

January June December  
Covid in Vermont 2021  
0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+

### SURGE OF COVID CASES CONTINUE

Protect yourself and others this holiday by being Covid-safe. Follow the trends and minimize your risks at: [healthvermont.gov/covid-19](http://healthvermont.gov/covid-19).

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Enjoy a look back on 2021's most memorable news stories and photos before the debut of 2022. **Page 23**



**NEED A JOB? YOU'RE IN LUCK!** Hundreds of jobs at dozens of area businesses are available. See postings in the classifieds section. **Page 52**

## Living ADE

**ARTS, DINING & ENTERTAINMENT** Local events not to miss including a variety of New Years celebrations! **Page 16 & 44**

# Happy New Year

By Polly Mikula

New Year's is a time to reflect on the previous year and celebrate the arrival of a new one.

Last year at this time — about nine months into the pandemic when Covid case numbers were reaching (then) record highs — we were hopeful that the end of Covid was around the corner. Vaccines for all adults were on the horizon and most pundits were confident that we could *and would* vaccinate the virus away. Surely by 2022, life would be back to normal... most believed.

Well, now we know that's not how it turned out. Going into 2022 with case numbers in Vermont three times higher than they were last year at this time, hope has waned. The odds of eradicating Covid are now slim.

But we have learned a lot about the virus and how to live with it, variants and all. We no longer have to close schools or businesses to keep each other safe: Wearing masks inside and staying home when sick is sufficient, vaccines work to prevent serious illness (but only for about six months, then a booster is required) and testing is crucial to curb community spread.

Most of us in Vermont feel lucky. We kept case

numbers low (until recently) and the vast majority (85%) age 5+ have been vaccinated, with over half (55%) now boosted, which has made us a leader on the CDC Covid scorecard in nearly every category.

Vermonters also enjoy a large variety of outdoor recreation year round, and we've been able to continue enjoying such Covid-safe fun through the pandemic. Partly because of that, more and more people seek to live the Vermont lifestyle permanently. Our schools, businesses and communities have grown — reversing a decade-plus long decline in population. Many businesses are now thriving — and many new ones have opened.

Just like nearly everything in life, some good comes from the bad and vice versa.

As author Jackie Viramontez aptly quipped: Sometimes "shit hits the fan so fertilizer can rain."

However you choose to honor the past year and celebrate the future, we hope you do so safely and respectfully and approach the debut of 2022 with hope.

## Downtown Rutland welcomed 13 new businesses in 2021

By Ethan Weinstein

Amidst the year's pandemic tumult, business is thriving in Rutland's downtown.

"We're beginning to see a revived vibrancy," said Lyle Jepson, executive director of the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR). "What's exciting to me as someone who would call himself no longer young, is that there are young people who are excited

Downtown > 2

## Refugees to arrive this month

State says Afghan refugees will start to resettle in Rutland over the next few weeks

By Ethan Weinstein

Several families of Afghan refugees will settle in Rutland next month, according to the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI).

USCRI has been coordinating with Rutland organizations, such as Rutland Welcomes and the school system, to prepare for the families. Business leaders are also ready to hire the new Afghani Vermonters once they arrive.

"I think that what we will find is that the people are coming will have skills, and that they will be ready to be hired," said Lyle Jepson, the executive director of the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR). "Communication has been very good about what's happening when it's going to happen."

About 80 refugees have already taken up residence in Vermont, and another 80 are

Refugees > 6



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# State: Everyone Eats program will continue through April 1

Program supports hungry Vermonters and local restaurants, farmers, food producers

The state of Vermont has granted an extension through April 1, 2022, for Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE), the innovative Covid-19 response program that provides meal assistance to Vermonters while supporting local restaurants, farmers, and food producers.

### Rutland County

Vermont Farmers Food Center, Rutland County's food hub, has distributed over 190,000 nutritious meals to community members negatively impacted by Covid-19, as the acting Rutland County hub for the state VEE program. Averaging around 3,000 meals per week in Rutland County, the program has injected \$1.93 million into county restaurants. All meals are prepared with a portion of locally sourced ingredients by local restaurants, and have been distributed through VFFC's West Street campus and partnering satellite sites since August 2020.

### Windsor County

The program in Windsor County is operated by the VEE "hub" Upper Valley Everyone Eats (UVEE), administered by Vital Communities. Since September of 2020, with the partnership of over 45 Upper Valley food assistance distribution partners, UVEE has distributed over 147,000 meals to Upper Valley Vermonters experiencing food insecurity. The program pays partner restaurants \$10/meal, meaning the

volume of meals today equates to nearly \$1.5 million in revenue for hard-hit local restaurants — a much needed form of stimulus in these challenging times. Ten local restaurants have prepared meals for UVEE since the program began; current participating restaurants and food businesses include Global Village Foods (Quechee), The Little Grille (Bradford), Maple Street Catering (White River Junction), Tacocat (Randolph), and the Windsor Diner (Windsor).

Everyone Eats was inspired by grassroots initiatives from communities across Vermont. Originally designed as a five-month program, VEE has been extended multiple times to mitigate high levels of food insecurity and economic instability exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis. In July 2020, Vermont lawmakers allocated funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to launch Vermont Everyone Eats and the program was subsequently extended with FEMA funding. Vermont Everyone Eats is operated through a network of community hubs located throughout the state. Since the start of Vermont Everyone Eats, 14 community hubs have worked with 260 restaurants sourcing ingredients from over 300 farmers to distribute over 1.9 million meals to Vermonters all over the state.

For more information about Vermont Everyone Eats, visit [vteveryoneeats.org](http://vteveryoneeats.org).



Courtesy Downtown Rutland Partnership

Downtown Rutland is busier than ever with 13 new businesses arriving in 2021. Looking down Center Street is a pretty sight.

**← Downtown:** Empty storefronts in downtown Rutland are disappearing fast, more business expected, too  
from page 1

about opening stores in the downtown, that are investing in downtown."

According to Nikki Hindman, the executive director of the Downtown Rutland Partnership, 13 businesses opened or relocated to downtown Rutland in 2021. The Mountain Times covered many of them.

Wild Kind Toys moved into the long-vacant space once held by Sabby's Pasta House. The kids' store already has a thriving e-commerce business and opened its doors in time for the holiday season.

Manchester-based Arson Skate Shop opened its West Street location in June, filling a need in a community that loves skating in the summer and snowboarding in the winter.

Four Seasons Sotheby's, an international real estate agency, moved its Rutland regional headquarters from Route 7 to downtown.

GreenSpell plant shop opened on Center Street in December. Own-

ers Calista and Brian Budrow were attracted to the area through CEDRR's Real Rutland marketing program, which seeks to attract prospective residents and connects them with likeminded locals. Not only did Calista open GreenSpell, but her husband Brian renovated the upstairs space to be a short-term rental unit, adding much-needed beds to downtown.

Hindman also noted that businesses opened in Rutland at a similar rate in 2019, revealing sustained growth.

Businesses haven't just come to the heart of Rutland City, they're also staying here. Deputy City Clerk Tracy Kapusta said that no businesses holding food or alcohol permits closed during 2021, demonstrating the strength of the city's brick and mortars.

Looking ahead: In the new year, Masala Corner, an Indian restaurant, will move into the space once held by Coffee Exchange, on the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street. The restaurant

will fill arguably the most glaring vacancy among downtown storefronts.

It will be the second Indian restaurant in Rutland, joining Little Havali on No. Main Street. Masala Corner will offer primarily table seating. Little Havali mostly does take out.

While the growth of businesses signals even better things to come in Rutland, housing — or lack thereof — is a critical issue stymieing further success.

Although housing is more affordable and available in Rutland than other Vermont cities, finding manageable rentals for low and moderate income renters is a struggle. Jepson expressed excitement about the Vermont Housing Improvement Project, administered locally by Neighborworks of Western Vermont. The program provides up to \$30,000 to rental owners to bring their properties up to code, and should, according to Jepson, increase the availability of affordable housing.

# COVID Protection... Simplified

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  - c. **Call Your Doctor If You Test Positive or Become Very Ill**



**All of Us Wish All of You a Safe & Happy 2022**  
*Thank you for doing your part to help us get through this unusual time*



Courtesy Gifford Medical Center  
Gifford Medical Center in Randolph serves patients across central Vermont including those in Rutland and Windsor counties.

# Flu returns to Vermont after taking a year off

By Liora Engel-Smith/VTDigger

As Vermont braces for the Omicron variant of Covid-19, influenza appears to be making a comeback.

Roughly 1 in 10 people tested for respiratory symptoms in Vermont had the flu in mid-December up from about 3 in 100 people the first week of the month, according to the Vermont Dept. of Health.

Vermont had virtually no influenza cases in 2020. Health Commissioner Mark Levine credited that trend to higher-than-average influenza vaccination rates and to corona-

Flu season in Vermont typically runs from October to May, cases peaking in January and February.

virus control measures — including masking and crowd restrictions — that helped keep the flu at bay.

Flu season in Vermont typically runs from October to May, cases peaking in January and February.

The return of influenza is of particular concern this year as the state contends with an unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations from the highly contagious Delta variant and much more transmissible Omicron variant.

Much is still unknown about the severity of illness from the new variant, but a rapid rise in cases — and hospitalizations — threaten to overwhelm the state's health care system. In the United Kingdom and Denmark, where Omicron has taken hold, new Covid-19 cases have been doubling every four days.

In-person holiday gatherings, a big catalyst for coronavirus, also create fertile ground for flu transmission. This year's influenza vaccine also offers less protection than usual against the dominant flu strain that's circulating in the U.S. this winter, raising concerns about a Covid-19 and flu "twindemic."

Though the influenza vaccine may not prevent infection, experts say it reduces the chance of serious illness. Vermont is contending with its largest coronavirus surge to date, averaging just more than 400 new infections per day, and hospitalizations have risen since the beginning of the holiday season.

# Covid: A Gifford point of view

By Curt Peterson

Dr. Josh White, chief medical officer at Gifford Medical Center, told the Mountain Times costs attributable to Covid total "well into millions." The financial expense of the virus is important, but isn't the only significant toll on providers.

Located in Randolph, Gifford is part of a network of six healthcare facilities throughout central Vermont, and an essential source of wellness, treatment and repair for some of our readers. Randolph is in Orange County, but patients come from Rutland and Windsor counties, which are experiencing the surge in Covid cases disproportionately, ranking two and three among Vermont's 14 counties.

Gifford has 25 licensed hospital beds, but "availability," Dr. White said, "is dependent on nursing staffing and acuity."

Gifford doesn't have an intensive care unit (ICU).

ICU facilities are necessary to handle severe Covid cases that can lead to death. The Covid death count in the U. S. recently exceeded 800,000, which is nearing 1 of 300 Americans, and 1 of 100 Americans over age 65.

A small hospital, Gifford has one "hospitalist team" managing all patients, including those with Covid-related illness.

"On any given day there is one physician, one [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse/Physician Assistant]," Dr. White said. "Typically they will try to give a single nurse the Covid patients at any given time, such that s/he is not moving back and forth between Covid and non-Covid."

As of Dec. 20, there were no Covid patients at Gifford, but that can change daily.

Everyone is required to be masked within hospital walls. Staff wear N95 masks, eye protection, gowns and gloves when with patients. Visitors are allowed to see patients one at a time.

Gifford invests heavily in Covid management outreach, providing "Drive-through free testing, ... independent contact tracing, monoclonal antibodies, numerous education media pieces, and vaccination/booster clinics."

In spite of the obvious effort, dedication and investment by administration and staff, protecting people

"We cannot accept as many patients as we otherwise might, as we don't have the nurses to care for patients," said Dr. White.

Covid > 18

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# Skiing is a way of life for Karl Thomas Acker

By Karen D. Lorentz

When you talk with skier Karl Thomas Acker, he readily admits that he got the ski bug from his Pico experiences. Lots of people can lay claim to that, but Acker's experiences were truly unique.

And there may have even been a "ski gene" thrown into the mix along with a lot of Pico history that resulted in a ski passion that became a way of life.

Pico owner/operators Brad and Janet Mead opened Pico on Thanksgiving Day 1937 and searched Europe for someone to teach skiing. They watched Swiss racer Karl Acker win every race they saw — he specialized in Slalom — and talked him into operating the Karl Acker Ski School at Pico starting in 1938.

Acker met and married Rutlander June Thomas and in 1949 their son, Karl T., was born. In addition to teaching June and son Karl to ski, Acker also taught Andrea Mead to race and became her coach. (She is famous as a two-time Olympic gold medal winner at the 1952 Olympics in Oslo.)

Acker also started the Pico Derby as part of Pico's racing events and helped Mead operate Pico when Brad Mead died in a boating accident. Eventually Acker and Mrs. Mead purchased Pico in 1954. They were living at Pico atop the Troll Top base lodge so little "Tommy" grew up there until Pico was sold in 1964.

The younger Acker attended school at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rutland and would catch the Vermont Transit Bus to Pico after school. Then he'd "ski and sometimes hike up and run gates on B slope after the lifts closed," he recalls.

Acker was in the Pico Ski Club race program since age 6 when it was coached by Joe and Anne Jones.

"My father and Joe were in 10th Mountain Division together and Joe co-founded the Mid-Vermont program. It was a defining time and I stayed in racing in the USSA circuit. I went to Junior Nationals one year on the Eastern team. I was competitive and enjoyed it," Acker noted.

After graduating from Rutland's MSJ Academy in 1967, Acker spent two years at Johnson and Castleton state colleges

pursuing skiing and ski racing. He left school to race. He lived in Killington and worked at Southworth's Ski Shop and raced on the professional B circuit for two years before transitioning to coaching at Killington full time.

After two years, he coached at Pico for a season and then at Elk Mountain (Pennsylvania), Stratton Mountain School (Vermont), and Park West (now Canyons) in Utah. In 1988 he returned to Killington and coached racing until retiring 20-plus years later.

**Q&A with Karl Thomas Acker**

**Mountain Times: What was it like growing up at Pico with the mountain your backyard?**

Karl Acker: Pico was in my front yard — the backyard was the parking lot because my bedroom faced the slopes.

Growing up there was great having access to the mountain skiing in the winter when it snowed, access to being in the mountains in summer and hiking and hanging around and bothering the workers as a kid.

**MT: Did you help out at Pico?**

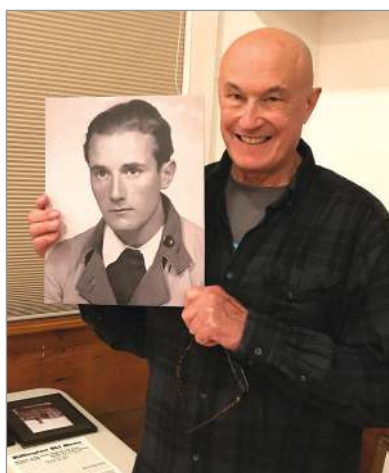
KA: You mean when did I switch over from being a nuisance to a helper? My mother sold Pico when I was 15 so I was never gainfully employed there because I was busy with school and racing. I did drive a tractor when 10 or 11. The Oliver tractor was used to pack snow. It had 4-foot long pads bolted onto tracks to pack snow and was used to mow trails in summer and could tow trailers around. It was primitive but helpful for a variety of things. I drove it in summer. One day I got adventurous and had it in neutral but then couldn't get it into gear to stop and crashed it into a lift tower. The workers never let me forget that.

**MT: How did skiing affect your life?**

KA: It became my life, simple as that.

**MT: As a coach what were coaching duties and responsibilities?**

KA: Being a coach meant helping kids maximize their skills, which included teaching them new skills to improve their technique. You used what you knew from being an athlete and racer yourself — back then you didn't have the educational manuals, clinics, and



By Karen Lorentz

Karl T. Acker holds a photo of his father at a Pico history event this past fall.

requirements that coaches have today.

Every weekend we took kids to races — coaching encompassed a range of teaching opportunities. You could influence young people's lives on and off the hill

**MT: From your perspective what does learning to ski or race do for a person?**

KA: Learning the skills leads to a lifetime sport if you enjoy it. You don't have to race to enjoy it.

When you learn to love to ski it can lead to an appreciation for the outdoors and the weather and learning how to handle the weather.

**MT: What did you like about coaching?**

KA: Working with athletes, enjoying the ups and downs, and helping them go on to a higher level if skilled enough and watching them grow as human beings.

**MT: What do you like about skiing in general?**

KA: It's fun. The new ski equipment and groomed trails on a sunny day — make that a day with reasonable visibility. It doesn't get any better. It's been in my blood my entire life and I still enjoy it.

**MT: What are the greatest changes you've seen in skiing? at Pico?**

KA: The biggest change I've seen is the ski equipment. It has enhanced the fun factor because it makes it easier to ski. Obviously snowmaking and grooming are big changes, too. Lift service is another biggie.

The biggest change at Pico: everything. Lift upgrades, snowmaking, grooming machines, the base lodge. Every mountain has gone through that same progression of improvements if they are still in business.

**MT: From your perspective, what have Pico and Killington done for the greater Rutland area?**

KA: Provide jobs, increase tourism, and improve the local economy. The areas provide employment opportunities for those interested and attracted to being in the ski industry and that has led to the Castleton University Ski Area Management program.

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Submitted

Karl T. Acker's "front yard" growing up was at Pico Mountain. Skiing was his life.

## OBITUARY

## Remembering Billy Giles

By Anita Lobel

William Edward Giles, a country gentleman, an adventurous world traveler and entrepreneur, an easy New Yorker, was born in Windsor on July 31, 1946. He died at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City on Sept. 25, 2021 after an eight year struggle with progressive anti-MAG peripheral neuropathy, a disease that chips away at the nervous system, at first gradually, and then with increasing speed robs the body of much of its function.

Billy's father, Edward Giles, was a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. His mother, Tina Laskiewich, a first generation White Russian immigrant, was a home maker.

A much loved only son, Billy had a typical and

happy childhood of a native Vermont country boy. As a young man he hunted with his father and friends, enjoying the camaraderie of deer hunters, the cabin, the sleeping in the woods. In high school he excelled at sports. On the football team Billy played quarterback. He was a good swimmer and a fine skier. After high school graduation, intending to follow in his father's footsteps, Billy entered Norwich Military Academy.

When his attendance at Norwich was cut short by an illness during the second semester of the freshman year, he transferred to Castleton State College (now Castleton University), where, attending

Giles &gt; 56



Submitted  
Billy Giles in Paris, 1996,  
under the plaque Rue Saint  
Guillaume.

## Bernard L. Pierce, 81, celebrated

Bernard L. Pierce, 81, born in Pittsfield and grew up in Woronoco, Massachusetts, and was a long time Killington resident died peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021.

Bernie loved to golf, travel, spend time with family and especially his grandchildren. He always stayed current with the news and stock market. He enjoyed a good joke and storytelling with friends and family.

He was also a Killington legend with 60 years as a lead bartender that created the Killington Goombay Smash. He was a hard working self-made man with many great accomplishments such as building houses, running a lawn care business, and enjoyed his last job as a care taker.

He was the son of the late Harold and Bertha (Baumann) Pierce. He is survived by three daughters: Rebecca Pierce, Heather



Bernie Pierce

Pierce, Leslie Mobrize and her husband David; and a son, Bernie Jr Puza, and his wife Kathy; seven grandchildren Alexandra, Gage, Haven, Ryan, Christina, Brandon, Nicholas; and two great grandchildren, Jackson and Sienna. He is also survived by a sister, Brenda Csekovsky, and husband Andy, and two brothers, Alan Pierce and wife Carolyn, Wayne Pierce and

wife Debbie.

He will be missed by many and remembered as always having a smile on his face.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Bernie's memory may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, [apdaparkinson.org](http://apdaparkinson.org). Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center of Avon, Connecticut, has care of the arrangements. For condolences: [carmonfuneralhome.com](http://carmonfuneralhome.com).

← **Refugees:** Afgan to be resettled in Rutland in January, USCRI director said from page 1

expected within the next two months, Amila Merdzanovic, the Vermont USCRI director, told the Rutland Herald.

When the U.S. government pulled armed forces out of Afghanistan in August — ending the 20 year war — it put many Afghans who had assisted the U.S.'s military operation at risk, creating a refugee crisis. More than 70,000 refugees have already moved stateside or will soon resettle in the U.S.

Rutland Welcomes is one of the main organizations involved in the local resettlement process. The group is an informal organization that was first established in 2016 to help support refugees from Syria and Iraq who moved to Rutland. Carol Tashie, one of the group's organizers, described Rutland Welcomes as a "loosely organized group of people interested in creating a welcoming environment for new Americans joining our community."

Through their Facebook group and email list, the organization has distributed a spreadsheet outlining items that people can donate. Many of the needed donations have already been received, but more remain. The group has also been successful in finding volunteers to house the new arrivals before they settle into their own apartments.

For more information on how to support Rutland's refugees, visit [facebook.com/groups/rutlandwelcomes](https://facebook.com/groups/rutlandwelcomes).



Submitted

Karl "Tommy" Acker, age 2, with his parents, Karl and June Acker. Karl Acker died in 1958 and June operated Pico until selling the resort to the Beldens in 1964.

← **Acker:** Karl T. Acker grew up at Pico, has made a living and a life skiing from page 5

**MT:** Besides skiing what do you enjoy?

KA: The outdoors—fishing, target shooting, motorcycle and mountain bike riding, paddle boarding.

**MT:** As a retired coach, what do you enjoy about skiing the most today?

KA: Meeting people and sharing the history of the area and my parents' involvement.

I donate a Pico ski history tour for Vermont Adaptive's fundraising campaign. I've made some good friends from doing that. I will tell a history story to anyone who is interested and I enjoy it when they thank me for sharing it.

**MT:** What advice would you give someone

who wanted to work at a ski resort or move to Vermont?

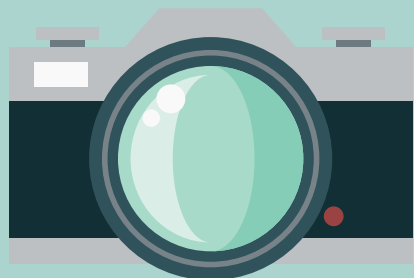
KA: Go for it. When you are young and have a passion for skiing and you find a way to get yourself involved in it whether business wise or athletically, you can set yourself up for a lifelong sport.

**MT:** Any advice or words of wisdom?

KA: My favorite quote these days comes from the old country, "Too soon old, too late smart."

**MT:** Anything else you'd like to share?

KA: Contact me ([kta49@comcast.net](mailto:kta49@comcast.net)) for questions or comments.



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# Norm Lash named Ambassador of the Year

By Karen D. Lorentz

Killington Ambassadors are dedicated volunteers who enjoy skiing or snowboarding so much that they commit to 21 days of wearing the green jacket, ready to help guests have fun. Ambassador Program Manager Pete Duffy noted, “They are passionate about the mountain, the sport, and they want to help people.”

In 2021 Norm Lash was voted Ambassador of the Year by his peers, a great honor as there can be many nominations among the 200-plus ambassadors each year. Some of the things mentioned about him included:

- “He is always looking out for the welfare of the guests as well as fellow ambassadors.”
- “He gets things done when asked and doesn’t look for any rewards for doing it.”
- “He takes the time to check in with ambassadors in his area to make sure they are okay. He answers any questions they might have and will try to get the answer if he doesn’t know it.”
- “He’s willing to put in many more days than are required.”
- “He always has a smile, although often hidden by his large mustache.”

Some readers who don’t ski may know Lash because he’s been a Rutlander for a long time, or they probably (like me) bought furniture over the years from Hy-Way Furniture, which later became Sofas and More.

Lash was born and brought up in Rutland, graduated from Rutland High School in 1969, and received a B.S. from UVM in political science in 1973.

Asked how he got into the furniture business, Lash said, “After college and some work, my best friend and I took a trip across Canada and the United States, camping and staying in youth hostels the entire five months. Upon returning home, I became involved ‘on a temporary basis’ in the family furniture business to help my parents out. Temporary turned out to be almost 40 years!”

Q&A with Lash > 11

## Ambassadors sport new uniforms

By Karen D. Lorentz

*Editor’s note: Karen D. Lorentz is an ambassador herself at Killington Resort. This is her first year with the program.*

Regular visitors to Killington may spy something new on the green-jacketed Killington Ambassadors this year.

The new Mammut uniforms include shell jackets with the familiar “i” on the back, but the new word “Host” beneath it is a change from the prior “Ambassador” tagline.

However, both terms continue to be used to describe the dedicated volunteers who welcome guests to their mountain home. Like a good host, the ambassadors want guests to have a good time so they aim to be helpful from arrivals to departures.

This year that helpfulness will include some services that couldn’t be offered last season when Covid protocols precluded them.

This season ambassadors will once again give free daily Meet the Mountains Tours, offer tips on events, take photos for people (so the would-be photographer can be in the picture with family or friends), greet bus groups as well as guests at the Grand Hotel, and assist at events, all of which went by the boards due to state Covid-19 related guidelines last year.

Another fun tradition for mountain ambassadors is participating in the torchlight parade scheduled for Snowshed on New Year’s Eve.

### A host of services

The volunteers in the bright green jackets enjoy being helpful in a variety of ways. They answer questions as they greet people mornings at the base areas. Simple things like assisting at the kiosks for those needing to get their prepaid reloadable One Pass cards can help get someone’s day off to a good start. So can holding a door open or providing a map for a first-time guest or letting them know the name of the base area so they can return to the right place at the end of the day.

In addition to answering any questions guests may have, they are a huge help with “way finding.” Killington is a large ski area with several base areas and mountain peaks, so finding one’s way around the areas can be a challenge. Ambassadors have assigned skiing areas and often save the day by showing guests how to get where they want to go — or in some cases, avoid a too difficult (or too flat) a trail. Stationed at various intersections where trails lead to different base areas, ambassadors also help people find their way at the end of the day.

They also help reunite parties that get separated, call in ski patrol when needed, and assist at the World Cup. With two-way radios they are in touch with what’s happening around the mountain and can update guests on things like lift holds or let you know that, yes, the Stash is now open.

Another fun tradition for mountain ambassadors is participating in the Torchlight Parade scheduled for Snowshed on New Year’s Eve.



Submitted  
Ryan Hurst, a Castleton Univ. student in the Resort and Hospitality Management program, is the Killington Ambassador program co-ordinator for 2021-22 season.

They do all these tasks in all kinds of weather, including extreme cold, wind, snow, and rain.

The daily mountain tours also help with way finding and are very informative, including a little history along with fun facts — highly recommended for intermediate and advanced levels of skiers/riders.

### Have the right stuff

Dedicated ambassadors put in long days, starting with the annual update meeting in October and continuing throughout the season with their mini-

imum of 21 days of service. (First-time ambassadors also attend two training days.) All attend daily morning briefings (7 a.m. weekends/holidays; 8 a.m. midweek), get their assignments, head out to work and ski, and check in to sign out at the end of the day which can be 4:30 or later. While a season pass is awarded to the volunteers, they do it for: the joy it brings them to share their love of skiing or riding at Killington; a sincere desire to help a guest enjoy their day; and the camaraderie of being part of a like-minded group of good people.

Interested people who think they have “the right stuff” to meet the high standards of a dedicated ambassador/host can contact Duffy at pduffy@killington.com.

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# Who is "Barefoot Oke?"

By Ethan Weinstein

When I first met Oke, he rolled up to the Mountain Times in his 90s Saab. I thought the sedan was a Porsche, black and angular. It looked like the past's version of the future.

Oke walked inside dressed in his usual: the straw hat he dons and doffs with neurotic regularity, a safari shirt unbuttoned to expose wispy hairs surrounding a necklace made with an Indian hide-scraping stone. Dual croakies dangled from his neck, one gripping sunglasses with wrap-around glare blockers, the other, glasses, wire-framed. And then there were his bare feet, gnarled and scaly like a chicken's from constant exposure to all elements.

He walked in as though known. I, though, did not know him. Moving to leave, he walked to my desk, his hand fiddling in his pocket. Out he pulled a small gold vessel, its domed cap unscrewed. From inside he plucked a thin filtered joint, one of many. "Want one?" he asked, hand outstretched. Uh huh. And with that, he walked back to the Saab.

We began running Oke an ad. "Ain't dead yet," it read. "Oke needs 'electricity.'"

