



### COMMUNITY SKATING RINK IS BUILT IN PITTSFIELD

Town's basketball court has been flooded and is expected to open soon.

Page 2



Courtesy Castleton  
*Jonathan Spiro*

### NEW LEADERSHIP AT CASTLETON UNIVERSITY

Interim President Jonathan Spiro, will retire Jan. 3. Tom Maughs-Hugh will take over as the interim until a president of the newly merged Vermont State Colleges is named, likely this summer.

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The Mountain Times will have limited open hours Dec. 24 - Jan. 2.



### ARTS, DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Local events not to miss!

Page 18



Courtesy Okemo

### Resorts prepare slopes for holiday crowds

Killington lead the way opening for the season on Nov. 5. Okemo followed on Nov. 20, then Pico on Dec. 11. Suicide Six is scheduled to open Dec. 22 and with the near foot of snow that fell last Saturday, followed by cold temperatures this week, conditions are setting up well for the holiday week. Resorts, businesses are expecting a record number of visitors.

## Killington at 63 is as 'Beastly' as ever

By Karen D. Lorentz

When Killington turned 63 on Dec. 13, it was eerily reminiscent of its opening day in 1958, a day without much fanfare. It had been a three-year struggle to get the ski area open — mostly because the state had to build the access road for skiers to get to the slopes and that effort had met with two years of delays.

But one thing wasn't affected: the determination to build the ski area. And the desire to provide a great experience for all levels of skiers.

In fact, after a brief dedication of the access road at the corner of U.S. Route 4 with various dignitaries, founder Preston Leete Smith had retreated to the mountain to work on installing what was then known as the Glades Pomalift.

#### Setting the stage

Beginning in the early 1950s, Smith had been scouting for a small ski area to buy and found one when the commissioner of Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Perry H. Merrill, suggested that the 24-year-old take a look at an undeveloped mountain on state forestland "with good potential."

Comparing snowfalls at Stowe and Mount Snow with snow at Killington that winter, and looking at the "practical considerations of lodging, elevation, weather, and transportation," Smith began to realize just how good that potential was.

Smith returned to see Merrill and exclaimed, "Killington is fantastic, but how can I work out a deal with the state?"

"We'll lease it to you," Merrill had replied.

Excited that he had found a mountain with the "right stuff" — there were four mountain peaks alone in Killington Basin and five others nearby — Smith began to think about how he could create "a better ski area." Having encountered long lift waits at Stowe, he envisioned having more uphill trans-

Killington Resort > 6

## First case of the Omicron variant confirmed in Vermont

Officials say boosters necessary

The Vermont Dept. of Health announced Saturday, Dec. 18, that it confirmed the state's first case of the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus.

Genetic sequencing

Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, said the detection of the Omicron variant in Vermont is not unexpected, and that we will see more cases identi-

portion of positive tests on which we perform genomic sequencing. This is key to our ability to quickly identify and respond to cases."

Global research is

"As the effectiveness of the initial vaccines begin to wane, boosters provide the protection you need against bad outcomes," said Dr. Mark Levine.

identified the new variant in a specimen collected on Dec. 8. The individual is a Lamoille County resident in their 30s. The individual was fully vaccinated and had been experiencing mild symptoms.

fied in the coming days. "We knew it was only a matter of time before we saw Omicron in our state, and made sequencing a priority," said Dr. Levine. "Vermont is a national leader in the pro-

finding that the Omicron variant spreads faster and more efficiently than Delta, which is responsible for the current surge in cases and hospitalizations in Vermont

Omicron > 11



### Operation Santa's Convoy is coming to town

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the Vermont Army National Guard will be escorting Santa on a lighted tour through central Vermont from 4-7:30 p.m. See page 15 for a schedule and parade map.



By Jim Boughton

By Krista Johnston

### Ringling in the Christmas season

Grace Congregational UCC in Rutland is decorated for the holidays. (left) Ryan Mangan sang in a Christmas concert on Dec. 16. He was accompanied by Alastair Stout on piano. Jeannie Cushman (right) played handbells at Grace's Lesson and Carols service held Sunday, Dec. 19.

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By Polly Mikula

A group of volunteers helped to convert Pittsfield's basketball court into an ice skating rink, which is expected to open soon.

## Pittsfield Community Ice Rink is a labor of love

By Brett Yates

Thanks to a team of volunteers, Pittsfield residents will have a free place to go ice skating this winter, as long as the weather cooperates.

When Coral Hawley, the self-proclaimed “ringleader” behind the Pittsfield Community Ice Rink, spoke to the Mountain Times on Dec. 17, an unseasonable warm spell had delayed its opening.

“It’s kind of been a little disappointing,” she admitted. “It’s going to take several days of pretty cold weather to freeze the whole thing.”

But Hawley looked forward to seeing her and her neighbors’ hard work pay off before long. “I really hope we can start using it soon,” she said.

Early this month, locals covered the basketball court behind Pittsfield’s town hall with a plastic liner and enclosed the perimeter with wooden boards. Pittsfield Volunteer Fire & Rescue lent a truck and hose to flood the new rink.

The labor was free, but the materials weren’t.

On Nov. 23, the Pittsfield Select Board had voted to give Hawley permission to spend \$1,000 from the town’s Recreation Reserve Fund on the rink, on the condition that she assemble a three-person committee to manage it. By December, six families had volunteered, but it became clear that \$1,000 wouldn’t cover all the costs.

Even with Bethel Mills offering

a 40% discount on lumber for the project, the boards put a dent in the budget. The liner and brackets were expensive, too, and the volunteers realized they’d also need to assemble some rubber mats and a bench for the rink’s users to don their skates.

Donations from local businesses and individuals kept the project alive.

“They almost raised as much as the town gave them. That’s amazing,” Selectman AJ Ruben commented at the board’s subsequent meeting.

The rink now has its bench, which the volunteers built themselves, but efforts to improve the facility remain ongoing.

“Pretty much all winter long, there’s going to be work to be done. It’s not like something you just make and leave,” Hawley explained. “Ice rinks normally have a Zamboni, but we don’t have one of those. So in order to keep it smooth and skateable throughout the winter, we’ll continue to put thin layers of water on cold nights, and then it refreezes and it’s nice and smooth.”

Snow removal will be equally important.

“Any time the snow gets on it, the snow will insulate and then it’ll warm the top layer of the ice,” Hawley described. “So pretty much as soon as it’s done snowing, you have to go down there and get the snow off it.

We all know it snows often in Vermont, so we have to have volunteers ready to go down there at all times of day to get the snow off.”

Hawley plans to hang shovels next to the rink so that anyone can pitch in, but she’ll have to buy them first. She’ll also need to find an electrician to rewire the old lights above the basketball court for nighttime skating.

Until then, the rink will be open from dawn to dusk, as conditions permit. “I really didn’t plan on putting parameters on it. I’d like to leave it

Donations from local businesses and individuals kept the project alive.

open for community use whenever people feel fit, but also we’ll have to respect the neighbors,” Hawley noted.

Hawley serves on the Roger Clark Memorial Library Board of Trustees, which, through its new Pittsfield Community Connections initiative, has organized several events this year, including a craft fair and a holiday tree-lighting ceremony. The skating rink may be its biggest undertaking yet.

“I just really hoped that this would become kind of a community place and that the community would come together to help maintain it and enjoy it,” Hawley said.

Anyone who wants to help or donate can contact Hawley at 802-746-8181 or CorallHawley@gmail.com.

# Castleton University to welcome new interim president

By Peter D'Auria/VTDigger

Jonathan Spiro, interim president of Castleton University, will retire next month, the Vermont State Colleges announced Monday, Dec. 6, but he'll stay in the position until Jan. 3. Thomas Maughs-Hugh, Castleton's provost, will take over as interim president at that point.

"I offer my sincerest thanks to President Spiro for his many years of service to Castleton University and the Vermont State Colleges system," Lynn Dickinson, chair of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees, said in a press release sent out by the college earlier this month. "As interim president, Dr. Spiro led Castleton through a tremendously challenging time as it navigated the challenges of the pandemic and the resulting impacts on students and employees," she added.

The announcement of Spiro's departure comes amid a tumultuous consolidation of the Vermont State Colleges system.

Three of the four Vermont State Colleges — Castleton, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College — are in the process of merging into one entity, Vermont

State University. (The Community College of Vermont, which is also in the Vermont State

Of the three Vermont state colleges that are set to merge, only Vermont Technical College

currently has a permanent president, Patricia Moulton, who has served in the position since 2017.

Already, Castleton and NVU are being run by interim presidents. Spiro became Castleton's interim president in May 2020, when Karen Scolforo resigned abruptly amid controversy over merger plans.

Northern Vermont University president Elaine Collins stepped down in August, to be replaced by interim president John Mills.

Vermont State University is officially set to launch on July 1, 2023.

Spiro was not available for an interview, but according to a press release, during his tenure, Spiro oversaw Castleton's once-a-decade accreditation process and improved student retention.

According to an online biography, he has worked at Castleton University since 2002 and has taught courses on "history, politics, race, slavery, immigration, the conservation movement, the ancient Maya, and the nature-nurture debate."



Courtesy of Castleton University  
**Jonathan Spiro**



Courtesy of Castleton University  
**Tom Maughs-Hugh**

Colleges system, is not part of the merger.)

At Castleton, which recently underwent a rebrand of its own, plans for the merger have drawn concern from faculty, alumni and community members.

Administrators are currently seeking to hire the first-ever president of Vermont State University, who will oversee all three schools. That person will, in theory, replace the presidents of all three colleges by July 1, 2022.

## OBITUARY

### Debra Poplawski-Wilson, 57



MENDON—Debra Poplawski-Wilson, 57, a former resident of Rutland, passed away peacefully at her father's home in Mendon on Dec. 17, 2020. Services were delayed. Funeral services for will now be held Monday, Dec. 27, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Christ The King Church, in Rutland. The family would like to invite you to join them after the service for a reception at the Summit Lodge, Killington (please RSVP for the reception at [denisepwall@gmail.com](mailto:denisepwall@gmail.com)).

For more info visit [sheafuneralhomes.com](http://sheafuneralhomes.com).

## Rutland launches campaign to recruit police, staffing shortage leads to budget cuts

By Tiffany Tan/VTDigger

The Rutland Police Dept. has launched a campaign to recruit more police officers, even as eight jobs were recently cut from the force.

The recruiting campaign includes a 5 1/2-minute video, which is posted on the department's Facebook page. The video features a reenactment of a criminal investigation and arrest, and several Rutland police officers' talking about why they got into law enforcement.

"We wanted to take it from the standpoint of why people in the community wanted to be police officers," said Gavin Owens, owner of Go Studios, which produced the video for Rutland police.

The police department has also posted a job ad on PoliceApp, a website for law enforcement jobs around the U.S. The application deadline is May 23, 2022.

The department also is reaching out to police unions across the country, spreading the word that it's hiring, Police Chief Brian Kilcullen said. It plans to target areas where a significant number of officers have left their jobs within the past year, such as Chicago, New York City and Seattle, all of which required that their officers get Covid-19 vaccinations.

The Rutland Police Dept. is authorized for 40 jobs but has 13 vacancies — the most that

Kilcullen said he has seen since becoming chief in 2015.

In an effort to limit tax increases in fiscal year 2023, which begins next July 1, Mayor David Allaire proposed funding only six of the 13 open positions, cutting seven jobs.

Given the nationwide difficulty of recruiting police officers, Allaire believes the other vacancies likely would remain open.

The Board of Aldermen's public safety committee went even further, voting Dec. 9 to eliminate yet another officer position. That meant taking \$75,000 out of the mayor's proposed police budget.

The full board approved that move during a special meeting Thursday night, Dec. 16, where aldermen endorsed a \$22.7 million budget for the coming fiscal year, according to a copy of the financial document on the Rutland City website.

The city budget is headed to Rutland voters on March 1, Town Meeting Day.

The city police department was allotted \$6,361,000 — down 6.6% from its current budget of \$6,814,000.

However, the police chief is optimistic about the department's hiring efforts, since the mayor promised to find additional money if the department succeeds in recruiting more officers than budgeted.

The city police department was allotted \$6,361,000 — down 6.6%.

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## Holiday Inn to be renamed Cortina Inn

Former owner of Mendon establishment to repurpose name  
Staff report

The former Holiday Inn on Route 7 in Rutland Town will now be called the Cortina Inn. If that name rings familiar, it is. The Cortina Inn was for years a popular local destination but stood vacant until recently repurposed as Vista Senior Living, an assisted-

living center in Mendon.

Anil Sachdev, president of Dharam Hospitality Inc., formerly owned the Cortina Inn in Mendon and currently owns the Holiday Inn. (The Cortina Inn went through a few owners after him before becoming Vista

Senior Living.)

The Holiday Inn sign is expected to be replaced by the Cortina Inn sign this week.

Extensive renovations are also planned for the 150-room hotel; they are scheduled to be completed by the spring or early summer.

## Killington Select Board considers local mask mandate, no decision made

By Curt Peterson

The Killington Select Board discussed a possible local mask mandate at their Dec. 14 meeting, but failed to make a decision either way; Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth is to gather information about mandate terminology, enactment process and enforcement for the Jan. 4 meeting.

Governor Phil Scott signed legislation Nov. 22 empowering Vermont towns to enact local Covid mask mandates, a compromise with the Legislature and other groups

demanding more aggressive state action to manage the pandemic. Three weeks later, 15 Vermont towns have adopted mandates and more are talking about it.

Mandates have been inspired by a startling turn-around in Vermont's Covid spread — once a citadel of success against the virus, the Vermont case-per-capita rate is now among the worst in the country.

Hagenbarth said he's received two letters

Masks > 16

## New health officer named in Pittsfield

By Brett Yates

On Dec. 16, the Pittsfield Select Board nominated Sandy Begin to become the town's health officer, effective upon confirmation by the Vermont Health Commissioner. By state law, every Vermont municipality must have a health officer; the position in Pittsfield has stood vacant since Sept. 30, when Rebecca Steward declined a fourth consecutive appointment.

According to the

Vermont Dept. of Health, municipal health officers bear responsibility for "investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town or city," "taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards," "taking action to lessen significant public health risks," and "enforcing health laws, rules and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders."

Begin has, by her account, served in this capacity twice before in Pittsfield, "quite a few years ago." She encouraged the board to search for other interested candidates for the position next year.

"I'm old, you know," Begin pointed out with a laugh.

Pittsfield is also currently looking to hire a custodian and an assistant town clerk and treasurer, and to appoint a new energy coordinator.

## CNN producer, mother face charges related to alleged child sex abuse in Ludlow

By Alan J. Keays/VTDigger

A mother accused of transporting her 9-year-old daughter from Nevada to Vermont for so-called "sexual training" with a man who worked as a CNN producer is facing felony sex abuse charges.

The mother's identity is being withheld because doing so could identify the victim of the sexual abuse.

John Griffin, 44, of Stamford, Connecticut, who had worked at CNN for the past eight years was also arrested, federal authorities announced on Friday, Dec. 10.

Court records from the Henderson Justice Court in Henderson, Nevada, outlined three charges filed against the woman in August 2020: lewdness by a person over the age of 18 with a child under the age of 14; sex assault against a child under the age of 14; and child abuse or neglect in the first degree.

The records detail a trip she told authorities she made to Vermont with the child in July 2020 to meet a man she identified as "John Griffin." They describe the same scenario as the charging documents against Griffin: In both sets of documents, authorities say Griffin picked up the woman and her child at Boston Logan International Airport in Massachusetts in a Tesla and they all drove to his second home in Ludlow, Vermont.

According to the records in Griffin's case, he paid more than \$3,000 to the woman he had been communicating with on sexual social messaging apps to travel to Vermont with her 9-year-old daughter to engage in unlawful sex acts and learn to be submissive to men.

In July 2020, he forced the girl into unlawful sex acts he purported to be "sexual training," according to the indictment against Griffin.

The documents from Nevada indicated that the woman and the child stayed at Griffin's residence, which the woman described as

a "cabin with a garage and three floors."

The woman added that she had brought several sex devices with her on the trip and used them with Griffin and forced the girl to take part, according to the documents.

The case against the woman remains pending. It's not clear why it took more than a year for the FBI to arrest and charge Griffin.

Sarah Ruane, an FBI spokesperson, said Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 14, she could not comment on the woman's case because it is being handled by Nevada authorities and did not respond to a follow-up question about the timeline in charging Griffin.

The indictment against Griffin also charged that he had twice unsuccessfully tried to coax parents online to help lure children to engage in unlawful sexual acts. He faces three counts of "using a facility of interstate commerce to attempt to entice minors to engage in unlawful sexual activity" related to the incident in Ludlow and the two other attempts.

He faces up to life in prison if convicted.

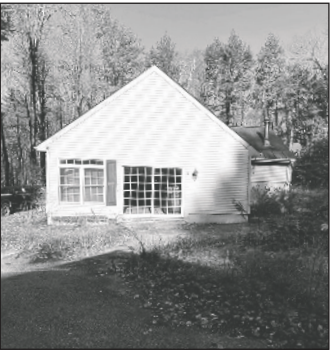
According to his LinkedIn page, Griffin worked as a producer for Chris Cuomo at CNN and more recently as a producer for John Avlon, a CNN senior political analyst.

CNN issued a statement following Griffin's arrest stating that he had been suspended pending an investigation. He was fired on Monday, Dec. 13, according to Newsweek.

Griffin, at a court hearing on Friday, Dec. 10, in Connecticut, was ordered to remain in custody pending his return to Vermont where a hearing is expected to take up whether he'll remain in custody as he awaits trial.

Federal prosecutors are seeking the forfeiture of Griffin's Ludlow ski home, his Tesla, a Mercedes, and other property that authorities say was used in carrying out the charged offense.

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By Max Grudzinski/Okemo

Grooming machines and their operators move a lot of snow all hours of the night to make skiing and riding optimal for the day.

# Celebrating the unsung heroes of the slopes: groomers

By Karen D. Lorentz

'Tis the season of making snow and the weird weather start to winter 2021-22 with its plentiful ups-and-downs has made the importance of making snow abundantly clear.

Perhaps less obvious though is the significance of what is done, or not done, with that snow.

A complaint from a little boy to his father while attempting to ski Easy Rider last year illustrates what grooming means to many skiers.

"This isn't a green trail, it's a black diamond," he protested.

Indeed, Easy Rider is a green, but on this particular early season day it hadn't been groomed and was full of moguls. I, too, was struggling. (I never found it ungroomed the rest of the season and enjoyed cruising it midweek for laps off the Sunburst Six after my legs had wearied from steep favorites Blind Faith and Stump Jumper.)

For many of us a groomed trail is just as important as its snow coverage. In fact, Okemo's snowmaking and grooming prowess have garnered rave reviews for several decades now and contributed to the area's reputation, popularity and growth.

## Machine and implement innovations

There have been major changes since the Tucker Sno-Cats arrived in the 1950s. The machines are easier to

drive, more stable, bigger, do more and are more powerful now. In part that's due to mechanical drive shafts giving way to hydrostatic drives that use hydraulics.

The implements have changed as well with hydraulics making it possible to operate front blades and rear power tillers by pushing a button. (The tiller is a hydraulically driven attachment that has two rotors with innumerable 5-inch steel teeth arranged in spiral configurations. It can dig up hard

packed surfaces to a depth of 3 to 4 inches, leaving a very "edge-able" surface.)

Asked about the grooming changes he's seen over the years, Okemo's Senior Director of Mountain Operations Eb Kinney said that the biggest change is "the power tiller. Before that grooming was done by rollers. Sometimes a roller, which looked like a galvanized culvert, was used for packing fresh snow. The famous Powder-Maker roller was a corrugated drum, and similar to a cheese grater

would shave the surface and create a softer snow surface. Even the power tiller itself has changed substantially over the years. The first versions were rigid with no flex, but they improved and now the current version flexes in the middle and follows the contour of the land to create the corduroy finish that everyone loves to see and ski on."

Kinney noted that several other innovations proved helpful as well. "The winch cat provides the ability to

Groomers > 16

## Meet Okemo's John Boudro

By Karen D. Lorentz

It's interesting when a person who is responsible for overseeing the grooming of ski trails has never skied. That's the case of Okemo's grooming and trail maintenance team leader John Boudro who has long answered the call of the mountains in another way.

Born and raised in Windsor, Vermont, Boudro graduated from high school in 1978. He had already started working part time at Mount Ascutney in 1976 as a liftie (lift attendant), and during the summer worked for a tree care company until the mid-80s. He worked in mountain operations for several years before starting to groom in 1988 and then joined Okemo in 1990 when Ascutney was facing bankruptcy.

"I was interested in Okemo's grooming and it was recommended by my brother, Brian, and Eb Kinney," Boudro said of the move. (Brian Boudro, Okemo's senior manager of mountain operations, has worked at the area year-round for 26 years and part-



By Max Grudzinski/Okemo

John Boudro

time before that. Ed Kinney left Ascutney for Okemo in 1990 and became mountain manager in 2009 and senior director of mountain operations in 2018.)

John Boudro worked seasonally in grooming until 1992 when then Mountain Manager Barry Tucker asked him to work full time, running heavy equipment sum-

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**Killington:** Resort recently turned 63 years old; by pioneering, innovating, experimenting and expanding Killington has led the ski industry for over six decades from page 1

portation and more skiing. As he got into a methodical review of all the potential at Killington, he became inspired by the challenge and a little daunted.

