



## COST OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS IS 'EYE-POPPING'

State education officials have estimated the total school construction needs will require \$6.3 billion over the next 21 years. Voters to decide if Woodstock Middle School/High School gets rebuilt this March.

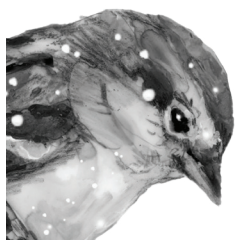
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## CATCH HOLLISTER AT ARTISTREE, FRIDAY

Musician Chad Hollister will be performing at ArtisTree in South Pomfret on Friday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

Page 20



## WELCOME WINTER VISITORS, THE AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

The tree sparrows are clever and hardy in the winter, they forage on the ground all around fields and in bird feeders, in search of seeds.

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## MVSD to increase budget without penalty

Act 127's new weighting formula, allows up to 10% increase with 5% cap on the equalized tax rate; rising property values aren't capped

By Curt Peterson and Polly Mikula

The Mountain View Supervisory Union (MVSU) board approved a proposed district school budget of \$30,429,153 for FY2025 at their board meeting Monday, Jan. 8. The school district budget (Article 6) will be on the ballots of the seven towns that make up the district — Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Pittsfield,

Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock — on Town Meeting day, March 5.

Despite this year's budget increasing \$4.6 million, or 17.8% over last year, "the equalized tax rate will increase by a flat 5% from FY24 to FY25 due to the application of a cap going into School district budget → 14



By Polly Mikula

Pico Ski Club racers gathered by the newly unveiled sign under the Little Pico Triple, Jan. 6.

## A-Slope expands race venue at Pico

Three-year campaign doubles race-training capacity, adds snowmaking and was dedicated to Anne and Joe Jones

By Polly Mikula

A-Slope at Little Pico snowmaking campaign celebrated its completion with over 100 community members attending the dedication ceremony, Saturday, Jan. 6. The campaign was dedicated to the life, leadership and legacy of Vermont ski racing pioneers Anne and Joe Jones, who were passionate skiers, coaches, leaders and founders.

"It started out as a \$325,000 campaign... with a goal was to raise \$100,000 over three years," explained Tom

Aicher, Pico Ski Education Foundation (PSEF) executive board member and A-Slope committee chair in a video about the A-Slope snowmaking expansion project. "Then when Covid hit it added time and inflation dramatically to the equation so we had to call an audible mid-way, but luckily we have a resort operator — Killington/Powdr Corp — that was behind us and had our back and they came through in a big way," Aicher continued.

"Killington Resort presented the campaign with a giant check for \$100,000, back in 2020," Aicher said at the celebration, Saturday. "Through their words and their deeds they truly support what this club is doing at Pico."

"When we heard that the group wanted to invigorate A-Slope that made a lot of sense to us," said Mike Solimano, president of Killington Resort and Pico Mountain. "We really embrace ski racing, from

A-Slope → 5

## Zoning for retail cannabis in Killington discussed at public hearing

By Katy Savage

Cannabis retail stores could be coming to Killington if voters approve the measure on Town Meeting Day, March 5.

The Killington Planning Commission held a public hearing Jan. 3 to establish zoning that would limit where retail stores can be.

The commission proposal allows cannabis stores only on Killington Road between School House Road and the Lookout Tavern — just before where the Killington Resort property begins.

"We wanted to be forward thinking as a board," Planning Commission Chair Jennifer Iannantuoni said at the meeting. "The point of these zoning regulations is to identify appropriate districts for these activities to take place and a process for securing a zoning permit within the town of Killington."

Cannabis retail became legal in Vermont in 2022. The law requires individual towns to vote on allowing cannabis retail before any potential business can obtain a license from the state.

At the public hearing, some residents and business owners questioned why the planning commission was not allowing cannabis retail shops along Route 4 in town.

Iannantuoni said the planning commission discussed that at length and board members "didn't want it at the gateway to Killington."

Planning commission members said retail operations could be more controlled on Killington Road, as opposed to the possibility of cannabis attracting a transient population on Route 4.

Iannantuoni said the town was serious about enforcing zoning bylaws. "When we do this, we want to do it in a thoughtful way," she said. "We must be forward thinking. We have to have a plan in place if we get a 'yes' vote."

While some were concerned about breathing second-hand smoke and the new stores creating a potential black market, Dana Brearley, the co-founder of East Coast Cannabis, a large retail cannabis organization in Maine, said his average customer is a 45-year-old male.

"We're not making dynamite," he said. "It isn't what it used to be, you know, so having it safe and accessible is really the most important thing."

State law prevents cannabis retail spaces within 500 feet of a licensed childcare facility and limits the size of retail establishments to 3,000 square feet or less. The law prohibits odor from coming from the retail space and prevents people from running a cannabis operation out of a home.

It is also still illegal to use cannabis in public spaces, including on the street, on sidewalks or in public parks.

The commission is expected to vote on the issue at its next meeting on Jan. 10. If approved, the measure will go to the Select Board. If the Select Board approves, the issue, it will then be put to voters at Town Meeting Day, March 5.

"When we do this, we want to do it in a thoughtful way," Iannantuoni said. "We must be forward thinking. We have to have a plan in place if we get a 'yes' vote."

## Gov. Scott outlines priorities: safety, affordability, and housing

Gov. Phil Scott delivered his annual State of the State address Jan. 4 to a joint session of General Assembly, opening his eighth legislative session as governor.

The governor outlined challenges and opportunities for the state in the coming year. And having already started working with legislators on key initiatives,

he dedicated his address to highlighting why it is so critical for them to prioritize three key issues: public safety, affordability, and housing.

"Public safety, affordability, and housing are the issues that demand our immediate attention because Vermonters are seeing, feeling, and living them every single day.

And because these issues are critical to reversing our demographic trends," Gov. Scott said.

The governor also highlighted the progress that has been made over the past several years on key priorities and the need to build on that work.

"We've already laid the foundation, literally in many State of the state → 10

## Police: Banyai has fled with no plan to return

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

A month after Vermont's Environmental Court renewed a warrant for Daniel Banyai's arrest, law enforcement say the Slate Ridge owner has left the state.

Environmental Court Judge Thomas Durkin required Vermont State Police and the Rutland County sheriff to submit official updates every 30 days on their efforts to arrest Banyai.

In the first of these filings, state police Lt. Douglas Norton wrote in an affidavit that since Dec. 4, law enforcement performed 14 checks of Banyai's West Pawlet property, a former weapons training facility that had previously hosted militia groups.

Banyai's lawyer, Robert Kaplan, told Norton on Dec. 13 that "he understood that Mr. Banyai was not currently in Vermont, nor did he have plans to return to the state," Norton wrote in the affidavit. "Attorney Kaplan added that he did not possess more specific information as to Mr. Banyai's whereabouts."

Kaplan also told Rutland County Sheriff David Fox that he found it "highly unlikely" Banyai would turn himself in, according to Fox's affidavit.

The police updates, both filed with the court on Wednesday, Jan. 3, come more than a week after Banyai was required by court order to turn himself in to the Vermont Department of Corrections' prison in Rutland.

Banyai's years-long legal saga with the town of Pawlet over zoning violations on his property has garnered attention nationwide.

Finding the Slate Ridge owner in contempt of court for failing to take down unpermitted structures, Durkin issued an initial arrest warrant earlier this year, but that warrant expired without any action taken.

As Durkin considered renewing the warrant, attorneys for Pawlet and Banyai agreed to a last-minute deal that allowed town officials to inspect Slate Ridge to determine the property's compliance. The judge ultimately sided with the town, agreeing that Banyai had not completely removed unpermitted structures.

The state police affidavit, as well as that of the Rutland sheriff, show that the agencies together planned to arrest Banyai at a probation meeting in Rutland in late December. (The affidavits list dates of both Dec. 19 and Dec. 20 for the scheduled meeting.)

"I as well as Troopers from the Rutland Barracks awaited Banyai to arrive," Fox wrote, adding that on the morning of the meeting, probation and parole informed police that "Banyai had called in and would not be coming in."

According to the affidavits, Banyai is allowed to check in with probation and parole electronically, which he did on that date.

On Dec. 21, the day before Banyai was required to turn himself in at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland, Norton, the state police lieutenant, reached out to the prison to see if they were aware of the order for Banyai to surrender.

"They were not aware," Norton wrote, "therefore I provided them with a copy of the order."

Norton wrote that "negotiations between Mr. Banyai and the town on this matter had resumed," but that, according to Pawlet's attorney, Merrill Bent, "The resumption of negotiations has not resulted in identifying a location where Mr. Banyai could be found" as of Dec. 23.

In an email to VTDigger on Thursday, Jan. 4 Kaplan, Banyai's attorney, wrote, "Mr. Banyai remains eternally hopeful that a sensible and fair compromise can be reached with the town of Pawlet," calling the affidavits "quite stunning"

Law enforcement performed 14 checks of Banyai's West Pawlet property, a former weapons training facility that had previously hosted militia groups.

## Hartland names John Broker-Campbell new town manager

By Curt Peterson

Hartland has a new town manager.

John Broker-Campbell, 44, was officially appointed Tuesday, Jan. 2, with a salary of \$92,000 and full benefits.

"John clearly demonstrated that he has the skill set, experience and enthusiasm to be a successful town manager for Hartland," Select Board chair Phil Hobbie said in a website press release Wednesday morning.

Hartland's town manager position has been vacant since David Ormiston, the previous position holder, was terminated in May. The Select Board immediately began a search for a new manager by engaging Tom Yenerell of Municipal Management Services, Inc., a consultant in the business of finding key town employees, who began a national search in July. Eight candidates were interviewed.

During the interim, Finance Director and Delinquent Tax Collector Martin Dole also filled the town manager's shoes, Hobbie said.

Hobbie said the Select Board supported Dole in his additional post, which has involved completing the Three-Corners intersection project and interviewing prospective providers of expanded policing services, among other challenges.

Broker-Campbell, who lives in Weathersfield, told the Mountain Times he grew up in western Michigan and graduated from the University of Wisconsin/Green Bay in 2007 with a degree in environmental policy and planning. He and his wife Kelly married that summer, and moved to Vermont, where Broker-Campbell began working for Southern Vermont Regional Planning Commission (which is now Mt. Ascutney Regional Planning Commission).

Broker-Campbell earned his emergency management badge when Tropical Storm Irene devastated Vermont in 2011. The storm caused \$13.5 billion in damages and killed 47 people in the region; the demand for advocacy and administrative skills was enormous.

A subsequent flood event in 2015 caused significant damage in a third of the state, Broker-Campbell said. He went to work for the

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as a regional flood plain manager for much of southern Vermont. Floodplain managers work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to oversee the national flood insurance program.

"The idea of being a town manager had been percolating in my head for some time," he said. "I thought I was ready. Then I saw the Hartland job posting in October and sent in my resume by the deadline in November."

Kelly works at the River Valley Tech Center in Springfield. The couple have one son, Benjie, who attends the Weathersfield School.

Broker-Campbell has also served in voluntary positions in Weathersfield, including as a member of its Zoning Board of Adjustment. An avid mountain biker in his spare time, he recently won a trip to Moab, Utah in a Vermont Mountain Biking Association fundraising raffle.

"The trip to Moab was an excellent end-of-year excitement," he said.

Broker-Campbell said he's excited about meeting and working with the residents, employees and officials in Hartland.

"I'm looking forward to working for Hartland for years to come," he said.



Courtesy Town of Hartland  
Damon Hall is located at 1 Quechee Road.

## Norwich University president out, calls decision 'mutual'

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

The president of Norwich University said he is departing the military school over three years on the job.

Mark Anarumo said Friday, Jan. 5, that he was leaving by "mutual" decision. Provost and Dean of the Faculty Karen Gaines will serve as acting president, according to Anarumo and an email that Gaines sent to members of the school community, which was obtained by VTDigger and confirmed by a person who works at the school.

"President Anarumo is on leave and may not return to work. ... We cannot discuss the specifics of the President's leave," Gaines wrote in the email, describing personnel matters as confidential. "We will provide information on an

as needed basis."

Norwich University officials did not immediately respond to questions on Friday.

Anarumo said he had been placed on paid administrative leave in order to provide continuity to the school and give him time to prepare for a move out of state. He said he hopes to finalize the details of his departure with the school next week.

Anarumo became Norwich's president in June 2020, replacing longtime president Richard Schneider, who served in the role for nearly three decades. He is a major general who served in the U.S. Air Force and received a Ph.D. in

Norwich → 7



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger  
Col. Mark Anarumo leaves post as president of Norwich.

# Woodstock discusses purchase of aqueduct company, sales tax

By Katy Savage

Woodstock voters could decide to buy the privately owned Woodstock Aqueduct Company and make it a municipal operation on Town Meeting Day in March.

The aqueduct company, owned by the Billings family and other investors, is being offered for sale for the value of the debt.

It's unclear how much debt the Woodstock Aqueduct Company has, according to Charlie Kimbell, a former state representative and member of the Woodstock Economic Development Commission. It could cost around \$10 million to bring the operation up to state water pressure requirements. The town would need to upgrade the size of the pipe from 8-inches to 12-inches.

Kimbell said the town would also likely need to build a new reservoir in the east end of town.

The town sought studies on economics from the Harvard Business School and the finance committee has discussed the issue at length.

"The recommendation was it was in the best interest of Woodstock to purchase and operate the Woodstock Aqueduct Company," Kimbell said.

Kimbell said the purchase would give the town water security and public safety security since there are about 96 fire hydrants on the system. It would also give the town control over the operation and get the lowest cost for ratepayers. Unlike privately owned systems, the town has access to grants and low interest loans.

"There's only one right choice and that choice is to go ahead and purchase the water system," resident Ryan Logan said.

Some were hesitant to move forward given the unknowns about how much the system would cost.

Resident Jon Spector urged the board to put the measure on the Town Meeting Day ballot in March to let voters decide.

"There are enough questions from members of the community who would like to see the numbers and assumptions you've heard Charlie make," Spector said.

The Woodstock Aqueduct Company dates back to 1880. Jireh Billings is the company's current president, and the Woodstock vote → 7

## Woodstock to hold Town Meeting by Australian ballot only

Staff report

There will be no in-person Town Meeting in Woodstock this year.

The Woodstock Select Board voted Jan. 8 to make Town Meeting by Australian ballot only this year under Act 1. The temporary act gives towns the option to do away with in-person town meetings and make all decisions by Australian ballot for the next year only.

While some residents didn't want to give up the tradition, saying it helped inform people prior to voters, others thought it was an outdated way to vote.

"I think it's a lovely old tradition. It [represents] a fraction of the voting population in the town and village," resident Ryan Logan said.

Few attended the last year's in-person Town Meeting, largely due to a snowstorm.

"We don't need the New York Times to come up here and write about how quaint the system is," resident Mac Weinstein said. "It's not efficient."

Resident Jeff Kahn said the in-person Town Meeting allows for better and more informed voting since discussions can take place.

Town Meeting voting will be held in March.

## Rutland Regional plan survey launched

Beginning this week, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission will ask residents to participate in the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 Online Survey. Survey results will be used to guide policies and actions for the eight-year plan update, which is intended to help shape coordinated and efficient community economic development. The plan is a vision for the future with broad goals to facilitate that vision.

The survey is an important piece of the overall development process. Information collected will help inform a plan that features equitable policies to best serve the region's communities. It will be complemented by several outreach efforts led by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission staff, including community open houses and pop-up events. As these activities are scheduled, they will regularly be updated on the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 website: [rutlandprc.org/plan2026](http://rutlandprc.org/plan2026)

"It is crucial that we hear directly from the residents we serve. We recognize that each of our 27 towns face a variety of challenges and that there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution," said Devon Neary, RRPC's executive director. "Our hope is that the community will share their thoughts with us so we can integrate those challenges and potential solutions into the 2026 plan update."

The survey will be open through March 31, visit: [surveymonkey.com/t/RutlandRegionPlan2026](http://surveymonkey.com/t/RutlandRegionPlan2026).

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# NewStory Center's new shelter – A sanctuary for survivors

As one of the bitterest cold months of the year is in full swing in Vermont, idyllic images abound — of roaring fireplaces, ice-skating on frozen ponds, steaming cups of cocoa, and puffy snowsuits that make even the tiniest human look like an overstuffed king-size pillow.

Those images are worlds apart from the raw reality that survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Rutland County endure every day. NewStory Center, the largest single provider of emergency housing in Rutland County, has for four decades dedicated its work to ending that cycle of violence.

To that end, on a brilliantly sunny and uncharacteristically mild afternoon last November, NewStory Center had at least one important reason to celebrate. Executive director Avaloy Lanning welcomed the organization's board members, donors, neighbors, survivors and other supporters to an Open House and ribbon-cutting event for the organization's sparkling new shelter in Rutland.

The event strengthened comprehension about why the community should support this indispensable nonprofit's mission, vision, and values, as a sanctuary for survivors of domestic violence — regardless of the nature or extent of that violence.

"Violence happens everywhere...rural, urban, global," Lanning noted. "These aren't big-city problems or 'those people' problems," she emphasized. "It happens in every religion, every race. It happens to men as well as women — straight, gay, or trans. And it happens in every economic class."

In fact, New Story's website includes this enlightening statement: "Some people think they should not seek help unless they have signs of physical abuse. [But] there are many kinds of abuse — including emotional, psychological, financial and sexual abuse." [NewStory Center's 24-hour crisis hotline is 802-775-3232.]

Through support, education, prevention, and collaboration with communities across Rutland county, NewStory's staff of social workers, program managers, and administrators, serve women, men, and children — regardless of gender or gender expression — who are experiencing domestic and sexual violence. The staff provide comfort and validation to survivors, assuring them that the violence they have experienced is not their fault.

The organization's refurbished facility now doubles its shelter capacity. Previously, the organization had one shelter,

with the capacity to serve up to seven households, but more was needed. The new shelter — which is light-filled and airy with lots of windows throughout — can accommodate six more households. It encompasses a congregate living setting, where supportive services and community connection contribute to survivors' healing and recovery from their trauma, plus a living room, dining area, kitchen, pantry, and accessible laundry room.

Beyond the entrance, visitors at the Open House streamed into freshly painted rooms that contained rustic small baskets filled with notecards, indicating additional items the shelter needs — end tables, small lamps, rugs — along with suggested dollar donations (e.g., "\$50 will buy..."). NewStory's staff were on hand in each room, to describe how the specific room had

been refurbished. The staff's soft-spoken approach, coupled with the quaint baskets and discreet donation cards, made for an extremely poignant and gracious method of encouraging attendees to donate.

In the home's sleeping areas, there are six separate bedrooms, and four bathrooms, including one bedroom and bath that is fully accessible, as well as a second-story two-bedroom apartment that was reintegrated into the home. In addition, an office with a separate exterior entrance was created to provide private, confidential meeting space for residents to meet with shelter staff and/or other advocates and service providers (such as attorneys). A new walkout basement area has been converted into serene living quarters, with two new bedrooms, common kitchen, bath and laundry. There is also green space for children and families to enjoy.

All the beds in the new shelter are topped by multi-colored quilts handmade and donated to NewStory Center by the Maple Leaf Quilters Guild. According to Jennifer Yakunovich, NewStory's development director, the group has been one of NewStory's most dedicated supporters for decades. The Guild not only regularly donates quilts but also "wish list" items, and members collect cash donations at each of their monthly meetings.

To be clear, while the overall shelter is designed to exude the warmth, welcome, and well-being that suggest a happy family home, access to the shelter is restricted by combination-controlled lockboxes. It was difficult not to notice the lockboxes and their significance, reminding attendees to the

Open House of the danger survivors face on an ongoing basis.

As winter progresses, NewStory Center's new shelter does not profess to be like the quaint settings portrayed in romantic fiction, where parents and children build snowmen and bake gooey brownies as they anticipate their "happily ever after." For survivors of domestic and sexual violence, however, the shelter serves as a gleaming beacon of optimism, a heartening bellwether helping survivors to envision a better life ahead.

Development and construction for the new shelter was funded by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, City of Rutland ARPA Funds, Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity, 3EThermal, a statewide project of Capstone Community Action, and private donations. The development team included Arnold and Scangas Architects, Naylor & Breen Builders, Inc, and Kulas Consulting, LLC.

For NewStory Center's 24-hour crisis hotline call 802-775-3232. To learn more about donating to NewStory Center, or how to become a NewStory board member, visit: [nscvt.org](http://nscvt.org), or call the office at 802-775-6788.

Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: [lizdimarcoweinmann.com](http://lizdimarcoweinmann.com).



