



YEAR IN REVIEW

Take a look back at the top stories of 2023 as we say goodbye to the year and welcome in 2024.

Page 29

KPAA RECOGNIZES LEADERS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Megan Wagner of Dream Maker Bakers and Kelsey Cruickshank were awarded.

Page 2



SHORT-TERM RENTALS ARE ON THE RISE ACROSS VERMONT

Vermont saw the highest number of active short-term rentals in September of this year hitting a new record of 11,747, a 16% increase relative to last year.

Page 7

CONSERVATIVE LEGAL GROUPS ARE A FORCE IN VERMONT SCHOOL

Over roughly the past half-decade, a bevy of well-funded, out-of-state conservative advocacy groups have become active in lobbying for and against certain policies in Vermont schools.



Page 8

New restaurant, Toasted Pecan, is now open in Pittsfield

By Katy Savage

About two years ago, Joseph Nolan and his wife Blair were sitting on a coach in their home in North Carolina jotting ideas on paper, dreaming of menu items for a restaurant they hoped to own someday.

"I would have ideas and she would write them down," Joseph said.

Now, their dream is coming true.

The Toasted Pecan, a southern-inspired restaurant, opened Dec. 20 in Pittsfield, in the building of the former Clear River Tavern, which closed in November.

"It feels great to have it come alive," Joseph said. "I'm so humbled by this experience."

Joseph started his first restaurant job at age 16. He worked at a Sicilian restaurant in

North Carolina and quickly knew it was what he wanted to do.

"It feels great to have it come alive," Joseph said.

"I just love cooking," he said. "I love when I make a dish and it makes people happy."

Joseph most recently worked at a conference center, managing 80 people.

"I dreamed of owning my own place," he said. "I never thought it would happen. It's something as a chef you work toward your whole life. When you work for someone else you tend not to have full creative freedom."

Blair, meanwhile, has a background in events, gaining experience first as a hostess at a restaurant while she was in college.

Toasted Pecan → 17

Old Windsor farm gets a new life

By Curt Peterson

For some time now the buzz in Hartland and Windsor has been "What are all those huge tunnel barns across from Simon Pearce?"

Passersby are looking at the rapidly growing agricultural operations of Sunkissed Farm, owned by partners Brad Macrae, 41, and Spencer Hayes, 38. The agriculture they are pursuing is cultivation of cannabis, to be sold only to retail outlets under the Sunkissed Farm brand.

"We aren't licensed to sell any product on a retail level," Macrae explained.

The Mountain Times is the first media organization to be invited inside the heavy-duty fencing and past the hundreds of security cameras and substantial padlock. The state requires detailed descriptions of security provisions before licensing will be considered.

The Sunkissed property was formerly known as the "Staples Farm." The most recent Staples to live in the large, federal style brick house was Newell D. Staples, who died in 2015 at 92.

"The house had been vacant for some time," explained Spencer, who lives in Pomfret.

The duo have invested \$2 million renovating the house, rehabbing outbuildings, and Cannabis → 11



By Curt Peterson
Co-owner Spencer Hayes, 38, holds freshly rolled joints to sell to retail outlets.

VFFC makes progress to reopen Farmers Hall

Installation of new floor underway in Farmers Hall, part of the contamination cleanup process

The Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) is moving towards the reopening of Farmers Hall.

"We are very excited to be installing the new floor," said Heidi Lynch, VFFC's executive director.

As part of VFFC's building renovation and campus expansion project, an environmental assessment discovered an air quality issue in Farmers Hall, a remnant from the historic building's past use. This discovery has caused a two-year environmental remediation process for the project, but has allowed VFFC

to make the former industrial site safe for adaptive reuse.

With an \$800,000 grant this past September from the Brownfield Revitalization Fund within the Vermont Department of Economic Development, remediation work is in process. Contractors are installing a plastic vapor barrier and two inches of insulation underneath four inches of concrete. General Contractor Greg Whitehorn stated, "Installation is on schedule and nearly complete."

After the retesting of air quality and final Farmers Hall → 5





TOWN OF
KILLINGTON

VERMONT

PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN OF KILLINGTON
ZONING BYLAWS and KILLINGTON ZONING MAP

The Killington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Town of Killington Zoning Bylaws and the Town of Killington Zoning Maps on:

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

at the Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont.

The hearing will also be held remotely via Zoom. The link to join remotely is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86571219532>

or by call in: +16468769923,86571219532#.

This public notice is given pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4444.

The principal purpose of the proposed zoning bylaw amendments is to provide standards for permitting and **regulating cannabis establishments** within the Town of Killington. These amendments will affect every geographical area of Killington. The Town of Killington Zoning Map has been amended to provide 2 Commercial Districts – one of which is labeled the Killington Basin Commercial District and one of which is labeled the Route 4 Commercial District.

The section headings affected by the proposed zoning bylaw amendments are:

- SECTION 120 – DEFINITIONS
- SECTION 302 – CONDITIONAL USE - CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS

The full text of the proposed Town of Killington Zoning Bylaw Amendments may be found at the Town Clerk's office, 2706 River Road, Killington and on the Planning Commission page of the Town's website: KillingtonTown.com.

*Dated at Killington, Vermont this 11th Day of December 2023.
Lisa Davis Lewis, Town Planner, Town of Killington, Vermont*



TOWN OF
KILLINGTON

VERMONT

Reminder to all Short-Term Rental owners:

Registration is past due!

The Short-Term Rental of a dwelling unit within the Town of Killington requires a STR Registration License, which is issued by completing an application online (killington.munirevs.com) and paying the permit fee based on # of bedrooms in each unit.

**STR Registrations run from Nov. 1 - Oct. 31
and need to be renewed each year by Nov. 15.**

The grace period for renewing will end Jan. 10, 2024.

If you are still short-term renting and you fail to renew your registration by Jan. 10, 2024, you will be sent a certified letter informing you that you are in violation of the Town's STR Zoning Regulation. You will then have 7 days to register, or you will be subject to **fines of \$200/day**.

- A Short-Term Rental is defined as a furnished house, condominium, or other dwelling room or self-contained dwelling unit rented to the transient, traveling, or vacationing public for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days and for more than 14 days per calendar year.
- Dwelling Unit Capacity for a Short-Term Rental is two occupants per approved bedroom plus two additional occupants. For example, a 3-bedroom dwelling can be rented to eight guests (3 bedrooms = 6 occupants plus 2 additional occupants = 8). The occupancy of condos is determined by VT Act 250.
- An inspection report with occupancy approved from the State Division of Fire Safety is required for STRs with an occupancy of greater than 8 guests. The Rutland Fire Safety office can be reached at 802-279-0946 to answer questions you may have and to set up an appointment.
- The designated operator (the owner may be the designated operator) must be available by phone at all times that the Short-Term Rental is in use.
- Parking by STR guests must be off-street. On-street parking is not permitted.
- STRs with an occupancy of 16 or fewer guests are allowed in all zoning districts.
- Failure to secure an STR Registration or advertising a Short-Term Rental for more than the approved maximum number of occupants (guests) are violations of the Zoning Bylaws and will be enforced.

For more information, visit: bit.ly/KillingtonSTR

Havah Armstrong Walther named director of Hartford Chamber

The Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce (HACC) has appointed Havah Armstrong Walther as its new executive director. With an impressive background in advocacy, fundraising, and business consulting, she brings a wealth of experience, passion, and strategic vision to lead the Chamber, the board stated.

"We are delighted to welcome Havah Armstrong Walther as our new executive director. Her dynamic leadership style, combined with her dedication to community and business development, makes her the ideal candidate to guide the Chamber through its next phase of growth," stated Mary Davidson Graham, board chair.

Walther has a proven track record of organizational management, strategic planning, and program design, allowing her leadership qualities to align seamlessly

"Her dynamic leadership style, combined with her dedication to community and business development, makes her the ideal candidate to guide the Chamber through its next phase of growth," stated Graham.

with the Chamber's mission to promote economic development, foster community engagement, and support local businesses.

As the executive director, Walther will



Sumbitted

Havah Armstrong Walther

play a pivotal role in the administration of the Chamber, the Quechee Visitor's Center, and the Quechee Balloon Fest. Her strategic insights and collaborative approach are expected to enhance the Chamber's impact and strengthen its position as a driving force

for economic and community development in the Hartford region.

A formal welcome event is planned during the HACC Annual Meeting on Jan. 31, 2024 providing an opportunity for Chamber members,

community leaders, and well-wishers to meet Walther and learn more about her vision for the future of the chamber. For more information, visit: HartfordvtChamber.com.

KPAA recognizes leaders in the Killington area community

Friday night, Dec. 15, the Killington Pico Area Association (KPAA) reintroduced two awards and presented them to deserving members.

Outstanding Community Member Business was awarded to Megan Wagner of Dream Maker Bakers. Wagner was recognized for her commitment to the member community of the region through high quality customer service, professionalism, and excellence.

Kelsey Cruickshank was presented with Outstanding Community Member for her dedication and service, which have gone above and beyond, the KPAA board stated. "She has uplifted our community and the KPAA with heart and action," the statement continued.



Courtesy KPAA

Mike Coppinger and Beth Sarandrea awarded Megan Wagner of Dream Maker Bakers (center left photo) with the Outstanding Community Member Business plaque and Kelsey Cruickshank the Outstanding Community Member award on behalf of the KPAA.



Photos by Robin Alberti
Top: Pictured (l-r) are Sam Hauze, Lia Gugliotta, and Hannah Allen.

Left: Pictured (l-r) Matilda Richardson, Quinn Eckler, Kamron Yuengling, Luca Morris and Finn Farrell.

Below: Pictured in the first row (l-r) are Luca Morris, Matilda Richardson, Heidi Thompson and Violet Alexander. In the second row (l-r) is Kamron Yuengling, Quinn Eckler, Elliot Namkung, Lylah Zeitlin. The performers in the third row on the stage are Lia Gugliotta, Finn Farrell, Jackson Fellows, Tula Klock, William Obbard and Sam Hauze. Below bottom: Sam Hauze and William Obbard battle with battons.



Students preformed 'punk rock' interpretation of Robin Hood the Musical

Woodstock area's Yoh Theatre Players performed "Robin Hood the Musical," written by Greg Banks and directed by Marcia Bender, Friday- Sunday, Dec. 15-17 at Woodstock Union High School Middle School.

"The play takes a broader view of what Robin Hood is," said Cassandra ("Cassie") Naife, a YOH Player in an interview with Okemo Valley TV. "It's a more modern take."

"It embraces the whimsicalness and fairytale energy of the whole story," said Sam Hauze, who played the role of the Sheriff of Nottingham. "We're making it more punk rock against corporate villains," he explained. Adding that his character's goal "is essentially to just keep the members of the corporate villiany in power."

For more information on this or upcoming performances, visit: yohtheatre.com.

"The play takes a broader view of what 'Robin Hood' is," said Naife.

