in memory of their friend and former colleague.

The Independent reached out to several of Jewett's associates for their recollections of a man who they said will be known for bringing an irrepressible sense of humor and a workmanlike approach to weighty state issues.

"Willem was a tall tree," said Rep. Diane Lanpher, D-Vergennes, who served several years with Jewett. "And sometimes when we lose a tall tree among our talented forest, it's particularly notable."

"He always took care of his district, his county, and all of Vermont."

Jewett was first elected to the House in

2002, defeating incumbent Rep. Ward Mann, R-Leicester, to represent the towns of Cornwall, Goshen, Hancock, Leicester, Ripton and Salisbury. A practicing attorney, he served on the House Judiciary for 10 of his 14 years. He also served one term each on the government operations committee, to help with legislative redistricting during the 2011-2012 biennium; and on the Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee for 2013-2014, a period during which he served as House majority leader.



Willem Jewett

"Willem was not just a well-respected legislator, people really liked him personally. He was smart, funny, warm and a great advocate, right up to the end as he worked to update the Death with Dignity law," said Rep. Peter Conlon.

He was elected assistant majority leader of the House in December 2010, and served in that capacity for 2011 and 2012. His peers elected him House majority leader in December 2012.

Jewett was also a member of the Joint

Committee on Judicial Retention from 2007-2012, serving as its vice chairman (2007 to 2008) and chairman (2009-2010).

Among those mourning him are current House Speaker Jill Krowinski, a Burlington Democrat. She was among the House Democrats who nominated Jewett for Majority Leader.

"Willem was an amazing human who did so much in his life," Krowinski told the Independent.

Jewett was clearly well suited to the majority leader role, according to

legislative career — immediately recognized his trademark laugh.

"We were talking last night about his laugh, this 'cackle' that he had; you always knew where Willem was in the building," Krowinski said. "It always made me smile, hearing him laugh."

Lanpher was often in Jewett's line of fire, when it came to mirth.

"He was a jokester," she said, but added he picked his spots.

"He had wit in the middle of the most serious things that didn't diminish the seriousness of the issue. He did such hard, serious work with a joyful heart, always making sure other members felt supported."

There was a time when Addison County lawmakers made a point of picking seats close to each other in the House chamber. But Lanpher knew from the get-go that she should keep some extra space between herself and Jewett, knowing that he could easily make her break out in laughter, at any moment.

"Willem was in seat 88 at the time, and I made this decision that... if I sit too close to Willem, I'm going to get in trouble, like in school," she said with a chuckle.

As majority leader, Jewett would have to sub for the speaker when that person was away. The speaker's podium stands in front of a curtained entrance into the House well, which happened to be the most convenient avenue for Lanpher to get to her desk. She

Jewett > 13



COVID-19 STATUS

- ▶ Rutland County COVID-19 Transmission is **HIGH**
- ▶ Hospital Patient Volume is **ELEVATED**
- ▶ Increased Wait Times in Emergency Department
- ▶ Routine COVID-19 Testing **NOT** Available in Emergency Department
- ▶ Hospital Visitor Restrictions In Place

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Eureka!

That must have been the feeling of the special pension task force when they found a path forward to a plan to address the growing pension funds liability. Initial indications suggest it was very much a compromise reached by all on the special committee last Monday (three Democrat and two Republican legislators, one administration official, two state employee union members, one state police union member and three teacher union members). The task force was set up by the Legislature last session when efforts at finding a solution, based in part of proposals floated by the treasurer, failed.

No doubt there are areas where some members thought the plan went too far or not far enough, but in the end, all came together to help preserve the funds for future retirees. With the 9-0 committee vote, the proposal is expected to receive the full support of the Legislature. It is expected to reduce the pension and retirement healthcare benefit liability on the books by nearly \$2 billion of the total \$6 billion.

There are no changes to current retirees or those achieving full retirement age by this July. The state will increase its contributions annually as well as make a \$200 million one-time state contribution to the funds (\$150 million had been previously set aside). Covered employees will see their contributions rise (phased-in) and adjustments to the CPI allowance when receiving benefits.

“Eureka” may not exactly be what came to mind for some members when the House Rules Committee advanced the proposal for returning to the Statehouse in-person this week. The plan continues with Zoom for floor sessions and in-person for committee deliberations (with Covid related exemptions, such as quarantining and risk exposure to yourself or family).



By Rep. Jim Harrison

tripartisan Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB). They had recommended moving to all single-member House districts. While the process has a way to go, the House action signaled that leadership prefers a mix of two-member and single-member districts, like we currently have in place.

- The House Appropriations Committee included planning funds (\$1.5 million) for future State House expansion in the annual budget adjustment bill advanced on Friday. The governor does not agree with the need for expansion.
- House Appropriations also included the administration’s proposal for significant new investments in housing in the budget bill. The legislation will be taken up by the full House this week.
- The Senate Economic and Development Committee is taking another look at increasing unemployment benefits after a proposal to increase them by \$25/week was denied by federal administrators last year, based on the way it was structured. A House committee is also looking at proposals to increase benefits, which are funded by employers. The Vermont Chamber expressed concern about increasing taxes on businesses as the ongoing impact of the pandemic and labor shortage continues.
- The Legislature has approved three bills relating to upcoming municipal and school meetings due to Covid concerns. One allows towns with traditional town meetings to change to Australian ballot; another eliminates the petition requirement for town or school candidates and the third allows

With the 9-0 committee vote, the proposal is expected to receive the full support of the Legislature. It is expected to reduce the pension and retirement healthcare benefit liability on the books by nearly \$2 billion of the total \$6 billion.

The measure passed but not before some members voted to remain all remote for another two weeks. Continuation of being all remote failed on a 30-112 vote.

The Senate will continue to meet remotely, although their rules do allow for a hybrid approach.

Other items of interest:

- The Senate Health and Welfare Committee is discussing imposing a state-wide mask mandate and they may vote on it this Tuesday, Jan. 18. The measure, to date, has been opposed by Governor Scott, who has preferred to let individual towns decide.
- The House began the process of re-mapping the state’s legislative districts on Friday, but not before rejecting the recommendation of the appointed

public meetings to be held electronically without a physical presence. All measures are only for 2022 and expected to be signed into law.

- State economists have revised state revenue forecasts upward for the current fiscal year by \$44 million and \$26 million for FY23 (\$18 million increase if you remove expected cannabis revenue). State revenues in FY24 decrease if you remove cannabis, as the impact of federal spending winds down. They also cautioned that inflationary pressures would remain well into 2022 and 2023, which may minimize some of the impact of higher revenues.
- Spending and tax proposals will be front and center as Governor Scott

Harrison > 12

\$1 million in grant money is now available for EV charging stations

Gov. Phil Scott and the Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced the launch of a multi-unit Dwelling electric vehicle charging grant program to bring more home charging opportunities to Vermonters on Jan. 13.

A total of \$1 million in funding is available to subsidize the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at rental properties to provide residents with at-home charging access.

The grant program is an interagency effort between DHCD, the Agency of Transportation, Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the Public Service Department. Grants will be awarded up to \$80,000 per site and \$300,000 per applicant, with priority grant awards given to affordable housing projects.

“This program is another step towards electrifying the transportation sector,” said Scott. “Ensuring Vermonters have access to home charging options will support the transition to electric vehicles, which will benefit the environment and reduce transportation costs for Vermonters.”

The state expects 80% of EV charging will take place at home, where cars are parked for long periods of time. Lack of at-home charging is one of the largest barriers to EV adoption for residents of multi-unit housing. This funding will help to overcome this barrier to EV adoption for residents of multi-unit housing by piloting EV charging solutions that provide convenient, reliable, and affordable access.

While access to EV charging is not the only barrier to EV ownership among the renter population it will become increasingly important as the market for EVs matures. As EVs become more affordable, through market development, purchase incentives, and re-sale of used EVs, access to charging will be critical for all Vermonters.

“The EV market share has doubled over the last year, and this is just the start as more affordable models continue arriving in Vermont, availability of used EVs grows, and incentives bring down up-front costs,” said David Roberts, Drive Electric Vermont coordinator. “We are excited the program launching today will make it easier for Vermonters to make the switch to an EV by increasing availability of charging at multi-family properties.”

The deadline to apply is April 1, 2022. DHCD will host an informational webinar about the program on Jan. 26, 2022, from 10-11:30 a.m.

“The EV market share has doubled over the last year, and this is just the start,” said David Roberts.

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2022 poll shows Vermonters split on some issues

The VPR-Vermont PBS 2022 Poll asked hundreds of Vermonters how they feel about state leaders. A total of 600 people responded. Braun Research conducted the poll under the direction of Richard Clark, a professor at the University of Vermont.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

- 45% Approve
- 43% Disapprove
- 11% Not sure/no opinion
- 1% Refused

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Scott is handling his job as governor of Vermont?

- 60% Approve
- 25% Disapprove
- 14% Not sure/no opinion
- 1% Refused

If the 2022 Democratic primary for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, whom would you favor?

- 7% Becca Balint
- 21% Molly Gray
- 8% Someone else
- 30% Unlikely to vote in the Democratic Primary
- 32% Not sure

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Scott has handled the Covid-19 pandemic?

- 68% Approve
- 22% Disapprove
- 10% Not sure/no opinion

Would you support or oppose a statewide mandate to require wearing face masks in public?

- 58% Approve
- 36% Disapprove
- 5% Not sure/no opinion
- 1% Refused

Would you consider reinstating emergency powers to address the current pandemic situation an abuse of power or a reasonable response to the situation?

- 26% Abuse of power
- 56% Reasonable response
- 15% Not sure / No opinion
- 3% Refuse

In your opinion, should health care providers prioritize vaccinated people over unvaccinated people if resources become scarce?

- 31% Yes
- 58% No
- 10% Not sure / No opinion
- 1% Refuse

Should public schools require students to be vaccinated against Covid-19 once the vaccine is available to all ages?

- 60% Yes
- 35% No
- 5% Not sure / No opinion
- 1% Refuse

Should proof of vaccination be required for admission to public places, such as restaurants, stores, and entertainment venues?

- 47% Yes
- 47% No
- 6% Not sure / No opinion

Hartland ponders ARAP windfall, projects suggested

By Curt Peterson

The Select Board hosted a public meeting to discuss how best to invest \$1,050,000, Hartland’s share of the federal government’s \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARAP) fund.

For perspective, the windfall represents \$3,088 per man, woman and child in the 2020 census (3,400 residents).

Nationally, most ARAP grants are distributed through counties. Because Vermont county governments are less influential and shorter on resources than in other jurisdictions, the state has permission to distribute ARAP money directly to towns.

Half the funds were distributed by the U.S. Treasury in September 2021, and the second half will be doled out in September 2022, according to Sarah Wraith, a regional planner at Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Com-

mission, who gave a very professional presentation to more than 35 mostly remote attendees on Jan. 13.

At a second meeting set for Jan. 27, town manager David Ormiston told the Mt. Times, the original list of suggestions will be winnowed down, and a committee will be appointed to study the impact and practicality of the final list, and to make recommendations to the Select Board.

Ormiston said he hopes recommendations would be delivered in late April or early May, but no deadline has been set.

In general, congress intends the ARAP funds to compensate for losses caused by the Covid pandemic, and to assist local recovery efforts. More specifically, eligible projects fall into four categories, described in Wraith’s review.

Pandemic Response, including negative economic impacts, assistance to households, small businesses and non-profits, aid to impacted industries (tourism, travel, hospitality).

Premium Pay to Eligible Workers, those performing “essential work during the ... health emergency.”

Lost Revenue, meaning any reduction in tax receipts or other municipal revenue sources, measured against “the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency” – which would be 2019.

Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure, a broad category Wraith described as “necessary investments.”

Using ARAP money to matching contributions for other federal programs, to reduce future pension liabilities, to establish “rainy day” re-

Hartland ARAP > 14

← **Finer:** Local volunteer, soon to retire from decades of service, has many talents from page 1

would often say that, if you needed medical attention, ‘Who you gonna call? Steve Finer!’ We would, without a doubt, definitely want him there if someone were hurt.”

Finer saved lives and helped many folks who were in panic or crisis mode, Lavoie-Finer said.

“He knew how to take control and set the tone, helping to make family and friends feel a bit better at the time,” she said. “He was very good under the pressure of these emergency situations. Now, it’s time for him to enjoy his retirement, giving him time to visit with family and friends as well as travel plans in the future.”

One of its most active members, Finer will be sorely missed at the Killington Fire and Rescue, Search and Rescue, and First Response Squad, said current Fire Chief Gary Roth.

“Steve was a strong promoter of EMS training in the department,” said Roth. “We wish him the best of luck in his retirement.”

In fact, according to his son, Dustin, he wrote approximately \$500,000 in grants for the department, which was used for SCBA equipment, a compressor for filling bottles, turnout gear, a thermal imaging camera, the generator for the 1973 Killington Road station and a pump house/water fill station from the river to the fire station. The grants also outfitted the present light rescue and the dry hydrants in the town.

Finer has two children — Dustin, who lives in Montréal, and Brielle, who resides in Boston.

At RRMC, Finer dedicated countless hours helping patients, training younger staff, and putting the needs of the community before his own, according to Sheena Daniell, director of emergency services.

“For many of us here at RRMC, Dec. 31, 2021 not only marked the end of 2021, but the ending of the Finer era,” said Daniell. “Steve’s dedication, work ethic, commitment to patients and co-workers were extraordinary. His work will have a lasting impact on our patients, staff, emergency department, hospital, and community.”

Yet, Finer has not only spent his time volunteering for community non-profits, he has also spent over 20 years performing table side magic, close-up magic (at one local restaurant), and stand-up magic.

Magicians are wizards, spellcasters, enchanters. They are wise. They mentor. They act as quest companions or even go on quests themselves. They cast spells, inventing new ones, or rediscovering the old. Their magic sometimes ascribes

He is the only performer in the world...to float his assistant in the air atop a ski and make it snow around her.



Submitted

Steve Finer has performed magic since he was 6 years old.

them authority; they may advise or be rulers themselves. They have the power to make impossible things happen by performing tricks of illusion and sleight of hand.

That was the world of Killington’s Steve Finer who’s been entertaining with his magic and comedy since he was 6 years old, growing up in the Boston area. In the last 60 years, Finer has performed from Boston to Seattle, with stops in between, traveling with his sidekick, Charlie the Rabbit. He has also executed his craft in Italy, Switzerland, France and Germany.

In fact, he is the only performer in the world at this time (only at special performances) to float his assistant in the air atop a ski and make it snow around her.

He also spent 10 years teaching middle school industrial arts before becoming a full-time performer. Holding a master’s in education, Finer uses his experiences to bring an educational lean to his performances.

He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Order of Merlin and Society of American Magicians. From magic to volunteering, he has tried to make a difference in people’s lives.

“Many times, it is someone I will never know or see again,” Finer said. “But many times, it is someone in the community who I have taken care of. I’m proud of my accomplishments and services to the town and department.”

Grant helps to protect native turtles in Connecticut River Valley

The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) has received a new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that will help protect native turtles. The grant will fund landowner outreach by CRC and wood turtle site assessment by project partner, The Orianne Society (TOS).

Wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*), primarily found in river floodplains, and spotted turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) are the special focus of this project. Wood turtles are considered a species of conservation concern in the three states where CRC will focus outreach efforts. These turtles have suffered declines due to illegal collecting, development, agriculture, and stream alterations. CRC and TOS will work with federal and state agency partners in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts to find willing landowners and sites that will lead to improving working lands, water quality, and wood turtle habitat in the Connecticut River watershed.

“Wood and spotted turtles thrive in environments with clean water, but they need space to roam on land as well, so improving habitat connectivity between land and water benefits them greatly,” said Briggs. This not only helps rare turtles, but also creates habitat for other fish and wildlife, cleanses the water, and improves recreational opportunities. Farm bill conservation programs also promote agricultural sustainability. Programs like this are a win for everybody” said Kiley Briggs, director of conservation with The Orianne Society.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has designated northeast turtles as a “working lands for wildlife” priority and offers programs to help with their conservation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and each state wildlife agency have prioritized the restoration and preservation of the wood turtle, advancing both conservation science and action plans. This grant will help unite efforts by this coalition of organizations and find new project sites to help this species rebound and thrive.

“Strong partnerships form the backbone of this project,” said Ron Rhodes, CRC’s director of restoration programs. “In addition to working with landowners, CRC and TOS will collaborate with all three states and our federal agency partners to ensure we identify areas that are most in need of restoration and maximize the benefits to both the turtles and landowners.”



By Patrick Randall

The native spotted turtle is one of the two turtle species of focus for the CRC grant.



By Ty Smith

The native wood turtle and its habitat will be a main focus for environmental protection.

← Masks: Woodstock is now requiring masks to be worn in all public spaces, regardless of vaccination status from page 1

getting it are pretty good,” she said.

The Trustees have distributed signs throughout the village and on the doors of every store saying, “Woodstock wears masks. Masks required’ in stores and indoor public spaces in the Village of Woodstock.”

Kahn, the owner of the Unicorn gift shop, emphasized that the Trustees were careful to use the word “requirement” for masks instead of “mandate” to appear less regulatory.

Kahn said he was hesitant to approve the requirement because most people were already wearing masks.

“In my store, I’m seeing 100% compliance,” he said. “I didn’t think it would make a difference. I saw people were being responsible in our Village and were wearing masks.”

Kahn said most business owners were already requiring masks, but some were resistant to hanging the signs on their doors.

“There are a few people who are grousing about it, but they would no matter what,” he said.

Low, a real estate agent, approved the face mask requirement because of the rising case numbers.

“I think we all just need to do our part and should wear the masks indoors in public spaces to keep everybody as safe as possible,” she said.

Officials required all people to wear a mask in the Woodstock Town Hall and town-owned facilities, whether vaccinated or not with the surge of the Delta variant in the fall. At

Kahn said most business owners were already requiring masks, but some were resistant to hanging the signs on their doors.



that time, David Green, the Woodstock health officer recommended masks be worn inside all public spaces and in outdoor public spaces.

Some business owners were already requiring customers to wear masks in their stores.

Nick Ferro, the owner of Ferro Jewelers, has required masks in his store since the fall, regardless of vaccination status.

“Nobody’s given me a hassle yet, if they do, it’s out of the store,” Ferro said in a previous interview.

Nearby towns have similar face mask policies.

Pomfret has required masks to be worn in all public spaces since Dec. 3. Hartford has had a mask mandate in place since mid-December for all public spaces.

Rutland City Council members voted down a mandate in early December, with some arguing there was no way to enforce it. City

officials instead approved the purchase of 50,000 masks to make available for free in public spaces.

Killington Resort requires masks covering the nose and mouth in gondolas and indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status. The Killington Select Board discussed mandating masks in a December meeting, but made no decision.

The face mask requirement in Woodstock will be in place for 30 days, expiring Feb. 8 unless the Trustees vote to reinstate it.

“I’m hoping we’ll see a decline (in cases) at that point,” Kahn said.

All local mandates will automatically expire on April 30 under state law signed by Gov. Phil Scott.

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photos: Joanne Pearson

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EDITORIAL

Health care alarm bells should be ringing

By Ben Smith

Editor's note: Ben Smith is an emergency physician and medical director of the emergency department at Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin.

American health care is in crisis. On NPR ("On Point," Nov. 29) an ICU nurse recently said that anyone would leave the field if they were paid the same wage the nurse was receiving. The burdens were simply too great, the support too little.

An analyst observed that 20% of the workforce actually had left, or was considering it, and the host said: "That sounds like an industry on the verge of collapse." Survey data from the American Hospital Association and the Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation confirm these numbers and these sentiments.

As an emergency doctor and a longtime observer of how policy decisions play out on the front line, I can say that although the nurse's statement may be hyperbolic —

American health care is in an existential crisis — a crisis that began long before the pandemic — and the policy decisions we make now will determine whether our communities continue to have access to the health care they deserve.

not everyone in health care is looking for the exit, and so many of us remain dedicated to our work — the despair in her words rings absolutely true, and should ring alarm bells at the highest levels.

