

# Vail Daily

'BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER'

SUNDAY, 12 • 18 • 11 | VAILDAILY.COM | FREE

## International presence strong in Vail

Mexico, Brazil, Canada, Australia and Great Britain are Vail's top international markets. **A3**



### Ice comes to life at Winterfest

Polar bears and penguins take up residence in Beaver Creek. **B1**

Paul Wertin of Alpine Ice works on one of his ice polar bears at the main fountain on the Beaver Creek Plaza on Saturday. The bear is the patriarch of an ice menagerie that is part of Beaver Creek's Winterfest, a celebration of all things winter. Produced by Blue Creek Productions, Winterfest kicks off Monday at 3 p.m. and includes a daily kids' parade, roving characters, music, ice skating and other winter-themed activities.

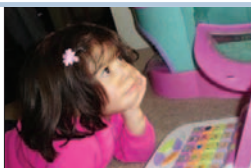
DOMINIQUE TAYLOR  
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#### WEATHER



**HARRY DUCHARME**  
Stone Creek Charter School

Sunny and mild —  
High 37; low 13  
Weather, B8



**TOWN TALK**  
Find your friends **A12**

#### COMMENTARY

'Remorse turns the heart frigid. When life feels very painful, we play the blame game, don't we?'

JACK VAN ENS, A5

#### LOTTERIES

Colorado Lottery  
15 17 22 24 34 36

Powerball  
13 28 49 51 59, PB33, PP4

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# HighLife

VAILDAILY SECTION B

SUNDAY, 12 · 18 · 11

TRAVEL | HOME | WELLNESS | FOOD & DRINK | **go&do** | MUSIC | FILM | BOOKS | ART | THEATER | LIFESTYLE

## the ICE menagerie



Winterfest celebrates the holiday season with an immersive experience

By Wren Werten  
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Imagine the main fountain is a vortex, but instead of sucking things in it's spewing out: a world where winter is both king and kingdom. Brian Hall's reverse vortex is called Winterfest, and beginning this week, it will transform the Beaver Creek Plaza for two weeks.

"We're going to turn it into a wonderful, theatrical set celebrating winter," Hall said. "It's going to be a completely immersive experience. We'll have lights, and two and three-dimensional icons of winter — fire and ice and

entertainment. It's a magical walk through a magical time."

Producer of the event for the Beaver Creek Resort Co., Hall's the main man behind Blue Creek Productions, a company that specializes in family events and entertainment. He's what you call a theater guy, and he takes Shakespeare's words to heart: All the world's a stage. And for Winterfest, all the plaza's a stage — plus some of the borderlands. It will be like flipping a switch. One moment there's a resort village, the next it's a magical kingdom.

It's designed for kids — the kid in everyone. At 3 p.m. daily for the duration of the festival,

children are extolled to come to the Covered Bridge where they'll be met by any of a whole cast of characters that includes the likes of the Snow Princess, Old Man Winter, Scurry and Snowflake, who also will be telling winter tales and greeting visitors when not leading the procession. After parading through the village, the world's their winter playground.

### Find the penguins

There will be music, flashing snowflakes, three-dimensional stars, and actors who

**LEFT AND ABOVE:** Paul Werten of Alpine Ice works on the details of one of his polar bear ice sculptures featured in Beaver Creek's Winterfest on Saturday at Beaver Creek.

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Menagerie, page B2

### Winterfest 2011 schedule

- Dec. 19-24:** Santa's Cottage on Beaver Creek Plaza. Santa and his elves will set up shop to hear the Christmas wishes of children from 3:30 to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 19-24 and Dec. 26-Jan. 1:** Winter characters Snow Princess, Old Man Winter, Scurry and Snowflake lead Kids' Winter Wonder Parade, skate around the ice rink and delight the entire family with their appearances throughout Beaver Creek Plaza from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 and 26:** Disco Skate Night at Beaver Creek Village ice rink from 6 p.m. to close.
- Dec. 23 and 27:** Figure skating performances at Beaver Creek Village ice rink at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 20 and 28:** The Kids' Winter Discovery Zone presents