MAPLE Sugar & Spice VERMONT

Come to our sugarhouse for the best breakfast around! After breakfast, check out our gift shop for all your souvenir, gift, and maple syrup needs. We look forward to your visit!

Dine-in or Take-out available.

Serving Breakfast & Lunch
7a.m. - 2p.m. daily

Check out our menu online!

Sugar & Spice Restaurant & Gift Shop
Rt. 4 Mendon, VT
802-773-7832 | www.vtsugarandspice.com

Table of contents

Local news	2
State news	7
Opinion	10
Puzzles	13
Calendar.....	16
Arts, Dining, Entertainment.....	18
Pets	26
Horoscopes.....	27
Columns.....	46
Service directory.....	48
Classifieds.....	50
Real estate	52

MOUNTAIN TIMES

is a community newspaper covering Central Vermont that aims to engage and inform as well as empower community members to have a voice.

Polly Lynn Mikula Editor & Publisher
Jason Mikula Marketing Manager & Co-Publisher
Katy Savage Assistant Editor/Office Manager
Lindsey Rogers Marketing/Advertising Consultant
Pat Wise Graphic Designer
Jim Haff..... Distribution Manager

Interested in advertising? Call 802-422-2399
or email: lindsey@mountaintimes.info
For classifieds/yard sales: classifieds@mountaintimes.info
For events: events@mountaintimes.info



©The Mountain Times 2022
The Mountain Times • P.O. Box 183
Killington, VT 05751 • 802-422-2399
Email: editor@mountaintimes.info
mountaintimes.info

Hartland Select Board adds \$10,000 for planning commissions legal fee

By Curt Peterson

Dan Jerman, vice chair of the nine-member Hartland Planning Commission, approached the Select Board during review of the FY2025 municipal budget, on Dec. 18, to ask for additional funding for “possible” legal fees, which might be incurred during the commission’s appeal of the Environmental Commission’s grant of an ACT 250 permit to Sunnymede Farm for a proposed farm stand on vacant land on Route 5/12 at the end of Rice Road.

The property in contention is part wetland, and formerly included deteriorating farm buildings, which were cleared in preparation for the farmstand. A local farmer harvests a small amount of hay, and drivers-by use the lot as a trash receptacle.

Sunnymede proposes a professionally designed farmstand that will have at least 60% of their offered products directly produced on their farm, a couple of miles from the site. They believe theirs is an allowed use within the “rural” zone designated by the Planning Commission in the 2022-adopted Hartland Town Plan.

Apparently, the Environmental Commission agrees with Sunnymede.

Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) filed an appeal based on ACT 250 criterias 10 and 9L of their regional plan, which, executive director Peter Gregory told the Mountain Times, cite “Conformance to and [sic] duly adopted Local or Regional Plans”(10) and “settlement patterns,” or “sprawl” (9L).

The Hartland Planners’ separate appeal is also based on Sunnymede’s proposed non-conformance to criteria 9L. They consider Sunnymede’s “a retail store,” a prohibited use in the “rural” zone.

Select Board chair Phil Hobbie was taken aback by two aspects of Jarman’s request — first that the Planning Commission planned to use \$19,000 specifically budgeted for professional help with the town survey, which remains unspent, for totally unrelated legal fees. Second, Hobbie recalled that the planners were going to join in support of TRORC’s appeal, not start their own redundant legal action.

If they joined TRORC, Hobbie said, there would have been no legal fees. Hobbie felt the unspent survey money should automatically return as part of any FY2024 budget surplus.

Jerman professed ignorance on the commissioners’ part — “We didn’t realize there were strings attached to the money,” he said. “It was a miscommunication.”

The town survey was completed, and the data presented at a public meeting on Dec. 6.

As part of his argument for support from Select Board and taxpayers, Jarman cited the large percentage of survey respondents “who want our town to remain a small, rural community.”

Hobbie pointed out that a similar percentage indicated a desire to “encourage commercial development adjunct to the villages, and on the state highways.” The Sunnymede site is on Route 5/12, less than a ¼ mile from Interstate 91, and adjacent to the Three Corners village perimeter.

Jarman said the commission has no estimate of the total legal fees the appeal might incur, but guessed it could run to \$30,000. He referred to the State Supreme Court as a possible final confrontation arena.

Kennedy said that could be “years away.”

Selectman Jim Rielly made a motion in favor of increased funding for the commission’s legal fees, which was amended multiple times. The final motion awarded the planners \$10,000 in anticipation of appeal legal fees. Kennedy, Rielly and Clyde Jenne voted in favor of the motion, and Hobbie voted “nay.” Selectwoman Mandi Potter was not in attendance.

Vermont delegation pushes for Residential Re-Entry Center in Vermont

Residential re-entry centers offer transitional services for those re-entering their communities after being incarcerated — Vermont is one of two states without a center

The Vermont Congressional Delegation, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), Senator Peter Welch (D-Vermont), and Representative Becca Balint (D-Vermont), wrote to U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons Director Colette Peters Dec. 13 to express their strong support for the Bureau’s plan to place a Residential Re-Entry Center (RRC) in Vermont. Vermont is one of only two states, the other being Hawaii, without an RRC and a recent study by the Bureau recommended the placement of a center in the state.

“We write to convey the Vermont delegation’s continued full support for this much needed facility which would uniquely serve the needs of our state,” wrote the Delegation in the letter. “RRCs are essential facilities that allow individuals transitioning out of BOP custody to receive critical substance use and mental health treatment while also obtaining employment and housing assistance. RRCs also allow for defendants and probationers in federal court to receive housing and treatment in lieu of incarceration where deemed appropriate by a federal judge.

“The lack of local resources for Vermonters involved in the federal prison system has detrimentally impacted not only those involved, but all of our constituents who suffer the collateral consequences of the dearth of re-entry and treatment options.

“The Vermont delegation looks forward to working with the Bureau as it proceeds with a Request for Proposal for a Residential Re-Entry Center. We stand ready to help the Bureau in obtaining this necessary facility for Vermonters,” the Delegation concluded.

The Delegation’s letter reads in full:

Dear Director Peters,

We were excited by your announcement at the September 13, 2023 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that the Bureau of Prisons planned to place a Residential Re-Entry Center (RRC) in Vermont. We write to convey the Vermont delegation’s continued full support for this much needed facility which would uniquely serve the needs of our state.

RRCs are essential facilities that allow individuals transitioning out of BOP custody to receive critical substance use and mental health treatment while also obtaining employment and housing assistance. RRCs also allow for defendants and probationers in federal court to receive housing and treatment in lieu of incarceration where deemed appropriate by a federal judge.

Currently, the closest centers for Vermonters are located in Boston, MA; Manchester, NH; or Providence, RI. In fact, Vermont is one of only two states without an RRC. The lack of local resources for Vermonters

involved in the federal prison system has detrimentally impacted not only those involved, but all of our constituents who suffer the collateral consequences of the dearth of re-entry and treatment options. We understand that a recent BOP study came to the same conclusion and recommended the placement of an RRC in Vermont.

Our endorsement of a Residential Re-Entry Center in Vermont reflects numerous conversations we have had with stakeholders in the federal criminal justice system in the state. We understand that the federal judges on the Vermont bench strongly support placing a center in the state. Similarly, our conversations with attorneys involved in federal criminal cases have revealed unanimous support for a center. We would be happy to connect with you local stakeholders who can speak in more detail about the immediate need for a center should further information be helpful.

The Vermont delegation looks forward to working with the Bureau as it proceeds with a Request for Proposal for a Residential Re-Entry Center. We stand ready to help the Bureau in obtaining this necessary facility for Vermonters. Please reach out to our staff with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance as you move forward.

Sincerely, The Vermont Congressional Delegation

VTFSC sues Vermont over firearms rights restrictions

On Dec. 18, the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs (VTFSC) filing a federal lawsuit challenging Vermont’s 72-hour waiting period law and its ban on standard capacity firearm magazines that are commonly owned in Vermont and across the nation.

“The inherent right to self-defense” the Supreme Court has explained “is central to the Second Amendment right...The Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Bruen last year held that Second Amendment rights must be protected just like all other fundamental constitutional rights,” said Chris Bradley, president and executive director of the VTFSC. “The Supreme Court made it clear that governments may not impose arbitrary and pointless restrictions like Vermont’s waiting period and its ban on commonly-owned, standard-capacity magazines. These restrictions unconstitutionally infringe on Vermonters’ fundamental right to self-defense and must be struck down.”

The VTFSC is a non-profit association of 45 Vermont sporting clubs with a combined membership of more than 14,500 individuals. The VTFSC membership also consists of more than 2,500 individuals and more than 40 Federal Firearms Licensees.

For more information, visit: vtfsc.org.

Smart growth grants are available

Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) in collaboration with Preservation Trust of Vermont, is launching a special competitive grant round to offer one to three grants of up to \$5,000 for communities seeking to build momentum toward flood-resilient community development.

Applications for this special round of funding for the Small Grants for Smart Growth program are due Jan. 15, 2024.

What is smart growth?

Where and how we develop affects our quality of life, how we get around, our natural resources, and how inclusive and affordable our communities are. Smart growth is an approach to land development that can make our communities more livable in all of these areas, by investing in our unique villages and downtowns and fighting sprawl, which makes Vermont feel less like Vermont.

Smart growth allows for a variety of housing for people of all ages, transportation choices, unique places for everybody to enjoy, and healthy farms, forests, and natural areas. It prioritizes public participation in making decisions about what the future looks like, so that our land use decisions are

Smart growth → 11

Emerge Vermont announces next class of aspiring women political leaders

Kiana McClure from Rutland and Lisa Peluso from Brandon are among 18 selected in the Class of 2024

Emerge Vermont, the state's premier organization that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office, announced Dec. 14 that it has selected its 2024 class. This year's chosen group of 18 future women and non-binary political leaders hails from all parts of the Green Mountain State and from diverse backgrounds, and spans the spectrum of races, sexual orientation, socioeconomic levels, and professional experiences.

"Emerge Vermont is thrilled to welcome our Class of 2024," said Elaine Haney, executive director. "We 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. Cohort members receive 70+ hours of in-depth education over five months that inspires 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

"It has never been more important for women to increase their representation in politics at all levels—local, state and federal," said Dee Gish of Sharon.

election cycles. Participants learn from these experts and develop practical knowledge in areas such as public speaking, fundraising, campaign 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 alums and Emerge cabinet members.

"It has never been more important for women to increase their representation in politics at all levels—local, state and federal," said Dee Gish of Sharon. "I'm excited to be a part of the Class of 2024 and I'm looking forward to expanding my political skills and experience. I hope that my fellow cohort members and I will emerge to become knowledgeable, compassionate, and effective public servants in our respective towns and at the state level in Vermont. Women deserve an equitable seat at the table."

