

WEATHER

High 25
Low 25



SPOTLIGHT

Vermont in the 21st century is a haven, a refuge, within the world, not from the world. And even here we must legislate for the world we're in, not the world we remember.

— Editorial, A4

Turning 40

The NewStory Center shares its goals as the organization marks 40 years. **A2**

A new face

The town of Killington appoints its new zoning administrator. **A3**

Nearing 1,000

Rutland's Elise Magro comes within 8 points of scoring 1,000 career points in girls basketball action vs. Hartford. **B1**

Shutdown fears

US lawmakers spar over immigration policy as a potential second shutdown looms. **B4**

HOT SPOT



Wednesday FLY TYERS MEETING

Ken Tedford will demonstrate tying two parachute fly patterns, the Hendrickson Transitional Emerger and the Rusty Parachute. 7-9 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland, ebnmjn@hotmail.com, 802-468-5525.

ONLINE

Like us on Facebook to enjoy Rutland Herald videos and podcasts: facebook.com/rutlandherald



LOTTERY

■ FEB. 11, 2019 DRAWS
Midday: 2-6-9 and 2-0-8-6
Evening: 0-9-6 and 8-1-7-7
New York State
6-5-9LS20 and 9-2-2-7 LS20

CONNECT

■ SUBSCRIBE
www.RutlandHerald.com
800-498-4296

■ NEWS TIPS
news@rutlandherald.com
802-747-6133

INDEX

Weather	A2
Editorial	A4
Obituaries	A6
Business	A7
Advice	A8
Comics	A8
Crossword	A8
Horoscope	A8
Calendar	A9
Sports	B1
Marketplace	B5
Television	B6



Groups back police probe

By **PATRICK MCARDLE**
STAFF WRITER

The Vermont branch of the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont are calling for a "broader inquiry" into Bennington officials, after Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan told reporters last week that the Bennington Police Department failed

to disclose relevant information during an investigation of threats and harassment against Kiah Morris and her family.

Donovan said he had spoken with Bennington Town Manager Stuart Hurd on Monday.

"It's my opinion that an outside law-enforcement expert is needed to review Bennington Police

Department's policies and procedures to ensure that best practices in policing are being followed. This action step will promote and maintain the public trust in the Bennington Police Department. I urge the town of Bennington to do this," he said Monday.

Asked if his office could order that review, Donovan said, "I think

I'm going to wait to hear back from the town of Bennington."

He said he had not suggested a time frame to Hurd, but said he believed "the sooner, the better."

Tabitha Pohl-Moore, Vermont director of the NAACP and president of the Rutland-area branch,

See Probe, page A10

FIRING AWAY



ROBERT LAYMAN / STAFF PHOTO

Steve Halford, of Wallingford, fires his 1620s-style muzzleloader rifle at a target during the 15th annual Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon in Manchester on Saturday. See more photos in this week's People and Places on page B8.

'Cannabis in the Capitol' returns

By **STEPHEN MILLS**
STAFF WRITER

MONTPELIER — The second annual Cannabis in the Capitol conference will be held at the State House on Wednesday.

Presented by Heady Vermont and Greenbridge Consulting, the conference centers around cannabis, hemp and medicinal marijuana advocacy and

education. Lawmakers will be on hand to share feedback about ongoing legislation, and vendors will display their products at a free exhibition.

There has been a renewed flurry of activity to pass legislation in the State House for a taxed and regulated cannabis market in Vermont after efforts stalled last session. Two new bills

in the Senate and House propose differing versions of a regulated market. Last month's Senate bill, S.54, calls for a 10-percent tax on cannabis sales, plus a 1-percent local options tax, with sales expected to begin in the spring of 2021. Last week in the House, Rep. Sam Young, D-Orleans-Caledonia, submitted H.196, which proposes allowing

existing medical marijuana dispensaries to pay a \$75,000 fee to sell cannabis to the general public at the beginning of next year.

Young said it would generate funds to create a Cannabis Control Board that would oversee a regulated market. Young's bill calls for an 11-percent excise tax, plus Vermont's 6-percent sales tax and a 3-percent

local options tax — totaling 20 percent — to benefit cities and towns hosting cannabis businesses.

But both bills face hurdles because of concerns by Gov. Phil Scott and House Speaker Mitzi Johnson, D-Grand Isle-Chittenden, that there should be funding for youth and adult

See Cannabis, page A10



ROBERT LAYMAN / STAFF PHOTO

Beth Saradarian, the new executive director of the Rutland County Humane Society, poses on Monday with Sasha Marie, a German shepherd-collie mix rescue from Kentucky.

New exec takes the reins at county's humane society

By **KEITH WHITCOMB JR.**
STAFF WRITER

PITTSFORD — Beth Saradarian came to Vermont from New Jersey 15 years ago looking for something different. At the Rutland County Humane Society, she found it.

"I did everything from sales, marketing, project management, online service data collection, sales reports. I was able to

bounce around so I learned a lot," she said Monday while comforting another newcomer to these parts, Sasha Marie, a 5-year-old Collie-Shepherd mix from the southern United States.

Saradarian began her time at the humane society as a shelter assistant, caring directly for the dogs, cats, guinea pigs, birds and other critters up for adoption. It was announced Monday by

Craig Arsenault, president of the humane society's Board of Directors, that Saradarian is the shelter's new executive director.

Saradarian was the group's assistant director prior to November, when Dr. Kevin Rushing stepped down after serving as executive director for about a year. Saradarian, having

See RCHS, page A10

VISUALLY IMPAIRED SKIERS

Pico Mountain hosts event for adaptive group

By **GORDON DRITSCHLO**
STAFF WRITER

It was Audrey Lester's second time skiing.

"I thought it was going to be much easier," the 34-year-old from Washington D.C. said as she stood in line Saturday for the lift up Pico's bunny slope. "It's an unnatural position to be in, to lean forward into your skis."

Lester was one of 35 people at Pico Saturday for an event organized by Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports for skiers with visual impairments.

"I am challenging my body to do something new," she said. "I have not fallen today. Last week, I fell three times. I'm making significant progress."

Kim Jackson, Vermont Adaptive's communications director, said the group was a mixture of newcomers and veteran skiers.

"If you're passionate about sports, regardless of your ability, you should be able to do them," Jackson



PROVIDED PHOTO

Vermont Adaptive had an event at Pico Saturday for skiers with visual impairments.

said. "Learning to do something is empowering. ... The cool thing about sports is that you're doing it with friends. You're all on the same playing field. You've got people who are guiding you, helping you, but everyone's having fun. ... I think everybody needs to have those goals and those experiences. That's what life's about."

See Skiers, page A10