**For the Greater Good**  
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann



By Liz DiMarco Weinmann  
Avaloy Lanning, executive director of NewStory Center in purple, in the foreground, welcoming NewStory supporters at open house for new shelter. Mayor Doenges is behind her.



## ← A-Slope: from page 1

the Women's World Cup to so many other things we're doing... we're definitely dedicated to growing ski racing in the region."

A-Slope offers a consistent slope with a lower-angle terrain ideal for younger racers and older racers practicing fundamentals before progressing to the added challenge of steeper terrain on B-Slope, explained Lori McClallen, director of ski racing at the Pico Ski Club.

"Ski racing is core to Pico, we look at Pico and ski racing as kind of one together so it made a lot of sense to expand the venue," said Solimano. "A-Slope adds a lot of versatility for more kids."

The effort to reinvigorate A-Slope began three years ago by clearing trees to make the A-Slope cutoff so kids could access A-Slope for training and racing purposes, said Rich McCoy, director of operations at Pico Mountain.

The race program at Pico began with the mountain itself and today 150-170 kids race train there, said Aicher, "we were constantly trying to find time during Saturdays and Sundays to train kids, so there's been a need for a while for a second venue and A-Slope had a history that we decided to embrace."

"Our athlete are very competitive within the state and greater region," said Missy Karr, representing the PSEF kicking off the dedication event, Saturday. "Today we celebrate the successful completion of the A-Slope snowmaking fundraising campaign. This is a testament to the wonderful ski community, that we have here," she said.

"As we championed the historic significance of A-Slope to our programs during this campaign we noticed that the legacy of two very critical people in our club's history and their connection to A-Slope were missing from our recognition program: Anne and Joe Jones. So we embraced the chance to fix that and we ran the entire campaign in their honor," Aicher explained to the group gathered in the Andrea Mead Lawrence building Saturday. "Today as we celebrate the success of the campaign and we unveil a new sign recognizing the contributions to A-Slope we take a moment to pause, to recognize and to inspire. To connect the past to the future, to reflect on the impact of this young couple who loved skiing and who were inspired by Andrea Mead and her coach Karl Acker, and decided that they could and would help us build a kids ski program from the ground up and then to connect that program

to other nearby programs. The mid-Vermont council was founded under their leadership, and from there to connect clubs throughout the state into an organized competition model — a model now embodied in the Vermont Alpine Racing Association (VARA) [which they also helped to found in 1971]. Their vision was to devise a path for Pico athletes to rise to the highest levels of Alpine skiing"

Karl Acker, who's father Karl Acker, Sr., founded the Pico Ski Club in 1938 just after Brad and Janet Mead first opened Pico on Thanksgiving Day 1937. He coached Andrea Mead who later went on to become a two-time Olympic gold medal winner at the 1952 Olympics in Oslo.

His father helped Janet operate Pico when Brad died in a boating accident and in 1954 he and his wife June purchased Pico from Janet Mead and ran the mountain until Pico was sold in 1964.

The young Karl Acker, had many stories to tell the crowd Saturday.

"Joe and Ann loved to ski," was the most common refrain.

"Joe, who ran his own insurance company in Rutland and had foreign to do as he wanted, pretty much on a daily basis would arrive to the mountain here and he'd step out of the car in his suit and tie and slip on a one-piece skiing suit (not a racing suit, an insulated one) put on his ski boots and go over to the T-bar. If my father was available they would take as many runs as Joe had time for 'cause he had to get back to punch back in at his own office after an hour lunch break," Acker laughed.

Acker also remembered being lovingly coached by Joe Jones. "Occasionally when some of us could get out of school early we would come up here and ride the lift until it closed and then hike up on lower B-Slope here and go in with our hatchets and cut little sticks out of the woods and set gates. Joe, whenever he could make it, would come up and give us some guidance.

"They definitely loved skiing... they skied until they couldn't ski

anymore. And, I have to say, I hope to follow in those ski tracks myself," Acker concluded.

Marsha Fletcher Dixon, took the microphone next. She was coach by Joe and then coached U10-14 for 16 years at both Killington and Pico.

She said she was deeply moved by the contributions and commu-

"It's all about connections, and that is what the family of ski racing and, more specifically, the Pico Ski Club is all about," said Dixon.



A new sign between A-Slope and B-Slope was unveiled at the A-Slope dedication event Saturday, Jan. 6.

nity support that went into reinvigorating A-Slope. "For me, at 80 years olds, it's so heartfelt, I can't even begin to tell you," she said.

Dixon also had many stories to share of Pico racing history and the foundational mentorship of Joe and Anne Jones.

"Joe was a member of the 10th mountain winter warfare ski division of the U.S. Army as were many others in the Rutland area post World War II, when he finished his army tour he returned to a position at Middlebury College as the first women's ski coach and it was his role to recruit and train women ski racers... it was there that he 'recruited' Ann Johnson who he ended up marrying instead of her entering Middlebury College — A wise choice as it turned out for both of them," she laughed.

"Joe then went on to develop the most successful ski racing program in Vermont with his dedicated efforts right here at Pico," she continued. "He was a task-master who could make more turns in 100 yards than anyone I have ever known... his adoring wife, Anne, however, was all about speed! You'd see her with a big

smile on her face skiing down the hill without hardly a turn. Together they made quite a couple. They'd often be seen on A- and B-Slope full of laughter."

"Joe was one of the first to master the new technique Counter Rotation in the mid-50s, which minimized the tail sliding as one finished the turn. Soon we all became proficient at Counter Rotation and it did bring home the trophy.

Mid-Vermont ski racing began with Joe Jones," Dixon remembered.

"In 1959, six of us made the junior national ski team, which was truly miraculous. Think about that: six kids from Pico Ski Area made the junior nationals in one year! There was a parade in Rutland which gathered hundreds of people to send us off. And our parents and all of our friends helped raise money, just like you all have today, for our endeavor."

By Polly Mikula Additionally, "Rip McManus, [Harry] "Rebel" Ryan, Rick and Suzie Chaffee and

Mike Gallagher [in cross-country] all made the Olympics right out of this initial group of Pico ski racers coached by Joe Jones. Andrea Mead has set the bar high with her Olympic achievements and together this is quite a legacy of ski racing to say the least," Dixon said.

Another common story heard Saturday was of the "Pico Packers."

"I can remember trudging up with my skis on my shoulder and skiing down only to do it again and again until the slope was good enough to run gates and then the real training began," Dixon said.

"There were no snowcats back then, we did the grooming by bootpack and sidestepping on new fallen snow to prepare the trails for training. It was not particularly fun..." remembered, Cort Jones, the youngest child of Anne and Joe Jones (and Dixon's godchild).

"We learned discipline and resilience training with Joe, and we received great rewards for our efforts when we went to the races. There was no parental pressure for us to achieve rather loving support and a lot of fun," Dixon said.

"Outside of my family, Joe Jones,

was the most significant person in my life. He taught me how to win and loose, he taught me to be tough and compassionate, to have resilience every step of the way. These early lessons — before Title IV when women's sports came into their own — provided me with the ability to succeed in business at a fairly high level, raise two beautiful children, and pass these lessons on to my five grandchildren. The infectious love of Joe and Anne is something I remember, something so many of us remember, so fondly in our hearts. They were second parents to a lot of us. It's all about connections, and that is what the family of ski racing and, more specifically, the Pico Ski Club is all about."

Cort Jones concluded the speaker portion of the ceremony Saturday.

"My parents would be so humbled to see what has been done in their honor," he said. "Thank you to all you racers, parents and coaches standing here today because this is what it's all about. This is what my parents loved so much. Ski racing is community as we can see here in this room. It will be part of your life forever.

"I feel that it's one of the best learning experiences that you will ever have in your life. ... It takes dedication, perseverance, strength, confidence and courage to be a ski racer. These are all the things my parents distilled in their 'juniors' as they so loved to call those they coached."

Cort Jones told the crowd more stories of his parents' love for skiing and each other.

"My parents first met at Pico in the early '40s, my mother was 13 at the time. My dad was teaching her older brother how to ski and they were introduced. Over the next many years my mother made quite a name for herself in the women's ski racing circuit. They got married in 1949 and celebrated their 71st anniversary just prior to my mom's passing a few years ago... My dad skied here at Pico every year of the first 75 years it was open... he was probably the one person who's accomplished that feat," he said. "After almost 70 years of Mid-Vermont Racing and over 50 years of VARA leading the country in ski racing they [Anne and Joe Jones] are worth of this wonderful recognition."

The dedication ceremony was capped off by with a champagne toast followed by the unveiling of a new commemorative sign located just above base of the Little Pico Triple chair between A- and B-slope.



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← **Norwich:**  
from page 2

“terrorism and political violence” from Rutgers University, according to his biography.

Norwich, in the central Vermont town of Northfield, is the nation’s oldest private military college. Anarumo earned over \$364,300 a year as its president, according to the most recently available tax filings from the university, plus just over \$100,000 in additional benefits.

At the time of his hiring, Anarumo said he wanted “to position Norwich so that it competes very favorably at a national level.”

Declining birth rates have made it more difficult for small and less-selective colleges to recruit students, an issue that has hit higher education in Vermont particularly hard.

Asked about the reasons for his departure, including whether it was prompted by any particular incident, Anarumo said it was not. He suggested that some of those demographic pressures had affected his time at Norwich.

“There’s always challenges with running a school, particularly a small school in New England,” he said.

He also told VT Digger that he and his family “decided it was time to go for various reasons.”

“Trying to ensure the school thrives upon my departure is the top priority,” he said, adding that the school and its leadership have his “full support and admiration.” He said he planned to release a statement to the Norwich community soon.

Asked about future plans, Anarumo said he did not have an immediate job lined up, nor did he plan to seek work immediately and would instead spend time with family.

“I started this job while I was still on active duty,” he said. “My children reminded me that I haven’t had a day off in 30 years.”



← **Woodstock vote:**  
from page 3

Billings family still holds more than half of the company’s stock, the Boston Globe reported.

The existing water system is at capacity and upgrades are not being made. A new home or business is not currently able to connect to the water system, residents said.

Resident Jill Davies said questions about the aqueduct company are holding up future development.

“We have a public utility owned by a private company that’s not putting in any investment,” she said. “What that’s doing is stopping houses being built.”

Town Meeting Day will be held by Australian ballot in March. The Select Board has yet to make a decision to put it to voters.

Voters will also decide to incorporate a 1% sales option tax in March. The tax would add 1% to the state’s existing 6% sales tax and would apply to any purchases made in town or online.

The measure was defeated by a small margin in 2022.

The sales tax would be an addition to Woodstock’s 1% local option taxes on meals, rooms and alcohol, which has been in place since 2015. The balance funds the Economic Development Commission.

“It’s one of the few ways we can share the burden of operating costs with visitors,” Select Board member Laura Powell said.

Proceeds would go toward infrastructure costs.

“This is our opportunity to share the costs with visitors,” resident Greta Calabrese said.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Killington Resort has a new mountain safety attendant program aimed at ensure responsibility while skiing and riding.

# Killington’s new mountain safety attendant program aims to promote a culture of safe skiing and riding

By Brooke Geery, Killington Resort

Killington and Pico Resorts strive to create an enjoyable environment to participate in skiing and snowboarding. New for this season, we’ve introduced the Mountain Safety Attendant program. These team members will be on hill to directly communicate with guests through verbal and visual cues, seeking to be a positive influence on their choices and etiquette.

Building on our current education and collision awareness programs, which won the National Ski Area Association (NSAA) National Safety Award for Best Collision Prevention Program in 2019 and 2023, these new team members will be our on-hill representation of safety and guest service. Recognizable by their black and red vests, they will seek to have an overall positive influence on guest decision-making by sharing information on Your Responsibility Code and the three tenets of the #rideanotherday campaign.

This team will use a very deliberate strategy to realize its goals without relying on the implied threat of suspending skiing privileges. This is not to say that no passes will be pulled. If a guest is found to be in violation of resort policies or is disrespectful to staff, they may be subject to a pass suspension.

Our Mountain Safety attendants will take a unique approach to monitoring skiers and riders. Instead of evaluating guests on their perceived speed, style, relative skill level, or being ‘out of control,’ they’ll seek to evaluate decision-making and behavior relative to the trail density in the

immediate area. For example, skiing fast on an empty trail may be deemed acceptable, but doing the same in a busy area is not. January is recognized as National Safety Month, and you’ll notice an increased presence of signs and events around the resort to recognize this.

Safety is a season-long mission, and it requires everyone’s attention and cooperation. As a general rule, we ask

“Programs require several years to create noticeable shifts in behaviors,” said John Duke.

all guests to go with the flow, use a spotter, be courteous, and follow Your Responsibility Code. If you enjoy skiing fast (while staying in control), then select another location on the hill that is not a

congested beginner/intermediate slow zone.

“This is an ongoing process, and we will remain agile with our approach as we learn from our experiences,” said John Duke, Killington’s risk and insurance manager. “Cultural change programs require several years to create noticeable shifts in behaviors and mindsets. However, the changes that are realized will be permanent and over time will result in an on-hill culture that is far more enjoyable than one that was realized through the ‘enforcement’ model. These changes will not occur overnight and help, support, and buy-in from our guests and staff will be a critical component in the rate of change and perceived success of this program.”

So far, the overwhelming majority of guest responses have been positive and courteous, with the guests acknowledging how their decisions create a possible issue for themselves and others. We ask you to remember: ‘It’s not about you, it’s about the people around you.’

# Hunters took more than 16,000 deer in 2023

The final number of deer taken in Vermont's 2023 hunting seasons will not be available for a few more weeks, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says the final tally will be a little over 16,800 deer. Those deer will provide approximately 3.4 million servings of local, nutritious venison.

The buck harvest will be close to 9,800, which will be up from 2022 (9,619) and the previous 3-year average of 9,336. The final antlerless deer harvest will be around 7,000, which will be down from the previous 3-year average (8,101).

"Hunting conditions were mixed in 2023," said Nick Fortin, the department's deer project leader. "Warm weather in October limited deer movement during the day, and frequent weekend rain events reduced hunter effort. This resulted in harvests during the archery, youth and novice, and October muzzleloader seasons being down considerably from 2022. Conversely, seasonable temperatures and snow in much of the state during November and December resulted in increased harvests during the regular season and December muzzleloader season."

The primary goal of Vermont's deer management strategy is to keep the deer herd stable, healthy and in balance with available habitat. "Maintaining an appropriate number of deer on the landscape ensures deer and the habitats that support them remain in good condition and productive," said Fortin.

The 2023 White-tailed Deer Harvest Report with final numbers will be on Fish and Wildlife's website in early March. Beginning in late March, the department will be holding informational hearings to share biological information and to listen to any information people wish to share.



Photo provided by VTF&W

Hunters took more than 16,000 deer in 2023, data from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department shows.



Courtesy VTF&W

Three to four inches of clear black ice in a drill hole below the top layer of snow, is the minimum for safe ice fishing.

## Ice fishing is risky due to inconsistent ice conditions

Ice conditions across Vermont are inconsistent due to warm and variable weather, and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. is urging anglers to put safety first if they venture out ice fishing.

"Check the ice as you go, avoid areas where currents can create weaker ice, and if you are not sure the ice is safe find a different waterbody," cautioned fisheries biologist Shawn Good. "With good judgment ice fishing is a safe and fun way to get outside in winter. But that means making cautious, smart decisions and changing plans if conditions

are not what you hoped for."

Ice conditions are currently variable across Vermont. At higher elevations and in the Northeast Kingdom many lakes and ponds have frozen over completely and have fishable ice. But in southern Vermont and the Champlain Valley, many lakes and ponds are not yet safe for ice fishing.

"Three to four inches of clear black ice is the minimum for safe ice fishing," said Good. "For the kind of gray or opaque ice we get after repeated freezing, thawing, and re-freezing we recommend anglers look for at least six inches of ice

where they plan to fish."

Even on a single waterbody it is important to know that ice thickness is not always uniform. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice.

The department says anglers should always carry a spud bar to test the ice as they go and should have a set of personal ice picks for self-rescue. Anglers should avoid fishing alone and should let someone know where they will be fishing and when they plan on returning home.

But despite poor or

non-existent early season ice conditions in some areas of Vermont, eager anglers can still find safe ice fishing opportunities this month.

"While we wait for colder weather to freeze up waterbodies statewide, I recommend anglers focus on planning and getting their gear in top shape—or that they hit the road and explore the higher elevation waters or northern waters where there is already good ice," said Good. "Fishing somewhere other than your home waters can be part of the adventure and allure of ice fishing, and is a great way to explore Vermont!"

## New regulations for trapping are in effect

Trappers must ensure they are compliant with Vermont's new trapping regulations that came into effect at the beginning of the year, on Jan. 1.

The new regulations include a requirement that live trapped animals be killed humanely and establish standards for trap types and use of baits to reduce the risk of catching pets and non-target wildlife. Trappers must also follow new guidelines for where traps can be placed, such as maintaining a 50 ft. setback distance from a legal trail, public trail or public highway unless set in the water or under ice.

"Vermont's new trapping regulations will make trapping safer and more humane," said Christopher Herrick, Commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. "They strike a middle ground between concerns raised by both activists and trappers, and are among the most comprehensive trapping regulations in the country."

The full set of new regulations are available on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife department's website. They will be

taught in the department's required trapper education course for new trappers, and published in the department's annual hunting and trapping lawbook starting in 2025.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board finalized Vermont's new trapping regulations as part of a larger update to the state's furbearing species rule. During the board's rulemaking process, Vermont's Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) filed an objection to elements of the new trapping regulations, including its exemption from the 50 ft. trail and highway setback for traps placed in the water or under the ice.

LCAR's objection does not prevent the new trapping regulations from coming into effect.

Instead, it requires the board and department to prove that the regulations are consistent with legislative intent and the requirements of administrative law if the regulations are challenged in court.

For more information, visit: [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com).



## Flood recovery is priority at start of new session

On Jan. 3 at 10 a.m., the Vermont Legislature opened its 2024 legislative session.

As it is the second half of a two-year biennium, we spent far less time on the formalities, pomp, and circumstance of a new biennium. And, with committees and leadership in place, we got right to work. Which is good as we have a huge amount on our plate.

Every legislator has their own priorities shaped by the communities they represent, their committee work and their individual passions. And people work on these during the session. However, as we head into this session, I would say that our collective priorities coalesce around four or five major themes which won't surprise you. They are: flood recovery and additional disaster preparedness; housing; climate change mitigation and resilience; community health and public safety. My job as majority leader in the Vermont Senate is to help create agreement to enable passage of legislation addressing these priorities.

In many ways the July flooding has both set and reinforced a number of our top priorities for this session. The impacts, both financial and physical, of the flooding of 2023 will be huge drivers in our budget and policy work. The requirement to set aside state dollars to match the federal aid to Vermont will squeeze many other needs already articulated, and the efforts to mitigate future flooding will influence our climate policy, in addition to our land planning, housing and zoning work.

A top priority for the Legislature is to address flood recovery and how we can continue to improve on our disaster preparedness. The good news is that many of the investments we made in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene made a significant difference to this year's flooding impact. The flood plains created in Brattleboro and the work in Waterbury saved their downtowns from greater damage this year.

The bad news and major financial challenge for Vermont is that the costs of the flooding in 2023 to public and private infrastructure, property and business are almost double those of Irene: \$239 million for Irene and to date over \$500 million in 2023. Vermont is required to match 25% of our federal aid — which will be an enormous challenge as we also work to finance our other urgent needs.

Our work this session will be to continue to help Vermont rebuild and recover and to enhance our future disaster preparedness.

Our housing crisis is being felt by many of us in one way or another. Whether you

are a business trying to find a home for a new employee, or a young person trying to

find an affordable starter home or rental or a seasonal worker trying to find housing — it's a brutal housing market. Before the floods of 2023 we were experiencing a less than 1% vacancy rate here in the Upper Valley. The loss of housing due to the flooding has further exacerbated our housing and homelessness crisis, especially for low- and moderate-income Vermonters.

All of us understand the need to build more housing for a wide range of needs: affordable, mixed income, downsizing, and market value housing. And, with inflation, the loss in workforce, the loss of rental units to short term rentals, and the loss of full-time residential housing to seasonal ownership have resulted in a housing shortage which is a challenge to fix in the short term. While incomes have risen, so have rents and the cost of houses. A top priority for the Legislature this session will be to continue our work reducing barriers to building affordable housing, preventing the trauma and challenges which drive people into homelessness, and incentivizing resilient housing in

our downtowns and village centers.