Emerge Vermont has a proven track record for getting Democratic women elected. Founded in 2013 by former Governor Madeleine Kunin, the program has equipped 189 women with the skills needed to bring change to their communities. And fully 68% of alums 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, 56% have won. Additionally, 42 Emerge Vermont trained women currently serve in the Legislature, and Vermont's first woman U.S. Representative, Becca Balint, is an Emerge Vermont alum, as are Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas and Attorney General Charity Clark.

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, 39% of the Class of 2024 are LGBTQ+, and 61% represent the New American Majority— young women, unmarried women, women of color, and LGBTQ+ women.

"As a young Vermonter who grew up in the Northeast Kingdom, I'm all in for my community and my neighbors," said Molly Moore of East Haven. "Emerge will help sharpen my skills and aid in one of my goals: to ensure every community is represented at the table. I'm excited to be a part of this work and believe it will enable me to further support those who step up to lead and represent their neighbors."

Criteria for selection into the class included evidence of political leadership experience or potential; meaningful involvement in workplace or community; interest in pursuing political office; demonstrated ability to bring together disparate groups to achieve a goal; ability and desire to build effective networks; ability to articulate a personal political vision; demonstrated ability to inspire others; and commitment to full 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 information, visit: vt.emergeamerica.org.

Emerge Vermont's Class of 2024:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Erin Barry, Marshfield | Deidre Gish, Sharon | Lisa Peluso, Brandon |
| Agnes Barsalow, Waterbury | Jaimie Martin, Waterbury | Lonnie Poland, Milton |
| Wendy Beininger, S. Burlington | Kiana McClure, Rutland | Emily Reynolds, Graniteville |
| Lisa Cannon, Burlington | Ashley Messier, St. Albans | Kate Seaton, Shaftsbury |
| Kate Cooper, Pownal | Molly Moore, East Haven | Amanda Vincent, Hinesburg |
| Lydia Diamond, S. Burlington | Eliza Novick-Smith, Waterbury | Shayla Zammuto, Colchester |

Sports betting comes to Vermont, launches Jan. 11

State has contracted with three operators for online wagering

Governor Phil Scott and Department of Liquor and Lottery Commissioner Wendy Knight announced Dec. 12 that online sports wagering will launch in Vermont on Jan. 11, 2024, to coincide with the beginning of the NFL playoffs.

Through a competitive bid process, the Department of Liquor and Lottery selected DraftKings, FanDuel, and Fanatics Sportsbook to operate mobile sports wagering platforms in Vermont.

"I first proposed Vermont legalize sports wagering several years ago, and it's good to see it come to fruition," said Governor Scott, who signed a bill legalizing sports betting in June. "Vermonters and visitors alike will soon be able to access a regulated sports wagering marketplace, which will come with important consumer protections and generate revenue for the state."

In June, Governor Scott signed a bill legalizing online sports wagering and autho-

rizing the Department of Liquor and Lottery to contract with operators to conduct a sportsbook through a mobile platform in Vermont. The bill also provides additional resources to enhance the state's responsible gaming services.

Each company will pay 31%-33% of their revenue to the state, plus a \$550,000 operator fee, according to the law.

The new online sportsbook operation is expected to bring in up to \$7 million in new revenue to the state during the first full year of operations.

"We are excited to offer sports enthusiasts the ability to engage in sports wagering in Vermont with three of the industry's top companies," said Commissioner Knight.

With contracts fully executed, a pre-registration period opened Dec. 12 allowing the operators to market their brand and pre-register players before the January launch date.

Poll: Vermonters identify housing, cost of living, public safety as top priorities

The Campaign for Vermont recently released its second batch of results from a scientific public opinion poll of Vermonters. The survey interviewed 400 randomly selected Vermont residents to measure their feelings towards state leaders, various issues that policymakers are pursuing, and general sentiments about the direction the state is heading.

"Vermonters' consistent negative ratings of the economy, infrastructure, schools and housing costs — especially among Independents — means that elected officials and policy makers should focus first on problem solving and 'basic' quality of life issues," said Keith Frederick, one of the pollsters involved in the project.

The results released show that Vermonters identify housing, cost of living, and public safety as the top issues they care about. Further, respondents gave highly negative ratings on key issues, such as 77% giving the availability of affordable housing the lowest possible score. Infrastructure and general economic sentiment also found poor ratings with 73% and 69% negative, respectively. Even educa-

tion, which historically Vermonters are proud of, only found 34% positive ratings. Perhaps even more telling is that negativity towards public schools shot up to 71% in households with children, suggesting that parents are more likely to have a negative view of the quality of education than the general public.

"The Legislature, quite frankly, is out of touch with what Vermonters are asking for," said CFV President Pat McDonald. "They have squandered opportunities to make meaningful progress on housing. Instead of focusing on creating better education for Vermont students they are instead more interested in removing the quality educational options we have in independent schools. Instead of investing in our infrastructure and local environment, they prefer to spend big on carbon reduction."

Campaign For Vermont is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization with a mission to "advocate for public policy changes by reconnecting middle-class Vermonters to their government."

For more information visit: CampaignForVermont.org/news.

← Farmers Hall: from page 1

approval by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Farmers Hall will be cleared for occupancy.

Currently VFFC is in conversation with tenants and prospective tenants to begin planning for resuming day-to-day operations.

Upon hearing of the progress in Farmers Hall, Kristie Farnham, director of business support with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development stated, "Please allow me to extend my most sincere congratulations. After years, years, of hurdles it is finally happening! This is truly fantastic news! Thank you for your steadfast approach."



CASELLA

Offering waste and recycling collection and so much more!

We all play an important role in advancing sustainability for the world around us. The work we do, the infrastructure we build, and the investments we make help to enable our customers and communities to achieve their recycling goals.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our services & sustainability initiatives:



Our team is here for you: **800-CASELLA • casella.com**

RECYCLING • SOLUTIONS • ORGANICS • COLLECTION • ENERGY • LANDFILLS

Short-term rentals are on the rise across Vermont

So are debates over how to regulate them

By Carly Berlin/VTDigger

Editor's note: Report for America corps Carly Berlin wrote this story in partnership between VTDigger and Vermont Public.

A new data analysis by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency found the number of homes listed on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO has grown rapidly over the last several years, following a brief pandemic downturn.

In September, Vermont saw the highest number of active short-term rentals out of any month on record: 11,747, a 16% increase relative to the same month last year, according to VHFA's data analysis released in late October.

As the industry has boomed, more and more towns are grappling with short-term rentals' impact on the availability of year-round housing — and debating approaches for how to track and regulate them. Meanwhile, short-term rental industry advocates argue towns, and the state, should gather more data before imposing restrictions.

The finance agency's analysis shows that the number of active short-term rentals statewide has increased markedly over the last three years. The agency purchases private data from AirDNA, a site that aggregates rental listings from platforms like Airbnb and VRBO, and looks only at full-unit rentals, rather than partial-units such as a bedroom in a home.

Ski towns have the highest number of these rentals, according to VHFA's analysis: Stowe, Killington, Ludlow, Dover, and Warren were the top five. Stowe, a town of a little over 5,000, had close to 1,000 active short-term rentals as of September.

The amount of Vermont's housing stock used for short-term rentals is relatively small. According to VHFA, these rentals account for about 3.6% of the state's total housing stock. About 16% of Vermont homes are seasonal or vacation homes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Because data on short-term rentals and information on seasonal and vacation homes come from different sources, it's difficult to deduce how they map onto each other, said Nate Lantieri, research coordinator at VHFA. The agency also lacks data on how

Ski towns have the highest number of these rentals, according to VHFA's analysis: Stowe, Killington, Ludlow, Dover, and Warren were the top five.

September saw the highest number of active short-term rentals out of any month on record.



Submitted

properties have historically been used, making it hard to track how many long-term units might be flipping to vacation use, and how the increasing number of short-term rentals might impact the year-round rental market.

But even slight shifts can have an outsized effect when the year-round rental market is extremely tight, Lantieri said.

"When we're looking at these really small vacancy rates across the state, any one unit that's being taken out of year-round rental for potential short-term rental — it creates more pressure on the low vacancy rates already," Lantieri said.

As the number of short-term rentals has shot up, so has

the revenue they bring in, according to VHFA's analysis. In February, average monthly revenue for these units surpassed \$5,000 for the first time. As of September, average revenue had dipped to a little over \$4,000 a month.

While the majority of short-term rental owners are Vermont residents — and have just one unit — some might see the industry as an investment opportunity, Lantieri said.

"There are also people that see the numbers and say — that's the market that's potentially really lucrative," Lantieri said.

Towns consider regulations

Ted Brady, executive director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, said "there are at least a dozen" debates over local short-term rental rules underway in towns across the state, with many communities citing these rentals as

Short-term rentals → 54

VCRD seeks to help communities become more climate economy resilient

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) seeks "Climate Economy Resilient Community" participants for 2024. Community leaders and/or volunteers can now submit a simple online application that will be reviewed on a rolling basis until Jan. 12, 2024.

Through the program, VCRD supports three to five communities each year working on local climate action solutions that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy use, increase climate resilience, and/or strengthen the local climate economy. Services are adaptable based on the community's needs and can include support with community engagement processes, strategic planning, technical assistance,

and/or project implementation.

"Vermont communities are seeking to become more resilient and thrive in a changing climate. VCRD's Resilient Communities program provides assistance where it is needed the most to move community-defined climate projects to fruition," said Climate Economy Program Manager Laura Cavin Bailey. "Our services are modified to fit each community to enable action steps and implementation toward their energy reduction and climate resiliency goals."

Since 2017, the Climate Economy Resilient Communities program has helped advance climate economy projects in Sharon, Arlington, the White River Valley, Pownal, Middlebury, Randolph,

Swanton, Marshfield/Plainfield, Dorset, and Rochester.

Resilient Community proj-

Priority will be given to communities that show a mix of strong collaboration and equitable engagement.

Projects should result in significant carbon reduction, address the needs of low-income household community members, and engage partners willing to assist with implementation. Priority will be given to communities that show a mix of strong collaboration and equitable engagement across diverse stakeholders; increase human, built, and natural resilience; reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

strengthen the local climate economy, and can be models for other communities across Vermont.

Projects must have a place-based community as their focus (an individual or group of town(s), village(s), or other municipal entity). Eligible entities include, but are not limited to town energy committees, energy coordinators, other municipal leadership, or climate catalysts leading in their community.

"We were very fortunate to work with VCRD in our town. They gave us the tools we needed to gather a significant portion of our community to discuss issues that are important to us in our town," stated Ryan Haac, the co-chair of the Sharon Connects process. "The feedback from my neighbors

was that they felt included, heard, and supported by the professional meeting facilitation and leadership provided by VCRD. Three task groups have been formed and are diligently working toward goals that were deemed important in our community."

VCRD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of the locally-defined progress of Vermont's rural communities. The organization has successfully completed over 90 community visits, resulting in locally defined projects like new childcare centers, wastewater infrastructure, and downtown redevelopments.