"I realized this was huge potential, and it all began to seem a little ambitious to me. Skiing would be 600 feet higher than the lift on Mansfield. Before I started, I realized that Killington would be bigger than Stowe if I made it. It was beginning to seem a bit awesome. But I had nothing to lose and everything to gain," he told this writer in 1988.

Inspired by the mountain's potential and believing in the intrinsic value of skiing, Smith set out to create a better ski experience. He combined his own passion for the sport with a business opportunity and embraced technology and innovation as ways to achieve the dream. He was able to attract a supportive group of investors and hire good workers, who, inspired by his vision and motivated by his work ethic, joined him in forming the Sherburne Corporation and building the East's largest and (according to many) most successful ski resort.

Utilizing sound business practices, Smith, the board of directors, the management team, and Killington staff met the ongoing challenges of operating and expanding the ski area. This included facing the vagaries of weather, economy, and market trends — challenges which all too often put other ski areas out of business.

But due to the tools and technologies Killington employed — aggressive marketing, innovative research and development, astute management information systems, and keen financial controls among others — the ski area was successful and profitable. Most importantly, profits were poured back into the mountain, creating a better experience that snowballed into a bigger mountain as it expanded into both a winter and summer resort.

#### Passion, pioneering and perseverance

Although money was a challenge and Smith had to give up opening the area with a gondola to the summit, it did offer four surface lifts its first season and the Killington double chair reached the summit the second season.

With skiing still in its infancy, Smith saw the importance of providing gentle terrain for beginners. When he ordered Killington's first ¾-mile-long double chairlift for Snowshed in 1961, Smith received an incredulous call from the French manufacturer Jean Pomagaliski.

He had never before received an order for a chairlift to be built on such a flat hill. (It was a time when beginners learned on meadows or slopes using rope tows, Pomalifts, T-bars and J-bars.) The lift company naturally thought there had been a mistake with the slope specifications in Killington's order.

"No," Smith told him, there was no error, he just wanted to make it easier for people to learn the sport.

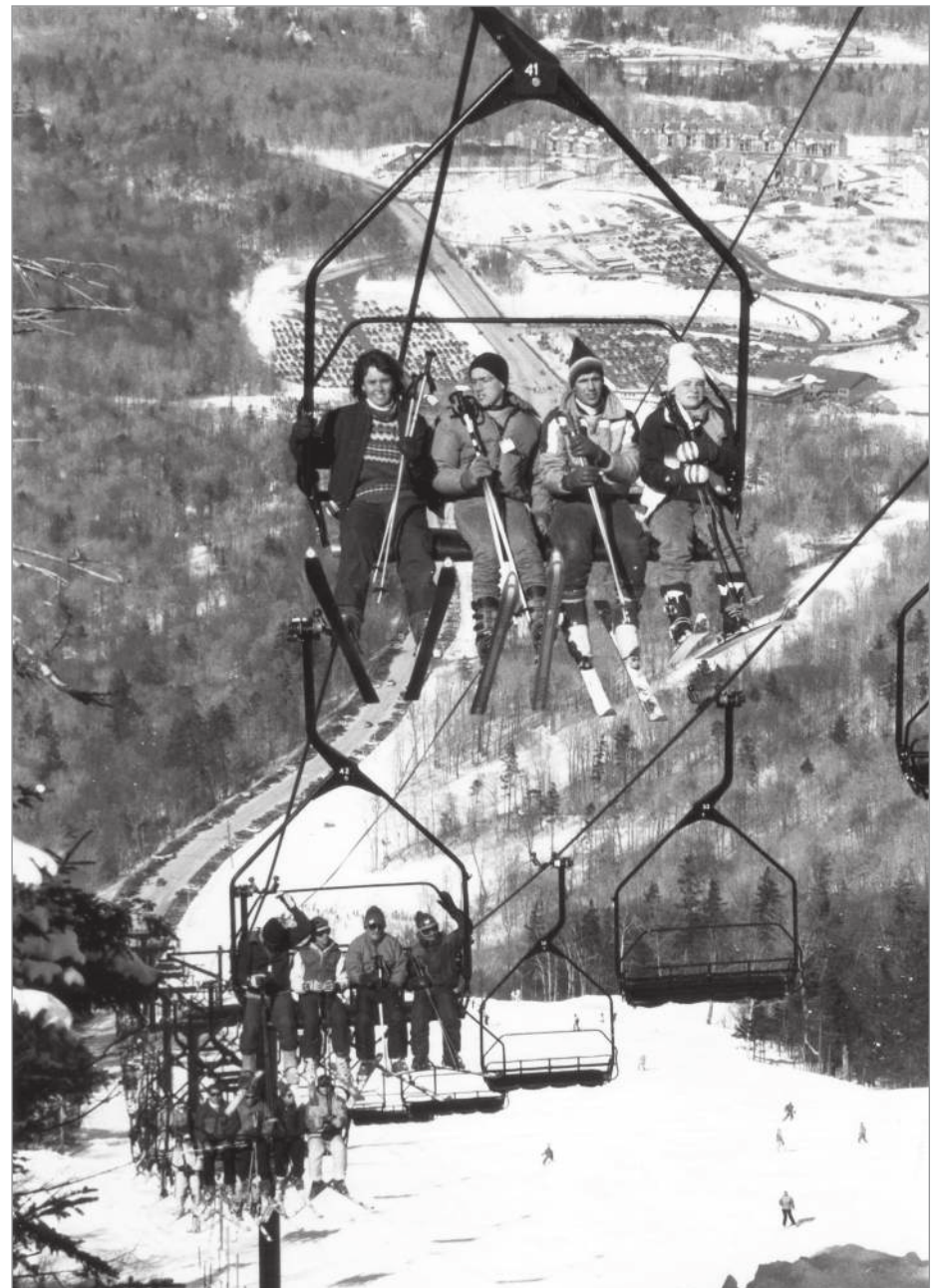
Creating a better experience by trying something new or different was not hindered by the fear of failure. Nor was any expenditure spared because something might not work. Instead, a bold research and development approach became a Killington trademark and helped to advance the sport of skiing. Many years later, Hank Lunde, an engineer who had been hired to complete the construction of the original four-passenger, 3½-mile Killington Gondola, said that Killington tried things that other areas were either unable to do financially or could afford to do but chose not to participate due to the expense and risk of experimenting.

What was particularly significant is that Killington shared its advances to the benefit of the ski industry.

And not every innovation turned out quite the way it was expected. The South Ridge Triple with the hard corner in it was supposed to provide late season high elevation skiing for all levels of ability, with the turn enabling loading and unloading. The flaw turned out to allow no way for beginners to get back to the base of the area. (The chair was replaced by a quad several years ago, without the turn.) The purchase of land in Parker's Gore for expansion of intermediate terrain didn't work out as it met with stiff resistance from environmentalists, and the village envisioned in 1969 never got built.

One innovation that was outstanding for the area was the installation of snowmaking at a time when snow regularly blanketed Vermont. Killington had hired a company to install its first system on Snowshed, but when the water was turned on the pressure was so great that the system literally blew up, sending shards of aluminum flying. Smith fired the engineer and from that moment on, hired his own engineers who proceeded to develop snowguns and install snowmaking as they also worked with various manufacturers.

But snowmaking wasn't relegated to the



Courtesy Killington Resort

Skiers pack the Superstar Quad at Killington Resort, which was installed in 1987.

lower elevation Snowshed slopes and soon Snowdon and Killington mountain areas sported snowmaking, too. In 1980 after a disastrous no-snow season, Killington declared it would no longer assume it would snow and would depend on snowmaking. That commitment has continued and has led to Killington having the greatest mileage of snowmaking trails in Vermont and the formation of a subsidiary that developed snowmaking systems for areas throughout the country.

Some of the advances Killington was able to make were in partnership with companies developing new technologies, and others were Killington developments, like business and marketing departments and the practice of closing the books on a weekly basis as well as weekly manager meetings. The pioneering Killington brochure, *There is a World Only Skiers Know*, was soon shared with the National Ski Areas Association, which adapted it for its members.

Following are a few more examples of other Killington innovations that have contributed to the enjoyment of skiing:

- Expanding Snowshed with beginner trails and snowmaking installed on it in 1963.
- Creating a longer ski season by opening

earlier and skiing later, often from October to May or June.

- Pioneering graduated length method (GLM). Ski Magazine asked several areas to try its new idea of teaching on graduated length skis. Only Killington took them up on the offer and developed skiing on three lengths of skis in the 1960s. This eventually led to the development of the area's Accelerated Ski Method.
- Grooming. Killington experimented with employing the new Power Tiller grooming implement in the late 1970s and was among the first to use it to improve snow surfaces. The development of the winch-cat snow-grooming machine was pioneered at Killington. It can groom steep slopes by being anchored.
- Pushing others to create better technologies like the prototype Killington Gondola and later the Skyeship gondola.
- Creating a better experience by offering more diverse terrain and spreading out its skiers. Rather than clustering trails on one mountain, slopes and trails were developed on four, and later six, contiguous peaks. With differing climates due to varying elevations and exposures, the

Killington (cont.) > 7



Courtesy Killington Resort

Part of Killington's 1988 grooming fleet lined up. The other shift was out grooming the hill.



Courtesy Killington Resort

The new Bear Mountain complex debuted in December 1979. Skiers negotiate moguls on Outer Limits and Wildfire.

**← Killington (cont.):** A look back at what's made Killington "The Beast of the East" for 63 years from page 6

ski area continues to offer one of the most diverse mountain experiences in the nation.

- Adding trails like Outer Limits, which prior to its debut in 1980 was thought too steep to develop. The advances in grooming and snowmaking technologies that Killington participated in made it possible.

**Fast forward**

With the sale of Killington's parent company to Les Ottens' LBO/American Skiing company, Killington continued to improve, replacing the double Killington chair with the eight-passenger K-1 Gondola and continuing with other upgrades like the Ramshead Quad, more

snowmaking, construction of the slope-side Grand Summit Hotel, and Perfect Turn ski lessons along with purchasing (and saving) nearby Pico Mountain.

With the 2008 sale to Powdr the improvements in lifts (the Bear Express Quad, Snowdon Six Express bubble chair, and South Ridge Quad) and snowmaking (more efficient and environmentally sound systems) continued at Killington and Pico along with refinements in instruction programs and base lodge facilities and the new Killington Peak Lodge.

Among the exciting changes was the addition of the Women's Slalom and Giant Slalom World Cup events

that began in 2016. The construction of the new K-1 Lodge will be yet another example of a visionary approach to what Killington offers: enhancing an already great mountain experience of snowmaking, lots of lifts, good grooming and diverse terrain with the excitement of witnessing world-class racing and the comfort and sybaritic pleasures of a modern base lodge.

At 63, Killington continues to be the Beast it's always been, ever pushing to make improvements and provide creature comforts, while it offers the "better experience" its founders envisioned, making it truly the "Beast of the East."



Courtesy Killington Resort

Skiers learn to ski on short skis in the graduated length method (GLM) program that Killington made famous.



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# Fire, EMS look for volunteers

By Katy Savage

Local public service departments are busier than ever and some can't find enough volunteers.

Rutland City Fire Chief William Lovett said his department is fully staffed with 27 full-time firefighters, but the volume of calls has increased

since the pandemic, putting a strain on public service departments that were already struggling with staffing shortages before the pandemic.

"People were homebound with Covid and were likely to catch a problem at their house before it came to flames coming out their windows," Lovett said.

Lovett said public scrutiny combined with the number of hours it requires to get certified has made public service work unattractive.

"There's a lot of time away from your families," Lovett said. "The hours are long and the work tends to be difficult."

The shortages aren't just in the fire department. There also aren't enough first responders.

Like other fire departments, Rutland City has been assisting the short-staffed Regional Ambulance Service with more calls since the pandemic started.

"A lot of fire departments around the area are doing what they can just to help out," Lovett said.

The city department responded to 75 EMS calls in 2021, up from 39 in 2020.

Jim Finger, the chief executive administrator for Regional Ambulance Service, said part of the problem with hiring new people stems from training being canceled during the pandemic.

"It's just everything coming together — everybody across the nation is working hard to resolve the problem," he said.

Finger, who is also president of the Vermont Ambulance Association, said calls initially decreased at the beginning of the pandemic,

but now Regional Ambulance is responding to 20-25% more calls compared to pre-Covid.

"I think that's because people were not treated for a year

and now they're paying the consequences somewhat," Finger said.

Regional Ambulance responds to an average of 10,000 calls a year and serves 12 towns in Rutland County. There are a total of 70 employees — most of whom are per-diem and part time.

Finger said it can take as little as 24 hours for a first responder to be certified to as many as 2,000 hours to become a paramedic.

Finger said he's been on Zoom calls with senators and other public officials to find a solution. Some departments have increased wages to combat the shortage. Woodstock Fire/EMS shifted from a volunteer department to paid two years ago to entice more people to respond to daytime calls.

Woodstock Fire Chief David Green said he has 10 full-time employees as well as about 20 volunteers who respond to about 1,000 to 1,200 fire and EMS calls a year, but he's always in need of more volunteers.

Woodstock has a budget of around \$1.4 million and each firefighter is paid an average of \$48,000 a year, Green said.

Green said EMS calls are down

slightly while fire calls have been steady the past two years.

"People with the broken toe really didn't want to go to the hospital," he said. "We're slowly trending back up again."

Killington Fire recently held a recruiting event, which Killington Fire Warden Tom Rock said attracted a couple of new volunteers.

"We have picked up a couple but it takes time," Rock said, explaining it takes at least 170 hours for a new recruit to be trained.

"I think people are maybe reprioritizing their life with Covid," Rock said. "People are staying home."

Rock said the average person is also busier.

"In today's economy, a lot of people work second jobs," he said.



Courtesy City of Rutland Fire Dept. Firefighter Dave Werbinski with a family dog that was saved from a fire at 30 Forest St. in January this year.

# Rutland Housing Authority recognized for 10 years of success in creating a healthier Rutland County

The statewide Support and Services at Home (SASH) program has recognized the Rutland Housing Authority (RHA) for offering SASH services to residents and surrounding community members since 2011, helping to keep older adults and people with disabilities healthy and living independently.

The recognition comes at the time that SASH is celebrating its 10th anniversary. RHA has been an active SASH partner from the beginning, making the program available to residents in all of its affordable housing communities and to surrounding community members. Each group of 70 to 100 participants is served by a full-time SASH coordinator and part-time wellness nurse employed by RHA. The coordinator and nurse create trusting relationships with each individual, support their health and well-being, and coordinate programming based on their needs and wants.

RHA's SASH program for Templewood Court and Sheldon Towers residents serves nearly 100 RHA residents ranging in age from 36 to 97.

"It's key that SASH is offered right where people live," said SASH coordinator Stephanie Bertrand. "We see and talk with residents nearly every day, so we get to know them on a personal level and can recognize when they need help."

Bertrand cites one participant with serious diabetes and other medical issues who had been avoiding medical treatment. Thanks to the close relationship they had developed, she was able to convince him to participate in a SASH-designed pilot project that connected diabetic and pre-diabetic SASH participants with a local pharmacist.

At the man's first one-on-one meeting with the pharmacist, they immediately bonded as lifelong Yankee fans. From there the conversation moved into diabetes and his willingness to try new medications and other strategies. At that point the participant turned over a new leaf. He started eating healthier and taking his medications daily. His regular weigh-ins and blood pressure checks with Bertrand began moving in a positive direction as well.

By the end of the six-month pilot, the participant had reduced his A1c (blood sugar) levels by a remarkable four points, telling Bertrand, "I haven't felt this good in a long time." He continues to manage his diabetes and maintain a healthier lifestyle diet to this day.

"For this gentleman and many other participants,

Rutland Housing > 9

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## Making a list... checking it twice

Just like Santa, legislators are busy making a list. The legislative list of issues may be seen as presents to some and to others a lump of coal in the stocking. It all depends on one's perspective...

The 2022 Vermont legislative session begins on Jan. 4 and unlike last session, the current plan is to meet in person once again at the State House in Montpelier. New protocols are still being established and could change (masking, vaccinations, weekly testing, etc.).



By Rep. Jim Harrison

Here is a partial look at the list of key issues:

- Covid:** Just six months ago it was looking like the pandemic was over and everything was getting back to normal. Unfortunately, that has all changed with the spread of new variants. Prior to Thanksgiving the governor called a special legislative session to allow the adoption of a new law allowing municipalities to adopt townwide indoor mask mandates in public buildings, such as retail stores. With the governor's reluctance to reinstate a state of emergency, it is likely some legislators will push for new statewide restrictions in spite of Scott's objections.
- Money:** While the state budget is always one of those must-pass items each year, the discussion this year will center around the allocation of new federal dollars from the so-called bi-partisan infrastructure bill and a continuation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) approved early in 2021.
- Education fund:** With an expected one-time \$90 million surplus in the education fund, there will be a discussion as to whether all or part should go to lowering property taxes or set aside for capital improvements or other related expenditures.
- Education funding formula:** A task force has been reviewing changes to how students are counted regarding the state funding formula (non-English students for example). However, more aid for one district can mean less for another, which makes finding consensus difficult.
- Pensions:** With the growing unfunded liability in our state employees and education pension funds, a special committee was appointed to explore solutions to keeping the funds solvent. Adjusting future benefits, contributions or increasing revenues make finding consensus difficult. Although waiting another year will just exacerbate the situation.
- Climate Action:** The 23-member climate council has come up with over 230 action steps for Vermont to take to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals contained in legislation passed in 2020 over a gubernatorial veto. For example, the plan calls for increasing the number of electric vehicles to over 160,000 by 2030 from less than 5,000 today.
- Reapportionment:** Following the U.S. Census every 10 years, the Legislature must realign House and Senate districts to adjust for changes in population. The northwest (Chittenden and Franklin counties) will likely gain seats, while the southern half or northeast part of the state will lose a few seats.
- Housing:** There is wide agreement that Vermont is experiencing a shortage of housing units at all levels. Many employers have reported difficulty attracting new workers when they can't find affordable housing. The governor is expected to make this one of his priorities for the session.
- Workforce:** Vermont has been experiencing a workforce shortage for a while now, in part due to our aging population. However, the issue has been

Harrison > 16

## Governor Scott joins national effort to address homelessness

Governor Phil Scott has joined the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) House America initiative, according to a news release Dec. 15. Through this national partnership, HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) have encouraged state, county, municipal and tribal nation leaders to commit to using a portion of the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address the crisis of homelessness by rehousing and

nated for those experiencing homelessness between January 2020 and September 2021. New CARES Act funds were also used to rehabilitate apartments that were uninhabitable, and provide rental assistance and housing services — collectively, since the start of the pandemic, these initiatives helped more than 1,300 households move into permanent housing.

In joining the House America effort, the Scott administration is pledging to continue leveraging available resources to address

Vermont is committing to the creation of 560 new units dedicated to rehousing people exiting homelessness in the next year and a goal of rehousing an additional 1,000 households.

building additional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

During the pandemic, the Scott administration launched a comprehensive housing recovery plan to leverage state and federal funds, including Coronavirus Relief Funds, which added more than 350 new units specifically design-

homelessness. Specifically, Vermont is committing to the creation of 560 new units dedicated to rehousing people in the next year and a goal of rehousing an additional 1,000 households.

"We commend Governor Scott for making the commitment to address the Homelessness > 11

### Rutland Housing: RHA celebrates 10 years from page 8

SASH has been completely life-changing," said Bertrand. "I've seen so many people significantly improve their health and quality of life without needing costly medical treatments. It's truly remarkable."

SASH coordinator Anna Lang serves Rutland participants who live in the community, not in RHA housing. The out-of-state brother of one of those participants recently wrote in praise of Lang and the program, noting that his sister is his only sibling living in Vermont.

"I have immense appreciation for the help and support SASH has provided my sister, who is dealing with evolving age and health-related challenges made all the worse by living alone and by isolation brought on by Covid," he wrote. "Anna visits her frequently, often accompanied by a nurse, so she's able to observe things and know when the supports my sister receives need to be changed, then work with local agencies and the medical community to provide them. SASH has been absolutely critical in helping her remain living safely at home."

In addition to programs that address chronic health conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure, SASH provides social activities, educational programming and fitness classes tailored to the group. "All of these things keep participants active and engaged and they help to combat loneliness and isolation, which is especially common among older adults," said Bertrand, adding, "We want people to see that aging is just a state of mind, so it's important to have fun."

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# Scott administration waits for post-Christmas, Omicron surge

By Ethan Weinstein

“We’re about to face another challenge,” Governor Scott said Tuesday, preparing Vermonters for the coming dual threat of Omicron and the expected post-Christmas surge.

This week, the state detected the first case of the Omicron variant in Lamoille County. As the latest data suggests a booster vaccine dose provides far more protection against omicron than only two shots, the governor doubled down on stressing the importance of a third shot.

In New York and New Jersey ... 92% of new cases were Omicron.

“Don’t consider yourself fully protected until you have [gotten your booster],” he said.

According to the CDC, 37.7% of Covid cases in New England in the past week were the Omicron variant, though that figure was likely lower in Vermont. In New York and New Jersey, a staggering 92% of new cases were Omicron.