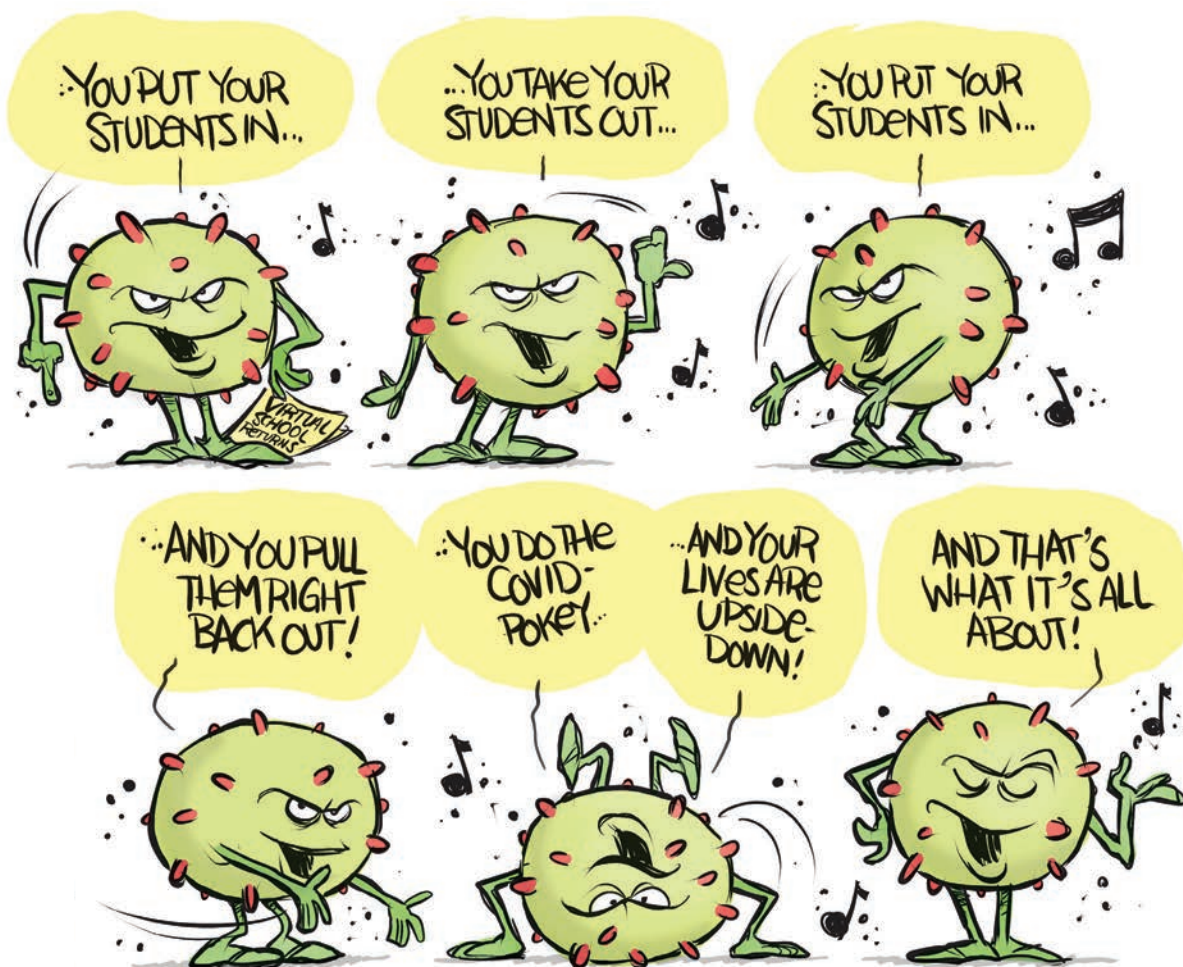
American health care is in an existential crisis — a crisis that began long before the pandemic — and the policy decisions we make now will determine whether our communities continue to have access to the health care they deserve.

This is not only Covid's fault. For a generation, we have labored under a policy narrative that describes an industry run amok — of costs that are somehow aberrant. This narrative has been applied indiscriminately, including to hospital budgets and the workforce — despite the obvious paradox that, with people living longer lives, and the population aging, of course we would need more people, paid a sustainable wage.

Core to this policy narrative is an assumption that health care costs should conform roughly to the rate of inflation. Vast amounts of energy have been expended on this assumption, and many blunt policy instruments stem from it, such as caps on Medicare reimbursement (sequestration, portions of the Affordable Care Act,) the cost containment directive of the Green Mountain Care Board, the Triple Aim of health care reform, and most recently the terrifying idea of "cost growth benchmarks" floated to Vermont's joint task force on affordable, accessible health care.

These policy instruments, taken in total, have directly compromised the ability of health systems to staff safely and appropriately. At this critical juncture — with institutions teetering, good people fleeing the profession, patients stacking up in emergency departments, suffering families unable to get timely appointments, rural hospitals failing, mental health parity a distant dream, and outcomes at the bottom of the list of developed nations — it's time for a reapp-

Alarm bell > 12



Do the Covid-Pokey by John Cole, The Scranton Times-Tribune, PA

LETTERS

Let's move on from Rutland school mascot

Dear Editor,

Now that the Rutland City School Board has reinstated the Raider name, it is time to move on for our community.

A few people, not living in our great city of Rutland started this process, coupled with some members of the board, and even a now former humanities teacher at the high school. They would

... changing everything to fit her wokeism thinking is hurting our community.

not negotiate, they did not talk with the other side, there were no discussions. They simply forced it through.

The former chair's agenda of indoctrination and changing everything to fit her wokeism thinking is hurting our community. She should resign immediately. The present chair says he will not seek

Mascot > 13

Students: Curriculums need to include race

Dear Editor,

H 584 was just introduced in the Legislature. As Vermont high school students who worked closely on creating and developing this bill, we hope it will move swiftly through the Legislature and be passed into law.

As schools across the country debate over teaching about race in the classroom, there couldn't be a more vital time to ensure all Vermont students are receiving an accurate and comprehensive education on race and racism. We are hopeful that our legislators will undertake this task with us to promote anti-racist curriculum in schools.

We are a group of students from the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network, which is a network dedicated to promoting anti-racism in schools through curriculum change, policy and awareness building. We endeavor to educate ourselves and others about race, power, privilege and oppression in order to foster a more inclusive and anti-racist community starting with our schools. We strive to disrupt

Race > 13

Vt. pediatricians support policies to adapt school testing and contact tracing

Dear Editor,

The American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter (AAPVT) supports the direction that the Agency of Education is moving in adapting contact tracing and surveillance testing practices.

The proposed model will

The proposed model will only be successful with easy access to ... rapid tests for all.

only be successful with easy access to and adequate availability of rapid tests for all students, educators and school staff. Keeping children safe is the No. 1 priority and the mission of the AAPVT, keeping them in school is an integral part of that.

With the high rate of community transmission of Covid

School safety > 14

Board minutes lack transparency

Dear Editor,

I have attended and spoken at two recent Killington Select Board meetings, the public TIF hearing of Jan. 4 and the next meeting of Jan. 10. After attending both, I must begin to question whether the people of Killington are being provided a complete and accurate representation of discussions, questions and answers.

At the Jan. 4 meeting, the question was asked whether the Valley Wells along Route 4 were the sole source of water available for SP Land's village development. Our town manager responded yes, at which time it was pointed out that another source of water had been permitted under Act 250, the Snowdon Wells. Based on their reactions, this apparently came as a surprise to two of the Select Board members as well as the town manager. Steve Selbo of SP Land then acknowledged that those wells were, in fact, permitted but that if they were used "the numbers wouldn't work." Whether they work or not is not the issue, rather the issue is whether the Select Board knew this (apparently

Minutes > 13

CAPITAL QUOTES

The Supreme Court turned down 6-3 a Biden administration requirement that large businesses require employees to be vaccinated or have a masking and testing policy on Jan. 13. On the same day, the justices voted 5-4 to allow a vaccine mandate to go into effect for health care workers...

"Today's decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the requirement for health care workers will save lives: the lives of patients who seek care in medical facilities, as well as the lives of doctors, nurses, and others who work there. We will enforce it,"

said President **Joe Biden** said in a statement on Jan. 13.

"Ensuring that providers take steps to avoid transmitting a dangerous virus to their patients is consistent with the fundamental principle of the medical profession: first, do no harm,"

wrote the **Supreme Court majority** wrote regarding the mandate for health care workers only.

"Today, we are not wise. In the face of a still-raging pandemic, this Court tells the agency charged with protecting worker safety that it may not do so in all the workplaces needed. As disease and death continue to mount, this Court tells the agency that it cannot respond in the most effective way possible,"

said Justice **Steven Breyer** in a dissent on Jan. 13.

"We respect the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court but remain concerned that the repercussions of the vaccine mandate among health care workers will be devastating to an already decimated long term care workforce. When we are in the midst of another COVID surge, caregivers in vaccine hesitant communities may walk off the job because of this policy, further threatening access to care for thousands of our nation's seniors. We continue to ask that CMS and state surveyors show leniency during this critical time as well as consider a regular testing option for unvaccinated staff members to prevent worsening staff shortages,"

said **Mark Parkinson**, president and CEO of the American Health Care Association, on Jan. 13.

COMMENTARY

School choice options are changing in Killington and across the country

By Andrew Campanella

If you're reading this, chances are you're a parent, or have friends or neighbors who are. Baby Boomer, Gen X, or Millennial—the K-12 school scene has changed so much since we were kids. Understanding these changes can help moms and dads guide their children to greater learning, success, and happiness. So, here are the three biggest changes affecting education in Killington and across the U.S. today, and what these changes mean for your family.

First, school choice opportunities have broadened over the last generation. That means parents have more options for where to send their children to school. For example, traditional public schools have adopted more flexible enrollment policies. Charter school laws have passed in 45 states, though not in Vermont yet. More families are aware they can choose public magnet programs, where kids receive education with a special focus, like STEM or the arts. Today, students in specific Vermont towns are eligible for a tuitioning program, which funds their attendance at nonreligious public or private

schools outside their communities. Plus, a growing number of Vermont families are choosing homeschooling.

A second game-changer since when we were kids is that there's now more community support for making school choices. There are also more resources for parents to help them find schools and learning environments that meet their children's needs. I've worked in K-12 education for more than 15 years; over that time, I've seen dozens of parent-focused organizations spring up to shine a spotlight on learning options in local communities. From helping parents find scholarships to private schools, to helping them figure out the process of transferring to public school outside of their zone, to offering bilingual application assistance, grassroots organizations are cutting the stress out of school searching.

You can visit schoolchoiceweek.com/vermont to find community organizations in Vermont. Keep in mind that parents cite word-of-mouth as a key factor in what school they choose. This means you have

School choice > 12

LETTERS

Thanks for the Humane Society donations

Dear Editor,

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank those that very kindly and generously contributed money to help with the recent animal and neglect situations which VVSA Humane Society had been addressing these last couple of months.

Donations were used to provide veterinary care, medical treatment, food and neutering some of the neglected dogs recently taken from a puppy mill in Reading. Some funds also provided four foster families to adopt the pups they had cared for and fell in love with over the time they lived together. In these loving homes they'll have the lives they deserve.

Recently we helped remove 10 goats and over 100 chickens, two dogs, ducks and roosters from another situation where they had gone four days without food or water. Without adequate shelter and due to an overwhelming fecal build up, some animals were trapped in what used to be a barn without sufficient light, water, bedding and enough food. Thanks to another rescue organization, Potter's Angels Rescue, (PAR), Heather Bent, executive director, mobilized other groups that immediate-

ly came to remove goats and later the poultry. Most animals were rehomed within a week. Thanks to those that donated to VVSA, we were able to supply food, hay and medical treatment for the

success, thanks to concerned neighbors and the sheriff's.

VVSA doesn't take salaries for our work. All donations go toward helping the animals, and donations are tax deductible.

10 goats and over 100 chickens, two dogs, ducks and roosters ... had gone four days without food or water.

goats and poultry, a costly but well deserved expense.

In the last few weeks PAR and VVSA worked with the Windsor County Sheriff's Dept. to bring about the construction of a shed for two horses in a neighboring town that had no protection from the elements. They were also instructed to replace the mound of hay mixed with manure left for their food, and to provide clean food and water. The project was a

If you see a situation, please do speak up. Children, seniors and animals are the most vulnerable victims of neglect and abuse and depend on someone to be their voice.

We'll soon have photos on our website: vvsahs.org

Again, thank you all sincerely for making these rescues possible!

Sue Skaskiw, VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society

WRITE TO US.

The Mountain Times encourages readers to contribute to our community paper by writing letters to the editor. The opinions expressed here are not endorsed nor are the facts verified by the Mountain Times. We ask submissions to be 300 words or less.

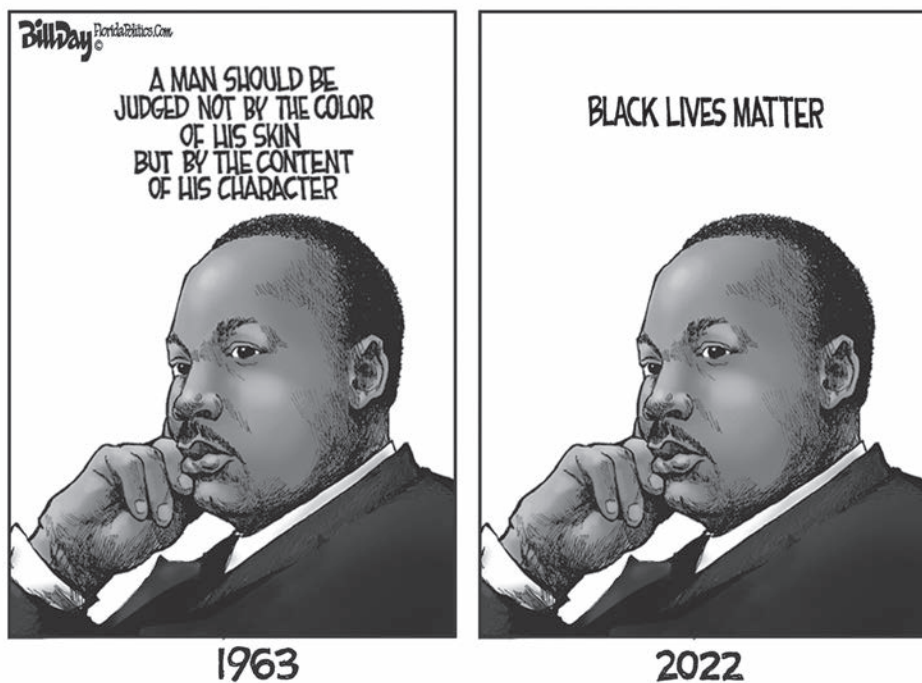
Email letters to editor@mountaintimes.info



CARTOONS



Business Vaccine Mandate by Randall Enos, Easton, CT



MLK Jr. Today by Bill Day, FloridaPolitics.com



The former fake by Dave Whamond, Canada, PoliticalCartoons.com

Alarm bell: The crisis in health care has been here pre-Covid from page 10

praisal. It's time for a new story.

In the 1960s, the Yale economist William Baumol observed that there are different types of labor in our economy: those whose productivity can be increased, such as factory workers and retailers, and those who provide a service that is fundamentally incompressible, such as nurses, teachers or baseball players.

As productivity increases in one sector — say, manufacturing — wages also increase. At that point, the (so-called) nonproductive industries, like education and health care, must increase wages to compete. But without the concomitant productivity gains, the cost of those industries rises at an escalating rate.

This phenomenon — of disproportionate, supra-inflationary cost increases in certain industries — is called Baumol's cost disease. It suggests that increasing costs in human-centered industries such as health care, education and public safety may not be abnormal, or even unexpected, but might actually be the natural effect of how markets value different types of work.

The encouraging side of Baumol's argument is that, contrary to popular wisdom, the situation is entirely affordable, as long as the other parts of the economy continue their productivity growth. Inflation, after all, is an average, not some kind of natural law.

He argues that the challenge is actually

political, rather than economic: Our leaders need to understand this phenomenon, explain it, and develop funding mechanisms that acknowledge its reality. In a nutshell, we have a political problem, not an affordability problem. We get what we pay for.

We need a new story. The pandemic has unmasked glaring flaws in our dominant policy narrative, and it is abundantly clear that costs can no longer be balanced on the backs of the front-line labor force.

Policy solutions like cost growth benchmarks carry inherent assumptions that are flat-out dangerous, and we are living with the consequences right now. But, as Baumol suggests, there is another way. If we want resilient and accessible health care systems, we need to accept supra-inflationary increases in labor costs as both normal and affordable.

To the extent we need to control costs — and it is undeniable that Americans pay more for health care than other countries, although rates of increase are similar — we need to look away from the front-line. We need to look away from the hospitals and clinics that keep the lights on, day and night, for all of us.

We need to accept that people need living wages to do this difficult, human work. Work that can't be outsourced. Work that must be done if we are to have a stable, resilient and future-oriented society.

School choice: Parents need more options when it comes to schooling from page 11

the power to help others in Killington by sharing your own school experiences.

Third, a plethora of on-line learning environments have developed since our school days. These online schooling options are more comprehensive and focused than the emergency remote learning that many families experienced during the pandemic. For example, students can take online courses through Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative. Besides official online schooling,

resources like schoolhouse.world offer free support to supplement in-person learning.

All of these changes to K-12 education are reasons for hope. With more options, Killington parents have more opportunities to find a free or inexpensive education personalized to their unique children.

If you are considering a new or different environment for your daughter or son for the next school year, though, the time to start evaluating your options is

now. Don't wait!

Begin the school search process during National School Choice Week (Jan. 23-29, 2022), when 45 schools and homeschool groups in Vermont will be working together to raise awareness of opportunity in K-12 education. You won't regret it, and your children will thank you.

Andrew Campanella is president of National School Choice Week and the author of The School Choice Roadmap: 7 Steps to Finding the Right School for Your Child.

Harrison: Pension discussions in the Legislature are a challenge, but solved? from page 7

delivers his budget address to lawmakers on Tuesday, Jan. 18. He has hinted at some tax relief. Meanwhile, the Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee is proposing a bold (and expensive) new refundable childcare tax credit. Also on the table could be a modest proposal I put forth with 30 bipartisan co-sponsors to raise the income threshold to exempt social security benefits from Vermont income taxes.

- Even though November seems like a long way away, candidates are announcing or considering their intention to run for higher office. Chittenden County Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale plans to compete in the August primary for Vermont's lone

Congressional seat against Senate leader Becca Balint and Lt. Governor Molly Gray. For the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Patrick Leahy, former U.S. Attorney Christina Nolan is exploring a run as a Republican against Vermont's current Congressman Peter Welch, a Democrat. Names are also being floated for the spot, being vacated by Gray.

In closing, with the rising Covid cases, and hospitalizations we are now seeing, it will create additional needs. Please do your part and practice measures to minimize the spread. Stay healthy and safe!

Jim Harrison is a representative in the state House for the towns of Bridgewater, Chittenden, Killington and Mendon. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us.

← Mascot: Back from page 10

reelection, which his term expires this March. He does not have the confidence of his fellow commissioners, nor the citizens of Rutland.

This board has a lot of work to do. With low test scores sound academic standards are needed now. The commissioners need to work on curriculum, policy, plant buildings and infrastructures, Teacher contracts and attracting sound educators to raise test scores, and working with parents of all the students.

So, my fellow Raider supporters, we need to stay engaged with the School-board workings, policies and process. To our commissioners, stop infighting your leaders. Let's all work together to make Rutland City Public Schools great for our entire community.

Gregory Thayer and Tammy Bates Lancour, Rutland

← Race: Educators say: our schools need unified curriculums to combat racism and better educate students about American history from page 10

the racial hierarchy of our society starting with our own group.

Two of us met at the summer 2021 Governor's Institute and worked alongside Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun (D-Westminster) to draft an anti-racism in education bill. After the immersion, more students joined through the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network. Over the course of the past six months, we have crafted a bill with the hopes that it will secure anti-racist education for all Vermont students. We worked closely with Bos-Lun, and had the support of Rep. Kevin Christie (D-Hartford) and Rep. Elizabeth Burrows (D-West Windsor) as we moved through the process. Our bill has 21 co-sponsors in every party in the House. As the session began, us students watched excitedly for the

bill to be introduced.

The bill will require standards in education designed to promote anti-racism in schools. Schools would become certified if they meet certain guidelines for anti-racism, including addressing racist incidents, diversity in literature, and anti-bias training for staff. By passing this bill, we can ensure that society becomes actively anti-racist. Education is the key to changing society. If we make anti-racist schools, we will foster an anti-racist society. There couldn't be a more pressing time to change society.