Preventing further devastation to Vermont by both mitigating the impacts of future weather disasters and reducing climate change by reining in our use of fossil fuels is another

top priority. We need to make Vermont more resilient and to reduce our contributions to what is causing these disasters: global warming. Much of our work will be focused on this dual challenge: to addressing climate risks and rebuild with a resilient value, smarter and stronger.

With a record number of opioid overdose deaths and an increase in gun violence and homicides in Vermont, community health and public safety are critically important priorities for us to address. In addition, we face ongoing mental health needs in our schools and communities, educational equity in school policy and funding, and the need to support Vermonters' wellbeing. Investing more effectively in prevention (from trauma to homelessness) seems a critically important priority now.

*Alison Clarkson can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: Legislature.vermont.gov.*



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

Our housing crisis is being felt by many of us.

## Tensions continue

Last week marked the start of the 2024 Vermont legislative session. It also included the governor's State of the State address to a joint assembly of House and Senate members. (Editor's note: see page 1 for related story).

Scott opened with a quote from Governor Weeks' second inaugural address following the 1927 floods. Weeks noted the true spirit of Vermont is its "indomitable courage in a time of adversity," and that "the faith and valor of Vermonters has turned catastrophe into opportunity."

Governor Scott went on to say, "This session, let's honor their resilience and strength, kindness and generosity — not only in flood recovery, but by working together to address persistent problems, like demographics, housing, affordability, and recent increases in violence and crime."

He used the address to explain why it is so critical for lawmakers to prioritize three key issues: public safety, affordability, and housing. With housing, he stressed the need to make changes to Act 250 to allow the building of more homes. Scott also called for reform to some of our laws relating to public safety, such as bail reform and holding criminals accountable for their actions. And he was critical of lawmakers for actions last year that increased taxes and fees on Vermonters despite his objections.

On the high cost of education, Scott suggested that the Legislature look at some of his past proposals to contain costs, such as further district consolidation, looking at class size and statewide contracts. He said, "With fewer than 83,000 Pre-K through 12 students, we're spending about \$25,000 a year per student, among the very highest in the country." Scott cautioned lawmakers against raising other taxes, which in his view, just takes the money out of another pocket.

The governor also shared his concern about the new economic reality in Vermont. Scott indicated he will present a budget for the next fiscal year that grows at just 3%, in contrast to the 13% increase last year (last May's budget bill was vetoed by Scott, which was then overridden by the Legislature). He called the upcoming budget "sobering" with historic one-time federal aid ending, lower revenues, another increase in our pension obligations, and last year's spending decisions catching up to us.

Meanwhile legislative leaders had a somewhat different narrative. Speaker Krowinski spoke of the investments made last session, such as childcare, universal school meals, climate change initiatives and others, some of which the governor vetoed. Senate leader Baruth took issue with Scott's call for removing some of Act 250's barriers to development, saying it has proven to protect our state's natural resources.

The Speaker also took a different view of the need for a budget cap, saying we should

budget for Vermonters' needs, not an arbitrary 3% limit.

However, there is an overlap of several priorities, including housing, public safety, and flood recovery. There may be different approaches, but the goals are similar.

In what hopefully is coincidental and not a sign of one-upmanship, the House voted to override the governor's veto of the bill to expand Vermont's bottle deposit system on the same day as his State of the State address last Thursday, Jan. 4. And Senator Baruth has announced the Senate will take their override vote on Jan. 23, which will make the bottle bill law. Jan. 23 happens to be the same day as the governor's budget address to another joint assembly of lawmakers.

### Other issues of interest:

- Funding two safe injection sites, H.72, was advanced by the House Appropriations Committee Friday afternoon, Jan. 5, on an 8-4 vote. As I explained my "No" vote in committee, I would rather expand treatment options than provide space so that drug users can perform an illegal activity with immunity. The bill will be voted on by the full House this week.
- There appears to be bipartisan support for considering a change to Vermont's retail theft statutes. Under current law, shoplifting under \$900 is a misdemeanor, whereas over that amount is a felony. Legislation has been introduced that would allow prosecutors to combine separate shoplifting offenses to charge the offender with a felony.
- Barre and Montpelier representatives have introduced legislation asking the state to fund \$85 million of flood recovery to their hard hit communities.
- Taxpayers, through Vermont's budget, will be covering the cost of the Attorney General's settlement last summer with EB-5 investors to the tune of about \$16.5 million. The first installment of \$9.5 million will be included in this year's budget adjustment bill.
- State Treasurer Mike Pieciak is promoting a "Baby Bonds" initiative that would deposit \$3,200 for each child born on Medicaid into a trust. The proposal, modeled after a new Connecticut program, is envisioned to help those born into lower income families, an opportunity to get a head start once they become adults. The annual cost is estimated to be \$6.2 million to the state budget.
- The House Education Committee received a report from the Agency of Education that estimates Vermont could face up to \$6.3 billion in school

Harrison → 14



By Rep. Jim Harrison



Submitted

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, is the chair of the House Committee on Education.

## House panel confronts 'eye popping' cost of school construction needs statewide

By Ethan Weinstein, VTDigger

On the first day of the 2024 legislative session, Jan. 3, state education officials presented lawmakers with the latest estimates for Vermont's school construction needs — a whopping \$6.3 billion in the next 21 years.

And that number, Agency of Education staff cautioned, is likely a significant underestimate.

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the figure “eye popping.” He signaled that his committee would make addressing school construction needs a priority this session.

The cost estimate came as part of a school facilities assessment ordered by the Legislature in 2021, which gathered baseline data on 384 school buildings in Vermont and translated the findings

into cost projections for every district statewide. The Agency of Education expects to create a public dashboard with that data later this year.

From fiscal years 2000-2008, the state provided more than \$280 million in construction aid to schools, but amid the Great Recession it suspended state assistance for such projects. This year, lawmakers will consider how the state could revive some funding, though Conlon made clear that footing the entire bill was out of the question.

The discovery of toxic chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls in some of Vermont's schools has further complicated the state's education infrastructure needs. The Legislature previously set aside \$32 million to reimburse school districts for PCB mitigation and remediation, a sum many local administrators expect will be insufficient.

With Gov. Phil Scott's administration predicting an 18.5% rise in property taxes driven

by a projected 12% increase in education spending, the cost of school construction could further strain local budgets.

Bill Donohue, the Agency of Education's facilities program manager, told lawmakers that he could spend two hours qualifying his estimate with potential “unknown costs” that could increase the \$6.3 billion figure, which amounts to about \$300 million annually for 21 years.

“It could very well be \$500 million a year,” he said. “It could be more.”

A report from the Vermont Agency of Education suggests the state's schools need \$6.3 billion in construction in the next 21 years, though officials warn the need is likely far greater.

### Cost of inaction

Yet the agency predicted the cost of inaction would prove even higher. If schools across the state spent an inflation-adjusted \$33 million annually on construction, rather than \$300 million, the cost of needed construction over the 21 years would increase by \$7 billion, it estimated.

“If we're starting a construction program and we're not funding it equal to the need out there, there's going to be this snowball carryover effect,” Donohue said.

A report from the school construction aid task force, a group responsible for examining Vermont's school construction needs and possible funding structures, is expected to arrive by Feb. 1, laying out some recommendations on how to prioritize and pay for needed projects.

“The taskforce report will provide guidance,” Conlon said, “but we're going to have a lot of big decisions to make.”

## State of the state:

from page 1

cases, to help revitalize communities across the state. With \$1 billion from ARPA, we're investing in over 500 initiatives, in 160 cities and towns in all 14 counties. From big capital projects to small renovations, what they all have in common is an investment in the basic tools a community needs, to keep from falling behind and spark momentum for more good work.”

“So following through on each of our federally funded investments, including what we've allocated for state match, is one of the most important actions we can take this session. We're also aligning this work with flood recovery, and the new federal dollars that come with it, to help more cities and towns restore their vitality and expand economic security. Catastrophe into opportunity.”

The Governor concluded by celebrating the example many Vermonters have set to support and revitalize their communities, calling on everyone to think about how they can contribute.

“Across the state — from Alburgh to Vernon, Island

Pond to Bennington, and everywhere in-between — there are things, large and small, that build community and give these places character and identity,” he said. “What is it for you? Whatever it is, if it matters to you, it's time to step up, get involved, and make sure it remains for years to come.”

“Strengthening our communities, connecting with our neighbors, doing our part, however big or small, is how we prove there is a better way,” the Governor added.

Excerpts from Governor Scott's address follow:

In his second Inaugural Address, Governor Weeks talked about recovering from the Flood of 1927. He said, “The common watchwords” were “progress and rehabilitation,” noting the true spirit of Vermont is its “indomitable courage in a time of adversity.” And that “the faith and valor of Vermonters has turned catastrophe into opportunity.”

Progress and rehabilitation. Catastrophe into opportunity.

From the first struggles of the pandemic to the rising waters of July and December, and a once in a century opportunity to revitalize our communities — the indomitable courage of Vermonters is as strong as ever.

This session, let's honor their resilience and strength, kindness and generosity — not only in flood recovery, but by working together to address persistent problems, like demographics, housing, affordability, and recent increases in violence and crime.

To meet this moment, we are going to have to prioritize, set aside good things that are less urgent, and rise above the toxic polarization of America's political parties to focus our work directly on these fundamen-

tal issues.

If we do, we'll turn catastrophe into opportunity once more.

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President Clinton's advisor James Carville famously said, “It's the economy, stupid.”

Now, I'm not calling anyone stupid, but I think you'll get my point that in Vermont, we could insert “demographics” in place of “economy.”

I get asked all the time, even by some of you, “where did all the workers go?”

So let me share three numbers from your Joint Fiscal Office that tell you everything you need to know: 14,000, 28,000 and 48,000. As of 2022, we have 14,000 fewer kids under the age of 18 than we did in 2010. During that same period, we have 28,000 fewer adults ages 40 to 54, which is the core of our workforce. And we have 48,000 more

“The reality is, no grant or earmark would bring these initiatives to life on their own.

Neither government, nor money, build community. People do ... It's about action, not apathy. Dedication, not destiny,” Scott said.

over the age of 65. This is all within just 12 years, but this is nothing new. It's been happening for decades.

Let that sink in for a moment.

As the JFO points out, this can mean higher per pupil costs, declines in income and sales tax revenue, and increased demand for services like healthcare.

They conclude, if nothing changes, and I quote, “Vermont's ratio of older residents to working-aged people will continue to rise, placing a greater burden on workers to support both young and old.”

If this sounds familiar, it's because you heard it from me in 2017, when I said, “The biggest obstacle we face to economic sustainability, is a shrinking workforce.” In 2018, I said demographic trends are, “shifting the tax burden onto fewer and fewer people.” Again in 2020, I said, “Our demographic crisis is, without question, the greatest challenge we face as a state.”

Unfortunately, it hasn't gotten any better. It continues to be an issue we must solve to meet today's obligations, and make every investment needed for the future.

And to have any chance of reversing our demographic trends, there are three issues we can't ignore: public safety, affordability, and housing.

These challenges are urgent, immediate, and we must address them this session.

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For as long as I can remember, our safe, close-knit communities, and the peace of mind healthy cities and towns provide, have been integral to keeping and attracting families to our state.

But with crime rising in too many places, State of the state, cont. → 11

## ← State of the state, cont.:

from page 10

I fear many see the Vermont they know, slipping away.

A growing number of headlines share news of the latest murder, drug-related shooting, and small businesses struggling with increasing vandalism and theft.

Here's the thing, it's not just the headlines. According to reports from the Council of State Governments, in 2017 Vermont had the second lowest property crime and second lowest violent crime rates in the nation. By 2022, we had dropped to 18th and eighth.

And in the last 10 years, violent crime reported to police increased 56%, aggravated assault by 65%, sexual assault by 76%, and homicide by 166%. We cannot deny these trends.

When those who victimize others are put back on the streets, hours after being apprehended only to reoffend again and again, Vermonters question law enforcement, prosecutors, our courts, and they question the wisdom of the work done here in this building.

Now, I want to give credit where credit is due: We've made progress on justice reform and treating addiction as the public health crisis it is.

But when spiking crime rates make it clear that not all the changes have been effective, we have a responsibility to take a step back and consider other strategies.

We must make a real effort this session to solidify our place as the safest state in the country and reverse the increases we're seeing — both for the people we serve and the victims of these crimes.

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We must also acknowledge our crisis of affordability is making it difficult to address public safety, as well as other areas like education and healthcare. And the high cost of everyday life in Vermont is dulling the tools we've put in place to keep and attract working families.

In three weeks, I'll present my budget for Fiscal Year 2025, and it will be a much different picture than previous years. "Sobering" comes to mind.

With historic one-time federal aid ending, another large increase in our pension obligation, and last year's spending decisions catching up to us, we are back to where we were several years ago with difficult decisions to be made.

For many of you, this will be the first time you'll work on a budget without hundreds of millions of dollars in surplus. For others, it's déjà vu.

Once again, we'll face the discomfort of saying "no," choosing between many good things, and maintaining the discipline to focus on what Vermonters need most.

I continue to believe we need to keep our spending within existing revenue. So in full transparency, you can expect my budget will increase by about 3%.

I know from experience, many of you

view 3% growth as an "austerity" approach.

So it's important to know that with this increase, and after meeting our obligations, we have very little money left. So, if you go higher, we will be spending more than we're taking in, leading to higher taxes and fees, adding to the burden Vermonters are already feeling.

I'm sure you're aware the federal government just announced its increase for those on social security, which was 3.2%. So if our seniors are expected to manage to that, it seems as though we should do the same.

Now, I'm a realist, and I know you have a super majority. You've proven the final budget, and the growing burden of taxes, fees and other policy-driven costs, is in your hands.

So all I can do is make my case, which is the same case I've made to Vermonters since I first ran for governor. What I hear from people every day is they can't afford to pay more, or even what they are paying now.

\*\*\*

Unfortunately, the cost of our Pre-K through 12 education system has already grown beyond the means of many.

As you know, it's about to grow even more. Because if nothing changes, we'll see an estimated 18.5% increase in statewide property tax bills. And that's after we use a \$37 million Education Fund surplus to buy rates down.

In total, this would be a quarter billion-dollar tax increase on Vermonters. For a family with a \$250,000 home, their bill could go up by \$650 a year. And with a \$400,000 home, you could pay an additional \$1,000.

Before you brush this off because of income sensitivity, remember the vast majority will still see an increase. And renters don't typically pay property taxes directly, but if a landlord receives a \$1,000 increase on their four-unit building, I'm pretty sure it'll be passed on to those who live there.

So think about those folks who are just barely getting by — living paycheck to paycheck, already deciding what bills to pay and what to do without. Or the working parents, who need every extra penny so

"Strengthening our communities, connecting with our neighbors, doing our part, however big or small, is how we prove there is a better way," Scott said.

their kids can go to summer camp.

I appreciate the optimism I've heard from some of you, who think we can just buy it down. Some even committed to getting it down to 2%, or lower. So to be clear, that would cost \$225 million.

Keep in mind, the Education Fund is now more than \$2.1 billion dollars. With fewer than 83,000 Pre-K through 12 stu-



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Gov. Phil Scott arrives in the House chamber to deliver his State of the State Address before a joint session of the Legislature at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Thursday, Jan. 4.

dents, we're spending about \$25,000 a year per student, among the very highest in the country. And that might be okay with me if we were leading in student performance.

\*\*\*

We need to jumpstart housing in the areas that need it most.

Because this crisis is not only holding us back when it comes to filling jobs and refilling our schools — it's hurting Vermonters here right now. Due to a lack of housing, and our tax and regulatory policies, rents and purchase prices are far too high, and rising.

Decades of studies and data show it's too expensive, too complicated and too slow to buy, rehab and build in Vermont. Since March of 2020, we've invested over \$500 million to fix vacant units, construct new homes and expand shelter capacity. This is unprecedented. And it's on top of the \$37 million dollar housing bond we passed in 2017, which at the time was the biggest investment we'd ever made.

We have made progress, and it far exceeds what we were doing 10 years ago. But \$500 million is a lot of money, so we need to be honest about what we're getting, why it costs so much, and how to lower it.

Overall, we're seeing about 2,200 residential units permitted each year. About one-third of these, around 700, are state funded. Census data and vacancy rates show that to meet current demand and create a healthy market that puts downward pressure on prices, we need 6,800 units right now. Most of our funding goes to homes that cost, on average, \$450,000 per unit to develop. \$450,000! So that's \$3 billion in public and private funding, just to fill the gap we have today.

\*\*\*

Last year I said, "we won't be able to make the most of this opportunity if we

don't address the decades-old regulations holding us back." While we took some steps, I know many of you would agree, we need to do a lot more.

The fact is, Act 250 did exactly what it was intended to do. It slowed down growth, and in some cases, stopped it altogether. But it was enacted at a time when we were growing way too fast.

We've committed the funds, and laid the groundwork, but if we don't truly address Act 250, we won't solve our housing crisis.

Every single one of you, and the people you represent, need a voice in this debate. This issue is too important and too consequential for two committees, and a couple of special interest groups, to control the outcome.

If we make commonsense improvements, we can give young families the decent, affordable homes they need. We can offer seniors a chance to enjoy retirement, without the burden of a large home they can't afford. And we can put homeless Vermonters in real homes, not over-priced hotel rooms we can't afford.

By jumpstarting housing for working families, we can revitalize communities, refill our schools, and make our neighborhoods more inviting in all 14 counties.

\*\*\*

I'm optimistic about our future because of the people of Vermont.

On the morning of July 11, a flood-damaged grocery store in Windsor County was filled with neighbors mucking out. And they didn't stop there. With rows of undamaged produce and perishables, locals acted quickly to distribute it to those in need. Donating coolers and time, they helped hundreds of their neighbors by delivering food to a senior center, mobile home park, the local food shelf, and more. Even when they had to jump on an ATV to get over downed trees and washed-out roads.

This is "Vermont Strong."

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Let's make college the easy choice

By Carolyn Weir

*Editor's note: This commentary is by Carolyn Weir of Weybridge. She is executive director of the McClure Foundation, an affiliate of the Vermont Community Foundation that works to close opportunity gaps in the state by strengthening college and career training pathways to Vermont's most promising jobs.*

Young people deserve to imagine futures they can create for themselves. As a state, we can create the conditions for their future planning by making post-secondary education the easy choice.

In mid-December, VT Digger reported that pandemic-era high schoolers in Vermont say they are less likely to pursue higher education. The data comes from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation's valuable, long-running survey of high school seniors. It reveals that college aspirations among Vermont youth have dropped across the board since 2020, most significantly among young men who would be first-in-family to pursue college (from 58% to 45%).

Declining postsecondary aspirations should concern us all. Already, Vermont's high schoolers are continuing to postsecondary education at the lowest rates in our region, according to the New England Secondary School Consortium's Common Data Project. Fewer than half of high school graduates transition to college. Among high school graduates from low-income families, that continuation rate falls to one-third. A sharp decline in aspirations signals that continuation rates will sink even lower.

And yet we know that college degrees have enduring value. They open doors to a lifetime of opportunity. Last month, Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce released an economic projection report that finds Vermont is one of four states (plus the District of Columbia) with the highest percentage of jobs in 2031 that will require a bachelor's degree. And earlier this month, The Atlantic published an article, "The Myth of the Unemployed College Grad," that explains why college degrees continue to be a great investment and questions why the media keeps suggesting otherwise.

The good news is that there's never been a better time to enroll in college in Vermont.

Because of recent state investments like the 802 Opportunity Grant and Vermont Tuition Advantage that lower the cost of attending the Community College of Vermont — and because of recent philanthropic investments, like our promise of a free CCV degree through the state's Early College program to the Vermont high school classes of 2023 through 2026 — the reality is that college degrees are within reach for Vermont youth who want them.

So what will it take to reverse the downward trend in postsecondary aspirations?

Drawing on everything we've learned at the McClure Foundation from 15 years of grantmaking, we think it will take sustaining and building on these universal or near-universal investments in the affordability of career-connected public college. In a state with lots of narrowly scoped scholarships, only easily understood, debt-free pathways available to everybody have the power to transform youth and family perception that college is within reach.

That's why we made the Free Degree Promise to the entire Vermont high school classes of 2023-2026. It's also why we centered the Free Degree Promise at CCV. With locations  
College → 13



Election Strength by Christopher Weyant, The Boston Globe

## LETTERS

### Thank you for donating to Castleton's Tree of Remembrance

Dear Editor,

The Castleton Woman's Club would like to thank all of the individuals and families and organizations/businesses who made donations in memory or honor of family and friends for the 2023 Tree of Remembrance.

The Woman's Club would like to thank the librarians from the Castleton Free Library for all their hard work decorating and for setting up a donation station.