Overall cases in Vermont remained steady in the last week, down 16% from two weeks ago. Hospitalizations fell by 23% in the last seven days.

Despite a week that did not see case rates worsen, Mike

Piecak, who discusses Vermont’s Covid data analyses, said that there may be days with over 1,000 positive tests after the holidays, numbers that have never been seen in Vermont.

Rutland County reported 39 new cases on Tuesday, bringing the 14-day case total to 767. Meanwhile, Windsor County reported 11 new cases on Dec. 21, with 661 cases in the last 14 days. The statewide, seven-day rolling case average is 408.

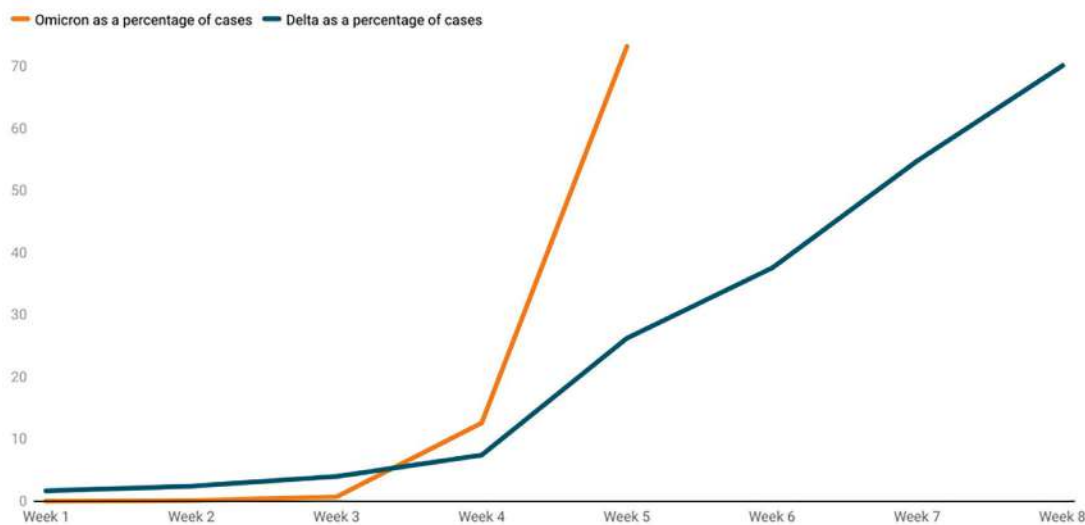
According to AHS Sec. Mike Smith, 30 FEMA staff members are currently deployed at UVM Medical Center and Southwester Medical Center to ease the fatigue of hospital staff. It is not

clear how long these federal employees will be in Vermont.

And as Vermonters hold their breath waiting for the coming Omicron surge, Dept. of Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine said that “while illness [caused by Omicron] may be less severe, a larger number of cases will mean greater stress on our health care systems.”

The monoclonal antibodies used to treat infection with the Delta variant are not effective against Omicron, Levine said. The federal government is slowly distributing monoclonal antibodies meant to target Omicron.

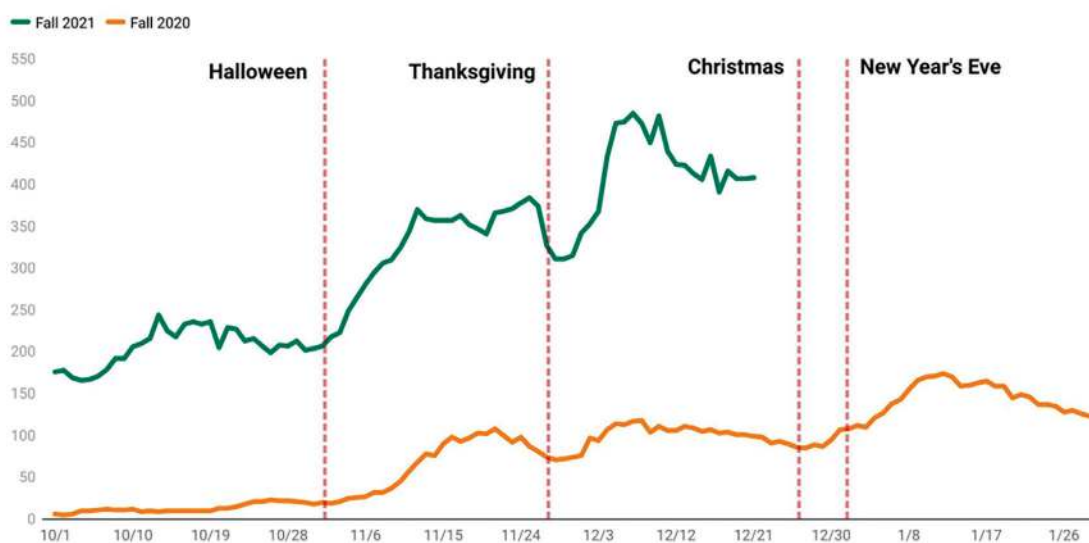
## Spread of Variants in the U.S.



Courtesy of CDC

Omicron exceeded 70% of U.S. cases in 4 weeks compared to 8 weeks for Delta. Data as of Dec. 21, 2021.

## Vermont COVID-19 Cases Fall 2020 vs. Fall 2021



Courtesy Vermont Dept of Health

Covid cases have followed last year's trend, though at elevated levels. Omicron may change that.

**← Omicron:** Now detected in Vermont, officials urge boosters, masks from page 1 and elsewhere.

The new SARS-CoV-2 variant, formally called B.1.1.529, has already been found in more than 40 U.S. states and territories—including all the northeastern states.

Dr. Levine said that the speed at which Omicron is likely to become the dominant strain means it is even more important for people to act quickly to be vaccinated and get their booster shots.

“As the effectiveness of the initial vaccines begin to wane, boosters provide the protection you need against bad outcomes, including serious illness, hospitalizations and death, especially for people whose age or health conditions make them vulnerable,” he said.

Scientists are continuing to study how Omicron compares to the already highly transmissible Delta variant, including what impact the new variant may have on the severity of illness and the effectiveness of current vaccines. The CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don’t have symptoms.

“I can’t emphasize this enough: All Vermonters need to be as protected as possible, as soon as possible. So get

vaccinated, get children age 5 and older vaccinated, and if you are due to get your booster shot, get it as soon as you can,” said Dr. Levine. “Vaccines are our best line of defense against this virus, and our ability to slow Omicron’s spread and to reduce the chances of new variants from emerging depends on our being fully protected.”

In addition to being vaccinated and boosted, Vermonters should continue taking these common-sense precautions to protect against the spread of the virus in our communities, now and during the holidays:

- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Get tested if you have any symptoms—even if mild, or if you may be a close contact, or have taken part in activities that could put you at risk, such as large gatherings or travel.
- Wear a mask at indoor public settings and around anyone at higher risk of Covid-19.
- Gather with others safely, which means small group sizes and testing before holiday celebrations.

For more information visit: [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) or [healthvermont.gov/preventCOVID19](http://healthvermont.gov/preventCOVID19).

**← Homelessness:** Governor Scott expands efforts to house the homeless from page 9

crisis of homelessness in the state of Vermont,” said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. “With the housing resources provided in the American Rescue Plan, federal, state, and local partners must work together to tackle the issue of homelessness to ensure a safe and stable place to call home for all.”

“Vermont has put a lot of effort into addressing the housing crisis and homelessness, but our work is far from done. Homelessness is not only about helping our neighbors who face the greatest housing challenges, but also about the wellbeing and economic security of our communities,” said Governor Phil Scott. “The pandemic forced us to act fast and think creatively in order to assist those struggling. We continue to learn from what works and are

making bigger investments in proven strategies.”

“Ultimately, we end homelessness with housing. We are committed to long-term solutions, and together—local non-profits, state and local government,

Improvement Program (VHIP) which is expected to contribute toward the unit production goal. The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board received an appropriation of \$154 million in supplemental

“Homelessness is not only about helping our neighbors who face the greatest housing challenges, but also about the well-being and economic security of our communities,” said Scott.

landlords, housing authorities, health care providers and faith-based partners—we can make homelessness rare and brief in Vermont,” said Martin Hahn, executive director for the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness.

Governor Scott recently announced the launch of the Vermont Housing

funding during the prior legislative session, including from the federal American Rescue Plan Act, and will be funding projects that will significantly contribute to achieving this goal.

For more info visit: [hud.gov/house\\_america](http://hud.gov/house_america).

## COMMENTARY

## My 3-year-old asks: Why are Vermonters homeless? Why aren't we helping them?

By Sandra Paritz

*Editor's note: Sandra Paritz, of Montpelier, directs the Poverty Law Project at Vermont Legal Aid.*

Years ago, when my 3-year-old son first saw someone sleeping in the doorway of a building in the cold, he asked: Why is he sleeping there? Won't he be too cold? Why doesn't he have a home? Why doesn't someone help him? Why are we not helping him?

I always tried to answer my children's questions honestly. So I said: He does not have a home. Yes, it is too cold. There is no good reason for him not to have a home; it is wrong. Someone should help him. We should help him.

My son would not stop asking questions. He was crying. He could not keep walking down the street as if nothing happened. How could I?

What are the stories that we learn to tell ourselves to keep walking? We do not say them out loud, but maybe they are something like, "This is someone who wasn't able to follow the rules, someone who did not manage their money well, or maybe they committed a crime that led them to this place."

Of course, when we say these things out loud, we often know those stories are incomplete and our reasons inadequate. The stories we tell ourselves shouldn't allow

us to ignore people's humanity.

I work at Vermont Legal Aid, where we represent people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. I sometimes find myself advising people who, like me, are working hard to care for their children, pay their bills, and do all the normal things I do every day. But unlike me, they

Once you know the real story behind a person who is homeless, you cannot tell yourself the false and simplified narratives that allow you to just keep walking.

may not have a home to return to at night.

There is no way to justify this reality. It is what keeps those of us who work with housing-insecure people awake at night. Once you know the real story behind a person who is homeless, you cannot tell yourself the false and simplified narratives that allow you to just keep walking.

According to a January 2019 Vermont Legal Aid report, about 70% of evictions happen because tenants simply cannot afford to pay their rent. Vermont ranks fifth in the nation for having the largest housing affordability gap, and that problem is getting worse in the current housing market.

No one deserves to be homeless — regardless of how they got there. We all know what any 3-year-old would tell you: It is just horrifically wrong that a human being is sleeping on the street, and no one is helping them.

In "A Dry White Season," Marlon Brando said the law and justice can be described as distant cousins. Sometimes, when I see that the law regularly allows people to be evicted into homelessness, often for no reason, that statement rings true. But I think it is more accurate to say that the law reflects our culture, and sometimes it takes time and political courage for our culture to evolve.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court held that the prohibition on same-sex marriage violated the Vermont Constitution. The Legislature's efforts to fix it culminated in emotionally charged debates that resulted in the civil union statute in 2000.

Why homeless > 14



The Grinch by Bill Day, FloridaPolitics.com

## LETTERS

### Donations needed to rescue German shepherds and their puppies

Dear Editor,

A ruling was made last week in the VT Superior Court, WRJ, on the return of German shepherd dogs and their puppies to the owner of the puppy mill from which they were recently rescued by VT state police and local humane societies.

While the details of this horrific situation cannot yet be disclosed, there was more than sufficient evidence to rescue these dogs. This is devastating news to the families and their children that have fostered and loved them to be ordered to send back to the breeder. Thousands of dollars have been spent on needed medical attention, food and supplies which will not be reimbursed to the families or the rescue organizations under the judge's ruling.

Before purchasing an animal be sure the breeder is legitimate. Websites are often a glorified advertisement and nothing to do with the reality of the situation in which the animals

Puppies > 14

### Killington taxpayers deserve to know risks, TIF isn't silver bullet

Dear Editor,

*Editor's note: this was submitted as an open letter to the Killington Select Board on Dec. 10.*

As the Select Board leads the effort to bring a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) District to Killington, it appears obvious that the Board and SP Land are orchestrating an effort to promote this project in the most favorable light. We have recently seen several articles in the Mountain Times telling us how great such a district would be for Killington and future development. Using St. Albans as a success story, it quotes the city manager saying "TIF is the closest thing we have to a silver bullet."

I hate to play skunk at the garden party but, as taxpayers, perhaps it's time we started to ask some hard questions as we load our weapon with this magical bullet.

First, let's look at TIF. Yes, St. Albans may be a success story but there are other stories worth telling. South

TIF > 13

### Spiro fought hard for CU

Dear Editor,

Jonathon Spiro was the perfect president to lead Castleton University through the dual challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the proposed merger of Castleton with its northern brethren. He was and still is completely committed to the university's success, to its students and its faculty and its staff, and to its role in the larger Rutland County community. He balanced the school's books, he boosted campus morale, he fought tenaciously for maintaining Castleton's brand and he did it all with an unfailing sense of humor.

The signatories below are members of the Castleton University Rutland Region Advisory Board. While we regret his earlier-than-planned departure from the presidency, and while we continue to believe as Jonathon did that the proposed

merger of the Vermont State colleges is not in Castleton University's best interests, we nonetheless are grateful for all that he accomplished in his tenure as the school's president. We wish him and his family all the best.

**Joe Kraus, Rutland;**  
**David Allaire, Mayor of Rutland City;**  
**Fred Bagley, Mendon;**  
**Steve Costello, Green Mountain Power;**  
**Dick Courcelle, Rutland Mental Health Services;**  
**Mark Foley, Rutland;**  
**Lyle Jepson, CEDRR;**  
**Amy Laramie, Powdr Corp;**  
**Rutland County Senators: Brian Collamore, Cheryl Hooker, Josh Terenzini;**  
**Rutland County Representatives: Bill Canfield, Larry Cupoli, Peter Fagan, James Harrison, Stephanie Jerome, Patti McCoy, Mary Howard, Will Notte, Art Peterson, Butch Shaw, Linda Joy Sullivan.**

#### WRITE TO US.

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COMMENTARY

## CAPITOL QUOTES



The Omicron variant of the coronavirus continues to spread across the globe, doubling every two days, according to epidemiologists. On Monday, the CDC said the Omicron was responsible for 73% of new cases in the United States. Leaders are scrambling to combat the spread of the ultra-contagious new variant...

**“We can expect 10% to 30% of health care workers to get infected ... and that is only going to add to the burden then of trying to provide care all at the same time through all 50 states,”**

said **Michael Osterholm**, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

**“Our state health care system is currently collapsing ... Imagine patients dying while waiting to be seen by a doctor who is 50 feet away and, because of lack of staff and thus capacity, simply unable to treat them. This is a true tragedy that is currently unfolding for citizens of Rhode Island,”**

said Dr. **Nadine T. Himelfarb**, the president of the Rhode Island chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

**“We have made a lot of progress this year, getting more over-the-counter tests, quadrupling our supply of tests over the last half of the year, but we’ve got to do more ... Our goal is for everyone who needs a test and wants a test to be able to access it, period, full stop,”**

said Dr. **Vivek Murthy**, the U.S. surgeon general.

**“For the first time since Omicron appeared we have reason to be nervous about the variant having an impact on the growth trajectory of the economy,”**

said **Lindsey Bell**, the chief money and markets strategist at Ally Invest, a foreign exchange company, after the S&P 500 fell by roughly 3% last week.

## Vermont’s dirty little secret: our state government is anti-renewable energy

By Peter Sterling

*Editor’s note: Sterling is the interim executive director of Renewable Energy Vermont.*

Talk to anyone who has tried to bring renewable energy to Vermonters and they will tell you the same thing: despite our green reputation and the thousands of Vermonters who have asked for leadership to avoid the

existential crisis climate change presents to humanity, our state government works every day to put the brakes on new solar energy and wind power projects.

The latest example is the draft comprehensive energy plan from the Vermont Dept. of

**Dirty secret > 14**

**← TIF:** Taxpayers in Killington need to understand risks to infrastructure buildout from page 12

of St. Albans, and often in the news, is the TIF funded redevelopment project in downtown Burlington. This project, which tore down the mall and downtown parking, was supposed to have been completed in, I believe, 2021 or 2022. Instead, due to various factors including financing issues and extended litigation, Burlington is now home to a rather large hole in the ground and a project now forecast for completion no earlier than 2026. While the problems may not all have been directly related to TIF, the project was thought to have been another “silver bullet” for downtown redevelopment and instead has caused great harm to other downtown businesses, proving that no project is problem free and “silver bullets” are hard to find.

Now let’s look at Killington and development of the village now known as Six Peaks. The current village design, requiring the elimination of convenient on-site parking at Snowshed and Ramshead, has been on the table for at least 15 years. I have, admittedly, not been a fan of this design as I believe it is bad for resort customers and, thus, the resort itself. I spoke about this at several planning commission hearings on the project years ago as it moved through the initial approval process but, in the end, the commission approved the design with relatively minor modifications as they had neither the legal authority to kill the project nor the desire to be seen as the cause of its demise.

The fact of the matter is that it’s KSRP’s sandbox and it’s their business.

At least since its approval by the town and subsequent approval under the Act 250 process and probably well before that, SP Land has been

looking for a developer or developers to bring this project to fruition. What we now know is that upfront development costs are such that the project is not viable finan-

brought us the *Titanic*.

A public information meeting is now scheduled for Jan. 4. In my opinion, the Select Board must present (at a minimum) all the financial

I hate to play skunk at the garden party but...it's time we started to ask some hard questions as we load our weapon with this magical bullet.

cially. This should have come as no surprise to anyone paying attention, especially KSRP and its wealthy backers in Texas and Utah. Not only is the project poorly thought out from a customer viewpoint, it is also poorly thought out financially. As a result SP Land, which was formed in a land-for-debt swap with ASC [American Ski Company], has been on the dead money expressway for years, unable to find an off ramp.

That brings us to the current option, TIF, being promoted as a good deal for Killington. Let’s get real. Some of the wealthiest people in the country, billionaires if you will, won’t pony up a measly few million (actually estimated at \$33.8 million) to construct a water pipeline needed to develop their investment. The Select Board, however, in its infinite wisdom, now wants to become a partner in this project, pay for the water system through bonding, and sell it to the town as a panacea, adding in a few more items such as affordable housing to sell the deal to the taxpayers. One of our Select Board members, possibly wearing rose colored glasses, says that the board won’t approve this plan if there is any risk to the taxpaying public. Seriously, all projects come with risk and to say otherwise is hubris. It’s that kind of thinking that

information supporting the town’s involvement with Six Peaks and SP Land, more detailed information on a municipal water system, more detail to support development of so-called “affordable housing,” basically to address the following:

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

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

3. Finally, and most importantly, given the timeline and the costs, what are the risks to Killington taxpayers and what steps is the Select Board projecting to mitigate those risks?

My understanding is that Killington residents do not get to vote on whether to move ahead with the TIF application. We only will get to vote, somewhere down the road, on whether to issue bonds to support this effort. Let’s make sure now that we’re not currently boarding the *Titanic*, moving full speed ahead through iceberg filled waters, failing to pay full attention to the risks.

**Art Malatzky, Killington**

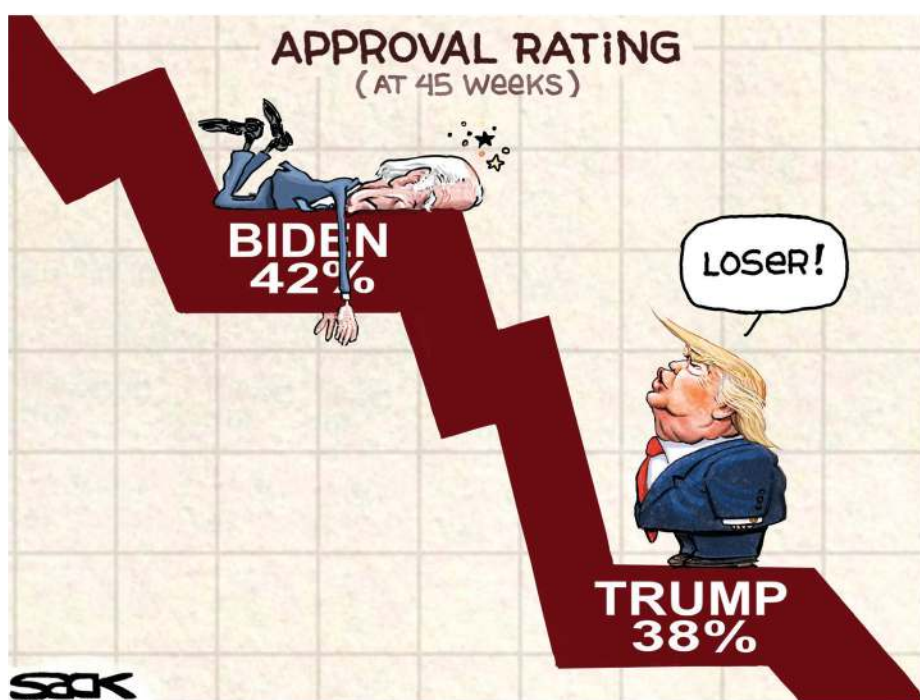
## CARTOONS



“People aren’t real.”