The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network took a survey of approximately 300 students last year, and found out that 78% of current Ver-

mont high schoolers believe that they did not receive an

We hope Vermont can be a model to the nation for bipartisan support on inclusive curriculum and promoting anti-racism in the classroom.

accurate and full education on race in elementary school. Without the foundation of a racially conscious education, students will not be able to enter the increasingly diverse and multicultural society we live in. With 78% of students asking for more in their education, this bill is the perfect way to provide what students need. Middle and high school students in the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network feel similar about their experience in

higher grades, as well. We don't receive enough education around race in any grade.

According to another survey the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network sent out to current high school students, 94% of youth support this bill being passed. They support diverse, inclusive, anti-racist curriculum that will help us change society. If this bill passes, it will impact not only hundreds of students around the state; it will be impacting our whole state and ensuring all students receive just and equitable opportunities.

As the country navigates its way through discussions and arguments surrounding racial education, we hope Vermont can be a model to the nation for bipartisan

support on inclusive curriculum and promoting anti-racism in the classroom. We are not aiming to indoctrinate youth, and we are not aiming to be divisive. We want to bring people together under the common cause of building a better world through our schools. We hope you will join us in this mission.

Minelle Sarfo-Adu, South Burlington High School; Addie Lentzner, Arlington Memorial High School; Alaena Hunt, Stowe High School; Ella Murphy, Stowe High School; Katherine Hashem, Mount Mansfield Unified High School; Jenna Hirschman, Essex High School; Dahabo Abukar, Essex High School; Daniel Cha, Putney School; Brendan McLoughlin, Otter Valley Union High School; Sydney Feltz, Colchester High School.

← Minutes: Letter writer says Killington Select Board needs to have more detailed minutes, including public comment, so others can weigh in on important topics to the town from page 10

not) and whether they have verified the financial information (obviously impossible if they were unaware in the first place). This of course begs the question whether they have taken the time to verify other financial claims made by SP Land. You would think such a point would be noted in the meeting minutes but, somehow, this was omitted from the official record.

Another point of discus-

sion was the potential risk being taken on by the town via TIF funding. The Select Board's position was that specific risks could not be known until a development contract is on the table, at which time the risks could be evaluated and mitigated. This is disingenuous, to say the least, as there are general risks that can be identified now and, in fact, the presenter from White & Burke identified

one as being the potential bankruptcy of a developer after TIF bonds are issued by the town. She went on to say that the town would have to become entrepreneurial (i.e. take on risk) and it would be up to the town and its counsel to find ways to mitigate identified risks. Again, you would think that such a "revelation" would appear in the minutes.

Finally, at the conclusion of the discussion, the White

& Burke presenter suggested that if residents had other questions, people were encouraged to submit them and they would be included in a list of FAQs on the town's website. Not including this in the minutes is hardly "encouraging" questions, don't you think?

At the Jan. 10 meeting, as the Select Board was moving to approve the Jan. 4 minutes, I pointed out the omission

of the first two of the three above points and was told that minutes are not "he said/she said" reviews of a discussion. This is a valid point for sure, but the omission of key information, at a minimum, is suspect. These points should have been included in the minutes but the Select Board approved the minutes without them.

When an error of omission occurs, one that can easily

be corrected, it should be. When it is not, the error of omission becomes an error of commission and appears to be intentionally deceptive or at least intentionally leaves the record incomplete. One is forced to ask what else has been left off the official record from past meetings and what else have we as Killington residents been missing?

Art Malatzky, Killington

← Jewett: Former legislator, who died with the help of the Death with Dignity bill that he helped draft after a battle with cancer, is remembered for his service from page 6

recalled bracing herself for some comical, whispered words from Jewett every time she whisked by in an attempt to be inconspicuous.

"He would say, 'Lanpher! Say this thing when you get to your seat,'" she laughed.

Legislative Accomplishments

But he was far from the "class clown." Jewett used humor as a disarming tool to great effect.

Having spent the vast majority of his career on House Judiciary, Jewett had his hand in a lot of legislation related to the state's courts, corrections system, and the legal aspects of a variety of legislation. He championed several bills during his tenure, including one aimed at establishing more effective search-and-rescue protocols for missing/injured hikers, in 2013. This bipartisan effort came on the heels of the tragic death of 19-year-old Levi Duclos while hiking a Ripton trail on Jan. 9, 2012.

"I know how deeply he felt as a human being, a dad and as a community member about that young boy," Lanpher said. "He went to bat for that family and that cause, like no other."

The national organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving named Jewett its "2016 Ver-

mont Legislator of the Year" for his support of a new state law that expanded the required use of ignition interlock devices for people convicted of driving under the influence. Jewett, an avid cyclist, fought for the new measure in part due to the growing number of bikers who had been struck and killed by drunk drivers.

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, succeeded Jewett in representing the Addison-2 district. He knew immediately that he had a tough act to follow.

"I was fortunate to have Willem's support when I first ran for his House seat, because from day one, folks in the towns he served told me I had big shoes to fill," Conlon said. "I heard the same from his colleagues in the House. Willem was not just a well-respected legislator, people really liked him personally. He was smart, funny, warm and a great advocate, right up to the end as he worked to update the Death with Dignity law."

Jewett leaves a wonderful legacy, according to Conlon.

"Willem cared deeply about the people of Vermont, his district, and was devoted to

Ripton," he said. "We were all well-served with Willem on our side."

Rep. Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury, recalled Jewett as "a friend, neighbor and colleague, and he will be sorely missed. I am heartbroken at his passing and grateful that I was able to serve with him. His willingness to share publicly his struggles with cancer, and now, even at the end, his thoughts on improving patient choices for others, demonstrate his deep commitment to making the world a better place for all of us. He was an articulate champion of doing the right thing, on the floor of the House and his eloquence stands out in my mind."

Outside of the Statehouse, Jewett stood out as "friendly, happy, caring, intelligent, and a proud dad," Lanpher said.

Serving with Jewett and benefiting from his insights has made Lanpher more aware of her duty, as the county's most senior lawmaker right now, to be a good mentor to new legislators.

Paying it forward, with Willem Jewett as her inspiration.

"I had the benefit of having some tute-

lage and mentorship from someone who saw the purpose of government, and serving all the people," she said.

Jewett waged a successful and public battle against cancer, using his position in the public eye to shed more light on non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a disease with which he was diagnosed in early 2008. The cancer that ultimately couldn't be eradicated from his body was mucosal melanoma.

Jewett shared his initial non-Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis with the Independent in April of 2008. It was early that month that he detected a lump underneath his clavicle. He had it checked out by a physician, and tests confirmed it to be cancer. Even while confronting his own mortality, Jewett couldn't resist a quip.

"I guess if I have a problem now on the energy level, it's having too much," Jewett said at the time, adding, "maybe (with chemotherapy) I'll have the energy of only one person."

Willem Jewett is survived by his daughters, Abi and Anneke, and his wife, Ellen McKay Jewett.

Vermont Adaptive names volunteers of the year

More than 400 highly-trained volunteer instructors make Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports' mission of empowering individuals with disabilities possible. Out of a dedicated pool of volunteers, Vermont Adaptive program coordinators recognized this year's three Volunteers of the Year at off-snow training this fall, which were held virtually due to the pandemic.

Julie Kaye, of Hinesburg, Kevin Maichen, of Killington, and Rob Galloway, of Richmond, were named 2021 volunteers of the year. This tribute is presented in honor of Jim Hutchinson, a Vermont Adaptive volunteer who left a legacy of empowerment to people of all abilities and a commitment toward supporting the organization.

"Each year, there are a few individuals who shine," said Tom Alcorn, senior program coordinator at Vermont Adaptive. "It has been different programming through a pandemic, but volunteers continue to be a part of our core crew, and we couldn't do what we do without them. Jim Hutchinson was the most dedicated volunteer Vermont Adaptive or any organization could hope for. I know he would be so proud of our accomplishments in what we have built over the past years."

Julie Kaye volunteers at the organization's Bolton Valley and Burlington waterfront/bike path locations year-round. She played a crucial role during the pandemic last winter, volunteering at Bolton Valley numerous days a week and stepping up to fill in where needed. She has put in extra time and effort to develop her personal and teaching skills over the past two winters as well. In the summer, she was always quick to volunteer and willing to join in for a lesson or outing on short notice. "She brings a kind and patient energy to lessons, making her a fan-favorite for participants, volunteers and staff working with her," said Molly Tobin, program coordinator for these two locations.

Kevin Maichen has been a volunteer at Vermont Adaptive since 2017. First as an intern, Maichen worked tirelessly to engage participants, families and everyone to become even more involved with the outdoors. Upon completing the internship, he stayed active in programs and has chosen a path working with youth in schools and alternative education classrooms. In addition to instructing cycling, paddling and being an avid snowboarder, Maichen is often one of the last people standing at fundraising events including the Ver-

mont Adaptive Challenge, VT100, VT50 and many more. He also recently decided to learn to ski to expand his skills and teach even more individuals to enjoy sliding on the snow.

Rob Galloway has been a reliable part of Vermont Adaptive in many capacities for more than five years by being consistent and reliable helping with monoski lessons, beginner lessons and everything in between. His versatility and willingness to help is invaluable, especially with last minute changes on busy holidays or ski team mornings at Mt. Ellen at Sugarbush Resort. In addition to a high level of knowledge in skiing, Galloway has been instrumental in the adaptive mountain bike program. As an intern, he helped build the program and is now available to help with lessons, maintenance of bikes, and pushing Adaptive Mountain Biking in Vermont to the next level. In addition to teaching, he can often be found helping at many special events including the VT100, VT50, Vermont Adaptive Challenge and others.

To volunteer at Vermont Adaptive, candidates must participate in off-snow and on-snow training for winter programs each year or for summer training in the spring. To learn more, visit vermontadaptive.org/get-involved

School safety: Conversations to keep students and staff safe continue from page 10

in Vermont, it is no longer feasible or helpful to continue with the status quo. We must change the way we approach this more transmissible variant and follow the data and the evidence to not only keep our children safe, but to also lessen the burden on our schools.

Ready access to rapid testing, along with strategic use of [PCR] testing, will reduce burden on school staff while allowing for identification of new cases. This will be more effective than the current model of surveillance testing which tests only a small percentage of people on a regular schedule to catch cases that might otherwise have been missed. But we know that Covid is prevalent in the communities, so we don't need to conduct large group surveillance. Instead, individuals need to know when they are infected in a timely manner so they can isolate while infectious.

AAPVT is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of Vermont's children and families. Vermont pediatricians have been working throughout the pandemic to develop and refine protocols to prevent and mitigate the effects of Covid on children. In order to do this, pediatricians meet regularly with the Vermont Dept. of Health, school nurses, and the Agency of Education to provide input on a wide variety of child health issues involving Covid and school safety.

We continue to strong-

ly advocate for universal masking regardless of vaccine coverage rate or vaccination status. And as always, school staff and students must stay home

We continue to strongly advocate for universal masking regardless of vaccine coverage rate or vaccination status.

when sick.

To that end, the AAPVT supports adapting policies on testing and contact tracing in schools by implementing the following:

- School nurses should have the resources to provide on-site diagnostic testing to symptomatic students and staff with rapid antigen tests. They should have the ability to provide take-home antigen or PCR testing to these symptomatic individuals.
- Students and staff should have ready access to at-home rapid antigen tests regardless of vaccination status. These tests may be used for: asymptomatic screening, testing in symptomatic individuals, testing after close contact, shortening isolation after Covid infection.
- Given the shortened incubation period of the omicron variant, both PCR surveillance testing and contact tracing are less impactful and should be stopped in favor of diagnostic testing in schools and take-home tests for the above indica-

tions.

For the childcare setting:

- We support the "Tests for Tots" program which provides at-home antigen tests to unvac-

cinated close contacts so that they may remain in the childcare setting if asymptomatic and test negative.

- We request additional access to at-home rapid antigen testing for children and childcare staff for the same indications as K-12: asymptomatic screening, testing in symptomatic individuals, testing after close contact, shortening isolation after Covid infection.
- Given that take-home antigen tests are not authorized for individuals under 2 years of age, we request prioritization of alternative testing opportunities for this population.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter is grateful for everything that is being done in our schools to keep children safe and for the incredible efforts by our school administrators, educators, nurses, and all school staff.

Stephanie Winters, executive director for American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter

Hartland ARAP: Town begins to discuss how to spend government funds from page 8

serves or to reduce municipal debt or taxes, are all prohibited.

Participants first identified major criteria by which suggestions might be evaluated, which include long-lasting benefits, focus on the most pandemic-impacted town populations, resilience in the face of future emergencies, fiscal sustainability, projects that funding with taxes would be otherwise difficult, and ideas that have historically achieved known success.

The Hartland listserv has been alive with suggestions and discussions, most of which were also brought up during the Jan. 13 hearing.

One of the most popular, suggested by lifetime Hartlanders Roger and Clydene Trachier, is a large open-air pavilion to be built on town-owned land near the Hartland Library. North Hartland residents suggested an additional, somewhat similar project in their village.

Infrastructure offerings included completing universal broadband internet access, permanent solutions to the North Hartland public water system, which has frequent failures, replacement of a troublesome culvert on Jenneville Road, providing

water and sewer services where needed, upgrading Historical Society water system, 35 miles of ditching on class three roads, ventilation and air-filtration systems for town-owned and school buildings, tech

upgrades including digitization of town records, laptops for remote use by each town department, town website upgrade and additional town office space.

Proposals for direct help for Hartland residents included providing more childcare services and facilities, investing in affordable housing, job training, apprenticeships in green energy projects, small business assistance, recreational trail development, supporting community events, subsidizing waste management for

financially stressed families and direct aid to impacted households.

Town clerk Brian Strofollino admonished the Select Board to make provision for additional staff to execute any suggested projects.

"These suggested projects are great," Strofollino said. "But the onus for getting them done shouldn't fall on the backs of already-stressed town employees."



Submitted
Sarah Wraight, regional planner, TRORC

Covid: Omicron continues to surge, Vermont hits a record for hospitalizations from page 4

10 of those were reported on Tuesday. In total the county has had 3,098 cases — or about 5.6 cases per 100 residents — and seen 32 deaths. Windsor County has seen a 48.97% increase in cases from two weeks ago.

The populations of Rutland and Windsor counties are comparable at about 58,000 and 55,000 respectively.

Vermont still leads the nation in vaccination rates with 97.9% of Vermonters aged 12-plus partially or fully vaccinated and 57% of Vermont children aged 5-11 having received at least one dose. The state also leads the nation in those boosted, but with significantly lower rates. Only 52.4% of Vermonters are fully vaccinated with a booster.

Only 52.4% of Vermonters are fully vaccinated with a booster.

GMP Food Challenge wants to achieve record goal

With need skyrocketing due to rising food prices and the Covid-19 pandemic, the Rutland Community Cupboard and Green Mountain Power kicked off the 2022 GMP Food Challenge Jan. 13 with what would be a record-breaking goal: \$35,000.

"We are seeing record numbers of people seeking help, dozens every week for the first time," said Rebekah Stephens, executive director of the Community Cupboard. "People are coming in desperate for help and leaving with tears in their eyes when we are able to give them some hope and sustenance."

On average, 50 to 55 families are seeking help for the first time each month, along with 500 to 600 others in desperate straits.

"We are seeing an incredible number of working families who are struggling to put food on the table due to rising prices and the widespread impact of the virus," Stephens said. "The timing of the GMP Challenge couldn't be better."

The GMP Food Challenge, which began as a typical food drive and encouraged teams, clubs, groups, individuals and organizations to collect food items and drop them off at the Cupboard, went digital due to Covid-19 in 2019. Those same groups are asked to collect monetary donations or raise funds to donate directly to the Community Cupboard.

Organizers are hoping to surpass the record \$28,901 raised in 2019, including \$4,000 in matching funds from GMP. Steve Costello, a GMP vice president and organizer of the event, said cash goes much further than food donations, as the Community Cupboard can buy through the Vermont Food Bank and other local sources for a fraction of the cost of retail groceries.

"If we reach our goal, it will be like the community donating more than \$100,000 in food," Costello said. "This will provide an enormous boost to the Community Cupboard and our friends and neighbors in need."

Contributions may be made by check or online donation. The Community Cupboard is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Checks may be sent to Rutland Community Cupboard, 65 River St., Rutland, VT 05701. Secure donations may be made online at rutlandcommunitycupboard.org/fundraising-efforts.html.

The GMP Food Challenge will run through Feb. 28.

Terry Jaye, who recently retired from Catamount Radio, has been involved with food drives and as a partner with GMP for years. Though he is no longer on the air, he's working through social media and his network of friends and colleagues to support the effort.

"The greater-Rutland community rallies when a challenge is at hand, and feeding our neighbors is a significant challenge right now," Jaye said. "I urge anyone in a position to help to make a donation."



Rutland American Legion to retire flags

Rutland American Legion is having a flag retirement ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 27, starting at 9 a.m. at the Legion parking lot. If you have an old flag that needs to be retired, you may drop it off at the Rutland American Legion Post 31 on 33 Washington St. in Rutland for proper retirement. Please remove sticks. You may join us for the ceremony. It will take about 2 ½ to 3 hours. If windy, raining, or snowing hard it will be postponed to a later date in March. If you have any questions, you may call Ron Fairbanks at 802-558-3965.

← Rural entrepreneurs: Needed in state from page 4

come to Vermont, for example," he said, "and start a family, they won't move back if we have these things. We want to reverse the exodus, particularly by young people, not to lock them into staying in a small town."

CORI reaches out through non-profits that have already developed lists of towns that might qualify for innovation assistance. One hundred twenty towns have responded.

A recent "pitch competition" attracted 10 start-ups competing for a \$10,000 prize. The winning group, in rural Michigan, is developing technology for collecting space junk discarded by satellite and exploration projects.

A CORI data analysis team provides information to help leaders direct rural projects, and a mapping group helps evaluate regions and localities for prospective development. Another group studies broadband access prob-

abilities and strategies.

Dunne said they work with educators and tech centers to incorporate 6-10 week classes in tech skills to build a ready and able rural workforce. In addition CORI has engaged national training advisors who help local leaders provide hybrid tech skills training.

But what's most important is the people who want to stay and work in rural areas.

"Farmers are born innovators," Dunne, who has lived in Hartland most of his life, said. "They have to find a way to overcome the challenges they face every day. They can prove the urban versus tech narrative wrong."

Dunne, who is running for re-election as Hartland's moderator, has extensive tech, management, non-profit organization and political experience and connections, and lives on the farm his parents purchased while they were still students.

JAG Productions selected as company-in-residence at New York Theatre Workshop

JAG Productions, formerly of Barnard and now located in White River Junction, will join New York Theatre Workshop's (NYTW) Companies-in-Residence program for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons as the first non-New York City based company. As part of the residency, NYTW will provide artistic and institutional support and act as a second home to JAG in the city, while JAG looks to magnify its scope and presence in the theater world.

"I have dreamt about expanding the work of JAG and building into NYC ever since I started the company," JAG Producing Artistic Director Jarvis Green said. "Finally, after five years of rising and falling, the moment is here. Finally. Last year, the board and staff committed to expanding our artistic development and presence in New York City as part of our strategic vision to establish greater ties with New York-based theatres and the artist community. The timing of this opportunity is divine and a thrilling moment for all of us at JAG!"

JAG Productions will receive access to a larger pool of talent, facilities, and audience, while NYTW will continue to promote and learn how theatre can "deepen empathy and spark wonder."

The hope for both organizations is to establish a pipeline between worlds – the rejuvenating and quiet, creative spaces of rural New England and the opportunities and scenes of New York City – that combine to care for the artist throughout the entire theatre-making process.

Of the relationship, director of project development, workshops and residencies Rachel Silverman said, "By creating this connection, how can we also introduce our community —

the transformative power of theatre," its mission to "cultivate a space where our common humanity is affirmed—where audiences are both challenged and delighted by the daring vision of our artists," and its commitment to "understand what it means to be alive today; we are committed to exploring new ideas, seeing new perspectives, and hearing new voices."