"I have enjoyed living in 'Chateauguay' [Barnard - 1980-2003, Bridgewater 2003-2021] with propane only, but it is time for me to move to electricity. I am looking for an unfurnished small cabin, or a small house, or a quiet apartment in the Killington area.

"I am a 'Mature Hippie' in my 70s. I'm single with no pets, only a smoker of marijuana and not fussy. Willing to barter, be a caretaker, pay cash rent, etc."

Then, his contact info, and the soles of two cartoon feet.

With each visit, Oke unloaded more of his life history, either verbally or in the form of carefully kept records. The event that sped up his full-time life in Killington he liked best to tell. Nothing else from the past seemed to occupy so much space in his mind.

In January 1970, Oke (James 'Oke' O'Brien Jr.) was busted for pot possession by Paul Lawrence (what an end to the '60s?!). Lawrence, as Oke likes to say, was one very bad cop. A crooked cop, who busted roughly 600 people before he was finally himself busted in 1976. Lawrence's story has been immortalized in the New York Times, Time, and Hamilton Davis's book, "Mocking Justice." Seventy-six of the people Lawrence busted, including Oke, received pardons.

Oke's bust wasn't too serious — he spent a night in jail, and got off with a fine. But now a criminal, the event changed the course of his life. He could no longer work for Heublein, an alcoholic beverage producer and distributor. In fact, he found he could no longer work in the straight world at all. He'd been an accountant in charge of government work — a "three-piece, briefcase accountant," as Oke never fails to specify. He was in his mid-20s at the time, a fact Oke always points to, as if astounded to deduce his past intelligence. He must have been smart, he figures, for he had so much responsibility at such a young age. But he can hardly identify with that man now — a boy, really — who lived straight and worked for the man, only visiting Killington on the weekends.

His job involved handling Heublein's state and federal taxes. This meant dealing with anywhere from \$6 to \$14 million a month, processing thousands of forms, accounting for every dollar and cent, every gallon of wine and ounce of booze. In the last three days of the month, Oke had to ensure everything was in order, every 'I' dotted and 'T' crossed. He proved himself a reliable employee and was soon promoted to be supervisor of the government accounting department.

When Oke first started coming to Killington, he had the sense he'd be able to make "straight" money here. As he saw it, there were three potential sources: the "old" money of Woodstock, the "foreign" money of Pittsfield/Hawk Mountain, and the "new" money of Killington. He didn't know in the '60s how exactly he'd tap into these various pockets of wealth for his advantage, but he could smell a goldmine.

In the '70s, Oke grew into Killington. He began his new oc-

The 10- and 20-dollar bills hit the scales, the 50s and 100s were double checked. Pot was packaged in 50-pound bundles.



Courtesy of Oke

Oke at a pig roast. He says he never had a real job after his accounting days, instead undertaking various business ventures.

cupation, which would sustain him for the rest of his life: drug dealer and mule — weed to pay the bills, cocaine to support his own blow habit. (Oke stopped selling coke after he learned that a loyal customer had pissed his life away buying the stuff. He didn't want to have that effect on people.) And a single deal, early on, laid the groundwork for all the decades to come.

It's hard to get the exact info out of Oke. His stroke stripped him of linguistic coherence. Numbers in particular are difficult. You can see his mind — some part of it — moving faster than he can now form words. He reaches for one word and pulls out another. Frustrated, his processing slows; he curses; I find the word, or he does, or together we agree to move on. This repeats.

But the story goes something like this, plus or minus some miscommunication and hyperbole. Oke knew a group of men scattered around the country involved in marijuana importation. He'd met them partying in

Killington before his bust. Now, they proved useful acquaintances: he earned a roll processing a particularly big load.

One day, an 18-wheeler croaked into Killington, into Oke's driveway. It would take many months to deal with. He and some buddies opened it up, weighed the bags of marijuana inside, weighed the bills inside (when you deal with a lot of money, you don't have time to count; you weigh.) The 10- and 20-dollar bills hit the scales, the 50s and 100s were double checked. Pot was packaged in 50-pound bundles.

The weed — according to Oke — was reggie, mids, take your pick of sub-par slang, the stuff you sell, not the stuff you smoke. Inside the burlap sacks packed by Colombian farmers someone had added baseball-sized stones to increase the import weight — somewhere along the way, someone got paid by weight, a hurried transaction it must have been.

So, with Oke's place as home base, he and his friends sold the weed, keeping pounds of seeds for later grow projects, then moving marijuana in all quantities.

This one 18-wheeler deal was the largest of Oke's life. He was a mere middleman, an accountant, not needing to move the stuff himself though pocketing some to sell. He proved himself reliable to this cadre of importers. From then on, he had as much work as he wanted.

The 70s were high times, mustaches, hookers, cocaine, powder days. Oke captured them with his camera. As he tells it, his days post-bust involved hours — at least four, often more — driving within a 33 mile radius of Killington. He tried to hit every single road twice a year, just to enjoy them and photographing the whole way. Radio tuned to VPR, typically in a Saab — his favorite — Oke chugged on. He stopped at any yard sale he passed, and these sales, he says, account for nearly all his possessions. He harbors a fondness for all things Native American — a relic of the hippie days, no doubt, though Oke himself does not, besides the lack of electricity, live the life of Romanticized indigeneity.

Toward the end of the '70s, Oke got a bit more serious about dealing. The work brought him south, to Florida, shuttling car-loads of pot from Miami to various locations across the Eastern seaboard.

Here, the details are few, but around 1980, the scene got scary. Oke could see some powerful international folks getting involved in the drug trade, Cubans, Oke said. They were all over the news, killing middlemen, causing a panic. They had guns. And with that, the operation had evolved beyond his interest, and the man called Oke, barefoot all the while, migrated north once more, to Barnard, his home for the next two decades.

Thus began a period of projects. Each opportunity seemed destined to make the man rich, yet every endeavor proved a bust nonetheless. There were still those three pots of money — the old, foreign and new — within his radius in Killington. The windfall always felt within reach, always attainable with the next endeavor. Oke kept trying to make his fortune, but pot was the only steady stream of income.

Based in the Barnard section of Chateauguay — 100 square miles of wilderness encompassing the corners of Killington, Bridgewater, Barnard and Stockbridge, Oke worked as a housesitter for a man of old money, who spent most of his days at sea, surrounded by as few folks as possible. In exchange for a place to live and a stipend that covered basic expenses, Oke made sure the building stayed standing. Wanting for naught besides the amorphous glow of "riches," Oke played the role of mogul, of snakeoil salesman, promoter.

Because words come to him only sporadically, misshapen, Oke has taught me most about himself by handing over his archive, the dusty, dirty binders of yellow documents he has



**Oke:** A man of mystery who everyone knows from page 8 kept with stimulant-induced attention. And so, in abbreviated form, here are some of the highlights.

**Beginning a favorite rabbit hole:**

*Supreme Court docket no. 85-526*

*In re Club 107*

*October term, 1987*

*The order of the Liquor Control Board is reversed and vacated.*

Huh? Read on. From highlighted news clippings — from the Rutland Herald, the Bennington Banner, Seven Days, from 1985-1991 — the story pieced itself together. And a yellow flier featuring Oke's logo, a man wearing a Native American-styled feathered cap, operating a camera on a tripod. "No men before 10," it read. Ladies' night.

Unclear? Oke was doing some promotional work for a nightclub, Club 107. The shrewd, lust-ridden man he is, an idea came to him: ladies' night, cleverly rebranded "no men 'till 10." A topless affair, all estrogen and a giddy Oke. He made sure his paperwork was thorough, his permitting official.

It drew a willing crowd, more than 150 women, scantily clad or worse — topless — cheering on a select few male strippers themselves working into their birthday suits. The scantily clad scene was a legal one, but the authorities didn't seem to care. Unbeknownst to all in attendance, two members of the state liquor control board lurked outside. They caught wind of the stripping, the nudity, and decided to shut the place down.

The moment clear in his mind, Oke recalled confronting the two men outside the club. They demanded everyone leave, and they were prepared to enforce this order.

"Too much buttocks, too much buttocks," Oke recalls the men saying of the male strippers. He can't help but howl — his laughs burst open, and he leans back, mouth wide, wider.

Ultimately, the lawmen decided to let Oke handle shutting the place down for the night, saving themselves the embarrassment of chastising a roomful of nude humans.

Club 107's case went all the way to the state's highest court. And, just as he expected, Oke was victorious; he'd arranged for the strippers legally. Much to his surprise, cops thanked him for his work. No longer did they have to bust strip club after strip club, wasting time on a petty crime. The papers were filled with instances of busted clubs, and no one, not even the police, thought the cause worthwhile. Well, Oke brought an end to all that.

Oke's archive portrays a man driven to make life fun. Fake IDs, all sorts of facial hair, season passes to Killington, the occasional topless woman. There's his correspondence with High Times in 1975, a magazine that, at the time, served a niche and served it well, documenting the American underground. He sent them joints of his best homegrown. They responded with gratitude: "Thank you for your most impressive gift. You are definitely the most appreciative reader High Times has ever corresponded with." This, of course, Oke highlighted with glee.

Shoved into the back pocket of a binder is a 1970s survey of cocaine users, which Oke filled out with both precision and self-satisfaction. Daily use was the box he checked. He was sometimes jittery, developed a tolerance, but for the most part the drug did not inhibit his life. He mixed it mostly with marijuana, dabbled little in the harder stuff, downers.

But it's not all drugs and parties. The archive belies the diligence of documentation that must have been necessary to

the accountant Oke. The man put on festivals, and he documented the planning process, the permitting process, in all its bureaucratic mundanity. Every letter to the state of Vermont, messages to and from band managers, vendors. There's Oke's Magical Vermont Gathering, the Vermont Blues and Jazz Festival, events catered toward sustainability, to hippies, to music lovers, many hosted at the Tunbridge World Fair grounds.

While not fortune-making, these events were successful in their own right. Oke also gave me binders upon binders for business ventures never to be. He lobbied for hemp legalization — which Vermont eventually followed through with — but he never pivoted the effort into money making. He tried to sell some flame-retardant spray under the guise of Vermont Safety Products (a label adorned on many of Oke's belongings) constructing fear of fire to potential clients so that he could save the day with the magic spray.

There are quotes, many with date and time recorded, "Oke thoughts," they're labelled, most not-quite Yogi Berra-isms. "I've got nothing to do — and lots of time to do it." "It gets late early sometimes." "I need everybody, but I don't need anybody."

A sticky note marveling at the fact that he bought his 1950s "Willy" Jeep from Vermont Supreme Court Judge Franklin Billings. "From a judge to a pot head," it reads, "life's fun."

The Jeep: Oke revels in its slowness, pushing 30 on Route 4, a trail of frustrated flatlanders growing behind him. He drives along the shoulder, flipping them off as they pass. He has nowhere to be.

Fun. He did it all for fun. He will keep doing it for fun. He's

The scantily clad scene was a legal one, but the authorities didn't seem to care.



By Ethan Weinstein

Oke in his beloved Jeep driving the dirt roads of Bridgewater.

moving out of the woods now, in with an old friend. Temporary, maybe — Oke hopes to get back to Chateaugay after the winter. His days are numbered, he knows, but he's not scared. He's working more at The Inn at Long Trail — where he's held a job for 19 years. He enjoys talking to people, working to get his language back.

He's gotta learn to use electricity, he jokes, to flip switches. He'll have a microwave, which he sorely needs. Hot food, a novelty. He'll make it fun. He always has.



# Vermont faces a shortage of suitable foster homes

By Lana Cohen/VTDigger

There is a shortage of foster homes in Vermont, and the pandemic is at least partially to blame.

Placing older teenagers and children needing specialized care has always been difficult, state social workers say, but now finding appropriate homes for children of all ages and all levels of need is posing an exceptional challenge.

It's no secret that the pandemic has put extra pressure on parents across the board — and that includes foster parents, said Carrie Deem, a foster care manager for the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

"Covid has really impacted our foster care system," Deem said. "We have foster parents that are stepping up and willing to take kiddos into their homes, and then we have child care closures, school closures, quarantine."

"Kiddos" is an industry term commonly used to describe children in the state's foster care system.

Deem views the foster parents she works with as heroes. But still, "They can only give so much," she said.

In November 2020, Tessa Johnson, an elementary school teacher in Hartford, received an email from her school's principal. Two students were having a hard time. They had been removed from a home considered to be unsafe and needed a place to stay. Johnson, who has two biological children of her own and had recently finalized her divorce, decided to volunteer.

The pandemic made everything more difficult, she said. Meetings with lawyers happened while masked, outside at picnic tables in frigid January and February temperatures. Programs created to help foster children and parents bond and work through trauma were all virtual.

Johnson had never fostered before. She took the state-mandated licensing courses after opening her home to two foster children. Things have worked out pretty well, according to Johnson, who has

The state has 1,046 children in the foster system.

now been fostering for more than a year. But not perfectly.

The younger of the two siblings she had originally fostered was moved to a different foster placement, splitting up the kids. They have trauma and behavioral issues that Johnson was not trained or prepared to manage effectively, she said.

"I know it's not my fault. Everyone has told me it's not my fault, but I wish I could have done more," Johnson said.

This type of scenario — where a child is placed with an unlicensed, untrained member of the community who volunteers to welcome a child in need into their home and life — is a symptom of the foster care provider shortage, Deem said.

Ideally, DCF would like people to give fostering a lot of thought, decide if it's right for their family, and go through the system and training to become a trauma-informed household, Deem said.



*The need for foster homes is greater than the supply. Thus, good fits are sometimes impossible further stressing the system and its families.*

But with a shortage of foster providers, that is often not how it turns out.

"When we're in a situation where we need homes, and we're trying to make good matches, but we have limited resources — and even more so limited resources within a specific community — we have to try every avenue," Deem said.

Throughout the pandemic, the number of foster homes has gone down.

The state has 1,046 children in the foster system and 1,135 foster homes with a total of 1,890 beds. That's down from 1,420 homes and 2,325 beds before the pandemic in 2019.

On the surface, those numbers make it look as if there are more than enough spots for foster children, with 844 more beds than children. But those numbers do not tell the whole story.

Although there are 1,135 licensed foster homes in the state, that doesn't mean 1,135 homes are currently accepting children. And even if a provider is currently interested in fostering, they are not necessarily willing or prepared to foster any child.

The department does not know exactly how many of its providers are currently open to fostering, and there is no precise number of foster homes that the department is striving for, according to Deem. But she said, ideally, DCF would have an excess of families in each district with a wide range of skills who are willing to foster children 10 and older and have the skill to support children who have experienced significant levels of trauma.

This way, DCF would have enough options

to ensure that each child could be matched appropriately with a foster provider in their district that has the skills and experience to take them in. This is not now the case, she said.

Under usual circumstances, foster parents take time off from fostering, let their licenses expire or are unable to accept certain children for a variety of reasons. Covid-19 has exacerbated that.

"My sense is that across the state, people are very hesitant right now because you could be putting yourself and your kids at risk," said Michelle Larrabee, foster provider recruiter and retention specialist for DCF and a foster parent of 20 years.

"I have chatted with folks who said 'we still are licensed but not taking kiddos right now because my husband was just diagnosed with whatever or our child is immunocompromised, stuff like that,'" Larrabee said.

Additionally, matching a child with the appropriate foster family is not a simple process. Not every family is right for every child and vice versa.

Many factors go into placement — keeping siblings together, placing children close to their biological parents and within their school districts, matching foster parent experience with child needs, placing children in homes with parents of the same race and culture, and placing foster children with families that share interests.

So although there are enough physi-

cal spaces to place each foster child in the state, there are not enough appropriate spaces available.

"We want foster families to be set up for success and by taking every child into their home regardless of the matching process is dangerous," Deem said. "Families need to be trained, prepared and supported to meet the needs of children/youth that have been impacted by trauma. Each foster family is going to offer a unique set of skills along with a level of diversity that will make them a good match for a specific child/youth."

Having only 1,135 foster homes for 1,046 children sometimes leaves the department with few options for a child. At times, Deem said, the department is left scrambling to try to find a home for a child in need and have had to send children out of their district or county, issue an exception to the department's rule capping homes at four foster children, or split up siblings to find a safe home.

Without a variety of homes to choose from that keep children in their communities, it's harder to place children in situations that will meet their needs long term, Deem said.

"We never know what type of kiddo is going to walk through the door. We might have a medically fragile kiddo, and that really limits the people we can ask. Maybe the next

kid has experienced trauma or expresses their needs through behaviors," Deem said. "Variety and diversity of skill level is what we need."

Not every family is right for every child and vice versa.

Submitted

**Q&A with Lash:** Norm Lash was named Ambassador of the Year 2021 from page 7

**Mountain Times: What is your history with skiing?**

Norm Lash: I started skiing at Killington in 1960-61 and learned to ski in group lessons at Killington and Pico. My first season pass to Killington was \$25, which was a special for Vermonters under 12. I also cleared tables in the K-1 Lodge on weekends for two winters.

**MT: Why did you become an ambassador?**

NL: I became a Killington Ambassador 10 years ago at the urging of two friends Leslie Brenner and Ken Kierstein, who were ambassadors. They thought that I would like the program. They sure were right! I like to tell everyone that it's the best part of retirement.

**MT: What is your position or duties as an ambassador?**

NL: Currently, I'm usually a Hill Captain or Overseer which involves not only responding to our guests' needs, but also making sure that all ambassadors get off the mountain safely at the end of the day.

The hill captain and overseer are also responsible for relaying all reports from ambassadors of possible codes or transport needs to dispatch. On occasion I also lead mountain tours for our guests, which is always a lot of fun.

**MT: Any special mentors or influences?**

NL: I've been very fortunate to work with ambassador Mickey Cahill over the years and he has become my mentor. He truly exemplifies what an ambassador should be!

[Grizz, who became legendary in Killington circles, built the ambassador program to become something envied by other ski areas, and Pete Duffy, who now runs the program has modernized it and added his professionalism to constantly improve it.]

**MT: What do you enjoy about your work as an ambassador?**

NL: I particularly enjoy working with a fantastic group of people in the ambassador program — they make it such a great experience for me.

As an ambassador, I also truly enjoy being part of the Killington team. Since Powdr purchased Killington, and especially since Mike Solimano became president, it has constantly improved and become much more guest focused, which I think is great.

**MT: Any meaningful stories you can share?**

NL: One day, when I was not on duty, I was skiing down Cascade with a friend, when I saw a young man, skis off, on the side of the trail looking panicked. Upon skiing over to him to see if he needed help, he informed me that he and his buddy were skiing down Upper Downdraft and that his friend fell and slid under the rope across lower Downdraft and just kept going and was unresponsive to his shouts. I immediately phoned dispatch, who had ski patrol come down and help and all ended well.

A couple of weeks later, as I was walking through the parking lot, the fellow yelled to his friend: "That's the guy who saved you."

We all got a chuckle out of that. I'm easily recognizable by my handlebar mustache.

**MT: What do you do when not volunteering as an ambassador?**

NL: I participate in Ski Bum Races at both Killington and Pico. I'm not great, but I have a really good time doing them. I'm also a regular member of the 100 Club [skiers who ski 100 or more days in a year].

I live in Rutland with my wife Robin and dog Tucker. I'm currently president of The Housing Trust of Rutland County, a local nonprofit. In the off-season, I do a lot of mountain biking. Our family does not live locally, but we do make efforts to get together.

**MT: What would you say to someone thinking of moving to Vermont?**

NL: This is a fantastic area to live if one loves the outdoors. All through the pandemic, the beauty and activities Vermont is most noted for were pretty much available in a healthy environment.

**MT: Anything else you'd like to share?**

NL: Being here and a part of Killington is living the dream!



Submitted

Rutlander Norm Lash is well known for his use of the bull-horn and easily recognizable by his handlebar mustache. He's pictured above in his volunteer role as an ambassador heading out to work the World Cup.

"Being here and a part of Killington is Living the Dream!" said Lash.

## Vermont's Covid-19 test distribution sites depleted in holiday scramble

Staff report

Vermonters across the state have waited in long lines to pick up take-home Covid tests ahead of holiday get-togethers — only to be told, in many cases, that the tests were all gone.

State officials had announced on Tuesday, Dec. 21, that tens of thousands of test kits would be available at 16 distribution sites across the state starting Thursday, Dec. 23. But by late morning, the Department of Health announced that most sites had run out of antigen tests for the day.

In Mendon, the tests were gone in the first hour (by 9 a.m.) but lines of cars continued to flock there hoping to get tests.

The department immediately said it would make more antigen test kits available Friday, Dec. 24 and hoped to continue to increase supply to meet demand through the holiday week. The state had secured about 100,000 tests to be distributed.

The department's press release said Gov. Phil Scott's administration continues to work on acquiring more antigen tests, "but like other states, we are constrained by the realities of the supply at the federal level."

Two kits are available per car or walk-in,

on a first-come-first-served basis.

According to Dept. of Health spokesperson Ben Truman, the department distributed about 30,000 tests on Thursday — roughly 25,000 antigen test kits and 5,000 LAMP tests.

In Mendon, the tests were gone in the first hour.

Antigen test kits deliver results within 15 minutes, and while they are not as accurate as PCR tests, they are still considered very accurate and a very helpful tool catch Covid and prevent community spread.

LAMP tests — which function similar to PCR tests, but provide faster results — are available by appointment only, the department said. The department's appointment portal indicates there were no LAMP or PCR test appointments available Dec. 23-25 and appointments after that were filling up very quickly.

"We recognize the frustration (some) people may have, and hope that everyone — tested or not — follow all the recommended steps to help prevent spread of the virus," Truman said.

Erin Petenko, Liora Engel-Smith and Jack Lyons of VT Digger contributed to this story.

## Emerge Vermont announces next class of aspiring women political leaders

Emerge Vermont, a statewide organization that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office, announced Dec. 15 that it has selected its 2022 class. This year's chosen group of 26 future women political leaders is Emerge Vermont's largest and most diverse class, with women from all parts of the Green Mountain State who come from diverse backgrounds and span the spectrum of race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic levels, and professional experience.

Elaine Haney, executive director said: "Our organization selected exceptional applicants who will seize political opportunities once they have the tools necessary to run an effective campaign. Democrats need to maintain and build the power and success they have had over the last few cycles, and now, more than ever, these

women's voices are needed in our government."

Emerge Vermont's training program offers Democratic women who want to run for public office a unique opportunity. Women who are accepted receive 70 hours of in-depth education over four months that inspires

strategy, voter contact, media and messaging, and others.

Candidates also meet an array of dynamic women who hold elected and appointed office and become part of a supportive network that includes a statewide and national association of Emerge alumnae and Emerge cabinet

"More than ever, these women's voices are needed in our government," said Haney.

them to run for office and gives them the tools to win.

The program's trainers are an elite team of campaign consultants, advisors, and staff from Vermont and all over the country who have been involved in some of the most successful campaigns and initiatives seen in recent election cycles. Participants learn from these experts and develop practical knowledge in areas such as public speaking, fundraising, campaign

members.

"I believe that there are not nearly enough women serving in elected offices in Vermont," said Charity Clark of Williston. "I'm excited to be a part of Emerge Vermont's 2022 class and I'm looking forward to expanding my skills and experience in politics. I hope my classmates and I will go on to become Vermont's next generation of women political leaders."

## COMMENTARY

## There's a hole in Vermont's memorable brand

By Dan Galdenzi

As Vermonters, we take on a certain reputation — or maybe, more accurately, a set of stereotypes — that come immediately to mind for non-Vermonters.

Whether earned or not, those stereotypes are part of being a resident in this unique community. In fact, there was a study recently that said Vermont was No. 2 out of the 50 states in terms of having a “memorable brand.” Texas was first, in case you were curious.

So, it's no wonder why people take an outsized interest in our little state when you tell them you're from here.

His image of Vermonters was liberal while being gun-friendly and libertarian while being socially minded. I thought, hmph, that captures us pretty well...

Early this week, I was at a work lunch with a group of people from out of state. The gentleman seated next to me, whom I had just met that day, said his image of Vermonters was liberal while being gun-friendly and libertarian while being socially minded. I thought, hmph, that captures us pretty well in a quick, on-the-spot mental dump by someone from the Midwest.

We talked some more, and he mentioned noticing yellow signs on trees everywhere and asked me what that was all about. I explained to him that to prevent hunters from coming onto your property, you must physically post your land and be sure a sign is hung at least every 400 feet. Then, go to your town hall and pay a fee to register your land. But that's not all! You need to do this again every year.

I shared with him that many hunters just tear the signs down and then, *voilà!*, your property is no longer legally posted, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

He was, as anyone of sound mind would be, confused by that, and he asked me to repeat it to be sure he understood. “You mean that you have to post your own land to prevent strangers from hunting on it, not the other way around?” Somewhat embarrassed and freshly annoyed by it all, I told him yes, that is how it works here.

He happened to be an avid mushroom forager and he said half-jokingly, “At least I could go anywhere I want in

He said half-jokingly, “At least I could go anywhere I want in Vermont that's not posted to hunt for mushrooms!” .... [I] told him that he could only do so if he had a hunting license and wanted to kill an animal, not a mushroom.

Vermont that's not posted to hunt for mushrooms!” I had to break it to him that he couldn't. I let him down easy and told him that he could only do so if he had a hunting license and wanted to kill an animal, not a mushroom. Unfortunately, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department doesn't make money on mushroom licenses, but maybe it should!

I informed him that, as strange as it may sound, foraging for mushrooms on private property could get you arrested for trespassing, even if the land wasn't posted. He shrugged and shook his head in disbelief, and in an attempt to make me feel better, told me that there's still a law on the books in Wisconsin that says margarine is illegal.



Broken Resolutions by Gary McCoy, Shiloh, IL

## LETTERS

### People need to see Covid-19 as the public health crisis it is

Dear Editor,

Discussion and debate about whether to wear a mask as a means to halt the spread of Covid-19 is traveling around Vermont like a wildfire, or, perhaps better said, like a virus.

The matter comes up frequently at the governor's weekly press conferences. Select boards up and down the state, from Hardwick to Morristown, Stowe, Charlotte, Brattleboro and Bennington, are grappling with the issue.

The governor and many others say mandating masks in public spaces and indoors would be unenforceable, counterproductive and divisive.

If a mask were required at a select board meeting, a city council meeting or even the governor's press conferences, a person who refused to wear one would be disrupting the public meeting and could be asked to leave. If they refused, they could be removed. And that says nothing about common sense.

I'm sure many a parent has had arguments — dare

Crisis > 15

### Policy makers need to look at the broad impacts

Dear Editor,

Public health experts are critical participants in the development of government policies dealing with challenges like the pandemic. But their perspective is only one consideration in the development of effective and rational public policy.

These folks may know more about limiting the transmission of a pathogen, but their prescriptions have consequences that fall outside their area of expertise. The negative health impacts of isolation, the impacts on the economy, on crime, domestic abuse, addiction, childhood development — the list goes on and on — must be considered by policy makers if the policy response is to comprehensively benefit people and communities.

While serving as commissioner of environmental conservation under Gov. Douglas, I had to do precisely that on occasions when a proposed action brought multiple areas of expertise into conflict. And while the commissioner has the authority to decide, I was often the least qualified person in

Impacts > 15

### Governor fails the test on statewide mask mandate

Dear Editor,

I cannot begin to tell you how disappointed I am with our governor and his flunkies with regards to the non-masking of Vermonters. Historically, people do not do things by themselves, but have to be directed in order to have anything happen. We are not a proactive species. He needed to enact a mask law requiring all to mask within all buildings and perhaps bringing back the six-foot spacing rule again.

In a strange backlash, there are many selfish people in our country who now refuse to get an anti-Covid shot, claiming that it interferes with “their right to make up their own minds” or because it's Republican vs. Democrats, all absolute balderdash. In my mind, these

are people who care nothing for children or for the hospital workers who are putting their lives on the line, working to the point of exhaustion trying to keep people alive who have refused to get a simple shot to prevent mass misery, potential death, and grieving, heartbroken families. I shall voice what many people are now thinking: If you don't have a shot, you don't get admitted to the hospital. So many people who have ended up in the hospital say afterwards that they now regretted having not gotten the shot.

It's so disappointing ... I will not be voting for Governor Scott again, nor shall many others I know.

*Carolyn Van Vleck,  
Brandon*

#### WRITE TO US.

The Mountain Times encourages readers to contribute to our community paper by writing letters to the editor. The opinions expressed here are not endorsed nor are the facts verified by the Mountain Times. We ask submissions to be 300 words or less.