KUPER

Birds Aren't Real by Peter Kuper, PoliticalCartoons.com



Poll Cats by Steve Sack, The Minneapolis Star-Tribune, MN

### ← Puppies: German shepherds from puppy mill at risk, need your help from page 12

are kept. Consider from an established animal shelter. These animals long for a loving family.

Dogs represent one thing to a puppy mill: money.

These dogs may have to go back immediately. We're pleading for your help — consider a contribution into our designated fund helping the families purchase these dogs. As frustrating as this is, it's the only way to ensure they'll remain in their homes where there's mutual love. They were being sold for \$1,000, cash. The families

and humane organizations that took in these dogs did so out of compassion and empathy, knowing it was the right thing to do, but has cost them significantly.

Imagine if you were ordered to relinquish your own dog, not knowing its fate. The heartache is unimaginable. We can remedy this if we act immediately.

In the true spirit of the season, thank you in advance. Donations are tax deductible, and all funds will be used to help assure the dogs are not returned to a place where their keeping will likely be no better from

which they were rescued. The goal is to raise \$20,000, which may be conservative when costs are tallied.

VT Volunteer Services for Animals HS has a designated fund. Gifts are tax deductible. Checks can be mailed to: VVSA, PO Box 100, Bridgewater, VT 05034, please note: “German Shepherd” Rescue.

Know that it will be one of the most appreciated gifts one can receive for both two-legged and four-legged family members.

With sincerity,  
**Sue Skaskiw, VVSA  
Humane Society**

### ← Why homeless: Vermont political leaders act slowly, but can do good from page 12

Nine years later, when the Legislature took up same-sex marriage, there were enough votes to override the governor's veto and to make the right to same-sex marriage into law. With advocacy and commitment from our political leaders, our culture had evolved to the understanding that recognizing same-sex marriage was simply the right thing to do.

Similarly, our cultural understanding of homelessness is evolving. For many years, those who witnessed people becoming homeless have argued that housing is a basic human right; that to build healthy, thriving communities, housing for all must be our top priority.

But historically, many who did not live or work in proximity to people experiencing homelessness did not share that view.

The pandemic has begun to change that. Just recently, President Biden declared that housing should be a right, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge has urged that “housing is infrastructure.” Gov. Scott has characterized his housing budget as “the greatest investment in housing in the history of Vermont.”

Vermont's efforts to house all who were homeless during the pandemic allowed us to have one of the lowest infection rates before vaccines became available. Numerous studies show that housing is essential to health, and that homelessness causes and exacerbates trauma, mental illness, chronic health conditions and substance use disorders.

We have the tools to address these problems. It is time for the law to reflect what we now know to be true — that housing for all must be recognized as a basic human right.

Vermont ranks fifth in the nation for having the largest housing affordability gap, and that problem is getting worse in the current housing market.

### ← Dirty secret: We're not the environmentalist we portray ourselves as from page 13

Public Service which will guide state energy policy for the next five years.

Facing massive demand for new electricity consumption that will be needed as Vermont reduces climate-changing fossil fuel use by electrifying its transportation and weatherization sectors, the Department's Plan:

- Makes no mention using clean and reliable Vermont wind power
- Fails to recommend any new in state renewable energy use beyond the meager 10% already in state law
- Whitewashes Vermont's loss of renewable energy jobs every year since 2016 when incentives for solar energy started being reduced
- Inaccurately alleges that “Under any reasonable measure, the existing siting process allows well-sited generation projects to be built in Vermont”

By failing to recognize the need for new, homegrown clean energy sources, undercounting the clean-energy job loss, and misrepresenting the significant challenges facing those trying to build clean energy projects on private land, the department's plan is anything but “comprehensive.”

The Vermont Public Utilities Commission (PUC), charged with permitting renewable energy projects, wrote the most restrictive statewide sound standard for wind power in the country — effectively banning new wind projects in Vermont by, for example, requiring wind turbines to be roughly 100 times quieter than the FAA's “strictest” sound level for F-35 jets.

Renewable Energy Vermont members have long documented how the current permitting process for solar projects is unpredictable and unnecessarily time consuming and expensive for all but the smallest size projects.

For example, the PUC rejected a solar project in Manchester stating, “The Project would have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics... [because] The duration of the view for drivers [passing by it] would be approximately 26 seconds” and that “approximately 10 residences

or businesses near or adjacent to the Project site would have visibility of the Project.”

Similarly, the PUC denied a solar project proposed on a vacant, treeless lot next to an auto parts warehouse, self-storage facility and a gas station. The hearing officer denied the project because he reasoned that it would have an undue adverse effect on the aesthetics of the already heavily-developed area.

While these and other cases represent a relatively small number of denials, they have a substantial chilling effect on renewable energy developers and private landowners who abandon otherwise promising sites—including sites in already-developed areas where forest and other wildlife impacts are minimal—because of the uncertainty they create.

These project denials and other harmful PUC standards also harm our economy and our ability to fight climate change. Since 2016, when the PUC started decreasing incentives for solar power, Vermont has lost 1,421 jobs in the renewable energy field.

One could imagine the Governor's office taking very direct action if say over 1,400 Vermonters lost their jobs in the ski industry over the last five years with no end in sight.

If our state government doesn't allow solar panels next to warehouses and gas stations because of aesthetics or doesn't think it's ok for drivers to spend 26 seconds looking at solar panels as they drive by, it is impossible to see how Vermont will reduce our fossil fuel use enough to do our part in stopping climate change.

To reduce greenhouse gas pollution, we know the future will require increased reliance on cleaner electricity to power our cars and heat our homes without burning dirty energy sources that are making our planet less safe for humanity. Vermonters need a state government that truly leads on the fight to stop climate change by removing barriers to electricity from clean, safe, reliable, and affordable in-state renewables like solar and wind power. But the record is clear, Vermonters are not getting what we need.

# 'Real Rutland Feud' returns to the Paramount Theatre for 2022

RUTLAND—Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) recently announced the return of the annual local favorite "Real Rutland Feud" to the Paramount Theatre set for Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

The "Real Rutland Feud" is based on the popular TV game show "Family Feud." Unable to take place in 2021, this year's teams for the "Real Rutland Feud" are ready to take the stage for the event's fourth appearance in Rutland.

Executive director of the Paramount Theatre, Eric Mallette, will once again host.

"The staff at Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region look forward to the return of the 'Real Rutland Feud' which we promise will bring an evening of laughter and great entertainment to our community, while raising money for a great cause," said Lyle Jepson, executive director for CEDRR.

The event this year will feature 10 teams from local businesses and organizations that will go head-to-head to see who will take home the winning trophy.

Teams facing off in the 4th annual "Real Rutland Feud" will be:

- Castleton University vs. Community College of Vermont
- Housing Trust of Rutland County vs. NeighborWorks of Western Vermont
- Rutland County Solid Waste District vs. Intrinsic Property Services
- Rutland City Fire Department vs. Rutland City Police Department
- The Pines vs. The Gymnasium

Audience participation will take place during "Minute to Win It" just before the final lightning round and audience members will compete for prizes by mastering various challenges. Proceeds from the event will benefit CEDRR's regional marketing initiative, Real Rutland.

Tickets will go on sale Saturday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. for \$30 each and will be available during regular business hours at the Paramount Theatre box office or online anytime at [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org). For more information visit: [rutlandvermont.com/realrutlandfeud](http://rutlandvermont.com/realrutlandfeud).

## Two Vermont women found guilty of interfering with hunting, bear hunters were acting lawfully, courts rule

Two Groton residents were issued citations by a Vermont game warden on Nov. 11, following the investigation of an incident of hunter harassment. Both were found guilty of interfering with hunters on Nov. 22, in Caledonia Superior Court.

Topsham resident Theodore Shumway and two companions were hunting black bear with hounds in the 26,000-acre Groton State Forest near Noyes Pond on Oct. 9, 2021. A bear led the hounds onto private property before climbing a tree. The hunters entered the woods from

emergency call from Shumway to defuse the situation. A subsequent investigation by a Vermont game warden found the licensed and permitted bear hunters to be acting lawfully. The game warden cited Babic and Eastman with violations of Title 10 VSA 4708, Interfering with Hunting, Fishing or Trapping.

"Vermonters don't always agree on wildlife management, especially when it comes to big game," said Colonel Jason Batchelder, Fish & Wildlife's chief game warden. "Even so, I would ask that Vermonters respect one another's

constitutional right to hunt. Intentionally interfering with legal hunters in any fashion will result in court action, especially in a potentially dangerous fashion as we saw in this case."

The department supports public engagement with wildlife management through appropriate channels, including town government, the

legislature, and the Fish & Wildlife board.

"Managing Vermont's wildlife for a public with diverse values is a challenge and a privilege," said Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "I encourage all Vermonters to join me in remembering our shared passion for wildlife, no matter how different our practices or approaches may be, and to remain civil and respectful as we discuss these important conservation issues."

Babic and Eastman were each fined \$262 and will lose their license privileges for fishing, hunting and trapping for a year.

"I would ask that Vermonters respect one another's constitutional right to hunt. Intentionally interfering with legal hunters in any fashion will result in court action," said Colonel Jason Batchelder, VTF&W chief game warden.

Buzzy's Road and retrieved the hounds, leaving the bear in the tree.

On returning to his truck with leashed hounds, Shumway encountered Donna Babic and Betty Eastman releasing air from the tires of his truck. Following an argument between the parties, one of the two women allowed a German shepherd out of their vehicle. The loose German shepherd attacked and injured one of the leashed hounds, which required veterinary care.

Vermont state troopers responded to an



Courtesy the Vermont Army National Guard  
Map shows path of Santa convoy on Wednesday, Dec. 22.

## Santa's Convoy to delight children with Covid-safe parade

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, the Vermont Army National Guard will be escorting Santa Claus on a lighted convoy, through local communities starting and ending in White River Junction. The convoy will consist of an array of different military vehicles to include a wrecker, military ambulance, fork lift, 2-ton trucks, and a variety of other vehicles.

The convoy will leave White River Junction at 4 p.m. and travel to Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield, Cavendish, Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Clarendon, Rutland, Killington, Woodstock by 7 p.m. and then back to White River Junction.

The parade supports the governor's Vermont Lights the Way initiative and will give kids the opportunity to see Santa in a safe way. Follow the convoy and/or post your own pictures using the hashtags: #OperationSantasConvoy, #VTLightsTheWay, #861BCT.

## Chittenden Dammers upgrade grooming

The Chittenden Dammers, a local snowmobile club, recently completed the purchase of a 2020 Tucker SnoCat trail grooming machine. Replacing an older, less reliable machine. The new vehicle will be

used to groom the snowmobile trails to ideal conditions throughout the town of Chittenden. This portion of the trail system is highly used by local residents and tourists and is a vital corridor to neighboring towns.



Courtesy Chittenden Dammers  
The Chittenden Dammers snowmobile club has a new 2020 Tucker SnoCat to groom trails.

## ← **Groomers:** Technology aids operation, creating better surfaces from page 5

push large amounts of snow up some of the steeper terrain. Every time a skier or rider carves a turn, they push a little snow down the hill and to the sides. By conserving snow, the winch cat saves on snowmaking costs.

"The push-blades have improved from an old school U-shaped blade to the all-angle blades that we use today. They give us the ability to put the snow exactly where we want it.

"The Prinoth snow cats have developed by leaps and bounds. They are much more fuel-efficient. The Tier 4 Caterpillar diesel engines are much more environmentally friendly, and this year's new cat is a stage 5, which is an even cleaner burning engine. In addition, the wider tracks on the grooming machine make it easier for the cat to climb uphill and improved ergonomics are much more user-friendly for the operator," Kinney noted.

### In the groomer seat

Imagine being belted into a hi-tech molded seat, stereo on for company (maybe), heater blowing full force to keep your windshield from freezing. You're in the cab of a \$350,000 grooming machine and your mission is to groom snow into the wee hours of the night or early morn.

You enjoy your solitary life in the dark of night and only occasionally use your two-way radio — mostly you work in the peaceful silence of the night. If you see a fellow groomer heading up where you've already been, you signal them by rotating your top light to turn around and groom below. Occasionally, you have to connect with the snowmakers, blade them a path down the hill so they can get to the hydrants and guns without being buried in the snow they just made.

After four hours you take a break to refuel machine and body. You trade war stories with your grooming buddies and head back out into the night to finish rounds, if you're lucky. On the other hand, you might have a spate of freezing rain or six inches of snow that messed up the work you did four hours ago or even a few minutes before, necessitating that you go back over it. Or maybe the snowmakers made more snow on your trails so it might end up being a 12-hour shift.

It takes a real mountain person to love a job like this — someone like John Boudro who has a great fondness for the mountain and the job. Grooming is a snow-cat operator's kind of work. Quiet, peaceful, creative. You're your own boss and part artist as you maneuver the implements.

The challenges include watching for objects on the trail, depressions, stumps and ledge rock. If you hit something, you can get a good jolt from the impact and see stars. In the old days you'd slide around a lot on the hill, but the modern tracks have ice caulks, so that's rare now providing you're paying attention. These high-tech grooming vehicles are reliable. It's not like the 1970s when your machine broke down all over the mountain and you'd have to walk for help. Regularly at that! They are well maintained by mechanics who go over them thoroughly and wash them to remove the ice and snow from the tracks.

They have computers now so that as you touch your joy stick, you don't so much drive the machine as indicate to the computer where you want to go and how fast. The computer's diagnostics will even tell the mechanic what's wrong if the machine gets sick.

Consider, too, that you have to stay awake every night, and this can wreak havoc with trying to have a "normal" life. But the rewards include out-of-this-world sunsets and sunrises, animal life like the partridge that tried to hitch rides, and the occasional antics of humans.

If you're a groomer, you've seen it all; and just when you say that, something happens to make you laugh all over again. Like the fellow who skied down at 6 a.m. clad only in boxers and, half-frozen, had to be ferried to ski patrol.

But mostly you just enjoy carving the slopes in your own special way. Just you and your machine blending art and science to give skiers and riders the best possible snow.

## ← **Q&A:** Groomer John Boudro explains passion despite not skiing himself from page 5

mers. With 32 years of Okemo experience, Boudro still operates grooming machines in winter in addition to his other duties, has been part of the ski area growing to a major year-round resort.

"I have seen a lot of transformation in my years working here," he noted.

### Q&A with John Boudro

**Mountain Times (MT):** What are your job duties and responsibilities?

**John Boudro (JB):** As grooming and trail maintenance team leader my job duties are to take care of all the ski trails and make sure we have the best snow conditions possible. I organize cat operators and assign tasks at hand to make the best quality skiing possible. I also train new recruits to become the best groomers possible and give them the spark and fun of the groomer life.

"It takes a lot of teamwork to make this system work and come together," Boudro said.

**MT: What type of grooming machines and implements do you have in the fleet?**

**JB:** We have eight cats — one 500 hp machine called the Beast and six Bison cats and one winch cat for grooming steeper trails. Two cats are park cats for grooming our features in the terrain parks. The cats are all Prinoth machines.

We have a Zaug 18-foot pipe cutter to shape our halfpipe, and we also have a tubing lane cutter for the tubing park. What is exciting to see is the new technology coming around with hydrogen powered and electric battery powered cats.

**MT: What does it take to become a good groomer?**

**JB:** Somebody who is self-motivated and performs to the best of their ability. They need to be willing to learn, to work nights and in all

types of weather, and they have to have a passion for the outdoors. It is a bonus if they are able to ski and ride their finished product.

**MT: Do you have any female groomers?**

**JB:** We have one female operator now; we've had several in the past and I have enjoyed working with them and showing them this side of the ski business.

**MT: How many shifts do you have?**

**JB:** We run two shifts — one grooming 4:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m., the second 12:30 - 9 a.m.

**MT: What's a typical workday like for you?**

**JB:** A typical night is coming in and getting info from the trail sheet and from the night manager about snowmaking and any projects that need to be taken care of — like pushing snow in certain areas, then giving assignments to the cat operators.

**MT: What do you like about your job?**

**JB:** What I like is the satisfaction I get from the team's sense of pride and accomplishment when they produce the best quality snow surface possible for our guests.

**MT: What are the challenges?**

**JB:** Challenges are Mother Nature and the mountain itself and changing conditions... Training new talent for the future of grooming at Okemo can have challenges, too, but be very rewarding.

**MT: What changes have you seen?**

**JB:** The biggest change has been technology. It has advanced so much compared to the early years when I first started working in the ski industry. From snowmaking to snowcats and the way passes and lift tickets work now, it's just unbelievable.

**MT: What advice would you give someone who wanted to work at a ski resort?**

**JB:** Finding a mentor can be a big advantage. Barry Tucker, one of my favorite mentors, taught me a lot.

**MT: And to be a successful resort?**

**JB:** It takes a lot of teamwork to make this system work and come together.

## ← **Masks:** Killington contemplates mask mandate, whether to join 15 other towns enacting the mitigation effort from page 4

and some emails from residents in favor of a local mask mandate.

Resident Susan Durant told Select Board members that the eight current Covid cases in Killington are a warning that something should be done.

In the 10 months leading up to Dec. 8, 149 cases were recorded in Killington (2020 Census pop. 1,407). In other words, more than 10% of Killington residents have tested positive.

Select Board member Jim Haff, who recently contracted a mild case of Covid himself, said he is generally in favor of a mask mandate, but worries about enforcement — "Who? And how?" he asked. He suggested local businesses should set their own rules and enforce them in a manner they choose.

Killington and Pico Resorts are doing a good job of enforcing safe Covid behavior, Haff said, and they would prefer to maintain authority so they can make rapid rule changes as situations require.

Board member Chris Karr, who owns multiple restaurants in Killington, said his establishments have taken the

initiative with the current Covid surge, requiring all employees to wear masks, and encouraging patrons to do the same when not eating or drinking.

Killington Police Dept. Chief Whit Montgomery said his crew is currently down to two officers, and "enforcing a mask mandate [throughout town] would be an extreme burden."

Williston's mandate leaves enforcement up to police, and officers can issue warnings instead of handing out tickets.

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) offers two model mask mandates for use as templates — identical, except one includes penalties and enforcement provisions. Fines for first, second and third civil offenses are suggested (without amounts), along with an optional waiver — a lesser amount the defendant can pay with a guilty plea in lieu of contesting the fine. The maximum fine set by the ACT 1 statute is \$800.

Two of the 15 towns with mandates exempt churches. More general exemptions include: "children under 2 years," people whose disability

prevents mask wearing, people whose performance depends on being unmasked, and "any person while eating or drinking inside any establishment that serves food or beverage."

According to VLCT's Model Face Covering Rule Guidance, "... select boards [may] adopt a temporary rule that requires individuals within the town to wear face coverings while indoors at locations that are open to the public."

The Select Board can vote to adopt a mandate "at a duly-warned select board meeting ensuring that the action and a copy of the proposed rule are entered in the minutes of the meeting," posted five places and published in the town's official newspaper.

The first mandate must include termination in 45 days unless the Select Board votes to extend it 30 days. Subsequent board reviews every 30 days with votes to renew or rescind are required. On April 30, 2022, all local mandates will automatically expire, per the state law signed by Scott.

## ← **Harrison:** Local state rep previews Leg session from page 9

exacerbated during the pandemic, with staffing shortages in virtually every sector from healthcare to hospitality. Attracting more employees to Vermont will demand creative solutions.

- **Bottle Bill expansion:** Following House passage last session, the Senate may take up legislation to add deposits to water, juices, wine, and other beverages, making it one of the most expansive in the country.

### Political backdrop

With Congressman Peter Welch running to replace Patrick Leahy in the U.S. Senate, there is much interest in Welch's current seat in the U.S. House. Vermont Senate leader Becca Balint, D-Windham District and Democrat Lieut. Governor Molly Gray have already announced they are running. As it's been several years since Vermont had a vacancy in its federal delegation, more candidates are likely. Meanwhile, several names are also now surfacing for lieutenant governor, now that Gray has announced plans for her Congressional run after less than a year in her current office. Be on the watch for further developments and potential impact on Vermont legislation.

I want to wish everyone a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season and a better 2022. My regular updates will resume with the new session beginning in January.

Jim Harrison represents Bridgewater, Chittenden, Killington and Mendon in the state house. He can be reached at: [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](http://harrisonforvermont.com).