"I hope we can help Jarvis embrace the choosing of things as they evolve, and for him to trust and have

"I have dreamt about expanding the work of JAG and building into NYC ever since I started the company,"

JAG Producing Artistic Director Jarvis Green said.

our audience community, our artistic community — to JAG as a company and as artists, and vice versa."

NYTW has established roots in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire, having done a summer residency at Dartmouth College for the past 30 years. Along with this connection, JAG was selected as a company-in-residence because of how JAG's mission, previous work, and future ambitions align with NYTW belief "in

faith in his own impulses," NYTW Artistic Director James C. Nicola said. "After 30 years of residency in the Upper Valley at Dartmouth, I feel some part of that community, and I hope that I can see JAG and Jarvis being immensely beneficial to the life of the community, to the evolution of the community, to the culture of the community, to the sense of community. For me, it's to help enrich the community that I love."

TIF: If approved by VEPC, Tax Increment Financing would allow the town to keep a portion of increased tax base to pay off debt resulting from infrastructure improvements from page 5

What is the water source for the water system and how can the town be sure there is sufficient capacity?

The Valley Wells on Route 4 will supply the water for the water system. They are currently owned by SP Land Company and will be conveyed, along with the land required for the transmission and some distribution lines, to the town. The wells have been tested for capacity and there is a large capacity. However, the town recognizes that the water supply could be a limitation at some point in the future. This is dependent on how many of the existing developed properties choose to connect. That said, the town understands that the two approved wells have additional capacity based on the previous hydrogeological work done at that this location. These types of gravel wells are high yield, and this area appears to be very well suited to the addition of a third or more wells. Included in the project budget is assessment of the two wells to determine what additional yield can be produced and/or exploration for a third well.

What are the operating costs for a municipal water system, how many customers are projected, and what will the price of water be to its residential and commercial customers?

A water system budget and customer proposal are forthcoming from the water resource engineer at Aldrich & Elliott. The preliminary findings show viability for the system based on hook-up fees, customer rates, operations and maintenance, and capital reserve, especially when debt service is covered by TIF. This is an important assessment that the town will be reviewing further when the study is complete and as plans continue to develop, prior to a bond vote.

At a time when the whole country is short on workers, how will the construction of affordable housing bring currently non-existent potential employees to Killington?

Studies and local experience show there is insufficient housing for the people already employed in Killington. They live in surrounding communities and commute, often from great distances. According to local employers, workers often cite the lack of available housing as a reason not to work at their establishments. Furthermore, the national worker shortage is not projected to be permanent. The housing projects in the TIF District Plan are not anticipated to be constructed until 2030 and 2032, at which time the Town anticipates an increased demand for housing based on Six Peaks Killington's growth.

What are the risks to Killington taxpayers and what steps is the Select Board doing to mitigate those risks?

If the incremental taxes are not sufficient to cover debt

A minimum tax payment will be required from the developer that is sufficient to cover the debt service, which protects the town ... Even in the unlikely scenario in which the developer goes bankrupt, the properties would continue to pay taxes.

service over the life of the TIF District (which runs the duration of the bond repayment), the General Fund would need to cover that debt service. To mitigate that risk, the town will negotiate development agreements with the developer(s) prior to any construction of public infrastructure. The town has retained expert legal counsel to construct these agreements. A minimum tax payment will be required from the developer that is sufficient to cover the debt service, which protects the town.

TIF is based on the assessed value of the properties that are developed. Even in the unlikely scenario in which the developer goes bankrupt, the properties would continue to pay taxes.

As further forms of risk-management, the town has

based its projections of repayment on a conservative estimate of the developer's buildout. As a backstop, should there be a need, the town is able to retain the municipal portion of the incremental taxes beyond the time allowed to retain the state portion. This helps some communities with covering debt service if there are extenuating circumstances.

Developers often create special purpose vehicles (standalone corporations) for projects like these and some fear they could easily walk away. How will the town protect itself with this type of entity?

It is standard practice for developers to create individual LLCs (or other special purpose vehicles) for projects given the unique grouping of investors often brought into a particular deal. However, that does not mean the developer is off the hook. Typically, a lender will require a substantial amount of equity to be invested in the project before the developer can begin drawing on the lender's construction loan.

Moreover, it is also typical for the lender to require a guarantee for the loan, sometimes from the developer's umbrella company, if it has substantial assets, or from the developer personally. So, it is far from easy for a developer to walk away from an LLC created for a specific project.

Moreover, lender underwriting requirements are rigorous and involve such things as studies of market demand and of market lease rates or sales prices, as well as an appraisal of post-construction value, examination of the developer's previous track record and so on.

The town will not commence construction on the public improvements until the developer's financing is in place.

So, the town will have the assurance provided by the developer having successfully met the lender's criteria and having the funds to commence construction.

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WORDPLAY

'Fine dining' Word Search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

SUDOKU

Solutions > 32

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WINE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions > 32

CLUES ACROSS

1. Breathe noisily

5. ___ Nui, Easter Island

9. Reddish browns

11. Simple shoes

13. Produce alcohol illegally

15. Home to famed golf tournament

16. Tax collector

17. Famous people

19. Urban area

21. Units of syllable weight

22. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

23. Dismounted

25. Actor Damon

26. Vietnamese offensive

27. Retail term

29. Netted

31. Partner to carrots

33. Witnesses

34. Caulked

36. Satisfy

38. R&B performer ___ Lo

39. Monetary units of Macao

41. Give advice, explain

43. Possesses

44. Turn back

CLUES DOWN

1. Illinois city

2. One of the original disciples chosen by Christ

3. Young form of a louse

4. Type of powder

5. Finger millet

6. Share a common boundary

7. Assumed as a fact

8. Provide clear evidence of

9. Invests in little enterprises

10. A way to be

11. Monies given in support

12. Fashion accessory

14. Steal

46. Gentlemen

48. One who fertilizes

52. Italian monk title (prefix)

53. Parties

54. Type of horse

56. Cuts in half

57. Raises

58. Expresses contempt or disgust

59. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

15. Becomes less intense

18. Geological times

20. Hooray!

24. Monetary unit

26. Male reproductive organs

28. Earnings

30. Close by

32. Small integers

34. Fixed in place

35. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

37. Large, imposing building

38. A rooflike shelter

40. Stiff, hairlike structure

42. Print errors

43. To show disapproval

45. Body of traditions

47. Without

49. ___ Clapton, musician

50. Dangerous illegal drug

51. Infrequent

55. Sound unit

How to Play

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

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Level: Advanced

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in England on January 20, 1971. I was inspired by the band Depeche Mode, and found myself in a successful 90's pop group. I have been a judge on "The X Factor UK" and serve as a songwriter for many artists.

Answer: Gary Barlow

Eat, Drink, Shop *Locally*

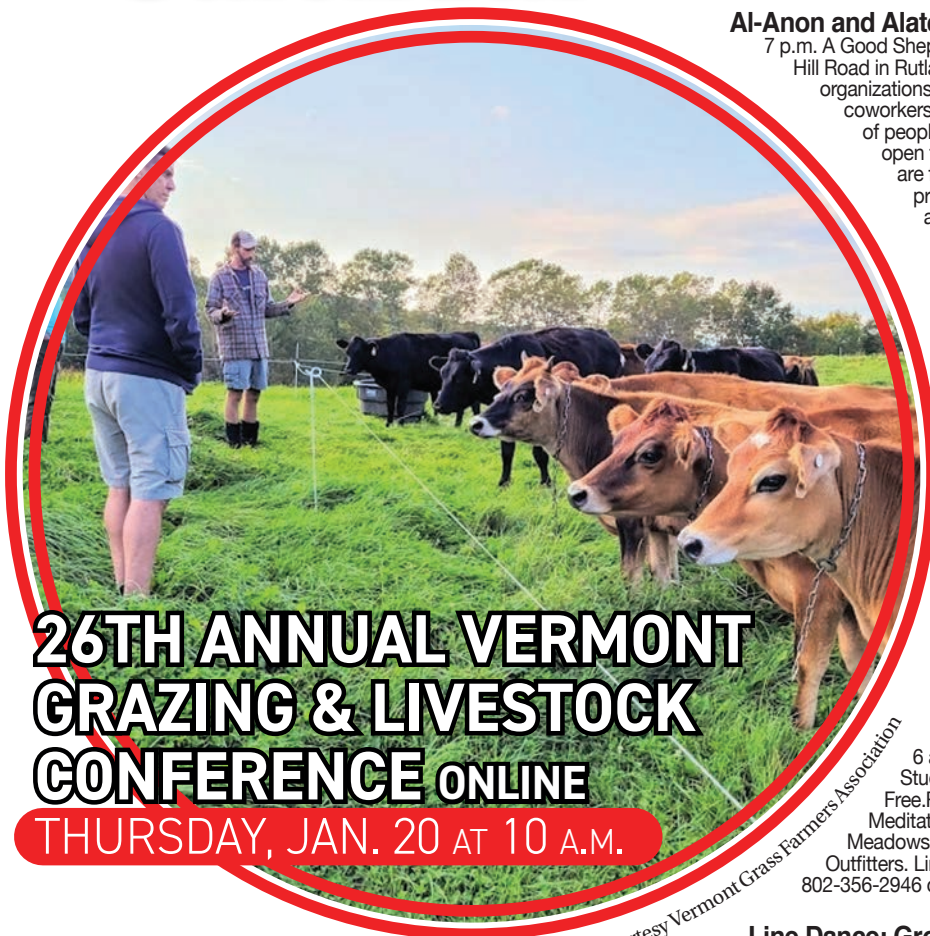
MOUNTAIN TIMES

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Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT



26TH ANNUAL VERMONT GRAZING & LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE ONLINE

THURSDAY, JAN. 20 AT 10 A.M.

Courtesy Vermont Grass Farmers Association

Al-Anon and Alateen

7 p.m. A Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 6 Church Hill Road in Rutland. Free. Al-Anon and Alateen are organizations that aim to help relatives, friends, coworkers, and others affected by the drinking of people they know. Al-Anon meetings are open to everyone, while Alateen meetings are for teenagers (and occasionally preteens). Collectively, the meetings are known as Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG). For more info visit good-shepherd.org/events/al-anon.

THURSDAY, JAN. 20

Baptiste Flow yoga

6 a.m. True Yoga Vermont, 22 Wales St., Rutland. \$49 for a month of unlimited classes. Join True Yoga Vermont for an hour long early morning Baptiste Flow session. For more info visit trueyogavermont.com.

Free Thursday

Meditation

6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Eagles Nest Studio, 2363 US-RT4, Killington. Free. Reoccurring Free Thursday Meditation offered in the former Mountain Meadows building, below Base Camp Outfitters. Limited to 8 people. Please RSVP at 802-356-2946 or email VTeaglesnest@gmail.com.

Line Dance: Groovey Grannies

9:30 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$5/class. Intermediate line dance, mostly country with a little variety. No partner is needed. Marilyn Sheldon leads the dancing on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. For more info call 802-773-1853.

26th annual Vermont Grazing and Livestock conference

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$20-40/person. Farms will have an opportunity to learn about farmer profitability, grazing rented land, how to best communicate with employees and related topics. The virtual conference will address the theme, "Grazing as the Roots of a Thriving Community and Healthy World," focusing on topics specific to raising pasture-based livestock in the Northeast and social sustainability. For more info and to register visit 2022_vtglc.eventbrite.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. To find a group appropriate for you, call 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373) or 1-802-229-5724 or email pcavt@pcavt.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 call Pat 802-422-3368.

Toddler Storytime

10:30 a.m. Norman Williams Library in Woodstock. Free. Join Norman Williams Library to read a few books on a theme of the week. Enjoy stories, socializing, and often a project tied into the theme. This storytime is meant for children aged 20 months to 3.5 years. It will last 30-60 minutes. For more info visit normanwilliams.org.

Meditation for Your Life

11 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Meditation for Your Life is easy to learn and easy to practice. Meditation creates the ability to improve all of our daily challenges. We believe that meditation will be beneficial to seniors and we will gear our classes to accomplishing a healthy attitude and spirit for all. Sessions are lead by Brian Salmanson. All participants will be sitting on a chair. To reserve your spot call 802-773-1853.

'Baby It's Cold Outsided' exhibit

Noon to 4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, Rutland. "Baby It's Cold Outsided" is a solo featured exhibit of work by photographer, Lowell Snowden Klock and fine artist, Heather Wilson. There will also be an installation to celebrate Black History Month with artist works and historical content. Due to the rising Covid cases, masks are required at this time. Please be respectful of others and follow. Visit chaffeeartcenter.org for more information.

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 or to make a reservation call 802-773-1853.

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 and to join a group contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or 802-498-0603.

NAMI Connection peer support group

3 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/support/peer-support-groups/.

Circle of Parents for Grandparents

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Meets weekly online. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For info and to join a group contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or 802-498-0603.

Kids Yoga

5 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, Rutland. \$10/class. Learning the basics of yoga and mindfulness to increase focus and concentration. A fun way to stay playful and healthy inside and out. Students must pre-register by the day before class. For more info and to register visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

Restorative Justice in Real Life and in Fiction

7 p.m. Virtual. Free. Join Phoenix Books as they celebrate the release of Dayna Lorentz's new middle grade novel, "Wayward Creatures" with a discussion of restorative justice in real life and fiction. Dayna will be joined in conversation by Rachel Jolly and Kelly Ahrens of the Burlington Community Justice Center. The event will be moderated by Margot Harrison. "Wayward Creatures" is a heartfelt animal friendship story, a troubled young boy befriends a wayward coyote after a forest fire changes both of their lives. Registration is free, but book purchases are welcomed and appreciated. For more info and to register visit bit.ly/PhoenixBooksRestorativeJustice.

FRIDAY, JAN. 21

Inferno Hot Pilates

6 a.m. True Yoga Vermont, 22 Wales St., Rutland. \$49 for a month of unlimited classes. Join True Yoga Vermont for an hour long early morning Inferno Hot Pilates session. For more info visit trueyogavermont.com.

26th annual Vermont grazing and livestock conference

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$20-40/person. Farms will have an opportunity to learn about farmer profitability, grazing rented land, how to best communicate with employees and related topics. The virtual conference will address the theme, "Grazing as the Roots of a Thriving Community and Healthy World," focusing on topics specific to raising pasture-based livestock in the Northeast and social sustainability. For more info and to register visit 2022_vtglc.eventbrite.com.

'Baby It's Cold Outsided' exhibit

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Noon time hockey

12-1 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena in Hartford. \$5/play. Season passes available. Noon Time Hockey is for the hockey enthusiast, ages 15+. This program is open play. Participants are required to have some hockey experience and must have complete hockey gear to play. For more info and to purchase tickets and season passes visit bit.ly/Noontimehockey.

Hartford general public skating

1:15-2:30 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena in Hartford. Prices vary. Season passes available. Enjoy public skating at the Wendell A. Barwood Arena (WABA). Skate rentals and sharpening are available on site. Rentals are \$5 per pair and skate sharpening are \$5 per pair. Public Skating Memberships are available online, at the Rec office, or at the WABA. For more info and to purchase season passes visit bit.ly/HartfordSkate.

Trout Ice Fishing clinic

2:30 p.m. Lake St. Catherine State Park Boat Launch in Poultney. Free. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. has scheduled a series of free ice fishing clinics for anyone who would like to learn about the latest proven ice fishing techniques. Each clinic will last 2 ½ to 3 hours, and exact location details will be given when people register for the event. Topics to be covered include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations, and different techniques for different fish. All equipment will be provided. To register, visit vtfishandwildlife.com. Contact Corey Hart at LetsGoFishing@vermont.gov or 802-505-5562.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19

Baptiste Flow yoga

9 a.m. True Yoga Vermont, 22 Wales St., Rutland. \$49 for a month of unlimited classes. Join True Yoga Vermont for an hour long morning Baptiste Flow session. For more info visit trueyogavermont.com.

Fit and Fun exercise class

9:30 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$15/month. Low impact, aerobic, and stretching routines; move to lively, sing-a-long music led by Marilyn Sheldon. Feel better, increase strength, balance and flexibility. Preregistration required. Limited space. Call 802-773-1853 to reserve your spot.

Fiber Floosies

10 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. This fun group will be meeting in the Goodnick Center Craft Room starting in December. Attendees bring their projects in rug hooking, knitting, cross-stitch, or any fiber arts. Attendees must complete a membership form for the Godnick Center. No cost to participate. For more info call 802-773-1853.

Movers and Shakers

11 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, 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.

'Baby It's Cold Outsided' exhibit

Noon to 4 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, Rutland. "Baby It's Cold Outside" is a solo featured exhibit of work by photographer, Lowell Snowden Klock and fine artist, Heather Wilson. There will also be an installation to celebrate Black History Month with artist works and historical content. February is National Black History Month, which started as a method of remembrance of vital events and people in the history of the African diaspora. Due to the rising Covid cases, masks are required at this time. Please be respectful of others and follow. Visit chaffeeartcenter.org for more information.

Building Your Human Resources Toolbox

1 p.m. Virtual. \$35/person. This workshop will introduce common and effective tools and practices to improve communication and employee performance with an opportunity to use an online personnel policy generator to develop a customized farm policy manual. This workshop is part of a new farmer online workshop series addressing labor questions. The goal of these workshops is for farmers to gain the knowledge and tools needed to successfully recruit and manage employees. For more info and to register visit bit.ly/2022farmerworkshop.

← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 18

Owl Prowl

5:30-7 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way in Quechee \$12.50/person or \$10.50/VINS members. Explore the natural world as VINS hike the beautiful trails at the VINS Nature Center and prowl for owls. Find out "Hoo's" out there making raucous noises in the nighttime forest and discover the secret life of New England's nocturnal residents. Weather permitting, they will explore this wintry world on snowshoes at the VINS Nature Center. They encourage participants to bring a flashlight and/or headlamp and dress in layers. For more info and to register visit vinsweb.org/event/owl-prowl-0122.

"Food & Shelter"

7:30 p.m. Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill Rd in Putney. \$35/advance or \$40/at the door. The Wild Goose Players are proud to present the world premiere of "Food & Shelter" by award-winning playwright Sean Hurley. Written at the outset of the pandemic and safely rehearsed throughout, the Next Stage production opens Jan. 21 through Jan. 30. Tickets are available at nextstagearts.org or by calling 802-387-0102.

"A Journal for Jordan"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green #2 in Woodstock. \$9/adult, \$8/kids and seniors, and \$7/Pentangle member. "A Journal for Jordan" is based on the true story of First Sergeant Charles Monroe King (Jordan), a soldier deployed to Iraq who begins to keep a journal of love and advice for his infant son. Back at home, senior New York Times editor Dana Canedy (Chanté Adams) revisits the story of her unlikely, life-altering relationship with King and his enduring devotion to her and their child. A sweeping account of a once-in-a-lifetime love, the film is a powerful reminder of the importance of family. All patrons, staff, and volunteers must show proof of full vaccination, 14 days past their final vaccination shot, or proof of a negative Covid-19 test within three days of the event. Masks required inside the theatre, regardless of vaccination status, except while enjoying Concessions. For more info visit pentanglearts.org.

SATURDAY, JAN. 22

Vermont Bike & Brew

8-11:45 a.m. Brookmead Conservation Area in Norwich. \$70/person. The Vermont Bike & Brew will be at the Brookmead Conservation Area in Norwich with their fleet of electric fat bikes for you to try. Sign up in advance for one of the 75-minute slots and explore the groomed trails at Brookmead. Pre-registration is required and includes an introduction to the bikes, a helmet, the ride itself, and a handful of coupons good for discounts at local businesses. You can sign up to ride at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., or 11:45 a.m. Call Jonas at Vermont Bike & Brew at 802-274-2277 for questions or to register.

Castleton GOP Breakfast

8 a.m. Castleton American Legion in Castleton. \$20/person or \$10/student. Vermont's former U.S. Attorney under President Trump, Christina Nolan, will be the main speaker at the upcoming quarterly breakfast. Register by Jan. 19. For more info and to register contact CastletonRepublicans@yahoo.com or 802-282-2762.

VERMONT BIKE & BREW IN NORWICH

SATURDAY, JAN. 22 AT 8 A.M.



Let's Go Ice Fishing clinic

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Dewey's Pond, Dewey's Mills Pond Road in Hartford. Free. Learn 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. The best part is that you and your family will have the opportunity to experience ice fishing first hand. Equipment is provided. Children under the age of 15 must bring an adult since you'll be learning and fishing together. Each person participating must register. For more info and to register visit bit.ly/LetsGoIceFishing.