Email letters to [editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)



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MOUNTAIN TIMES

## INSPIRING QUOTES

For our New Year edition, we wanted something a bit lighter. Here's advice from four famous writers and thinkers on how to welcome the New Year...

**“Kindness, kindness, kindness. I want to make a New Year’s prayer, not a resolution. I’m praying for courage,”**

wrote the writer **Susan Sontag**.

**“Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody’s ever made before. Don’t freeze, don’t stop, don’t worry that it isn’t good enough, or it isn’t perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life. Whatever it is you’re scared of doing, do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever,”**

wrote the writer **Neil Gaiman**.

**“The most important thing to remember is this: To be ready at any moment to give up what you are for what you might become,”**

wrote **W.E.B. Du Bois**, a sociologist and activist.

**“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language. And next year’s words await another voice,”**

wrote poet **T.S. Elliott** in the last of his “Four Quartets.”

## COMMENTARY

# Climate council has served up a nothing-burger

By James Maroney

*Editor’s note: James H. Maroney Jr., of Leicester, is a former farmer who has a master’s degree in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School.*

The passage of Vermont’s Global Warming Solutions Act in 2020, over the strenuous objections of our Republican governor, was a remarkable testament to the depth of commitment by the Legislature that climate change was not only real but that Vermont, one of the nation’s smallest states, could — and must — do something to curb it.

The bill passed by virtue of Vermont’s overwhelmingly Democratic majority, but the governor vetoed it; and the Legislature, confident of its duty, overrode the governor’s veto.

Bolstered by resolutions from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, the U.S. Climate Alliance and the World Bank that had all concluded “A climate emergency threatens our communities, state, and region and poses a significant threat to human health

and safety, infrastructure, biodiversity, our common environment, and our economy,” the Legislature set about appointing 25 of Vermont’s most highly positioned officials — including the secretaries of administration,

All that high-flying language, all that ink and blood spilt for a new law that effectively boils down to a renewed commitment to the status quo.

natural resources, public safety, commerce, human services, transportation, agriculture and 15 other prominent persons appointed by the House and Senate — to the “Climate Council” to “identify, analyze and evaluate strategies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the state’s reduction requirements... not less than 26% by 2025; not less than 40% by 2030 and not less than 80% by 2050.”

Brave Little State! Except, maybe, not so much.

Nothing burger > 14

## Vermont’s Forest Economy under Threat

By Katherine Sims

*Editor’s note: Katherine Sims is a Democratic state representative in the Orleans-Caledonia district and the Rural Economic Development Working Group (REDWnG) of the Vermont House of Representatives, a tri-partisan group working together to advance legislation and policy initiatives that strengthen the economy in rural Vermont communities.*

Working lands are central to Vermont’s identity. Vermont is the fourth most forested state with 4.5 million acres of forest covering a whopping 75% of the landscape. Vermonters have been working in the woods, playing in the woods, and using wood products for generations.

How we maintain our forests directly impacts our environment, our culture, our economy and our future. Forests provide habitat, carbon sequestration, clean water and clean air. They’re also the source of wood, that renewable material we use in our everyday lives. When we use wood for building, heating, and making things, we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, thus reducing emissions.

In order to reap the benefits of both standing forests and wood products, we need to make it practical for Vermonters to own and properly manage forestland.

Instead, we’re losing forestland at a rate of approximately 11,000 acres per year to development.

### So what now?

To answer that question, a tripartisan group of over thirty legislators formed a summer study group and visited sites all over the state. Our group interviewed loggers, landowners, foresters, and business owners across Vermont’s forestry industry.

Among them were Chris Brooks, a fifth-generation lumberman, who owns Vermont Wood Pellet Co. in North Clarendon. Brooks told us that wood pellet heating is the future. Cleaner, more efficient and less expensive, heating with wood pellets reduces our dependence on fossil oil and keeps those dollars local.

Long View Forest is an employee-owned forest management operation in Westminster that’s bucking stereotypes about loggers. Their 20+ member crew of mostly young people are committed to helping clients meet the “near universal, but elusive goal of leaving the land better than we found it.”

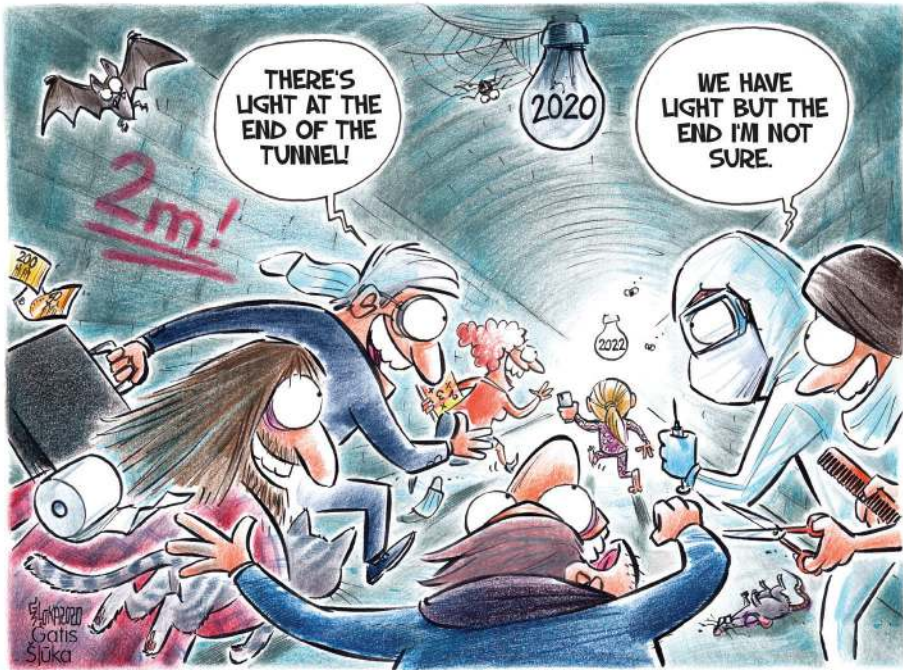
Vermonters engaged in the industry today are environmentally conscious, innovative and prepared to collaborate in order to protect and preserve Vermont’s forests and forest economy. They view wood as a safe, renewable resource that’s greener than concrete, steel or plastic — a way to reduce our state’s carbon footprint.

A thriving, modern forest industry is Vermont’s best tool to ensure healthy, sustainable forests and healthy, sustainable communities. But Vermont’s forestry businesses face their own slew of threats. Conducting business is expensive, profits are down, interest in the field is declining and state regulations make it nearly impossible to succeed.

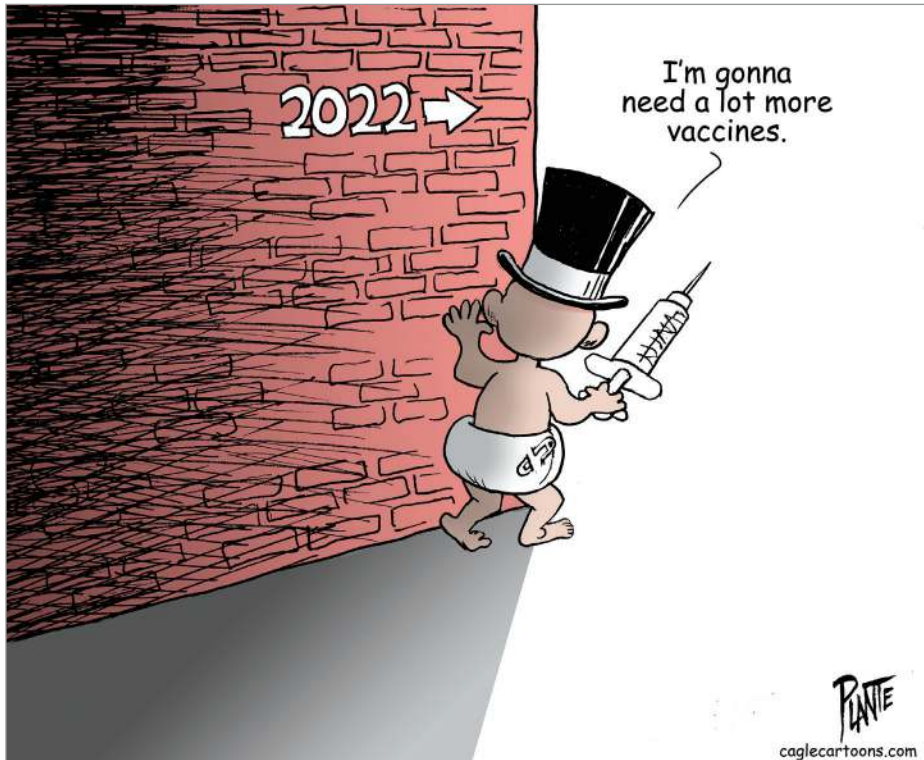
LSF Forest Products plays a vital role as one of only two remaining lumber mills in Franklin County. The family-owned operation wants to expand, but owner Tucker Riggs says Act 250’s permitting process is slowing them down: “It’s expensive and time-consuming, and has already delayed our

Forest economy > 15

**CARTOONS**



Unvaxxed Scrooge by Rick McKee, CagleCartoons.com



Looking ahead to 2022 by Bruce Plante, PoliticalCartoons.com



Unvaxxed Scrooge by Rick McKee, CagleCartoons.com

**Nothing burger:** Climate Council's recommendations amount to status quo from page 13

This month, after 12 months of internal debate, the Climate Council issued its preliminary recommendations, and they amount to ... nothing.

The Climate Council has determined it doesn't want to "burden" anybody disproportionately, which effectively means it doesn't want to do anything at all. All that high-flying language, all that ink and blood spilt for a new law that effectively boils down to a renewed commitment to the status quo.

It gets worse: This month we also learned that the would-be Transportation and Climate Initiative partnership among Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia appears to have stalled once again, as Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont joins Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker's administration in saying the plan "is no longer the best solution for the commonwealth's transportation and environmental needs."

The dissolution of this pact leaves Vermont standing almost alone in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, the largest of the big three before heating and conventional dairy.

Vermont dairy a problem? Pay no attention to those 90,000 acres of corn planted along our rivers and streams and fertilized with 40,000 tons of petroleum-based herbicides and poisoned with who-knows-how-many tons of

petroleum-based herbicides.

Pay no attention to the 600,000 tons of conventionally raised phosphorus and calcium-rich grain imported from Iowa, all of it to feed 125,000 cows to force them to make a product that has no market value.

Pay no attention to the fact that Vermont's 450 (remaining) conventional dairy farmers are losing money, which is cause for concern because they are — wait for it — part of the solution and we need to pay them extra so they can continue doing what they are doing.

Greta Thunberg, 18, sums up where we stand in just a few poignant words: "blah blah blah, blah blah blah, blah blah, blah blah."

If you are, like me, concerned about the nothing-burger the Global Warming Solutions Act and its 25 supposed proponents on the Climate Council have just presented to us, you have probably also tired of reading the relentless op-eds from John McLaughry and Rob Roper of the Ethan Allen Institute, denying that global warming is real but, if it were, Vermont cannot or should not do anything.

If the members of the Climate Council cannot find the courage to stiffen their backs — and no matter how certain the rest of us are of the reality of global warming — McLaughry and Roper will now exact as forfeit that we admit they are right to say we are not going to do anything about it.

**Emerge:** Class of 2022 is largest and most diverse group of aspiring women from page 11

Emerge Vermont has a proven track record for getting Democratic women elected.

Since the organization launched in 2013, the program has equipped 149 women with the skills needed to bring change to their communities. Dozens of alumnae have gone on to run for political office or been appointed to local boards or commissions, and of those who have gone on to run for an elected position, 38% have won. Currently 44 Emerge Vermont alumnae are serving in elected office, with 24 in statewide office or the Legislature. Emerge Vermont's commitment to diversity also means that the women selected for the program come from a multitude of different backgrounds and all walks of life. In fact, 23% of the Class of 2022 are women of color.

personal political vision; demonstrated ability to inspire others; and commitment to full

Currently 44 Emerge Vermont alumnae are serving in elected office, with 24 in statewide office or the Legislature.

participation and attendance requirements of the trainings. Applicants had to be registered Democrats. Women of all ages, races, nationalities, marital status, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, and physical abilities were encouraged to apply. For more info, visit vt.emergeamerica.org.

**Emerge Vermont's Class of 2022:**

- Julia Andrews, Westford
- Tara Arneson, Richmond
- Susan Barrett, Norwich
- Ellie Beckett, Williston
- Daisy Berbeco, Winooski
- Charity Clark, Williston
- Edee Edwards, Halifax
- Mary Erdei, White River Junction
- Rey Garofano, Essex
- Sarah Hackett-Dalglish, Bennington
- Iris Hsiang, Essex Junction
- Amanda Janoo, Burlington
- Emilie Krasnow, South Burlington
- Saudia LaMont, Morrisville
- Angela Lawrence, Dummerston
- Christy Liddy, Jeffersonville
- Erica Marthage, Manchester Center
- Susan McClure, Hinesburg
- Haley Pero, Burlington
- Monique Priestley, Bradford
- Julia Rogers, Stowe
- Brenda Siegel, Newfane
- Anna Tadio, Rutland
- Esther Thomas, Middlebury
- Olivia Toomey, Essex Junction
- Drake Turner, Burlington

**← Crisis:** We must act to prevent the preventable from page 12

I say divisive arguments — with their children about bedtime, eating the food on their plate, being home by a certain time, focusing on homework rather than a television show, and other matters.

Not everyone agrees seatbelts are needed. Not everyone believes vaccinat-

Covid-19 is contagious.

Covid-19 is deadly.

ing children for contagious diseases is a good idea. Not everyone believes it is wrong, and illegal, to yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater when there is no fire. At times, disagreement — dare I say divisiveness — saves lives.

Divisiveness is part of life. That's not the issue. The issue is public health and the common good. More than 812,000 people in the United States have died from Covid-19 — that's almost 30% more than Vermont's entire population. Millions have been stricken by the virus; millions more around the world have been sickened and died.

Covid-19 is contagious. Covid-19 is deadly.

The people of any town, the state, the nation, the world need to wear masks. The people need to get vaccinated and boosted.

People need to take this virus seriously to stop serious illness and, yes, more death.

Curtailling Covid-19 is not a matter of "personal rights." The adage that one person's rights end

where another person's nose begins seems most appropriate in this time of need. According to the scientists and medical professionals, the Covid-19 virus passes easily between the eyes, mouth — and the nose — when inhaling and exhaling.

Covid-19 is a public health crisis and the public needs to act if the disease is to be controlled. That's not divisive. That's reality.

**Ross Connelly, Hardwick**  
*Connelly is the former owner of the Hardwick Gazette and a member of the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame.*

**← Forest economy:** New rural omnibus bill will be introduced at the start of 2022 to save vital lands from page 13

expansion process at a time of record-high demand for our products."

In order to support existing and potential forest-based businesses that are working to sustainably manage Vermont's forestland, we recommend the Legislature establish the Vermont Forest Future program to stabilize and strengthen Vermont's forest economy over 10 years. This program will bring together key stakeholders to create an action plan that identifies infrastructure investments and public policy recommendations that will increase economic development, sustainably manage wood resources, and develop the workforce for the future.

Additionally, we recommend:

- Launch a program to support municipal fuel switch-

ing including modern wood heat

- Modernize Act 250 for forest-based enterprises and recreational trails
- Update transportation regulations related to forestry

We'll be introducing these recommendations as a part of a rural omnibus bill at the start of the 2022 legislative session.

Decisions and actions made today will influence our forests and our economy for years to come. The state of Vermont already invests in agriculture, celebrates it and educates consumers about it. We must invest in and raise awareness about our vital forest industry, the other half of Vermont's working lands. If we care about Vermont's forests, if we care about Vermont's rural communities, we must save Vermont's forest economy.

**← Impacts:** Restrictions due to Covid-19 are a result of listening to medical advice too much, balance is needed from page 12

the debate relative to the scientific, legal and technical issues involved. My job was to listen to the experts on all sides, probe and challenge their arguments, weigh the benefits and risks, and decide.

It is the responsibility of elected and appointed policy makers to gather all relevant perspectives and make decisions. Understandably, experts and advocates in each specialization often object to the necessary compromises required by a balanced and effective policy.

Since the beginning of

the Covid-19 pandemic, it is my view that many elected officials have abandoned this

without full consideration of the consequences outside their expertise.

including those affected by the proposed measures.

No one can argue that the governor is unserious about the pandemic. For those with a singular view, his response may be frustrating, but in my view Gov. Scott is properly fulfilling his responsibility.

**Jeffery Wennberg, Rutland**  
*Wennberg recently retired as the commissioner of the Rutland Department of Public Works, a position he's held for seven years. He also served as mayor of Rutland from 1987-99.*

In my view Gov. Scott is properly fulfilling his responsibility.

responsibility and delegated their authority to the public health experts, who have instituted measures designed to mitigate the spread of the virus, which is their mission.

But because only one set of experts has been calling the shots, this has happened

We are now hearing calls from highly qualified academics and practitioners urging Gov. Scott to reinstate emergency measures to address the latest Covid wave. Thus far, the governor has retained his authority and sought the counsel of others,

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## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29

### 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.

### Ben & Jerry's ice cream social

3 p.m. Snowshed and Ramshed Base Lodge, Killington Resort in Killington. Free. It's been a Minter Wonderland here in Killington so far and needless to say, it has been Oat of This Swirled! Join the Killington Resort in the Snowshed or Ramshed Base Lodge from 3-4 p.m. for a Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Social they're sure you Pecan't Resist. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### Kid's 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. Wednesday's activities include door hanger decorating, scratch-off coloring books, and board game night. 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). For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### FOLA presents "Little Women"

5 p.m. Heald Auditorium, Ludlow Town Hall in Ludlow. Free.

FOLA will screen the classic film, "Little Women," a 2019 American coming-of-age period drama film written and directed by Greta Gerwig. It is the seventh film adaptation of the 1868 novel of the same name by Louisa May Alcott. As with all FOLA movies, the event is free and open to everyone; donations are appreciated. In keeping with the town policy on Covid-19, masks are required for those not vaccinated and recommended for those vaccinated. For info, visit 802-228-7239 and [fola.us](http://fola.us).

### 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).

## THURSDAY, DEC. 30

### 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).

### Complimentary photos at the Peak

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Killington Peak in Killington. Free. Snap a picture at the second highest peak in Vermont at Killington Peak. With sweeping views, you'll have a beautiful backdrop and remember your visit to the mountains for years to come. Photographer, Brian Farnum, will be at the summit providing complimentary photos. For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### 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 led by Brian Salmanson. All participants will be sitting on a chair. To reserve your spot call 802-773-1853.

### Hartford Public Skating

12-2 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, Hartford. \$5/person or season membership. Hartford Parks & Recreation is hosting holiday and school break public skate hours. Rental skates and ice sharpening are available on site. For more info visit [hartfordvt.myrec.com](http://hartfordvt.myrec.com).

### 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.

### MNFF Selects presents 'The Story of a Jewish Dog'

2 p.m. Town Hall Theater, Middlebury. \$16/person or \$7/children under 12. Buy a Selects Pass for \$105. The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is bringing back MNFF Selects, its monthly in-person screening series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. MNFF Selects will kick off its eight month run this October, spanning through May 2022. For its "comeback" edition, MNFF Selects presents Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds. The series will be geared toward families, with six of the eight films rated G or PG. The third movie is "The Story of a Jewish Dog". For more info visit [mddfilmfest.org/selects-2021-22](http://mddfilmfest.org/selects-2021-22).

### 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/).

### Kid's 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. Wednesday's activities include sensory bottle decorating and 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). For more info visit [killington.com/things-to-do/events](http://killington.com/things-to-do/events).

### 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).



← **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info  
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**FRIDAY,**  
**DEC. 31**

## New Year's 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### New Year's Eve Skate

2-4 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, Hartford. \$5/person. Ring in the New Year on Ice! Bring your family, meet your friends, or just come by yourself. Enjoy prizes, music, New Year's swag, and the company of other winter-loving skaters. New Year's Eve on Ice is a great way for the entire family to have fun. Due to Covid-19, no food or drink permitted. Pre-registration is highly encouraged.

### Kid's 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. Wednesday's activities include mask making and coloring corner. There will be live music for the big kids at heart. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events.

### Torchlight and Groomer parade

5 p.m. Snowshed trail, Killington Resort in Killington. Free. Watch the Killington Mountain Ambassadors conduct a torchlight parade, preceded by a groomer parade, down the Snowshed trail. This year, Killington looks to bring the party outside with DJ Dave playing all your favorites on the Snowshed Umbrella Bar deck from 4-6 p.m. To keep everyone nice and toasty, there will be fire pits and s'mores to keep you moving & grooving. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events.

### Pentangle Arts presents "West Side Story"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock. \$9/adult; \$8/child; \$7/Pentangle member. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks, two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. 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 purchase tickets visit pentanglearts.org.

### Wobbly Barn New Year's Eve party

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn in Killington. \$80/person. Don't spend New Year's Eve trying to figure out where to spend New Year's Eve! Join the Wobbly Barn they look to send off 2021 in such style that 2022 won't know what hit it. Doors for the night will open at 9 p.m. There will be an Express Line from 9 -10 p.m. with advanced ticket purchase. Tickets are \$80 and will include a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. All guests must be 21 years of age or older. Buy tickets online through 3 p.m. Dec. 31. After this time, tickets are available at the door until sold out. For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events.

**SATURDAY,**  
**JAN. 1**

## New Year's Day

### 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.

### "Kedi"

3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. \$15/person or \$12/BF&M member. The "Citizen Kane" of cat documentaries, "Kedi" a sophisticated, artful documentary from Turkish filmmaker Ceyda Torun isolates the profound relationship between man and cat by exploring it across several adorable cases in a city dense with examples. The result is at once hypnotic and charming. Film attendees are expected to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. All guests will be required to wear masks at all times during film viewings in the theater. For more info visit billingsfarm.org.

### Hartford Public Skating

4:15-5:45 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, Hartford. \$5/person or season membership. Hartford Parks & Recreation is hosting holiday and school break public skate hours. Rental skates and ice sharpening are available on site. For more info visit hartfordvt.myrec.com.

### Pentangle Arts presents "West Side Story"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock. \$9/adult; \$8/child; \$7/Pentangle member. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks, two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. 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 purchase tickets visit pentanglearts.org.

Submitted

**SUNDAY,**  
**JAN. 2**

### 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.

### Christmas Bird Count 2021

All Day. Meads Fall, Rutland. Free. Rutland County Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count will take place this year on Jan. 2. Birds spotted within a 7.5 mile radius of Meads Falls in Center Rutland will be counted by teams of field birders and feeder-watchers in this count circle. Results will be tallied and posted on e-Bird. Interested persons can contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for information or to sign up.

### 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.

### Pentangle Arts presents "West Side Story"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock. \$9/adult; \$8/child; \$7/Pentangle member. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks, two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. 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 purchase tickets visit pentanglearts.org.

### Hartford Public Skating

3:10-4:30 p.m. Wendell A. Barwood Arena, Hartford. \$5/person or season membership. Hartford Parks & Recreation is hosting holiday and school break public skate hours. Rental skates and ice sharpening are available on site. For more info visit hartfordvt.myrec.com.

**MONDAY,**  
**JAN. 3**

### 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.

### Killington Guided Tours

10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Snowshed Base Lodge Courtyard, Killington Resort in Killington. Free. Whether it's your first time at Killington or you simply need a refresher, Killington's guided tours will show you where veterans of Killington like to ski and ride. Meet your friendly tour guide in the courtyard at Snowshed Base Lodge and hit the slopes for a 75-90 minute tour of Killington Resort. Appropriate for experienced novice and higher ability levels (blue square terrain may be included). For more info visit killington.com/things-to-do/events.

### A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, Rutland. Free. The Community meet from 10-11:30 a.m. at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Snacks provided, siblings welcome. Find connection, education, and a community to share with. They're 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 wonderfeetkids-museum.org.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE  
AT BARWOOD ARENA  
FRIDAY, DEC. 31 AT 2 P.M.**



## Did we miss a local event?

Email your upcoming event to email events@mountaintimes.info.

← **Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info)  
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### 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 and 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 Arts presents "West Side Story"

7:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theatre, 31 The Green in Woodstock. \$9/adult; \$8/child; \$7/Pentangle member. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks, two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. 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 purchase tickets visit [pentanglearts.org](http://pentanglearts.org).

← **Covid:** Gifford medical center gears up  
from page 4

from Covid infections and helping them recover, Dr. White said that Gifford has, like other healthcare providers, experienced disrespectful, intolerant, even abusive behavior from patients.

What have we become?

The majority of Gifford's Covid patients have been unvaccinated, which is also true nationwide. The figure is more telling in Vermont, where the overall vaccination rate is among the highest in the country.

He believes a "lock-down would help reduce the number of cases, but would be expensive in many ways, including for the local economy."

In a short period of time the super-contagious Omicron variant of Covid-19 has progressed from an oddity versus Delta infections in the U.S. to more than 70% of positive tests nationwide, a bad omen on the heels of the current surge in Vermont.

Dr. White said because Gifford doesn't have an ICU for the very serious cases, "We do not expect to be overwhelmed with Covid patients. We struggle with staffing shortages, like every other hospital. At any given time, we cannot accept as many patients as we otherwise might, as we don't have the nurses to care for patients."

The best thing we can do, he said, is to work to prevent infections in the first place.

"Vaccinate like mad, employ monoclonal antibodies, educate. We have done well with this locally, and it appears to be working," he said.

"Plan B would be for the state to call in the National Guard to staff hospitals, as they have in New York, New Hampshire and Maine," he said. "[Federal Emergency Management Agency] is assisting with staffing regionally as well."

# TUESDAY, JAN. 4

### 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.

### 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)

### 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.

## Did we miss a local event?

Email your upcoming event to [email events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:email events@mountaintimes.info).



By Brooke Geery

## It's always a good day on the slopes

Killington local snowboarders Johnny Forest and Harley "L'il Homie" Ruffle (4) are joined by Todd from Connecticut for a photo opp at the bottom of Killington Resort after a serious day of skiing and riding earlier this month.

**WORDPLAY**

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

**SUDOKU**

Solutions > 54

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

**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.

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

Level: Intermediate

ANORAK  
 ARCTIC  
 BALACLAVA  
 BITING  
 BITTER  
 BLIZZARD

BLUSTERY  
 CHILLS  
 CHIMNEY  
 COLD  
 DECEMBER  
 DRAFTY

DREARY  
 DUVET  
 EARMUFFS  
 EVERGREEN  
 FIREWOOD  
 FLANNEL

FLEECE  
 FLURRIES  
 GALE  
 GLOVES  
 HOCKEY  
 ICICLE

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Solutions > 54

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Loud cheer
- 5. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 8. Type of cell
- 11. Oblong pulpits
- 13. Pitching statistic
- 14. Uncommon
- 15. Liabilities
- 16. Thin, straight bar
- 17. Oh goodness!
- 18. Competitions
- 20. \_\_\_ Jima, WW II battlefield
- 21. Professional assn. (abbr.)
- 22. Italian mountain range
- 25. Taking possession of
- 30. Used in cooking and medicine
- 31. Water (French)
- 32. Parent a child
- 33. Sun-dried brick
- 38. One point south of due east
- 41. Female fashion accessory
- 43. A way of making a copy of
- 45. A way to debilitate
- 47. Wings
- 49. Social insect
- 50. Dull brown fabrics
- 55. Indian musical pattern

**CLUES DOWN**

- 56. N. England university
- 57. Portable stands for coffins
- 59. Iranian district
- 60. Envision
- 61. Passerine bird genus
- 62. Container
- 63. Falter
- 64. Tunisian city
- 1. Cool!
- 2. Passover offering
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. Collegiate military organization
- 5. Large nests
- 6. Beloved baked good
- 7. 1980s pop legend
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. Hillside
- 10. Surrender
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Long, narrow strap
- 19. Discount
- 23. A type of cast
- 24. Large, tropical lizard
- 25. Half of "Milli Vanilli"
- 26. Single

1	2	3	4					5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12			13					14		
15								16					17		
	18					19		20					21		
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		

- 27. Big truck
- 28. Midway between east and southeast
- 29. Et \_\_\_; indicates further
- 34. Insecticide
- 35. Luke Skywalker's mentor
- 36. Cast out
- 37. Breakfast food
- 39. By reason of

- 40. One who makes thread
- 41. Baseball stat
- 42. Breezed through
- 44. Frothy mass of bubbles
- 45. Tony-winning actress Daisy
- 46. Made of fermented honey and water
- 47. Member of a Semitic people

- 48. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 51. Run batted in
- 52. Makes publicly known
- 53. Disagreement
- 54. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 58. Single-reed instrument

*Guess Who?*

I am a singer born in Ohio on December 28, 1978. I was the musical director for an a capella group at the University of Pennsylvania. I scored my first big hit in 2005, and I've won many music awards, including being the first black man to win an EGOT.