**WORDPLAY**

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

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

- AFRICAN
- CORN
- FEAST
- PRINCIPLES
- ARTWORK
- CREATIVITY
- GIFTS
- PURPOSE
- BLACK
- CROPS
- GREEN
- RED
- CANDLESTICKS
- CULTURAL
- HERITAGE
- RESPONSIBILITY
- COMMUNAL
- DETERMINATION
- HOLIDAY
- SYMBOLS
- COMMUNITY
- FAITH
- JOYOUS
- UNITY

**SUDOKU**

Solutions > 32

**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.

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

Level: Intermediate

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Solutions > 32

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chinese Muslim group
- 5. Alternative name
- 10. Resounds
- 12. Supporter
- 14. Furnishes anew
- 16. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 18. Supervises flying
- 19. Ballplayer's tool
- 20. Coarse edible red seaweed
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Basketball player
- 25. Travel necessities
- 26. Honey producer
- 27. Military analysis (abbr.)
- 28. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 30. Mental sharpness and inventiveness
- 31. Popular Easter meal
- 33. Man (Spanish)
- 35. \_\_\_ de la \_\_\_
- 37. Counterweights
- 38. Made a harsh, grating noise
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. Commercials
- 42. Cool!
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 45. Expression of creative skill
- 48. Unit of angle

- 50. Transported
- 52. N. American people of Kansas
- 53. Computer game character Max
- 55. Moved swiftly
- 56. Everyone has one
- 57. Tin
- 58. A mole is one
- 63. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 65. Oppositional to
- 66. Monetary units
- 67. Not on time

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Hoghead (abbr.)
- 2. Misery resulting from affliction
- 3. Defunction European group
- 4. Line on a map
- 5. Becomes less intense
- 6. Back muscle
- 7. Frosted
- 8. Ethiopian town
- 9. Midway between south and east
- 10. Wipe from the record
- 11. In a continuous way
- 13. Breathe
- 15. Cleaning device
- 17. Male organ
- 18. Tab on a key ring

			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					

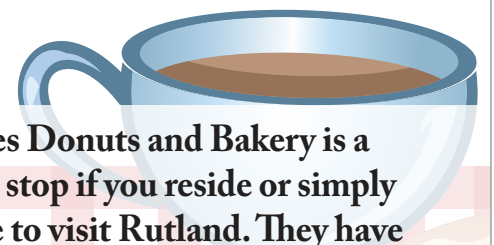
- 21. Criminals
- 23. Taxi
- 24. Cheer of encouragement
- 27. Wartime American escort carrier
- 29. Polish river
- 32. Current unit
- 34. Life form
- 35. Painful contractions
- 36. Glowing
- 39. Press against lightly
- 40. Melancholic
- 43. Something you can be under
- 44. Of the mind
- 46. E. Indian cereal grass
- 47. Couple
- 49. Sharpshoot
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. \_\_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Human gene
- 60. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 61. Examines animals
- 62. Mineral
- 64. Cools your home

*Guess Who?*

I am a doctor born in New York on December 24, 1940. I graduated from Cornell University Medical College. I am best known as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

*Answer: Anthony Fauci*

**JONES DONUTS**



**"Jones Donuts and Bakery is a must stop if you reside or simply come to visit Rutland. They have been an institution in the community and are simply the best."**

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 CLOSED MON. + TUES.**

**23 West St, Rutland  
 802-773-7810**



## CHRISTAMAS AT THE GRANGE THEATRE

DEC. 22-23 AT 2 & 7:30 P.M.

Artistree Arts Center

### Holiday Lights at the Vermont State Fairgrounds

6 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 South Main St. in Rutland. \$25/vehicle in advance or \$30/vehicle day-of price.

Celebrate the most festive season of the year when you pack the family station wagon and take a drive through the Vermont State Fairgrounds taking in the larger than life light display. This fifteen minute adventure features displays as tall as two and half stories and is guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit. Tune your radio to 89.3FM once you pull onto the fairgrounds at the entrance located just south of the Main Gates and enjoy a variety of holiday tunes and maybe a word or two from Ol' Saint Nick himself. Gates open at 6 p.m. Last entry is at 9 p.m. Enter at gates south of the Main Gates on South Main Street. For more info and to purchase tickets visit [paramountvt.org/event/holiday-lights](http://paramountvt.org/event/holiday-lights).

### Al-Anon and Alateen

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

### Christmas at the Grange

7:30 p.m. Artistree Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd in South Pomfret. \$40/person. Join Artistree for a fun-filled evening of Christmas songs and Holiday Broadway Hits! Your stocking will be filled with familiar musical treats and unexpected surprises that would even warm the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. The program highlights music from the Broadway Stage including Meet Me in St. Louis, The Sound of Music, Songs For A New World, and Mame; music from classic holiday film and television specials such as Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Home Alone; holiday standards from the likes of Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Phil Spector, and Stevie Wonder; carols and a sing-a-long! For more info and to purchase tickets visit [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org)

## THURSDAY, DEC. 23

### Baptiste Flow yoga

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

### Free Thursday Meditation

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

### Line Dance: Groovey Grannies

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

### Christmas at the Farm

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec.10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Circle of Parents

10 a.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual. Circle of Parents is a professionally facilitated, peer led self-help support group for parents and other caregivers. Participants meet weekly for 60-90 minutes online in virtual meetings. To find a group appropriate for you, call 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373) or 1-802-229-5724 or email [pcavt@pcavt.org](mailto:pcavt@pcavt.org).

### Tai Chi Level 2

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

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info call Pat 802-422-3368.

### Meditation for Your Life

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

### Drive-up pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$3.50 Donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. For more info or to make a reservation call 802-773-1853.

### Christmas at the Grange

2 p.m. Artistree Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd in South Pomfret. \$40/person. Join Artistree for a fun-filled evening of Christmas songs and Holiday Broadway Hits! Your stocking will be filled with familiar musical treats and unexpected surprises that would even warm the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. The program highlights music from the Broadway Stage including Meet Me in St. Louis, The Sound of Music, Songs For A New World, and Mame; music from classic holiday film and television specials such as Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Home Alone; holiday standards from the likes of Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Phil Spector, and Stevie Wonder; carols and a sing-a-long! For more info and to purchase tickets visit [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org)

### Tai Chi Level 1

2:30 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. Often described as "meditation in motion," it is a mind-body practice, originating in China as a martial art. This class is a fun, relaxing, and enjoyable way to move with mindfulness and enjoy the camaraderie of others while practicing. Call 802-773-1853 or email [aprilc@rutlandrec.com](mailto:aprilc@rutlandrec.com) for more info.

### Circle of Parents in Recovery

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Support group meets weekly online on Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. For more info and to join a group contact Amber at [amenard@pcavt.org](mailto:amenard@pcavt.org) or 802-498-0603.

### NAMI Connection peer support group

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info, visit [namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups/](http://namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups/).

### Circle of Parents for Grandparents

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

### Kids Yoga

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

### Holiday Lights at the Vermont State Fairgrounds

6 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 South Main St. in Rutland. \$25/vehicle in advance or \$30/vehicle day-of price. Celebrate the most festive season of the year when you pack the family station wagon and take a drive through the Vermont State Fairgrounds taking in the larger than life light display. This fifteen minute adventure features displays as tall as two and half stories and is guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit. Tune your radio to 89.3FM once you pull onto the fairgrounds at the entrance located just south of the Main Gates and enjoy a variety of holiday tunes and maybe a word or two from Ol' Saint Nick himself. Gates open at 6 p.m. Last entry is at 9 p.m. Enter at gates south of the Main Gates on South Main Street. For more info and to purchase tickets visit [paramountvt.org/event/holiday-lights](http://paramountvt.org/event/holiday-lights).

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

### Baptiste Flow yoga

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

### Fit and Fun exercise class

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

### Christmas at the Farm

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec.10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Movers and Shakers

11 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. This free program of low-impact exercise is designed for people with Parkinson's, or anyone else who wishes to maintain or improve flexibility, strength, and balance in a supportive and relaxing environment. Start your week off right and work out with us. Call 802-773-1853 to reserve your spot.

### Christmas at the Grange

2 p.m. Artistree Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd in South Pomfret. \$40/person. Join Artistree for a fun-filled evening of Christmas songs and Holiday Broadway Hits! Your stocking will be filled with familiar musical treats and unexpected surprises that would even warm the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. The program highlights music from the Broadway Stage including Meet Me in St. Louis, The Sound of Music, Songs For A New World, and Mame; music from classic holiday film and television specials such as Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Home Alone; holiday standards from the likes of Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Phil Spector, and Stevie Wonder; carols and a sing-a-long! For more info and to purchase tickets visit [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org)

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**Christmas at the Grange**

7:30 p.m. Artistree Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd in South Pomfret. \$40/person. Join Artistree for a fun-filled evening of Christmas songs and Holiday Broadway Hits! Your stocking will be filled with familiar musical treats and unexpected surprises that would even warm the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. The program highlights music from the Broadway Stage including Meet Me in St. Louis, The Sound of Music, Songs For A New World, and Mame; music from classic holiday film and television specials such as Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Home Alone; holiday standards from the likes of Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Phil Spector, and Stevie Wonder; carols and a sing-a-long! For more info and to purchase tickets visit [artistreevt.org](http://artistreevt.org)

**FRIDAY, DEC. 24**  
**Christmas Eve**

**Inferno Hot Pilates**

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

**Christmas at the Farm**

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec. 10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

**Rutland Winter Farmers' Market**

10 a.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West Street in Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market is proud to hold an indoor market in Rutland throughout the winter time. From farm fresh veggies to artisan cheeses, handcrafted breads, maple syrup, Vermont crafts, hot prepared food, and more - find it all at the indoor market. (Friday Dec. 24 and 31, otherwise held every Saturday) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Introduction to meditation**

11:30 a.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. Free. A variety of styles and techniques will be presented in a half hour intro to meditation class. Pre-registration required, call 802-773-1853.

**Episcopal Church of Our Saviour Christmas Eve Service on Zoom**

4 p.m. Online via Episcopal Church of Our Saviour at Mission Farm. (No in-person attendance). All are invited to join Mission Farm's Zoom Christmas Eve service at 4pm ET on Dec. 24 for carols, the Christmas Story and a short reflection on the incarnation of the Holy One born into the world on this day. For information and a Zoom link visit our website at [Missionfarmvt.org](http://Missionfarmvt.org).

**Christ the King — The Nativity of the Lord mass**

4 & 7 p.m. Christ the King, Rutland. Join us for The Nativity of the Lord mass. For more information, visit [rwcatholic.org](http://rwcatholic.org)

**Immaculate Heart of Mary— The Nativity of the Lord mass**

4 & 8 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rutland. Join us for The Nativity of the Lord mass. For more information, visit [rwcatholic.org](http://rwcatholic.org)

**St Patrick— The Nativity of the Lord mass**

4 p.m. St. Patrick, Wallingford. Join us for The Nativity of the Lord mass. For more information, visit [rwcatholic.org](http://rwcatholic.org)

**Killington Protestant Christmas Eve Service**

4:30 p.m. Killington's Little White Church, 4173 Route 4 in Killington. Free. Killington's Little White Church will host a Protestant Christmas Eve service. All ages are welcome at the service and masks are recommended.

**Ludlow Christmas Eve Service**

6 p.m. United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant St. in Ludlow. Free. The United Church of Ludlow will hold their annual Christmas Eve service. Adults, families and kids of all ages and faith backgrounds are welcome to join. This traditional service will feature scripture, lessons, music, and lighting of the Advent wreath. One of the highlights will be singing "Silent Night" together by candlelight. Please come to this beautiful sanctuary to take a break from holiday preparations and experience the joy and miracle of Jesus Christ's birth. Please contact the church at 802-228-4211 or [unitedchurch@tds.net](mailto:unitedchurch@tds.net) with any questions.

**Grace Congregational UCC Christmas Eve Family Service & Pageant**

6 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, Rutland. Free. (Limited seating, please pick up a ticket from the church office.) Celebrate the Christmas season with us. Join our Christmas Eve Family service & pageant with music from Grace Church children, youth choirs and instrumentalists. To keep everyone safe, attendance at each service will be capped at 350. Tickets for the early service are free but required, and are available from the church office. Masks & social distancing required.

**Killington Catholic Christmas Eve Mass**

7 p.m. Killington's Little White Church, 4173 Route 4 in Killington. Free. Killington's Little White Church will host a Catholic Christmas Eve service. All ages are welcome at the service and masks are recommended.

**Brandon Christmas Eve Service**

7 p.m. Brandon Congregation Church, 1 Carver St. in Brandon. Free. The Brandon Congregational Church will host a Christmas Eve service. It will be a traditional service of carols, lessons and candlelight with special music by the church choir, Gene Childers, director, and Jean Childers, organist. Masks required. For more info call 802-247-6121 or email [brandoncongregationchurch@gmail.com](mailto:brandoncongregationchurch@gmail.com).

**Grace Congregational UCC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

10:30 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, Rutland. Free. (Limited seating) Celebrate the Christmas season with us. Begin the evening with music of the season at 10:30 p.m. Candlelight service begins at 11 p.m. We will all share in the beauty and comfort of lighting candles and singing "Silent Night" as the wonder and mystery of Christmas unfolds. To keep everyone safe, attendance at each service will be capped at 350. Masks & social distancing required.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary— The Nativity of the Lord mass**

8 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rutland. Join us for The Nativity of the Lord mass. For more information, visit [rwcatholic.org](http://rwcatholic.org)

**St Patrick— The Nativity of the Lord mass**

10 a.m. St. Patrick, Wallingford. Join us for The Nativity of the Lord mass. For more information, visit [rwcatholic.org](http://rwcatholic.org)

**SUNDAY, DEC. 26**

**Original Hot Yoga**

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

**Christmas at the Farm**

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec. 10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

**Pentangle presents "House of Gucci"**

3 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock. \$9/ adult; \$8/child and senior; \$7/Pentangle member. House of Gucci is inspired by the shocking true story of the family behind the Italian fashion empire. When Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga), an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel the family legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge, and ultimately murder. All patrons, staff, and volunteers must show proof of full vaccination, 14 days past their final vaccination shot, or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within three days of the event. Masks required inside the theatre, regardless of vaccination status, except while enjoying Concessions. For more info and to buy tickets visit [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

**Poetry of Advent**

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Mission Farm Church invites all to join in a contemplative time of stillness and reflection relying on "The Poetry of Advent: An Advent Companion to Mary Oliver's "Devotions." Nestled between periods of silence will be poems by Mary Oliver, embodied meditation practices, and time for reflection on passages from scripture. Come and sit in the stillness of the season. Come and feed your spirit with the images of nature and of advent in the gentle way that Mary Oliver's poems invite. Gatherings will be held on Sunday afternoons in Advent from 4-5 p.m. For more info and to register visit [bit.ly/poetryofadvent](http://bit.ly/poetryofadvent).

**Holiday Lights at the Vermont State Fairgrounds**

6 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds, 175 South Main St. in Rutland. \$25/ vehicle in advance or \$30/vehicle day-of price. Celebrate the most festive season of the year when you pack the family station wagon and take a drive through the Vermont State Fairgrounds taking in the larger than life light display. This fifteen minute adventure features displays as tall as two and half stories and is guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit. Tune your radio to 89.3FM once you pull onto the fairgrounds at the entrance located just south of the Main Gates and enjoy a variety of holiday tunes and maybe a word or two from Ol' Saint Nick himself. Gates open at 6 p.m. Last entry is at 9 p.m. Enter at gates south of the Main Gates on South Main Street. For more info and to purchase tickets visit [paramountvt.org/event/holiday-lights](http://paramountvt.org/event/holiday-lights).

**MONDAY, DEC. 27**

**Nokian Green Tire giveaway**

All Day. Killington Resort. Free. Want to win a free set of Nokian Tires? Killington Resort looking to let the good times roll with the Nokian Green Tire Giveaway Scavenger Hunt. Tune into Killington's Instagram stories page on Dec. 27. Killington Resort will be providing clues throughout the day with one lucky winner taking home a set of 4 Nokian tires. Official details will be posted Friday night with scavenger clues beginning Saturday morning at 9:00am.

**Inferno Hot Pilates**

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

**LINE DANCING: COUNTRY**  
**AT GODNICK CENTER**  
**TUESDAY, DEC. 28 AT 9:30 A.M.**



**SATURDAY, DEC. 25**  
**Christmas**

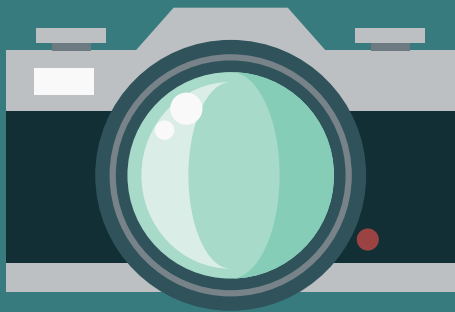
**Christmas at the Farm**

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec. 10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

**Christ the King — The Nativity of the Lord mass**

7:30 & 10 a.m. Christ the King, Rutland. Join us for The Nativity of the Lord mass. For more information, visit [rwcatholic.org](http://rwcatholic.org)

## Get



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email us: [editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)

← **Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info)  
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### Christmas at the Farm

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec. 10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. For more info visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, Rutland. Free. Meet at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum from 10-11:30 a.m. Snacks provided, siblings welcome. Find connection, education, and a community to share with. The community is here to support you during the transition of adding a new baby or child to your family or whenever you need a community of parents to listen! All parents including expecting parents and caregivers welcome. For more info visit [wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org](http://wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org).

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info call Pat at 802-422-3368.

### Drive-up pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$3.50 Donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. Call (802)773-1853 for information or to make a reservation for pick-up. For more info or to make a reservation call 802-773-1853.

### Bone Builders

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

### Open Discussion & Support Group for Frontline Workers

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

### NAMI Connection peer support group

7 p.m. Virtual. Free. Struggling with managing your mental health? NAMI Connection Peer Support Group can help. This is a free, 90-minute recovery support group for people living with a mental health condition. For more info., visit [namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups](http://namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups) or contact Nick Martin at [nickmartin@namivt.org](mailto:nickmartin@namivt.org).

### Pentangle presents "House of Gucci"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock. \$9/adult; \$8/child and senior; \$7/Pentangle member. House of Gucci is inspired by the shocking true story of the family behind the Italian fashion empire. When Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga), an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel the family legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge, and ultimately murder. All patrons, staff, and volunteers must show proof of full vaccination, 14 days past their final vaccination shot, or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within three days of the event. Masks required inside the theatre, regardless of vaccination status, except while enjoying Concessions. For more info and to buy tickets visit [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

# TUESDAY, DEC. 28

### Inferno Hot Pilates

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

### Line Dance: Country

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

### Christmas at the Farm

All Day starting at 10 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. Included with general admission. Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Billings Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display beginning Dec. 10. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby. On the farm, guests can meet farm animals in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting. Visit [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

### Foot Clinic

12:30-3 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland. \$10/person. Appointments will be made between 12:30-3 p.m. in 20 minute increments. Provided by VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region. Preregister for an appointment by calling the Godnick Center 802-773-1853 or visit [Rutlandrec.com/godnick](http://Rutlandrec.com/godnick).

### Knitting Group

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

### Kids' Corner holiday activities

4 p.m. 3rd Floor of the Snowshed Lodge at Killington Resort. Free. After an afternoon on the hill with the family, join Killington Resort this holiday season in the Snowshed base lodge for kid-friendly activities for the whole family to enjoy. Tuesday's activities include cookie decorating and a coloring corner. There will be live music for the big kids at heart. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### Chess Club

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

### Circle of Fathers

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Fathers Support Group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info contact Amber Menard, Family Support Programs Coordinator, at 802-552-4274 or [amenard@pcavt.org](mailto:amenard@pcavt.org).

### Circle of Parents in Recovery

5:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual support group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info contact Cindy Atkins, Family Support Programs Coordinator, at 802-498-0608 or [catkins@pcavt.org](mailto:catkins@pcavt.org)

### Grief support

6 p.m. VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office at 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland and virtually. Free. The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, (VNAHSR) will provide grief support services both in-person and virtually every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. at the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office on 7 Albert Cree Drive. Led by Spiritual and Bereavement Coordinator, Collin Terenzini. Space is limited. To register call 802-855-4533.

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### Birch Ridge

Serving locals and visitors alike since 1998, dinner at the Birch Ridge Inn is a delicious way to complete your day in Killington. Featuring Vermont inspired New American cuisine in the Inn's dining room and Great Room Lounge, you will also find a nicely stocked bar, hand crafted cocktails, fine wines, seafood and vegetarian options, and wonderful house made desserts. birchridge.com, (802) 422-4293.



### Choices Restaurant & Rotisserie

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



### Dream Maker Bakers

Dream Maker Bakers is an all-butter, from-scratch bakery making breads, bagels, croissants, cakes and more daily. It serves soups, salads and sandwiches and offers seating with free Wifi. At 5501 US Route 4, Killington, VT. No time to wait? Call ahead. Curb-side pick up available. dreammakerbakers.com, 802-422-5950.



### Inn at Long Trail

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Guinness not your favorite? They also have Vermont's largest Irish Whiskey selection. Visit innatlongtrail.com, 802-775-7181.



### Jones' Donuts

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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, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.



### Liquid Art

Relax in the warm atmosphere at Liquid Art. Look for artfully served lattes from their La Marzocco espresso machine, or if you want something stronger, try their signature cocktails. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, they focus on healthy fare and provide you with a delicious meal different than anything else on the mountain. liquidartvt.com, (802) 422-2787.



### Lookout Tavern

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### 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.



### Rosemary's Restaurant

Rosemary's Restaurant at the Inn at Long Trail is serving dinner Thursday through Saturday 6-9 pm, with casual fine dining specializing in comfort foods. Our chef blends the flavors of Ireland and New England, featuring locally sourced products. Enjoy the scenery of our indoor boulder and illuminated boulder garden view. Reservations appreciated. 802-775-7181



### Rutland CO-OP

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



### Sugar and Spice

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## [MUSIC Scene] By DJ Dave Hoffenberg

Listings for Dec. 22-28 (Some places require reservations, some proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test within 72 hours, so please call ahead before making a drive.)