A very big thank you also goes to the Castleton Fire Department for putting the lights on the tree.

Our hearts were touched by the generosity of donors, both young and old. Our sincerest thanks to all of them.

For more information about the Castleton Women's Club, visit: [Castletonvermont.org](http://Castletonvermont.org) then click on "community/services."

Sincerely,  
**The Castleton Woman's Club**

### Building smarter, stronger: Vermont's homebuilding dream team takes off

Dear Editor,

In the heart of Vermont, a market transformation is underway in the world of homebuilding construction, and it's not your average headline. This isn't just about bricks and beams; it's about creating homes that are healthier, more energy efficient, and built to last.

Picture this: The year is 2023, and the Legislative Committee's Building Energy Code Study Committee has just released a report. While it delves into the intricacies of Act 47, it takes an unexpected turn, shining a spotlight on something that affects us all — education and continuous learning with the building trades.

The committee's findings are eye-opening. They reveal that a lack of understanding of building science is causing buildings to fall prey to costly problems like mold, mildew, and rot. Building science you ask? It's the secret sauce — the physics behind how water, air, and heat flow through

a house, ensuring it meets the demands of energy efficiency, durability, indoor air quality, and more. Every component must interface with each other seamlessly, and how they're installed matters. And as Vermont embraces more advanced energy codes, the risk of limited knowledge of these

We don't want consumers to be left with the keys to a disaster.

issues and the science behind them looms larger. The benefits to homeowners of advanced learning go beyond energy efficiency and comfort. You'll have fewer callbacks, fewer examples of poor work performance, at the time of sale you'll be reassured your home meets the energy standards if improvements have been made, and lenders and insurers may be more open given the certification of the builder.

The Legislative Committee did not identify what organization should

assume responsibility for designing a state-recognized builder certification, so Vermont's Sustainable Energy Outreach Network (SEON) has rallied the troops, pulling together a coalition of all homebuilding trade and nonprofit organizations in Vermont to help define what Vermont needs regarding the qualifications of our current and next generation of builders and carpenters.

The following organizations have agreed to participate: SEON, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Builders and Remodelers Association, Vermont Chapter of Associated Building Contractors, Vermont Chapter of Association of General Contractors, Vermont Green Building Network, Building Performance Professionals of Vermont, Vermont Passive House, Vermont Talent Pipeline, ReSource, and Vermont Works for Women.

The dream team of expertise will have its first meeting on Jan. 29, 2024 and  
Building → 13

## CAPITOL QUOTES

According to investigators, Alaska Airlines implemented limitations on the Boeing aircraft that experienced a significant blowout mid-flight, following pressurization alerts in the days leading up to the incident.

“While we await the airworthiness directive (AD) inspection criteria from the FAA and Boeing, our maintenance teams are prepared and ready to perform the required inspections of the mid exit door plugs on our 737-9 Max fleet.”  
 “The 737-9 Max grounding has significantly impacted our operation. We have cancelled 170 Sunday flights and 60 cancellations for Monday, with more expected.”

Alaska Airlines said according to BBC News

“If you are afraid to take the airplane far from land, what is the reason for that? That has to be answered by Alaska Airlines.”

Steven Wallace, an air-safety consultant and commercial pilot who once headed accident investigations for the Federal Aviation Administration said according to the Associated Press.

“Communication was a serious issue.” The flight attendants reported that it was difficult to get information from the flight deck, and the flight deck was having trouble also communicating. After this explosive event occurred suddenly, the flight attendants were very focused on what was going on with those children? Were they safe? Were they secure? Did they have their lap belts on, and did they have their masks on? And they did.”

NTSB Chairperson Jennifer Homendy said at a Sunday news conference according to NPR.

## Public safety, overdoses, substance treatment and housing

By Jeanne Zimmerman

Offering treatment and then releasing people back to the streets, while blaming the individual for not “successfully participating” in ongoing treatment sets individuals up for immediate and repeated failures.

Public safety, overdoses, effective substance treatment and re-housing concern all of us. Kudos to John Bossange for writing in support of rehousing for our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters on the streets of Burlington. Though you may not have a direct personal relationship with individuals in these

circumstances, it is certain that you know someone who does.

One of the most simple and “common-sense” aspects of a solution to this complex problem must include the obvious: comprehensive substance treatment that also gives people who have completed detox and a residential treatment program a place to live. Immediate access upon release from treatment into temporary (hotel?) housing that includes ongoing connection to social services supporting moves to more permanent housing is an

excellent place to begin. Such a plan offers the greatest opportunity for successful drug treatment for unhoused individuals, increasing their recovery rates and allowing them to put their energies into rebuilding their lives and the lives of their families. Such a plan also reduces public funding necessary for substance treatment, emergency, social service and police costs, while improving our collective sense of public safety and making our towns more welcoming to all residents and visitors.

### ← College: from page 12

within 25 miles of 95% of Vermonters, CCV is an engine of economic mobility that serves the greatest number of low-income Vermonters of any college in the state, many of whom transfer to Vermont State University, the University of Vermont and other Vermont colleges after completing their associate degree.

Eighteen months after announcing the Free Degree Promise through the state’s Early College program, we can say that it’s working to make post-secondary education the easy choice for students who weren’t considering college before.

More than 230 high school seniors from 90% of Vermont’s high schools enrolled in Early College at CCV this fall knowing they are eligible for a free degree. That number marks a 70% increase in CCV’s Early College enrollment since the Free Degree Promise was announced in spring 2022 and includes nearly double the number of first-generation college students, as well as increased participation among low-income students and students of color.

We hope that means more young people choosing to stay in Vermont because they can imagine and create their futures here.

We’ve committed to this Promise through the Vermont high school class of 2026, and we’ll continue to share what we learn along the way. In the meantime, in partnership with CCV, we’re focused on supporting enrolled students — such as Savannah Lafountain, who recently told us: “When I went into the program, I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, college is gonna take such a long time.’ But I’ll have my associate degree this spring. And it’s crazy to think about it. I’m almost there. I’ve almost done the first step. Without that added stress of having to pay for my college, I can move on with other things in my life.”

### ← Building: from page 12

will work together to:

Explore and define a state-recognized builder certification as a high performance builder, and increase outreach, education, and training. In simple terms – it’s your guarantee of a building professional for your home.

Launch awareness campaigns that shed light on the benefits of building science. Get ready to become a savvy homeowner who knows exactly what to ask for when it comes to your energy

efficient home.

Many builders and carpenters haven’t embraced the high performance mindset yet, but here’s the truth: You can’t build to Vermont’s Energy Code or achieve net-zero without understanding building science. And as more techniques are made to meet the energy code, many of the old ways of building don’t even work with the new materials. We don’t want consumers to be left with the keys to a disaster rather

than keys to a home that will last them a lifetime.

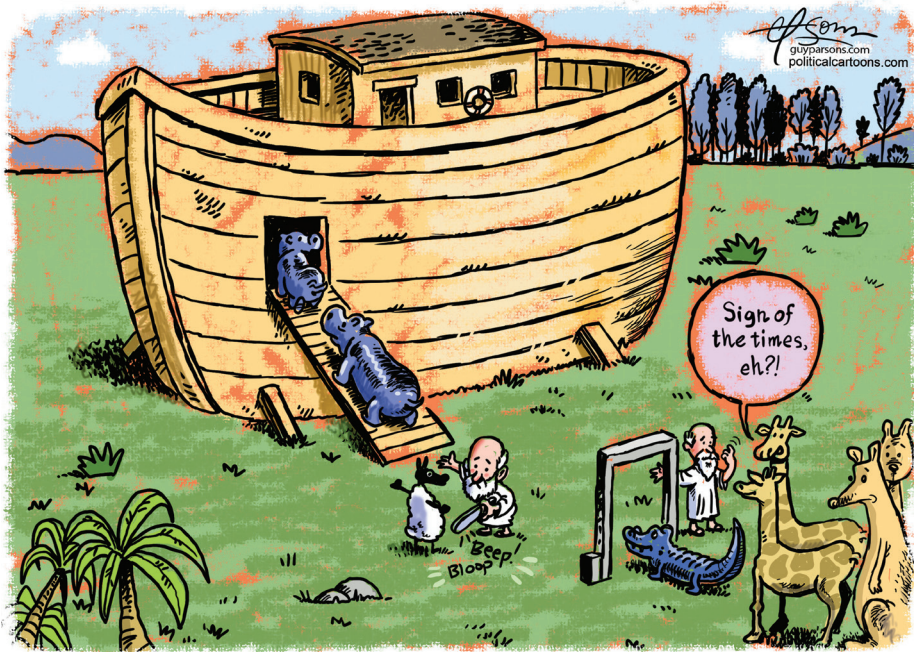
This transformation will be a cultural shift that needs everyone’s support and expectations – industry leaders, builders, the public, government, media, lenders, insurers and local organizations. Join us in this exciting journey toward a better-built tomorrow, led by a coalition of professionals committed to applying the best practices of science.

Guy Payne,  
Brattleboro

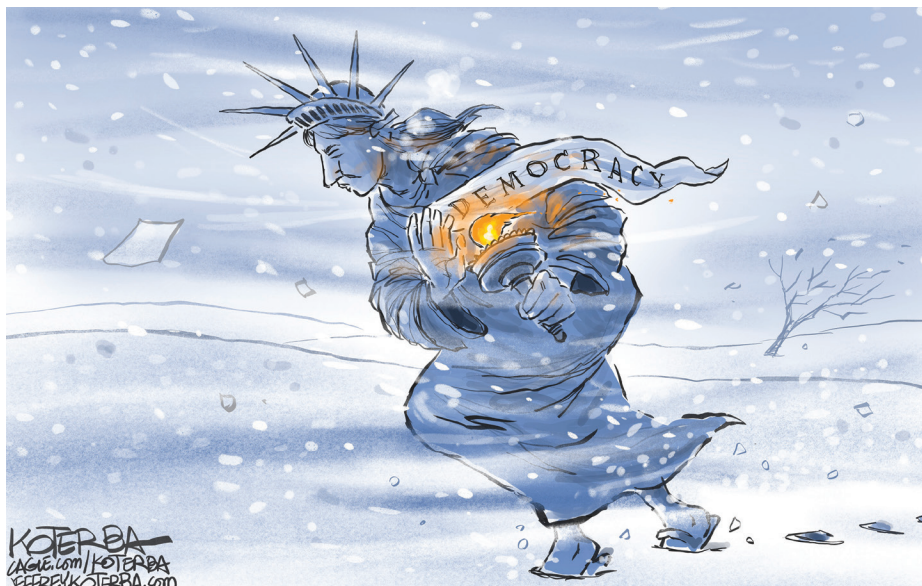
CARTOONS



Disappearing political center by Joep Bertrams, The Netherlands



Security Check by Guy Parsons, PoliticalCartoons



Democracy's Plight by Jeff Koterba, patreon.com:jeffreykoterba

← School district budget: from page 1

effect with Act 127 (new pupil weights),” Ben Ford, chair of the finance committee presented at the board meeting.

Act 127 allows districts that keep to under 10% over last year’s per pupil cost to pay an increase of only 5% for the next five years.

Under the new weighting formulas — designed to more accurately reflect the true cost of educating students at different ages and demographics — the state calculated the Long Term Weighted (LTW) students (new term) to be 1,520 students this year vs. 918 last year under the old weighting formula.

Weighting factors apply differently per grade level, poverty, sparsity (rural populations), learners of English as a second language, and size of school. The base rate for the weight also changed drastically under Act 127. Before the weighting was applied to \$15,479 per student; now it’s \$9,452.

Up to 10% ‘free’

Because there is no direct local tax rate increase as long as the district stays under the 10% threshold, according to Act 127, districts can spend right up to that point and still receive the cap of 5%. Thus, the MVSU board voted Monday night to include paying off \$750,000 of its debt, as doing so still keeps the budget under the 10% threshold.

“We have an opportunity to reduce capital debt ahead of schedule with no impact to tax rates in FY25,” Ford explained.

That budget (\$30,429,153) minus local revenues (estimated at \$4,515,121) gives the district its education spending (\$25,914,032), which is then divided by this year’s 1,520 LTW students for the per pupil cost of \$17,048 and an equalized tax rate of \$1.81 before the cap.

Last year, while the budget was lower at \$25,836,048, the per pupil cost was much higher at \$23,135 — but the new formulas make any comparison tricky.

CLA increases taxes

The per pupil spend divided by the property yield equals the equalized tax rate, which is then divided by each town’s Common Level of

Appraisal (CLA) to get each town’s tax rate.

While the equalized tax rate is capped at a 5% increase, the CLA is not capped — and is responsible for most of the increase district towns will see. Increases range from 8.66% in Pomfret (which recently did a reappraisal) to a 29.91% increase in Plymouth. Barnard, Killington and Woodstock will also see increases over 20% (see chart below).

“We’re seeing massive appreciation in property values, which is what the CLA is based on,” Ford said.

The lower a town’s CLA, the larger the adjustment in the property values that is applied to their tax rate. Killington’s CLA is lowest at .5235. This means for a Killington property valued on the Grand List at \$500,000, their CLA adjusted taxable value is about \$952,000.

New build?

In addition to the budget, district voters will be asked to approve Article 7, which asks district voters to approve a bond not to exceed \$99 million to finance construction of a new union middle/high school on the site of the existing school in Woodstock. The bond would also cover athletic fields and the demolition of the existing structure.

While state school construction aid has been suspended since 2007, the district “intends to use other state funding such as available tax capacity resulting from the implementation of new pupil weights under Act 127 of 2022 and amounts raised through private fundraising” to limit financial impacts of the bond for taxpayers.

Ben Ford told the school district board members Monday night that the square foot cost of the proposed project was \$627/square foot, which is under the revised state standards and lower than five other recent/current school construction projects in Vermont.

Ford will be attending Select Board meetings in district towns over the next month or two to inform the public about the plans and answer questions. He’ll be in Pomfret on Jan. 17 and in Killington, Jan. 22.

|                                      | Barnard  | Bridgewater | Killington | Plymouth | Pomfret  | Reading  | Woodstock |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| FY25 Est Equalized Tax Rate          | \$1.5984 | \$1.5984    | \$1.5984   | \$1.5984 | \$1.5984 | \$1.5984 | \$1.5984  |
| CLA                                  | 0.6436   | 0.7432      | 0.5235     | 0.6225   | 1.0053   | 0.7643   | 0.6365    |
| FY25 Est Homestead Property Tax Rate | \$2.4835 | \$2.1507    | \$3.0533   | \$2.5677 | \$1.5900 | \$2.0913 | \$2.5112  |
| FY24 Homestead Prop Tax Rate         | \$1.9933 | \$1.8759    | \$2.4713   | \$1.9765 | \$1.4632 | \$1.8425 | \$2.0198  |
| Increase (Decrease) from FY24        | \$0.4902 | \$0.2748    | \$0.5820   | \$0.5912 | \$0.1268 | \$0.2488 | \$0.4915  |
| Percentage Change from FY24          | 24.59%   | 14.65%      | 23.55%     | 29.91%   | 8.66%    | 13.50%   | 24.33%    |

Courtesy Ben Ford, MVSU

The chart show the projected FY25 tax rates for each district town; the \$1.5984 rate in the first row is the 5% capped rate per Act 127; the CLA is a factor to estimate real property values.

← Harrison: from page 9

construction needs over the next 20 years.

Despite the many challenges facing Vermont, the governor closed his remarks with a message to legislators, “Focus on the things that strengthen our communities, so all parts of our state can build upon their character and fulfill their potential. And together, all of us in this room and across the state will meet this moment, and all that comes next.”

Meanwhile, a Senate committee is scheduled to take up a new legislative compensation bill following a veto by the governor last spring. The tensions mount...

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

**WORDPLAY**

COMPUTER TERMS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

R Y J H D P D S V W C H S I G G U L S D  
 F O S A W E R C E C N E G I L L E T N I  
 E E E R U K S E N F J I C N H M J L F U  
 R G L D D R D K F J N P N T C E J E L T  
 A Y I D S H E M T E R W R C P O R B U M  
 W R F R O B H B O O R U I O T U P T U O  
 T V B I S O U G O T P E P L Y G Y A B O  
 F S E V K K R T B O H H N U P O T P A L  
 O A P E Y E T U O A T E U C F C O I C C  
 S L H M C T R G C A C N R E E F W A Y K  
 F F J I F A A N O P D K P B R S M F D Y  
 H F F S T N S P M P L R U K O L J G E J  
 H F I Y U P H H P L V M A P F A D K W L  
 O J P D P E S P U I I Y A O N O R L B E  
 H A U L N R D Y T C S E E P B D W D N E  
 B K T V I S U P E A U F T H S Y E V D D  
 F H R T D O J C R T E B L J Y L E S H W  
 M H A E P N M G M I J B P H P L G K D B  
 L T T D M A J J B O P S C P Y R O M E M  
 O S S Y W L B G L N T I A B H M K F C G

APPLE  
APPLICATION  
BACKUP  
COMPUTER  
DESKTOP

EJECT  
FILES  
HARD DRIVE  
INPUT  
INTELLIGENCE

KEYBOARD  
LAPTOP  
MEMORY  
MOTHERBOARD  
OFFICE

OUTPUT  
PERSONAL  
PREFERENCES  
REBOOT  
SLUGGISH

SOFTWARE  
SPAM  
STARTUP  
TRASH

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**SUDOKU**

Solutions → 23

**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.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Solutions → 23

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Defensive nuclear weapon
4. Moved back and forth
9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
14. Last letter
15. Cause to become less intense
16. Genus of tree bugs
17. Body art
18. Romance novelist
20. Be filled with love for
22. City
23. Make vivid
24. Horses
28. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
29. Atomic #18
30. Shortly
31. A type of prejudice
33. Whirls
37. Six
38. Old world, new
39. \_\_ Hess, oil company
41. Talk
42. Not off
43. Begets
44. Cars need them
46. Computing architecture (abbr.)
49. Of I
50. Journalist, activist Wells
51. Takes apart

55. Lists
58. Positively charged electrode
59. Hard, colorless compound
60. Inflammation of the peritoneum
64. Trent Reznor's band
65. Simply dry fruit
66. "Ivanhoe" author
67. Google certification
68. French commune
69. Medieval circuit courts
70. Soviet Socialist Republic

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Indigenous people of Mexico
2. Dietary supplement
3. Having a particular sheen or luster
4. Views
5. Academic Bill of Rights
6. Automobile
7. When you anticipate arriving
8. Beef or chicken intestine
9. Conspiracy
10. Blood disorder
11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
12. Time zone

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 23 |    |    |    |    |    | 24 | 25 |    |    |    |    |    | 26 | 27 |
|    |    |    | 28 |    |    |    |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 |    |    |
| 31 | 32 |    |    |    |    | 33 |    | 34 | 35 | 36 |    |    | 37 |    |
| 38 |    |    |    | 39 | 40 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |    |    |    | 44 | 45 |    |    |    |
| 46 |    | 47 | 48 |    |    |    |    | 49 |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    | 52 | 53 | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    | 56 | 57 |
|    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |    |
| 60 | 61 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 62 | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |
| 65 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |    | 67 |    |
| 68 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |    | 70 |    |

13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
19. Upton Sinclair novel
21. What a cow does
24. Cavalry-sword
25. Ancient Greek war galley
26. Stars
27. Rebukes
31. Billion year periods
32. Some are in a bottle
34. Tears down
35. Lethal dose
36. Humorists
40. Midwestern US state (abbr.)
41. Frameworks
45. Rocker Billy
47. More thin
48. Dog
52. Habitual repetitions
53. State of fuss
54. Uneasy
56. Chemical compounds
57. More cognizant of reality
59. A place to build
60. Exclamation that denotes disgust
61. Supplement with difficulty
62. Very slick
63. Hill or rocky peak

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|   | 2 | 4 |   | 9 | 1 |  |   |  | 5 |   |
| 1 |   | 7 | 3 |   |   |  |   |  | 6 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | 9 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 8 |  |   |  |   |   |
|   | 5 | 3 |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|   | 7 | 1 |   | 5 |   |  | 2 |  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   |  |   |  | 1 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   | 9 | 7 |  |   |  | 6 | 4 |

Level: Intermediate

**Guess Who?**

I am a singer born in England on January 12, 1993. I planned to become an English teacher, but tried out for "The X Factor" as a solo artist. I was ultimately paired with other singers to form a very successful boy band before moving on to a solo career.