*Answer: John Legend*

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- Join thousands of other subscribers.
- Get the scoop on the weekend ski reports.

Visit [mountaintimes.info](http://mountaintimes.info) to subscribe.



Courtesy of Facebook

What an exciting day with the last of the J puppies going to their forever homes! We are very excited that James, Jayla, Janelle and Jonah will have families to spend the holidays with!!

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



**LUNA**

I'm a 7-year-old spayed female. Circumstances in my previous home changed. It's been a pretty smooth transition! I hope my new home is full of snuggling, as I do like affection, but I am also good at giving space, too! I don't mind a little independence from time to time. So, if you are looking for a furry companion to cuddle up on the couch by the woodstove or tell you a little story when you get home from work, I am just the gal and please call today to learn more!

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

# Rutland County Humane Society



**THAI—3-year-old.** Female. Hound mix. Brown and tan. What's your favorite day of the year? I would have to say the day I find a family to care for me forever!



**TULIP—2-year-old.** Female. Pit mix. Black and white. I love people and am excited about the possibility of finally finding my forever home.



**NIKKI—4-year-old.** Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger. I'm a very shy girl, but with enough time and love, I'm sure that I will open up to you.



**LOLLIPOP—5-week-old.** Not sure of sex. Lop. White. Cute, Cute, Cute! What more can I say! I am a sweet friendly baby bunny born on Nov. 11.



**LEXI—1.5-year-old.** Female. Terrier mix. Tan. I am a sweet beautiful young girl that is slightly nervous when I meet new people.



**DIESEL**

**8-year-old.** Neutered male. Hound mix. Brown. Being outside is the best! I do a lot of barking, but then I am a hound dog, right?



**LICORICE—5-week-old.** Not sure of sex. Lop eared. White. I am busy learning all the things that baby bunnies need to know.



**HUNTER—3-year-old.** Neutered male. Lab mix. Black. With my sad-looking face, who wouldn't want to take me home and love me forever?

All of these pets are available for adoption at  
**Rutland County Humane Society**  
 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT • (802) 483-6700  
 Tues. - Sat. 11-5p.m. for adoptions  
 Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org



**BROWNIE—6-month-old.** Female. Lop. Tan. I love attention, hopping around and checking out the surroundings!



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



**BELL—5-month-old.** Neutered male. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger. Hi there! I'm a new kid on the block, and I am ready for a forever home!



**LUNA—5-year-old.** Spayed female. Domestic shorthair. Brown tiger. I'm Luna, I am a very sweet girl! I enjoy getting ear scratches and lots of attention.

## Thank you from the Rutland County Humane Society!

The board of directors, staff, and animals at the Rutland County Humane Society would like to send out a special "thank you" to our community who is so supportive of us! Whether it's volunteering your time and talents, adopting an animal or supporting us with donations, our community continues to always be there for us and we couldn't do what we do without you! Thank you so much! May the new year fill hearts with new hopes, open up new horizons and bring promises of brighter tomorrows for all creatures big and small. Our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

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# Cosmic Catalogue

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## Aries

March 21 - April 20

Life may take on a quieter turn for you as you welcome the new year. As your most private house becomes active over the next several months, taking every opportunity to rest, recharge and become inspired will be a must. Yes, I realize that sounds boring to you, but let me assure you, come May, you'll be glad you recharged your batteries in the earlier part of the year. If there are certain obligations you must maintain, then do your best to focus your energies and avoid becoming distracted or depleted.



## Taurus

April 21 - May 20

If you rose up to the challenges that the landscape of 2021 laid out for you, then 2022 will grant you with benefits and blessings. That said, the difficult parts of life won't necessarily get better, but you'll certainly have one of the luckiest periods in over a decade that will make it worthwhile. The road is rising up to meet you. Be aware, open and available to opportunities even if it looks like hard work. It will be in your best interest to not let recent experiences make you pessimistic.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

The arrival of Jupiter in Pisces, until May, will bring a plethora of possibility when it comes to your professional path and overall life direction. Increased opportunities, coupled with recognition for your achievements, could see more doors open up than you could possibly walk through. With so many options available to you, it could be hard to choose. It may be worthwhile trusting your intuition more than your logic. If it feels right, then go for it. Just be sure it already aligns with what you want.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 20

The joyful and benevolent influence of Jupiter in Pisces in your discovery sector until May, may prompt you to want to know more about life. Experiences, study and spirituality are all possibilities available to explore. After recent roadblocks, the next few months open doors that were otherwise closed. Items from your bucket list may beckon. Your desires in this department may also change. You may no longer want what you once did as you discover something more meaningful. So be open.



## Leo

July 21 - August 20

Entanglements of the financial and karmic kind are on the cosmic table for you over the next few months. Expansion of debts, savings and investments are possible. You could also be the benefactor of abundance through personal or professional partnership. If things have been less than ideal, Jupiter in Pisces can help you heal and work through any barriers you may have. By facing your fears and opening up to new ways of dealing, you'll undergo both the financial expansion and the security you want.



## Virgo

August 21 - September 20

As the planet of expansion tours your Seventh House of Relationships until May, you can experience a beautiful opening in partnership. If your coupling has been limping along, you might find healing, compassion and expansion will help the two of you rekindle a spiritual connection. A new romance could move to the next level, and if you're single, you could meet someone worth getting to know. A person of wisdom or status could take you under their wing, supporting and guiding you in a multitude of ways.



## Libra

September 21 - October 20

Attention to health and wellness routines are highlighted over the next several months. If your New Year resolutions involve a new and improved you, the Cosmos supports you in making this a reality. Attention may also be required when it comes to how much you do for others. If your efforts have gone underappreciated or underpaid, Jupiter in Pisces could amplify the issue. It will be important to recognize that you can put yourself first sometimes too! As my grandmother used to say, "There are no medals for being a martyr."



## Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Some of your most joyful and happy moments are on offer over the next several months. With the arrival of Jupiter in Pisces, until May, it's your Fifth House that becomes active. It may be the simple things that matter most — romance, children, hobbies and pleasure pursuits that you might like to direct your intense focus toward. Whatever has been lacking in recent years that lightens up your life is sure to make a return in a big way. Be open and receptive to new opportunities for creative outlets especially.



## Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

You don't have a reputation for being the home-loving type. Recent years have blocked your natural penchant for restlessness and adventure. As your patron planet, Jupiter, resides in your domestic sector for the next several months, much of your attention and focus will be at home and family relationships. Buying, selling real estate, renovating or relocating is likely. Under Jupiter's expansive touch, you might find yourself making room for someone special in your life.



## Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

The Third House of your solar chart tends to go very underrated. With the arrival of the spiritual influence of Jupiter in Pisces, you might be inclined to dedicate yourself to something meaningful. Routine and rituals in your everyday life may hold more intention than getting something done or being a means to an end. Pursue topics of interest through learning, especially if it involves personal development. If the opportunity to heal any fractured relationships arises, be open to the possibilities.



## Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

2021 sure pressure-tested you. By now, you should have even more of an idea of what you're capable of. The intense energies of the sky won't be going anywhere in 2022. Your cash flow zone will be blessed by the once in a decade influence of Jupiter in Pisces. If you feel it's high time your ship came in, it's quite possible it might. Promotions or pay rises can help. Be warned, your expenses may increase too! So, depending on your goals, be mindful that money could easily slip through your fingers, too.



## Pisces

February 21 - March 20

It may be all about you until May thanks to Jupiter arriving in your sign. After a treacherous two years, it may finally feel like you can shift your focus toward your personal growth and development. This cycle invites you to say "yes" to all the things that interest you. Things may not make too much sense right now, but if it feels right to you, then be sure to embrace it. In your First House of Self, larger than life Jupiter could also expand the waistline through saying yes to all or even impending parenthood.

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

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



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MOUNTAIN TIMES

This week's living Arts, Dining and Entertainment!



Michael Jackson

Submitted



Submitted

Left: Early Bird's Kiss My Oats granola. Above: A stylized photo of Michael Jackson.



New Kids on the Block

Courtesy of New Kids on the Block



Lady A

By Dove Shore

## Trademark police: Naming rights and their ridiculous lawsuits

By Bill Forman

Nobody likes lawsuits, especially if you're on the receiving end of one. And if the plaintiff turns out to be Michael Jackson's estate, then you REALLY want to be careful.

Because, as we all know, there can only be one "King of Pop," just as there can only be one "Lord of the Dance" or "Prince of Darkness" or, you know, whatever. And pretenders to the throne will pay the price.

Recently, the Jackson empire struck back at one such interloper, a Belgian public-radio quiz program called "King of Pop," in which contestants vied for the crown by demonstrating their knowledge of pop music trivia.

"We did not even know that 'King of Pop' was a protected trademark," claimed presenter Stijn Van de Voorde — as though that were any excuse! — in an interview with the Flemish newspaper Het Nieuwsblad. "It is pretty cool that these people know we exist, but it is kind of stupid that they are making such a fuss about it."

Being public radio, "King of Pop" is a one-man operation, with Van de Voorde writing the questions, choosing the music and hosting the show for its past three seasons. But while his program will surely cease and desist from further using the name, there's no way to be certain the winners will do the same.

Of course, "King of Pop" is just one of many phrases that Jackson's estate has trademarked. Others include, but are not limited to...

- "This is it"
- "The World of Michael Jackson"
- "Thriller: The World's Biggest Selling Album"

- "Neverland Ranch"
- "Michaelfest"
- "Michael's Pets"

And if you're thinking of naming your pet chimp "Bubbles," think again.

You should also refrain from using "Wacko Jacko" — which was Jackson's nickname in the British press — because that's just rude.

**"We did not even know that 'King of Pop' was a protected trademark," claimed presenter Stijn Van de Voorde.**

Van de Voorde's transgression is just the latest in a long and colorful tradition of branding disagreements.

Many have been resolved reasonably. When the British ska/pop band The Beat toured America or Canada, they would bill themselves as the English Beat. Likewise, the Chameleons would tour as the Chameleons UK, etc., etc.

By contrast, American brand-name disputes tend to get downright ugly, the most recent being less-than-woke Southern band Lady Antebellum changing its name to Lady A, and then filing an injunction against the African American blues artist who'd been recording and performing under that name for decades.

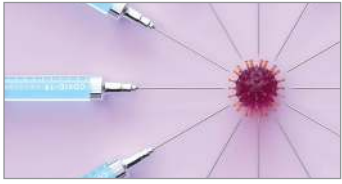
Other noteworthy pop-star plaintiffs have included

Mike Love, the world's most-hated Beach Boy, who sued co-founding bandmate Al Jardine for daring to tour under the name "Al Jardine of the Beach Boys."

And then there was, and apparently still is, New Kids on the Block, who sued USA Today for setting up a 900 number to poll teens about which New Kid on the Block was their favorite. NKOTB claimed that the use of their name was trademark infringement. But the court ruled in favor of the newspaper, citing the fair use exemption due to the fact that it would have been impossible to conduct the poll without mentioning the band's name.

Weirder still was Alex Van Halen's lawsuit against his ex-wife Kelly Carter, who had used her drummer husband's name over the course of their 12-year marriage and subsequently started a construction and interior design company called, wait for it, Kelly Van Halen. Which wasn't fair, claimed Van Halen's lawyers, because the band's trademarks have "acquired extensive goodwill, developed a high degree of distinctiveness, are recognized throughout the United States as well-known and famous, and recognized as identifying high-quality goods and services."

Last but not least ridiculous, was Hall & Oates seeking damages from a Brooklyn-based "artisanal granola" company called Early Bird, which was selling oatmeal under the name "Haulin' Oates." Early Bird responded by offering a limited-time 25% discount on Haulin' Oats for customers who used the coupon code SAYTISNTSO — which happened to be the name of a 1983 Haulin' Oates single — after which the company rebranded it Kiss My Oats.



**1,100,000**

*The number of lives saved in the United States by Covid vaccines, according to an estimate from the Yale University School of Public Health.*

**6%**

*The projected growth of the U.S. economy through 2021, as reported by the Wall Street Journal, the highest growth rate the country has experienced in decades.*

**423,558**

*The number of people in the United States who died of Covid-19 in 2021, up from 385,366 in 2020.*



**500,222,310**

*The number of Covid-19 vaccines that have been administered in the United States as of Dec. 23. That is nearly 1.5 shots for every U.S. citizen.*

# 2021

## Year in review



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# JANUARY



By Ashley Rosemeyer, courtesy Darkside Snowboards  
Just weeks after photos of snowboarders jibbing a monolith on a mountaintop in Pittsfield, one popped in at Darkside Snowboards in Killington. Johnny Forest (above) reaches the top!

## Reading PTO treasurer accused of embezzlement

On Jan. 5 Wade Mullins, 37, was arrested by the Vermont State Police on suspicion of embezzlement.

A VSP press release cites evidence that Mullins misappropriated approximately \$10,000 between 2014 and 2020 while serving as Reading Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization's treasurer. Reading is one of seven towns that joined to form the Windsor Central Unified Union School District as part of Act 46 school consolidation.

## Police investigate deadly crash in Mendon

On Jan. 11 at 6:40 p.m., troopers from the Vermont State Police – Rutland Barracks responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on US Route 4 in the town of Mendon.

Preliminary investigation revealed Thomas Yuri Savransky, 23, of New York, New York, was traveling westbound on US Route 4 in a GMC Yukon, when he crossed the center line and crashed head on into a Chevy Silverado driven by Tyler Whille, 33, of Killington.

Savranski was transported to Rutland Regional Medical where he later succumbed to his injuries.

## Snowboarder rescued out-of-bounds at Killington

Early in the evening on Jan. 30, Raymond Park, 49, from Killington, was snowboarding on the back side of the Killington ski area, out of bounds, and spent several subsequent hours trying unsuccessfully to return to the trail he had left. He wasn't found by rescuers until 8 a.m. Jan. 31, five hours after he texted a friend his GPS location at 3 a.m.

## Vermont protesters describe a friendly mob of fellow believers in D.C.

About 50 Vermonters made the trip to Washington on a coach bus that left Vermont Tuesday night, Jan. 5.

With a mixture of pride and defiance, the organizer who helped 51 people travel to Washington, D.C., for Wednesday's planned demonstration at the Capitol building described a festive occasion where like-minded people shared stories and ideas.

"The congeniality of the group was apparent from the beginning," wrote Ron Lawrence, chair of the Essex town Republican committee. He collected names and money for the bus trip and wrote a summary afterward. "Five people at the Capitol died after a mob of pro-Trump demonstrators broke barriers and windows to stream into the Capitol building, ransacking lawmakers' offices and clashing with police.

## Capital Attack

On Jan 6., a mob of Trump supporters stormed the United States Capital building, hoping to stall or negate Trump's 2020 election defeat. One capital police officer was killed in the attack, and 138 were injured.

## Inauguration

On Jan. 20, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States alongside his vice president, Kamala Harris.

## Vermont begins vaccinations by age group

The first round of shots for Vermonters age 75 and older begin Jan. 25

State officials announced at Friday's press conference, Jan. 15, that registration for the Covid-19 vaccine for people who are 75 years and older will begin on January 25.

"Now that Vermonters know more about our plans, we are anticipating plenty of interest and questions," said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD. "This will be good news for many people, but I again need to ask for your patience and help as we finalize our systems so they can be rolled out as smoothly as possible."

## Mary Theresa Ojala, 100

Mary Theresa Ojala, 100, of Rutland, died peacefully Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, at her home, surrounded by family, following a recent decline in her health. Mary was born Nov. 22, 1920, in Bayonne, New Jersey, to the late James and Francis Coyle O'Donnell. (Pictured left).



## 'Dee' DeLorenzo

Hannibal DeLorenzo was born in Orange, New Jersey on May 2, 1926 and lived in Sparta, New Jersey until he passed on Dec. 21, 2020. He served in the US Coast Guard during WWII. (Pictured left).





By Krista Johnston & Brooke Geery  
*One of the many images made this past week with Senator Bernie's viral inauguration photo. In this version, the senator looks warm and cozy while rifing up the Skye Peak Quad at Killington Resort, but he must have forgotten his skis.*

## ▲ Bernie Sanders wins the Internet

On Jan. 20, a new administration was sworn into the White House, and among a sea of designer gowns, expensive sneakers and couture suits, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders stood out in his sensible Burton Snowboards jacket and handmade recycled mittens. Within 24 hours, the internet had exploded with memes ranging from how to “steal his look” to his daily to-do list, to inserting him just about everywhere.

## Civic engagement, service on the rise in Rutland

**Voters to choose from a record number of candidates for Mayor, every elected position is contested**

Rutland City residents are stepping up to lead. At this year's Town Meeting every elected position is being contested, giving voters many choices. Seven candidates will face off for Mayor. Eighteen seek the six seats on the Board of Aldermen. Seven eye three seats on the school board. Seven vie for city assessor with Barry Keefe retiring. And three will compete for city treasurer.

## VACCINE

*Although the first Covid vaccine doses under emergency use authorization were administered in late 2020, the Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Moderna vaccines did not become widely available until the first quarter of 2021.*



# FEBRUARY

## The Snowed Inn sold after 37 years

Jeanne and Manfred Karlhuber celebrated with a Zoom party Monday, Feb. 1, after signing closing documents to sell The Snowed Inn after 37 years.

“We had dinner delivered and champagne,” Jeanne Karlhuber said of the party their (adult) children, Tom and Kerstin, organized for them.

“I'm exhausted but excited and relieved,” she added.

The Karlhubers purchased the Snowed Inn in February 1984 when it was “a small, nondescript 4-room guest house of 1960s vintage,” according to the Snowed Inn website.



By Brian Mohr/EmberPhoto

*Above: Ian Forgays, an expert skier based in Mad River, was known for finding deep snow in the backcountry. He died Feb. 1.*

## Longtime Killington employee dies at inn apartment

A longtime employee of Mountain Sports Inn in Killington was found dead in his onsite apartment unit on Friday, Feb. 26.

Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery said Peter S MacDonald, 55, was found unresponsive by an employee of the inn on Friday morning. Police responded around 11 a.m. and he was pronounced dead.

“Obviously it's too bad,” Montgomery said.



## ▲ Wendy A. Witherell Hill, 87

Wendy A. Witherell Hill, 87, died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 3, 2021, following the effects of a stroke.

Born Oct. 7, 1933, in Troy, New York, Wendy Witherell Hill graduated from Emma Willard School in 1951, and Cornell University in 1955. She and her husband Robert wed in 1955 and enjoyed 65 years of marriage together.

In the late 1960's, Wendy became one of the first female professional Alpine ski instructors in the U.S. and worked as a ski instructor and racing coach for nearly five decades at Killington, becoming a respected mentor for many.

## ▲ Avalanche on Mt. Washington: Skiin' Ian's Final Run

Ian Forgays was a backcountry skier: Skiin' Ian as he was known and, on social media, “Lincoln Lynx.” He died Feb. 1, caught in an avalanche while skiing Ammonoosuc Ravine in the White Mountains.

## Liquor stores end year with surge in sales

With the closure of bars, people are drinking at home like never before.

Liquor stores have seen record sales since the start of the pandemic last March.

In Vermont, retailers saw a record-breaking \$87.9 million in liquor sales in fiscal year 2020, (extending from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), up from \$82.2 million in fiscal year 2019, according to an annual report released by the Department of Liquor Control in January.

Liquor sales contributed \$31.8 million to the state's general fund, up 12.25% from the previous year.



## Rutland school board approves Raven as new mascot

It's official: the Rutland Raiders will become the Rutland Ravens.

On Feb. 9, a 6-4 vote by the Rutland Board of School Commissioners authorized the new athletic mascot following a presentation by members of a student advisory committee from Rutland High School (RHS) and Principal Greg Schillinger.



## Okemo superpipe opens, first in New England

Photo courtesy of Okemo  
 Designer Mark Burnett sees his sculpture of Vermont's Martin Henry Freeman, first Black president of a college in the U.S. for the first time during Black History Month. The sculpture can be found in Downtown Rutland's Center Street alley public outdoor space.



### Joseph James Peterson, (Jamie/Joe/BBY/Robert/Bobby)

Bobby died unexpectedly on the evening of Friday, Feb. 12, with his best friend and loved one of 12 years by his side.

Joseph James Peterson was a man of many names. Whether you knew him as Jamie, Joe, BBY, Robert, or Bobby, you knew him as a friend.

He started working behind a bar as a teenager and while he pursued law school, he chose to use his talents to entertain the masses at busy resorts. Bobby is best known for his years in Killington at the Wobbly Barn, Green Mountain National Golf Course, the Outback, and most recently, The Lookout.

### VSCS trustees approve consolidation

Castleton University to combine, CCV to remain separate, all campuses to stay open

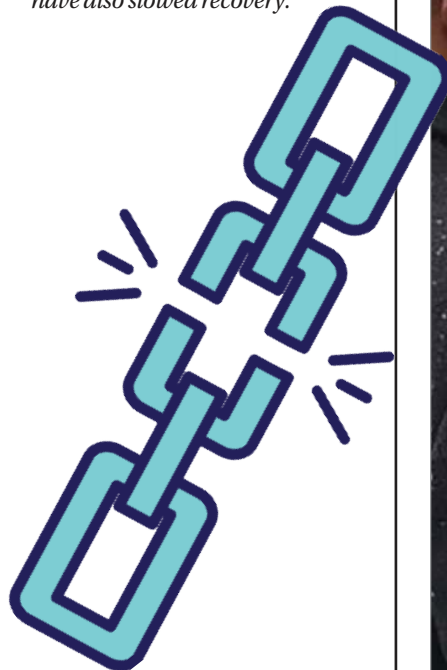
On Monday, Feb. 22, the Vermont State College System Board of Trustees voted unanimously to move forward with the proposal outlined by the state's select committee on the future of public higher education in Vermont.

The Vermont State Colleges (VSCS) system includes Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, Vermont Technical College and the Community College of Vermont (CCV).

The four campuses will remain open. CCV will remain a separate institution.

### Supply chain

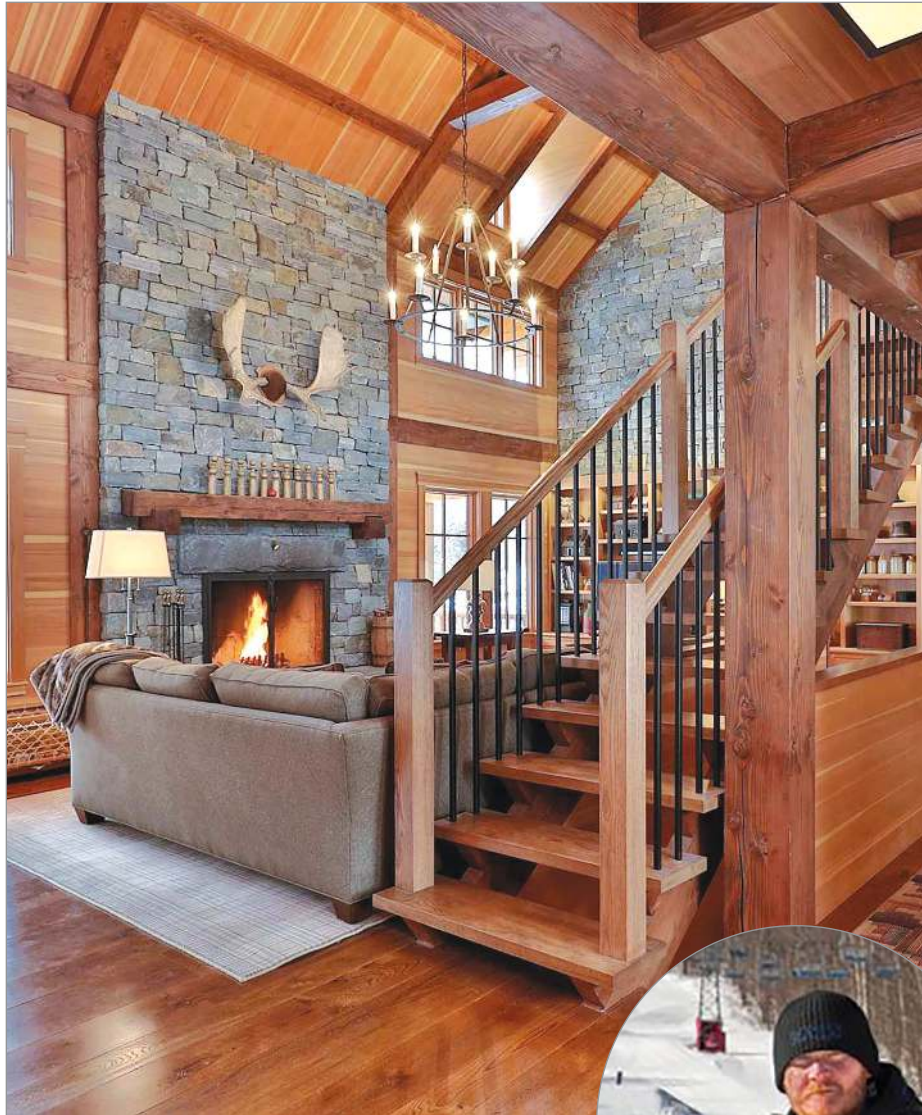
*As factories closed, shipping companies reduced their workload, anticipating decreased consumer spending. As demand rapidly increased, the shipping companies have failed to keep pace, and worker shortages across the board have also slowed recovery.*



## Mark and Martin face to face

By Victoria Gaither  
 Designer Mark Burnett sees his sculpture of Vermont's Martin Henry Freeman, first Black president of a college in the U.S. for the first time during Black History Month. The sculpture can be found in Downtown Rutland's Center Street alley public outdoor space.

# MARCH



Courtesy Kyle Kershner, Killington Pico Realty  
 "Moguls 5" is the \$2.65 million single family home that recently sent a record high for its sale price.

## Killington single-family house sold for \$2.65 million, setting new record

**Demand for luxury homes, low inventory, high prices create sellers' market**

A stunning trailside five-bedroom, five-bath, three-level contemporary house set on an almost one-acre lot has set a new record for single-family-home sale price in Killington at a \$2.65 million.

The previous record was \$2.4 million, noted Kyle Kershner, broker/owner of Killington Pico Realty, who listed the home.

## 'A divorce we can't afford'

**Stockbridge residents petition for revote after school merger withdrawal is approved**

Stockbridge residents decided 125-95 on Town Meeting Day to withdraw from the Rochester Stockbridge Unified School District and operate Stockbridge Central School on its own, but days after the vote, a petition for a revote began circulating.



## Tony Chuichiolo, 46

East Coast snowboarding icon Tony Chuichiolo passed away unexpectedly on March 6, after a sudden medical event. A lifelong Vermonter and long-time Sugarbush employee who dabbled in everything from marketing to park building to events, Tony built and fostered a scene like no other.

He leaves behind three children of his own, Kyley, 19, Bianca, 13 and Hazen, 7, in addition to literally hundreds of adopted children who cut their teeth at Sugarbush under his tutelage.

## U.S. Moguls Team with former KMS Coach, athletes named best in world

Photo courtesy of Hannah Soar and FIS  
 Left: Hannah Soar (KMS Alumni) ended her season with the U.S. Mogul Team finishing third best in the world. Soar stands with her U.S. teammates at the Freestyle International FIS Ski World Cup.

## BILLIONAIRE SPACE RACE

*Richard Branson, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, three billionaires, all went to space this year, furthering work on their space tourism businesses.*

## Rutland mayor re-elected

Rutland City Mayor David Allaire won his third term in office on Town Meeting Day.