<p><b>WED.</b> 12/22</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – DJ Dirty D</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 6 p.m. Du Jour VT – Sammy B</p> <p><b>POULTNEY</b> 7 p.m. Taps Tavern – Open Mic hosted by Danny Lang</p> <p><b>RANDOLPH</b> 7 p.m. One Main Tap &amp; Grill – Open Mic hosted by Silas McPrior</p> <p><b>RUTLAND</b> 9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Tom Irish</p> <p><b>SOUTH POMFRET</b> 2 p.m./7:30 p.m. Grangle Theatre – Christmas at the Grange</p>	<p>6 p.m. Liquid Art – Ugly Sweater Party with Killington's Best DJ: DJ Dave vs Rutland's Best DJ: Mike C to benefit KES</p> <p>6 p.m. Rivershed – King Arthur</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 6 p.m. Du Jour VT – BYO(Damn) Mic: Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand</p> <p><b>POULTNEY</b> 7 p.m. Taps Tavern – Krishna Guthrie</p> <p><b>PROCTORSVILLE</b> 5 p.m. Neal's Restaurant &amp; Bar – Sammy B</p> <p><b>QUECHEE</b> 6:30 p.m. The Public House – Trivia</p> <p><b>RUTLAND</b> 6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic hosted by John Lafave &amp; Chuck Booth</p> <p>9 p.m. Center Street Saloon – International Night</p>	<p><b>SAT.</b> 12/25</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 5 p.m. The Foundry – Christmas Carols with Brian Lynam on Piano 6 p.m. The Summit Lodge – Fiddle Witch</p> <p><b>SUN.</b> 12/26</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 5 p.m. The Foundry – The Foundry Jazz Trio 6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones 8 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Jenny Porter</p> <p><b>PITTSFIELD</b> 6 p.m. The Clear River Tavern – Duane Carleton</p> <p><b>PROCTORSVILLE</b> 4 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Sammy B</p> <p><b>STOCKBRIDGE</b> 1 p.m. The Wild Fern – The People's Jam with Rick Redington</p>	<p><b>MON.</b> 12/27</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 2 p.m. Snowshed Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto 6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with the Chris Pallutto Trio</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 6 p.m. Du Jour VT – George Nostrand 8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic</p> <p><b>PROCTORSVILLE</b> 5 p.m. Neal's Restaurant &amp; Bar – Sammy B</p>
<p><b>THURS.</b> 12/23</p> <p><b>BRANDON</b> 6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam</p> <p><b>CASTLETON</b> 6 p.m. Third Place Pizzeria – Josh Jakab</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto 5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton 5 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller</p>	<p><b>FRI.</b> 12/24</p> <p><b>CASTLETON</b> 6 p.m. Ice House Bar &amp; Grill – Silas McPrior</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 5 p.m. The Foundry – Christmas Carols with Brian Lynam on Piano 6 p.m. The Summit Lodge – Fiddle Witch</p> <p><b>QUECHEE</b> 5:30 p.m. The Public House – Gully Boys</p> <p><b>RUTLAND</b> 6 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller</p>	<p><b>TUES.</b> 12/28</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 2 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto &amp; Josh LaFave 6 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 6 p.m. Du Jour VT – Rebecca Turmel</p> <p><b>POULTNEY</b> 7 p.m. Taps Tavern – Open Bluegrass Jam</p> <p><b>QUECHEE</b> 5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager</p>	

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*Kings of Leon*

By Matthew Followill

## The non-fungible tokens craze, what is it and why has it taken off in the music/art scene?

By Bill Forman

When the Founders drafted the Constitution, they could scarcely have foreseen the arrival of household assault weapons, Senate filibusters or, in all likelihood, Kings of Leon sending a cryptographic video into space and then auctioning off the iPhone it was played on.

But all of these things have come to pass, one of the most recent being the Southern rock band teaming up with Elon Musk to shoot a "non-fungible token" of their self-esteem into the stratosphere.

To the credit of all involved, the money raised from last month's launch of SpaceX's Inspiration4 was donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It also earned tons of publicity for the band — the *Billboard* magazine headline "Kings of Leon Will Become First Band to Have an NFT Played in Space" was repeated, in various forms, by countless media outlets — just as they were reaching the midpoint of their 2021 tour.

This was not Kings of Leon's maiden voyage into the realm of non-fungible tokens (NFTs), a form of digitally certified art that's sold as a part of the cryptocurrency blockchain. Last March, the band rush-released its "When You See Yourself" album as a collection of digital NFTs, and were hailed by *Rolling Stone* magazine as the first band to do so.

Actually, that wasn't true — Devon Welsh's *Belave*, a virtually unknown indie band, beat them to the punch with the even-more-rushed release of an album called "Does the Bird Fly Over Your Head?" But Kings of Leon could at least take consolation in the more than \$2 million they raked in, a quarter of which they donated to Live Nation's Global Relief Fund for Live Music Crews.

One of the biggest debates, when it comes to non-fungible tokens, centers on the question of ownership. While an NFT "original" contains metadata that proves its authenticity, trademarks and copyrights are not part of the transaction. In

fact, the same content can be downloaded by pretty much anyone with a functioning internet connection.

So why, you may ask, would anyone buy them? There are a number of potential reasons. You may, for instance, want to show your support for the content creator. You might want to impress people by flashing the contents of your digital wallet. Or you may simply have too much money.

But the most powerful motivation for buying NFTs is the possibility of reaping huge profits by reselling them.

Think of it as the virtual equivalent of flipping foreclosed

During the first three months of 2021 alone, collectors and venture capitalists reportedly invested more than \$2 billion in NFTs.

homes, auctioning autographs on eBay, or clearing shelves of toilet paper so that you can jack up the price on Amazon during a pandemic.

NFTs can also give musicians an opportunity to profit from their work in artistic areas for which they're less well-known.

Grimes, the experimental pop artist who until recently was Elon Musk's girlfriend, netted \$6 million for "WarNymph Collection Vol. 1," a digital art series that portrays winged babies floating through space.

Space, as it turns out, is a recurring theme in the blockchain art world. Both NASA and the U.S. Space Force have released their own branded NFTs. And then there's Chris Torres, the creator of Nyan Cat, who pocketed \$600,000 earlier this year for an NFT of his Pop-Tart-bodied cat flying through space and leaving a rainbow trail in its wake.

During the first three months of 2021 alone, collectors and venture capitalists reportedly invested more than \$2 billion in

NFTs. So it's only natural that these once-obscure objects of desire have earned their fair share of derision.

"Many of the digital collectibles being traded on today's exchanges are, to be frank, crap," declared *Forbes* magazine with uncharacteristic candor back in 2018, a full three years before Nyan Cat made its big leap into the NFT art market. "People are creating things with no real value and attempting to bring value to them through tokenization. Think of the current overabundance of digital art. Unfortunately, the amount of demand is nowhere near the supply."

Of course, one need only look to fine art galleries to find works that are just as baffling as their cryptographic counterparts, yet have no shortage of buyers.

Consider Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan's "Comedian," a work of art that consisted of nothing more than a banana duct-taped to a gallery wall. The piece sold for \$120,000, prompting the artist to create a second and third edition, which also netted six-figure sales.

"Whether affixed to the wall of an art fair booth or displayed on the cover of the *New York Post*, his work forces us to question how value is placed on material goods," explained gallery owner Emmanuel Perrotin. "The spectacle is as much a part of the work as the banana."

Cattelan, meanwhile, claimed to have spent a full year laboring over bronze and resin versions of his sculpture before realizing that "the banana is supposed to be a banana."

No less unusual — but considerably more interesting — was Wu-Tang Clan's "Once Upon a Time in Shaolin," a 2015 album that the hip-hop supergroup released in a limited edition of 1 and auctioned off for \$2 million, with the stipulation that it could not be commercially released until the year 2103.

The winning bidder turned out to be Martin Shkreli, better known as "Pharma Bro," the former hedgefund manager who



← **Non-fungible tokens:** A new form of digitally certified art that's sold as a part of the cryptocurrency blockchain, called NFT, is taking the music world by storm from page 24

infamously acquired the manufacturing license for an HIV drug and upped its price by 4,000%.

Shkreli would later brag that he had no plans to actually listen to the album, but simply bought it to "keep it from the people." Not long afterward, he was indicted for securities fraud and sentenced to seven years in prison. The federal government seized his assets, including the album, which was sold this past July for an undisclosed amount.

Not surprisingly, Wu-Tang members are venturing into the non-fungible universe both individually and collectively. The group plans to issue a 400-page coffee table book about their legacy in the form of NFTs, while Method Man is releasing a series of comic book NFTs featuring exclusive artwork and unreleased music. Elsewhere in the hip-hop world, Death Row continues to release its 30th anniversary NFTs, while Def Jam co-founder Russell Simmons has launched "Masterminds of Hip Hop," a series that encodes never-before-heard recordings by artists ranging from Chuck D and MC Lyte to Big Daddy Kane and Grandmaster Caz.

But the most intriguing offering at the moment may be a freshly minted NFT by Pussy Riot, the Russian feminist band whose agitprop image might seem inconsistent with such entrepreneurial enterprises. The group recently issued "Virgin Mary, Please Become A Feminist," an NFT that combines hand-drawn images by co-founder Nadya Tolokonnikova with a digitized original copy of her two-year prison sentence for staging an anti-Putin protest in a Moscow cathedral.

The new NFT is a follow-up to a series of tokens from the band's "Panic Attack" video, the first of which sold for \$187,000, which the group donated to a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Russia.

As Tolokonnikova put it at the time, "I'm always looking for ways to support our activist art without being involved in institutions. NFTs are good because they claim that digital art is

art, and they actually show that there is value in something that no one can touch."

As 2021 ends its final quarter, an increasing number of artists

view NFTs as a more viable medium than YouTube, Facebook and Spotify combined. How long that will continue — for Pussy Riot, Kings of Leon or even Nyan Cat — remains to be seen.



Courtesy Wu-Tang Clan  
Wu Tang

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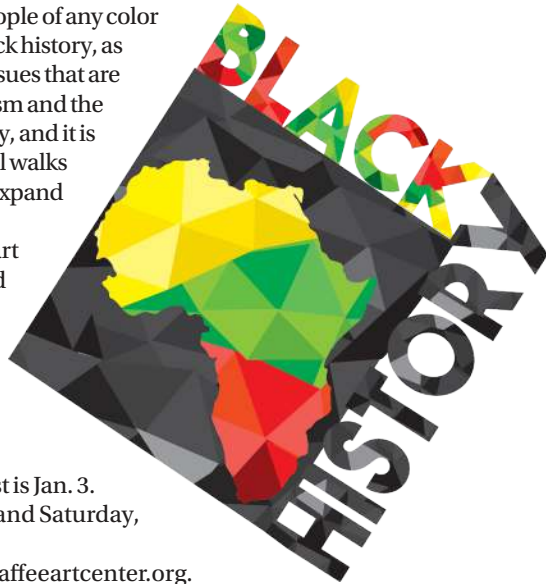
License sales support the conservation of Vermont's fish, wildlife and their habitat. Thank you!

## A call to black artists

February is National Black History Month that started as a method of remembrance with regard to the vital events and people in the history of the African diaspora. Today, it is an important month of both remembrance, recognition, and education. It is a time for people of any color to look at the incredible figures in Black history, as well as raising awareness about the issues that are still present in society in terms of racism and the rights that black people are affected by, and it is a great opportunity for people from all walks of life to broaden their horizons and expand their understanding.

The Chaffee Art Center believes art has the power to transform lives and communities. They are honored to invite Black artists to submit artwork or other creations for the Chaffee to display for their upcoming exhibit on Jan. 14 to Feb. 25, 2022.

Deadline to send emails of interest is Jan. 3.  
Artwork drop off is Friday, Jan. 7 and Saturday, Jan. 8, or by arrangement.  
Please send inquiries to [info@chaffeeartcenter.org](mailto:info@chaffeeartcenter.org).



## Expeditionary School winter events, 2021-2022

LUDLOW — The Expeditionary School at Black River is pleased to announce several festive winter events in the coming weeks and months with a little something for everyone.

Stemwinder and William Raveis VT Properties have partnered together on a signature cocktail whereby each establishment will donate a dollar for every drink sold of the libation, christened "Thyme for a Sparkler," from now until March 31, 2022.

On Thursday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m., Vermont's own renowned comedian Rusty Dewees, a.k.a. "The Logger," will host his Vermont-flavored standup at Calcutta's Restaurant located at the Fox Run Golf Club. Tickets are \$75 and include a light

dinner, proceeds will benefit ESBR. A cash bar will also be available courtesy of Calcutta's. Visit [esblackriver.org](http://esblackriver.org) for tickets, which can also be purchased at the door on the night of the event.

Finally, a captivating performance hosted by ESBR students will be presented on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. at the Ludlow Town Hall Heald Auditorium.

If you would like to learn more about the school or get involved, please contact Suzy Buckley, chair of the board, at [suzy@esblackriver.org](mailto:suzy@esblackriver.org) or Head of School Kendra Rickerby at [kendra@esblackriver.org](mailto:kendra@esblackriver.org). Visit their website [esblackriver.org](http://esblackriver.org). Donations can be made on the website or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 485, Ludlow, VT 05149.



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## Killington's 'Little White Church' to hold two services

Friday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. — KILLINGTON — Killington's Little White Church on Route 4 is hosting two Christmas Eve services on Friday, Dec. 24. The Protestant Service is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and the Catholic Mass is scheduled for 7 p.m. All ages are welcome at both services and masks are recommended. Both congregations wish you hope, peace, joy & love in this Advent and Christmas Season. Catholic Mass will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Day, and their Sunday services begin at 9 a.m. each week.

## United Church of Ludlow to hold annual Christmas Eve service

Friday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. — LUDLOW — The United Church of Ludlow will hold its annual Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24. Adults, families and kids of all ages and faith backgrounds are welcome to join. This traditional service will feature scripture, lessons, music, and lighting of the Advent wreath. One of the highlights will be singing "Silent Night" together by candlelight. Please come to this beautiful sanctuary to take a break from holiday preparations and experience the joy and miracle of Jesus Christ's birth.

The church is located at 48 Pleasant St., on the corner of Elm and Pleasant, in Ludlow. Handicap parking and access are available. Please contact the church at 802-228-4211 or unitedchurch@tds.net with any questions.

## Attend Christmas Eve service in the comfort of your home

Episcopal Church of Our Saviour at Mission Farm will be leading worship at 4 p.m. via Zoom. Please note that there will be no in-person attendance.

All are invited to join Mission Farm's Zoom Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24 for carols, the Christmas Story and a short reflection on the incarnation of the Holy One born into the world on this day.

You can even participate in our JOY slideshow for this special evening on Zoom! Send a photo or short video to lisa@missionfarmvt.org of something that brings you joy - your family, a beloved pet, your Christmas Cactus or something else that reminds you of the Holy in your life!

For information and a Zoom link visit our website at Missionfarmvt.org.

## Two Christmas Eve services at Grace Congregational UCC

Christmas Eve family service & pageant, candlelight service

Friday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. — RUTLAND — Celebrate the Christmas season with us at two Christmas Eve services. Join our Christmas Eve family service & pageant with music from Grace Church children, youth choirs and instrumentalists. To keep everyone safe, attendance at each service will be capped at 350. Tickets for the family service are free but required, and are available from the church office. Masks & social distancing required.

The Christmas Eve candlelight service is prelude by music of the season at 10:30 p.m.. The candlelight service will begin at 11 p.m. We will all share in the beauty and comfort of lighting candles and singing "Silent Night" as the wonder and mystery of Christmas unfolds. To keep everyone safe, attendance at each service will be capped at 350. No tickets will be required for attendance to the evening service. Masks & social distancing is required.

For more information, call the church office at 802-775-4301 or visit gracechurchvt.org.



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### Christmas Eve Service

at Episcopal Church of Our Saviour at Mission Farm  
4pm on Zoom (no in-person attendance)

All are invited to join Mission Farm's Zoom Christmas Eve service at 4pm ET on December 24 for carols, the Christmas Story and a short reflection on the incarnation of the Holy One born into the world on this day. For information and a Zoom link visit our website at Missionfarmvt.org.

You can even participate in our JOY slideshow for this special evening on Zoom! Send a photo or short video to lisa@missionfarmvt.org of something that brings you joy - your family, a beloved pet, your Christmas Cactus or something else that reminds you of the Holy in your life!



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## RUTLAND WALLINGFORD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Christmas Mass Schedule



**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
18 Lincoln Ave, Rutland, VT

**St. Patrick**  
218 N. Main Street, Wallingford VT

**Christ the King**  
66 S. Main Street, Rutland VT

### Christmas Mass Times

The Nativity of the Lord

Christ the King:	Christmas Eve	4:00 pm
	Christmas Day	7:00 pm
		7:30 am
		10:00 am
Immaculate Heart of Mary:	Christmas Eve	4:00 pm
	Christmas Day	8:00 am
St. Patrick:	Christmas Eve	4:00 pm
	Christmas Day	10:00 am
<u>The Holy Family</u>		
** There are no Masses on Saturday afternoon, December 25 **		
Christ the King:	December 26	7:30 am
		10:30 am
Immaculate Heart of Mary:	December 26	9:00 am
St. Patrick:	December 26	9:00 am
<u>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</u>		
(No Obligation This Year)		
Christ the King:	New Year's Eve	4:45 pm
Immaculate Heart of Mary:	New Year's Day	9:00 am

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# Rutland County Humane Society



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



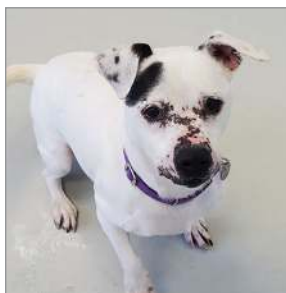
**CARIBOU — 2-year-old.** Neutered male. Lab mix. Black and tan. Energetic, sweet guy looking for forever home. I need a family that likes the outdoors and is active!



**JASMINE — 6-year-old.** Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Torbie. I like to be curled up napping. I love a good scratch.



**BUDDY — 4-year-old.** Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Grey/white. Special needs. I love to be around people and soak up all the attention I can get!



**DOTTIE — 3-year-old.** Spayed female. Terrier mix. Black and white. Perfect size for car rides, taking a nice long walk or curling up in your lap!



**DEXTER**

**4-year-old.** Neutered male. Hound mix. Black and tan. I love people and hanging out with them. Lots of leisurely walks with my family would be wonderful.



**EDWARD — 2-year-old.** Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger and white. I would prefer a home that is a little less active so I can just relax and enjoy my time with you.



**BUCKY — 3-year-old.** male. Boxer mix. Tan and white. I love people, playing with toys and just hanging out with my family.

All of these pets are available for adoption at  
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**GOOSE — 6-year-old.** Neutered male. Rotti mix. Black/brown. I am a lovely guy, funny and I have manners.



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## Please remember the homeless animals this holiday season

The homeless animals at the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would love to be added to your holiday list this year! Some of the items on this year's wish list include: animal bedding (new and used blankets and towels), 13 and 33 gallon trash bags, paper towels, brooms and dustpans, cat toys, litter pans, canned pate cat and kitten food, KMR formula, dog toys, soft/chewy dog treats, rabbit food, timothy hay, or gift cards to local pet merchants. RCHS is always in need of supplies for the animals and is grateful for your continued support. For more information, please contact the shelter at 802-483-6700 or check out our wish lists at [rchsvt.org](http://rchsvt.org). Thank you for remembering the homeless animals at the Rutland County Humane Society! Happy Holidays!

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# Cosmic Catalogue

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## **Aries** March 21 - April 20

Regardless of whether you're working this week or not, you might start contemplating your professional path as well as your overall life direction. This might be due to wanting different things than what you once did, or it may be a political situation at work that motivates the exploration of new possibilities. It could be your boss or a hierarchy that you're no longer available for. If being more independent or a more lucrative offer comes through — it may be worth taking!

## **Leo** July 21 - August 20

The tension between Saturn and Uranus may irritate your work-relationship balance this week. When you've got responsibilities, you're not one who likes to let others down. That said, you might need to let go of controlling a situation or thinking that others aren't capable of taking the reins in the right circumstances. Your time is valuable, and this week will reveal that once it's gone, you can't get it back. You'll be forgiven for doing tomorrow what could be done today.

## **Sagittarius** November 21 - December 20

So much is about to change for you. It's been two long years that your ruler, Sagittarius, has gone through a period of restriction and limitation. As Jupiter prepares to change signs, an inundation of opportunities may overwhelm you. As exciting and enticing as this may be, it will be helpful to start thinking about what you really want. Otherwise, your lucky streak may slip right through your fingers. You can't catch two rabbits at the same time.

## **Taurus** April 21 - May 20

The holidays might look different for you this year. That being said, if they are exactly the same, you might decide this will be the last year they are. You see, you're changing: your perspectives, your desires and the way the world opens up for you. It may not be fully apparent to you now, but you're ready for something new. If you slip back into a comfort zone, that will be your cue to head in the opposite direction.

## **Virgo** August 21 - September 20

A lightbulb moment may arrive that can help you find a solution or discover what it is you really want. It's your social life and the way you enjoy yourself that is especially highlighted. So, if a sudden invitation, a date, or the chance to let your hair down arrives, be sure to take it. Embarking upon the path less travelled this week may reveal refreshing changes you didn't know you needed.