Answer: Zayn Malik

## WEDNESDAY

1/10

**Artist Exhibition - Jeanette Fournier**

10-4 p.m. Neale Pavilion, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Nature's Way, Quechee. Watercolor paintings by self-taught artist Jeanette Fournier feature animals, birds, and nature in her distinctive style. Proceeds from artwork sales benefit the nature center. For more on Fournier's art, visit [fournierart.com](http://fournierart.com). [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org)

**Adult Crafts**

Noon. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Create bookmarks and cards, paint with watercolors, make picture frames, do some Zen coloring, dabble in collage, and more. [hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/](http://hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

**Public Skating**

2-3 p.m. Seniors, parents with toddlers

3-4:10 p.m. All ages.

Wednesdays, Jan.-Feb. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6, ages 13+, \$5 ages 4-12, free, ages 3 and under. Rental skates available, \$6/pair. [unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions](http://unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions)

**Cribbage for Adults**

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join a gathering of adult cribbage players at the library's meeting room. [hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/](http://hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

**Bone Builders**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. Pricing and info: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org)

**Introduction to Stained Glass**

5 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. \$35-\$55. Join maker Lisa Steckler for a demonstration and an introduction to our stained glass shop. Learn how to cut and shape glass, use soldering irons, and add eye loops to a piece. Safety procedures will be taught. Materials included. [rutlandmint.org](http://rutlandmint.org)

**Drum Circle at A Sound Space**

6 p.m. A Sound Space, 162 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. \$10. Join Breanna Elaine for a drum circle that includes a guided meditation, affirmations, and various drum beats. Experience healing through rhythm. 10 drums are available for those without their own. [tinyurl.com/3cenxfx3](http://tinyurl.com/3cenxfx3)

**Adult Open Gym: Coed Pickleball**

7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Partially punched cards from last year are still valid. Enjoy coed team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, so there is no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at [recadmin@killingtontown.com](mailto:recadmin@killingtontown.com)

**Community Music Jam**

7 p.m. Wednesdays. The Buttery at the Green Mountain Community School, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Suggested donation encouraged. Come join us for an acoustic music jam, where we'll teach each other new songs and play various genres. RSVP to Bennett at [bennett\\_lovett\\_graff@hotmail.com](mailto:bennett_lovett_graff@hotmail.com).

**Mihali Presents: The Winter Sessions**

8 p.m. Wednesdays in January. Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. \$20-\$25. Join Mihali & Friends on the Pickle Barrel main stage for a 4-show residency. Each show will feature different guests and take place in a special venue. Must be at least 21. [picklebarrelnightclub.com](http://picklebarrelnightclub.com).

## THURSDAY

1/11

**Killington Bone Builders**

10 a.m. Thursdays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org) or 802-422-4323.

**Toddler Story Time**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join us to read books on a theme of the week. Enjoy stories, socializing, and often a project tied into the theme. For young children ages 20 months to 3 1/2 years. Duration: 30-60 minutes. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org) or 802-457-2295

**Storytime!**

10-11 a.m. Thursdays. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Promoting early literacy and socialization skills for ages 2-5. No registration required. [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org) or 802-773-1860

**Memory Café**

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Willard Hall, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St., Chester. Family caregivers for loved ones with a form of dementia are invited to attend the Memory Café. Sponsored by Senior Solutions. For those with dietary restrictions, please bring your own bag lunch. Parking is behind the Six Loose Ladies shop on the village green on Route 11 in Chester. Please RSVP to [jerenhouse@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:jerenhouse@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

**Ukulele Group**

Noon-1 p.m. Thursdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. Musician Steven Wilson leads the group through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. Must pre-register. [chaffeeartcenter.square.site](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site) or 802-775-0356

**Michelob Ultra Race World**

1-3 p.m. Thursdays, to March 14. Pico Mountain, Lower Pike or Exhibition. \$50 per individual. Weekly race series at Pico Mountain featuring 8 races, where participants can race as individuals or form a team of up to 5 racers. Each race is followed by a party at the Last Run Lounge from 4-6 p.m. Register for the race series: [tfaforms.com/5031843](http://tfaforms.com/5031843). [picomountain.com](http://picomountain.com)

**Play Bridge!**

2 p.m. Thursdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org), 802-457-2295.

**S.T.E.A.M. Mini-books!**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join us for S.T.E.A.M. and create tiny books, zines and comics! [hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/](http://hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/) or 802-436-2473

**Learn Ballroom Dancing with Patti****Panebianco**

Thursdays, through Jan. 25  
5- 5:50 p.m. Kids - Tango & Cha-Cha  
6-6:50 p.m. Adults - Foxtrot  
7-7:50 p.m. Adults - Salsa  
Waldron Gym, Green Mountain Community School, 1 Brennan Circle, Poultney. Pricing and info: [stonevalleyarts.org](http://stonevalleyarts.org)

**Pour Painting Balloon Technique**

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Pricing and info: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org)

**Higher Education at Pickle Barrel**

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. \$12-\$15. Higher Education crafts a unique blend of psychedelic-soaked reggae with raw riotous rock-n-roll. The band has played at nationally renowned venues and festivals alongside big names in the industry. [picklebarrelnightclub.com](http://picklebarrelnightclub.com)

MICROMOSAICS:  
JEWELRY AND  
BEYOND

FRIDAY 5PM

**Adult Open Gym: Basketball**

7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a 10-visit punch card for \$20 or pay \$5 for every time you come. Partially punched cards from last year are still valid. Enjoy COED team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, so there is no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at [recadmin@killingtontown.com](mailto:recadmin@killingtontown.com)

## FRIDAY

1/12

**Story Time at the Library**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org), 802-422-9765 or 802-422-4251.

**Friends of Rutland Free Library Book Sale**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Donations are gratefully accepted for the items chosen. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages, including a selection of rare and antique books. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers. [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

**Bone Builders**

11 a.m.-Noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Improve balance and enhance energy and wellbeing. Pricing and info: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org)

**A Forest of Lights**

4:30-7 p.m. (Last check-in at 6:30 p.m. No admittance after 6:30 p.m.) VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Adults, \$12; youth, \$7; children 3 & under, free. Thousands of lights transform VINS into an enchanted realm. New additions include a twinkling Snowflake Tunnel, the Blue & White Icicle Tower and the Fairy Lighting Hideaway. After your walk-through, cozy up by the campfire and enjoy hot chocolate and snacks that are available for purchase.

**Torchlight Snowshoe**

4:30-6:30 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Adults, \$12; children, \$7; adult members, \$5; youth members, free. Snowshoe, ski, or walk the trail by torchlight. Meet National Park Service rangers and learn about local wildlife and history. Don't have snowshoes? A limited number of adult and child-sized snowshoes will also be available to borrow, but to guarantee equipment, we recommend renting snowshoes. Complimentary s'mores and hot drinks. [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org)

## DJ SKATE NIGHT

FRIDAY 6:30 PM





**Micromosaics: Jewelry and Beyond**

5-8 p.m. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. \$75-\$90. Explore the art of micromosaics using tiny glass fragments called tesserae. Develop fine hand skills and learn to design and finalize your own mosaic piece. rutlandmint.org

**Women's Kinship Circle: The Fire in These Ashes**

6-8 p.m. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Heal the self and the other, including one's relationship with Creation. The sessions include refreshments, conversation, and immersive sensory experiences aimed at cultivating a healing reconnection with the natural world. The series is offered by Jean Golicz, a lay minister in the New England Lutheran Synod, who will also share some of her program experiences. missionfarmvt.org

**Chad Hollister, Solo Concert**

7 p.m. ArtisTree, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$25. Chad Hollister, a Vermont native and renowned acoustic guitarist, will perform solo. With over 30 years of experience and six full-length recordings, Hollister's music has been praised as pure sonic alchemy. His music is a reflection of positivity, emphasizing the importance of life, family, and community. artistreevt.org

**Piano Night at Main St. Museum**

6 p.m. Main St. Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. Enjoy a night of piano music at this event. mainstreetmuseum.org.

**DJ Skate Party**

6:30-8:30 p.m. Fridays until March 9. Giorgetti Arena, 2 Oak St. Ext., Rutland. Public skating. rutlandrec.com/icearena.

**Stories Told in Tinmouth**

7 p.m. Second Friday of each month. Tinmouth Old Firehouse. The theme for the evening is "Wintering." Join us for an ongoing series of storytelling evenings. Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concerts & Town Events on Facebook. Questions? 802-881-6775 (call or text).

**Wobbly Barn: The Benderz**

Doors open at 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn, 2229 Killington Road, Killington. Cover charge may be required. The Benderz are a high-energy cover band from Philadelphia. They are known for their professional and rocking performances, welcoming new fans with open arms. killington.com

**SATURDAY**

1/13

**Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor with Rob O'Brien**

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Gallery at The Vault, 68 Main St. Springfield, \$25. Professional watercolor artist Robert O'Brien will teach a workshop on painting the New England countryside in winter. All levels of painting ability. galleryatthevault.com

**THE VERMONT WINTER FARMERS' MARKET**

SATURDAY 10 AM



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Discover the rich history of Vermont agriculture and enjoy interactive exhibits. Follow the story walk along the pasture fence, take a step back in history with a self-guided tour of the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Learn about the farm animals, participate in hands-on activities, go for a horse-drawn sleigh ride, and sample delicious local products. billingsfarm.org

**Friends of Rutland Free Library Book Sale**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Donations are gratefully accepted for the items chosen. Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for all ages, including a selection of rare and antique books. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers. Info: rutlandfree.org.

**The Vermont Winter Farmers' Market**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is one of the largest farmers' markets in the state and the first to operate year round. Find seasonal harvest, winter veggies, handcrafted gifts and more. vtfarmersmarket.org

**Make & Take Saturday Kids' Class**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Ages: 6-12. Weekly fun activity featuring arts and crafts. \$15. Min. 5 students. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org.

**Animation Domination Workshop**

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Animation Domination is a hand-drawn animation workshop for all ages. Participants will learn to rotoscope video footage onto notecards and digitize their drawings to create animations. Alex Roberts, an animation enthusiast, will provide instruction and share his work. Info for pricing and more: junctionjam.org

**Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane, Center Rutland. Free. Maintained by the Rutland Railway Association, Inc., the historic depot is now a museum that houses an operating HO scale model railroad setup and displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad Caboose #45. rutlandrailway.org

**Drop 'n' Paint**

Noon-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25. All ages. All materials will be set up and ready for you with a choice of three images to paint. Provided: canvas, paint, brushes, easel, smock. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Must pre-register by Friday noon. chaffeeartcenter.org.

**"A Response to Our Times: Reversing Climate Change Through Plant-Based Eating"**

1 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. The Plant-Based-Eating Initiative (PBE Initiative) presents a program and panel discussion on how moving towards a plant-based diet can help reverse climate change, reduce animal suffering, and improve personal health. The event consists of three presentations followed by audience-initiated questions and discussion. RSVP is appreciated. For more information, email programs@normanwilliams.org.

**Après Afternoons at Jackson Gore: Red Rooster Riot**

2-5 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard, Okemo Ski Resort, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow. Join us for live music, games, food, drinks and more. okemo.com



**A FOREST OF LIGHTS**

SUNDAY 1 PM

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Artist Exhibition - Jeanette Fournier**

*Through April 30*  
Neale Pavilion / VINS Nature Center. Enjoy the beautiful watercolor paintings of self-taught artist Jeanette Fournier, featuring animals, birds, and nature in her distinct and original style. Proceeds from artwork sales benefit VINS. For more on Jeanette's art, visit: jfournierart.com. Pricing and info: vinsweb.org

**Matthew Mazur Exhibit in Locals Gallery**

*Through Jan. 24*  
Main St. Museum, 58 Bridge Street, White River Junction. The Art of Matthew Mazur. mainstreetmuseum.org

**Wacky Woodstock, VT Scavenger Hunt**

*Daily through March 31.*  
11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Mon Vert Cafe, 28 Central Street, Woodstock. \$24. A creative and interactive scavenger hunt where participants explore various locations in town, complete tasks and challenges, and document their progress through photos and videos. Suitable for families and dog-friendly. Offers a mix of indoor and outdoor activities, with bonus challenges. Great for corporate groups, tourists, locals, and special occasions. Custom-designed experiences and virtual team builders available. tinyurl.com/53cfxpv9

**Mapping the Rutland Region**

*Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays*  
12-6 p.m. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row. Free. The Castleton University Bank Gallery and Rutland Regional Planning Commission present "Mapping the Rutland Region", an exhibit curated by Ethan Pepin. It showcases the history of how transportation technologies have shaped Rutland's development and explores how local leaders, citizens, and planners have responded to changing economic circumstances. The exhibit includes unique hand-drawn 'Ecological Study' maps from the 1970s and custom-made maps showing Rutland City's urban form since 1916. The gallery show runs from June 16 to August 12, with a reception on July 20 from 5:30-7:30 pm. castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries

**Woodstock VT Film Series: Joan Baez I Am a Noise**

3-4:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$15 person/\$12 Billings Farm member. Facing the end of a 60-year musical career, Joan Baez reflects on her life and personal struggles in this intimate and honest film. The filmmakers use Baez's archive to construct a deeply honest portrait of the legendary folk singer/activist.

**Kids Corner Holiday Activities**

4 p.m. Killington Resort, Snowshed Base Lodge, 3rd floor. Join us for kid-friendly activities including cookie decorating, board games, arts & crafts, and more. Live music will be available in the nearby Long Trail Pub. killington.com

**A Forest of Lights**

4:30-7 p.m. (Last check-in at 6:30 p.m. No admittance after 6:30 p.m.) VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. New and expanded, with even more lights. Adult \$12; Youth \$7; Children 3 & Under Free. Join us this winter as thousands of lights transform VINS into an enchanted realm. New additions this year include a twinkling Snowflake Tunnel, the Blue & White Icicle Tower and the Fairy Lighting Hideaway. After your walk through, cozy up by the campfire and enjoy hot chocolate and snacks that are available for purchase.

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Doors open at 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn, 2229 Killington Road, Killington. Cover charge may be required. The Benderz are a high-energy cover band from Philadelphia. They are known for their professional and rocking performances, welcoming new fans with open arms. killington.com

**Boston Comedy Club at Brandon Inn**

7:30 p.m. Brandon Inn, 20 Park St, Brandon, \$20 - \$25. Join Boston's Best Stand-Up Comedy Show at Brandon Inn. This event showcases professional comedians from Boston, New York City, and beyond. boscomedyclub.com.

**Rock n' Roll Show**

8 p.m. Main St. Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10. Enjoy live music from The Pilgrims, Big Destiny, and Petricore. mainstreetmuseum.org

**SUNDAY**  
1/14

**Adult 'Shinny' Pickup Hockey**

7:20-8:20 a.m. Sundays, Jan.-Feb. Doors open at 7 a.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock.

# POTTERY: FUNDAMENTALS OF HANDBUILDING

TUESDAY 5:30 PM

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock. Discover the rich history of Vermont agriculture and enjoy interactive exhibits. Follow the StoryWalk along the pasture fence, take a step back in history with a self-guided tour of the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Learn about the farm animals, participate in hands-on activities, go for a Horse-drawn Sleigh Ride, and sample delicious local products. billingsfarm.org

**Public Skating, All Ages**

11:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Sundays, Jan.-Feb. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 Ages 13-up; \$5 Ages 4-12; Free Ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions

**Paint and Sip**

1-3 p.m. Lake Bomoseen Lodge, 2551 Route 30, North Castleton. \$55. Get ready to unleash your creativity and enjoy a fun-filled evening of painting and sipping drinks with friends at Paint and Sip. The event includes all painting materials, a wood palette, and one complimentary drink. Food and beverages are available for purchase at the restaurant. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite.com. For more information or payment, contact Jonathan at 518-567-6584.

**Woodstock VT Film Series: Joan Baez I Am a Noise**

3-4:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$15 person/\$12 Billings Farm member. Facing the end of a 60-year musical career, Joan Baez reflects on her life and personal struggles in this intimate and honest film. The filmmakers use Baez's archive to construct a deeply honest portrait of the legendary folk singer/activist.

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**Adult Open Gym: Pickleball**

7-9 p.m. Runs Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a \$20 10-visit punch card or pay \$5 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are STILL valid. Enjoy COED team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, so there is no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

**MONDAY**  
1/15

**Killington Bone Builders**

10 a.m. Weekly. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

**Okemo Innkeepers Race Series**

10 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 8- Mar. 11 Okemo Ski Resort. A Ludlow tradition. Both teams and individual skiers and snowboarders compete in 8 age categories. A range of abilities from intermediate to experienced racers, it is designed to be a fun league. End of the year trophies are awarded for the fastest team and the team with the most points over the course of the season. There is an après race gathering hosted by a local bar from 5-7pm. 2 skipped races on MLK Day Jan. 15 and Presidents Day Feb. 19. okemoracing@gmail.com.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend at Billings Farm & Museum**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd, Woodstock. Discover the rich history of Vermont agriculture and enjoy interactive exhibits. Follow the StoryWalk along the pasture fence, take a step back in history with a self-guided tour of the 1890 Farm Manager's House. Learn about the farm animals, participate in hands-on activities, go for a Horse-drawn Sleigh Ride, and sample delicious local products. billingsfarm.org

**Monday Movie**

1 p.m. The Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. sherburnelibrary.org

**Art Bar**

3:30-4:30 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. - Open craft time. Craft supplies galore, work on any project you want! Browse our craft books for ideas. We'll occasionally provide a specific craft or have special supplies available. rutlandfree.org.

**Poetry Group**

4-5:30 p.m. Monthly, 1st and 3rd Mondays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join the poetry group at NWPL for sharing and critique in a workshop format, focusing on different elements of poetry such as theme, language, sound and rhythm, structure, and context. This group is open to all interested in poetry and offers feedback on poems. RSVP. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

**Adult Open Gym: Indoor Soccer**

7-9 p.m. Runs Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a \$20 10-visit punch card or pay \$5 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are STILL valid. Enjoy COED team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, so there is no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

**TUESDAY**  
1/16

**What's on Your Nightstand? The Not-A-Book-Club Book Club**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Online via Zoom. Free. Chat about books you are reading, the books you've loved, and the books you've always wanted to read. normanwilliams.org

**Alzheimer's Support Group at Community Health's Allen Pond location in Suite 403.**

4-5 p.m. Second Tuesday of every month. 71 Allen Street, Suite 403, Rutland. A support group for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members, providing a platform for sharing stories and offering support and suggestions. chcr.org

**Italian Film Series**

4-6 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Local Italian language instructor Veronica DeLay is hosting a series of Italian film screenings with English subtitles. The next film in the series is "La leggenda del pianista sull'oceano" (The Legend of 1900). normanwilliams.org

**Play Chess & Backgammon**

5 p.m. Tuesdays. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Join us for chess and/or backgammon on Tuesday evenings. All skill levels are welcome, and coaching is available. Bring your own set or use one of ours. normanwilliams.org, 802-457-2295

**Pottery: Fundamentals of Handbuilding**

5:30-7:30 pm. Tuesdays, Jan. 16-Feb. 20, 5 sessions. The MINT, 112 Quality Lane, Rutland. \$175-\$200. Come join us for a comprehensive introduction (or re-introduction) to the world of pottery. Learn about pinch pot, coils, and slab techniques and create several unique projects along the way. Explore tools and texture and learn how to glaze. rutlandmint.org.

**Essentrics: Aging Backwards Stretch-and-Strengthen**

5:30 p.m. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main St., Poultney. \$12. A unique age reversing workout designed to restore and maintain joint mobility, release tension, and unlock tight muscles. stonevalleyarts.org

**Adult Open Gym: Indoor Soccer**

7-9 p.m. Runs Jan. 8-Mar. 17. Killington Elementary School, 686 School House Road, Killington. Buy a \$20 10-visit punch card or pay \$5 for every time you come. Punch cards from last year with holes not yet punched, are STILL valid. Enjoy COED team sports in a low-key environment for ages 16 & up. This is a drop-in program, so there is no preregistration or leagues. For questions please contact Griffin Van Niel at recadmin@killingtontown.com

**Movie Night at Main St. Museum**

7:30 p.m. Main St. Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. mainstreetmuseum.org.

