



Shutdown continues with Trump out of country

NEWS, 3A

Burlington Free Press

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 | BURLINGTONFREEPRESS.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

‘THIS ISN’T EASY; IT’S GROSS WORK’



Bin Force One in downtown Rutland. PROVIDED BY BIN FORCE ONE

How TikTok inspired VT’s first trash bin cleaning service

Madelyn Nonni
UVM Community News Service

RUTLAND — A new local business is aiming to assist homeowners and businesses on one of the dirtiest days of the week — and offers a case study for how young entrepreneurs can find inspiration through apps like TikTok.

Bin Force One is Vermont’s first professional trash bin cleaning service, us-

ing Environmental Protection Agency-certified equipment, environmentally friendly cleaning solutions and a 17-stage filtration system that captures and filters dirty water, avoiding storm-drain pollution.

Additionally, the business offers soft and pressure washing, surface cleaning and fleet washing for commercial vehicles.

After bouncing between majors as a

first year at Castleton University, owner Connor Balestra said he was unsure of his path, so he left school to work for Mercedes-AMG Driving Academy at the age of 21.

While working a variety of jobs the next few years and being self-employed, a TikTok video pushed Balestra, now 28, to jumpstart his new

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SKI SEASON

Killington putting \$22M into upgrades

Beth McDermott
AI-assisted reporter
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USA TODAY NETWORK

Killington Resort is investing \$22 million into infrastructure upgrades for the 2025-26 season, the resort said in a press release.

The latest round of funding brings the resort’s two-year investment total to \$60 million, it says. This year’s projects include replacing the Snowdon Triple lift with a new fixed-grip quad chair and expanding the popular Jerk Jamaican Mountain Grill, which will grow from 26 to 160 indoor seats and add 100 seats outdoors.

“We’ve been thrilled at the level of investment from our independent ownership group over the past year,” said Mike Solimano, president and CEO of Killington Resort. “The flexibility of independent ownership has allowed us to act quickly and make timely adjustments to capital projects while always keeping the guest experience as our priority.”

Lift upgrades, expanded dining and snowmaking improvements

The Snowdon Triple, originally installed in 1973, is scheduled to be replaced with a \$6.5 million four-person lift. The upgrade is part of a multi-year strategy to maintain lifts that can operate reliably during harsh weather.

The Jerk Jamaican Mountain Grill, a ski-in, ski-out restaurant that opened in 2016, is expected to be rebuilt with a footprint more than four times its current size. The new facility will include full bar service, expanded food prep and storage areas and additional restrooms for guests in the Northbrook area.

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New program for LGBTQ+ youth begins next month

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Outright Vermont is launching a new program for LGBTQ+ and gender creative kids ages 10-12.

The Tween Group will meet on the first Thursday and third Sunday of each month at Outright Vermont’s Burlington youth space, according to an announcement from the nonprofit.

The first meeting is scheduled for Nov. 6. The group aims to foster “queer and trans joy, connection and community,” according to Outright Vermont. The Thursday meetings will take place 4-6 p.m., while the Sunday meetings will run 2-4 p.m.

The program is free, and snacks will be provided. Activities will include open

The Tween Group was created in response to feedback from young people who expressed a desire for an independent social space but who are not yet old enough for the Outright’s Friday Night Group

social time and youth-led initiatives.

The group is co-facilitated by trained adult staff and volunteers, including Outright Youth organizers and camp leaders in training. The new program

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A look at a bulletin board at Outright Vermont. Many are filled with positive messages and mementos. ABBEY GINGRAS/FREE PRESS

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Volume 198 No. 297
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