For more details and application visit: vtrural.org/climate-economy/climate-economy-resilient-communities.

In Vermont schools, conservative legal groups have become a potent force

Outside organizations are increasingly challenging the state regulations on religious schools, defending transphobia, and weighing in on local policies and events

By Peter D'Auria/VTDigger

Last February, the girls' basketball team at Mid Vermont Christian School, a pre-K-12 private school in Quechee, made the state's Division 4 playoffs.

But instead of playing its first game, Mid Vermont Christian chose to forfeit — because the opposing team had a transgender player. Going ahead with the matchup, Mid Vermont's head of school Vicky Fogg told the Valley News, would "(jeopardize) the fairness of the game and the safety of our players."

That decision swiftly made international news and sparked an equally swift backlash. In March, the Vermont Principals Association, which governs school sports, banned Mid Vermont Christian from all VPA activities, including athletics, spelling bees and science fairs.

Last month, Mid Vermont Christian filed a federal lawsuit seeking to overturn that decision. To achieve that goal, the school has secured powerful and deep-pocketed representation: Alliance Defending Freedom, one of the country's preeminent conservative Christian legal groups.

The involvement of Alliance Defending Freedom is the latest example of what observers say is a trend. Over roughly the past half-decade, a bevy of well-funded, out-of-state conservative advocacy groups — many with similar-sounding names — have become active in different aspects of Vermont education.

Outside organizations have challenged state regulations over keeping public money out of religious schools, defended school employees disciplined for alleged transphobia and waded into debates over state and local educational policy.

"I think they are better funded than they ever were," Pietro Lynn, a Burlington attorney who represents most public school districts in the state, said of conservative groups. "I think they have more lawyers than they ever had. I think they have larger networks of referral attorneys in the various states. All of those things coalesce into more litigation by them in the states like Vermont."

To be sure, it's not uncommon for out-of-state groups of various political stripes to weigh in or take legal action on Vermont issues.

"It is how the system is meant to work," said Jared Carter, a law professor at Vermont Law and Graduate School. "If a law is passed, and there's a claim to be made, win or lose, then you have the right to go into a court, and have a federal court or state court tell you what the Constitution means."

Carter added that state policies often

attract legal challenges from organizations with opposing political views, noting that the ACLU has filed suits in multiple Republican-run states to stop restrictions on LGBTQ+ content in schools.

Of all the groups that have gotten involved in Vermont, Alliance Defending Freedom is likely the most prominent and well-resourced. The organization boasted

Private schools seeking public tuition money must sign a statement... which forbids discrimination on the basis of "race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity." Now, Alliance Defending Freedom is arguing that Mid Vermont Christian should be able to access public tuition money without having to follow those rules.

roughly \$90 million in assets earlier this year, according to financial records, and has offices in multiple states and countries. The group litigates some of the most high-profile cases in the U.S. — including, last year, successfully arguing to overturn *Roe v. Wade* at the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We are focused on protecting religious freedom and free speech rights of all Americans," said Ryan Tucker, senior counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom, in an interview. "And so if there are First Amendment implications for an individual or for an institution, then that's something that we're going to be interested to take a look at."

Those on the other side of the political spectrum in Vermont, however, see it differently.

"It's no secret that we face sustained, bad faith efforts to end reproductive autonomy, roll back anti-discrimination protections, and undermine our democracy and our public institutions," Vermont ACLU executive director James Lyall said in an emailed statement. "This is both a continuation and an escalation of longstanding attempts to take away our hard-earned rights and liberties, and to turn back the clock on the progress we have made as a society."

'Discriminatory tuitioning regime'

In 2020, a South Hero family, the Hesters, joined the Vermont Roman Catholic Diocese in a lawsuit against the state of Vermont.

Vermont's public tuitioning system allows students in rural areas without a local public school to use state money to attend private schools elsewhere. But the Hesters' children were barred from using those funds, according to the lawsuit, because they attended Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington, a Catholic school.

Vermont officials, at the time, sought to prevent taxpayer money from paying tuition at religious schools. It's one example of the state's attempts to put guardrails around tax money in parochial schools — attempts that have drawn a flurry of legal challenges from conservative legal groups, including the Hesters' case, which was filed by Alliance Defending Freedom. ADF alone has filed at

public interest law firm. The Institute for Justice was founded in 1991 with "seed funding" from the Charles Koch Foundation, according to its website. In court, the group has advocated for school choice and fought government regulation, eminent domain and civil forfeiture, among other issues. (The Institute has also worked with the American Civil Liberties Union on cases over civil forfeiture and legal immunity for government employees.)

After the Espinoza decision, the Institute for Justice turned to Vermont. In September 2020 — the same month of the Hesters' case — the Institute filed a separate, similar lawsuit arguing that students attending religious schools could not be excluded from receiving Vermont public tuition dollars.

"We were looking at different states where there were constitutional violations, and states where the law or regulations were inconsistent with Espinoza and with the Constitution," David Hodges, an attorney at the Institute for Justice, said in an interview. "Vermont was one of them."

Hodges said he could not recall how the group connected with the plaintiffs in the case.

"Generally, when we're trying to find clients in this area, we would reach out to like-minded organizations, as well as parent groups or educators who are sympathetic to our goals," he said.

After another 2022 Supreme Court decision involving public money and religious schools — in which the Institute for Justice represented plaintiffs — Vermont's Agency of Education settled multiple cases over the question.

As part of that settlement, then-Secretary of Education

Outside influences → 14



The entrance to the Vermont Supreme Court at 111 State Street in Montpelier.

By Mike Dougherty/VTDigger

Lead a Healthy & Productive Life

Healthy heart, lungs, muscles and bones are important to maintaining a productive life.

Teamwork between you and your doctor is the key.

Call your doctor today to schedule your annual check-up and health screenings.

 **Rutland Regional Medical Center**
www.RRMC.org | 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT | 802.775.7111

Healthy You. Healthy Together.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Slow down, get outside

By John Gonter

Editor's note: John Gonter teaches cooking, foraging, fishing and hunter safety. He volunteers as an instructor with Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

In Vermont, we are blessed with opportunities outside. Direct experience with our mountains, lakes, rivers, fields and forests are restorative, develop our outdoor skills and reduce our stress. Our modern lives, the complexity of work, parenting, screen time — bring imbalance to our lives. Our business interferes with our natural ability to be outside, see what is in front of us, breathe the air and be able to relax. Our contemporary addiction to foods that are convenient and easy to prepare and serve contributes to our declining mental health, poor fitness and a degraded natural environment.

Making direct, hands-on, eyes-open time in the outdoors helps us adapt to our changing world. When we work “harder,” stare at the ad-driven doom and designed polarity of the internet, worry about climate change and find reasons to stay inside, we neglect the natural world that desperately needs our attention. We need to make time to recreate, reconcile with ourselves the natural world our lives depend on and learn reciprocity with the environment.

What are we doing personally, as families, and as communities to give back to the world that supports us? Are we getting our hands, pants and shoes dirty? How are we keeping nature in mind in everything we do? How many hours per day, week or year are we focused on things that really help the natural world? If our answer today is zero, any efforts we make are an infinite improvement.

As a lifelong foodie, I've always been interested in the origins of food. I am fortunate to have been raised on daily home cooked meals in a family of cooks, and I honor that legacy. I became a cook when my parents told me I could avoid other chores by making meals. With their help I got a good start on making handmade food. Over time, many chefs, farmers and foragers shared their time and knowledge with me, encouraging me as I developed from cook to foodie to instructor. Eventually my desire to combine great tasting food with natural health opened up the horizons of wild foods, and I became a forager, an angler, a hunter and a trapper.

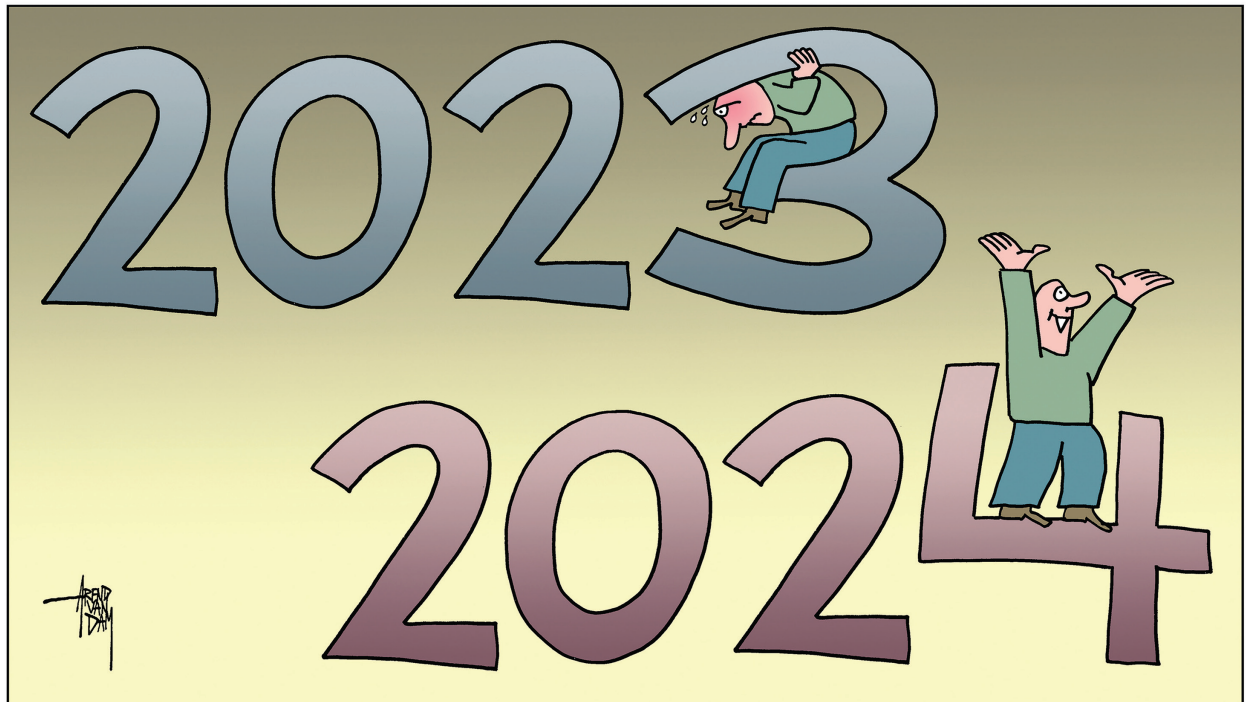
I honor life, I take life — plant, fungus, fish, animal. I no longer face an omnivore's dilemma. I practice honorable harvest.

I changed the way I live, the way I eat and the way I relate to the world. I enjoy and embrace the effort, time and knowledge required to pursue wild foods, including the deeply dynamic emotional elements of desire, disappointment, success and heartbreak. I honor life, I take life — plant, fungus, fish, animal. I no longer face an omnivore's dilemma. I practice honorable harvest.