The incumbent earned 1,356 votes, beating Board of Aldermen members Chris Ertori, who had 1,018 votes and Sam Gorruso, who had 561 votes.

"I was extremely pleased," Allaire said. "With the tension around the country, it was hard to know how it was going to turn out."

## Judge Peter Hall, lone Vermont judge on federal appeals court, dies at 72

Judge Peter Hall died early Thursday morning, March 11, one week after announcing he would step back from the region's federal appellate court.

Hall, 72, was the lone Vermonter on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, which is based in New York City. Judge Geoffrey Crawford, Vermont's chief federal district court judge, confirmed the news.



## Community asks for help after deadly hit and run in Mendon

The niece of a man killed in a hit and run in Mendon Thursday, March 11, is asking the public for help in identifying who hit him.

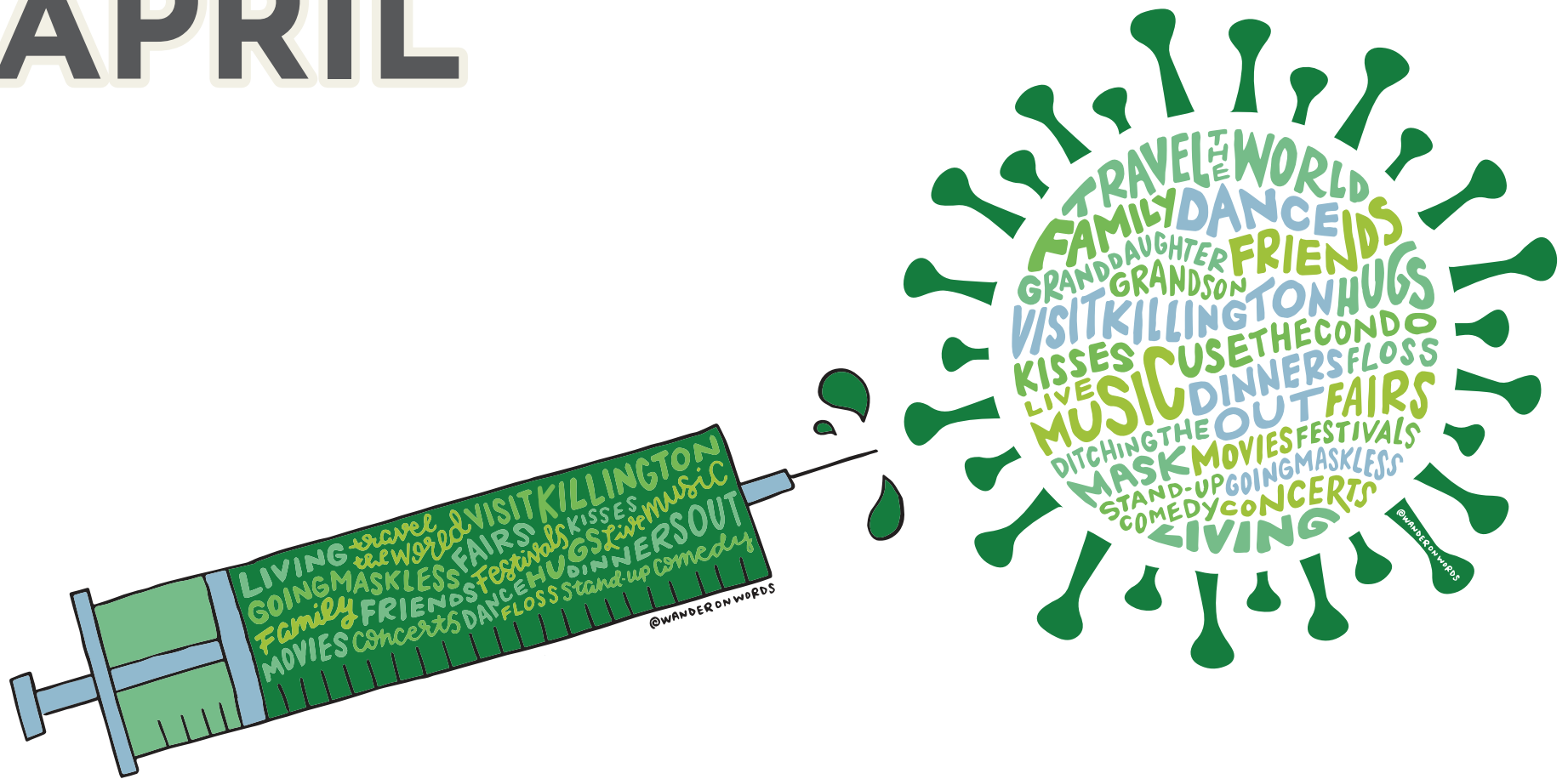
"I'm struggling with what happened," Amanda Miles wrote in a message to her late uncle on Facebook. "You didn't let life bring you down and you were the last person who deserved this."

Her uncle, Henry Miles, 54, died after he was struck crossing Route 4 in Mendon to get to the bus stop on Old Turnpike Road near the Killington Pico Motor Inn around 9:30 p.m. Miles sustained life threatening injuries and died at the scene.

Miles, who was one of six siblings, loved cooking and music. He was also a black belt in karate. Those who knew him said he was a happy-go-lucky person.



# APRIL



By Colleen Wilcox/Wander on Words

Above: graphics were created to portray the hopes and dreams that our readers were expressing in April with the introduction of vaccinations. Wilcox is a resident of the Killington area.

## Teen accidentally killed another teen in gun handoff, police say

A teenager told police a handgun accidentally went off as he handed it to another teenager, killing him early Saturday morning, April 3, in a Rutland motel room.

Kahliq Richardson, 18, of Rutland pleaded not guilty Monday, April 5, in Rutland Superior Court to a charge of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Jonah Pandiani, 19, of Rutland.

The shooting took place at the Quality Inn on South Main Street in Rutland. Rutland City Police said they were called to a room at the motel Saturday at about 6:40 a.m. for a report that one man had been shot.

## Towns to receive federal money as option tax revenue falls

With some restaurants, inns and bars being forced to close last year, option tax revenue is down by 50% or more in some towns, but many of them will be able to make up some of that with the help of a federal Covid-19 relief bill.

Part of \$2.7 billion in federal money earmarked for Vermont includes \$1 billion of direct payments to each municipality, based on population size. Killington is estimated to receive \$140,000, according to projections released last week. Woodstock will get about \$600,000. Rutland city will receive \$2.8 million, while Rutland town will receive \$756,000. Ludlow will get \$500,000.

## School reopening celebrated by some, others say 'Why rock the boat?'

Some people aren't fans of returning to full-time, in-class learning. Who they are may surprise you.

Woodstock High/Middle School principal Garon Smail surveyed students' families about transportation issues, and solicited comments about reopening.

"Many parents shared a strong desire to have students return to campus for more in-person learning days," Principal Smail told the Mountain Times. "People cited declining socio-emotional health, slower than usual learning progress, isolation, and the general well-being of their children as reasons for wanting more in-person days."

Were there any negative comments? "A much smaller number of people have shared concerns about spacing and adequate ventilation," Smail answered, referring to his public comments about air transfer and spacing assurances he made at a recent board meeting presentation.

## ALL ARE ELIGIBLE Vaccinations for every adult in Vermont began Monday

Governor Phil Scott announced Friday, April 16, that Vermont teens age 16-18 would become eligible for vaccine sign up early — on Saturday, April 17 at 10 a.m. The full age band (including 19- to 29-year-olds) then be eligible to make their vaccination appointments on Monday, April 19, a bit earlier than originally schedule — at 6 a.m.

## Killington Boot Camp to open above Base Camp Bike & Ski

Killington Boot Camp is moving and expanding operations.

Owner Beth Roberts is opening Killington Boot Camp Wellness Center on Saturday, May 1, on the second floor of Base Camp Bike & Ski (formerly Base Camp Outfitters) on Killington Road. There will be an open gym with weights, cardio equipment, pliability bands, suspension equipment and heavy bags.

## State orders three districts to pay tuition at religious schools

### Rutland Town, Hartland, Mt. Ascutney school districts named in appeal

The Board of Education on Wednesday, April 21, ordered three Vermont school districts to reimburse families who live in "choice" towns for the tuition they paid out of pocket this year for religious schools.

The board's decision was not entirely unexpected, given recent court rulings at the state and national levels. But it still does not settle the fundamental question at the heart of several lawsuits still pending in Vermont and elsewhere: To what extent, if any, can states exclude religious schools from receiving taxpayer funds?

Vermont is currently defending itself in two separate lawsuits, brought in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court case this summer.

Year in review > 30

# 13%

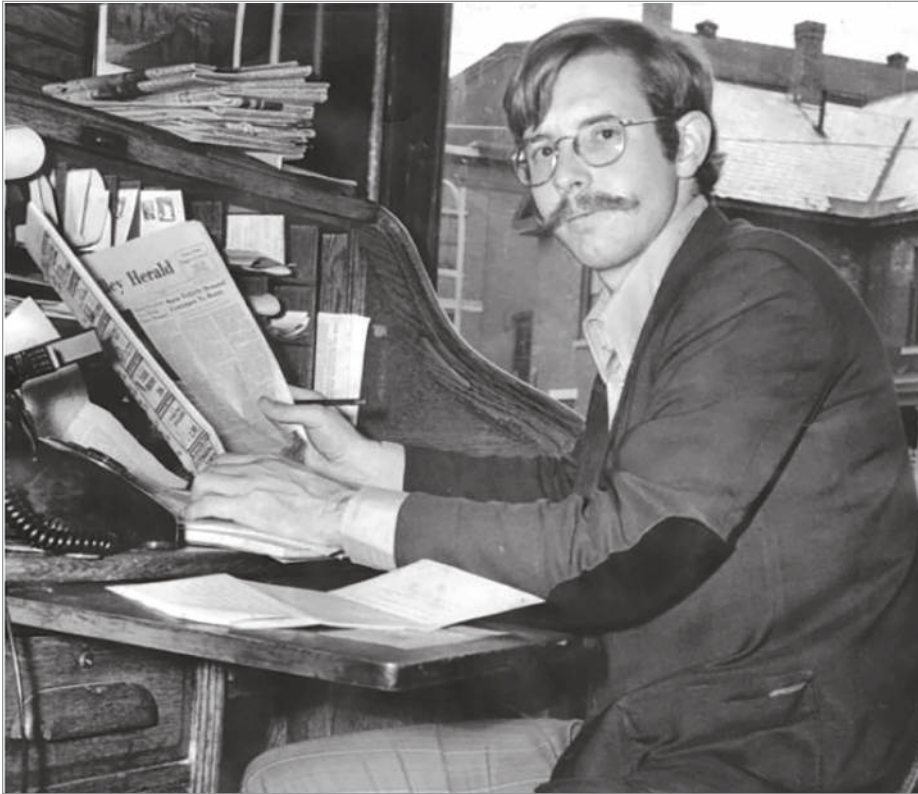
The percent of Americans dealing with food insecurity in 2021, according to Feeding America. Since the pandemic began, an additional 7 million people have struggled to consistently have enough to eat.



# 300%

Price increase for lumber between October 2020 and May 2021. The bubble burst soon after, but labor shortages, the closure of lumber mills, and increased demand all contributed to the highest ever cost of lumber.

# MAY



Courtesy of White River Valley Herald  
Longtime editor, publisher and reporter  
Dick Drysdale led the Herald of Randolph.

## Randolph publisher, 'quintessential journalist' Dick Drysdale dies

M. Dickey ("Dick") Drysdale, a longtime editor, publisher and reporter who spent his life telling stories about — and to — a community he loved, has died. He was 76.

Drysdale manned the helm of the White River Valley Herald for more than four decades, documenting the high school graduations, downtown arrests, municipal meetings and local personalities that form the fabric of small-town life.

"Dick was the quintessential journalist," said Jim Kenyon, a columnist for the Valley News who profiled Drysdale when he retired in 2015. Kenyon described Drysdale's practice of walking around town and talking to everyone he passed to gather local gossip and news.



## Rutland group wants to bring asylum seekers to the city

As the nation's southern border starts to open after a year-long shutdown, a group in Rutland is preparing to welcome asylum seekers.

Bridge to Rutland, a group of people from several local parishes, has raised about \$8,000 to bring asylum seekers to the city. Close to 70 volunteers have offered services, such as teaching English, helping with transportation, housing, clothing and grocery shopping, among other needs. A doctor, a mental health counselor and social worker have also offered to work *pro bono* for those in need.

"We see this as a calling to see the stranger in our midst and recognize that we're all one," said Ellen Green, executive director of Bridge to Rutland.

A record number of asylum seekers — most of them escaping violence in Central America — have been waiting in detention centers in Mexico for the past year due to a United States expulsion policy that was put in place under former President Donald Trump in March 2020 amid Covid-19 pandemic health concerns.

There are an estimated 25,000 migrants waiting in Mexico. The Mexican government received asylum petitions from more than 9,000 people in March — the most ever in a month — and there could be as many as 90,000 requests by the end of the year, the New York Times reported.

On President Joe Biden's 100th day in office on April 30, thousands of asylum seekers marched in Mexico, calling on Biden to lift the expulsion policy. Protestors also marched throughout the United States, including Main Street Park in Rutland.

## WORKER SHORTAGE

*An ongoing story throughout the last year, an unknown combination of decreased child care options, fear of contracting Covid, and increased personal savings have made hiring difficult. As a result, wages for lower-paying jobs have risen more than they have in decades.*

## Killington seeks \$50 million to fund road and water system

**Village developer says 'but for' this investment in infrastructure its project is too costly, water quality issues puts seven businesses on 'do not drink orders'**

The town of Killington is facing costly infrastructure limitations but the solution could prove to be a boon — for current businesses, new developments and town and state coffers — if solved with strategic partnerships.



By Polly Mikula

*Above: about 85 members of area fire and rescue operations gathered to help fight the forest fire which burned 25-26 acres.*

## Vermont leads nation in vaccination

*Revises outdoor mask guidance, moves to Step 2 of reopening plan. On May 1 the state announced that it had hit the targeted vaccination threshold of 50-60% of all Vermonters and 60-70% of Vermonters 16-plus triggering the planned move to Step 2 of the reopening plan, "Vermont Forward."*

*As of May 4, 351,300 Vermonters had been vaccinated — or 57.4% of the state's population. The rate made Vermont first in the nation for vaccinations per 100,000 people, state officials said at the bi-weekly press conference.*

## Forest fire burns in Killington

Saturday afternoon, May 15, police and fire personnel were alerted to a forest fire off Route 4 in Killington. Smoke could be seen rising up the southern hillside behind the (former) Kokopelli Inn, just west of Goodro Lumber.

The fire was started by new landowners who were burning brush and "slash" leftover by previous logging on the land, according to Killington Fire Warden Tom Rock. They did not have a permit to burn as is required by town ordinance.

Crews came from Killington, Pittsfield, Bridgewater, Stockbridge, Rutland Town, Rutland City, Proctor, Bethel, Barnard, Clarendon and the state to battle the forest fire, according to Rock and Chief of Police Whit Montgomery.



## Coalition rises in support of LGBTQ+, BIPOC communities in Rutland

RUTLAND—Building on a desire to make the greater-Rutland community hospitable to everyone, including the LGBTQ+ community, a new coalition and campaign is heralding the message that "All are welcome here."

Initiated by Rutland native Avery Provin, the effort includes members of the local LGBTQ+ community members, Downtown Rutland Partnership, I Love Rutland, Social Tinkering, and others.

# JUNE

## Three lost sheep rescued after a five-day adventure through Killington

KILLINGTON — The administrators of a Facebook group called “Killington Locals” chose a new featured photo for their page on Thursday: two sheep peeking over the backseat of a Volvo.

The picture marked the end of a journey for the sheep in question, who escaped from their new home at Mission Farm on Sunday, June 6, and for a bevy of locals who helped rescue them.

Over five days, the sheep crossed Route 4, slept atop Killington Ski Resort and descended to Pico Resort, where a group of 15 coaxed the animals into capturing range with the help of oats and maple syrup.

## Vermont hits 80% MASK MANDATE LIFTED

*The governor signed an executive order lifting the state's masking and physical distancing requirements for fully vaccinated individuals in Vermont. (Fully vaccinated means two weeks after the final dose of vaccine.)*

*“Today marks a major step forward in our efforts to end this pandemic and get back to doing more of the things we've missed over the past 14 months,” said Governor Scott.*



Submitted  
Gov. Phil Scott signed the order directing state agencies to end special Covid-19 restrictions.

## Vermont returns to 'normal' as Scott rescinds state of emergency

Gov. Phil Scott Monday morning lifted all state-mandated Covid-19 restrictions.

The state of emergency, in place since March 13, 2020, will expire at midnight June 15.

The order came after the announcement that Vermont became the first state to vaccinate over 80% of its eligible residents, making it the global leader in Covid-19 vaccinations.

# #1

*Vermont's ranking according to the CDC Covid scorecard.*



By Polly Mikula

*Above: Lou Illiano sold Peppino's after 30 years of ownership.*

## Peppino's sells to new owner

As the popular Peppino's Restaurant on Killington Road closes, a new restaurant is coming to town.

Peppino's owner Lou Illiano, who opened his authentic Italian restaurant 30 years ago, sold the building in May.

“It was just time for me to get out of the restaurant business,” Illiano said.

Kara Tondorf, a restaurateur from Massachusetts, just started renovations after buying the building for \$550,000. She plans to bring her Massachusetts restaurant, Rivershed, to town by October.

## Mendon homevalues increase after first reappraisal in 16 years

**Some property owners are shocked, but increased taxation is uncertain**

Earlier this year, the town of Mendon performed property reappraisals for the first time in 16 years, and the increased assessments have blindsided some residents.

“I estimate that 95% of the properties went up in this reappraisal,” said Mendon Town Assessor Spencer Potter.

## Amtrak returns to Rutland

RUTLAND—At 10:45 a.m., Sunday, June 27, a silver-blue-and-red Amtrak train rolled into Rutland with celebratory blasts of the train horn. The Ethan Allen line is preparing to get back in business July 19.

The Ethan Allen Express has its terminus in Rutland and shuttles back and forth to New York City's Penn Station with tiny passenger stations in Rutland and Castleton, and connections to points west in Schenectady and Rensselaer-Albany.

By Adam Moreira, Wikicommons  
*Below: Ethan Allen Express train en route to Rutland. The service is scheduled to resume July 19.*

Year in review > 32



# JULY

## Sotheby's comes to Killington amid influx of homebuyers

A new real estate office is coming to Killington as people continue to flock from the cities amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty officially opened its new office in the lobby of Mountain Green on Killington Road on Wednesday, July 7.

"It's a market we've always been in but we weren't there with a presence," said Nick Mastroeni, the Sotheby's regional manager for the greater Vermont area.

# 2.6

*The number of degrees hotter the summer of 2021 was than the average summer in the 20th century. It was tied for the hottest summer on record with 1936 — the year of the dust bowl.*

# 245

*How old the United States turned on July 4, 2021.*



By Ethan Weinstein

*Jessie Gagnon and Earl Kehoe hold hands minutes after their wedding ceremony, smiling for cameras and greeting friends.*

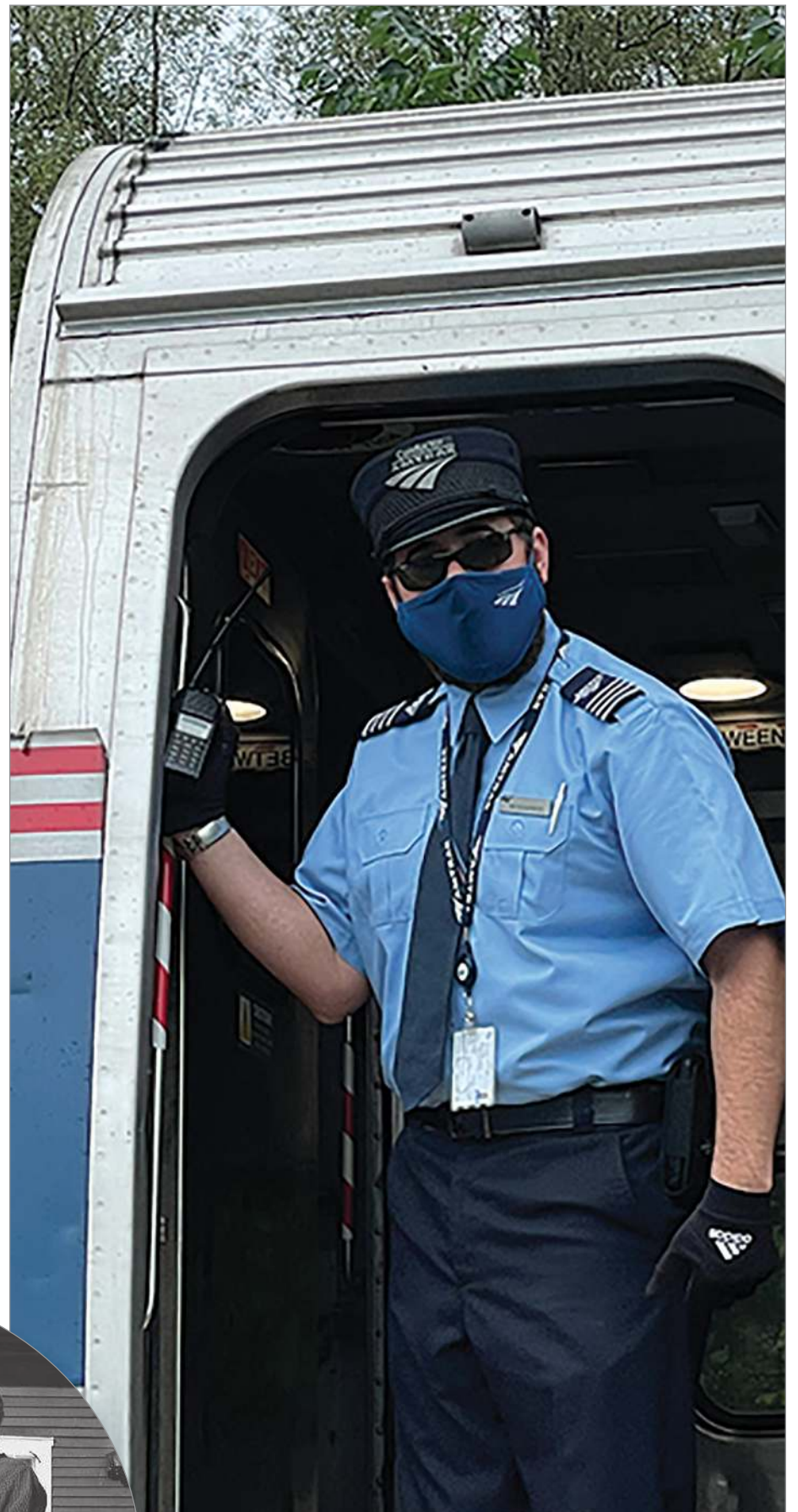
## Couple overcomes all odds to tie the knot

Nothing could stop Jessie Gagnon and Earl Kehoe from finally marrying. Kehoe's stroke hadn't. Covid hadn't. And the couple certainly wasn't going to let the day's 90-degree heat delay their marriage any longer.

### Anne J. Jones Joseph C. "Joe" Jones

MENDON—Anne Johnson Jones, age 90 (deceased 4/17/20), and Joseph Clarence (Joe) Jones, age 97 (deceased 7/17/21), of Mendon and most recently The Meadows of East Mountain in Rutland Town, have both peacefully passed away. Anne was born August 3, 1929, in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Elizabeth (DeFord) Johnson and Charles B. Johnson. Joe was born July 20, 1923, in Rutland, the son of Catherine (Dye) Jones and George F. Jones.

Anne and Joe were married on April 2, 1949, in Concord, Massachusetts. They enjoyed 71 wonderful years of marriage together.



## Amtrak is back

### Crowds gather in Rutland and Castleton to celebrate

At 7:30 a.m. on Monday, July 19, the James M. Jeffords Station in downtown Rutland was packed with passengers eager to board the Ethan Allen Express for the first time in 16 months. Many local officials and residents were there for the celebration. After remarks at the Rutland station they rode to Castleton for a second celebration.

By Polly Mikula  
*Above: Amtrak Conductor Muhammed Mohran greets passengers boarding the Ethan Allen Express at the Rutland Station.*



# AUGUST

## Tax rate plunges in Mendon

The Mendon Select Board has set the municipal tax rate for 2021-2022 at 0.3973%, which means that Mendon homeowners will pay 16.4 fewer cents in municipal taxes per \$100 of assessed property value than they did last year.

That's mostly because their assessed property values skyrocketed during the spring's townwide reappraisal, which caused Mendon's grand list to rise by 36.3%, while the voter-approved annual budget (\$1,211,999) increased by only 2% in March.

## Rutland City ends fiscal year with surplus

Rutland City underspent its annual budget in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) by nearly \$1 million. The city's biggest savings came from the Dept. of Public Works, which declined to make use of a \$500,000 allocation for paving contracts, and from the police department, which has struggled to recruit qualified officers for several years.

## Claffey resigns from Killington Select Board

The Killington Select Board officially accepted Chuck Claffey's resignation as selectman at their July 20 meeting. Claffey had served about two-and-a-half years of the three-year term for which he was elected in 2019.

## Mountain Creamery moves out of Woodstock Village

After 34 years in the Woodstock Village, the Mountain Creamery has a new location.

The popular homemade ice cream shop and restaurant moved from Central Street to West Woodstock — about five miles up the road — on July 4.

## Chris Karr to take Claffey's Seat on Select Board

Killington Select Board member Chuck Claffey was a half-year short of completing his first term on the Select Board when he sold his house and moved to Mendon, requiring him to resign his seat.

Steve Finneran and Jim Haff were the only two Select Board members left, so the Board needed to appoint a replacement for Claffey.



Courtesy Facebook

Rugby player Ilona Maher's Facebook page features the Vermont Olympian in Tokyo.

## Vermont set to cheer 3 Summer Olympians with state ties

Vermont long has cultivated Winter Olympians who collect headlines, be it Andrea Mead Lawrence (the first American skier to win gold twice in a single games, in 1952), Bill Koch (the first U.S. cross-country competitor to medal, in 1976) or Kelly Clark and Ross Powers (the nation's first two snowboarders to top the women's and men's tallies, in 2002).

But three athletes with state ties are now making Summer Games history — simply by making the Summer Games.

Montgomery runner Elle Purrier St. Pierre, Burlington rugby player Ilona Maher, and Vermont Academy graduate and rower Brooke Mooney are part of a 600-person team representing the U.S. in Tokyo.

## Woodstock struggles to solve restaurant shortage

The Woodstock Economic Development Commission and Village Trustees are trying to bring more food to town to accommodate a shortage of lunch options and a striking volume of tourists.

EDC chair Jon Spector said the "unprecedented surge in demand," combined with lack of employees, has created an "impossible equation" for restaurant owners.



## Claude Blais: Mentor to many, friend to all, married to the restaurant

Claude B. Blais, 68, of Killington, a restaurateur and bon vivant, died of the ravages of pancreatic cancer on Aug. 22, 2021.

Claude was born in Newport, the third child of Benoit and Floride Blais. Following high school, he continued his formal education at the University of Vermont for two years before transferring to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, where his love of the culinary arts found fertile ground. After graduation from CIA, Claude plied his profession in kitchens in the Adirondacks, Alaska, San Francisco and San Diego until his love of Vermont drew him to Killington.

Claude worked for a few years in the kitchen of the now-defunct Alpine Inn, and then he ventured out to own and operate Claude's Choices Restaurant, a sought-after eatery which flourished in Killington for more than 30 years.

While Claude enjoyed and cherished all of the customers of his chef-operated restaurant, he was especially proud of the devoted following of "locals." He was always a woodchuck-at-heart. (Pictured left).

## THE U.S. LEAVES AFGHANISTAN

*The U.S. completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan on Aug. 30 after a 20-year war in the country. After the Taliban seized Kabul, the U.S. government began evacuating thousands of Americans as well as Afghans who had aided the American war effort. In the wake of the withdrawal, the Taliban has seized control of government and U.S. sanctions have devastated the Afghan economy.*

## Fully approved for 16 years +

*As of August, the 1st Covid-19 vaccine was fully approved from the FDA for ages 16 and over, again expanding eligibility for the vaccine and making it easier for high schoolers to stay in school without contracting the virus or being forced to quarantine.*

# SEPTEMBER

## Where have all the teachers gone?

School district administrators are normally under pressure as “opening day” roars at them like a freight train.