## **Capricorn** December 21 - January 20

Generally speaking, your stars looked promising this year when it came to your money. While this cycle is about to end, new ones will open. As the old year becomes new, you're invited to invest not in stocks, bonds or real estate, but in yourself. What is it you want to learn, know or be? If there is a learning pathway that stirs your soul, look into it this week. It may provide more opportunities than you could ever imagine.

## **Gemini** May 21 - June 20

As much as it can be a joyful time of year, it can also be stressful. You might be questioning the amount of energy and effort — as well as money — you've been contributing, especially if it feels out of balance. Perhaps it's a financial power dynamic you're working through or how you'd like to set yourself up for the future. Whatever it is, in 2022, you'll have plenty of opportunities to put yourself back in the driver's seat, but you'll have to work through a few fears first.

## **Libra** September 21 - October 20

Solutions to problems can arrive in the most unlikely places. In other words, the solution you're looking for will likely be found in the issue you're avoiding. I know, confrontation is generally not your style, but it's in your best interest to tackle something head on. Thinking outside the box can also help you gain a new perspective. Be open to any and all ideas or information that present as the week begins!

## **Aquarius** January 21 - February 20

If you've stepped up and taken every opportunity that has presented to you this year, then you'll be rewarded for your efforts. Very soon, Jupiter is going to move into your money zone. This rare influence may feel like your ship is about to come in. There is still work to be done, so it's not entirely smooth sailing, but for now, decide which responsibilities you're willing to step up for and which ones you're ready to leave behind.

## **Cancer** June 21 - July 20

Relationships of all kinds are undergoing a profound process of reveal and renewal. Especially at this time of year, tensions can arise, and even more so when you have to play nice or be in situations you would rather avoid. Striking a balance between harmony and truth may be difficult, but if you can tap into your deepest feelings, you'll know the best choices for yourself. Clear communication may help you get out of any tricky positions, especially on Dec. 25.

## **Scorpio** October 21 - November 20

You're about to go through a cycle of self-development through relationships, personal or professional or both! This could be in an existing pairing or a new one. Right now, though, get to know yourself better. Question the things you always thought to be true. Be open to change, no matter how uncomfortable. The sooner you let go of all you think you are, the sooner you can embrace all that you could be!

## **Pisces** February 21 - March 20

This might feel like the longest week ever! If you're on holidays and enjoying the festivities, then this could be a wonderful thing! If you're ready to see the end of 2021, these next couple of weeks could feel like a really long time. Either way, start to visualize your hopes, dreams and desires for the upcoming year. If you avoid putting thought into this, an overwhelming number of options may leave you without choosing any.

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

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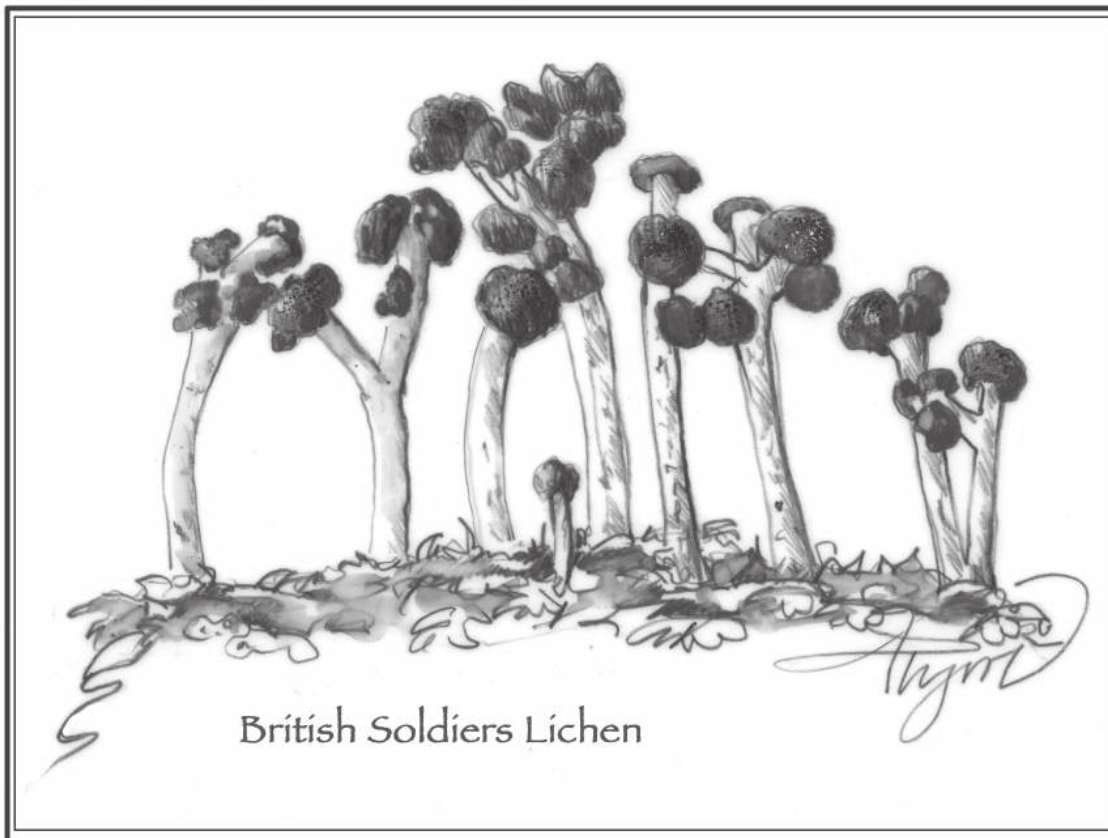
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British Soldiers Lichen

## Lichen colors offer protection

As I stroll through the cemetery near my home on a snowy day, splashes of golden orange, bright as daylilies in July, pop from the gray stones. These patches are elegant sunburst lichens, which provide a vibrant example of just how colorful lichens can be. Lichens come in a wonderful range of colors, from the subtle pale green of old man's beard to the brilliant yellow of goldspeck lichens. While these colors can be beautiful, they are also useful, as the pigments block harmful ultraviolet rays, allow lichens to absorb light as heat, and protect them from harmful microbes.

All lichens are a partnership of at least two microorganisms: a fungus and a photosynthesizer. Some of a lichen's apparent color comes from the presence of pigments, or colored chemicals, within the protective skin. This skin is called a cortex and is created by the fungal partner along the lichen's upper surface. Below this protective skin sits the photobiont: the photosynthesizing partner. If there is no special pigment in the cortex, lichens appear gray to grayish-green when dry.

When wet, however, lichens frequently change color dramatically, as the cortex becomes more transparent and the color of the photobiont shines through. Lichen photobionts can be different kinds and colors of algae or cyanobacteria, with their signature hues determined by their own set of photosynthesizing pigments, such as chlorophylls or carotenoids. Lichens with green algae partners often turn

grass-green when wet. Cyanobacteria photobionts are blue-green to blue-gray, but lichens with cyanobacteria partners often appear black and jelly-like when wet.

Lichens living in exposed habitats are more likely to have deep colors and contain higher levels of pigment in their cortex than lichens living in shaded habitats, suggesting that their colors protect against sunlight. Lichen photobionts are vulnerable to excessive light, especially ultraviolet rays.

The pigments found in the cortex of lichens can absorb or scatter ultraviolet wavelengths, shielding the photobiont like a sunscreen.

The most common brightly colored pigment found in the cortex of lichens is usnic acid, which gives lichens a pale yellowish-green hue. This is the classic color of beard lichens, those stringy clumps that hang from branches. Pale yellow usnic acid is best at blocking short wavelengths of ultraviolet light.

A category of pigments derived from pulvinic acid gives some lichens a brighter yellow color. The powdered sunshine lichen, which grows in frilly patches on both rock and wood, is a widespread northern example. The intensely yellow pulvinic acid pigments in their cortex block longer ultraviolet wavelengths.

Lichens that range from golden yellow to orange and bright red contain anthraquinone pigments. This is the pigment that gives the elegant sunburst lichen its summer-like hues even in the cold of winter. These pigments also give the British soldiers lichen its titular red tops.

Lichens containing melanin pigments will be shades of brown when dry. One example of melanin-containing lichen is rock tripe, whose large, brown flakes often grow on boulders and cliff sides. Melanin pigments act broadly, blocking a wider spectrum of light. Some lichen colors, particularly dusty white hues, come from physical structures on the lichen that scatter light, rather than from a chemical pigment. These structures can also protect against damaging levels of ultraviolet light.

Additional observations by lichenologists suggest that lichen colors may do even more than protect against sunlight. Lichens from northern regions with longer, colder winters tend to be darker than their hot-habitat counterparts, which may allow them to absorb light and keep that energy as warmth. Additionally, some lichen pigments, including usnic acid, have antimicrobial properties that can protect a lichen from attack by outside bacteria and fungi. Antimicrobial compounds likely give the slow-growing lichens a competitive edge in their harsh natural habitats.

While lichens are around all year, their small stature leaves them easily obscured by summer's exuberant plant growth. It may be long months before the flowers in our gardens bloom. In the meantime, I'll look for lichens' bright colors shining through the snow.

*Rachel Sargent Mirus lives in Duxbury, Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*



### The Outside Story

By Rachel Sargent Mirus

## Venus backtracking

During a week that represents family, celebration and the honoring of various faiths and traditions, it's one of the most intense weeks of the year, astrologically speaking.



**Cosmic Catalogue**  
By Cassandra Tyndall

Venus, the planet of love, romance and harmony hits the brakes and backtracks through the sign of Capricorn. As she does, she'll make a second connection, to the sky's dark lord, Pluto, on Christmas Day. This continuing cycle, until late January, is likely to unearth secrets, transform relationships and reveal new desires. You might recognize what no longer works within a relationship or family dynamic. Coming to the conclusion that you might no longer want what you once did is also possible. That said, the opportunity to face things with honesty and integrity can help change, heal and renew sugar-coated connections or false traditions.

2021's signature influence of Saturn square Uranus peaks once again, emphasizing the tension between what's old and what's new. For some, this will represent the opportunity to bask in the familiar and unchanged, the safe and certain, while for others, anything that feels restrictive or limiting may catapult you towards the risky, the exciting and the liberating.

## Is it time to be optimistic?

The University of Michigan's index of Consumer Sentiment (UMCSSENT) showed an increase in optimism in early December — and it had nothing to do with the Michigan Wolverines winning the Big 10 Championship for the first time in 17 years.



**Money Matters**  
By Kevin Theissen

The UMCSSENT was up (+4.5%) month-to-month, although it remained down year-to-year (-12.8%). Respondents were feeling a bit more positive about current economic conditions (+1.4%) and significantly more cheerful about the future (+6.8%) than they were in November.

When respondents were asked whether inflation or unemployment was a more serious problem in the United States, 76% chose inflation, 21% said unemployment, and the remainder couldn't decide or thought both were problems.

AII Investor Sentiment Survey showed that bullishness crept higher recently, but a larger percentage of investors are feeling bearish (30.5%) than bullish (29.7%). Almost 40% of those surveyed were neutral, meaning they were uncertain whether the stock market would move higher or lower over the next six months.

Some say this survey is a strong contrarian indicator, meaning the stock market may do the opposite of what survey respondents think will happen. In other words, if respondents were strongly bullish, the market might be expected to move lower over the next six months, and vice versa. The strong neutral reading indicates investors don't know what to expect.

TIM Group Market Sentiment Survey reflects the real-time advice that investment bankers, corporate financial advisors, and other sell-side firms are providing to clients. The week ending Dec. 12, 2021, survey respondents took a turn to the bearish. The survey's sentiment reading was 43%, down from 46.8% two weeks ago. (A reading of zero is completely bearish and a reading of 100 is completely bullish.)

What do you expect during the next six months?  
*Kevin Theissen is the owner of HWC Financial in Ludlow.*

# Taking an eye for an eye, or cheek for a cheek

Once baptized by John the Baptist and after he had first preached to citizens of Galilee, the man known as Jesus of Nazareth wandered up a mountainside and sat down. Later, legions of his followers approached in anticipation of hearing him speak.



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi

In his ensuing speech, Jesus laid out his beliefs and the central tenets of what would form the basis of Christian discipleship. When he finished, his followers labeled it “The Sermon on the Mount,” and to this day it remains one of the most famous and influential teachings in the history of mankind.

One of the most oft referenced lines from that sermon is as follows:

“But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Over the millennia, this has been watered down to the more well-known phrase, “Turn the other cheek,” which exists today in both religious and non-religious vernacular.

Many pacifists throughout history have quoted this biblical text and used it as the basis of their own belief systems. Both the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi said Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount provided the foundation for their political protests.

But is this approach applicable to a violent aggressor? Could we really be expected to turn the other cheek when faced with grave physical danger?

Gandhi expressed the intensity of his non-violent beliefs with this shocking quote at the start of World War II: “I want you to fight Nazism without arms or with non-violent arms. I would like you to lay down the arms you have. You will invite Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini to take what they want of the countries you call your possessions. Let them take possession of your beautiful island, with your many beautiful buildings.

You will give all these, but neither your souls, nor your minds. If these gentlemen choose to occupy your homes, you will vacate them. If they do not give you free passage out, you will allow yourself, man, woman, and child, to be slaughtered, but you will refuse to owe allegiance to them.”

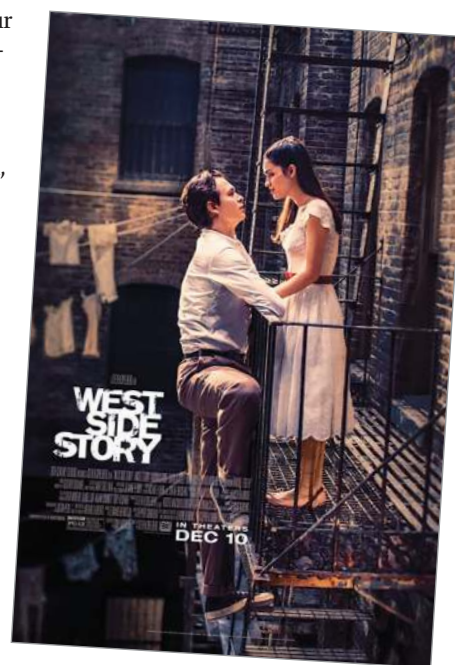
Granted it is with the insight of hindsight, but you would be hard-pressed to find someone who didn’t think the Allies made the right decision to fight the Nazis with overwhelming aggression. They did not turn the other cheek; they stared the Third Reich down and pummeled them.

So, while some, like Mahatma Gandhi, believe that violence is never the answer in conflict, others insist that Jesus was speaking figuratively and in no way meant that anyone should lie passively during criminal offenses or acts of military aggression. Like so many other lessons from the great theological and philosophical texts in history, the meaning you derive is many times the meaning you want to derive.

I can’t say that I’ve turned the other cheek much in my life, but I can see how the approach could lessen inflammatory situations. Instinct has always tended to dictate my reactions to stressful situations, so if you cut me off in traffic, I’m probably going to react with some type of hand gesture (and it won’t be a friendly wave).

And I certainly had a much shorter fuse as a youngster.

I can remember one instance where I literally did take a punch to the face and had the opportunity to turn the other cheek. But while Jesus may have wanted me to engage in



pacifist behavior, I opted for my own “cheek for a cheek” rule of retribution.

Like many high school “disagreements,” this one occurred in the boys’ locker room with an oversized bully. There was the prerequisite name calling and vulgarities before things got rolling with a quick punch to the side of my head. Luckily, I reacted quickly, as this kid’s tight-fisted swing only resulted in a glancing blow. Don’t get me wrong, it still hurt, but it could have hurt a lot worse if it was a direct hit.

My very un-Christian reaction was to counter with my own punch. And while I would like to boast about some innate fighting prowess and precise aim, it is much more likely that his big head simply got in the way of my fist.

The resulting blow dizzied him enough for me to tackle him onto the ground where we remained until our gym teacher broke it up. So, while I failed to turn the other cheek and no doubt also built up

some seriously bad Buddhist karma, my approach, at the very least, got this kid to leave me alone.

This week’s feature, “West Side Story,” revolves around this same type of conflict and how one small gesture can compound into a chaotic nightmare.

Steven Spielberg directs the remake of this 1961 classic, providing all the dancing, singing, and epic cinematography to satisfy purists and allure new fans alike. Check this one out if you’re a devotee of the original or love musicals in general — either way, you’ll likely find this production compelling.

A boisterous “B+” for “West Side Story.”

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

## Revisiting 'White Christmas'

“Vermont must be beautiful this time of year ...all that snow.”

What a great way to trick your best friend into heading up to Vermont for the holidays! The phrase gets repeated over and over again throughout the movie, as Danny Kaye successfully manipulates Bing Crosby into changing their plans from New York to Vermont. Crosby’s character repeatedly protests the change of plans, arguing they have work to do and commitments to keep. He’s cranky, having to pay for his tickets twice while two beautiful blonde sisters take over his sleeping compartment.

But Danny Kaye is quick to remind the ornery Bing that Vermont must be beautiful this time of year, all that snow. And, as they say, repetition is the key to changing one’s thoughts and patterns, because Bing slowly starts to change his tune when seated at a small table in the club car with two of the most beautiful women of the era: Vera Ellen and Rosemary Clooney. He finally gives in:

“It might not be bad at that, you know. The snow covered slopes, the skiing, the christians, and the stemming and the plating and the schussing. Hot buttered rum — light on the butter. And snow!”

And then the four of them break into a

song that, to this day, pops into my head as I lay myself down to sleep the night before a powder day. While I have never washed



**Livin’ the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman

my hair with snow, I do seem to recall being introduced to the wonderful tradition of a white wash on my birthday one year. You know, where a friend takes a bunch of fresh snow and rubs it in your face while screaming “happy birthday” with such glee that you cannot help but laugh even as your face freezes.

“White Christmas” is, in my mind, the most greatest holiday movie of all time. It’s the basis for every single Hallmark Channel movie: cranky New Yorker is forced to spend

the holidays at a quaint Vermont inn and reluctantly falls in love. And, of course, when they get to Vermont, there isn’t any snow at all. “We haven’t had snow since Thanksgiving,” the train guy says at the station. And I always laugh at that. Everything is stark brown — until the final scene when the snow comes pummeling down and everything is wonderful again.

Could this movie get any more Vermont-y? Wasn’t that just what happened this past week? My car literally had mud up to the windows from the rain; back to mud season... There was no snow to speak of,

Livin’ the dream > 33

## Season passes foster devotion: let’s not pass on an adventure

A score of day tickets clipped on a jacket may soon become iconic. In times past a stream of lift tickets often began many a conversation. Where did you ski this weekend? Do you ski often? That was times past. Nowadays this may soon become obsolete. Riding the gondola a few years back, a pass holder boldly announced that no day ticket holders should be allowed! Travelling for multiple publications, my ticket dangled boldly announcing my presence as outsider. I felt suddenly excluded. Sadly, while day tickets historically offered painless access to mountain resorts, this seems to rapidly be becoming old school.

Today, mountain access has shifted.

Season passes have always offered uninterrupted opportunities to access lifts and to build memories in a way day tickets cannot capture. While a season pass was once an exclusive domain for dedicated enthusiasts, passes were and are founded on the simple premise of offering some type of unlimited mountain access — or multiple mountain access — for a fixed fee. Historically, though, it limited a skier to one mountain.

New passes offer far-flung destination options.

Passes have always been appealing. My freshman year in college, on Dec. 26 I drove from our family home in southern New England to Okemo Mountain to pick up my first big-mountain pass. After a summer working, I planned a month of skiing while bunking in a local lodge. A week later, a casual friend suggested that in return for driving, I stay in his family’s nearby A-frame.

A month later I returned home two days before classes.

As winters passed, I enjoyed multiple different passes, from Okemo Mountain and Killington in Vermont to Loon Mountain in New Hampshire. In fact, after college I enjoyed a season pass in Colorado. While there were years in which I did not hold a pass as I worked as a ski instructor and coach, season passes remained attractive for many skiers.

As families and corporations — including the ski industry — struggle to cope with the effects of Covid-19, I wonder how many have made the deep dive this winter? As Covid led

Mountain journal > 33



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## Vermont Dept. of Health reminds Vermonters to keep children safe during holiday travel

Correctly installed car seats and proper use are key to arriving safely

The holidays are a time to travel and see friends and family. In addition to the special consideration we all must give to preventing the spread of Covid-19, Vermonters are reminded that this time of year also brings with it unpredictable winter weather and icy roads. Most car crashes in Vermont occur between November and January, which means it is important to make sure your children are safely buckled up, and car or booster seats are properly installed and secured, the Vermont Dept. of Health said in a press release Dec. 16.

Vermont data show that nearly half (47%) of child car and booster seats are not installed correctly, creating a risk of serious or fatal injury to children in the event of an accident. During this busy holiday season, health officials want parents and caregivers to be sure the car and booster seats are properly installed, and that children only transition to a seatbelt when they are big enough.

“Safety is the number one priority for our children,” said Stephanie Busch, injury prevention program manager with the Vermont Dept. of Health. “Whether your holiday travel plans involve driving to another state or just over the river and through the woods, we urge all drivers to make sure their kids are safe and secure in correctly installed car or booster seats.”

Busch noted a recent auto accident in the North Country that resulted in the death of a child who was in an adult seatbelt instead of the appropriate car seat.