Introduction to Ice Fishing

9 a.m. Singing Cedars Access Area in Orwell. Free. Learning how to participate in an outdoor activity can be challenging, and ice fishing is a good example. Knowing this, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has scheduled a series of free ice fishing clinics for anyone who would like to learn about the latest proven ice fishing techniques. Each clinic will last 2 1/2 to 3 hours, and exact location details will be given when people register for the event. Topics to be covered include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations, and different techniques for different fish. All equipment will be provided. To register, visit vtfishandwildlife.com. For more info contact Corey Hart at LetsGoFishing@vermont.gov or 802-505-5562.

'Baby It's Cold Outsided' exhibit

10 a.m. - 2pm. Chaffee Art Center, Rutland. "Baby It's Cold Outsided" is a solo featured exhibit of work by photographer, Lowell Snowden Klock and fine artist, Heather Wilson. There will also be an installation to celebrate Black History Month with artist works and historical content. February is National Black History Month, which started as a method of remembrance of vital events and people in the history of the African diaspora. Due to the rising Covid cases, masks are required at this time. Please be respectful of others and follow. Visit chaffeeartcenter.org for more information.

Billings Backyard Series: Kimchi, Kraut, and More!

10-11:30 a.m. Virtual. \$15/person or \$10/BF&M member. According to scientists, fermented foods like kimchi, sauerkraut and kombucha increase the diversity of gut microbes and lead to lower levels of inflammation. In this class Chef Emery will demonstrate how to make your own sauerkraut and kimchi. She will discuss other "lacto-fermented" foods, and how they can be used in unique and delicious ways in everyday life as participants make a multi-purpose sauce using Kombucha. Register by Jan. 19 at billingsfarm.org.

26th annual Vermont Grazing and Livestock conference

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$20-40/person. Farms will have an opportunity to learn about farmer profitability, grazing rented land, how to best communicate with employees and related topics. The virtual conference will address the theme, "Grazing as the Roots of a Thriving Community and Healthy World," focusing on topics specific to raising pasture-based livestock in the Northeast and social sustainability. For more info and to register visit 2022_vtvlc.eventbrite.com.

"Try Harder"

3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. \$15/person or \$12/BF&M member. The Woodstock Vermont Film Series presents "Try Harder" a humorous and heartfelt look at the reality of the American college application process. The documentary focuses on San Francisco's top public high school, Lowell High School, where seniors are stressed out. As they prepare for the emotionally draining college application process, students are keenly aware of the intense competition for the few open spots in their dream colleges. They scrutinize how every element of their application, from their classes to their extracurricular activities to their racial identities, might be read by admission officers. Masks and proof of vaccination are required to attend. We recommend providing proof of vaccination online in advance to avoid lines. Purchase advance tickets online at billingsfarm.org/filmseries or reserve by phone at 802-457-5303 by noon on Jan. 21. Tickets may be available for purchase at the ticket desk on the day of the film if seating allows.

"Apollo 11"

7 p.m. Heald Auditorium, 37 South Depot St in Ludlow. Free, donations appreciated. FOLA's opening film screening for 2022 will be the critically-acclaimed documentary, "Apollo 11." Apollo 11 is a 2019 American documentary film edited, produced and directed by Todd Douglas Miller. It focuses on the 1969 Apollo 11 mission, the first spaceflight from which men walked on the Moon. The film consists solely of archival footage, including 70 mm film previously unreleased to the public, and does not feature narration, interviews or modern recreations. Following town Covid policy, masks are required for all unvaccinated attendees and recommended for the vaccinated. For more info visit fola.us or contact 802-228-7239.

Did we miss a local event?

Email your upcoming event to email
events@mountaintimes.info.

'BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE' AT CHAFFEE ART CENTER

JAN. 14 - 25



By Lowell Snowden Klock

"A Journal for Jordan"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green #2 in Woodstock. \$9/adult, \$8/kids and seniors, and \$7/Pentangle member. "A Journal for Jordan" is based on the true story of First Sergeant Charles Monroe King (Jordan), a soldier deployed to Iraq who begins to keep a journal of love and advice for his infant son. Back at home, senior New York Times editor Dana Canedy (Chanté Adams) revisits the story of her unlikely, life-altering relationship with King and his enduring devotion to her and their child. A sweeping account of a once-in-a-lifetime love, the film is a powerful reminder of the importance of family. All patrons, staff, and volunteers must show proof of full vaccination, 14 days past their final vaccination shot, or proof of a negative Covid-19 test within three days of the event. Masks required inside the theatre, regardless of vaccination status, except while enjoying Concessions. For more info visit pentanglearts.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 23

Original Hot Yoga

8 a.m. True Yoga Vermont, 22 Wales St., Rutland. \$49 for a month of unlimited classes. Join True Yoga Vermont for an hour long morning Original Hot Yoga session. For more info visit trueyogavermont.com.

Rutland Winter Farmers' Market

10 a.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West Street in Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is proud to hold an indoor market in Rutland throughout the winter time. From farm fresh veggies to artisan cheeses, handcrafted breads, maple syrup, Vermont crafts, hot prepared food, and more - find it all at the indoor market. Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"A Journal for Jordan"

3 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green #2 in Woodstock. \$9/adult, \$8/kids and seniors, and \$7/Pentangle member. "A Journal for Jordan" is based on the true story of First Sergeant Charles Monroe King (Jordan), a soldier deployed to Iraq who begins to keep a journal of love and advice for his infant son. Back at home, senior New York Times editor Dana Canedy (Chanté Adams) revisits the story of her unlikely, life-altering relationship with King and his enduring devotion to her and their child. A sweeping account of a once-in-a-lifetime love, the film is a powerful reminder of the importance of family. All patrons, staff, and volunteers must show proof of full vaccination, 14 days past their final vaccination shot, or proof of a negative Covid-19 test within three days of the event. Masks required inside the theatre, regardless of vaccination status, except while enjoying Concessions. For more info visit pentanglearts.org.

MONDAY, JAN. 24

Inferno Hot Pilates

6 a.m. True Yoga Vermont, 22 Wales St., Rutland. \$49 for a month of unlimited classes. Join True Yoga Vermont for an hour long early morning Inferno Hot Pilates session. For more info visit trueyogavermont.com.

Babies and Toddlers Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library in 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/calendar-events.



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Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info
from page 19

A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 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 caregivers welcome. For more info visit wonderfeetkidsmuseum.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 call Pat at 802-422-3368.

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. Call (802)773-1853 for information or to make a reservation for pick-up. For more info or to make a reservation call 802-773-1853.

Bone Builders

1 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. An Osteo Exercise Program. All you need to bring with you is a bottle of water. The weights are provided. For more info and to RSVP call 802-775-8220.

Open Discussion and Support Group for Frontline Workers

3:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Join this facilitated discussion to share and learn from your peers in front-line positions about how best to manage during this time. Covid Support VT staff will provide a structured environment for discussion and tips for coping and wellness. For more info visit bit.ly/frontlineworkerssupport.

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/support/peer-support-groups or contact Nick Martin at nickmartin@namivt.org.

TUESDAY, JAN. 25

Inferno Hot Pilates

9 a.m. True Yoga Vermont, 22 Wales St., Rutland. \$49 for a month of unlimited classes. Join True Yoga Vermont for an hour long early morning Inferno Hot Pilates session. For more info visit trueyogavermont.com.

"Sometimes I Feel Like a Mouse"

9:30-10:30 a.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E Main St. in Poultney. \$12/ pre-registered or \$13/drop-in. Stone Valley Arts will team-up with WoodSpry Arts Early Learning Adventures for literacy-based integrative arts program for the very young led by instructor Rosemary Moser. Classes are open to children ages 2-8. Soft animal puppets will help us explore and find language for our many emotions. For more info visit stonevalleyarts.org.

Line Dance: Country

9:30 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$5/class. Join the Godnick Center on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. with Marilyn Sheldon. Come for a fun cardiovascular workout with both new and old-line dances. No experience necessary. No partner needed. For more info call 802-773-1853.

TAI CHI LEVEL 3 AT GODNICK CENTER

TUESDAY, JAN. 25 AT 10:45 A.M.



Tai Chi Level 3

10:45 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Often described as "meditation in motion," Tai Chi is a mind-body practice, originating in China as a martial art. This six week class is a fun, relaxing, and enjoyable way to move with mindfulness and enjoy the camaraderie of others while practicing. For more information call 802-773-1853 or email aprilc@rutlandrec.com.

Knitting Group

12:30 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Gather your knitting (or crochet) project and let's come together! We are trying a new way of gathering with our creative interests. To RSVP call 802-773-1853 or email aprilc@rutlandrec.com.

Chess Club

4 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Are you new to the game or have you been playing for years? This is an opportunity for players of all levels and ages to play chess. Bring your own chess set if you are able, some sets will be available. For more info contact club organizer Gregory Weller at gawchess802@gmail.com.

Circle of Fathers

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Fathers Support Group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info contact Amber Menard, Family Support Programs Coordinator, at 802-552-4274 or amenard@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 contact Cindy Atkins, Family Support Programs Coordinator, at 802-498-0608 or catkins@pcavt.org.

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. To register call 802-855-4533.



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The Bakery

Breakfast and lunch made from fresh, local ingredients. 122 West Street, Rutland. Open Tuesday-Saturday. 802-775-3220. Online ordering available at www.thebakeryrutland.com



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Choices Restaurant & Rotisserie

Choices Restaurant and Rotisserie was named 2012 "Ski" magazines' favorite restaurant. Choices may be the name of the restaurant but it is also what you get. Soup of the day, shrimp cocktail, steak, hamburgers, a variety of salads and pastas, scallops, monkfish, lamb and more await you. An extensive wine list and in house made desserts are also available. choicesrestaurantkillington.com (802) 422-4030.



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.



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.



Jones' Donuts

Offering donuts and a bakery, with a community reputation as being the best! Closed Monday and Tuesday. 23 West Street, Rutland. See what's on special at [Facebook.com/JonesDonuts/](https://www.facebook.com/JonesDonuts/). Call 802-773-7810.



Killington Market

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.



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.



Lookout Tavern

A place for fun, friends and good times here in Killington! Everything from soup to nuts for lunch and dinner; juicy burgers, fresh salads, delicious sandwiches and K-Town's best wings. Your first stop after a full day on the Mountain for a cold beer or specialty drink and a great meal! lookoutvt.com, 802-422-5665.



Moguls

Voted the best ribs and burger in Killington, Moguls is a great place for the whole family. Soups, onion rings, mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers, buckets of chicken wings, salads, subs and pasta are just 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 Merchant

Killington's new deli, grocery and beer cave. Serving breakfast and a full deli menu daily. Mountain Merchant also offers the area's largest beer cave with over 500+ choices, a variety of everyday grocery items and the only gas on the Access Road. (802) 422-CAVE



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 from 12 Vermont craft brews on tap. Warm up by the terrace fire pit after dinner! A short drive from Killington. mountaintopinn.com, 802-483-2311.



Roots the Restaurant

Delicious food from fresh, local ingredients. Weekly entree & cocktail specials. Eat in or Order online. 55 Washington St., Center St. Marketplace, Rutland. RootsRutland.com 802-747-7414.



Rosemary's Restaurant

Rosemary's Restaurant at the Inn at Long Trail is serving dinner Thursday through Saturday, with casual fine dining specializing in comfort foods. Our chef blends the flavors of Ireland and New England, featuring locally sourced products. Enjoy the scenery of our indoor boulder and illuminated boulder garden view. Reservations appreciated. 802-775-7181



Rutland CO-OP

The Rutland Area Food Co-op is a community-owned grocery and wellness market situated in downtown Rutland. As a food cooperative, we are owned by a membership base of around 2,000 members. We aim to provide affordable access to high-quality, local, organic and sustainable foods and goods. At the same time, as a mission-driven, community-oriented business, we proudly strengthen our region by carrying products of more than 180 local businesses. 77 Wale St. Rutland. rutlandcoop.com 802-773-0737



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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Listings for Jan. 19-25 (Some places require reservations, some proof of vaccination or a negative covid test within 72 hours, so please call ahead before making a drive.)

WED.
1/19

KILLINGTON

5 p.m. Wobbly Barn – King Arthur Junior

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – DJ Dirty D

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Du Jour VT – Jim Yeager and Melissa Dee Phipps

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Taps Tavern – Open Mic hosted by Danny Lang

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Matt Seiple

RANDOLPH

7 p.m. One Main Tap & Grill – Open Mic hosted by Silas McPrior

RUTLAND

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

FRI.
1/21

BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – George Nostrand

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Ice House Bar & Grill – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

4 p.m. The Foundry - Jamie

4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Rebecca Turmel

6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Chris P Trio

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Extra Stout

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – The Zoo

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub - Fiddle Witch

9:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jamie

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Conniption Fits

LUDLOW

5:30 p.m. Calcuttas – Lonnie Griffiths

6 p.m. Du Jour VT – Bill Temple

SUN.
1/23

KILLINGTON

5 p.m. The Foundry – The Foundry Jazz Trio

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games– Jenny Porter

PITTSFIELD

6 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Bow Thayer with Jeff Berlin and Krishna Guthrie

MON.
1/24

KILLINGTON

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

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Ryan Fuller

LUDLOW

8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic with host Silas McPrior

TUES.
1/25

KILLINGTON

4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Rick Redington

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

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Du Jour VT – Taco Tuesday with Brooks Hubbard

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Taps Tavern – Open Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

THURS.
1/20

BRANDON

6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

KILLINGTON

5 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic

6 p.m. Rivershed – King Arthur

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Fiddle Witch

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Queen City Allstars

8:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter and Friends

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Du Jour VT – BYO(Damn) Mic: Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand

QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. The Public House – Trivia

RUTLAND

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

8 p.m. The Howlin' Mouse Record Store – Lonely Together Tour

9 p.m. Center Street Saloon – International Night

SAT.
1/22

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Hickory the Drunk & Underwhelming presents a VT/ NYC Night of Comedy

KILLINGTON

4 p.m. Mary Lou's Killington – Muzzi's 50th with Bloomer & DJ Dave

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Jamie's Junk Show with guest opener Jenny Porter

4 p.m. The Foundry – Happy Hour with Jacob Butler

4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Brooks Hubbard

4:30 p.m. North Star Lodge – Tom Irish

6 p.m. Summit Lodge – Fiddle Witch

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

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Extra Stout

Virtual events

WED.
1/19

8 p.m. The Woolen Mill Comedy Club presents The Drunk & Under Quarantine Show
facebook.com/woolenmillcomedy



Did we miss something? Email djdavehoff@gmail.com and we'll be sure to include your next event on this page!



How to get started ice fishing

As winter sets in, many Vermonters are preparing for one of the most popular cold weather pastimes in the state — ice fishing. Anglers spend more than 400,000 days each winter ice fishing in Vermont, and the state's Fish & Wildlife Dept. is encouraging more people to give it a try.

Department fisheries biologist Shawn Good says ice fishing is a fun, social, family-oriented activity, and that there are many great reasons for Vermonters new to the sport to try it this year.

"Ice fishing is generally more accessible than open water fishing," says Good. "Almost anyone can walk out on a frozen lake or pond and fish through the ice. And once you're out there, there's lots of room to spread out."

Ice fishing can also be more sociable than open water fishing, with friends and family gathering on the ice for cookouts and winter fun along with the fishing. With an uptick in anglers trying the sport last year as a way to get outside with friends during the pandemic, Good expects to see a lot of action on the ice this winter.

"For many, it's not just about the fish. Kids love ice fishing because they can run around and slide on the ice or play in the snow," says Good. "I've seen families with grills, food and hot drinks having a great time. They set their tip-ups, build snowmen, play football, and even skate in between bouts of fishing."

Ice fishing is inexpensive and simple to get started. "An auger used for cutting holes in the ice is the most expensive piece of equipment you'll need," says Good. "But you can get a 4-inch or 6-inch hand auger for under \$50 and share it with others, so not everyone needs one. Add a scoop for cleaning out the holes and an ice fishing rod and reel combo or a couple tip-ups with hooks, weights and bait and you're set for a fun day on the ice."

When you've had a successful outing, bringing home a meal of healthy, locally caught fresh fish is a delicious benefit. Videos from the department's Vermont Wild Kitchen partnership are a great place to find fun recipes for fresh caught fish, like lake trout or crappie.

"I think fish taste better in the winter," says Good. "There's something different about pulling a tasty perch,

bluegill or bass from ice cold water. They tend to be firmer and have a milder taste than in the summer."

Good says it is normal for new anglers to worry about venturing out on frozen water, but with a few basic precautions and common sense, ice fishing is safe.

"A minimum of 3 to 4 inches of clear black ice is safe to walk on," advised Good. "If you're unsure about ice thickness in your area, call your local bait and tackle shop. They're always up on current conditions and can help you get started with gear and advice, too. You can also look for other people out fishing. Experienced anglers know how to read the ice, so if you're unsure, go where others are or have been."

Good says that with the mild winter so far this year, most anglers are finding that ice fishing opportunities have been restricted primarily to Vermont's smaller ponds or higher elevation areas that have formed good ice. Where ice is thick enough for safe fishing, access has been broadly simplified this year with Vermont's new 2022 Fishing Regulations.

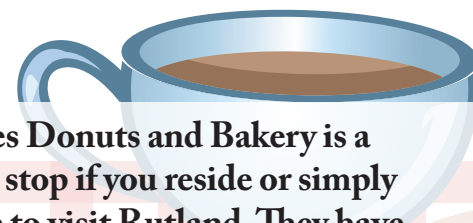
"Many large lakes still have not developed thick, solid black ice," noted Good. "Some haven't frozen over at all yet. Anglers looking to get out should focus on smaller waters and make the effort to check ice thickness frequently as they venture across the ice."

It is important to know that ice is not always uniform in thickness. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice. Good advises anglers to carry a set of ice picks, head out with a partner, and let someone know where you will be fishing, your access point, and when you plan on returning home.

Good says dressing properly is key. "On a calm sunny day, you'll be surprised how comfortable you feel. Even with the thermometer showing single digits, the sun will warm you right up. Make sure you dress in layers and keep your head, hands and feet covered and dry, and you'll be quite toasty," said Good.

No matter where you are in Vermont, an ice fishing opportunity is close by. Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in winter, offering a fun, unique winter experience.