Sherry Sousa, Windsor Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) superintendent, said in a perfect world she would have about 10 additional people when the doors open on Sept. 1.

“Five would be teachers, one in food service, one in facilities, and one athletic trainer,” Sousa said. “We are currently hiring two more paraeducators.”

## Fatal police shooting inside McDonald’s in Rutland

RUTLAND—The State Police are continuing to investigate the fatal shooting by a Rutland City Police Dept. officer that occurred Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 25, at a McDonald’s restaurant in the city.

The officer is identified as Cpl. Christopher A. Rose, who has served with the Rutland City Police Department for more than five years.

The deceased is Jonathan Daniel Mansilla, 33, of Coral Gables, Florida.

## Vermont seeks to resettle 100 Afghan refugees, Rutland may welcome some

Up to 100 Afghan refugees could be coming to Vermont if the federal government signs off on a new request from the state and its nonprofit partner.

As for Rutland the issue of refugee resettlement will be on the city’s agenda next week with Mayor David Allaire promising an open discussion.

Allaire said he’s already been in touch with USCRI Vermont Director Amila Merdzanovic and has asked her to come before the Board of Aldermen Tuesday to discuss the process.

Courtesy U.S Navy

*Above: more than 400 Afghan refugee children wait in line in 2012 at Camp Eggers’ personnel drop-off clothing and school supplies at the Aschiana School in Kabul during a community relations mission.*

By Paul Holmes

*Below: about 6,000 athletes participated in this year’s Spartan Race, according to Killington Resort.*



## RRMC confronts nurse shortage and patient influx

Like seemingly every other business in the area, Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) is struggling to find staff. But these staffing woes have been compounded by an additional problem: an influx of patients who put off elective care during the Covid state of emergency.

“We are seeing here at Rutland Regional some of the most challenging times in recent history,” said President and CEO Claudio Fort. “We have been seeing higher than typical volumes in the emergency department. And in our inpatient units, there’s been many, many days that we’ve been full.”

## Peak Performance specialty race shop changes hands

One of the most well-respected specialty race shops in the country has recently changed hands for an undisclosed amount and will continue with the employees who have helped make it what it is today.

Run by Denise and Fred Coriell for over 30 years, Peak Performance is located in Killington and has outfitted high-level FIS, USSA, NCAA and master athletes around the world. Its specialty is in race ski preparation and mounting, race boot lifting and fitting, and racing advice for junior to adult athletes.

The new owners of Peak Performance are Kelly and Randy Bair, who moved to Killington 1½ years ago from New Jersey.





### Celebrate the life of Jerry Jagoda

Gerald “Jerry” Jagoda died on October 1, 2019 at his home in Stockbridge after losing his battle with kidney disease. His loving and humorous spirit is carried on by his wife of 42 years, Linda; Their four children Shane, Chenoa, Tivon, and Devin; as well as their grandchildren Kinsley, Maddox, and Maverick and his sister Lorraine. He will be missed by all the people with whom he became friends, and then family, with during his 65 years here with us.

Jerry was born Sept. 6, 1954 in Middlefield, Connecticut, to Frank and Sadie Jagoda. He then moved to Vermont with his wife and family in 1983. He gained employment at the Killington Resort, remaining there for 34 years in condo maintenance.



By Brooke Geery

Above: a pug mom from Maine helps wrangle a pair of clowns.

### Investigation continues into gun death in Killington

The investigation into the death of a Mount Holly woman last Wednesday night, Sept. 15, off Route 4 in Killington is ongoing, according to Adam Silverman, public information officer for the Vermont state police.

“Our investigation is still ongoing, so unfortunately we don’t have any updates beyond the information we released last week,” he responded to a Mountain Times request Monday. “We are also continuing to wait for the Chief Medical Examiner’s Office to complete its work, including toxicology testing, which can take several weeks or more.”

The victim, Brittany Bouthiette, 28, of Mount Holly was killed by “a gunshot wound to the head,” police reported, Thursday, Sept. 16. But the manner of death is still pending, as it is yet to be determined who shot the gun and for what purpose — whether it was suicide or murder.

### Mendon, Gov. Scott honors Doug Casella

MENDON — When Tropical Storm Irene destroyed Route 4 in Mendon at the end of August, 2011, people said it would take until November to rebuild the road. The reconstruction team, led by Doug Casella, rebuilt Route 4 in 18 days.

On Friday, Sept. 24, the town of Mendon celebrated Casella’s awe-inspiring efforts, unveiling a marble plaque — surrounded by river stones he removed during the reconstruction effort — in his honor situated on the grounds of Sugar & Spice on Route 4 just west of the rebuilt portion.



By Ethan Weinstein

Doug Casella and his family pose beside the plaque, made from a slab of Danby marble.

### Linnea Minard, 77

Linnea Saunders Minard died Sunday, Sept. 19, at the age of 77 in her home in Killington with family by her side.

She was born on July 5, 1944, in Queens, New York, daughter of Ray and Anna Saunders. She married David Minard on Aug. 13, 1966. Linn was a loving member of her community. She was employed at the Killington Post Office for 37 years. She was a dedicated member (65 years) at Sherburne United Church of Christ. She was a member of the Sherburne/Bridgewater Grange (60+ years). She was also a past member of the Sherburne Home Den. She enjoyed weekly Killington Senior luncheons and monthly Red Hat gatherings.

Year in review > 36



**17.9%**

The increase in the median sale price of a house in Vermont in October 2021 as compared to October 2020. The Real Estate market in the state continues to grow, with houses spending less and less time on the market.

**6.2%**

The increase in consumer prices year over year in October 2021, the largest increase in over 30 years. Some fear inflation could continue to get worse before it gets better.

**119%**

The year over year increase in airline passengers in October 2021. Though far higher than 2020, 16% fewer people flew in October 2021 than did before the pandemic, in October 2019.

# OCTOBER



## Celebrating Bob Buttner

The Buttner family is hosting a celebration of life for Bob Buttner. Bob was a member of the Killington community for most of his adult life having moved here after graduating from New York Maritime Academy. He loved golf and made many friends at Green Mountain National Golf Course. Bob passed away in 2020 after a very challenging health condition. Covid had prevented a celebration of his life until now.

## 'Monkey wrench': How the Delta variant caught Vermont off guard

As the pace of vaccinations slowed this spring, some experts began floating a new vision of Covid-19's future as an endemic virus.

Rather than focusing on herd immunity — the threshold at which enough people had been vaccinated or previously infected that the full population would be protected against the disease — endemicity provided a more realistic goal, they said.

In recent weeks, a chorus of public health experts, medical workers, school administrators, state leaders and even rank-and-file employees of the state Dept. of Health have called for stricter mitigation measures.

To them, the data shows that Vermont has reached the worst phase of the pandemic yet. Infections during this period have reached record highs in both single-day counts and running averages. Hospitalizations have soared to rates not seen since last winter, and fatalities have kept pace. September was the second-deadliest month of the pandemic in Vermont, and deaths during the Delta wave have surpassed those of the initial surge in March through July of 2020.

## 'These are students in crisis': Vermont educators grapple with a spike in student misbehavior

Since starting school roughly six weeks ago, students at Bristol Elementary School have broken the school's piano, destroyed computers and dented cars in the parking lot.

In the Missisquoi Valley School District, more staff members may be added to handle an uptick in hazing, harassment and bullying investigations.

And at a recent Addison Central School Board meeting, a substitute teacher warned that conditions at schools in the district had become "chaotic" and "unsafe."

## Remembering "Chip" Hutt

HARTLAND—Harold "Chip" Albert Hutt, born on March 05, 1968, died peacefully in the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the age of 53. Chip's last days were quiet, song-filled and restful as he moved toward the next life, ending his battle with cancer after years of fighting with unimaginable strength. His dearest friends, Dorcy and Brian Isenor, provided a home and care for Chip in his last months. They created a space filled with palpable, deep love, and the opportunity for countless visitors to spend time with Chip before he passed.



## Police find 3 women behind padlocked apartment door in human trafficking probe in Rutland

Law enforcement personnel swarmed in armored tactical vehicles and a helicopter early Friday morning as they raided two apartment buildings in Rutland as part of an investigation into illegal drugs and human trafficking.

Police said at one of the locations, 146 Maple St., Vermont State Police troopers and federal Homeland Security Investigations special agents found evidence of potential human trafficking, including a padlocked apartment door and several chain-link storage areas.

Courtesy Ingrid Gallo

(left) Police, armored vehicles and a helicopter assisted in a raid of two apartment buildings in Rutland. Investigation into illegal drugs and human trafficking is ongoing.

"Suki" Lee remembered Sunday, October 10th, 2021, beloved Chu Suk Lee (O'Donnell), fondly called Suki, died. She was born Feb. 1, 1939.

Suki's life was about the journey, not the destination, as she cha-cha-cha'ed through countless unique life experiences.

Born in Japanese-occupied Korea, she developed a deep sense of resilience, independence, and strength that served her throughout her life. Her personality broke through any language barrier, allowing her to make numerous connections across four continents.

## Fatal crash investigated in Killington

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 10:12 a.m. troopers from the Vermont State Police Rutland barracks responded to a crash on Route 4 in Killington, in the area known as the Killington flats by the Turn of the River Lodge. Three vehicles were involved. Joseph Robert Terry, 44 of Aldan, Pennsylvania, was the operator of a box truck that overturned. He was found partially ejected and deceased.

## Kids 0-9 lead the surge in Covid cases

After a week of falling case counts, Vermont's Covid tallies rose to near highs in the last seven days. Amidst the surge, Gov. Scott at his weekly press conference did not announce any changes to mitigation policies.

The 0-9 age group is currently experiencing by far the highest rate of Covid infection, followed distantly by 30-39 and 10-19.

# NOVEMBER

## Policymakers speak about Gov. Scott's Covid stance

A group of lawmakers and healthcare professionals, confused by Governor Phil Scott's failure to take more aggressive action to stem the recent surge in Covid hospitalizations and deaths, which equal last winter's rates, publicly urged him to declare a health emergency, to mandate indoor mask-wearing, social distancing enforcement and other anti-Covid measures in the face of Delta's surge.

## Rutland Town School teachers win lip sync competition

After students left school for the day, teachers at Rutland Town School danced down the hallways, in the classrooms and on the playground in a choreographed dance to "Let's Groove Tonight" by Larry D and the Sly Guys. They sang the lyrics to "Hooked on a Feeling" by Blue Swede, and hit the beach to "Holiday" by Madonna in a lip sync video competition held by Wonderfeet Kid's Museum.

## Killington Select Board signs letter of intent to create TIF district

**It's the first step in a major infrastructure plan to support Killington Village, Killington Road and affordable housing development**

The Killington Select Board approved a Public Infrastructure Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) letter of intent at its regular meeting Tuesday night, Nov. 2, and it was submitted to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) late last week.

TIF is a tool that municipalities use to finance improvements for public infrastructure that are critical for development, according to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.



SCAN FOR UP-TO-DATE TIF INFORMATION

## Opening day inspires giddiness as hundreds of skier and riders hit the slopes

The line for the first chair of the season snaked well beyond the rope maze, stretching up the stairs and onto the grass at K-1. The mass of chilly smiles — braving the cold, bluebird November morning — waited impatiently, more than eager to load the gondola then walk to North Ridge for the first turns of the year.

## Patrick Leahy to retire after eight terms in U.S. Senate

MONTPELIER—After eight terms and nearly five decades in office, U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy is retiring.

## Welch launches campaign to replace Leahy in the U.S. Senate

The long-suspected rumors are true: Vermont's U.S. Rep. Peter Welch is launching his campaign for the U.S. Senate.

## Vaccination begins for 5-11 year-old children

After much anticipation, the state rolled out Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5-11 on Monday, Nov. 8.

More than 200 students traveled from around the state to attend one of the first clinics at Riverside Middle School in Springfield that Monday.

# DECEMBER



## Operation Santa's Convoy came to town

Photo courtesy of Vermont Army National Guard  
Though a little delayed, the Vermont Army National Guard escorted Santa Claus on a lighted convoy through local communities starting and ending in White River Junction. The convoy consisted of an array of different military vehicles to include a wrecker, military ambulance, fork lift, 2-ton trucks, and a variety of other vehicles.



By Jerry LeBlond

## Mikaela reigns supreme at Killington

U.S. Superstar claims fifth straight Slalom title, delighting fans

The rivalry between Vermont-schooled Olympic gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin and Slovakia's Petra Vhlova continues to be strong with the two superstar ski racers vying for the top spot on the Slalom po-

dium. While Vhlova had secured the top spot the first two FIS Slalom races of the season in Finland, it was Shiffrin atop the podium at Killington — her fifth consecutive win at the Killington Cup.

## State expects an 'unprecedented' \$90 million surplus in the education fund

School tax rates likely to decrease

This spring, Vermont lawmakers may have a welcome question on their hands: what to do with a \$90 million surplus in the state's education fund.

"It's really unprecedented to have that much money on the bottom line carrying over from one year to the next," Craig Bolio, Vermont's tax commissioner, said in an interview. "We've never had anything like this."

## The Killington 100 Day Club turns 10, and some of its members are hoping for a perfect record

Since its founding nine years ago, the Killington 100 Day Club has garnered hundreds of members. At least 10 are hoping to make this season their tenth straight with at least 100 days on snow.

Paul Holmes, of Killington, is one of those looking to achieve what might yet be called the 1000 Day Club. Holmes first skied Killington on a warm week in 1967.

## First case of the Omicron variant confirmed in Vermont

Officials say boosters necessary

The Vermont Department 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 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.

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

Happy New Year!

The Mountain Times would like to wish you and yours a happy new year. Let 2022 be better than the last!

# Top 10 albums of 2021

By Alan Sculley

When 2021 began, the general consensus seemed to be that this could be a special year for music. Artists had been home since early 2020, giving them an extended block of time to work on new music. For the most part, those expectations panned out. The new releases from Jon Batiste, Adele and Judith Hill immediately popped with album-of-the-year excellence. And if those albums made the top entries on my Top 10 Albums list easy to choose, the wealth of other very good albums made it tough to rank the next seven albums and decide which albums to leave off of the honorable mention list.

Here's where I landed in picking the year's best albums.

## 1) Jon Batiste: "We Are"

The latest album from Batiste has earned him 11 Grammy nominations, and this time the Grammy folks got things right. "We Are" is the best album of 2021, as Batiste shows he's a master of soul and its various iterations. On "Cry," he conjures thoughts of prime Al Green with a silky yet insistent groove and knockout melody. "Tell The Truth" is the kind of gritty funk-rock that recalls Sly & the Family Stone and James Brown at their best. Batiste gets his gospel on with "I Need You," a shaking and stomping tune that doesn't need a choir to raise a ruckus, and flexes his jazz/classical chops on "Movement 11." Then on "Whatchutalkinbout," Batiste shows he can rap with the best of them, as he reels out rapid-fire verses to a snappy-as-it-gets jazzy beat. While well known in jazz circles, the Grammy recognition for "We Are" should propel Batiste to much wider popularity.

## 2) Adele: "30"

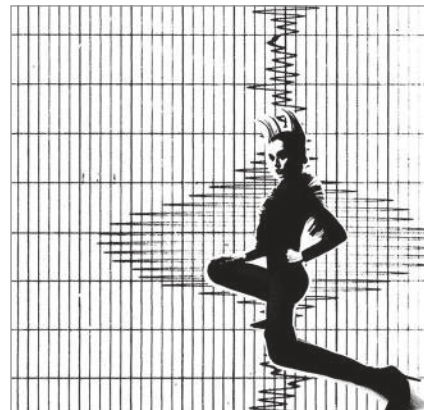
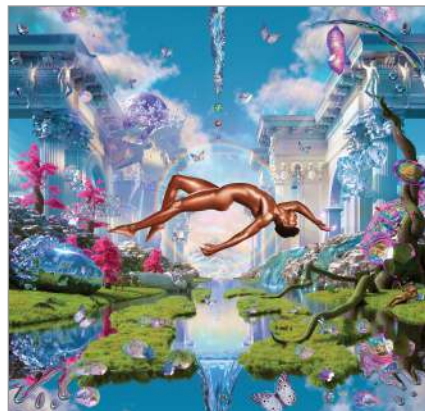
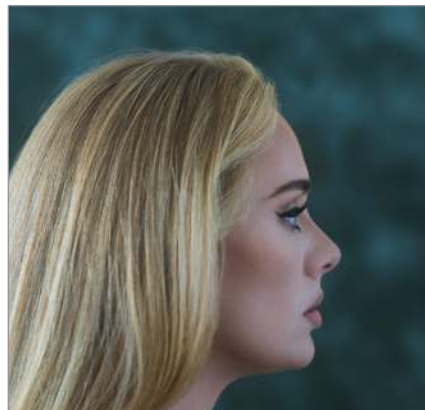
The year's most anticipated album does not disappoint. It finds Adele bringing her striking and emotional vocals to a varied song cycle that mirrors the turbulence that paralleled the project. (She went through a divorce and had anxiety issues, among other challenges.) Making such a confessional album can be tricky, as there's a thin line between being brave and being self-indulgent. For the most part, Adele nicely navigates her very personal subject matter within a group of songs that, on a musical level, form a well rounded album whose rich melodies and charged emotions make it a work of uncommon candor and grace.

## 3) Judith Hill: "Baby, I'm Hollywood!"

A protégé of Prince, Hill comes into her own on her fourth album, "Baby, I'm Hollywood!" showing she's a talented songwriter and powerful singer as she confidently moves between rock, soul, funk and more over 13 songs. Prince's influence is felt on a trio of tracks — "Candlelight in the Dark," "God Bless the Mechanic" and "You Got the Right Thang." But there's also percolating soul on the melodic gem "Wanderer," while the pop/soul of "Miss Cecilia Jones" tips its hat to Stevie Wonder and the title track is a rousing Sly and the Family Stones-esque rocker. Somewhere Prince must be smiling.

## 4) Amythyst Kiah: "Wary + Strange"

On this album, Kiah (a member of the string band Our Native Daughters) brings together the Tracy Chapman-esque acoustic folk and indie rock sides she had previously shown in her solo work and emerged with a wider ranging modern sound malleable enough to suit this set of strong, soulful songs that range from the spare acoustic "Firewater" to the rock of "Black Myself" and many points in between. It's not just the music that's compelling on "Wary + Strange." There are



also thoughtful, personal and frequently powerful lyrics at work. For example, "Black Myself" is a timely and forceful look at racial prejudice and pride, while "Wild Turkey" is a vulnerable assessment of the toll inflicted by a death from alcoholism. Couple the music with the messages, and you have a potent album in "Wary + Strange" on which Kiah has found her true voice as an artist.

## 5) Lil Nas X: "Montero"

With his blockbuster hit album "Montero," Lil Nas X blows away stylistic boundaries, showing a talent not only for creative hip-hop tracks ("Dolla Sign Slime" and "Scoop"), but R&B ("Tales of Dominica"), melodic rock anthems ("Life After Salem") peppy acoustic-ish pop ("That's What I Want") and sleek blend of modern pop and R&B ("Void"). Add in plenty of clever wordplay and "Montero" suggests that Lil Nas X is the complete package. It will be fun to see what he does next.

## 6) Brandi Carlile: "In These Silent Days"

With each album Carlile sounds more confident and mature as a songwriter, and "In These Silent Days" solidifies her standing as a leading talent on the Americana scene. Once again, Carlile's vocal melodies and emotional lyrics shine, be it on the ballads "Right on Time" and "This Time Tomorrow" or more robust songs like "Broken Horses" and "Sinners, Saints and Fools."

## 7) Halsey: "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power"

In what might seem like a surprising choice for "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power," Halsey teamed with Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross of Nine Inch Nails for songwriting and production. Her collaborators' influence is felt on occasion, but this is still very much a Halsey album as "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power," with a diverse range and savvy synthy pop appeal, tops her earlier albums.

## 8) Japanese Breakfast: "Jubilee"

On "Jubilee," Michelle Zauner (who essentially is Japanese Breakfast) shifts from the dreamier sound of her first two albums to a more direct synthy pop sound, and even adds strings to a pair of tunes ("Kokomo, IN" and "Tactics"). The rich melodies and broader musical range suggest Zauner is only beginning to scratch the surface of the music she'll create in the years ahead.

## 9) Poppy: "Flux"

On her latest album, Poppy streamlines her sound a bit, but still blends pure pop catchiness with noisy elements on songs like "On the Level" and "Flux." But other songs like "Lessen the Damage," "Her" and "So Mean" are more like hooky Pixies-ish guitar rockers. It makes for an effectively bracing album, and as always, Poppy's girlish voice offers a cool contrast with the edginess of the music.

## 10) Julien Baker: "Little Oblivions"

On her third album, Baker writes plenty of self-lacerating lyrics ("Bloodshot," "Ringside" and "Relative Fiction") as she struggles with recurring themes in her music — her flaws, her addictions and the damage she can inflict on herself and others — all while she tries to accept her failures and how they contribute to who she is as a person. Chances are plenty of people will identify with what Baker has to say on "Little Oblivions," while appreciating how smartly she expresses herself. The music on "Little Oblivions" is more full bodied than her previous two albums. But she retains some of her indie lo-fi vibe, while imbuing many of the songs with some of the most engaging

# The 10 best films of 2021

By Dom Cioffi

Another Covid year has come and gone, leaving another dismal year for the film industry in its wake. While things were not as dire as 2020, they were certainly far from normal. Theaters began to reopen but the numbers have been suspect at best. The good news, however, is that the industry has shifted to releasing some films both online and in theaters — something no one ever dreamed would happen.

So, in the interesting year that it was, 2021 still offered some top-quality motion pictures. From what I was able to see (mostly), here are my picks for the year's best (in no particular order).

## 1. "A Quiet Place 2"

Building on the success of the first film, this sequel follows the Abbott family as they try to survive after extraterrestrial aliens turn Earth into a feeding ground.

I love a good science fiction film, but they tend

to lack in believability. Both "A Quiet Place" and "A Quiet Place 2" deliver on this point and many others including acting, an intriguing storyline, and the prerequisite shock moments that send you jumping out of your seat.



## 2. "The Rescue"

"The Rescue" is a National Geographic documentary based on the Thai cave rescue in 2018 of 12 young soccer players and their coach. The group had gone into a well-known public cave to celebrate one of the boys' birthdays. Unfortunately, a fast-approaching storm flooded the cave and trapped the boys.

This documentary, using actual footage collected from the Thai Navy Seals, gives the viewer a harrowing lens into one of the greatest rescue missions ever attempted. It also highlights the elite group of cavers from around the world who assembled to plan and execute this unique and incredibly dangerous extraction.



## 3. "Dune"

"Dune" is based on the classic science fiction novel by Frank Herbert and revolves around a young noble named Paul Atreides who finds himself thrust into a role that he never wanted, but always knew was coming. For decades it's been considered unfilmable given the

breadth of its settings and characters; however, all of that has changed.

This film was magnificent in its reach and a valiant adaptation of Herbert's masterpiece. And if you have the option, watch this on the biggest screen available — it truly enhances the experience.



## 4. "King Richard"

"King Richard" is the story of Richard Williams, the outspoken coach and father of tennis phenoms, Venus and Serena Williams. This film spotlights how he purposefully raised his two youngest daughters with both mental and physical training to be the best tennis play-

ers on earth.

Will Smith stars as the elder Williams and in doing so gives an Oscar-worthy performance full of grit and emotion. This is easily one of the best films I've seen this year and well-deserving of the praise it's receiving across the media spectrum.



## 5. "West Side Story"

Every year deserves a great musical, and this year is no exception. Director Steven Spielberg takes the 1957 classic "West Side Story" and shines it up for a modern audience, while staying

true to original. It's Romeo and Juliet brought to life in an urban environment full of street gangs and social rules and some of the best music and dancing you're likely to see for some time.



## 6. "The Mitchells vs. the Machines"

Young Katie is on her way to film school with her family when the entire planet falls into chaos as all the electronic devices on earth stage an uprising.

I love a great animated film and this one delivers

both in story, creativity, and humor. Brought to you by the same studio that created the Lego movies (not Pixar!), "The Mitchells vs. the Machines" is the kind of film the whole family can watch and enjoy together.



## 7. "Becoming Cousteau"

"Becoming Cousteau," is a documentary about Jacques Cousteau, the tiny French man who popularized the underwater ocean worlds with his journeys around the globe aboard the Calypso.

Many people are familiar with Jacques Cousteau, but few know the story of how he came to be the

preeminent authority on our undersea domains. Cousteau was a relentless explorer, but he was also a savvy businessman, award-winning filmmaker, and conservationist long before it was popular. As far as documentaries go, this one has it all, including unbelievable footage from his earliest days.



## 8. "The Father"

"The Father" could well be the first film to truly convey how horrible the reality of falling into the grips of dementia can be. Starring Sir Anthony Hopkins in yet another Oscar-worthy role, this film is uncomfortable to watch — like a gut-punch

to the intellectual abdomen. Yet it is undertaken with such beauty and grace that you can't help but be transfixed.

"The Father" was released early in 2021, but it will likely resurface during awards season because it's just that good.



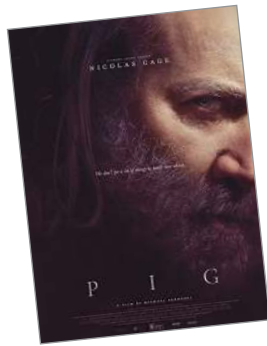
← **10 best films:** The 2021 rundown from Movie Diary columnist, Dom Cioffi from page 39

9. "Pig"

"Pig" is a dark and puzzling mystery about an ex-chef who retreats into the woods after his wife's death. He lives with a pig and spends his time hunting for truffles to survive. But then one day his pig disappears.

You never know what

you'll get with Nicolas Cage, but in this outing, he is fantastic. The overall story is a bit unrealistic, but Cage keeps things together with his menacing portrayal. I tend to like strange and quirky films, and this definitely fills that role.



10. "Licorice Pizza"

Ok, I admit it. I have not yet seen this film, so I have no legitimate reason for including it on my list. However, given that Paul Thomas Anderson is one of my favorite directors and responsible for several of my favorite films ("Boogie Nights," "There Will Be Blood," "Magno-

lia," "The Master"), I'm going to go out on a limb and conclude that "Licorice Pizza" is going to appeal to me in a multitude of ways and be one of my favorite films of 2021.

This film is going into wide release on Christmas Day and I'll likely be first in line to see it.



Courtesy Judith Hill

Judith Hill

← **Top 10 albums:** What to listen to if you haven't already from page 38

melodies she's crafted and sturdy instrumental support. This makes "Little Oblivions" an enjoyable listen despite the hard issues Baker confronts with her lyrics.

**Honorable mentions:**

Arlo Parks: "Collapsed in Sunbeams"; Du Blonde: "Homecoming"; Billy F. Gibbons:

"Hardware"; Willie Nile: "The Day The Earth Stood Still"; Little Simz: "Sometimes I Might Be Introvert"; Lucy Dacus: "Home Video"; Curtis Harding: "If Words Were Flowers"; Allison Russell: "Outside Child"; Robert Plant/Alison Krauss: "Raise The Roof"; Genesis Owusu: "Smiling with No Teeth."

So, there you have it. That's my humble list of the best films of 2021. There seems to be a lot of foreign films topping the major lists this year, so be sure to check those out as well. Here's to a theatrical 2022. Cheers!

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



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Photo Courtesy Oscilloscope

"Kedi"

## 'Kedi,' the 'Citizen Kane' of cat documentaries

A Woodstock Vermont Film Series feature documentary

Saturday, Jan. 1 at 3 and 5:30 p.m. — WOODSTOCK — Billings Farm & Museum's 12th annual Woodstock Vermont film series returns to the Billings Farm Theater with the feature "Kedi," a sophisticated, artful documentary exploring the profound relationship between man and cat in the metropolis of Istanbul, Turkey. There will be two showings on Saturday, Jan. 1, at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Billings Farm & Museum Theater.

Hundreds of thousands of cats have roamed Istanbul freely for thousands of years, wandering in and out of people's lives, impacting them in ways only an animal who lives between the worlds of the wild and the tamed can. Cats and their kittens bring joy and purpose to those they choose, giving people an opportunity to reflect on life and their place in it. In Istanbul, cats are the mirrors to ourselves.