“These incredibly tragic incidents highlight the real importance of fastening children appropriately,” said Busch. “Parents and caregivers can go online to [beseatsmart.org](http://beseatsmart.org) for a 5-step test that will help them to know if their child is ready for an adult seatbelt.”

Best practices for keeping children safe while riding in  
Child safety > 39

← **Livin' the dream:** White Christmas and the picturesque ideals of Vermont over the holidays continue to inspire  
from page 31

except for the white stripes that the snowmakers had made. And then we piled 12 inches of fresh powder on top of that. More often than not, we do have that White Christmas we're always dreaming of — but remember a few years ago when we were wearing shorts and flip flops?

I just love it so much. The song “White Christmas” was written in 1942 by Jewish immigrant Irving Berlin for the unfortunately racist film, “Holiday Inn.” It was the first secular Christmas song and its inclusivity has stood the test of time over the years, and Bing Crosby’s melancholic version became the No. 2 song of the 20th Century (after “Somewhere over the Rainbow” with Judy Garland). Written during World War II, the troops overseas loved the song for

its nostalgia and the remembrances of their families back in the states. Crosby would sing the song at U.S.O. shows throughout the war, while G.I.s had tears running down their faces. It defined a generation, but also their children and grandchildren.

When the movie “White Christmas” came out in 1954, audiences were primed and ready. The opening scene pays tribute to the song’s origins, having Bing sing to his fellow soldiers in the middle of a war zone. It’s eerily quiet as the accompanying music comes from a wind up box. And then to take the storyline from that moment to skiing in Vermont, with all that Christmas snow ... now that is some movie magic!

And what’s even cooler? Living here means that we get to live that

movie and that song every single year. As all the snow melted under the rain last week, I actually found myself mumbling, “Vermont must be beautiful this time of year ... all that snow.” But then I look at the 14 foot tall Christmas tree at the Birch Ridge Inn, I can see the snow falling down behind it, just like the final scene in “White Christmas.” The treetops glisten, and this Wednesday children will listen to sleigh bells as Operation Santa Convoy parades through the region.

As Bing Crosby so artfully sang, “I’d love to stay up with you but I recommend a little shut eye. Go to sleep. And dream. Of snow, snow, snow snow, snow!”

From my family to yours, may all your Christmases be white!

← **Mountain journal:** Season passes provide connection, loyalty to a mountain (or collection of mountains)  
from page 31

many to skip travel and put off new skis, and boots last winter, passes remain an opportunity for an escape from reality. With a pass, there’s no need to rush to arrive early or stay late. Urban and suburban ski escapes allow pass holders entry into a larger collective. It sounds club-like, but pass holders truly feel connected to the sport and mountain in a different way.

The downside to a pass involves the upfront expense. While passes once limited skiers to a single mountain, today’s resorts boast multiple acquisitions and alignments to the point that passes can now offer access to many mountains. It’s also clear that a season pass can

sometimes offer a reasonable “break even point.”

The Epic Pass offers access to resorts ranging from Okemo Mountain to approximately 65 resorts including Vail and Breckenridge in Colorado, Whistler Blackcomb in British Columbia, and Park City in Utah. The IKON Pass is similarly dazzling.

What remains true from years past to today is the idea that there is a special feeling of connectedness to a mountain that a skier possesses and that only a season pass affords. Years ago, my old ski friend and veteran weekend warrior Keith Morris told me just that when he joined me for a week at Killington.

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**HATE HOUSE CLEANING** or just too busy? Call Ms. Johnson. Over 25 years experience and current working references provided. Call 802-259-2411. Please leave message.

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**2 BEDROOM APARTMENT** in Bridgewater. Sleeps 4 comfortably. \$4000/season or can rent year round. Call Rudy 802-672-3719

**ONE BEDROOM** Bridgewater, off Route 100a. \$700/mo includes utilities. Call Rudy 802-672-3719.

**ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT** in Rutland. Office. Full Kitchen. LR & DR. Furnished & Turnkey. All utilities included. Available January. \$5000 a month. Terms & rates flexible. Call for details. 802-345-3913.



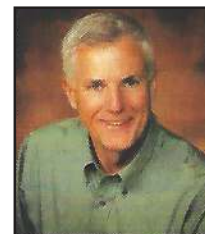
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**Gary Thompson**  
Associate Broker  
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**Cathy Quaglia**  
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- *Performance based Service that You can Trust and Rely on*



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MOUNTAIN TIMES

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BE THE OKEMO DIFFERENCE



**We Are Hiring!**

SNOWMAKERS START AT \$16/HR

LIFT OPERATORS START AT \$15/HR

FOOD & BEVERAGE STAFF START AT \$15/HR

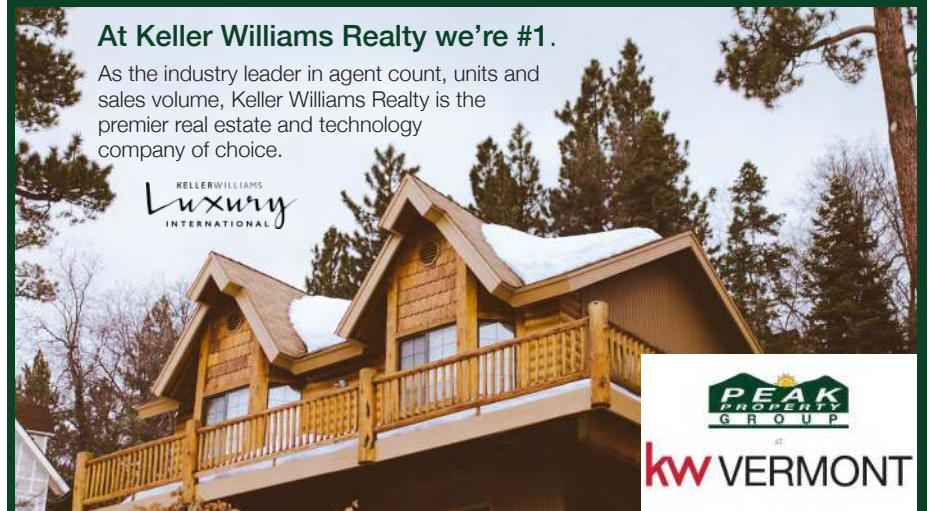


Jobs.VailResortsCareers.com/Okemo



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**MID-CENTURY MODERN MULTIPLE A-FRAME PROPERTY**

Originally built as a single family home in 1965, this property was enlarged and converted into a 10 room inn and restaurant by the current owners in 1997.

**KILLINGTON, VT | \$1,850,000 | MLS#4889615**



**RELAX AND ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL SPACE**

Renovated and beautifully appointed two bedroom, one and one half bath unit in Building 2 of Mountain Green includes ceramic tile and granite countertops in the kitchen.

**KILLINGTON, VT | \$279,000 | MLS#4890018**



**BUILD IN WYNNRIDGE AT EAST CREEK.**

This Craftsman style home offers 2,482 square feet of exciting interior. Bonus room over garage could add another 473 square feet if desired. Choose from a variety of lots.

**RUTLAND CITY, VT | \$929,000 | MLS#4847415**



**LIVE THE WINTER WONDERLAND DREAM**

This wonderful one bedroom at Mountain Green is just what you have been looking for with mountain views, a balcony, skylights in the bedroom and cozy wood fireplace.

**KILLINGTON, VT | \$194,000 | MLS#4892554**



# Prestige Real Estate of Killington

*Exclusively Killington!*

*We are excited to represent "Prestigious" properties*



## Base Camp at Bear Mountain

- 3000+ square feet
- Ski in/ski out townhomes
- Bear Mt ski trail views
- 4-bedrooms, 4-baths
- 2-car heated garage
- Starting at \$2,050,000



# #1 in Killington real estate sales!!!

### Homes

**196 Anthony Way**



**\$799,000**

- 3-bedroom 3-1/2 bath single family home
- 1.1 acre lot w/winter views
- Just off the Killington Road
- 2-car attached heated garage
- Backup generator
- Air conditioning in living area and master suite
- Tuning room
- Finished basement
- Hot tub
- Sauna
- Enclosed deck

### Condos

**394 Winterberry Rd - #2**



**\$599,000**

- Spacious 4-bedroom 3-1/2 bath townhome
- Views of Killington & Pico peaks
- Finished basement w/bonus room
- Hot tub on one of three private decks
- Beautiful stone-faced wood-burning fireplace
- Tons of storage space
- Strong short term rental income

### Land

**504 Elbow Road**



**\$159,000**

- 10.4 acres
- Design for 4-bedroom septic system
- Underground power & driveway

**Lot 4 – Gina Drive**



**\$248,000**

- 10 acres in the heart of Killington
- Permitted for 5-bedroom septic
- Beautiful mountain views

**2922 Killington Road**

**802.422.3923**

**[prestigeKillington.com](http://prestigeKillington.com)**



Kaitlyn Hummel  
802-353-6665



Heidi Bomengen  
802-342-0355



Liz Pulsifer Sailer  
802-353-5555

# The Glades at Killington

## Custom Family Home Sites



Scan



to view the property.

- Private, single-family home sites
- Spectacular views of the mountains of Killington and the valleys beyond
- Ski home, enjoy hiking and mountain bike trails
- Custom and green home designs
- Property management, complete year-round service with house checks



### Mountainside Properties

2023 Killington Road, Killington, VT 05751  
 mountainsideproperties@aol.com  
 mountainsidepropertiesvt.com/glades/  
 802-236-1360

### 47 M<sup>C</sup>CLLEN DRIVE, MULTI FAMILY KILLINGTON, VT



Scan QR code to view listing.



This gorgeous, deeded 2-family, 7 bedroom ski chalet has undergone a complete renovation. The upper unit is a 2-level mountain oasis with open living space with 2 beds and full bath on the 1st floor and another 2 beds, bath & laundry on the 2nd. The lower unit features 3 beds and 1 full bath with beautiful new shaker kitchen and open living space, complete with brick propane fireplace, plank flooring, barn-board accent wall and fashionable finishes and fixtures. **\$999,000**

Call for a private showing of this property.  
**802.422.3610 killingtonvalleyrealestate.com**



**Bret Williamson**  
BROKER, OWNER



**Judy Storch**  
BROKER



**Sarah Vigneau**  
REALTOR®



**Killington Valley Real Estate**



[www.TheHeightsatKillington.com](http://www.TheHeightsatKillington.com)

**The Heights at Killington is the Most Exciting New Development in Years.** Offering 24 well-designed townhomes in six architecturally compelling buildings. Each townhome is comprised of over 2000 square feet on three levels with an oversized one-car garage and optional central air conditioning for year-round comfort. The great room and balcony offer magnificent long range views of the surrounding Green Mountains; granite and stainless are standard in the gourmet kitchen; main level office is perfectly suited for the work-from-home economy; hot tub, furnishings and upgrade packages available. With just four new luxury townhomes planned for Phase 2, you'll want to secure your home purchase now with a non-binding, refundable reservation. Please call today for more information. Photos and video are of an existing Phase 1 unit for reference purposes only. Phase 1 complete - now taking reservations for Phase 2. **Offered at \$895,000.**



**Kyle Kershner**  
Broker/Owner



**Jessica Posch**  
Realtor



**Daniel Pol**  
Associate Broker



**Jane Johnson,**  
ALHS, ASP(r)  
Realtor



**Edward Herson**  
Lic. Assoc.  
R.E. Broker



**KILLINGTON PICO REALTY**

2814 Killington Rd.  
 802-422-3600  
[www.KillingtonPicoRealty.com](http://www.KillingtonPicoRealty.com)



**Child safety:** The Vermont Dept. of Health reminds parents of the importance of child seat safety during holidays from page 33

- vehicles:
- Children under age 13 should always ride in the back seat.
  - Use the "5 step test" to determine when children are ready to use an adult seatbelt. (Visit [beseatsmart.org/stage4/seat-belts.php](http://beseatsmart.org/stage4/seat-belts.php))
  - Vermont law requires children to be in a child safety seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old, but older children may need to use these until they are bigger.
  - Keep children in a forward-facing harnessed seat until they exceed the manufacturer's height or weight limit.
  - Once children outgrow their harnessed car seat it is time to use a booster seat. At a minimum your child should be at least 5 or 6 years old to transition to a booster seat but waiting until they exceed the height or weight limit of their

- forward-facing car seat is safer! Keep children in their rear-facing convertible car seat until they exceed the manufacturer's height or weight limit. You may need to transition your child from a rear-facing only seat (the ones with the

to keep our child warm and safe in their car seat: [healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Winter-Car-Seat-Safety-Tips.aspx](http://healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Winter-Car-Seat-Safety-Tips.aspx)  
You can also have a nationally certified child passenger safety

Vermont data show that nearly half (47%) of child car and booster seats are not installed correctly, creating a risk of serious or fatal injury to children in the event of an accident.

- carrying handles) to a rear-facing convertible seat to maximize the protection your child can have by riding rear-facing.
- Bulky clothing, including winter coats and snowsuits, should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat. Learn more about how

technician perform a free check to see if your child is riding safely: visit [beseatsmart.org](http://beseatsmart.org) and click on "Car Seat Inspection Stations in Vermont." For more tips to keep kids safe in cars, visit [healthvermont.gov/emergency-preparedness-ems/injury-prevention/child-passenger-safety](http://healthvermont.gov/emergency-preparedness-ems/injury-prevention/child-passenger-safety).

Scan to view my collection of fine homes!

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# Cheers to 2022!

**Happy New Year to all of our clients - past, present and future. We can't wait to help you achieve your real estate goals in 2022!**

**Sue Bishop**  
802.558.2180

**Mandolyn McIntyre**  
802.417.3187

**Merisa Sherman**  
802.345.0487

**Wendy Pallotta Heald**  
802.558.0854

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**FOX HOLLOW – 1-LEVEL 2BR/2BA UNIT**

- 1-level, 2BR/2BA, woodburning fplce
- Gas range, lots of storage, Propane heat
- Kitch w/double sink, wood laminate floors
- On site: Paved parking, Outdr Pool&Tennis
- Located diagonally across to Pico entrance. Furnished & equipped. Turn key. \$240K

**ON DEPOSIT**

**HAWK MTN HOME – PITTSFIELD**

- 3BR/2BA, 1.3AC, furnished & equipped
- Private, on cul de sac
- New septic tank, pump system being installed now. New Water Heater. New Electric baseboards throughout.
- New shake shingle roof. \$279K

**ON DEPOSIT**

**LOCATION – UPDATED – TURN KEY**

- 4BR/2.5 BA
- 1,736 finished sq.ft., 1 Ac.
- NEW: flooring, kitchen appliances
- Updated baths, Vintage Fireplace & Chimney
- Furniture, 7-person hot tub, etc. ...
- Make an appointment to view this well-located, furnished & equipped home today \$575K

**ON DEPOSIT**

**PLYMOUTH - POST & BEAM HOME**

- 3BR/3BA, 2,467 finished sq.ft, open floor plan
- Vaulted ceilings, radiant heated wood floors
- Mudroom, laundry, bonus room, cti vac, alarms
- Unfinished walk-out basemnt w/radiant heat
- Gig-spd I/nst, metal roof, mostly furnished \$765K

**ON DEPOSIT**

**SNOWGOOSE CONDO - STOCKBRIDGE**

- 3 BR+LOFT/2BA, 1,720 SQ.FT.
- Woodstove, lots of natural light
- Washer/dryer, deck, furnished
- Near: skiing, golf, snowmobiling, I-89.
- Common area: basketball court & River Beach access \$219K

**MTN GREEN - LOCATION- LOCATION!**

- MAIN BLDG: 2BR/2BA. includes: a Lock-out en suite
- Rent 1 RM & keep rest for yourself
- Ground level, open door, let dog out
- In bldg amenities: pool, steam room, hot tubs, racquetball crt, restaurant, ski shop. \$299K
- BLDG 2, 1BR/1BA: \$175K

**LOCATION - LOCATION - LOCATION**

- 2BR+office, 3BA, 2,250 SQ.FT.
- Winter Ski Trail Views, wet bar, rRadiant heat, circular driveway
- Gas range, laundry rm, unfurnished - Deck ready for your hot tub \$750K

**KILLINGTON LOT – CLEARED & READY**

- 1AC, driveway in place
- Land cleared & areas seeded
- 5BR septic design approved
- Mtn bike trails, Green Mtn Natl Golf Course, Kent Pond, all nearby \$149K

**SHREWSBURY- LOCATED BETWEEN KILLINGTON & OKEMO**

- Short drive to downtown & Rutland Reg Med Ctr
- Well-maintained, 3BR/2BA 3,600 finished sq.ft. home.
- 10-ACRES, man-made POND. Lower level of home w/radiant heat as does 2-car garage (with a "man-cave" in mind) w/ dryer on 2 levels. Back up GENERATOR, 384 sq.ft. DECK, Vinyl siding & windows, recent roof replacemnt. \$490K

**NATURE ENTHUSIASTS – HAVE YOUR OWN PLAYGROUND!**

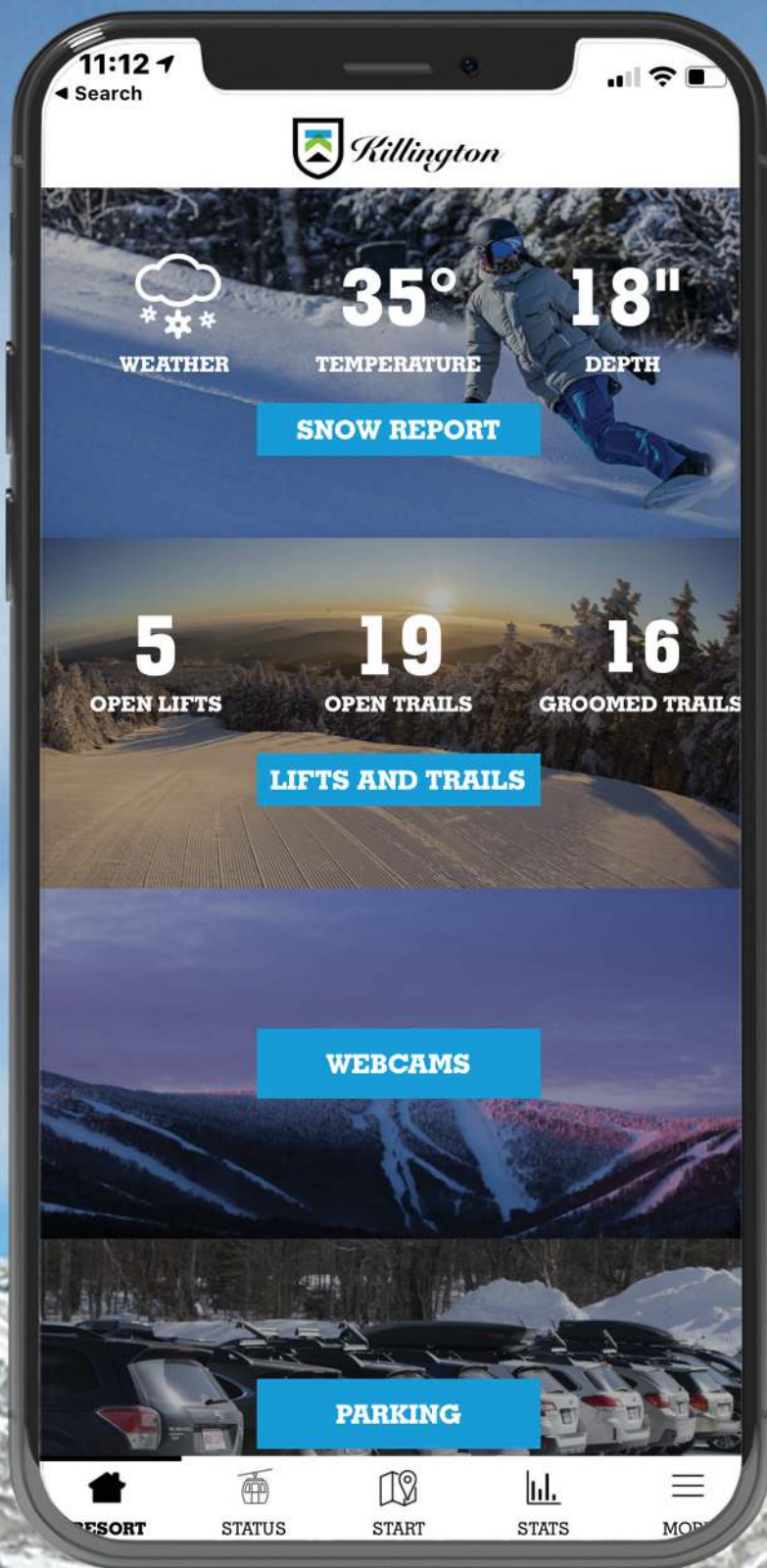
- Hiking, biking & VAST snowmobile trails on the 118 Acres. May have Timber Value
- 118 Acres – with views of Killington
- Walking distance to town
- 3BR/3BA shown by appt. only \$948K





# DOWNLOAD THE KILLINGTON APP

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DAY AT **THE BEAST.**



- Real-time lift & trail status
- Real-time weather data
- Real-time lift wait times
- Track your ski day & season and see how you stack up against the Killington Leaderboard
- Find and track your friends on the slopes
- Send dynamic messages to your friends and family based on your location

**Get the App**