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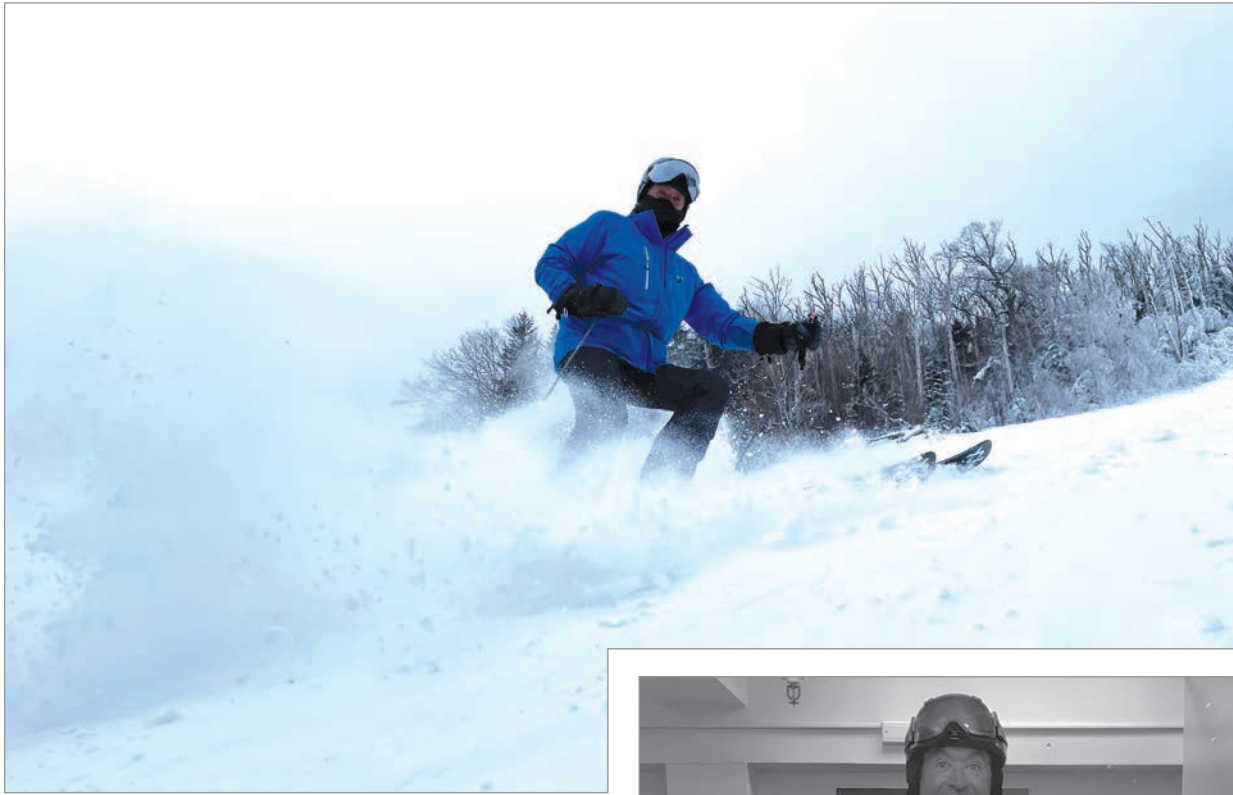
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By Brooke Geery



By Brooke Geery



By Larry Levac



Courtesy Larry Levac

Chasing vertical: Part 2

Catching up with Leaderboard Larry

By Brooke Geery

Larry L. is still in the lead. If you open the Killington app and toggle over to Season then tap Vertical Feet, you'll find him sitting comfortably at No. 1. He's logged well over 1.5 million feet of vertical as of Jan. 17, taking nearly 1,400 left rides (he'll probably hit that mark before this article hits the presses) and besting his nearest competitor (Teddy C.) by over 300,000 vertical.

What would lead a man to ski day in and day out, most days from open to close, often stashing his lunch in the woods so he doesn't have to take a break? The short answer is: he's addicted. But Larry Levac is also skiing in the memory of a local Killington legend, Scott Howard, who passed away at age 67 in June 2020. His effort and dominance is dedicated to Howard, he said.

In December, Killington Resort recognized Levac for his dominance with a GoPro and other goodies.

"[I] took on the December (vertical) leaderboard challenge to honor the memory of my good friend and skiing pal extraordinaire, Scott Howard," he said. "Killington was Scott's homebase and he was king of the mountain in regard to chasing vertical — logging 6,638,000 feet during his best season!"

Levac, whose permanent residence is Wallingford, Connecticut, currently calls Rutland his home base. Depending on the day, he drives his SUV or hops on The Bus (such as this past Monday, which Levac reported was "the best day of the season at The Beast" but the roads were dicey, and he

preferred to let someone else drive.)

After topping the December stats, Levac had planned to relax for the season, maybe head back to Connecticut and finally put away his patio furniture. He said he left it out assuming he'd be back sooner. But at 69 years old, he said he's never felt better, and doesn't want to stop.

"My knees don't hurt, and until they do, I don't think I'll

"My knees don't hurt, and until they do, I don't think I'll go home," Levac said.

go home," Levac said on the lift nearing the top of the Skye Peak quad. "I keep meaning to, but it's just too great here."

Levac spent his working life in HVAC, retiring early to chase the snow. He's used his handyman skills (as well as his winning personality and love of dogs) to score free rent in Vermont, for years in Ludlow, and now Rutland. You may recognize him on the hill by his impressively tall stature and piercing blue eyes. Most days, he wears a blue Jack Wolfskin jacket — except of course, the one time a season when he chooses to ski in swim trunks. That will come later, when the weather is right.

Over his lengthy lifetime skiing adventure, Levac has traveled the world, and has so many stories to tell that even the number of lift rides required to top a 35,000 foot vertical

day couldn't cover them all. Levac notably pulled off that impressive number (35,864 to be exact) on Dec. 4, 2021, thanks to a little motivation from other vertical chasers, whom he refers to as the Green Mountain boys: TnT T. and Andy R.

Many days, he recounts his tales in email form to his friends, including conditions reports, fashion reviews, and other things that only a man with no boss should say. This season though, he's taken a step back from writing so that he can focus his energy on the slopes, only checking in when a day is particularly exciting.

Of course, Levac is the kind of guy who can find amusement and excitement in everything. He's a fan of tracking down other Killington vertical chasers and harassing them with a little good-natured ribbing.

"The best part of kicking Teddy's ass is that I'm twice his age!" Levac laughed.

Now that the season is in full swing, Larry L. and Teddy C. don't see each other quite as often. Teddy prefers to stay in the park, while Levac skis all over, often opting for the rapid vertical accumulation that is possible on the Needle's Eye and Superstar quads. You really never know where you might catch up with him, but you can be pretty sure he's somewhere on the slopes of The Beast on any given day.

Unless, of course, there's a friend in need or a delicious dinner being cooked. Then he'll graciously put down his poles early and let someone else top the stats for the day.

BarnArts holds auditions for 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

Jan. 23-24 — SOUTH POMFRET — BarnArts will be holding auditions for "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams on Sunday, Jan. 23 and Monday, Jan. 24 at the Grange Theatre in South Pomfret. The play won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1948 and is Tennessee Williams' most famous work. The production, directed by BarnArts Executive Director Linda Treash, will be performed at the Grange Theatre in South Pomfret April 1-10.

"A Streetcar Named Desire" tells the story of fragile, worn and desperate "Southern belle" Blanche DuBois, who moves to New Orleans to live with her sister, Stella, and her new brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. Blanche's romantic illusions and secrets, both tender and desperate, clash against Stanley's frank and violent physicality in Williams' complex script, written in three acts.

Tennessee Williams lived in the French Quarter and he staged the Kowalskis' modest, two-bedroom apartment on the shabby edge of the Quarter, a location integral to the energy, rawness and trouble brewing in the play. Director Treash lived in New Orleans for six years and became very familiar with the play and its myths during her time there, even seeing it performed at the New Orleans Opera.

"My graduate school program participated in the Tennessee Williams Literary festival every year," said Treash,

"which included not only script work and performances, but a Stella and Stanley shouting contest in Jackson Square."

"A Streetcar Named Desire" will be BarnArts' fourth winter community play at the Grange Theatre and one that Treash has had "in the plans" for the last few years. "It is a perfect fit for the Grange," said Treash. "The set is very simple – two rooms and an outside porch and stair."

Using the exposed walls of the Grange Theatre, the set will create a city-neighborhood feeling of being close to other people amidst the seedy liveliness of the French Quarter. The atmosphere of the Quarter is a crucial component of Williams' script, as he wrote passersby into most scenes, as well as the sounds of New Orleans — live jazz in the distance, trains going by, hooting and hollering on the street.

"All things you hear in New Orleans," said Treash, "although maybe not the train whistle anymore."

The script calls for the four lead actors, Blanche, Stella, Stanley and their friend Mitch, plus eight other characters and passersby. Some casting will be multiple roles, and the production will require at least eight actors. Detailed info on the roles is available on BarnArts website.

All actors must have current vaccination/boosters to be considered for roles in this production. An online audi-

tion sign-up form is available through BarnArts' website. Rehearsals will be two or three evenings and one weekend afternoon through February and March.

Although Williams wrote the play in the late 1940s, Treash's vision for costuming and set will be contemporary to reflect the current relevance of the play's content.

"The play turns a sharp lens on difficult topics that still plague us," says Treash. "Domestic violence, sexual violence, alcoholism and class conflict are all presented through the intimacy of this complex and contradictory family — a family boiling over in feeling and character," said Treash. "The brilliance of Tennessee Williams shines through."

Linda Treash directed BarnArts' production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," performed outside at Feast & Field in June/July 2021, and "Waiting for Godot" in 2019. She has been involved with BarnArts since its inception in 2012, and the executive director of BarnArts since 2015. She holds an MFA from the University of New Orleans and has lived in Barnard since 2001.

More info on auditions is available on the BarnArts website, barnarts.org. To connect directly with the director, please email info@barnarts.org or call BarnArts at 802-234-1645.



Courtesy Vermont Grass Farmers Association

In addition to the annual Vermont Grazing and Livestock Conference, farmers have opportunities to participate in summer grazing workshops hosted by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Grass Farmers Association.

Grazing conference gives farmers plenty to ruminate about

Jan. 20-22 — VIRTUAL — Farms will have an opportunity to learn about farmer profitability, grazing rented land, how to best communicate with employees and related topics at the 26th annual Vermont Grazing and Livestock Conference, Jan. 20-22.

The virtual conference will address the theme, "Grazing as the Roots of a Thriving Community and Healthy World," focusing on topics specific to raising pasture-based livestock in the Northeast and social sustainability. It is co-hosted by the Vermont Grass Farmers Association (VGFA) and the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture and will run from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day.

Registration is \$20 for VGFA members (up to six tickets per farm) and on a sliding scale up to \$40 for non-members. To register or to view the complete agenda, go to 2022_vtglc.eventbrite.com.

Presentations will share information on farm management teams, strategies for

making money as graziers, epigenetics, plant diversity and soil health and growing Vermont foods outside of Vermont, among other topics. A Q&A session will explore Vermont grazing resilience in a changing climate.

In addition, participants will hear from a farmer-led panel on the business side of making hay and delve into examples of policies for other states that support regenerative agriculture. UVM researchers will discuss their current research on crops and grazing practices.

Presentations will be recorded and available for registered participants to view up to six months after the conference.

The 2022 conference is part of a whole week of learning, planning and gathering around the potential for the Northeast region to support livestock farmers, maintain working lands and contribute to environmental regeneration through well-managed grazing.

For full details of the conference, visit vtgrassfarmers.org/vglc-conference.

New play explores the secrets of love in world premiere at Next Stage Arts in January

A postmodern fairytale about love and loss

Jan. 21-30 — PUTNEY — The Wild Goose Players are proud to present the world premiere of "Food & Shelter" by award-winning playwright Sean Hurley. Written at the outset of the pandemic and safely rehearsed throughout, the Next Stage production opens Jan. 21 and will run through Jan. 30. Tickets are available at nextstagearts.org or by calling 802-387-0102.

"Food & Shelter" begins with two strangers, who happen to be newlyweds, Bronwyn and Estevez, moving into a cabin in the snowy woods. Empty at first, the cabin actually contains everything they need, if only they can find it. But there's a price for the life-saving provisions: someone, or something, is determined to never let them leave. As the cabin reveals its secrets, Bronwyn and Estevez begin to confess their own. And though Estevez may be falling in love with Bronwyn, love is the last thing on her mind.

Darkly hilarious and heart-breaking by turns, the story culminates in a moment of unforgettable stage work.

"I feel as if Arthur Miller came over to my house and asked me if I'd want to direct the world premiere of "Death of a Salesman," said "Food & Shelter" director David Stern. "This is perhaps the most exciting creative opportunity I have had in the theater since I began working 35 years ago. Sean's play is hauntingly beautiful, full of pathos and pain. It both affirms our beautiful, brief existence and grapples with the challenges that we face in trying to connect with each other."

"I've been writing for public radio and television for many years," Sean Hurley said, "but I work best and most naturally a little outside those conventional structures. When I began 'Food & Shelter,' I wrote toward a certain idea of light at the end of a certain kind of tunnel. That's always my starting point — a tunnel and a light. As I've learned to trust my own process, I've come to understand that as strange as the tunnel may seem at first, if I can find my way through, I won't be alone at the end of the journey."

Performances are held at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd., Putney, Jan. 21-23 and 28-30 at 7:30 p.m. Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test within 48 hours required for entry to indoor shows. Masks required while inside the venue.



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Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

Get a healthy start in 2022 with Billings Backyard Series

Kimchi, sauerkaut, fermented foods workshop with Chef Emery

Saturday, Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. — WOODSTOCK — According to scientists, fermented foods like kimchi, sauerkraut and kombucha increase the diversity of gut microbes and lead to lower levels of inflammation. It turns out these can be easy to make at home and fun too. Who knew cooking and science, coupled with cultivation and patience could produce such delicious results?

Anyone can learn to make these fermented foods with Billings Farm's Chef Emery as she leads our next Billings Backyard Series cooking workshop, "Kimchi, Kraut, and More!" on Saturday, Jan. 22. The workshop will take place live on Zoom from 10-11:30 a.m.

In this class Chef Emery will demonstrate how to make your own sauerkraut and kimchi. She will discuss other "lacto-fermented" foods, and how they can be used in unique and delicious ways in everyday life as participants make a multi-purpose sauce using kombucha.

This live Zoom presentation is followed by a 30-minute Q&A period. The workshop costs \$15/person; \$10/BF&M member. Space is limited.

Registration is required by Jan. 19 for participants to receive advance instructions, recipes and preparation details. Registered participants will receive a recording following the live presentation. Visit billingsfarm.org to register.



By Brittney Malik

Congolese artist Seeko The Kid



By Victoria Gaither

Executive Director Sherri Birkeimer Rooker



By Victoria Gaither

A print of designer Mark Burnett will appear at the Chaffee Art Center for Black History Month.

Chaffee to host BIPOC artists for Black History Month

By Victoria Gaither

The Chaffee Art Center in Rutland is gearing up for winter and Black History Month exhibitions.

"We are in Vermont, and it's cold. I thought it would be kind of fun to do 'Baby It's Cold Outside' and because February is not far off to feature BIPOC artists for Black History Month," said Executive Director Sherri Birkeimer Rooker.

"It's all happening at the same time in the gallery," explained Rooker.

The exhibit, "Baby It's Cold Outside," will feature work by photographer Lowell Snowden Klock, whose photos of winter will not only put a chill through you but highlight the beauty of winter in Vermont.

Fine Artist Heather Wilson, a self-taught artist, will bring glamour, sexy pin-ups, and all things pretty with her work.

Plus, Rooker said, "It will be outdoorsy inside the gallery feeling wintery."

She has other winter ideas up her sleeve but wouldn't let everything out just yet. However, she was happy to talk about how the Chaffee Art Center broke ground with its upcoming Black History Month exhibition.

"This is the first time we have celebrated Black History Month with guest artists since I have been back at Chaffee Art Center," explained Rooker. She became executive director in 2019.

Rooker reached out on social media to find BIPOC artists, which stands for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, inter-

ested in featuring their work and stories at the gallery.

Congolese artist Seeko The Kid heard about the opportunity through the BIPOC Vermont Facebook page.

He reached out to Chaffee Art Center and will have five paintings on the gallery wall.

This opportunity isn't just about him and his beautiful giraffes, rather other artists of color.

"Black artistry is really not represented and underlooked in the states, especially in Vermont. I'm hoping that showing my work at the Chaffee Center will not only pave the way for other Black and African artists but

also share with Vermont a little piece of Black Excellence," said Seeko the Kid.

Known as a multi-disciplinary artist, Seeko The Kid makes history at the Chaffee Art Center by participating in this guest artist exhibit.

His hopes are clear: "I hope the viewers take away whatever speaks to them as they experience my work," he said.

Exactly what Rooker wants for both exhibits. She said, "We are the community art center, we want to make a difference. We want to help where we are needed."

In this case, that means putting the chill on visitors and providing new stories and experiences from people of color.

It's a combination that will bring anyone in from the cold.

Both exhibits run from Friday, Jan. 14, through Friday, Feb. 25. The Chaffee Center is located at 16 S. Main St, Rutland, Vermont. For more information, visit chaffeeartcenter.org

• 12TH ANNUAL •

Woodstock Vermont Film Series

2021-2022

Billings Farm & Museum Theater • Woodstock, VT

Sat., January 22 • 3:00 & 5:30 PM

Try Harder

"It's a very funny movie about a bunch of students trying to find their way through a system that is designed to keep them out rather than let them in."

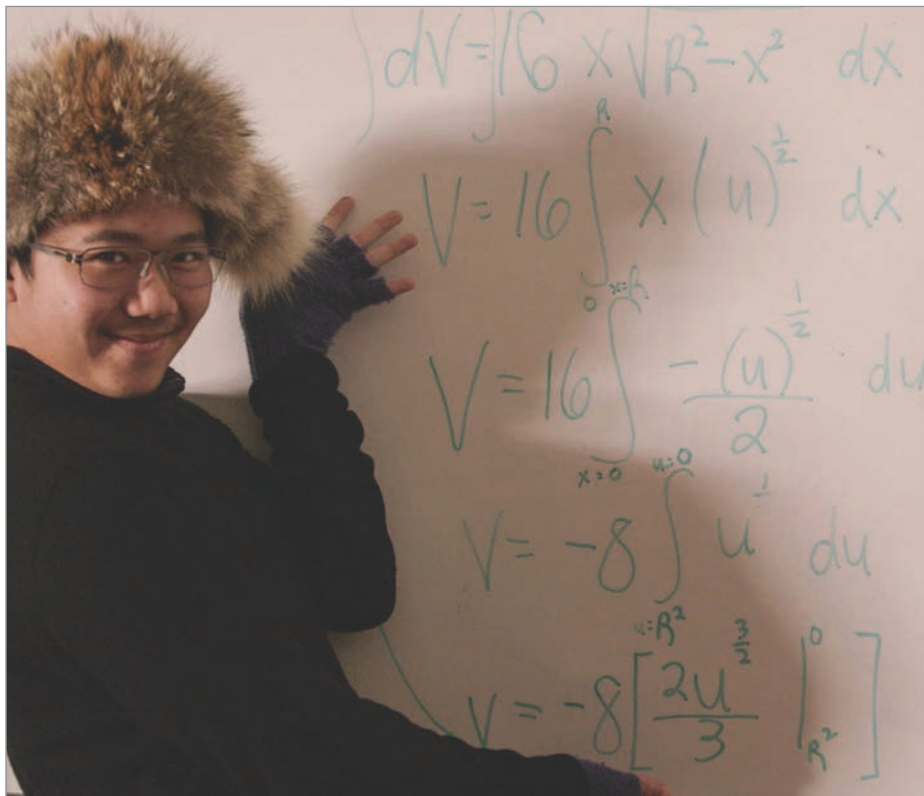
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billingsfarm.org/filmseries • 802-457-5303



Courtesy Woodstock Vermont Film Series

“Try Harder”

A Woodstock Vermont Film Series presents feature documentary ‘Try Harder’

Saturday, Jan 22 at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. — WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Vermont Film Series will present “Try Harder” a humorous and heartfelt look at the reality of the American college application process.

The documentary focuses on San Francisco’s top public high school, Lowell High school, where seniors are stressed out. As they prepare for the emotionally draining college application process, students are keenly aware of the intense competition for the few open spots in their dream colleges. They scrutinize how every element of their application, from their classes to their extracurricular activities to their racial identities, might be read by admission officers.

At Lowell, cool kids are nerds, nearly everyone has an amazing talent, and most of the student body is Asian American. With humor and heart, director Debbie Lum shows us the reality of the American college application process and the intersection of class, race, and educational opportunity as experienced by high school seniors living through it. “Try Harder” is a portrait of young adults in the most diverse American generation ever as they navigate a quintessential rite of passage and make it their own.

This season, the 12th annual Woodstock Vermont Film Series will present a selection of 10 diverse films reflecting Billings Farm & Museum’s vision to share place-based stories of people near and far, to engage our audiences, and to inspire conversations that increase connections with each other and our world. The Woodstock Vermont Film Series is curated and directed by award-winning filmmaker Jay Craven, and produced by the Billings Farm & Museum, with generous support from local sponsors.

Reservations are strongly recommended as seating is limited. Purchase advance tickets online at billingsfarm.org/filmseries or reserve by phone at 802-457-5303 by noon on Jan. 21. Tickets may be available for purchase at the Ticket Desk on the day of the film if seating allows.

Masks and proof of vaccination are required to attend. It is recommended to provide proof of vaccination online in advance to avoid lines. Find the form at billingsfarm.org/proof-of-vaccination-form. For a complete list of screenings and to purchase tickets visit billingsfarm.org/filmseries.

Vermont Bike & Brew to host fat bike event

Saturday, Jan. 22 at 8 a.m. — NORWICH — Have you ever wanted to try riding a fat bike in the snow? How about an electric fat bike? Come try this amazing winter activity while supporting the Upper Valley Land Trust. No prior experience necessary.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, Vermont Bike & Brew will be at the Brookmead Conservation Area in Norwich with its fleet of electric fat bikes for you to try. Sign up in advance for one of the 75-minute slots and explore the groomed trails at Brookmead. Cost is \$70/person and all proceeds go to the Upper Valley Land Trust.