Every day I consciously give back with hands, heart and humility for the gifts that our natural world provides us. Every year I volunteer by teaching, doing clean up projects and supporting environmental conservation.

Our food systems globally continue to depend on fossil-fuel-based fertilizers, mono-crop planting, large-scale livestock farming, globalization, trucking, etc. We will not sustain this model. Be reminded that there is no food in most of our homes that didn't come on a diesel-powered truck, maybe wrapped in plastic, stored in refrigerators and freezers at the market and in our homes. We need to scale down and slow down: grow gardens, eat weeds, pick berries along the trail and harvest a few mushrooms. Learn to pickle,

Slow down → 12



wishing a better new year for many people around the world

A better new year by Arend van Dam, politicalcartoons

LETTERS

Lessons learned through indoor rock climbing

Dear Editor,

Don't look down, just breathe, I told myself. Breathe. Just admit you're scared and breathe. Slowly try to make just one simple move. Just move one foot. One hand. Breathe. Another foot, another hand. Breathe. You're going to be OK.

If you can climb a flight of stairs you can begin to climb walls. The strength in your legs and your sense of balance are key. The upper body strength can come with time.

But why would you even think of climbing up walls? I had thought of indoor rock climbing as a kids' activity, or something for daredevils whose outdoor precipice climbing actually terrified me. But there I was in the gym giving it a try. One of the members of my hiking group suggested it as something different for the group of us to try and to find yet another way to spend time together. What I hadn't expected was that it would not only become one of my favorite activities but that it would change me and my understanding of trust, failure, and perfection.

We were five women ranging in age from mid-50s to mid-70s, with me at the upper end. That first morning I found myself strapping

a harness around my waist and hips, donning a pair of thin un-soled shoes, and staring at 25-foot high walls covered with colorful hunks of odd shaped “rocks.”

Our small nervous group learned how to tie onto the ropes that go through a pulley at the ceiling so that we could be supported as we climbed and then as we were lowered (belayed) down. We also learned how to belay our partners.

On my first climb I got halfway up the wall, stopped and looked down. The floor looked so far away. What had I gotten myself into? My stomach and chest muscles tightened and I knew fear. But... I made it to the top, and the thrill, the exhilaration surged through me. I had accomplished something that I thought I absolutely could not do.

We call our little group the Badasses but we had encouragement and inspiration from another group in the gym that morning, the Flailing Fossils. This amazing group climbs some incredibly challenging routes up these walls, most of which were designed by their own members. They are our peers in age but light

Climbing → 12

A glib take on a tired classic

Dear Editor,

While real estate prices are absurd — and home-buying and renting are an impossibility for many — laying blame for homelessness at the feet of people of means who move here from elsewhere is a trite and glib iteration of a Vermont Old Guard classic: “It

wasn't a problem until these people showed up.”

In his recent commentary, Bob Stannard harkens back to the folksy golden days when people supposedly hardly noticed socio-economic disparity — and certainly didn't judge those less fortunate — and then amuses us by judging those more fortunate. A favorite sport in this state. He rues second homes in places like Stowe as a key aspect of the societal ailment that's evidenced by people living in cars, tents and encampments.

I'm 40 years old and have heard throughout my life any number of old men gripe about the state of things on account of

“Them.” The people who come from elsewhere. It's a tired line, and one that absolves those of us who see ourselves as “Native” of responsibility. It cements us as a group with a soft moral constitution who would rather lay blame and fawn over an idealized

Laying blame for homelessness at the feet of people of means who move here from elsewhere is a trite iteration of a Vermont Old Guard classic: “It wasn't a problem until these people showed up.”

past than acknowledge that our corner of the world has changed. Not necessarily for the better, but not categorically for the worse.

Perhaps by not explicitly blaming Flatlanders, Stannard believes he lends his lazy argument credibility and that its implicit inclusion throughout his commentary will go unnoticed.

Vermont's xenophobia persists.

Alan Rawls
North Ferrisburgh

CAPITOL QUOTES

A new survey from Forbes Health/OnePoll of 1,000 U.S. adults conducted on Oct. 23 found the most commonly-selected new year's resolution for 2024 was fitness, which contrasts with findings from the previous year, when most were interested in prioritizing their mental health.

“I haven’t managed to stop drinking yet. Even cutting back has been hard. I mean, it’s a resolution, though. And I’ll say it again right now — that’s my New Year’s resolution. To either cut back or stop drinking altogether. Let’s just say I said it,”

country singer **Blake Shelton** said.

“I found in my research that the biggest reason people aren’t more self-compassionate is that they are afraid they’ll become self-indulgent. They believe self-criticism is what keeps them in line. Most people have gotten it wrong because our culture says being hard on yourself is the way to be,”

said **Kristen Neff**, associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, when asked why new year’s resolutions fail.

“A new year represents a fresh start, and people need something to signal a moment to refresh. When something comes to an end, it’s an opening to a new beginning”

said **Jennifer Kowalski**, a licensed professional counselor at Thriveworks in Cheshire, Connecticut.

“The goals, if sometimes a little ambitious, are rarely the problem and they are all set with best intentions. The issue is there’s rarely enough thought put into the approach. People have high ambitions hinging on mostly unrealistic and unsustainable methods. Rather than just thinking ‘I’ll eat salads and join a gym,’ people need to prioritize achievable routines, sustainability and lifestyle changes from a broader and more holistic perspective,”

Jasper **Rook Williams**, fitness expert, online coach and owner of JRW Fitness, told ABC News.

Smart growth:

from page 4

inclusive, not exclusive.

What kinds of projects do Small Grants for Smart Growth support?

Projects might involve advocacy for better land use, by getting involved in the “nuts and bolts” work of municipal planning, regulations, or a permitting process. A project could also be a town or local group effort to promote downtown or village center revitalization and historic preservation; to develop a plan for better sidewalks or paths; to identify ways to support housing choice and affordability; or to plan on conserving land for agriculture or forestry.

These grants acknowledge that community leadership and small steps are essential for catalyzing change. Think creatively about how you can advance smart growth in your town!

How big are the grants?

Grants are available in the range of \$500 to \$1,500 per project. Applications for these are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Cannabis:

from page 1

installing the nine very impressive tunnel barns, which will contain the 2,500 plants their license allows, when the company is planting this spring. They didn’t reveal what they had paid for the site in April, but they had been eyeing it for some time.

Getting a clear idea how big the tunnel barns are requires standing inside. A vent fan in each peak, and mechanical roll-up sides allow air flow. Brad’s wife Emily manages cultivation. There are ten full-time employees and a couple of part-timers.

The plants and processes require irrigation and access to ample water, all of which comes from a

natural spring. Since the farm was populated with dairy cows for years, the soil, which the partners had tested, is very rich.

Sunkissed will not use chemical fertilizers or pesticides – “We will be beyond organic,” Brad said. They employed pirate beetles and ladybugs to kill an aphid population, for example.

The partners will use sacks made from compostable material for packaging the

various marijuana buds.

“No glass jars for our products,” Hayes said.

Their license also allows them to sell “rolled joints” to licensed retail outlets.

Proposed packaging consists of a card-

board five-pack of perfectly cylindrical, nicely packed with marijuana fibers, “joints.” They are playing around with fonts and print size for labeling.

“Most producers pack theirs with finely ground marijuana,” Hayes said. “It’s messy to use and you get cannabis dust in your mouth. Not true with our joints. They are unique in the marketplace.”

As part of their pursuit of “beyond organic,” Macrae and Hayes plan to populate the twenty-nine acre property with some cows and chickens. Brad said it will be a real farm that produces its own compost, so nothing goes into the product that comes from outside. “A closed loop,” he explained.

“Right now we’re using our energy organizing and planning,” Brad said. “So we won’t be planting until early spring.”



Submitted *Emily Macrae stand among marijuana plants at Sunkissed Farm.*



Submitted *An aerial view of Sunkissed Farm located at 195 Route 5N shows its many greenhouses.*

← **Slow down:**
from page 10

dehydrate and can. Catch some fish, hunt a deer, trap a beaver. Harvest consciously and make personal contributions to the natural world that respect and honor the lives we take. Practice reciprocity with our planet.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife provides high-quality free courses on fishing, hunting and trapping including topic-specific and advanced classes. For kids, they offer affordable summer camps in two locations that give kids hands-on direct experience with the outdoors, conservation, angling and hunting. As an instructor, I have seen people young and old make connections to food sources that inspire them, help them feel at home outdoors and connect them to our place in the world.

Whatever your food orientation may be, respect that a move towards home-prepared foods, especially from your own garden and from wild places represents one of our best opportunities to reduce the environmental harm of our food technologies and our “conveniences.” Time outside farming, foraging, angling, hunting and trapping are all low-impact, low-carbon activities that will reduce stress, improve fitness and broaden your nutritional intake.

It is time for us to take the future in our hands and power down, get outside and learn ways to be happy and healthy and stop thinking about “convenient” food and “saving money at the grocery store.” Homemade food and dedicated outdoor time are big time commitments, but the benefits to the individual, their family and their community far outweigh the cost of that time. So perhaps this new years, you can resolve to get out there and build a personal relationship with our amazing natural world!

← **Climbing:**
from page 10

years ahead of us in experience, strength, and skills.

The routes up the wall are color coded for different levels of difficulty. When we started we grabbed any color rock we could. But as we progressed we limited ourselves to the one color of the route we were attempting. The rocks come in a wide variety of sizes and one wall usually contains several routes.

Ascending the wall called for courage and determination, but being belayed by a partner provided lessons in trust. My partner’s harness was hooked onto the other end of the rope that was holding me. As I climbed my partner pulled the rope through the device attached to her harness and kept the rope taut. When I was ready to come down, she slowly

released the rope through that device and lowered me as I walked my feet down the wall to the ground. Our actions were synchronized and flowed together.

There is something even more remarkable about

of tapping my head on the ceiling at the end of my climb. As I fall I have a split second of fear followed by the exhilaration of being truly saved. Failure has become something that happens; something I

makes a skillful maneuver.

The strength in your arms, your legs, and your core grow as you progress. With time and practice you become more attuned to slight differences in your body. You may start off feeling cold, or stiff, weak or off balance, and come to notice how taking some easier climbs warms you up. And soon you may find yourself doing something that didn’t feel possible when you first arrived. Or, like this morning for me, you find your body is not at peak, perhaps needing more recovery time from the last day climbing, or needing more sleep.

There’s no pressure to compete. If some people want to, that’s a choice, and many find that lots of fun. But at this point in my life I really enjoy when I can do more than I’ve done before, and happy, too, when I do as well as the last time.

When I climb I am totally engaged. I’m laser focused on moving and balancing my body, and solving the puzzle of how to get up that wall. It’s a vacation from all my other thoughts. Concerns about the tasks on my to-do-list get left on the gym floor. I’m a kid again.