The filmmaker interviews a variety of locals across Istanbul about their bonds with the creatures, but the cats themselves take center stage, transforming the experience into a spiritual meditation on their significance to modern civilization. One interviewee argues that the relationship between cats and people is the closest we might get to understanding what it's like to interact with aliens. If so, "Kedi" goes a long way towards making first contact.

Of the film, the Toronto Star says, "A cat's-eye view of the world that showcases both the warm-hearted people of this ancient Turkish city and the seamless integration of its felines into everyday life."

The 12th annual Woodstock Vermont film series will present a selection of 10 diverse films reflecting Billings Farm & Museum's vision to share place-based stories of people near and far, to engage our audiences, and to inspire conversations that increase connections with each other and our world. The Woodstock Vermont Film Series is curated and directed by award-winning filmmaker Jay Craven, and produced by the Billings Farm & Museum, with generous support from local sponsors.

In re-opening the theater to the film series, the health and safety of guests is a top priority. The theater has been upgraded with a MERV 13 filtration system. Film attendees are required to wear masks in the theater at all times and to show proof of vaccination to enter. For a full list of films and to purchase tickets, visit [billingsfarm.org/filmseries](http://billingsfarm.org/filmseries) or call 802-457-5303.



By Susan Elliott Courtesy RCA

A Northern Cardinal spotted was in Rutland Town during a past year's annual bird count.

## Christmas bird count 2021

Sunday, Jan. 2 — RUTLAND — Rutland County Audubon's annual Christmas bird count will take place this year on Jan. 2. Birds spotted within a 7.5 mile radius of Mead's Falls in Center Rutland will be counted by teams of field birders and feeder-watchers in this count circle. Results will be tallied and posted on e-Bird.

The Christmas bird count is a census of birds in the western hemisphere, performed annually in the early northern-hemisphere winter by volunteer birdwatchers and administered by the National Audubon Society. The purpose is to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology, though many people participate for recreation. The CBC is the longest-running citizen science survey in the world.

Prior to the turn of the 20th Century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas side hunt. They would choose sides and go afield with their guns— whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a Christmas bird census that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them.

Interested persons can contact [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org) for information or to sign up.

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# 18 ways to ring in the New Year 2022

By Brooke Geery

2021 has been a rollercoaster ride of unknowns, evolving science, changing perspectives and hopefully a little personal growth. We now stand on the precipice of 2022, which is unlikely to be any less crazy, so there's really only one thing to do. Put on your mask (yes, still), break out your vaccine card or negative Covid test, and celebrate! You're still here and you might as well enjoy it. Whether you're looking for great food, festive fireworks, local live music or some mind-erasing liquid libations, area restaurants and venues are working hard to provide some much-needed fun this final Saturday night of the year.



Submitted



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No matter your age or needs, there is something fun for you this New Year's. Soak in fireworks from a freezing mountain top, listen to live music, or enjoy a boozy brunch the morning after.

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## Family-friendly celebrations & fireworks

### Fireworks at Okemo

LUDLOW—Okemo's annual fireworks display is on for 2022, with a 9 p.m. start time that will allow you to celebrate with the kids and get to bed in time to grab first chair Sunday morning. Enjoy the show from the Jackson Gore base area. No registration is required.

### Fireworks hike at Stratton

WINDHALL—Statton Mountain Resort will provide a pyrotechnic show beginning at 8:30 p.m. and the more-motivated among us have the opportunity to watch from mid-mountain by joining a hiking party. Hikers will meet in the courtyard at 7 p.m. with the hike beginning promptly at 7:30 p.m. The expedition will happen regardless of weather conditions, and children should be at least 12 years old to participate and prepared to spend hours outside in the cold. After the fireworks display, the group will descend the mountain and finish the evening in the Courtyard with a fire and hot chocolate. To register, visit: [stratton.com/things.../events/new-years-eve-hike](http://stratton.com/things.../events/new-years-eve-hike)

### Fireworks snowshoe tour at Sugarbush

WARREN—Join a guided snowshoe tour, beginning at 5:30 p.m. to the top of Sugarbush's Gate House Quad to watch the resort's annual fireworks display. The tour will begin and end at The Farmhouse on Gate House lane, and hot chocolate will be provided in the patrol shack at the top. Cost to participate is \$79 with snowshoe rental, \$64 without. No pets are allowed. Fireworks begin at 8:30 p.m. and can also be viewed from several locations without hiking. For more information, call 802-583-6590.

### New Year's Eve skate

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION—Ring in the new year on ice at Wendell A. Barwood Arena (45 Highland Ave.). The rink will be open for public skating from 2-4 p.m. In honor of 2022, organizers will be tossing out prizes, serving up refreshments and playing fun music to skate to. For more info, call 802-295-5036.

## NYE themed dinner

### Liquid Art Coffee house

KILLINGTON—Make your reservations now for a four-course *prix-fixe* menu, and enjoy it to the sounds of Tee Boneicus Jones at Liquid Art from 5-9 p.m. If you'd prefer to celebrate from home, they'll also offer the menu for take out. Orders must be placed by noon on Dec. 30 for pickup between 4-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$90 per person and take-out orders include splits of bubbly. Reservations are required, so make yours by emailing [beth@liquidartvt.com](mailto:beth@liquidartvt.com) or calling 802-422-ARTS. Liquid Art is located at 37 Miller Brook Road.

### Southside Steakhouse

RUTLAND—Southside will ring in the new year with a four-course meal, followed by live music and a midnight toast. New England rock and blues band Ghost Train will play from 9 p.m. through 2022 and the bar will be open until 1 a.m. (with snacks available, too). There is no cover charge, but reservations for 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. dinner seatings can be made by calling 802-772-7556. Southside Steakhouse is located at 170 S Main St. by the railroad crossing.

### Mountain Top Inn

CHITTENDEN—Head to the top of Chittenden for Mountain Top's new seasonal menu and specials for the evening, in addition to their full-service bar and 12 tap beers to choose from. If you arrive early enough to catch the last daylight, you'll be treated to great views. Reservations should be made in advance by calling 802-483-2311. Mountain Top Inn and Resort is located at 195 Mountain Top Road off Chittenden Road at the Civil War memorial.

### The Foundry

KILLINGTON—The Foundry will offer its regular chef-inspired, fine-dining dinner service in the dining room, while local favorite Aaron Audet plays in the Tavern. Reservations are highly recommended for dinner and can be made by calling 802-422-5335. The Foundry at Summit Pond is located at 63 Summit Path off Killington Road.



Submitted

## New Year's Day Brunch

### Rivershed

KILLINGTON—Congratulations, you've made it to 2022, so start the new year off right with a brunch at Killington's newest brunch spot from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Boston-based Rob Pagnano will be playing while you enjoy New England brunch favorites and a full bar. For more information, call 802-683-2151. The Rivershed is located at 747 Killington Road.



Submitted

Bloody mary? Eggs and bacon? Find what you need at Rivershed.

← **NYE:** From kid-friendly to music to fireworks and late night parties. A guide to ring in the New Year around the region from page 44

### Huntington House Inn & Doc's Tavern

ROCHESTER—Dine, dance and stay in Rochester, with dinner seating beginning at 5 p.m. at the Huntington House Inn restaurant. Vaccinated guests should call 802-767-9140 for reservations until 10 p.m. Or if you prefer, head straight to Doc's tavern for a menu of pub favorites and a performance by the Free Range Band from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Huntington House Inn & Doc's Tavern is located at 19 Huntington Place.

### Parties & live music through midnight

#### Tomasi's Tavern

FAIR HAVEN—Tomasi's Tavern is hosting a New Year's Eve masquerade ball on Saturday, with snacks, music and prizes for the best costumes. Though dressing up is not required, it is highly encouraged, and sparkles are known to win! For more information, call 802-265-3593. Tomasi's Tavern is located at 2 Liberty St.

#### Wobbly Barn

KILLINGTON—The Wobbly Barn will kick off its New Year's celebration at 4 p.m. with King Arthur Junior's final 2021 happy hour performance, until 6 p.m. Next up to the stage, the Krishna Guthrie Band will turn things up a notch, infusing rock, blues and modern influences from 6:30-9:30 p.m. At 9 p.m., things will shift to the nightclub, where a New Year's Eve party ticket is required. With your \$80 ticket, you'll enjoy crowd-favorite Philadelphia, cover band The Benderz. The band's high-energy show will ensure you make it until midnight, when there will be a complimentary champagne toast. Pre-purchase your tickets through Eventbrite for express lane access from 9-10 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the door while supplies last. Proof of vaccine or negative Covid test within 72 hours will be required to enter. The Wobbly Barn is located at 2229 Killington Road.

### Pickle Barrel

KILLINGTON—Pick your poison, with live music emanating from both stages at the House that Rocks Killington. On the main stage, Boston-based cover band Never in Vegas will offer a selection of your favorite hits. In the Crow's Nest, Jamie's Junk Show will offer their spin on classic rock, pop and hip hop songs. Tickets for the evening are \$80 and proof of vaccine or a negative Covid test is required. The Pickle Barrel is located at 1741 Killington Road.

#### Mogul's Sports Pub and Restaurant

KILLINGTON—Catch local punk band Super Stash Bros and Indigenous Entertainment's Silas McPrior at the "Stash, Grass or Silas" New Year's Eve Party. Nobody rides for free, but the bands vow to pretend next year will be different all night long. For more info, call 802-422-4777. Mogul's is located at 2630 Killington Road.

#### Jax Food and Games

KILLINGTON—Killington's favorite Nashville duo King Margo takes the stage at 8:30 p.m. for a rockin' New Year's Eve with all their friends. Plan on paying a small cover charge, and call 802-422-5334 for more info. Jax is located at 1667 Killington Road.

#### Du Jour VT

LUDLOW—Celebrate New Year's Eve with Eric King and the Rustie Bus! The band will play covers and original music from 7-10 p.m. For more information, call 802-975-0667. Du Jour is located at 57 Pond St. off Route 100 in the village.

#### Clear River Inn and Tavern

PITTSFIELD—Regular tavern service will begin at 3 p.m. at the Clear, but the real action will begin later in the evening with DJ Dirty D's NYE Party. The Rutland-based DJ will spin all your favorites until the tavern closes. For more information, call 802-746-8999. The Clear River Tavern is located at 2640 Route 100N from Route 4.

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# [MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg

Listings for Dec. 29 - Jan. 4 (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> 12/29</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie 5:30 p.m. The Foundry – George Nostrand 6 p.m. Preston’s at the Grand Hotel – Rick Webb 8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Dalton &amp; The Sheriffs 8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Stealing Savannah 9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – DJ Dirty D</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 4 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B 6 p.m. Du Jour VT – Jim Yeager</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>Virtual event</b> <b>THURS.</b> 12/30</p> <p>6 p.m. The Underground Recording Studio presents Breanna Elaine theundergroundvt.bandcamp.com/merch/breanna-elaine-live</p>	<p><b>THURS.</b> 12/30</p> <p><b>BRANDON</b> 6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Silas McPrior &amp; Daniel Brown 5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton 5 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller 6 p.m. Rivershed – King Arthur 6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Chris Pallutto Trio 8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Aaron Audet Band 8:30 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Jamie’s Junk Show 9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Stealing Savannah</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 6 p.m. Du Jour VT – George Nostrand</p> <p><b>PITTSFIELD</b> 6:30 p.m. The Clear River Tavern – Bow Thayer</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 9 p.m. Center Street Saloon – International Night</p>	<p><b>FRI.</b> 12/31</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 4 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Jamie’s Junk Show 4 p.m. Killington Snowshed Base Lodge Area – Torchlight Parade with DJ Dave 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – King Arthur 6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band 7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Shananagans 8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – NYE with Never in Vegas 9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Stash, Grass or Silas 9 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet Band 9:30 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – King Margo 9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz 10 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crows Nest – Jamie’s Junk Show</p> <p><b>LUDLOW</b> 8:30 p.m. Calcuttas – NYE with Blue Jay Way 10 p.m. Du Jour VT – Eric King and the Rustie Bus</p> <p><b>PITTSFIELD</b> 8 p.m. The Clear River Tavern – NYE Dance Party with DJ Dirty D</p> <p><b>PROCTORSVILLE</b> 8 p.m. Neal’s Restaurant &amp; Bar – The What Knots</p> <p><b>RUTLAND</b> 6 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller</p> <p><b>POULTNEY</b> 6 p.m. Taps Tavern – Keenan Stark and Orion Kribs</p>	<p><b>SAT.</b> 1/1</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 1:30 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Aaron Audet Band 4 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Jamie’s Junk Show with guest opener Jenny Porter 4 p.m. The Foundry – Happy Hour with Jacob Butler 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Brooks Hubbard 6:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The What Knots 7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Shananagans 8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton 8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Never in Vegas 9:30 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – King Margo 9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – DJ Stevie B</p>	<p><b>SUN.</b> 1/2</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 1 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Duane Carleton 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Rick Webb 2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Primo and Prior 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> 1/3</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> 8 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic with host Silas McPrior</p> <p><b>PROCTORSVILLE</b> 5 p.m. Neal’s Restaurant &amp; Bar – Sammy B</p>
					<p><b>TUES.</b> 1/4</p> <p><b>KILLINGTON</b> 2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B 4 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Rick Redington 6 p.m. Jax Food &amp; Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb</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>



Did we miss something? Email [djdavehoff@gmail.com](mailto:djdavehoff@gmail.com) and we'll be sure to include your next event on this page!

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Courtesy Gifford Medical Center

Gifford Medical Center's registered dietician Stacy Pelletier shares dietary tips to keep you on track over the holidays.

## Tips to maintain your weight over the holidays

RANDOLPH— The holidays are meant to be enjoyed, so it's not what we do one or two days a year that matters for our overall health. It's about eating well again following those days. However, for those trying to avoid over-indulging, Gifford Medical Center's registered dietician Stacy Pelletier has some tips to share:

- "Enjoy the time with friends and family," Pelletier said. "If you're trying to lose weight, just focus on maintaining weight instead and don't stress out"
- Simple things like putting food on a small plate or napkin can go a long way to keeping the weight off.
- "Anything in moderation," Pelletier said. "With pies and cakes, just have a small little sliver or just a couple of bites, so you don't feel restricted."

If you are hosting dinner, send food home with people so you don't have a lot of leftovers, she added. And if you do have leftovers, make little meals out of them to stick in the freezer so you don't feel obligated to eat them all right away.

Also, if you're going to a friend's house, bring a healthy dish so you'll know there's at least one thing you can feel good about eating. You can also drink water before a meal, she said. This will help fill your stomach, so you don't eat as much.

"At times we feel like we want something to eat, but

instead of being hungry, you could be dehydrated," Pelletier explained.

Regardless of what happens this holiday season, Pelletier insists that folks not be too hard on themselves. "Negative self-talk isn't helpful, just get back on track the next day and learn from your past. You're not failing, you're just learning."

"Negative self-talk isn't helpful...  
You're not failing, you're just learning,"  
said Pelletier.

Pelletier practices at Gifford, a community hospital in Randolph, with family health centers in Berlin, Bethel, Chelsea, Randolph and Rochester, and specialty services throughout central Vermont. Gifford is a full-service hospital with a 24-hour emergency department and inpatient unit; many surgical services; an adult day program; 49-unit independent living facility, and nursing home.

For more tips on how to avoid over-indulging this holiday season, visit the blog section at Gifford Health: [giffordhealthcare.org](http://giffordhealthcare.org).



# Fresh rosemary is for every season

By Jodi Larison, extension master gardener intern, University of Vermont

While rosemary is not a perennial in Vermont, you can still grow and enjoy fresh rosemary all year. Just plant it in a container. Bring it outside in warmer weather and inside before the first frost.

Why rosemary?

It is attractive, resembling a small pine tree, and has a pleasant scent, is

green, more water is needed.

I fertilize my plant with a food-safe, water-soluble fertilizer when it is outside. Rosemary needs sun, so place your rosemary in a spot where it will get at least 6 hours of sunlight daily.

The only pruning I have done is to clip off stems when harvesting fresh rosemary for cooking or to remove

dead stems. If you choose, you can prune your plant to shape it.

While rosemary is an herb that

can be used to flavor many foods, I use it mostly in cooking chicken and potatoes. I keep things simple, using only three ingredients and minimizing clean-up by using one dish for prep and cooking.

**Rosemary chicken:** To prepare the chicken, use skinless boneless breasts or thighs. Remove visible fat, place in a single layer in an oven-safe glass baking dish, then add balsamic vinegar and fresh chopped rosemary leaves. Turn the chicken so it is fully coated with vinegar and the chopped rosemary.

As a guide, for 2 pounds of chicken, try 1/4 cup of balsamic vinegar and 1 tablespoon of rosemary. Adjust the amount of vinegar and rosemary according to preferences.

The chicken can be served hot or cold, when serving hot, I pair it with a starch and a vegetable such as, rice and Brussels sprouts, or cold, it can be incorporated into a salad or sandwich.

**Rosemary potatoes:** For potatoes, I mix cubed, bite-sized pieces of potato, olive oil and fresh chopped rosemary in an oven-safe glass baking dish. I bake the potatoes until

"I use it mostly in cooking chicken and potatoes. I keep things simple, using only three ingredients..."

explained Larison.

easy to grow and offers great flavor and versatility as a culinary herb. All common rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) plants provide edible rosemary.

Rosemary can be grown from seed, though not recommended, or by rooting stem cuttings. Plants usually can be purchased for under \$10 and are available at garden centers during warmer months and by mail order anytime. Make sure the plant you choose is a common rosemary plant with an upright form.

Select an appropriate container for potting your rosemary. My rosemary plant was about 7 inches tall when I bought it and is now 22 inches tall. After purchasing, I planted it in a decorative, partially glazed ceramic container 10 inches in diameter and 9 inches in height with a drainage hole at the bottom, a container it could grow into. An alternate option would be to use a smaller container and then transplant to a larger one as the plant grows.

For planting, use soil amended with compost. Drainage is important, as rosemary will not tolerate excess water, but do not let your plant dry out. If you notice that some leaves are no longer



By Jodi Larison

*Rosemary, a versatile culinary herb, can be grown successfully indoors, provided that it is not over watered and gets ample light.*

they are crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, stirring a couple of times in the oven. Any type of potato will work.

Other ingredients that can be used in either of these dishes might include, garlic, onion or pepper. You can find many online recipes using fresh rosemary with many types of meats and fish, as well as in baking. Bon Appétit!

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## Get to know the junco

Most winters, the dark-eyed junco is one of the most common birds at my feeder. While I rarely see juncos in summer, except when hiking in the mountains, small flocks of juncos typically appear soon after I hang my feeder in early December. Due to their sudden appearance in winter, John James Audubon called juncos “Snow Birds.”

Juncos are members of the sparrow family. While coloration varies widely by region, male juncos in the Northeast are easily recognizable by their dark gray backs, white breasts, and white outer tail feathers, visible in flight. Females are similar, but have a pale gray or brownish back. Both have pinkish bills.

Dark-eyed juncos nest from Alaska east to Labrador and south into the Great Lakes, the Northeast, and the Appalachians. They winter south of the Canadian border as far as the southeastern United States. Juncos that breed in the Northeast or southern Appalachians may migrate short distances or move to lower elevations for winter. In our region, these birds nest primarily in subalpine coniferous forests but may also breed in hardwood and mixed forests with a dense understory and ground cover.

Juncos forage mostly on the ground — often in groups — hopping around the bases of trees and shrubs where the snow may have melted, scratching in the snow or leaf litter, and flitting through shrubby thickets. During this time of year, juncos forage in brushy fields, gardens, and along woodland edges and roadsides. These birds are primarily seed-eaters, especially in winter, consuming the seeds of grass, weeds such as ragweed and chickweed, and trees including hemlock and birch. They’ll eat the seeds of flowers left standing in the garden, such as zinnias and cosmos. During the breeding season, they also consume insects and caterpillars, including spruce budworm during outbreaks.

Although juncos will perch on feeders, more often they are seen below, searching for dropped seed. They will eat millet and sunflower seeds, peanut hearts, cracked corn, and oats. Researchers have observed dominance hierarchies, or pecking orders, among flocks of juncos at feeders. The first juncos to arrive at the winter range usually have a higher dominance rank and receive preferred access to food sources.

At night, juncos roost in conifers, yew thickets, or brush piles, where they are less exposed to wind. The birds have been observed bathing in powdery snow.

One of the most interesting things about juncos is their

regional color variation. There are five variants of junco in North America which were considered separate species until the 1970s. Our northeastern junco is appropriately called the slate-colored variant. I once spotted an Oregon junco in the Pacific Northwest, which had a black head, reddish-brown back and sides, and a smaller area of white on the breast. The white outer tail feathers (found in all variants) revealed its identity as a junco.

Color variations in juncos are tied to the bird’s evolutionary history, discovered by DNA analysis. As continental glaciers melted 10,000 to 13,000 years ago, ancestral juncos moved north and spread across North America. Some populations were geographically isolated enough to evolve different-colored plumages. This is how new species begin, and according to Ellen Ketterson of Indiana University, who has studied juncos for over 40 years, this may be speciation at work, one of the most rapid

examples among vertebrates. Different-colored juncos will interbreed where the ranges of variants overlap, however.

Juncos have also shown the capacity to change their migration patterns and breeding biology quickly. Trevor Price and Pamela Yeh of UCLA found that some juncos that originally nested in the mountains have become year-round residents on California college campuses and in coastal cities, and have changed their plumage and behavior. Ketterson and Daniel Becker have discovered a junco population in Ohio that abandoned its spring migration to Canada.

Ketterson considers the junco’s ability to adapt hopeful amidst widespread bird population declines and a changing climate. (Though juncos are still considered common, their population declined by 50% across their range between 1966 and 2015, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.)

As the days lengthen in March and April, the juncos at my feeder will depart to breed and raise their young in the northeastern mountains or Canada’s boreal forests. Until then, I’ll enjoy watching them hop around my yard, their backs the color of a stormy winter sky, their breasts the color of snow.

*Susan Shea is a naturalist, writer, and conservationist based in Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*



**The Outside Story**  
By Susan Shea



## Passing the Winter Solstice

Last’s week’s Winter Solstice welcomes the return

Feeling a renewed stirring within your soul for a life infused with meaning, purpose or spiritual pursuits may overwhelm you at first.



**Cosmic Catalogue**  
By Cassandra Tyndall

of light. Slowly, as the days eventually creep up on the nights over the next couple of months, we’re reminded that after every winter, springtime eventually comes.

It’s not only the return of light that is cause for celebration, but so is the return of Jupiter in Pisces. Apart from a brief dip into the oceanic waters in May-July, Jupiter, the planet of growth and optimism, has been wandering through the proverbial desert for the past two years.

Jupiter in Pisces may feel like a homecoming. Connecting to loved ones you’ve been separated from is possible.

As you slowly put some of your recent experiences behind you, be prepared for a flood of emotion, a sense of discom-

bobulation or wandering at first. Time to rest, withdraw, imagine and wonder might be needed before the growth begins.

This week, press the pause button. As the old year becomes new, give yourself the gift of space to let those inklings rise up to the surface and guide you through until Jupiter exits Pisces on May 11.

## Second-guessing the Fed

Second-guessing the Federal Reserve is a popular American pastime. Americans have been speculating about the Fed’s monetary policy choices — raising rates, lowering rates, buying bonds, tapering bond buying, and so on — for a long time. Sometimes, they even second-guess themselves.

Paul Volcker (1979-1987) took over an economic quagmire known as The Great Inflation. When he took office, U.S. inflation was in the double digits, and the unemployment rate was 6%. Volcker raised the Fed funds rate from 11% in August 1979 to 20% in March 1980, reported Kimberly Amadeo of The Balance.

“Farmers protested at the Federal Reserve’s headquarters, and car dealers, who were especially affected

“Car dealers, who were especially affected by high interest rates, sent coffins containing the car keys of unsold vehicles,” reported Medley.

by high interest rates, sent coffins containing the car keys of unsold vehicles. Many people also wrote letters to Volcker telling him how they had saved for many years to purchase a home but were now unable to because of high rates,” reported Bill Medley of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Alan Greenspan (1987-2006) was in charge through two U.S. recessions, the Asian financial crisis, and the September 11 terrorist attacks. Regardless, he oversaw the country’s longest peacetime expansion. Time Magazine’s ‘25 People to Blame for the Financial Crisis,’ reported:

“...the super-low interest rates Greenspan brought in the early 2000s and his long-standing disdain for regula-

# How sweet it is “Being the Ricardos”

My father started smoking cigarettes when he was 13 years old. He lived in a time and environment where the activity was perfectly acceptable — almost encouraged — so



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi

there was little or no thought of the consequences or long-term effects.

Needless to say, it was a lifelong habit that he struggled to control. He tried to quit or cut back on many occasions, but the cravings always won. Cigarettes, and the prerequisite ashtrays scattered about the house, were simply a part of our life.

And as is expected with a 40-year addiction, eventually it killed him at 55 years old.

Conversely, my mother, who is pushing 90 years old, is the picture of health. She took a different approach and has always tended to her physical well-being by eating well, exercising, and doing her best to stay consistently active. In fact, I can only think of one weakness pertaining to health where my mother has regularly failed: she’s never met a box of chocolates she doesn’t love.

My mother can cuddle up to a box of chocolates and a half hour later have nothing left but wrappers. Inevitably, she’ll complain of a stomachache and reprimand herself for such indulgence, but the next time a box of chocolates lands in front of her, the cycle will continue.

However, I will give her credit for her high standards. She generally refrains from eating cheap confections, reserving her precious calories for the hometown candy store selections or her personal favorite: See’s Nuts & Chews.

In fact, my brothers and I have known for years that if you want to make our mother happy on any holiday or her birthday, just send her a box of See’s chocolates.

For the uninitiated, See’s Candies is a world-renowned manufacturer of chocolates and other confections based

in San Francisco, California. The company has over 200 retail outlets across the United States, with many more around the world. Their annual revenue, via their physical storefronts, mail order catalogs, and web properties, is in excess of \$400 million dollars.

The story of See’s Candies started on Tremont Island in Ontario, Canada, where Mary See and her husband ran a hotel. It was here that Mary developed many of the recipes for her specialty chocolates, serving them to guests who vacationed on the island.

When her husband died in 1921, Mary moved to Los Angeles, with her son Charles. Soon after arriving, Charles opened his first candy shop, using his mother’s recipes for many of the products. By the mid-1920s, Charles had launched 12 stores, and by the end of the decade (in the midst of the Great Depression), he had 30 candy shops.

See’s Candies operated successfully for many decades and by 1972 had caught the eye of an aggressive investor named Warren Buffet. Buffet loved See’s Candies and knew the brand had strong appeal, so he purchased the business for \$25 million dollars. Since then, the company has grown and expanded to its current position as one of the world’s premier chocolatiers.

In 1952, assistants for the “I Love Lucy” show approached a See’s production facility to see if they would allow Lucille Ball and her co-star, Vivian Vance, to film a scene for an upcoming episode. In the episode, the two women



would be hired to work on the production line of a chocolate factory, but then struggled to keep up.

The episode would become one of the most popular in the show’s history, with the iconic scene of Lucy and Ethel trying to wrap chocolates on a conveyor belt being considered a comedic classic.

On the surface, the “I Love Lucy” show was light-hearted and fun, with legions of fans around the country tuning in weekly to watch Lucy and her real-life husband, Desi Arnaz, portray a happily wedded couple. Behind the scenes, however, there were difficulties and hurdles that no one could imagine.

This week’s feature, “Being the Ricardos,” starring Nicole Kidman and Javier Bardem, examines one week in the production of the “I Love Lucy” show. That may sound boring compared to Lucille Ball’s entire life story, but trust me, the approach is unique,

creative, and highly revealing.

This was an incredibly well-made film, which isn’t surprising given that Aaron Sorkin (“The West Wing,” “A Few Good Men”) wrote and directed the picture. Sorkin is known for his fast-paced, biting dialogue and that was at the forefront here.

Check this one out if you have a soft spot for the “I Love Lucy” show or you’re simply in the mood for a well-crafted film.