Pre-registration is required and includes an introduction to the bikes, a helmet, the ride itself, and a handful of coupons good for discounts at local businesses including Carpenter & Main, Dirt Cowboy, Still North Books & Bar, Red Kite Candies, The Norwich Inn, and more. You can sign up to ride at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., or 11:45 a.m. Call Jonas from Vermont Bike & Brew at 802-274-2277 with questions or to register. Space is limited.

If you want to ride an electric fat bike any other day of the week, you can do that too. Just call 802-274-2277 with questions or to make a reservation.

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 & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • lucymac.org

Rutland County Humane Society



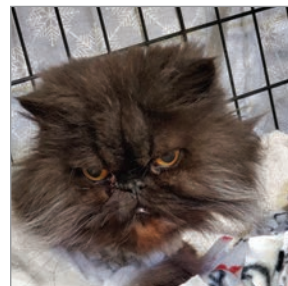
CARIBOU—2-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black and tan. Energetic sweet guy looking for forever home. I need a family that likes the outdoors and is active.



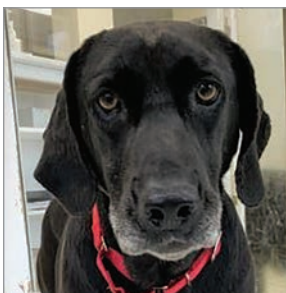
ABIGAIL—3-year-old. Spayed female. Hound mix. Brown and tan. I am a medium size hound dog mix looking for my forever home. My colors and markings are stunning!



LUNA—5 year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair. Brown tiger. I enjoy getting ear scratches and lots of attention. I am more on the laid back side and enjoy long cozy naps.



GIZMO (FELV +)—7-year-old. Neutered male. Persian. Black. I am a very sweet and friendly boy. I am FELV positive, meaning I should be the only cat in the home.



HUNTER—3-year-old. Neutered male. Lab mix. Black. With my sad-looking face, who wouldn't want to take me home and love me forever?



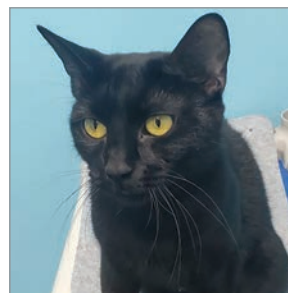
OZZIE

2-year-old. Neutered male. Boxer mix. Tan and white. If you want a fun and goofy guy to join the family, I may be your boy!

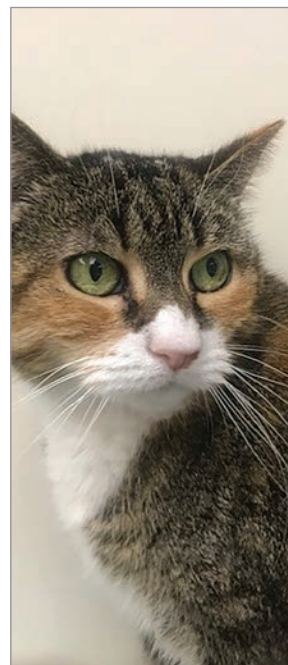
All of these pets are available for adoption at
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TULIP—2-year-old. Female. Pit mix. Black and white. I love people and am excited about the possibility of finally finding my forever home.



PUMA—2-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair. Black. They call me Puma, I can be a bit sly and laid back.



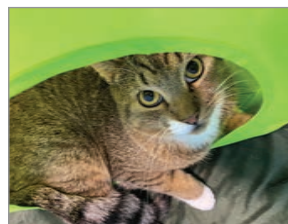
CARRIE—10-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic Shorthair. Torbie. I'm a laid-back companion. I love kicking my paws up and relaxing whenever I have the chance.



DIESEL—8-year-old. Neutered male. Hound mix. Brown. Howdy folks! What can I tell you about me? I am a hound through and through.



DEXTER—4-year-old. Neutered male. Hound mix. Black and tan. I love people and hanging out with them. I like lots of leisurely walks.



EDWARD—2-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic Shorthair. Brown tiger and white. I am a bit timid.

Keep your pets entertained this winter

The coldest days of winter are definitely upon us, and RCHS would like to offer some tips on how to keep your pets from going stir crazy while they are cooped up inside this winter. Make sure to keep your furry friend mentally stimulated. Puzzle toys are a good way to keep them busy physically and mentally. You can also teach them new tricks or practice training. Interactive toy treats are an easy way to keep them occupied and also give you some quiet time. There's nothing like freezing peanut butter in a Kong to save the day for your dog. For a longer-term solution, you can also hide treats and toys around the house for a fun scavenger hunt game. Put ping-pong balls in the bathtub for your cat to bat around. If you're getting a little bored yourself, a game of tug, hide and seek, or even chasing a Slinky down the stairs (if they are safe) are some ways to spend some quality time with your pup. Cats love companionship as well, consider adding a feline friend to your family.

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Cosmic Catalogue

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Aries

March 21 - April 20

Things may not be what it seems when it comes to your home / work balance. As the spotlight is shining in your domestic life, you may need to strike some kind of balance between your various goals and responsibilities. A big part of this week will help you to realize that in order to have everything it is you want, you have to do things differently. Either you have to take back power, or relinquish it.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

There's a lot of drama in the sky this week, but for the most part, you'll dodge it. Where things may get tricky for you is your home / work life balance. As the Moon's lunar nodes shift signs, you may have to recalibrate your family and professional goals. I'm not saying you can't have it all, but having it all, all of the time is extremely difficult. This week may help you choose what to focus on right now.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

How intimate are you with your money? Do you know your numbers? How much do you earn and owe? It's not a particularly sexy conversation to have, but it can bring you oh so much more confidence and power when you have it. If you want to feel excited when a bill comes in, or when you pay off a debt or save some cash – then the only way you can get ahead is to face what you're avoiding.

More self care may be needed this week

By Cassandra Tyndall

Emotions may run high this week, as feelings from the past may resurface. At the best of times, a Full Moon can already be dramatic, emotional and intense. As this particular silver circle will face off with the power planet, Pluto, themes of trust, manipula-

tion and control are likely to become increasingly apparent. Rather than let the confusion get to you, allow any difficult feelings be your cue to nurture yourself or indulge in much needed TLC. If you cannot find comfort and care in the usual places, then it may

Themes of trust, manipulation and control are likely to become increasingly apparent.

tion and control are likely to become increasingly apparent.

The Full Moon brings light to what is usually otherwise unseen or hidden. As you become privy to what is concealed, you could reach a turning point in a confusing or uncertain situation. With both communication planet Mercury and harmonizing Venus in reverse,

be up to you to practice self-reliance or be your own source of nurturing and protection. Straddling the fine line between vulnerability and trust with caution and self-preservation may be difficult.

Whatever happens, pay attention to how you feel this week. It may give a clue to what the next 18 months might mean for you.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Life is full of mystery and magic. The one mistake we often make is trying to find it in the big things when in fact, the big things are the sum of many small things. This week, a shift in direction and focus will spotlight you and relationships for the next eighteen months. You can stay in the past and wait for big things to happen or, you can embrace the future and see the magic in every moment. The choice is always yours.



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

This week's Full Moon spotlights your friendship and social sector. This is a time each year where you can expect comfort, care and support from your most special people. There is a twist this time though, and you may discover that even the slightest miscommunication could set yourself, or someone else off! If that's the case, a situation may be revealed for what it really is. Either way, you're about to see someone's true colors!



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

Emotional tension may run high this week between you and someone else. As the sensitive Cancer Full Moon illuminates your relationship sector, be gentle with any hearts you hold. Either in your personal or professional life, someone may be feeling less confident, powerful or in charge as you. Where you can, just let someone else be their messy emotional self while you keep things cool, calm and collected. Opposites attract and this week may remind you of how different you are.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You might breathe a sigh of relief this week as an eighteen-month cycle draws to a close and a new chapter opens. If possible, give yourself the time and space to reflect on how much you've grown and what you now know, that you didn't before about love. This week's Full Moon may also bathe you in confidence that may help you rebalance the power dynamic in a personal or financial situation – or both!



Libra

September 21 - October 20

This week offers the chance to shift some of your focus towards your professional or major life direction goals. With your ruler retrograde, you've been undergoing a change of heart around many aspects of life, especially family. As you recalibrate your relationship to tradition, power structures and the rules you've been living your life by, the chance to strike out in a new direction is possible. If an exciting new opportunity arrives, it may be well worth exploring your options!



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

Themes of domestic and professional goals may be highlighted for you this week. As the Nodes of the Moon shift signs, you may find the hand of fate at play for the next 18 months. You may discover you start shedding skin, so to speak, when it comes to your major life plans or professional goals. As you say 'No' to more things and do more with less, you'll have the space and energy to nurture your domestic desires.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

A lot of people talk about taking their power back. It sounds, well, very empowering, but what does it actually mean? First, it brings the sometimes-sobering realization that in order to reclaim your power, you had to have given it away. This week, notice if you are feeling more emotional or on edge, that might be a sign you have to reclaim something. If something is off balance in a relationship or at work, then you need to face what you've been avoiding.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Turning tides may bring even more opportunities for you to shed old ways of being. You're not afraid of going where angels fear to tread, and over the next 18 months, you may have to do just that. If it is deep love and commitment you're after in life, then you're about to learn to see things with less complexity and more simplicity. Smell the roses every once in a while, and enjoy the path where an angel has already been!



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

Quality time may never feel so important as it does for you this week. Doing what you love with whom you love may be your top priority. Your social schedule may be busier than it has been for some time so be patient with any miscommunications or crossed wires. If time alone, wrapped up in a hobby or pastime is what your soul longs for, then be firm in making it known to others what you need and feel.

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Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

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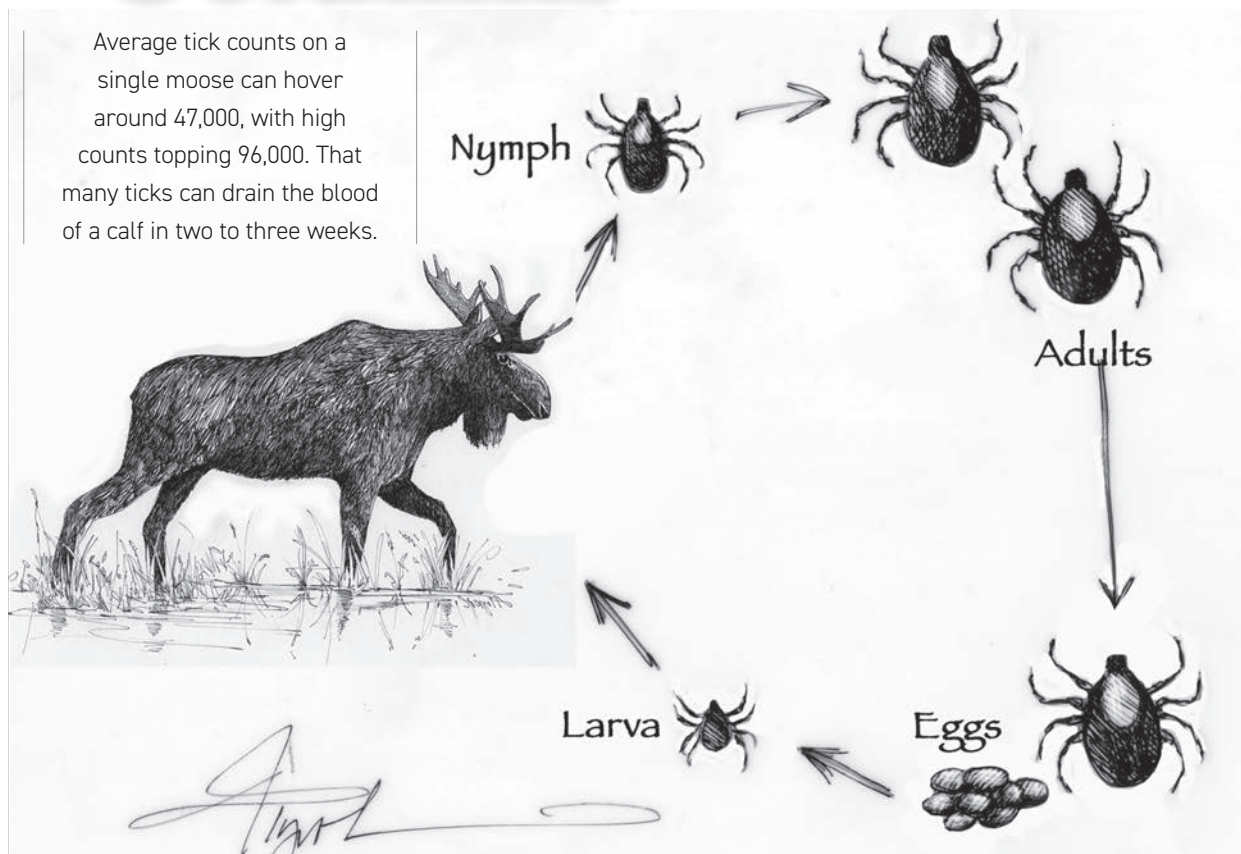
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Average tick counts on a single moose can hover around 47,000, with high counts topping 96,000. That many ticks can drain the blood of a calf in two to three weeks.

Does your child need to file a tax return?

With the continuation of the Covid world, many businesses are desperate to find and keep workers. So, helping our children find a job is not very difficult these days.



Money Matters
By Kevin Theissen

Perhaps more importantly, it's the effort of encouraging them to work so they can learn important values about work, independence and understanding how to handle money and finances. At what point, if at all, do children need to file an income tax return for the money they earn?

The IRS does not exempt anyone from the requirement to file a tax return based on age, even if your child is declared as a dependent on your tax return.

The IRS does not exempt anyone from the requirement to file a tax return based on age, even if your child is declared as a dependent on your tax return.

Your dependent children must file a tax return when they earn above a certain amount of income.

Dependent children with earned income in excess of \$12,550 must file an income tax return. Dependent children with unearned income of more than \$1,100 must also file a return, and also if the dependent child's earned and unearned income together total more than the larger of \$1,100, or a total earned income up to \$12,200 plus \$350.

Money matters > 33

Fungi may kill winter ticks, and help moose survive

Legend says a stake through the heart will kill a vampire. But it's a bit more complicated if you're plagued – as moose can be – by tens of thousands of tiny blood-suckers. In the case of moose, the vampires are winter ticks (*Dermacentor albipictus*), and finding a way to stake them has been tricky. However, recent research has found a potential, microscopic, vampire hunter.

Winter ticks are a one-host parasite, meaning all three active stages — larvae, nymphs, and adults — feed on a single host animal. This species prefers to feast on ungulates and is often called the “moose tick” because, unlike deer, moose are unable to remove the ticks through grooming, leaving them particularly vulnerable to large tick loads. Average tick counts on a single moose can hover around 47,000, with high counts topping 96,000.

That many ticks can drain the blood of a calf in two to three weeks. From 2017 to 2019, researchers with the Vermont Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Vermont noted a 91% mortality of moose calves in Vermont. And from 2014 through 2016, researchers from the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of New Hampshire saw 70% mortality in northern New Hampshire and western Maine due to winter ticks.

Such alarming mortality rates have raised concern among wildlife management officials about the health of the New England moose population. Due to the ticks' life history, however, finding a management strategy for winter ticks has been challenging.

Winter tick larvae quest – or seek hosts – from late summer through fall. After attaching to a host, the ticks feed, molt, and mate on the same animal through the winter. When adult female ticks are maximally engorged – generally between March and May – they drop to the ground. Over the course of summer and early fall, the females lay eggs and die, then the larvae emerge and hang out at soil level and again begin questing.

Because of their one-host nature and the timing of their life cycle, the winter tick population depends on plentiful hosts and a window of time in the fall to find one. Limited hosts, cold fall temperatures, and early snows will inhibit ticks – but these are all conditions that are impractical to manage in favor of moose.

Enter Cheryl Sullivan, an entomologist with the Entomology Research Laboratory at UVM. She is spearheading a project investigating entomopathogenic fungi as potential allies against the winter tick. These fungi consume arthropods

like insects, spiders — and, yes, ticks.

Entomopathogenic fungi are found naturally in soils worldwide and infect hosts through aerial spores. When a spore lands on a tick, it germinates, puncturing the tick's outer shell, then spreads its hyphae – the threads that comprise the fungi's mycelium network – through the tick's body. Like something out of a horror movie, the growing fungus tears apart its host's internal organs and produces toxins, eventually killing the host. Fruiting bodies sprout from the host, releasing more spores.

Sullivan and the team at UVM tested fungal strains of *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *M. brunneum* against winter ticks. Some strains are already available commercially to control insects and mites in residential settings, and some were isolated from forest soils in northern Vermont.

While commercial strains were most effective, Sullivan found that in laboratory experiments a local strain killed 89% of tick larvae within three weeks.

The UVM researchers are specifically interested in exposing ticks to fungal spores at the larval stage, before they've found a host. This is the phase when the winter tick is most vulnerable: the larvae are living in the fungi's natural home (soil and leaf litter), and both need similarly damp conditions to thrive.

Deliberately exposing ticks to specific fungal pathogens in their environment is a more sustainable alternative to chemical pesticides, although it's not without challenges. As Sullivan explains, “Entomopathogenic fungi require specific environmental conditions, including temperature and humidity, ample spore contact with a host, and applications timed appropriately to a susceptible life stage for their use to be effective.” Spreading fungal spores everywhere moose live is impractical, so moose conservationists would need to target places Sullivan describes as “localized areas of optimal habitat where moose are known to congregate and be prone to winter tick recruitment.”

While researchers are still evaluating the practicality of using entomopathogenic fungi to attack winter ticks, it is nice to know that when moose are faced with swarms of miniature vampires, they might be helped in the battle by microscopic vampire hunters.

Rachel Sargent Mirus lives in Duxbury, Vermont. 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.



The Outside Story
By Rachel Sargent Mirus

2022 tax filing season begins Jan. 24

The 2022 tax season officially opens Jan. 24 at both the federal and state levels. This is the date that the Internal Revenue Service and Vermont begin accepting and processing personal income tax returns for tax year 2021.

The Vermont Dept. of Taxes offers the following tips to make filing and getting your refund easier and faster:

- Wait to receive all W-2 forms, 1099 forms or any other necessary tax documents before filing. Filing too early without all your documentation is one of the most common reasons a tax refund is delayed.
- File electronically (e-file) through a commercial software vendor. Filing electronically reduces the risk of typographical errors and significantly speeds up refund processing time. Last year, taxpayers who e-filed their returns on average received their refunds more than four weeks faster than those who mailed paper returns.
- Free file allows eligible Vermonters to file their taxes at no cost. Information regarding who is eligible and how to access this software is available at the Department of Taxes' website at tax.vermont.gov/free-file.
- Check online at myvtax.vermont.gov for the status of your tax refund, homestead declaration, property tax credit and renter credit.

The 2022 filing deadline for personal and corporate income tax returns, homestead declarations and property tax credit claims and fiduciary income taxes is April 18.

Renters filing for a renter credit (formerly renter rebate) this upcoming season will see some changes that

IRS > 33

Things are getting real

So, here we are in the middle of January. With the holidays now a distant past, all there is to look forward to is a powdery winter, the Super Bowl, and a spring break without excessive travel restrictions.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

Personally, I'm a golfer, so that activity starts to move forefront in my mind as the colder months wax on.

My golfing year usually begins in January when I start fantasizing about the upcoming season. Historically, I will have finished up the prior year on a sour note because I never seem to improve. Honestly, I've been playing golf for over 35 years and I think I leveled off in ability after year 5.

I'm usually thrilled about showing my clubs into the garage for a few months once the season ends in late fall. But by mid-January, I'm already reading golf magazines and starting to watch the Golf Channel with regularity. By February, I will have dug into the closet to find my electronic putt-return device to practice with. By March, I will likely be swinging a sand wedge in the garage trying to incorporate whatever swing tips I gathered off the internet.