Pat Hunter, who climbs at the Green Mountain Climbing Gym on Woodstock Avenue in Rutland

What I hadn’t expected was that [climbing]... would change me and my understanding of trust, failure, and perfection.

this partnership though. That happens when you fail, or fall off the wall.

Your partner holds the rope and it catches you in your harness and securely holds you aloft. You get to retry your climb right from where you fell. For me being caught in a fall is second only to the rush

expect as part of learning, especially when I want to expand my skills.

Yes, it’s sometimes frustrating. But that too is such an interesting thing to observe in myself. How do I react to failure? It’s actually led me to reflect on whether I’ve chosen not to do other things because I was afraid of failing. It’s caused me to learn yet again that what matters is the trying, the attempting. In the gym we hone our skills over time and make our climbs look more flowing and graceful, but there is no “perfect.”

It is not often that you get to work in tandem and be so dependent on another. It is a humbling and bonding experience. We support one another by offering suggestions, where to put a foot or a hand, or sharing atta-boys when one of us



Award Winning Inn Near Killington VT
Weddings, Corporate & Wellness Retreats, Reunion & Celebrations
(802) 775-2290 | redcloverinn.com



Recycle Better™ for a Sustainable Holiday



Looking to waste less and Recycle Better this holiday season? Don't forget about your tree and decorations!

When it's time to take down your Christmas decorations, remember these helpful tips.



Broken ornaments and string lights are not recyclable and should be discarded in the trash.



Although not recyclable in your curbside bin, you can still give your tree new life as mulch or compost. Find a local drop-off location or curbside collection program.



ESTABLISHED 1975

For more holiday recycling & waste tips, visit casella.com/RecycleBetter >
Your Local Waste & Recycling Service Provider & Proud Community Partner • 800-CASELLA •   



WORDPLAY

WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- BLANKET
- BLIZZARD
- BRISK
- BUNDLE
- DOWNHILL
- FROZEN
- HAZARD
- HEAVY
- ICECAP
- ICESKATING
- LAKE
- MITTENS
- MOUNTAIN
- NOR'EASTER
- PARKA
- SCARF
- SKIING
- SLED
- SLIPPERY
- SNOWMAN
- TEMPERATURE
- WINTRY
- WOODBURNING
- WOOLEN

**LOCAL PEOPLE.
LOCAL SERVICE.**

**HOME COMFORT
ALL SEASON LONG!**

- **HEATING** - Boilers, Furnaces, Space Heating
- Heat pumps
- Water heaters
- Generators
- Smart Home
- Fuel Stops
- Fuel storage tanks
- Propane & Fuel Delivery
- Tank monitoring
- 24/7 Emergency Service



Call us now at 866-326-0535

SUDOKU

Solutions → 21

How to Play

Each block is divided by its own matrix of nine cells. The rule for solving Sudoku puzzles are very simple. Each row, column and block, must contain one of the numbers from "1" to "9". No number may appear more than once in any row, column, or block. When you've filled the entire grid the puzzle is solved.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 23

CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to injure
5. Mutual savings bank
8. Rock TV channel
11. Large number of fish swimming together
13. Military mailbox
14. Female of a horse
15. Category
16. City
17. Breezed through
18. Officer who bears a mace
20. Tax collector
21. "Cheers" actress
22. Pauses before acting
25. Extracted information from a wave
30. Tendency to revert to something ancestral
31. No seats available
32. Nocturnal rodents
33. Moves gently to and fro
38. Not good
41. A way to ready
43. One who makes something better
45. Things associated with American history
48. Ancient Phoenician fertility god
49. A continuous

- portion of a circle
50. Volcanic craters
55. Units of electrical resistance
56. Gamble on
57. Ethiopian town
59. One point east of northeast
60. Polynesian garland of flowers
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. State of fuss
63. Keyboard key
64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

1. "The world's most famous arena"
2. Polite interruption sound
3. Private school in New York
4. Refuse of grapes
5. ___ Tomei, actress
6. Adult beverages
7. Supporter
8. Papier-___, art material
9. Forests have them
10. Most ancient Hindu scriptures
12. Downwind
14. Marketplace
19. Flowering plant genus
23. Street where nightmares happen
24. Admirer
25. Dip lightly into water
26. When you hope to get there
27. Partner to cheese
28. Egg
29. A way to disqualify
34. South American plant
35. Fold-away bed
36. Debbie Harry album " ___ Koo"
37. Swedish krona
39. Displaying warmth and friendliness
40. Official orders
41. Bowling alley necessity
42. Stray
44. About milk
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Caribbean dance
47. If not
48. ___ fide (Latin)
51. Swiss river
52. Hebrew calendar month
53. One easily swindled
54. Point that is one point south of southwest
58. Small island (British)

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Guess Who?

I am a musician born in Denmark on December 26, 1963. I played tennis as a young man, but gained an interest in music after receiving a ticket to see Deep Purple, which inspired me to become a drummer. I've been part of a metal rock band for many years.

Answer: Lars Ulrich

← Outside influences:

from page 8

tary of Education Dan French told school districts that they could not deny requests for public tuition dollars simply because a student wanted to attend a religious school.

A spokesperson for the Vermont Agency of Education declined a request for an interview about the influence of out-of-state legal groups.

In 2020, another lawsuit sought to make even more dramatic reforms to Vermont's tuitioning program. That case — a collaboration between Walden attorney Deborah Bucknam and the Chicago-based Liberty Justice Center — attempted to create a state-wide school choice program, which would give all students across Vermont access to state money for public or private schools of their choosing.

School choice has become a priority of Republicans nationwide, but has drawn fierce opposition from public school advocates.

"Quite frankly, in my opinion, the people on the right are now doing the constitutional civil rights cases far more than the people on the left are doing," Bucknam said in an interview in August. "And it used to be the other way around."

The Liberty Justice Center has filed cases across the country challenging vaccine mandates, supporting rules requiring parental notification if a child uses different pronouns at school, and seeking to block the expansion of vote-by-mail, among others.

"We don't characterize ourselves as conservative, particularly, but we simply seek to enforce constitutional rights and enforce constitutional limits on government power across the board," Jacob Huebert, the Liberty Justice Center's president, said in an interview.

The Vermont Supreme Court ultimately ruled against the plaintiffs. But Bucknam and Huebert said the court's decision left an opening for future lawsuits.

"We do believe that the Vermont Supreme Court left open the opportunity to pursue that issue further in the state," Huebert said. "And so we are still looking at that and still interested in that."

'An interested third-party organization'

On December 19, 2022, the Shelburne Community School sent a notice in its regular weekly newsletter to community members. Tucked amid items about a computer science program, free and reduced lunch and the spelling bee was a short announcement: the school was planning to create "an opt-in racial affinity group for students in grades 3-8 identifying as Black, Indigenous, or people of color," the newsletter read.

About two weeks later, according to co-principal Brett Cluff, the school received a voicemail from Parents Defending Education, a conservative advocacy group focused on schools.

The organization, which lists a Virginia address and describes itself as "working to reclaim our schools from activists imposing

harmful agendas" on its website, had filed a civil rights complaint with the federal Department of Education. The filing alleged that, by creating an affinity group that was open only to students of certain races, the school was engaged in racial discrimination.

"PDE makes this complaint as an interested third-party organization that opposes racial discrimination and political indoctrination in America's schools," the group wrote. Parents Defending Education did not respond to emails seeking comment.

Shelburne Community School told federal investigators this spring that they had sent out a revised newsletter making it clear that the affinity group — which did not yet exist — would be open to all students, according to federal documents. The investigation was closed less than a month later.

School officials said that the original goal was not to exclude students of any race: "It was open to really anybody who wanted to be part of it," Lashawn Sells, the school's diversity, equity and inclusion coach, said in an interview.

Still, as of this fall, the affinity group had not yet begun to meet. Since the investiga-

tion, Cluff, the principal said, the school has been more cautious about how it informs parents about events and initiatives.

"It's made me think about the importance of the language that we use when we are communicating things more broadly to our school community," he said.

In 2020, after a student asked to fly the Black Lives Matter flag at school, the Mill River Unified Union School District in Rutland County set to work crafting a districtwide flagpole policy.

Those discussions set off months of heated debate at school board meetings, during which the district also received feedback from a nonlocal entity: the conservative organization Liberty Counsel, which has offices in Florida, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Liberty Counsel's website describes itself as a "Christian ministry" that is "advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life and the family through strategic litigation."

In a November 18 letter to the Mill River board, Liberty Counsel attorney Richard Mast raised the possibility of litigation over the district's flag policy.

"If the District desires to promote 'diversity,'" Mast wrote, "there is but one flag that

symbolizes the diversity of the American people, and 'equality' of all people under the law. This flag unites, rather than divides; and it consists of a blue field, fifty white stars, and thirteen red and white stripes."

Later that year, the board approved a policy that allows board members to approve or deny requests for certain flags. Officials flew the Black Lives Matter flag the next year, and Adrienne Raymond, then a member of the school board, said Mast's letter was "vaguely threatening" but had little impact.

But in February of this year, the same legal firm appeared to have more success.

A local group had booked a speaking event at Vergennes Union High School featuring Walt Heyer, an activist who spent eight years as a trans woman before detransitioning and now advocates against gender-affirming care. As news of the upcoming talk sparked backlash, Mast, of Liberty Counsel, wrote to the district warning of potential litigation if they made the "ill-advised" decision to cancel the event.

After the talk took place as planned, the organization claimed "victory for parental rights." Holly Meade, a spokesperson for Liberty Counsel, told VTDigger in June that "Liberty Counsel was contacted by individuals involved in the event and sent the demand letters setting forth the law."

In an email earlier this month, Meade declined to say whether the organization was working with other Vermont school districts.

'Panic, anxiety, fear'

Last year, an interaction in the Randolph Union High School girls' locker room sparked national news coverage.

Exactly what happened is in dispute, but the incident centered on the use of the locker room by a transgender girl. That drew complaints from another student and her father, who publicly objected to the trans student — who they referred to as a male — using the girls' lockers.

The incident sparked a storm of harassment and vitriol directed at the trans student, and district officials took down their website after hackers flooded it with "hate speech, symbols, and photographs targeting transgender individuals," Orange Southwest Supervisory District superintendent Layne Millington said last year.

In the aftermath, school officials sought to punish the complaining student, ordering a two-day suspension and instructing her to join a "restorative circle" and write a "reflective essay." The district also suspended her father, Travis Allen, from his job as the coach of the school's girls' soccer team without pay.

In October 2022, Alliance Defending Freedom filed a lawsuit against the district on behalf of Allen and his daughter. ADF argued that, by punishing them for stating their views, the district was infringing on their rights to free speech.

Outside influences, cont. → 15



The settlement has not changed the district's policies or procedures, Millington said, but he noted that "it generally costs much less to settle than to defend a case."

By Mike Dougherty/VTDigger

The Black Lives Matter flag flies at Montpelier High School.