# [MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg  
Have a music scene coming up? Email [djdavehoff@gmail.com](mailto:djdavehoff@gmail.com)

## WED

1/10

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – King Margo

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Mihali & Friends

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Nick Bredice

### LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

### QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

## THURS

1/11

### BARNARD

5:30 Fable Farm – Rumney Sessions with Greg Ryan

### BRANDON

5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Nelson

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown

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

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. The Freerider – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris P

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Higher Education

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny & Friends

### LONDONDERRY

7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel & Catnip John

### LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

### QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

### RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A SoundSpace Open Mic hosted by Josh Cote

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

## FRI

1/12

### BOMOSEEN

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

### KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Nick Bredice

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

4 p.m. The Foundry – Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Rivershed – The Joneses

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

7 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Loose Monkeys

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – The Zoo

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jamie's Junk Show

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Last Chair Band

### QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jake Geppert

### RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Cady Ternity w/ Kayla Silverman

### SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – Chad Hollister

## SAT

1/13

### BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Charlie Nadler

### KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Gully Boys

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Aaron Audet Band

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Chris Pallutto

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

5 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Jamie's Junk Show

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

6 p.m. Prestons at The Grand Hotel – James Joel

6 p.m. Rivershed – The Joneses

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – KGB

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Rhys Chalmers

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Loose Monkeys

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – The Zoo

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet Band

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

10 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crows Nest – Jamie's Junk Show

### LONDONDERRY

2 p.m. Magic Mountain Black Line Tavern – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. New American Grill – Nick Bredice

### LUDLOW

9 a.m. Okemo's Sunburst Six Bubble - Lift Party with DJ Dave

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoons: Red Rooster Riot

### PROCTORSVILLE

5 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Sammy B

### QUECHEE

4 p.m. Quechee Club – Apres Ski with Ruby Street

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Brooks Hubbard

### RUTLAND

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

### STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington & Tuff Luv

## SUN

1/14

### BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

### KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with The Joneses

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Kenny Mehler Duo

5 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic Night hosted by Indigenous Entertainment

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Zac 'n' Fried

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

### LUDLOW

9 a.m. Okemo's Solitude Lift - Lift Party with DJ Dave

## MON

1/15

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n with Daniel Brown

6 p.m. Rivershed – Mandatory Mondays with Name That Tune Bingo by DJ Dave

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Margo

### LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with Indigenous Entertainment

## TUES

1/16

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou's – Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

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

### LONDONDERRY

6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaitis

### LUDLOW

6 p.m. The Killarney – Trivia with Rick Davis

### QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

### RUTLAND

8:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave



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# Chad Hollister makes his debut at Artistree

This Friday Jan. 12, head to South Pomfret to see Chad Hollister make his debut at Artistree 7 p.m. I've known Chad for 25 or so years and have always liked his music.

My favorite kind of music is music that moves you and his definitely does. This will be a solo show.

Chad said, "The solo show is really intimate. It's like a 'VH1 Behind the Music,' is how I describe it for the old people. I tell the stories behind the songs.

For people who have never heard me, picture like if Dave Matthews and Jack Johnson had lunch and had a baby with Tom Petty and they churned out this dude, and Paul Simon

too, who was going to play some songs.

That's the style mix. It gives me the freedom to explore where the songs came from. I like to connect with the audience. Every group is different. When I do shows like this, I get to see people from my past. People come out of the woodwork. It's been a nice way to reconnect with people that don't want to go to the clubs. It's just an intimate show where at the end, people get to hang out."

He'll have his music and merch available for sale at his shows but you can also find it on Spotify, iTunes, YouTube and on his website chadmusic.com. He added, "They can meet me at the end, I'll sign stuff or just say hello to folks. Not rock star at all, it's just kind of the hang, the way I've always done it."

Chad said his focus now is on "Listening Rooms", which makes Artistree a great spot.

An old friend of his books the room so he said it's been on his radar for a bit. He said, "It seems like a really cool place. Those are the type of venues I really enjoy doing. I did a bunch up at Shelburne Vineyards, which is also a listening room. I did one up there and sold out 100 tickets. That's been a very good local thing up there, just awesome."

Chad said what he likes about doing places like this is people who have heard his name for years, will have their first opportunity to see him. "Good lord, me, Redington (Rick), Duane (Carleton), Bow Thayer, we've been doing it for 30 years, literally, and we've been doing it our own way."

Besides playing solo, he has a few lineups, and none of them disappoint. He does a duo with Jeff "Primo" Poremski who also plays guitar and sings. He has a 4 piece band, an acoustic quintet and a big band (10 piece) that has bass, drums, percussion and a full horn section. That band has sold out the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe the past few winters. They have a new executive director who is getting up to snuff so Chad won't be there this winter but this summer, his band will be headlining a festival through them in Stowe.

He and Primo go on an East Coast Tour in February where they'll play a few clubs but mainly listening rooms and house concerts. Last year they sold out the Music Hall in Portsmouth and the City Winery in Boston. This tour starts February

10 in Massachusetts with a benefit for SAFE and runs for 3 weeks. From the 15th on, they'll be playing all over Florida. He really likes doing the house concerts. Chad said, "It's one of my favorite things to do, to perform in people's homes with listening room vibes. That's always a really cool thing. Imagine a concert in your very own living room." Chad has done these solo and with Primo, all across the country. If you're interested in one, email Chad at info@chadmusic.com.

Chad has written and recorded five albums. His first one, titled "Chad," was in 1998 and has my favorite song of his, "Wake Up". I try and get him to play that at every show and have been fortunate to hear it a lot. It's such a great, feel good song. I've played that at some of my gigs and people think it's Rusted Root. That album also has "Jerry's Gone" and "Monster Truck," two great tracks. His next album, "Life," is his favorite to date. That album has the Jackpierce cover of "Vineyard," and cult favorite "Waitress" for the service industry. "Spirits" came next and features an amazing mix of musicians. His fourth album, the self-titled 'Chad Hollister,' is a great one. It features "Riley Odelia" (written for his daughter) which I've heard him play live and it's wonderful. The album also has a stripped down cover of The Cars' "My Best Friend's Girl" that was approved by The Cars themselves and is one of their favorite covers of the tune. His last album, "Stop ... World," features the full 10 piece Chad Hollister Band. He just released a single, "Inner

Sovereignty" which is the first song off the soon-to-be released Chad Hollister Acoustic Trio record. That trio consists of Chad, Primo, Rudy Dauth on bass and special guest, cellist John Dunlop of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. He'll be releasing singles throughout the winter with the full album dropping in the spring. Chad said, "We'll be doing the new music out on tour. We have eight in the can with probably two more to write and record, working on that as we speak."

Chad has been going strong for 30 years and said, "I like inspiring people, I like seeing people's faces. Certainly it's the show and getting up on stage but I like inspiring people to be kind, to be good. Not to take a dark turn but yesterday I see another shooting of a sixth grader. What is wrong with our world, the mental health state? Another thing for me is to really want to take people away from it for a bit, but also encourage people to be kind. We have a song on the new record to be kind. Our world is in such flux right now. For a couple hours I can inspire, take them away from whatever is going on in their own life or give them a message of positivity. That's the nugget right there."

You can find Chad on social media like Instagram (Chad Hollister) and Facebook (Chad Hollister Band) plus the previously mentioned Spotify, iTunes, YouTube and his website. Granted we are in a streaming world but Chad encourages you to buy his music off his website, if you can't make it to a show.



Rockin' the Region  
By Dave Hoffenberg



By Woody Weider

*Musician Chad Hollister will be performing at Artistree Community Arts Center in South Pomfret on Friday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. His solo show is an intimate experience where Hollister shares the stories behind his songs with the audience. Influenced by artists like Dave Matthews and Jack Johnson, Chad's music resonates with listeners and is a unique blend of styles.*



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The Back Country Café is a hot spot for delicious breakfast foods. Choose from farm fresh eggs, multiple kinds of pancakes and waffles, omelets or

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**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,

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**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



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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.



**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 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.



**Inn at Long Trail**

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**Sushi Yoshi**

Sushi Yoshi is Killington's true culinary adventure. With Hibachi, Sushi, Chinese and Japanese, we have something for every age and palate. Private Tatame rooms and large party seating available. We boast a full bar with 20 craft beers on draft. We are chef-owned and operated. Serving lunch and dinner. Delivery or take away option available. Now open year round. www.vermontsushi.com 802-422-4241.



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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.



**Soup Dog**

With a focus on soups and hotdogs, this restaurant offers a delicious and comforting menu for visitors and locals alike. Opening in the winter of 2023, Soup Dog invites guests to stop by and enjoy their tasty offerings. The menu features a wide variety of soups, paired with delicious bread, as well as specialty hotdog toppings. Guests also have the option to create their own hotdog combinations. (802) 353-9277. Visit us on Facebook.



**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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## Killington Parks and Recreation has started its winter open gym activities

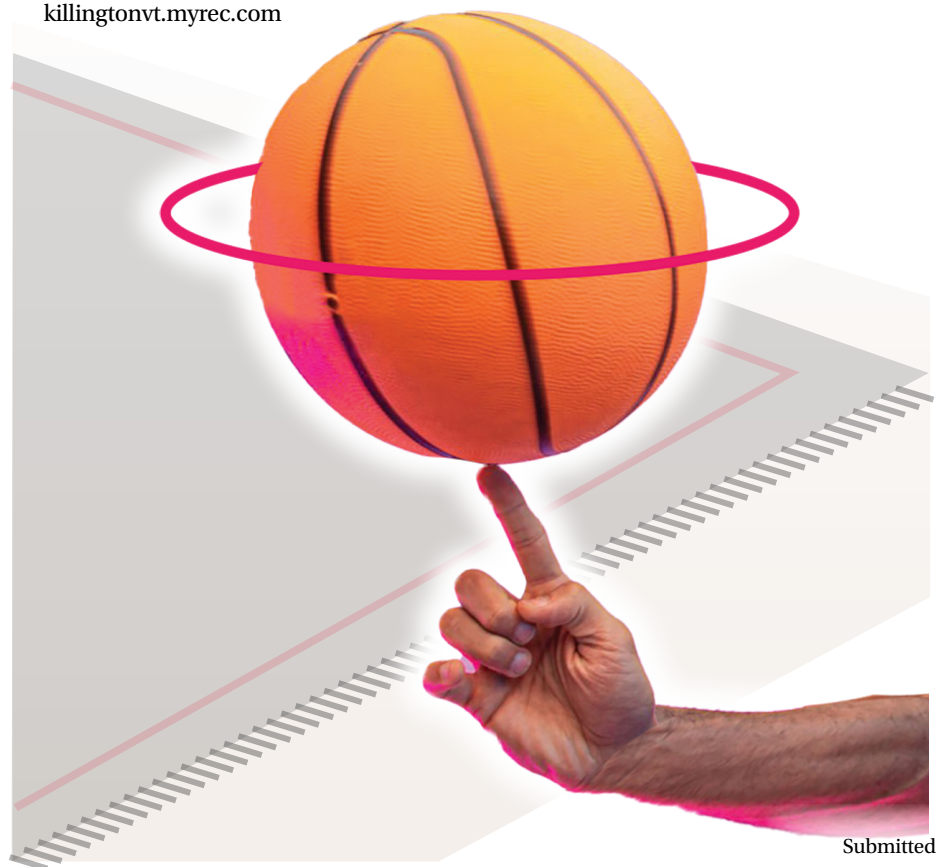
Killington Parks and Recreation adult open gym has officially started for the winter season. Running from Jan. 8-Mar. 17, organized teams can compete against each other in indoor soccer, pickleball and basketball. Anyone interested in registering for a team, message Killington Indoor League on Facebook.

Drop-in rate for any of the sports offered is \$5 or purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. As for our ice rink, unfortunately we've been dealing with warm weather and haven't had any skaters but with the cold temperatures this week, will help it out and once it's deemed safe, our department will make an official announcement with hours of operation.

**Schedule**

- **Monday:**  
Adult Open Gym: Indoor Soccer
- **Tuesday:**  
Adult Open Gym: Indoor Soccer
- **Wednesday:**  
Adult Open Gym: Pickleball
- **Thursday:**  
Adult Open Gym: Basketball
- **Sunday:**  
Adult Open Gym: Pickleball

For more registration and information, visit [facebook.com/killingtonindoorleague](https://facebook.com/killingtonindoorleague) or [killingtonvt.myrec.com](https://killingtonvt.myrec.com)



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## The Benderz are performing both Friday and Saturday night at the Wobbly Barn

Fri. Jan 12-Sat. Jan.13—KILLINGTON—The Benderz, a touring cover band based out of Philadelphia, are hitting the stage at the Wobbly Barn on 2229 Killington Road, for two nights of live music. With years of touring and playing music to thousands of fans all over the country, every show that they play is a high-energy event. The Benderz are a well-schooled, committed, and highly professional attraction. Off-stage, The Benderz are practically “family.” They constantly welcome new fans with open arms and rocking performances.

The Band will take the stage as the late night performance. There may be a cover charge may be required for entry.

The Wobbly Barn Steakhouse opens at 4 p.m., while the Wobbly Barn Nightclub opens at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit: [killington.com](http://killington.com)



Courtesy The Benderz

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### Solutions

From page 15

### Crossword

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | M |   | P | A | C | E | D |   | C | A | M | P | O |   |
| Z | E | E |   | A | B | A | T | E |   | A | N | A | S | A |   |
| T | A | T |   | N | O | R | A | R | O | B | E | R | T | S |   |
| E | N | A | M | O | R |   |   |   | M | I | A | M | I |   |   |
| C | O | L | O | R |   | S | T | A | L | L | I | O | N | S |   |
|   |   | L | O | A |   | A | R |   |   | A | N | O | N |   |   |
| A | G | I | S | M |   | B | I | R | L | S |   |   | V | I |   |
| E | E | C |   | A | M | E | R | A | D | A |   | G | A | B |   |
| O | N |   |   | S | I | R | E | S |   | T | I | R | E | S |   |
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| H | E | R | E | S |   | E | Y | R | E | S |   | S | S | R |   |

### Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 |

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# Woodstock observes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend with a 3 day event full of family fun

Jan. 13-15, 10 a.m.-4p.m.—WOODSTOCK—Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road in Woodstock will celebrate with a variety of activities for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend. Visitors of all ages can enjoy engaging activities indoors and out during the long weekend.

The Woodstock Vermont Film Series will feature "Joan Baez, I Am a Noise." At the end of a 60-year musical career, Baez, the legendary folk singer and activist, takes an honest look back and a deep look inward as she tries to make sense of her large history-making life, and the personal struggles she's kept private. The film will be shown on Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Visitor Center Theater. (Film Series tickets are purchased separately.)

Follow the story walk along the pasture fence, take a step back in history with a self-guided tour of the 1890 Farm Manager's House.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides will be offered on Mon., Jan. 15, from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., conditions permitting. Rides are \$5 per person for ages 2 and up in addition to admission to Billings Farm & Museum. Rides are approximately 10 minutes.

Meet the farm's animals including Jersey cows, sheep, chickens and goats all cozy in the animal barns. There will be daily milking starting at 3 p.m. in the cow barn.

Explore the Billings Farm Trail on snowshoes or cross-country skis and venture through the picturesque snow-covered farm fields and along the Ottauquechee River. Bring your own or rent from the nearby Woodstock Inn & Resort Nordic Center. Bring your sled to speed down the small hill next to the orchard. Gather round the fire pit and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase in the gift shop.



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

*Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vermont, is hosting a weekend of celebrations and activities in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day from January 13-15. Visitors can watch Joan Baez's documentary "I Am a Noise" in the Visitor Center Theater, explore the 1890 Farm Manager's House, enjoy horse-drawn sleigh rides, meet farm animals, and enjoy daily milking demonstrations. Outdoor activities include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.*



# Torchlight Snowshoe adds an element of delight to an already fun-filled MLK Weekend at Billings Farm and Museum

Jan. 12 at 4:30 p.m. —WOODSTOCK—Snowshoe, ski or walk the Billings Farm trail by torchlight as evening begins. As part of Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road in Woodstock the torchlight snowshoe event is a pleasant way to keep warm in the cold evening while enjoying the outdoors. Meet National Park rangers from the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and Billings Farm & Museum staff, and learn about local wildlife, the history of the land, and the people who lived here. Gather around the fire pit and warm up with complimentary s'mores and hot drinks.

Don't worry if you do not have your own snowshoes? There is a limited number of adult and child-sized snowshoes will be available to borrow, but to guarantee you have the equipment you need, the Woodstock Inn Nordic Center has rentals, call 802-457-6674. Bring a light! We highly recommend a headlamp or a flashlight to find your way between torches on the trail.

Prices vary by age. Adults \$12; children \$7 (under 16); under 4 free; member adults: \$5; member children free. Tickets may be reserved in advance, balk-ins will be welcome.

For more information, visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org)



Courtesy Billings Farm & Museum

## Woodstock VT Film Series: 'Joan Baez I Am a Noise,' documents a deep look back and inside

Saturday, Jan. 13 at 3 p.m. —WOODSTOCK— The film, "Joan Baez I Am a Noise" (2023), directed by Miri Navasky, Karen O'Connor, and Maeve O'Boyle, documents legendary folk singer/activist Joan Baez who, facing the end of a 60-year musical career, takes an honest look back and a deep look inward as she tries to make sense of her large history-making life and reveals, for the first time, personal struggles she's kept private until now. Baez bids farewell to performing, and takes stock of her life in this unusually intimate and honest film.

Drawing from Baez's extraordinary archive, filmmakers Karen O'Connor, Miri Navasky, and Maeve O'Boyle construct a deeply honest portrait of the living legend who was the voice of her generation, reflecting on her life on and off the stage, personal emotional struggles, and family secrets—revealing for the first time the full truth of her life.

The showings take place in the Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater. Tickets are \$15 person/\$12 Billings Farm member.

For more information, visit: [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

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# Groms go off at Killington's Mini Shred Madness

By Brooke Geery

Killington hosted the cutest comp of the year on Saturday, Jan. 5 in Red's Backyard terrain park on Ramshead. Mini Shred Madness went down on a custom-built setup, featuring a box, flat rail, down rail, and jump, perfect for the littlest rippers to show off their stuff.

Skiers and riders were divided into two groups: super grom, ages 9 and under and grom, ages 10-13. Each group got an half hour to show off their best tricks, with the help of the Woodward Killington Park Crew, Killington Mountain School and Killington Snow Sports School coaches. A few of the smallest shredders also received some assistance hiking back up from the daddy ski lifts, which were running strong all day.

Mini Shred Madness is designed to promote learning and growth, with just a little taste of competition. While the real prize was fun, some athletes also walked away with extra recognition and goodies from the event's sponsors.

The best overall awards for the older division went to Jayden Pytlik, 13, (male ski) and Lindsey Barrows, 12, (female ski), Joey Pimentel, 11, (male snowboard) and Viviana Pecchia, 11, (female snowboard).

In the supergrom division, the awards were gender neutral with the "Beast" skier award going to Eli Yukica, 8, and the "Beast" snowboarder award being claimed by Lyle Barnes, 7. The "smooth operator" awards went to Juliana Branson, 5, (ski) and Finley Hauke, 9, (snowboard). The "110%" award, for the most overall effort, went to Chip Cheung, 5 and the Positive Attitude award was well-earned by Paisley Hauke, 5.

The second Mini Shred Madness event of the season will take place at Pico Mountain on Saturday, Feb. 24 and registration is open now at [Picomountain.com](http://Picomountain.com).



Photos by John Everett/Killington Resort

Killington Ski Resort hosted Mini Shred Madness on Saturday Jan. 5. It was a fun and competitive event for young skiers and snowboarders. The event took place in Red's Backyard terrain park on Ramshead and featured a specially built setup with various obstacles. Mini Shred Madness aims to promote learning and growth while providing a taste of competition. In addition to having a great time, athletes had the chance to win recognition and prizes from event sponsors.

# Assistance for Vermont business owners affected by the summer 2023 floods

Thursday, Jan. from 1-4:45 p.m.— LUDLOW— Vermont Law and Graduate School's Entrepreneurial Legal Lab and Legal Services Vermont will hold a clinic atletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow for Vermonter's who need assistance by the summer floods.F

As a result of high demand and ongoing community needs, they will continue to offer monthly clinics to assist Vermonters.

**Individuals can come prepared to the clinic with the following items:**

- Pictures of before and after the flood if accessible
- Receipts of repairs, replacement items and lodging if displaced from flooding

- Insurance information, including a reply or settlement from insurance after claim was submitted
- Household income information
- Any documents sent to or received from FEMA or the SBA
- Log-in information for FEMA Disaster Relief account (if you have one)
- Any additional notes about damages, losses and impacts from flooding

This effort serves as a lifeline for affected individuals and businesses and reinforces Vermont Law and Graduate School's dedication to fostering practical legal education and community engagement.

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## Come Closer to Our Chef's Table.

Join us for a special Cassoulet Dinner Event with Chef Matthew McClure on Thursday, January 18 in Richardson's Tavern. The cozy evening features a three course menu with wine pairings and guest speaker, award winning food and travel writer Sylvie Bigar.