- "The Animals of Winter" from 3 to 6 p.m. at Beaver Creek Plaza.
- Dec. 28 and 29:** Beaver Creek Has Talent contest: Auditions will be held and contestants will move through qualifying rounds to the finals at Beaver Creek fountain stage. Semifinals are Dec. 28 at 4 p.m. and finals are Dec. 29 at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 22 and 31:** Thursday Night Lights Ski Down and New Year's Eve Glow Worm Ski Down. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 22 and 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 31. Meet at Children's Ski School at the base of Beaver Creek Mountain.
- Dec. 21 and 27:** Drums of the Mountains. Everyone has a chance to pound on percussion instruments from 3 to 6 p.m. at Beaver Creek Plaza.
- Dec. 22 and 29:** Torches of Fire jugglers from 3 to 5 p.m. at

- Beaver Creek Plaza.
- Dec. 19 and 26:** Ice sculpture demonstrations by Paul Werten, a local ice sculptor who created the Animals of Winter Ice Menagerie at the Village Fountain. Watch as he transforms a solid block of ice into a work of art at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Place.
- Dec. 23 and 30:** Family Friday Afternoon Club outside of McCoy's. Meet ski patrol and the Beaver Creek avalanche dogs, launch an avalanche "grenade" and more from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24 and 31:** Saturday Family FunFest with music, games, food and fun from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Beaver Kids Plaza. In addition to Winterfest, Beaver Creek Loves Kids will take place during other holidays throughout the season including Presidents week Feb. 18-25, spring break March 10-31, and Easter week April 1-7.



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**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
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**MENAGERIE**  
FROM PAGE B1

spuriously add to the immersive illusion. Helmut Fricker will be singing and playing his alpenhorn, heard in the distant hills. Each evening a different program will take place on the ice at the skating rink. And Paul Wertin of Alpine Ice is sculpting the life-sized menagerie out of crystal-clear ice.

"The main fountain will become this wonderful animal kingdom," Hall said. "It's going to be natural, organic, clean and wonderful. So we're taking this whole fountain and filling it with the types of animals you'd see around here, like a mountain lion and an eagle. And the patriarch is a polar bear with his little cub."

**Get up close**

Many of the fountain animals will be visible from all over the plaza — but not all of them. You'll have to get up close and personal to see some of them.

"And then mixed in here and there will be this incredible family of penguins," Hall said. "If you come up and peek in, you might see a penguin visible from no other spot, fallen on his tooshka.... And there are five of these penguins who are mischievous and, unbeknownst to us, have jumped over the wall of the fountain, so we need the kids to find them."

They'll be tucked here and there around the village, just waiting to be found by wandering eyes and excitable minds.

And if all this isn't enough, there will be other special events. The first-ever Beaver Creek's Got Talent will take place during Winterfest; anyone can enter. A mountain-drum circle will have parents and kids alike discovering the rhythms of the day. And an "Animals of Winter" program will bring in live animals (and their caregivers) to teach kids about how the animals adapt and survive in their various winter climates.

"It's natural, it's organic, it's real," Hall said excitedly. "It won't be manufactured stuff."

And as long as the skies cooperate, there will be an abundance of snow, too.



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Steve Teien positions one of 25 penguins at the main fountain for Beaver Creek's Winterfest Saturday.

**SPORTS**

See local and national sports news every day in the Vail Daily or at [www.vaildaily.com](http://www.vaildaily.com)

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MOVIE SHOWTIMES FOR SUN DEC. 18 - MON DEC. 19

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<b>Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)</b> Su • M: 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30	<b>Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)</b> Su • M: 1:00, 4:00, 6:50
<b>The Sitter (R)</b> Su • M: 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:20	<b>Arthur Christmas (PG)</b> Su • M: 1:20, 4:20
<b>New Year's Eve (PG-13)</b> Su • M: 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30	<b>J. Edgar (R)</b> Su • M: 7:10
	<b>New Year's Eve (PG-13)</b> Su • M: 1:10, 4:10, 7:00

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