← **Outside influences, cont.:**
from page 14

“The First Amendment does not countenance this kind of government censorship, where a public school mandates that students and coaches refrain from expressing any view that offends its prescribed views,” the lawsuit reads.

But Mo Sivvy, the mother of the trans student at the center of the dispute, said that the ordeal was deeply traumatizing for her daughter.

“My daughter was not going to school,” Sivvy said. “She was having really bad episodes of panic, anxiety, fear, sleeplessness, not being able to concentrate in school.”

It got so bad that Sivvy’s daughter spent several weeks at the Brattleboro Retreat, a residential mental health facility, Sivvy said. One of the worst parts of the experience, she said, was that the Alliance Defending Freedom had issued subpoenas to her and her daughter.

“You know, when a child gets, like, a 90-page subpoena in the mail, (that’s) terrifying,” Sivvy said.

In April, the Allens settled with the district, and Sivvy and her daughter ultimately did not have to testify.

As part of that settlement, the district agreed to reinstate Travis as the girl’s soccer coach and expunge the records of all disciplinary actions related to the case. The district paid \$125,000 to the plaintiffs, \$40,000 of which went to Allen and his daughter.

The agreement also stipulated that

Randolph Union High School would take down a series of YouTube videos, including videos titled “Letters of Love” and “LGBTQ Love Letters,” and to remove a

bulletin board with “messages of ‘love and support.’”

Millington, the superintendent, said that he had not heard of the Alliance Defending Freedom prior to the lawsuit. The settlement has not changed the district’s policies or procedures, he said, but he noted that “it generally costs much less to settle than to defend a case.”

In July, the Alliance Defending Freedom sued the Windsor Central Supervisory Union on behalf of David Bloch, a “practicing Roman Catholic” snowboarding coach who alleged that he was fired after expressing that “males and females have different DNA” and that “biological differences generally give males competitive advantages in athletic events,” according to the lawsuit. That case is ongoing as of Dec. 18.

“I have been instructed by the District’s lawyers not to discuss the facts of the case,” Sherry Sousa, Windsor Central Superviso-

ry Union’s superintendent, told VTDigger in an August email. “We are confident that the District acted properly.”

‘Not getting the message’

“Alliance Defending Freedom’s budget has exploded since the mid-1990s,” Hollis-Brusky said. “Because of their success. And success brings in more money, which allows you to plant more cases, which allows you to be more successful.”

Amanda Hollis-Brusky, a politics professor at Pomona College who has studied the conservative legal movement, said that, for public interest law firms, a successful case is also a means of fundraising.

“Alliance Defending Freedom’s budget has exploded since the mid-1990s,” Hollis-Brusky said. “Because of their success. And success brings in more money, which allows you to plant more cases, which allows you to be more successful.”

A spokesperson for Alliance Defending Freedom did not respond to an emailed question about fundraising. According to Alliance Defending Freedom’s website, the organization has notched 15 victories at the Supreme Court and has an 80% overall win rate.

Part of that success, Hollis-Brusky said, likely comes from the legal environment at federal courts, which grew more conservative under former president Donald

Trump.

“Right now these groups have a very favorable audience in the judiciary, at the Supreme Court and in the federal courts,” Hollis-Brusky said. “Because Trump managed to put a lot of judges who are very favorable to their claims on the bench in his four years.”

In the Quechee case, it remains to be seen how the courts will view Alliance Defending Freedom’s arguments. Plaintiffs in that case are taking aim at not only the state’s athletics program, but also state anti-discrimination rules for private schools.

Under those rules, private schools seeking public tuition money must sign a statement affirming that they will follow the state’s Public Accommodations Act, which forbids discrimination on the basis of “race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”

Now, Alliance Defending Freedom is arguing that Mid Vermont Christian should be able to access public tuition money without having to follow those rules.

Asked why the organization was involved in so many education cases in Vermont, Tucker, the Alliance Defending Freedom attorney, pointed to recent Supreme Court victories that have chipped away at earlier guardrails between religion and schools.

“It’s almost like Vermont’s not getting the message,” he said.



Stay Healthy This Winter

“This is viral season so having great hand hygiene is key. We want to encourage everyone to stay healthy by washing their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and avoid touching their face at all costs. We also encourage community members to get vaccinated for influenza and COVID. People 60 or older should consult with their provider for the RSV vaccine.”

Nkiruka A. Emeagwali, MS, MD, PhD
Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

 **Rutland Pulmonary Center**
A Department of Rutland Regional Medical Center

160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT 05701 | 802.775.7111 | www.RRMC.org

WEDNESDAY

12/27

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join a group gathering of adult cribbage players at the library's meeting room. hartlandlibraryvt.org or 802-436-2473

Blacklight Painting

3-4 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. \$25. It's a GLOW PARTY with paint! Recommended for ages 8 and up. Registration is required at rutlandfree.org

500 Piece Puzzle Competition

5-7 p.m. at Castleton Free Library, 638 Main St., Castleton. For ages 10-adult. Join us for a friendly competition to see how fast you can put together a 500-piece puzzle. Register your team of four or come on your own to join others. Pizza and refreshments provided. RSVP required: 802-468-2750 or email castletonfreelibrary@gmail.com. castletonfreelibrary.org

THURSDAY

12/28

Storytime!

10-11 a.m. Weekly. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Promoting early literacy and socialization skills for ages 2-5. No registration required. rutlandfree.org or 802-773-1860

Killington Bone Builders

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

Artery at Chaffee Art Center

10:30 a.m.-noon. Weekly. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$10-\$20. Adult group for connection and inspiration. A time and place to create with others. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. When possible, will include a 30 minute focus on technique with rotating artists. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Toddler Story Time

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

Taylor Swift Library Hangout

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow. Calling all Swifties! Join us for an event dedicated to Taylor Swift. Enjoy her music, create friendship bracelets, and have a blast. fmlnews.org

Ukulele Group

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

Play Bridge!

2 p.m. Weekly. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

Play Bridge at Norman Williams!

2 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. \$25. The Friends of the Norman Williams Public Library host a weekly bridge game at the library on Thursday afternoons. Email Peggy Fraser at fraserusa@gmail.com to reserve a seat or for more information. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

S.T.E.A.M. Ring in the New Year!

3:30-4:30 p.m. Weekly. Hartland Public Library, 153 Route 5, Hartland. Free. Join us for S.T.E.A.M. and craft activities, something different every week! hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar/ or 802-436-2473

Kids' Corner Holiday Activities

4-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Base Lodge, Killington Resort. Join us for kid-friendly activities including cookie decorating, board games, and arts & crafts. Live music in the nearby Long Trail Pub. killington.com

FRIDAY

12/29

Puzzle Competition

10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. \$25. Join us for a fun-filled day of puzzle solving with friends and family at the library. Compete against other teams to finish a 500-piece puzzle and win prizes. Limited space available, so registration is required at rutlandfree.org.

Story Time at the Library

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

Après for the Holidays: Jester Jigs

2-5 p.m. Day 1. Jackson Gore Courtyard, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Okemo Ski Resort, Ludlow. Kicking off our Après Afternoons for the 2023-24 winter season with a 3-day holiday series. Join us for live music, games, food, drinks and more! okemo.com.

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Social

3-4 p.m. at Snowshed or Ramshead Base Lodge. Killington Resort. Free samples of Vermont's best ice cream. killington.com.

Kids' Corner Holiday Activities

4-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Base Lodge, Killington Resort. Join us for kid-friendly activities including cookie decorating, board games, and arts & crafts. Live music in the nearby Long Trail Pub. killington.com

Blue Cat Music Series

6-9 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro, 575 Main St., Castleton. No cover. Live performances through December. 802-468-2791

Dance Party with DJ Stevie B

6-11 p.m. Wobbly Barn, Killington Road, Killington. Cover charge may be required for entry. Keep your weekend moving with a dance party featuring DJ Stevie B's creative style of mixing videos and blending genres. killington.com

SATURDAY

12/30

Christmas Bird Count

Join us in this annual event. Groups go out into sections of the Rutland area to count all the birds they see. You may also count birds in your back yard or feeder (if you live in the count area). Contact us at birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org to join a group.

The Vermont Farmers' Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Howe Center, Suite 92, 1 Scale Ave. (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers' Market has moved indoors for the winter. One of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, it was the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. Find seasonal harvest, winter veggies, handcrafted gifts and more. vtfarmersmarket.org

Storytime!

10-10:45 a.m. Saturdays. Hartland Public Library, 123 Main St. Free. Themed reading, crafts, experiments, and games for preschool and early elementary aged kids. hartlandlibraryvt.org or 802-436-2473

New Year's Eve Daytime Party

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Entertainment by DJ Brett Myhre, dancing, glow-in-the-dark tattoos, snacks, and bubble wrap "fireworks!" DJ Brett Myhre will provide entertainment. rutlandfree.org.

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY 5 PM

**Make & Take Saturday Kids' Class**

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

Rutland Railway Museum & Model Club

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

Drop N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25. All ages. All materials will be set up and ready for you with a choice of 3 images you can paint. Includes use of: Canvas, paint, brushes, easel, smock. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Must pre-register by Friday noon. chaffeeartcenter.org.

Woodstock Film Series: 'Pianoforte'

3-4:30 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$15 person, \$12 Billings Farm member. A documentary capturing the International Chopin Piano Competition and the journey of talented young pianists. Purchase tickets at billingsfarm.org/events/woodstock-vt-film-series-pianoforte/

Après for the Holidays: Adam McMahon Duo

3-6 p.m. Day 2. Okemo Ski Resort, Jackson Gore Courtyard, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow. Kicking off our Après Afternoons for the 2023-24 winter season with a 3-day holiday series. Join us for live music, games, food, drinks and more! okemo.com

Kids' Corner Holiday Activities

4-5:30 p.m. Snowshed Base Lodge, Killington Resort. Join us for kid-friendly activities including cookie decorating, coloring corner & board games Live music in the nearby Long Trail Pub. killington.com

Catholic Mass at Our Lady of the Mountains

4:30 p.m. Saturdays. The "Little White Church," 4173 U.S.-4, Killington. Call the church office to confirm mass times, 802-457-2322.

Stereo Social Club

Doors open at 6 p.m. Wobbly Barn, Killington Road, Killington. Cover charge may be required for entry. Stereo Social Club is a groundbreaking dual female-fronted band known for their vibrant, genre-blending music and unique spin on popular tunes. Purchase tickets at killington.com.

New Year's Eve at Star Lake

8 p.m. Star Lake, 37 Lake St., Belmont. Fireworks display to celebrate the New Year. mhcavt.org/events/new-years-eve-star-lake-ptmkw



SUNDAY 12/31

Woodstock VT Film Series: 'Pianoforte'

3-4:30 pm. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$15 person/\$12 Billings Farm member. Nominee, Grand Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival. A documentary capturing the International Chopin Piano Competition and the journey of talented young piano players. Purchase tickets at billingsfarm.org/events/woodstock-vt-film-series-pianoforte/

Stereo Social Club

Doors open at 6 p.m. Wobbly Barn, Killington Road, Killington. Cover charge may be required for entry. Stereo Social Club is a groundbreaking dual female-fronted band known for their vibrant, genre-blending music and unique spin on popular tunes. Purchase tickets at killington.com.