**Reserve your seat online for Chef's Cassoulet Dinner on January 18!**

**\$95 per person**



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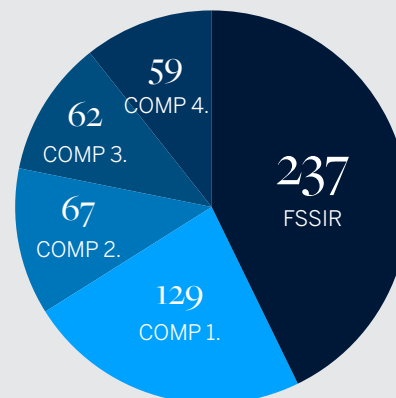
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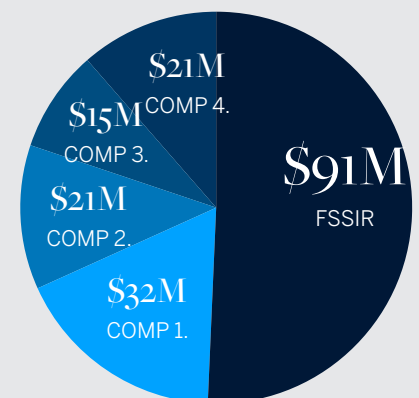
### Total Sales in Units

DEC 2022 - NOV 2023



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Source Trendgraphix Data 12/01/22 - 11/30/23 | Rutland County All Property Types, All Price Points

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# “A Response to Our Times: Reversing Climate Change Through Plant-Based Eating”

Jan. 13 at 1 p.m.—WOODSTOCK—The Plant-Based-Eating Initiative (PBE Initiative) will present a program and panel discussion “A Response to Our Times: Reversing Climate Change Through Plant-Based Eating” at Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock.

The PBE Initiative is a local group of concerned citizens interested in learning and teaching about what we, as individuals, can do to reverse climate change. Abraham Oort, PhD in climate science, will discuss the first aspect with “A Climate Scientist’s Perspective.” Lisa Burke, advocate for non-human animal liberation, will discuss the second aspect with “New Vegan Ethos.” Bineke Oort, MSW, will discuss the third aspect “Improving Our Personal Health.” Sami Saydjari will then moderate a panel discussion with the audience leading the way with their comments and questions.

The program will consist of three 20-minute presentations followed by an hour of audience-initiated questions and discussion about how moving toward a plant-based diet is good for:

- the planet, by reversing deforestation and thus absorbing CO2,
- your compassion toward animals, by reducing their suffering, and
- your health, by improving your wellness and lifespan.

This program emphasizes the power of individuals in making a difference to save the planet. It highlights that the situation is not without hope and suggests that by making small changes to our standard diet, such as gradually reducing meat consumption by half each year, we can collectively bring about significant changes to protect our planet.

This is a free event and is open to the public. For more information, visit: [normanwilliams.org](http://normanwilliams.org).



Submitted

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# VINS featuring the art of Jeanette Fournier

Jan.10-April 30—QUECHEE— VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee, is holding an artist exhibition featuring the art of Jeanette Fournier at VINS Neale Pavilion. Jeanette is a self-taught artist whose watercolor paintings are inspired by her passion for and love of the natural world. She specializes in illustrative drawings and paintings of animals, birds and nature, which reflect a distinct and original style. She is drawn to create art of the creatures in our world so we will remember them and our innate connection to nature. In the same ways in which people are drawn to nature, she wants the viewer to be drawn into the nature of her art.

Fournier's work has been accepted in numerous regional and national watercolor exhibitions and she is a two-time finalist in the Artist Magazine annual competition. In addition to the Society of Animal Artists, she is a member of the Copley Society of Art, a Signature Member of the New England Watercolor Society, North East Watercolor Society and the Vermont Watercolor Society. She is an associate member of the American Watercolor Society.

For more about Fournier's work, visit her website at: [www.jfournierart.com](http://www.jfournierart.com) or [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).

For more information, visit: [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org).



Courtesy VINS

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# Rutland County Humane Society



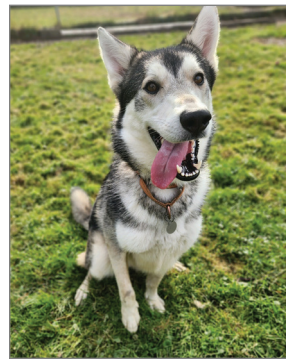
**JAYLEE**

5-month-old and a Standard Schnauzer mix, so she will be medium to large when full grown. Jaylee is a sweet girl and has a brother and sister looking for loving homes as well, they all look about the same. Male is larger and darker. We are open Wed-Sat from noon to 4 for walk-ins.

This pet is available for adoption at  
**Springfield Humane Society**  
 401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, VT • (802) 885-3997  
 \*Open by appointment only. [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org)



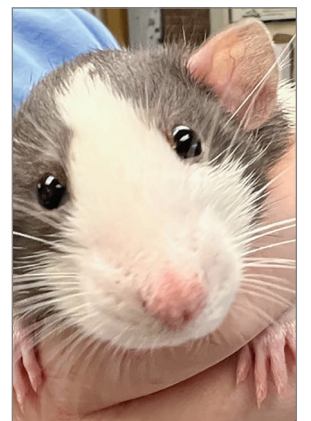
Fuji—6-7-year-old.  
 Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Ranger—1-year-old. Neutered male. Siberian husky.



Winnie—6-Month-Old.  
 Spayed female. Mixed breed.



Scone—Adult. Hooded rat. White/black. Small.

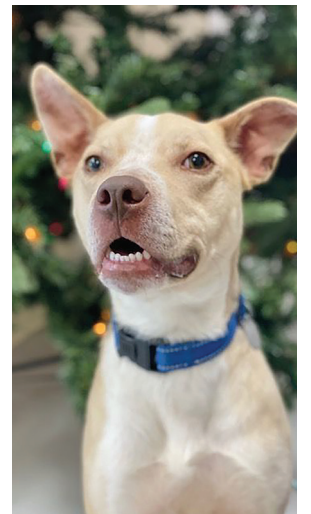


Gem—1-year-old.  
 Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



**JOHNNY CASH**

Johnny Cash—2-year-old. Neutered male. Catahoula Mix.



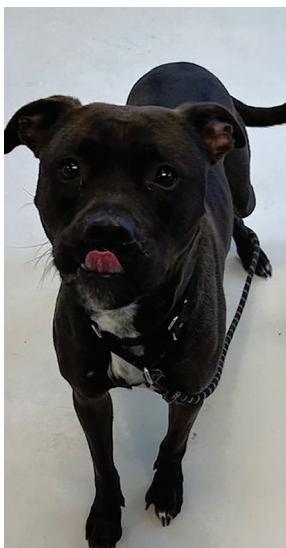
Rocko—11-month-old.  
 Neutered male. Jack Russell Terrier mix.



**HENRY**

My name is Henry and I'm an adorable 11-year-old neutered male. I came to Lucy Mackenzie after I didn't have a home I could call my own - and this is the place to be, so they told me! I'm one super friendly fella, who just loves the company of other cats. I also love to be held! Humans are so very nice to me, and I just love them so much. I'm deaf, but I don't let that affect me in any way. I love life, and I'm sure that I'll love YOU once I get to meet you.

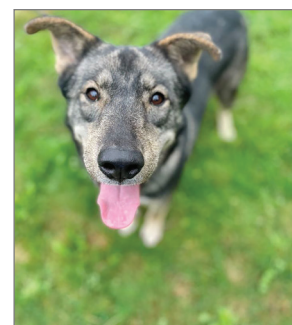
This pet is available for adoption at  
**Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society**  
 4832 VT-44, Windsor, VT • (802) 484-5829  
 \*(By appointment only at this time.)  
 Tues. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. & Thurs. 12-7 p.m. • [lucymac.org](http://lucymac.org)



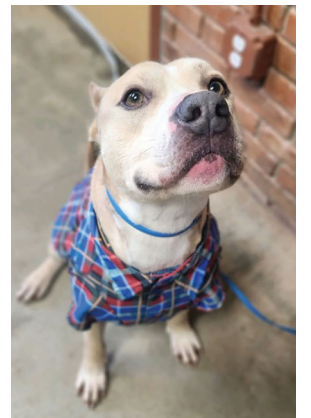
Pringles—1-year-old. Neutered male. Pit Bull mix.



Shadow—6-year-old.  
 Spayed female. German Shepherd.



Raven—1-year-old.  
 Spayed female. Mixed breed. Black/tan.



Genesis—7-year-old. Neutered male. Mixed breed.

All of these pets are available for adoption at  
**Rutland County Humane Society**  
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# Cosmic Catalogue



**Aries**  
March 21 - April 20

If you are wanting to move mountains, professionally speaking in 2024, this week may reveal which mountain to strive for. Whether it's your career or more about your life direction, groups or communities, other people will be a part of the picture. This week, get yourself in alignment with what you truly need and want. Hold that vision tight. When other people are involved, it can be easier to lose sight of things. Do that at your peril.

**Leo**  
July 21 - August 20

New revelations within relationships are possible for you this year. This week though, you need to tie off some loose ends in respect to your obligations. To what and whom are you obliged exactly? Are you doing what you've always done or are you doing what you want to do? There's a big difference in doing something because you desire it versus what has become an expectation. Adjust accordingly. Figure this out and the storms ahead will be easier to weather.

**Sagittarius**  
November 21 - December 20

Money is likely to be a hot topic this week. This may also involve your talents and skills too. You may be filled with big dreams and ambitions for 2024 about how you can grow, expand and progress. If you have the chance, invest in yourself. A course, a coach or a mentor or someone who's in a similar position to where you'd like to be may provide all the guidance you need to achieve your dreams now.

**Taurus**  
April 21 - May 20

Don't be too hard on yourself if you're feeling uncomfortable or even a tad bit irritable. If you are, then great! That means you are exactly where you're meant to be. Life is going to change for you in dramatic and exciting ways soon enough. Your mission, in the meantime, is to practice broader perspectives and new ways of thinking and being. Embrace expansion and change because, like it or not, that is what is going to happen and it's wonderful.

**Virgo**  
August 21 - September 20

If you've been dreaming of wanting something more out of life, then it's more than just a daydream, it's an invitation. Ideas, desires and possibilities get put in our hearts for a reason. Dismiss this as immature or nonsensical is to deny the Cosmos' intention for you. This week, make a promise to yourself. Be sure to laugh more, have more fun and if you love someone, go to the ends of the earth to ensure they not only know it, but feel it too.

**Capricorn**  
December 21 - January 20

If you desire it, there is a lot of happiness to be had in the early part of 2024. You're almost at the end of a long and arduous personal growth cycle and along with it, you're ready to emerge. Life is going to look so different for you this year. This week, make a little wish. What do you dream of, long for, more than anything else? Don't be shy. Opportunities multiply when they are seized.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20

It's strange the way that the more confusing things appear to be, the clearer they become. Whatever you're feeling unsure or uncertain about can actually become the defining moment for you. Whether it's a financial issue or an emotional entanglement that has kept you up at night, the situation will soon feel less fraught. Know that on the other side of this moment, the clarity you seek is in the questions you've avoiding asking.

**Libra**  
September 21 - October 20

Relationships to everyone and everything, including yourself, have weighed heavily upon your heart recently. Perhaps it is the realization that in order to have something you've never had, you have to do something you've never done. It's an inside job, this one. Shedding skin is no easy feat, but once it's done, you'll wonder why it took you so long. Continue on this process and the possibility of growing the stable roots you seek will arrive.

**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 20

This week is about turning your energy and attention within. Your soul longs for and needs rest. If you can spend extra time meditating, contemplating or in reflection, you'll be the better for it. A lot is going to change for you this year, more than this horoscope can describe. It won't be easy but it will be worth it. Face what you know needs changing. Lose what is no longer yours if you seek to gain.

**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 20

A New Moon in your relationship zone can help you figure out how you want your partnerships to look this year. Whether it's personal or professional, or both, they are changing. As a long and arduous cycle of change and transformation ends, a new one arrives. The chance to go deeper and experience true intimacy is available. The question is, are you willing to let your exoskeleton crack open just a little bit? Don't let the past determine your future.

**Scorpio**  
October 21 - November 20

You may have a lot more energy now that you've had in a while. If you're an early riser, you'll see your star, Mars, in the eastern horizon. As He calls your name, ask yourself, "What is mine to do?" You may be busy right now in your day-to-day life but is it activity or achievement? However, are you doing something that fills your heart with a sense of purpose? Figure out your "why" and you'll have the capacity to endure any "how."

**Pisces**  
February 21 - March 20

For some people, friendship can be a bit like a revolving door. You tend to be loyal and keep friends close. However, a long cycle is starting to close out which may be a defining line for you in respect to a close friend, a group or someone within your industry. The events of this week may help you to realize the concept of a reason, a season or a lifetime when it comes to the people you've held close.

**Empowering you to lead a divinely inspired life.**

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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## Dream it, feel it

As the New Year begins to show signs of its promise, it will be easy to get carried away. The energy of 2024 is absolutely palpable. It's electric and exciting! What has been stuck will become unstuck in sudden and unexpected ways. But... it's still early days.

While you may have your mission in mind, it's still vital to keep your troops on the ground. In other words, what action are you taking to make this mission manifest? Are you just dreaming, scheming and hoping? Don't get me wrong, the process of anything seemingly impossible has to

come from a place of a little bit of insanity. Dare though, you must. Dare to dream, to wonder and to imagine. For what kind of life is it if you're unwilling to chase a butterfly or two? Sure, you may miss one and that would be sad. Oh, but the exquisite joy of one fluttering in your hand.

This week, give some thought to the proverbial butterfly you want to catch. Visualize it. Dream it. Feel it. Don't be so naive however, to think that in order to obtain something you desire, it won't require some strategic and focused effort on your behalf.



Cosmic Catalogue  
By Cassandra Tyndall

## Snow on the beach

Crashing waves,  
Falling snow,  
Salty air,  
Glowing sky,  
Beautiful,  
The foamy water,  
Rides in and out,  
As little specks of snow land,  
On crashing waves,  
An unusual combination,  
Yet so perfect,  
The waves make,  
Sort of,  
A rumbling sound,  
As they turn over rocks,  
Then they collide with big beautiful boulders,

Splashing all around the shore,  
Black silhouettes of birds,  
Fly across the early morning sunrise,  
As the snow continues to fall,  
Creating,  
An unusual combination,  
Yet so perfect,  
Snow on the beach.



Poetry Is Power  
By Bree Sarandrea



## There's something about the mountains

*There's something about the mountains  
That calms a troubled soul.  
The air is fresh, the sky is blue, serenity, extolled.*

*Red foxes, bears and coyotes, squirrels and beaver run,  
Hunt and play in meadows and fields,  
On peaks and ledges in fog or sun.*

*Honking geese fly in formation,  
Bald eagles and hawks soar on high  
Looking down with bird's-eye view  
For mice and rabbits passing by.*

*Woods and forests hug Mountain ridges  
And fall to valleys far below.  
Ancient, cragged, granite peaks  
Tower above inner sanctums.*

*There's something about the mountains  
That allows my heart to unfurl.  
Earthy concerns and the stresses  
of life  
Disappear and all's right with  
the world.*

Mountain Meditation → 39



Mountain Meditation  
By Marguerite Jill Dye



## American tree sparrows: Hardy winter visitors

Most winters, a few sparrows visit my yard, feeding on the seeds I scatter on the ground near my bird feeder. These particular sparrows have long tails, rusty crowns and eye-lines on their gray heads, and a distinctive dark breast spot. Looking more closely, I've noticed buff-colored patches on the sides of their pale breasts, two white wingbars, and streaked brown backs. These birds are American tree sparrows (*Spizelloides arborea*), so named by European settlers who were reminded of Eurasian tree sparrows back home. The name, however, is a misnomer, as these "tree" sparrows are actually ground birds, spending little time in trees. They are also known as winter sparrows, winter chippies, or snow chippies, for their resemblance to chipping sparrows (which are smaller and do not winter here).

American tree sparrows live throughout most of North America, except for the far South and Pacific Coast. They breed across northern Canada and Alaska and winter in the northern two-thirds of the U.S., including the Northeast. In winter, roving flocks of tree sparrows frequent wind-swept weedy fields, marshes, hedgerows, woodland edges, and backyards.

They forage mainly on the ground, scratching and pecking, hopping up towards bent weeds, and even flapping their wings against plants to dislodge seeds. These birds are almost exclusively vegetarian in winter, consuming grass, sedge, goldenrod, other seeds, and occasionally berries. They will also eat insect eggs and larvae. When the ground is snow-covered, tree sparrows obtain water by eating snow. These hardy sparrows will continue foraging during blizzards. They stay in touch with other members of their flock with high, musical "see-weep" calls and fluff up their feathers so they appear quite plump. Tree sparrows have been observed roosting communally under the snow.

In March or April, flocks of tree sparrows depart for the long, sometimes perilous migration to their breeding grounds in northern Canada or Alaska. They travel 1,500 to 3,000 miles, usually at night. Upon reaching the northern treeline of the boreal forest at the edge of the tundra, flocks disperse, and individuals pair up. The male courts the female and defends his territory with song—a clear, high warble with a descending trend.

The female builds a nest on tussocks of tundra grass, or close to the ground among stunted spruce and birch or in alder or willow thickets. The nest is an open cup of grasses, bark strips, twigs, and moss and is

lined with fine grass and ptarmigan feathers. In it, the female lays four to six pale blue eggs with reddish speckles. In summer, the tree sparrow changes its diet, feeding mostly on a wide variety of insects, spiders, and snails, and providing these protein-rich foods to its growing young. The parents must watch for predators such as hawks, owls, weasels, and red squirrels.

Although tree sparrows are still numerous throughout their range, annual Christmas Bird Count data show that winter populations have decreased significantly in the past 50 years. Partners in Flight, a global network of bird conservation organizations, includes the species on its list of common birds in steep decline. Tree sparrows are generally undisturbed by humans on their remote northern nesting grounds and in winter seem to adjust easily to habitats near human settlements, so

the reason for their decline is not clear. One theory is that intensified agriculture in the Midwest and Plains States has eliminated much of the weedy and brushy habitat needed by wintering birds. In the Northeast, development and maturation of forests may have had a similar effect. Climate change could also be affecting their nesting habitat or reproductive success.

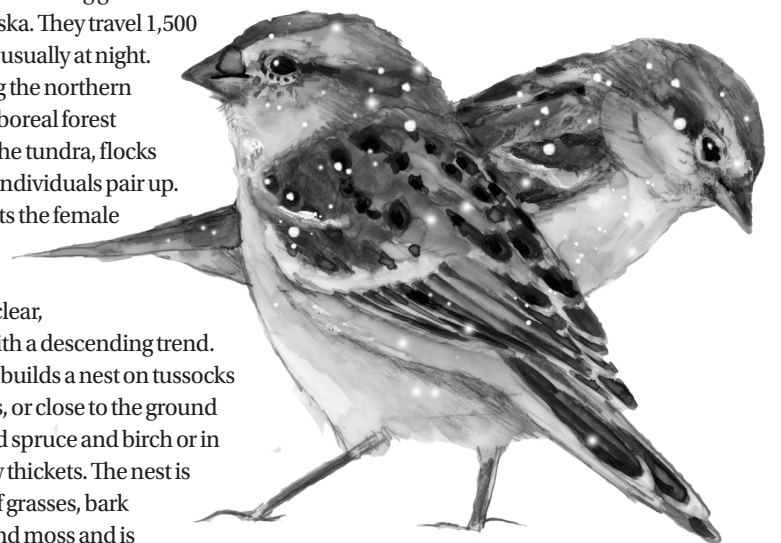
If you'd like to help wintering tree sparrows by feeding them, remember to clean feeders regularly and to keep cats indoors. These sparrows prefer platform and other tray feeders or ground feeding. They will come to black oil sunflower seed, thistle seed, cracked corn, peanut hearts, and millet.

Watch for these hardy visitors from the North in your yard this winter.

*Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in 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 Susan Shea





## Back from the dead

In the summer of 1816, Mary Shelley, along with her future husband Percy Shelley and a few friends, spent time at the beautiful Villa Diodati near Lake Geneva in Switzerland. This was known as the “year without summer” due to the volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora (which disrupted global weather patterns), so they experienced less than hospitable conditions.

During their stay, the group engaged in discussions about the supernatural, literature, and the potential for each member to write a ghost story. This led to a creative challenge to see who could come up with the most chilling tale. Inspired by these discussions, Mary Shelley first conceived the idea for a new book entitled, “Frankenstein.”