And then April arrives, and with it comes The Masters — the absolute greatest sporting event known to man (yeah, I know that one is up for argument). The Masters generally pushes me over the edge. After watching the tournament, I'm doing whatever it takes to find a place to hit golf balls, whether it's a range, a field near my house, or a net in my yard.

It generally takes about 10 swings for me to realize that I'm going to have to relearn how to play the game. Unlike other sports, golf (at least for me) is not something I can drop for a period of time and then pick up where I left off.

I've always said: In basketball, I can stop playing for two years and still easily make a lay-up the first time I touch a ball. Golf simply does not work that way for me.

However, I have improved in my ability to get back to square one faster. This started a few years ago when I watched a video where Tiger Woods described the phenomenon of "feel vs. real." At the time, I had never heard of the concept, but it has slowly become a standard teaching philosophy in golf circles (and many other sports where technique plays a vital role).

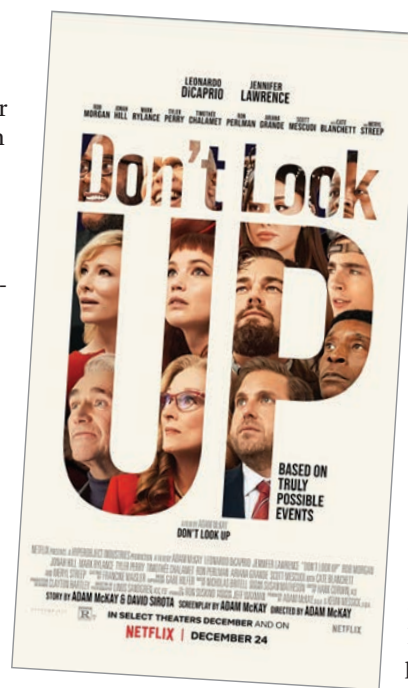
The idea is that what you feel like you are doing doesn't always equate to what you are really doing. This can cause confusion as you try to correct a swing mistake, slowing your progress and initiating added frustration.

For instance, if a right-handed golfer is slicing his tee shot (which means you are curling your shot unintentionally to right of your target), he may feel like he's swinging perfectly, but the reality is that he's coming over the top of the ball with an open club face, which causes the slice.

The remedy, which would be more shoulder rotation and an inside attack trajectory, might initially feel odd or even wrong, but the results would prove worthy. You would then have to practice swinging differently — which would likely feel wrong — but give the desired effect.

Once I understood the concept of "feel vs. real," I stopped trying to correct my mistakes by just hitting ball after ball and instead resorted to video to see what I was doing wrong.

Of course, the smartest way to improve at golf is to find a trained professional to teach you or help you with swing issues. Pros can provide instant feedback and



greatly enhance your progress.

I'm an idiot so I try to figure everything out on my own, which I don't recommend, and which obviously accounts for my stalled improvement over the years.

Years ago, I remember contemplating what it would take for all the people of earth to come together in unity. My solution was an alien attack on Planet Earth, which would force all countries and races to unite against a common enemy. I thought this concept would make a great screenplay for a movie.

Not long after, "Independence Day" was released, which utilized this exact storyline (and immediately ended my screenwriting career before it even started).

And then the pandemic happened (which is kind of like an alien invasion), and I don't think my idea of shared unity occurred. In fact, it's turned out to be just the opposite, proving once again that what you feel doesn't necessarily equate to what is real.

This week's feature, "Don't Look Up," starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence, uses the destruction of the Earth due to a cataclysmic comet impact as a commentary on how a shared tragedy might not be the thing to bring humanity together.

If you're in the mood for a well-made dark comedy that hits home on a multitude of levels, then I encourage you to watch this film. A lot of the content is tongue-in-cheek, but the overall points are profoundly entertaining.

An earth-shattering "B+" for "Don't Look Up," available for streaming on Netflix.

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

Heaps of snow! And all the fun that comes along with it

I cannot stop looking out the window. The beauty of what is happening outside lures me in and captivates not only my mind but my entire soul. I cannot stop staring at the snow resting on the pine trees or even the white snowy shadows on the deciduous branches.

It's like Kahlil Gibran said: "Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers."

My hands are wrapped around my mug of hot chocolate, just as my warm furry blanket is wrapped around my shoulders. My body leans against the window frame and I stare out down the valley.

I feel my breath begin to slow with the cold. My mind begins to fade and I can see everything and anything in that moment. Maybe it is the snow blindness, but the valley fades away until all I can see is white. Like the earth, my vision is covered in white and I am lost in the peace of it all. Time seems to stand still and I wonder if we will ever move from this very spot.

A plow truck rumbles in the distance,



Livin' the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

I love unearthing the world from underneath the foot of snow that we got.

the crunching of the dirt road echoing down the valley and I awaken from my stupor with a start. I shake my head, unfreezing my brain from the peacefulness of the snowfall.

Ain't nobody got time for lounging around on a powder day — there is skiing to be done!! There is fresh snow to play in!! I've got to get my big powder skis off the rack and get my booty to the mountain.

But first, I got to get my burrow on. I throw my insulated Carhartt overalls, seriously one of the greatest inventions in Vermont home ownership, on over my pajamas. I grab my work gloves and push my body into the back door. It's going to be a

sweaty morning, I realize, as the door opens slowly against the snow. And then, I grab my favorite shovel. The yellow one with the articulated shaft. The one we got when I broke my arm, so it would be easier on me. Because I wasn't going to not shovel.

I love to make paths in the snow, first to
Livin' the dream > 33

Rockin' The Region with Hickory, the Drunk and Underwhelming

If laughter is the best medicine, you can cure whatever ails you with a great stand-up comedy show at the Woolen Mill Comedy Club in Bridgewater this Saturday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. Local resident Hickory, the Drunk and Underwhelming, will host the show,

which is New York meets Vermont. It features Vermont comics GW Foley, club owner Collen Doyle, Julia Colasanti and New York comics Matt Vita, Boris Khaykin and MC Leitsy. I had the pleasure of speaking with both Collen and Hickory.

I've seen GW, Collen and Hickory all perform at the Mill before. I haven't seen the others but every show I've seen there has featured hilarious acts, so I can highly recommend going. Plus seeing a show at the Woolen Mill is a unique experience.

I discovered GW and Collen at the Snowplow Comedy Competition in Killington that Collen won in 2017. That's not running anymore so it's great to have Collen's club in Bridgewater to see top comedy acts. I've seen Hickory's show, which is comedy magic. I've always been intrigued by magic and his is top notch. The fact he mixes it with comedy makes it unique but really fun. Collen and Hickory have been performing together for seven years.

Collen said, "Over the years his show has evolved from the stand-up to the magic to the online hosting show. It's a really cool thing."

Hickory talked about the show and said, "I'm looking forward to a fun night with awesome comics getting together. Not having the host be a comic is kind of cool. Hosts are generally comics but to have a magician to cut the mood in between sets is good. That's what I try to do when I host, lighten it up, have some fun with the crowd and get everyone hyped for an awesome night."

Hickory has been writing jokes since he was in high school but his first creative juncture was playing in a band. After some friends moved away, he turned to comedy.

He said, "I needed a creative outlet. I can't draw and writing takes too much time, like I couldn't write a novel. I like songs and jokes because they're short little bits that you can rework and rework until it's perfect. I wrote some jokes that I always wished I'd seen a comic

Rockin' the region > 35



Rockin' the Region
By DJ Dave Hoffenberg



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< PUZZLES page 17

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← Money matters: Sometimes children need to file a tax return, sometimes they don't from page 30

These thresholds are subject to change, so please consult a professional with tax expertise regarding your individual situation.

Here's an example: Davy is a 19-year-old student who's claimed as a dependent by his parents. He

received \$400 in unearned income and \$4,500 for a part-time job on campus. He does not have to file a tax return because both his unearned and earned income fall below the thresholds. Kyle's total income of \$4,900 is less than his total earned

income plus \$350.

Even if your child earns less than the threshold amount, filing a tax return may be worthwhile if your child is eligible for a tax refund.

Kevin Theissen is the owner and principal of HWC Financial in Ludlow.

← IRS: This year, beware of tax changes and take advantage of deductions from page 30

took effect for tax year 2021. Importantly, most renters will no longer need to obtain a Landlord Certificate from their landlord to file. Additional key changes to the program allow a renter to qualify by renting a minimum of six months of the year instead of all 12 months, and renters living in shared households no longer need to share their personal financial information with roommates because renters file credit claims individually.

For landlords, those with one or more (previously two or

more) rental units are required to submit landlord certificates to the department by Jan. 31, 2022, but they no longer need to send the certificates to their renters. All landlords are strongly encouraged to file landlord certificates electronically at mytax.vermont.gov, and those with five or more renters are required to file electronically.

Additional information regarding the renter credit program as well as new forms and instructions are now available at tax.vermont.gov.



By Brooke Geery

← Livin' the dream: Snow, snow and more snow! Reward your heavy labors with some play in the powder from page 31

the cars, then around the cars, then out to the barn and to the propane tank. I do the back deck and the front deck and all the stairs in between. I'm like the voles that rip up our lawn all summer long, burrowing underneath the soil. But I burrow in the snow. I start with paths that are one shovel wide and build up from there. It's a maze, these little paths, with big snowbanks places in appropriate piles so that perhaps later we can build an igloo.

The snow is getting heavy as the temperature begins to rise, but I am getting stronger. The piles are getting bigger and the paths are connecting in ways that perhaps I want to take a drone shot of all my hard work. I can feel the snow sticking to my hat and I know I'm going to be look like a

drowned rat when I step back into the house. But I don't care. I love unearthing the world from underneath the foot of snow that we got.

It's like being at the beach as a child, but instead of that dinky little shovel now you have this big one that looks like a mini plow. And you're no longer digging through the earth to China, now you're uncovering your car or the pathways into your home. It might be different, but it's still the same. I love it. I love the different patterns you get to make with every snowfall. I never shovel the deck the same way twice.

In its impermanence, snow becomes fun. There are no real lasting consequences of how you move the snow, as long as you can get out of your house safely, does it really

matter if you put the pile on the left or right? What if you made one big pile instead of a bunch of smaller ones? What if you moved all the snow to one side of the house and made a ramp or a slide or an igloo where you could bring your hot chocolate? Or set aside some piles for making a snowman. Or a whole snow family...

As authors Marcia McFee and Karen Foster wrote in their book "Spiritual Adventures in the Snow": "Play is a decision to delight in whatever comes our way."

I love shoveling snow. And you know the best part about shoveling? Once it's done, we get to head up to the mountain and play some more. Could there possibly exist a better reward for a job well done? Yeah, I didn't think so. See you on the mountain!!



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STATE OF VERMONT

Proposed use of Incremental Property Tax Revenue for Tax Increment Financing District, Town of Killington

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

On January 27, 2022, the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) will meet in Killington to begin consideration of an application submitted by the Town of Killington to utilize future incremental municipal and education property tax revenues to finance debt, if approved by the voters and incurred, for infrastructure to serve expected real property developments within the Tax Increment Financing District that was established by the Town of Killington on January 4, 2022.

VEPC invites the public to comment on the consideration of this application by the Vermont Economic Progress Council. Comments can be made:

1. In person: On January 27, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington. Please arrive between 12:45 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to sign up to speak. Comments are limited to 7 minutes per person. Please bring a written copy of your comments.
2. Virtually via Teams: On January 27, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., using the link on the VEPC website to be published 2 days prior to the meeting. Comments are limited to 7 minutes per person. Please email copy of your comments to abbie.sherman@vermont.gov.
3. In writing: By February 22, 2022, email comments to abbie.sherman@vermont.gov.



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Submitted

← **Rockin' the region:** Hickory, the Drunk and Underwhelming hosts Woolen Mill Comedy Club Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. from page 31

tell that I've never seen tell. A lot of it was pretty raunchy. Collen then started the comedy club and told me I should come down. A couple months passed and I decided to memorize a few jokes, throw it out there and see how it goes. I had a great time and I never really had that push back where I had any doubt I could do it."

He did it two or three times but knew he always loved comedy magic like The Amazing Jonathan and Penn & Teller. He said, "There were all these really great magicians that did really amazing magic but also provide that amazing comedy. I reached out to a few friends like Steve Finer who's a great magician. One of his bits of advice was to stay clean. I told him that wasn't going to happen. He said corporate gigs are where it's at but I didn't want to do corporate gigs. I wanted to be a magician who exclusively does 21+ shows. I want to say what I want to say, be raunchy and bring up props that are very raunchy in nature."

After seeing his show, I can confidently say: mission accomplished.

Hickory has been performing his comedy magic for about four years now. Collen has seen it from the beginning and has enjoyed Hickory's progression.

She said, "He showed me a couple tricks and what he'd been working on and shared with me how he's doing it. It's cool to see it from the other side and how he's developing the show. It was a cool process to see and seeing how the audience receives it. It's unlike comedy. It has a different element and is a different thing where you're laughing and entertained but it also has the shock effect where you wonder how he did that? The audience will be laughing, having a good time and then they're sincerely surprised and bewildered. It's really cool to see."

Collen said Hickory has garnered the attention from people in New York that want to see him perform there. "I think that's really cool."

Collen encourages people to come see Hickory perform because it's a well crafted show and to see it live on stage is a really fun experience. They do an online show every Wednesday at 8 p.m. that you can see live on the Woolen Mill Comedy Club's Facebook page. It's currently in its second season and this week is episode 38. It stars Hickory, Collen and GW with special guests each week. It's called "The Drunk & Under Quarantine Show."

Collen said Hickory was the mastermind behind it and created the show after the club had to close due to the pandemic. Hickory interjected and said it was his wife's idea.

Collen added, "Behind every great man is a great woman." Hickory developed it all and especially helped with all the tech stuff like figuring out the streams.

The Woolen Mill

does monthly shows and will be doing a Valentine's one on Feb. 12 with comedy, a hypnotist and burlesque. You can get more information on their Facebook page or by emailing them at woolenmillcomedy@gmail.com. There will be a featured article on that show next month in this publication. Collen is excited for the 2022 season. They've done some upgrades to the club and have new programming.

You can find Hickory on Facebook at Hickory The Drunk & Underwhelming (@RealHickoryTDAU). It's all about the "Real" — don't fall for the foreign gaming video creator page of the same name because that is the hacked Hickory. He has a YouTube channel under the same name, where he just surpassed 1,600 subscribers. You can also see the Wednesday show live there. On Instagram it's hickorytdau and his website hickorymagic.com.

"I reached out to a few friends like Steve Finer who's a great magician. One of his bits of advice was to stay clean. I told him that wasn't going to happen," said Hickory.



Courtesy Killington Pico Realty

Killington Pico Realty welcomes new sales associate Krista Neary

Krista Neary has recently joined Killington Pico Realty as a member of its ever-growing sales team. Neary is a life-long Vermonter, originally from Colchester. She moved to Killington after graduating from the University of Vermont and has lived here fulltime ever since.

Neary has been immersed in the Killington community working in local restaurants, ski shops and most recently, the Killington Pico Area Association (Chamber of Commerce). She loves the adventurous lifestyle that Killington provides and the endless outdoor activities available all around. She looks forward to helping others realize their dream of owning a home in the Killington area so they too, can take advantage of the magical lifestyle and wonderful community this area provides.

"My goal is to share my love for the Killington area with my buyers and make them feel welcome and comfortable," said Neary. "My main responsibility is to help my buyers and sellers and represent them with diligence."

Neary has been employed by Killington Pico Realty since January of 2021, working as a licensed assistant to broker/owner Kyle Kershner. She has assisted Kershner and fellow associates with showings since becoming licensed in March of 2021 and looks forward to working with her own customers and clients. Her great knowledge of Killington and surrounding areas makes her an excellent resource for all those looking to purchase a full-time home or vacation home.

If you'd like to contact Krista, you can email her at krista@killingtonpicoREALTY.com or call her at the office 802-422-3600 or cell phone: 802-999-4033.

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Ryan Cochran-Siegle

By Tommy Ford



Paula Moltzan

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Wintersteiger sponsors Vermont skiers Paula Moltzan and Ryan Cochran-Siegle

Wintersteiger announced Jan. 3 the signing of two U.S. Ski Team athletes with ties to Vermont — Paula Moltzan and Ryan Cochran-Siegle, to their roster of brand ambassadors and pros. Both alpine ski racers were a natural fit for a Wintersteiger Group partnership.

Growing up under the tutelage of Buck Hill Ski Club legend, Erich Sailer, Paula Moltzan has made a splash in tech events

"They've been keeping my feet warm and comfortable even on the coldest of ski days."

over the last three seasons. Currently ranked in the top-20 in both slalom and giant slalom, Moltzan was also the 2017 NCAA Slalom Champion.

Moltzan is no stranger to the Wintersteiger Group — as a Rossignol athlete since she was 13 years old, her skis have always been prepared using Wintersteiger disc finish and proven race grind. Additionally, Wintersteiger Product Manager Todd Carroll, has stepped in when needed to help take care of her boot fitting needs.

New to the Wintersteiger Group roster this season is Ryan Cochran-Siegle. The latest Cochran to make their mark on the World Cup, Cochran-Siegle is the son of 1972 Olympic gold medalist, Barbara Ann Cochran. Currently attending University of Vermont for mechanical engineering, he aspires to win the World Cup Downhill title, Olympic and World Championship medals, and the Kitzbuhel Downhill during his ski racing career. Cochran-Siegle currently has two top-15 world rankings and is a constant threat in downhill, super-g, and giant slalom.

Though he may be new to the Group, Cochran-Siegle has been quickly impressed with the new Hotronic XLP 2P BT heat socks. He said, "I've been using the Hotronic heat socks on a daily basis and have been blown away. They've been keeping my feet warm and comfortable even on the coldest of ski days."

With a well-established position as the global leader in alpine racing, it is only natural that Wintersteiger would partner with athletes like Moltzan and Cochran-Siegle to help support their World Cup and Olympic dreams.

The Wintersteiger Group consists of the brands Wintersteiger, Hotronic and Bootdoc.



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How to prepare for an extended power outage

Planning ahead can help make adverse situations more manageable. Such is the case when storms strike and the power goes out. Extended power outages may not be pleasant, but some proactive planning can make it easier to withstand blackouts.

- Establish a local support network. Support can be just as valuable as supplies when confronting power outages. The American Red Cross urges individuals to identify people who can help them during an extended power outage. Such individuals may help you stay at home or evacuate if the power will be out for a lengthy period of time. Support networks can include relatives who live in nearby towns, but also neighbors. A single street can be served by different substations and main power lines, so friends or neighbor across the street may keep their power when your house does not, or vice versa. When the power goes out, support networks can pool their resources in various ways, including sharing refrigerators or allowing neighbors without power to access the internet. Such support makes

it easier for everyone to get through the outage with as little interruption to their lives as possible.

- Print a list of important contacts. If the power is out, it's only a matter of time before smartphones lose their battery power. Phones can always be plugged into vehicles to get a quick power boost, but that's not the most practical way to keep phones charged, especially if local roads are closed. A printed list of important contacts, including nearby relatives like seniors who may be incapacitated, doctors and school officials, ensures people whose phone batteries have died can still contact their loved ones and other important individuals so long as they can use a neighbor's or a loved one's phone.
- Learn to use your generator. Consumer Reports notes that improper operation of a generator can quickly prove deadly. If carbon monoxide concentrations are too high, individuals can lose their lives in as little as five minutes. And this is no insignificant threat, as the Consumer Product Safety Commis-

sion estimates that 95 people died from generator-associated carbon monoxide poisoning in 2017. CR recommends operating generators at least 20 feet away from the house. Individuals should familiarize themselves with their generators upon purchasing them so they aren't forced to endure a trial by fire when the power goes out.

- Stock up on essentials. The Red Cross recommends keeping a two-week supply of nonperishable food and water in the house, making sure to date each container of water and replace it every six months. Keep some extra coolers in the house so food can be stored on ice before it spoils in the refrigerator or freezer. In addition, make sure there's enough blankets in the house to keep everyone warm overnight, as it's not safe to use outdoor heaters indoors. Stock up on battery-powered lights and candles to light the house at night, but make sure all candles are extinguished before going to bed.

Extended power outages can be a nuisance. Planning for such outages in advance can make blackouts more manageable.



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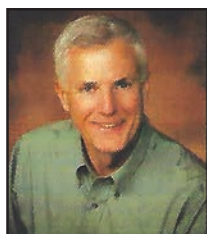
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