A lovely “B+” for “Being the Ricardos,” available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

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

## Choosing skiing, and my atomic habits

With each snowflake, with each storm, comes the chance to begin again, to start anew. No storm will be the same as the one before nor will any storm be the same as ones to come. Just as no snowflake is the same, neither is any snowstorm. With each unique storm comes unique challenges and adventures, but also unique decisions. It is these choices we make at the start of each storm that become our habits. And our habits, well, our individual habits, are what make us who we are.



**Livin’ the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman

If our habits make us who we are, then could we, in theory, use our habits to become who we want to be? To help us go from dreaming to actually living the dream? James Clear repeats Aristotle’s axiom, that “as it is not one swallow or a fine day that makes a spring, so it is not one day or a short time that makes a man blessed and happy.” Clear also quotes Will Durant, who wrote in “The Story of Philosophy”: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” Clear discusses ways to create new habits that move us toward the greatness for which we strive. These tiny, minuscule changes in our daily lives can create exponential changes in our futures.

Once winter begins, I start my mornings by checking the weather and then packing my boot bag. I go through each item in order: two pairs of gloves, two neckies, two hats, extra long johns ... you know the drill. Many of us pack our bags in the same way every day; the reliance on repetition calms the soul. My mind understands that by packing this bag, I am making every effort to go skiing today. Once the bag is packed, I go through my schedule, diligently find that small window that will make magic work.

That’s the habit. Packing the bag and then making the schedule is the system which enables us to achieve the habit. Any forgotten pair of liners and the whole system goes down. But the habit is the decision to commit to packing the bag in the first place. It’s super hard to not go skiing, even for a few runs, when you are driving around with a boot bag filled with everything you could possibly need. You can feel its presence, hear the locker sized bag sliding around in the trunk as you swerve through the frozen ruts.

Every morning, I choose skiing. Or at least to give myself every opportunity to have the chance if it comes available. I choose to drive around with a box full of skis bouncing around on the roof of my car and with long johns underneath my office pants. I choose to spend

Livin’ the dream > 55

## New Year’s resolutions of yesteryear

Well, it’s almost time to make New Year’s resolutions. I was curious to know how the tradition started so my research began. I was surprised to learn how long that tradition has been around. I wondered if Americans came up with the idea. But I was totally wrong.

The ancient Babylonians are believed to be the first people to make New Year’s resolutions. They began holding celebrations 4,000 years ago in mid-March, which was when the New Year began for them. They made promises to the gods to do such things as pay their debts and return any borrowed objects. These rituals were the forerunners to our New Year’s resolutions. If they kept their resolutions the gods would bestow a favor on them.

The Romans got in on the act around 46 B.C. when Emperor Julius Caesar changed the calendar so that the New Year began on January 1. The month was named for Janus, a god who had two faces. One face looked back at the previous year and the other looked ahead to the coming year. The Romans made promises of good conduct in the New Year.

Fast forward to 1740 and clergyman John Wesley created a service that included reading from scriptures and singing hymns. People thought about their past mistakes

and resolved to do better in the future. It was a quiet way to celebrate the New Year, not at all like our modern day celebrations.

In today’s world resolutions are focused on the individual. They are usually related to self-improvement, such as exercise and weight loss.

So what is the success rate of our attempts to better ourselves? The American Medical Association was involved in polls taken in the 1980s and 1990s. It found that 46% of people who made health-related resolutions for New Years were 10 times more successful than those who did so at other times of the year. So if you need a date on the calendar to motivate you, it’s here!

An article I was reading had some resolution ideas that are particularly appropriate for my “Looking Back” column. It suggests “retro resolutions,” which involve going back in time and doing some of the fun things we used to do.

One suggestion was to go roller skating during the coming year. Now if you are a “senior” that retro experience might not keep you on your feet these days! I remember my roller skates from the ‘50s, shiny silver metal with a key and a leather strap that went around my shoes. All of

Looking back > 58



**Looking Back**  
By Mary Ellen Shaw

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1	9	7	2	6	8	3	5	4
8	5	2	3	4	7	9	1	6
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By Merisa Sherman

**← Livin' the dream:** Working to make skiing a habit, then it can't be ignored  
from page 51

my lunch break on the snow, breathing the fresh winter air. I choose to absorb the beauty of the mountains and to notice the world around me. I choose the hard work so I can live my dream.

But I would never be able to go skiing each day if I did not develop the habit of packing my ski gear first. The temperature doesn't matter, the weather doesn't matter, the conditions don't matter. Put the skins on the night before, Set the alarm, Just go skiing. Every morning I grab my boots off the dryer. I start every day by reaching for my ski boots. If that's not living a dream, I don't know what is.

Every Thursday night, when I was a kid, I packed a bag for Vermont. Before I went to bed, I made sure that I had everything ready to go skiing. I packed the same things, in the same order every single week. And when my parents picked us up from school on Friday afternoon, my bag was ready without a single item missing. It's just that I didn't

develop the return trip with such attention to detail and the property manager ended up mailing me my book bag from where he found it in the Trail Creek parking lot. More recently, I skied with fogged goggles because I left everything in the bag after a rainy day and nothing dried out.

As the new year approaches and we seek to step out of the shadows of the past, we need to give ourselves the tools and develop the habits that will enable us to accomplish those annual resolutions. Every day. We need to remember that excellence is a habit. That leaking our dreams into reality is nothing but a habit. And habits are the tiny details that make up the day and define who we are. These atomic habits are the difference between another year like the past two or one that pushes us forward toward our own dreams. No matter what the future holds for you and your family, may you have more days on snow this year than you did the last.

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**Giles:** A Vermonter and a longtime Killington resident, Billy Giles always knew how to have fun and was known for his adventurous spirit, he is remembered by all who knew him from page 6

courses taught by professor Tom Smith, his interests gravitated toward English, literature and ancient Greek studies. He also credited professor Douglas Stafford with interest in philosophy, and to a certain extent, classical music, especially Beethoven. Billy became a close friend of both men.

When Billy's father was put in charge of the Soldiers' Home in Bennington, the family lived on the compound. Billy befriended students and professors at Bennington College and sat in on classes in poetry and art. He also worked with several noted pop artists of the time, helping to stretch canvases and loading and dispatching work destined for exhibitions. The only time he came to New York was to sell Christmas trees on the upper West Side.

In 1971, my husband and I, our 15-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son rented a house on Lake Saint Catherine for the whole summer. Our longtime friends Tom and Virginia Smith introduced Billy to us. The instant he appeared by the lake I developed a crush on irresistible, handsome, charming "Billy Goat." Soon whispering friends suggested, he felt the same about me.

I was married, Billy was a gentleman. The clique that gathered at the lake house throughout the summer of "Sargent Pepper" rock-and-rolled, gobbled food and drink, jumped in the lake and went dancing at a local dive where everybody knew the boys in the band. In September, my family packed up, said goodbye to summer and went back to New York City. Billy stayed in touch. A friend of the family.

Soon Vermont could not contain adventurous Billy Giles. When friends who had joined the Peace Corps invited him to stay with them in Afghanistan, he jumped at the chance.

He stayed in Kabul and went on to explore the country side, easily befriend city dwellers and tribesmen. He watched the sunrise over Khyber Pass. Returning to Vermont with rustic Afghan rugs and handicrafts, he considered an import enterprise.

Billy expanded his travels to Africa and Europe. When he came through New York City, to catch flights to Kabul, to London or Lagos, he stopped with us in Park Slope overnight, sometimes longer. Each time he walked through the door my heart skipped a beat.

Billy Giles's international enterprises began to pay off. By the early '80s he owned two fine cars, had taken flying lessons, qualified for an aviator's license, bought an antique biplane, a Piper Cub, and married Bonnie McClellan.

The building of a house with mountain views in Shrewsbury was begun. The newly married Billy was settling into the life of a well-to-do Vermonter. The stops in Park Slope between international flights ceased.

On Thanksgiving afternoon in 1984, Billy boarded his Piper Cub and flew to Castleton to surprise Virginia and Tom Smith and their dinner guests. After sampling pumpkin and

apple pie, he waved goodbye, climbed back into the cockpit of his biplane. On takeoff, a gust of wind caused one wing of the plane to tangle with the top of a tree. The plane crashed into the farmers field behind the Smith's house.

Doctors did not hold out much hope for the crushed aviator. One eye was removed to save the vision in the other. A mangled foot was reset and reinforced with a steel plate. After three comatose weeks Billy sat up in bed laughing, wondering what all the fuss was about. A plastic surgeon was called in to reconstruct his face.

He required extensive rehabilitation to improve the vision in his remaining eye. That led to a several months' stay in Outward Bound. (At the time Yvonne Daley wrote the article in Rutland Herald about the experience of his recovery.) All of this took its toll emotionally and financially. The unfinished house had to go. Billy's and Bonnie's short marriage fell apart.

In 1987, a few days before Christmas, no longer walking with crutches or even a cane, Billy surprised me by appearing at the doorstep of my loft in Soho. I was out of Park Slope, out of my marriage. He was healed and he was free. We were both free to begin the romance we must have always hoped would be ours.

The recovered Billy was ready for new pursuits. Friends from a Greek shipping company were planning a start-up venture of leisure submarines and put Billy in charge. He left Vermont for a beach front condo in Vero Beach, Florida. I visited often. We played house and played on the beach and explored Florida. When, after a year, plans for the submarine venture did not pan out, Billy came back to Vermont. Shortly after that he settled in with me in Soho.

In 1988 we had our "honeymoon" in Paris. We traveled to London and to Greece. In Piraeus we were offered the use of Billy's Greek associates' yacht. We sailed on the Aegean to Santorini and Crete. During another trip we explored Stockholm, where I had lived before coming to the States. We often took quick trips to Paris, stayed in small hotels. A few times I had rented apartments. We took one wonderful trip to the beaches of Normandy. Billy had read extensively about the June 1944 landings. He was a wonderful, informed guide.

Over a period of time Billy had developed an interest in all things Japanese, literature, the martial arts, food, and the collecting of Japanese prints. Both of us studied Japanese and traveled to Japan. At a time when Japanese restaurants proliferated in major American cities Billy succeeded in establishing a successful sake business in New York City. He managed World Sake Imports in Soho until the end of his life.

For several summers we rented a house on Killington. We hiked the slopes, Garvin Hill, the Vermont part of the Appalachian Trail. We socialized with friends.

When the Killington house was no longer available as a summer rental, in 2003 we bought a house in Mendon. Then



Submitted  
*Billy Giles and Anita Lobel at the cafe in Sainte Maire Eglise in Normandy, France back in 1996.*

our stays in Vermont were not limited to summers. When the drive from New York was no longer feasible for Billy and the more than six hour long train ride became intolerable to me, we sold the house in 2013.

Billy loved the New York restaurant scene. We had our favorites, especially Japanese restaurants. He did not always join me in theater or classical concert going. But, if I talked him into coming with me to a fine orchestra performance of a Beethoven symphony at Carnegie Hall, he was game and reveled in the great acoustics.

He could do without opera. There was one opera, however, I insisted he attend with me one New Year's Eve. The character of sailor Billy Budd bears a resemblance to the country boy Billy Giles. Well, Billy's reaction was: "I don't understand why it takes so long to tell that simple story." After that performance some patrons were invited to a supper party on the Met Opera stage. Billy delighted in poking around in the wings and meeting the singer who had just changed out of his sailor costume and shed his blonde wig.

Leaving the hospital room on the evening of the Sept. 24, I told Billy I had been invited to a party on the roof by one of our neighbors in the building. "I don't have the patience for a party," I said, kissing him goodnight. "I'll see you tomorrow."

In the raspy remnant of what had once been his elegant speaking voice, Billy whispered the last words I would ever hear him say: "Go to Santoni's party."

The morning of Saturday, Sept. 25, I arrived at the hospital to be met by the chief of Billy's medical team shaking her head. Her patient had fallen into a coma. I spent the next seven hours holding the rigid hand of a once beautiful man, and staring into the gaping grimace of the corpse he had become. Hoping for a response, I whispered and sang to him softly until at 8:30 I felt no more life pulse in his hand. I knew it was all over even before the doctor treated me to the official nod. I watched two nurses zip up William Edward Giles into a white plastic body bag.

Giles was suave and courtly and sophisticated, without ever losing his natural guilelessness. He moved as easily in his native Vermont as he did in New York and Europe. We lived a surprising and magical, adventurous, and cozy life. We could be childishly innocent or fussy and demanding with each other. Our romance of almost 34 years never lost its sheen. I will miss and mourn him every moment of every waking day and night for the rest of my life.

Billy had no children. His mother and father were both dead. He is survived by two cousins, Christina Theriault of Niantic, Connecticut, and Martha Aitken of Williston, Vermont.



Submitted  
*Billy Giles poses by his beloved Piper Cub for a photo opportunity at Rutland airport in the early 1980s.*



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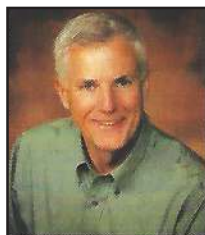
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### ← Money matters: Financial system rescues, who benefits most? Why? from page 50

tion are now held up as leading causes of the mortgage crisis. The maestro admitted in an October congressional hearing that he had ‘made a mistake in presuming’ that financial firms could regulate themselves.”

Ben Bernanke (2006-2014) became Fed chair just before the financial crisis of 2006-2010. He was at the helm as the Fed began to stimulate economic growth through quantitative easing (buying mortgage-backed securities and long-term treasuries).

In 2012, economist Paul Krugman wrote in the New York Times, “...while

the Fed went to great lengths to rescue the financial system, it has done far less to rescue workers. The U.S. economy remains deeply depressed, with long-term unemployment in particular still disastrously high, a point Bernanke himself has recently emphasized. Yet the Fed isn’t taking strong action to rectify the situation.”

It’s very difficult to evaluate the achievements and/or failures of a Fed chair before the economic dust settles. Usually, that’s long after they’ve left office.

*Kevin Theissen is the owner of HWC Financial in Ludlow.*

### ← Looking back: Retro-resolutions may spark some good ideas, fun adventures from page 51

my friends had the same kind and we would cruise up and down the sidewalks of Howard Avenue for hours on end.

There are many TV channels that offer us a chance to go back in time. Why not make a resolution to take half an hour each week and relax as you watch one of your favorite TV shows from yesteryear? My choice would be “Leave It to Beaver,” “Hazel” or “I Love Lucy.” When I was a kid I thought Lucy’s friend, Ethel Mertz, and the Baxters’ maid, Hazel, were quite chubby and also old. I am now older than they were at the time — but in my mind I am still “young.” If Ethel, Hazel and I all got on the scale they would probably weigh less than I do, too! Oh, how our perception of things changes as we age!

Another retro-resolution for 2022 could be to visit a diner. That type of restaurant speaks to the good ol’ days for sure. In Rutland Lindholm’s Diner and the Midway Diner were popular spots. The closest one in our area presently is the Birdseye Diner in Castleton. However, a quick internet check shows about half a dozen of them spread from one end of Vermont to the other.

Why not get into the “retro spirit” and do something that my parents did back in the ‘50s? Hop in the car and go for a ride. You can head to one of the diners and step back in time when you reach your destination.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!



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# Vt Fish & Wildlife holds ice fishing clinics start January and February

Learning how to participate in an outdoor activity can be challenging, and ice fishing is a good example. Knowing this, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. has scheduled a series of free ice fishing clinics for anyone who would like to learn about the latest proven ice fishing techniques.

“Everyone is welcome no matter their experience level. We want this to be fun and helpful for all,” Hart added.

“Our ice fishing clinics will be held from January through March with the possibility that some dates may change according to ice and weather conditions,” said Fish and Wildlife Education Specialist Corey Hart. No March dates have yet been released, however.

“Everyone is welcome no matter their experience level. We want this to be fun and helpful for all,” Hart added.

Each clinic will last 2 ½ to 3 hours, and exact location details will be given when people register for the event. Topics to be covered include ice safety, hole drilling, equipment and techniques, regulations and different techniques for different fish.

A variety of clinic topics are being offered to reach beginners and experienced anglers. Introduction to Ice Fishing clinics will cover all the basics while species-specific programs such as

Trout Fishing are perfect for anglers with some ice fishing experience but who may be looking for more specific tips on targeting certain species.

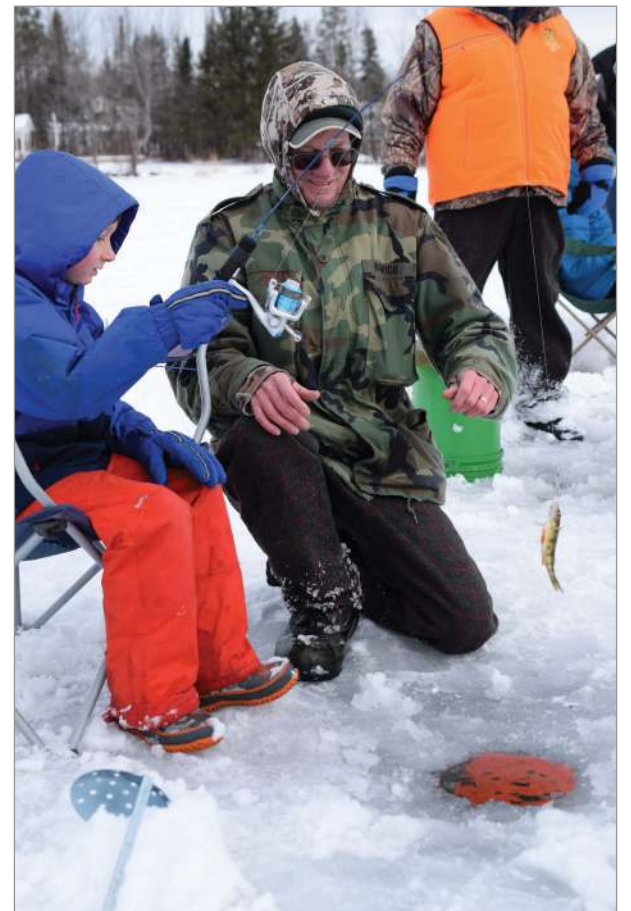
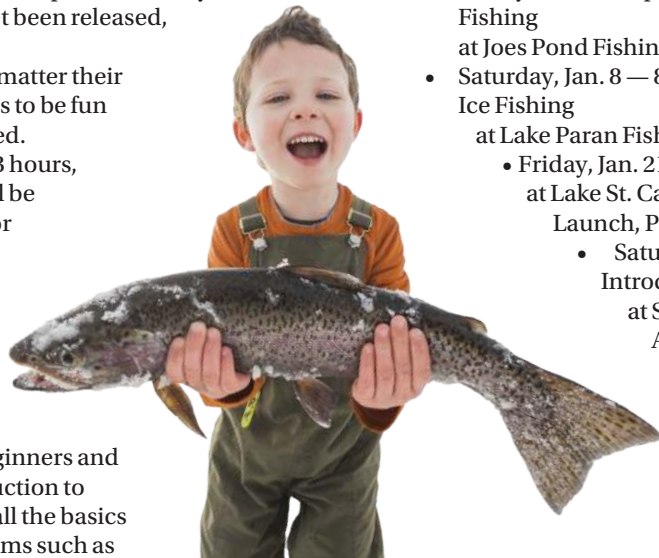
All participants will have the opportunity to practice what they have learned near the end of each event. Everyone is urged to wear clothing suitable for the weather conditions.

Pre-registration is required and can be done on Fish and Wildlife’s website [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com). Corey Hart at [LetsGoFishing@vermont.gov](mailto:LetsGoFishing@vermont.gov) or 802-505-5562 will be available for questions.

In addition to the programs listed below, more programs will be added throughout the winter, so check the website frequently.

### Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Ice Fishing Clinics for 2022

- Friday, Jan. 7 — 4 p.m. Introduction to Smelt Fishing at Joes Pond Fishing Access, Danville.
- Saturday, Jan. 8 — 8:30 a.m. Introduction to Ice Fishing at Lake Paran Fishing Access, Bennington.
- Friday, Jan. 21 — 2:30 p.m. Trout Clinic at Lake St. Catherine State Park Boat Launch, Poultney.
- Saturday, Jan. 22 — 9 a.m. Introduction to Ice Fishing at Singing Cedars Fishing Access, Orwell.
- Saturday, Feb. 26 — 9 a.m. Introduction to Ice Fishing at Retreat Meadows Fishing Access, Brattleboro.



Courtesy VTF&W

Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s ice fishing clinics offer a great opportunity to learn about the different kinds of ice fishing throughout Vermont.

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# Science cafes introduce teens to STEM topics

The winter/spring series of VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Cafés features a diverse range of topics from new cancer therapies to quantum computers and aquaponics.

Several cafés are scheduled, both virtual and in-person, beginning Jan. 11. Teens are encouraged to mark their calendars now so they don't miss out on the fun.

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H sponsors these cafés throughout the year to encourage students in Grades 7-12 to explore new and cutting-edge ideas in science and technology with the help of experts. The cafés are organized and facilitated by a leadership team of teens.

Advance registration is required for each café. Go to [uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements](http://uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements) for details and deadlines to register.

In-person cafés (I) will be held on Saturdays from 5-7 p.m. in the Mansfield Dining Room at UVM's Dudley Davis Center with strict Covid safety protocols in place for all participants. Free pizza and drinks will be served.

Virtual cafés (V) take place on Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. and will have closed captioning. Recordings of all teen sci-

ence cafés will be available to view on YouTube at [go.uvm.edu/4hteensciencecafes](http://go.uvm.edu/4hteensciencecafes).

The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 11 (V): The Long and Winding Road of Developing New Cancer Therapies
- Jan. 22 (I): Culturing Cells for Healthier Soil
- Feb. 5 (I): Design Innovation Mindset: Shifting the Waste-to-Value Paradigm
- Feb. 22 (V): NASA Internship Research about the Space Suit
- March 19 (I): Precision Genomics Medicine and Diagnostics
- March 29 (V): What Can a Quantum Computer Do? Why Should You Care?
- April 9 (I): Moon Base
- April 30 (I): Aquaponics: The Basics of Growing Plants from Fish
- May 10 (V): TBD



Requests for a disability-related accommodation should be made three weeks in advance. Contact Lauren Traister, UVM extension 4-H teen and leadership program coordinator, at 802-888-4972.



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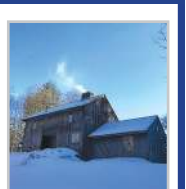
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# Tips to organize your cluttered kitchen, start 2022 off right

Kitchens serve as the heart of many homes. Thanks to the popularity of open floor plans, kitchens also tend to be highly visible from nearby spaces, such as family rooms and even main entryways. A messy, cluttered kitchen can be an inefficient eyesore that's visible from various locations in a home. That makes getting organized in the kitchen a worthwhile goal.

The following are some tips to help homeowners organize their kitchens.

### Start with the utensils

Utensils come in all shapes and sizes. Take inventory of your utensils, discarding or donating items you don't use. Next, designate drawers or countertop storage solutions for the utensils you use most often. Place them within easy reach, and take into account your dominant hand for placement.

### Categorize your pantry

Empty the pantry, paying attention to

staples you regularly use. Then figure out a system for categorization that works for your household. Perhaps place all baking essentials together, such as flour, oil, baking soda, and cocoa powder. Maybe you need to designate a "kids' corner" in the pantry where you keep fruit snacks, granola bars and breakfast cereals. Use uniformly shaped containers to store packaged foods so you're not contending with oddly shaped boxes and bags.

### Use extra wall or ceiling space

Large pots and pans can eat up cabinet space or clutter the inside of an oven for those who don't have any other space. While your decorative enamel Dutch oven might fit nicely on a shelf or counter, cast-iron pans and skillets can be hung from durable hooks over an island or near the stove.

### Organize under the sink

It can be difficult to keep cleaning products tidy and within reach. Try installing a

short tension rod inside the cabinet and use it to hang spray bottles, rubber gloves and cleaning cloths.

### Use kitchen cabinet rollouts

A shortage of storage space in cabinets can be remedied with rollouts. They provide additional capacity to cabinets and make it easier to find items, instead of having to dig at the back of dim cabinet recesses.

### Tame your container collection

It's tempting to save all of those take-out containers or empty margarine tubs for leftovers. But if there's an avalanche every time you open up a cabinet to reach for a container, you probably have too many. Invest in one type of storage container so you can nest the containers and lids for ultimate organization.

An organized kitchen is more attainable than it may seem. Some simple strategies can help homeowners make these home hubs less cluttered and more calming.



Submitted

Categorize your pantry items to de-clutter.



## Happy Holidays!

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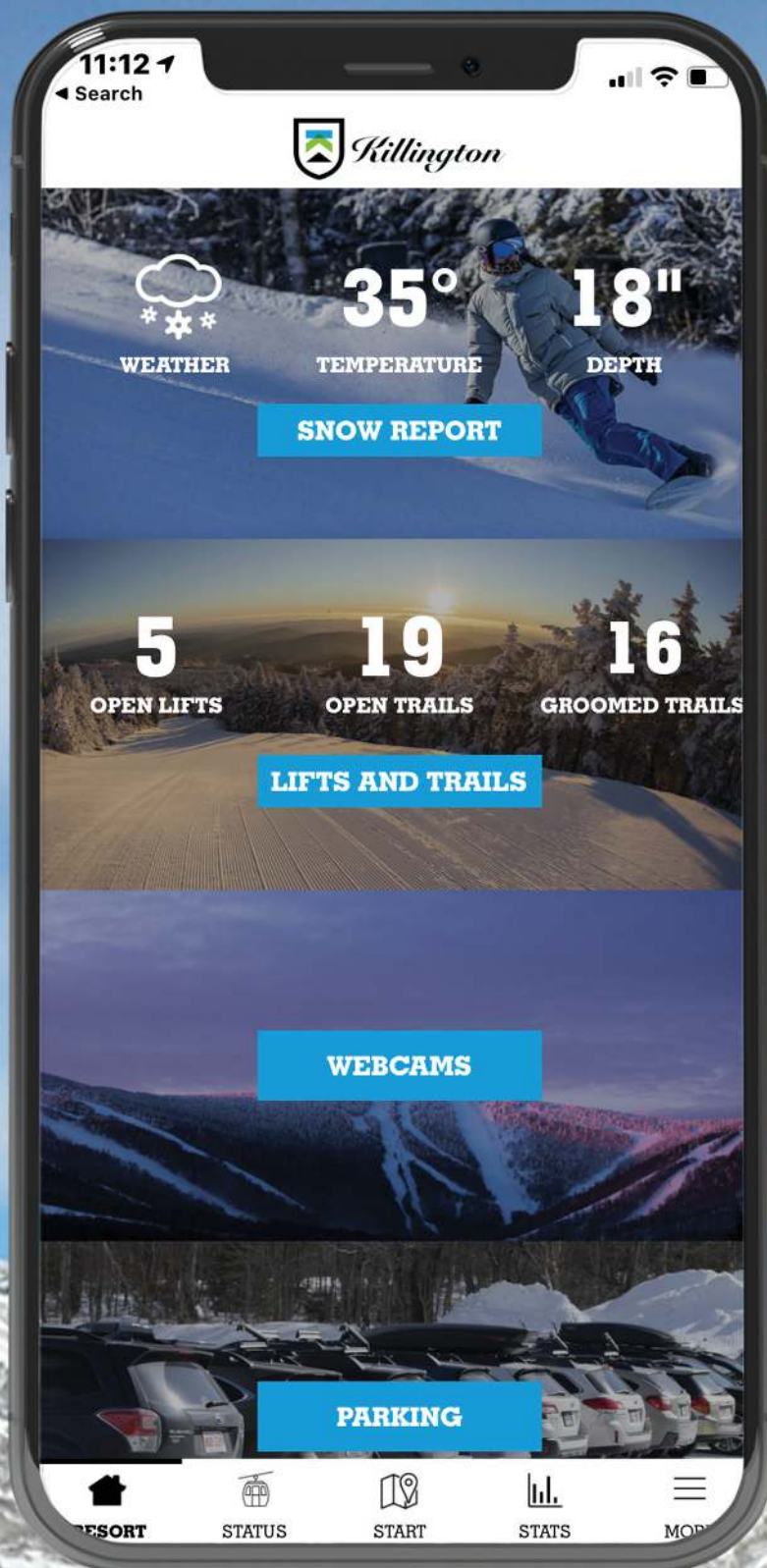
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