Shelley drew inspiration from various sources, including the scientific and philosophical ideas of her time, which included Luigi Galvani’s works on galvanism and the experiments of Erasmus Darwin. She also tapped into her own life experiences, including the death of her first child and the frequent discussions she had with her husband about the nature of life and death.

The novel was published anonymously in 1818 when Shelley was just 21 years old. Shelley opted for an anonymous publication due to the prevailing opinions of the time that believed women writers were inferior to men. It may have also been considered bad taste to have a woman writing about the taboo topics covered in the book.

Initial reviews of “Frankenstein” were mixed. Some critics praised the novel’s Gothic elements, its exploration of scientific and moral themes, and the writer’s narrative skill. However, others expressed reservations about the novel’s dark and unconventional subject matter (remember, this was Victorian England).

In 1823, a second edition of “Frankenstein” was published, with Mary Shelley’s name appearing on the title page for the first time. This edition included a new introduction by Shelley, providing insight into the creation of the novel and addressing some of the criticism.

Later in the 20th Century, “Frankenstein” experienced a critical reevaluation, with scholars recognizing its importance as an early work of science fiction and its exploration of complex themes related to morality, identity, and the consequences of scientific

discovery. It also gained immense popularity from frequent stage and film adaptations.



The Movie  
Diary  
By Dom Cioffi

All of this is particularly impressive given that Shelley only had an informal education through her father (granted, Mary’s father was William Godwin, a famous philosopher, political theorist, and novelist who played a significant role in the development of philosophical anarchism). Godwin had an enormous library that Shelley read from, but to write what is regarded as one of the great English novels at such a young age speaks to her profound intellect.

It also seems that Shelley was ahead of her time in the romance arena since she began her romantic relationship with the poet Percy Shelley (her future husband) when she was only 16 years old. Their affair was considered a major scandal at the time and may have been another factor in why “Frankenstein” was published anonymously.

Shelley’s “Frankenstein” has been a prolific source of inspiration for numerous movies and adaptations across different genres, including “Frankenstein” (1931), “Bride of Frankenstein” (1935), “Young Frankenstein” (1974), “Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein” (1994), “The Bride” (1985), “Frankenstein” (2015), and “Victor Frankenstein” (2015). The novel’s enduring themes of science gone awry, the consequences of playing God, and the nature of humanity have captivated filmmakers and audiences alike.

And now we have another film deeply inspired by the classic Shelley novel, except in this story, sexual liberation and control are the central themes being explored.

“Poor Things,” directed by Yorgos Lanthimos (“The Lobster”) and starring Emma Stone, is a dark comedy that follows the travails of a young woman named Bella who was “created” by her mad scientist father. After she matures, Bella embarks on a voyage of self-discovery throughout Europe marked by a bevy of sexual escapades. In every scenario, however, Bella is in danger of being controlled by those that seemingly adore her.

This is a wildly creative film marked by several interesting and diverse performances and a highly stylized cinematic presentation. The story is also intriguing, albeit highly sexualized, so if you’re thinking about attending, be sure that you’re in the right company.

A crafty “B” for “Poor Things,” now playing in theaters everywhere.

*Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at [moviediary@att.net](mailto:moviediary@att.net).*



## Here’s to chapsticks!

My dad always kept a chapstick in the driver’s side door of any vehicle he ever owned. And he must have kept one in a pocket somewhere, because I can vividly remember him being able to pass me a chapstick whenever I asked him for one. No matter where we were, my dad was able to pull a chapstick out of a pocket like a magician. I thought it was his thing.



Living the Dream  
By Merisa  
Sherman

It was always the same Chapstick. I mean, the same brand. Not the same stick. The original black ChapStick brand with the white cap. No real taste to it, but it made your lips feel so nice and smooth afterwards. Especially in those early season days when your skin would dry up and all the lotion in the world couldn’t save you from dry nail beds and unchapped lips.

But I was in ski school a lot, skiing without my dad, and starting around maybe third grade I would get a huge chapped line above my lips. With my dad not around, I started to lick my upper lip and made everything worse. I looked like I had three lips and it hurt. I could feel my skin cracking every time I tried to smile.

And so the moment came where my dad gifted me my first chapstick. It was an original, straight from his collection. He told me to keep it in my jacket pocket and use it whenever. Well, I probably used it in between every class. It was like my little tube of lipstick and when a teacher would make a comment, I would get to be like, “oh, it’s just chapstick.” But my third lip went away and I was an adult with my own chapstick. It was glorious.

Our Christmas stockings became the chapstick handoff. My dad would compulsively-wrap each individual tube and place around 10 in each of our stockings. And they wouldn’t just be black either. We would get the medicated blue one and as lip balm caught on to my dad’s enthusiasm there was the red cherry that really would give your lips a red tint with each application. Then all kinds of flavors, like Christmas Cookie or whatever else the marketing department could think of. We had them all. Even the teal Blistex medicated one that would burn into your lips. That was a rush.

I know you all think I have way too many jackets and coats, but what I really have are too many chapsticks. Right now, I probably have about 30 of them in a bowl and another 10 scattered around in every crevice of my existence. Where could one possibly need a chapstick? Of course, there is one in my driver side door, as well as one in the armrest and an emergency one in the glove box. Then each jacket has one in what is supposed to be the season-pass pocket.

There is one by my bed and another on my dresser. There is one in my toiletry bag and another in my goggle case. There is one in my first aid kit and another in my eyeglass case.

Livin’ the Dream →35

## Winter memories from the ‘50s and ‘60s

My classmate from first grade through high school, Pat Maroney Embree, shared some wonderful winter memories with me from the ‘50s and ‘60s. As I read her email it prompted me to ask a couple of other old friends what they recalled from that era. It was a trip down memory lane!

She told me, “I cannot watch ice skating without the memory of how it felt to so freely glide across the ice. At the ice rinks the boys would hog the space to play hockey. So after school I would grab my skates and skate up and down the frozen Moon Brook (the section off South Main Street). I could practice my jumps that through my eyes looked pretty good. But “judging eyes” would probably have held up cards giving me a score of 1 or a very generous 2!”

She added, “I have good memories of sledding on a moonlit night after a snowstorm where the moon shone down giving the snow a blue hue. The snow clung to the tree branches looking every bit like a winter wonderland. Laughter rang out when

we were four on a toboggan and usually spilled out one by one as we went down the hill. Perhaps our laughter made Mother Nature smile at the purity of the night she had given us.”

Another classmate of mine, Mary Hutchins Hendricks (“Hutch” to her friends), remembers skating at the local “pollywog pond” near the dead-end section of Engrem Avenue and Jackson Avenue. I am very familiar with it as I used to go skating there with my cousin, Betty Mumford. I recall that there were always a lot of kids having fun on the ice in their

own backyard. They had to shovel it off after snowstorms but doing that had seemed like fun and not work.

Hutch also told me about the days she spent at White’s skating rink. She recalled, “We spent many hours there skating, playing tag and whip and standing up to the ‘boys’ who liked to speed by us and hedge us off into the snow banks.”

She also remembers Butch West, who

Looking back → 35



Looking  
Back  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

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**← Looking Back:**

from page 33

was just a few years older than we were, maintaining the rink by hand shoveling and spraying the ice. As Hutch said, "He also had to deal with all the teenage nonsense that went on."

My cousin, Betty, also remembers skating at White's rink in the '60s. All the girls wore white figure skates and the boys wore black hockey skates. I remember Betty was an excellent skater who could "twirl" and skate backwards with the best of them! I wasn't that talented but managed to remain upright! Being able to go out at night with our friends was a big deal back then. It was one of our first tastes of freedom!

As I mentioned in a previous column the kids in my neighborhood had a wonderful skating rink provided by

Warren and Eleanor Goodrich who flooded the lot next to their house. But as they say, "The grass is always greener!" That theory led some of us to shovel a large icy area at the end of Rutland Street. It was somewhat bumpy but it was our secret spot for daytime skating.

Just down the hill from Howard Avenue is Piedmont Pond. The owners did not allow us to skate on it but being kids, we managed to do it anyway. Not only did we break their rule but the ice broke under us one time and one of the boys fell in and got soaking wet. When that happened we skeddaddled from the pond as fast as we could and the boy who fell in headed home to dry off and warm up.

Perhaps our memories will trigger some of your own as you look back at the fun times of winter in yesteryear!



Submitted

Memories of '50s and '60s Rutland winters include neighborhood ice skating on Moon Brook and at White's Skating Rink. The talented skaters graced the neighborhood homemade skating rink while the kids also skated on Piedmont Pond, despite the owners' rules.

**← Livin' the Dream:**

from page 33

There is one in each purse I own (you know, that little clutch from the Greenbriar we all have?). And, of course, there is a melted one on the top of the dryer. I tend to leave it there for a while, perhaps to mourn its melted death or to serve as a reminder to check the pockets for money and chapsticks.

I have never actually gotten to the bottom of a tube, and I am sure the oceans are filled with lost tubes. But I cannot seem to live without that tiny little tube of greatness. Every time I use one, I feel a connection with my dad. That we put our chapstick on the same way. I've even used it on my nose and cheeks as emergency Dermatone on a cold and windy day when I can't find my tin. Because I always have a chapstick.

There was a meme this week I found that talked about how their car chapstick was now their jacket chapstick and their jacket chapstick was in their room and how screwed up their life was now. I shared it in my story and it was probably one of the most commented on posts I've made in a while. I honestly thought chapstick hoarding was a family thing, but I have recently learned that it's simply a part of winter life. So here is to chapsticks — may yours never melt and may you always have one handy!

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, local realtor, bartender, KMS coach and ski designer. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@FourSeasonsSIR.com.



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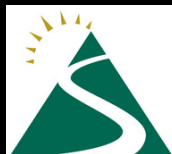
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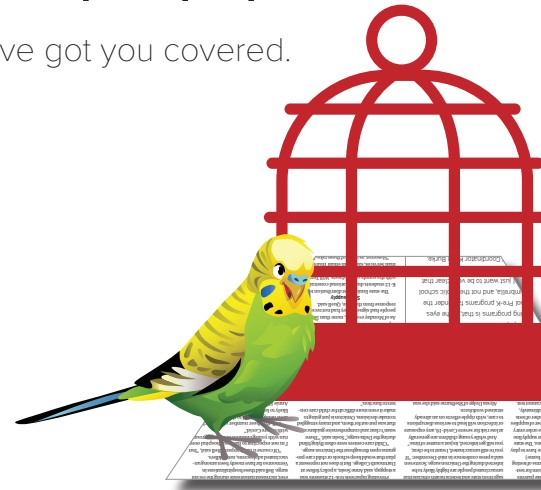


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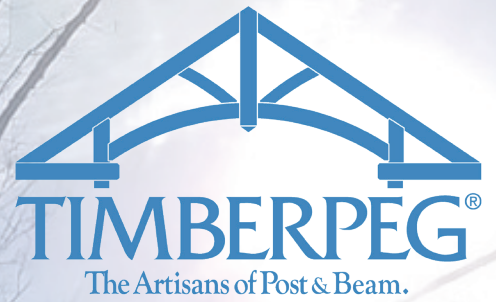
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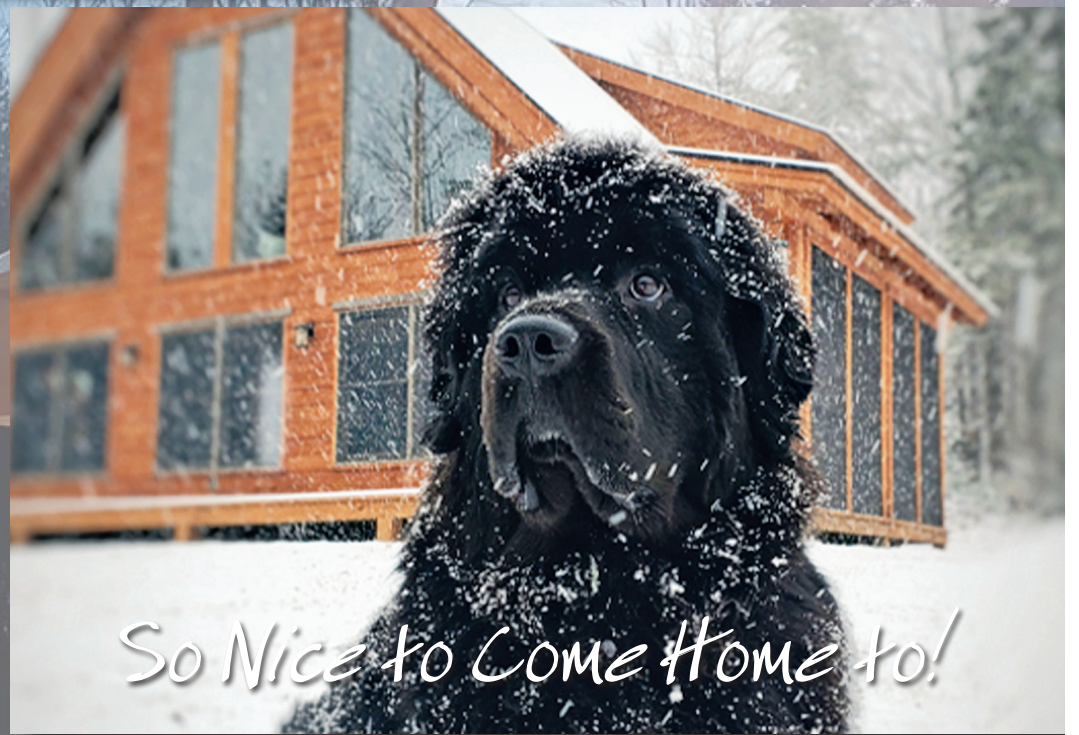


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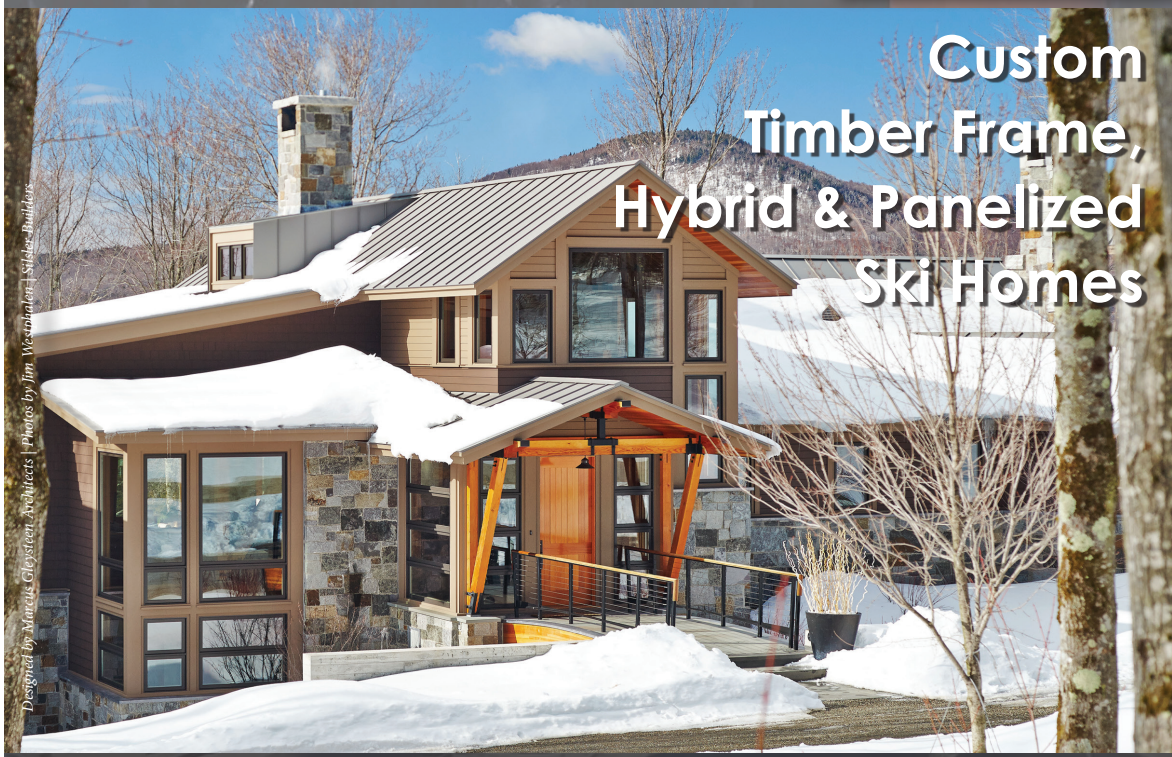


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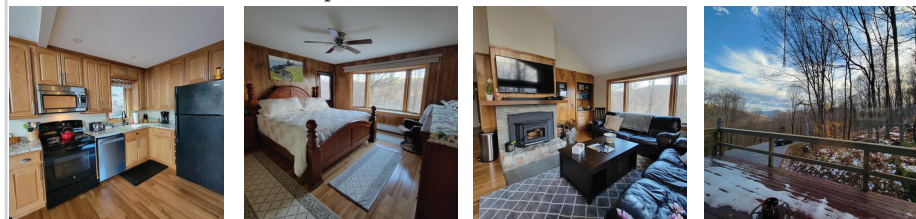
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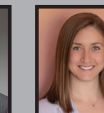
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## ← Mountain Meditation

from page 32

I'm a philosopher at heart. I love to ponder universal truths, and delve into the meaning of our existence, here as spirits having human experiences. Who are we really? Human beings not far removed from chimpanzees. But hopefully we utilize our cognition to create a better world.

In one of my dreams, I observed Planet Earth from high above in the nighttime.

Across vast distances, strings of sparkling lights like stars in the sky connected creatures and human beings of the highest vibrations. Dark continents were silhouetted by seas that shimmered slightly in the moonlight. It demonstrated to me the importance of being connected to one another.

We are born to families who often share certain experiences and the friends we choose throughout our lives teach and guide us to become ourselves. (Those who don't, teach us too, to define and stand up for who we are.) Each of us chooses a certain path if we set our intention and don't stray too far from the values and ethics we wish to live by.

I'm very grateful to be in Vermont where people value the freedom we share; where self-expression is encouraged; where we honor others' strength and independence, but reach out to help neighbors in need.

Who are our neighbors? Other humans and creatures who grace our state and world. It's clearer in the mountains to see

distant horizons and what our purpose may be.

Although we may feel lost at times, we are connected to Source always. When we feel connected, possibilities are limitless. Absorbing divine light and feeling the connection, our heart's portal opens up. It enables us to exude radiance and serve as light workers in the Earth's awakening, which is occurring now.

There is a new way of being that's transcending old behaviors and is leading us to love and light, compassion, kindness and connection — away from the limits of our primitive lizard brain (which is needed for fight, flight, feeding and fear). When we raise our own vibrations (by raising our emotions to positive ones) we elevate those of others, too. The time has come to step forward and join in the movement of recreating our world.

"Reality" is what we create although we live in an illusion. Life is like a hologram that reflects back what we think and feel. So let's feel and be united and revitalized and work together for common solutions — to raise people up, not put them down, and make Peace on Earth our greatest objective. Peace begins in each of our hearts. May peace be with you. Please pass it on.

*Marguerite Jill Dye is a writer and artist who divides her time between Vermont and Florida.*

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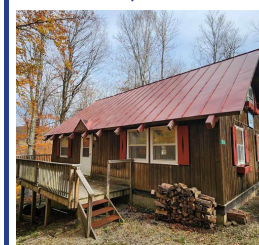
3 BR/1.5 BA, 2-Level condo, 1168 sq. ft.



- Electric heat, 2 decks
- Seller offering some financing
- Furnished & equipped
- \$519,000

### TANGLEWOOD DR - "Snow Haven"

4BR, 2BA, 2,592 sq. ft. home



- 1.5 acres, electric heat
- 1st floor with a BR & BA
- Open living concept
- Level driveway
- \$579K

### TRAIL CREEK - SKI HOME & SHUTTLE OUT

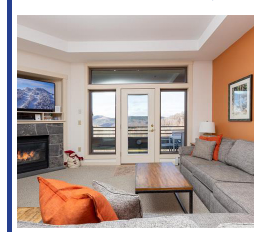
Upper level 2BR+LOFT, 2BA, 1,342 Sq.Ft.



- Great rental history
- Woodburning fireplace
- Includes 1BR ensuite that can rent separately
- Activity center: Pool, hot tub, sauna, game room & exercise room.
- \$740K

### LODGES - (SUNRISE/BEAR MTN)

SKI IN, take LIFT OUT



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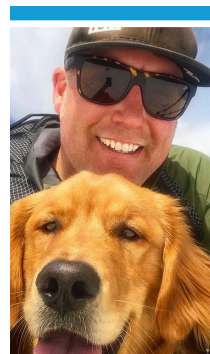
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