New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks

4 p.m. on. K-1 Base Lodge, Killington Resort. Free. Inside the lodge, we'll have family-friendly activities including arts & crafts and live music. Outside, make your own s'mores over a fire pit (while supplies last!), plus a fireworks show, a groomer parade & more. killington.com

Après for the Holidays: New Year's Eve Celebration

5-8 p.m. Day 3. Okemo Ski Resort, 77 Okemo Ridge Road, Ludlow. A New Year's Eve filled with music, games, food, drinks, and a fireworks show at 8 p.m. to ring in the New Year! okemo.com

New Year's Bash & Fireworks

8 p.m. Black Line Tavern, 495 Magic Mountain Access, Londonderry. \$10. A performance by Rust & Ruin, followed by fireworks at midnight. Don't miss the buffet dinner beforehand. magicmtn.com/events/new-years-bash-with-rust-ruin-plus-fireworks-at-midnight

MONDAY 1/1

Christmas at the Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$25. Noon: children's story. 2 p.m.: Victorian Christmas Program. 3 p.m. Daily milking. Candle dipping. Story walk: "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" poem by Robert Frost. BillingsFarm.org

TUESDAY 1/2

Play Chess & Backgammon

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



BEN & JERRY'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FRIDAY 3 PM

← Toasted Pecan: from page 1

The pair moved to Stockbridge two years ago in an attempt to enroll their 8-year-old in a better school system. They quickly fell in love with the community.

"We were looking for a smaller public school, smaller classrooms, more community feel, and just kind of how I was raised in the south," Blair said.

Blair, who grew up in Washington, North Carolina said the area was no longer the small town she grew up in and the weather was too hot. "I did a lot of research on where we should move," she said.

They bought a house in Stockbridge from Mark Sturgart, who was coincidentally the owner of the Clear River Tavern. They purchased the restaurant after considering their options.

"We were like, Oh, my



Joseph Nolan and his wife Blair bought the former Clear River Tavern in Pittsfield.

gosh, this is it," Blair said. "What was really it for us was the view."

They wanted a place to have outdoor weddings.

The Toasted Pecan menu features Southern dishes with a New England twist. The menu includes Vermont made products, like jellies, jams and maple syrup. Menu items include apple butter grilled cheese and shrimp and grits — an ingre-

redient they are getting from a supplier in North Carolina since they can't find grits in Vermont.

The restaurant is a family business that they hope their 8-year old and 15-month-old can grow into. They want to build a family-friendly atmosphere for customers.

"We have little ones," Blair said. "That's what we were looking for. There was a need there for us. And we talked

to community members and there was a need for the community as well."

The restaurant is open for dinner starting at 4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and at 10 a.m. for brunch Saturday and Sunday.

The Nolans aren't turning back.

"We love this community and this is my last stop," Joseph said. "I'm not moving anywhere else."

MOGULS

SPORTS PUB

Free POOL Wednesdays • DARTS • 20 TV Screens • PIZZA
BURGERS • BBQ RIBS • SALADS • GYROS • WINGS

New Year's Eve
Live Music
Super Stash Brothers

LIVE MUSIC

THURS: DUANE CARLETON	SAT: DUANE CARLETON-HAPPY HOUR
FRI: LAST CHAIR	GULLY BOYS @ 9 PM

3 NFL TICKETS

16 DRAFT BEERS

OPEN: WED. - SAT. AT 3 P.M. | SUN AT NOON
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25

CALL(802) 422-4777
TAKE-OUT

KILLINGTON VERMONT'S
BEST FOOD + DRINK

HOMEMADE SPECIALS
BEST WINGS
SANDWICHES

STEAK BURGERS
BURRITOS
BBQ RIBS

KIDS MENU

NFL HEADQUARTERS
EPIC WIDESCREEN TV'S

EV SUPERCHARGERS | RENOVATED GAME ROOM

POUDLY SERVING LOCAL BEERS FROM

SCAN TO ORDER

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.
2910 KILLINGTON ROAD | 802-422-LOOK | LOOKOUTVT.COM



Ring in the New Year slope-style

Sunday, Dec. 31—KILLINGTON—Join in on the fun at the K-1 Base Lodge for a New Year's Eve celebration unlike any other! Inside the lodge, there'll be family-friendly activities including arts and crafts and live music.

Outside, we'll have all the ingredients to make your own s'mores over a fire pit (while supplies last!), plus a fireworks show, a groomer parade and more, all for free. Don't miss this epic send-off to 2023! Please note that bringing outside alcohol to this event is strictly prohibited. For

more information visit:
Killington.com.



Photos courtesy of Killington Resort
Stere Social Club performance, S'mores, crafts for kids, fireworks and more, all to be enjoyed at Killington Resort to ring in the new year.

[MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg
Have a music scene coming up? Email djdavehoff@gmail.com

WED

12/27

CHITTENDEN

6 p.m. Mountain Top Tavern – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Duane Carleton

5 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

6 p.m. Rivershed – Liz Reedy

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Open Mic with Danny Lang

QUECHEE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris P

THURS

12/28

BARNARD

5:30 Fable Farm – Rumney Sessions with Ben Kogan & Avi Salloway

BRANDON

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

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Breduce

CHITTENDEN

6 p.m. Mountain Top Tavern – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

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

5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Mountain Green – Nick Breduce

6 p.m. Rivershed – Chris P

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Curragh’s Fancy

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Mihali daze with Gubbulidus

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

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUECHEE

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

RUTLAND

6:30 p.m. Angler Pub – Open Mic hosted by John Lafave

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

FRI

12/29

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Blue Cat Bistro – Liz Reedy

CHITTENDEN

6 p.m. Mountain Top Tavern – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. Pico’s Last Run Lounge – Nick Breduce

2 p.m. Snowshed’s Long Trail Pub – Duane Carleton

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – E-Boro Bandits

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Breduce

7 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Curragh’s Fancy

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Mihali & Friends with G Love and Brandon “Taz” Neiderauer

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – DJ Stevie B

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

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

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres for the Holidays: Jester Jigs

9 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B & Friends

POULTNEY

6 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Josh Jakob

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Bobby Sheehan

SAT

12/30

BRANDON

4 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Breanna Elaine

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with a Special Showcase Line-up

CHESTER

6 p.m. Pizza Stone VT – Midnight Betty

CHITTENDEN

6 p.m. Mountain Top Tavern – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Lodge – Nick Breduce

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

6 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nick Breduce

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Ruby Street

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Shanaganans

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Never in Vegas

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Stereo Social Club

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

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

LUDLOW

9 a.m. Okemo’s Sunburst Six Bubble – Lift Party with DJ Dave

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres for the Holidays: Adam McMahon Duo

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Rust & Ruin

RANDOLPH

7 p.m. Underground Listening Room – Cobalt & Titten w/ Troy Millette

RUTLAND

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

STOCKBRIDGE

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

SUN

12/31

CHITTENDEN

6 p.m. Mountain Top Tavern – George Nostrand

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with E-Boro Bandits

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

4 p.m. K1 Base Lodge Deck – NYE Celebration, Groomer’s Parade & Fireworks with music by DJ Dave

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel Crows Nest – Jamie’s Junk Show

5 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

7:30 p.m. McGrath’s Irish Pub – Shanaganans

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Never in Vegas

8 p.m. The Foundry – New Year’s Eve with the Aaron Audet Band

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Stereo Social Club

8:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Rhys Chalmers

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – NYE Party with Jamie’s Junk Show

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres for the Holidays: Sammy B

5 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – NYE Celebration & Fireworks with Majic Box Trio

9 p.m. Off The Rails – Majic Box Trio feat. Jim Yeager

MON

1/1

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

5:30 p.m. Mary Lou’s – BAK’n

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

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Sammy B

TUES

1/2

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

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

LONDONDERRY

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

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

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

OPEN 11-5PM THURSDAY-SUNDAY & MONDAY 12-6PM



SOUP DOG KILLINGTON VT
HOMEMADE SOUPS & CREATIVE HOTDOGS
2822 KILLINGTON RD BEHIND DOMENIC'S PIZZERIA

SOUP DOG KILLINGTON
802-353-9277

GET YOUR BASS IN HERE FOR THE NEW YEAR!



SUSHI YOSHI
CHINESE GOURMET HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE



Mid-way up Killington Access Rd.
Open for Indoor Dining, Take-out & Delivery
Serving Lunch & Dinner: Tues. - Sun.
vermontsushi.com • 802.422.4241

HIBACHI | SUSHI | ASIAN

LIQUID ART RESTAURANT

NEW YEAR'S EVE Dinner

DECEMBER 31 2023

4 COURSE PRIX FIXE MENU
INTIMATE FINE DINING

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS

KILLINGTON, VT | 802-422-2787 | LIQUIDARTVT.COM



SAVE BIG at Rutland Co-op

coop deals

relax and decompress
Winter's colder weather offers an opportunity to snuggles and reduce stress and lower your blood pressure with water and enjoy tea. Tea for a chilled moment.

- 3.99 Silver Hills Sprouted Bread
- 4.29 Sunflower Oil
- 4.49 Nancy's Organic Yogurt
- 2/\$9 Silk Plain-Flavored Milk
- 5.49 Forester's Ranch
- 5/\$5 Borden's Cream Cheese
- 5/\$5 Four Seasons
- 2/\$7 Huggo Foods
- 2/\$7 CIO
- 2/\$8
- 11.99
- 3/\$4

Rutland Area Food Co-op
By the Community... For the Community

77 Wales Street
Rutland, Vermont
rutlandcoop.com

Rockin the Region with G Love

The Pickle Barrel in Killington is kicking off New Year's Eve weekend with a bang. Friday, Dec. 29 will be a jam-filled evening with Mihali and his friends, with special guests G. Love and Brandon "Taz" Niederauer.



Rockin' the Region
By Dave Hoffenberg

I got a chance to speak with G Love (his real name is Garrett Dutton) about this show, fatherhood and what 2024 has in store for him. With three children ages 2, 3 and 7 and his wife Kelsey, it's sure to be a busy year. He also has a 22-year-old son.

This weekend will be his return to the Pickle Barrel after a 17-year hiatus. G Love and Special Sauce played the Pickle in 2006. (I was at that show and it was incredible!) Dutton said of that night, "I was

having so much fun but I was sick. I played however many hours until my voice could not produce a noise. I went back to Boston and was sick for a week. This is my triumphant return with a good voice."

He and Mihali are good friends. Until recently, Dutton thought he was done gigging for 2023, "I thought I was going to be laying low but Mihali hit me up, he's a dear friend and I love to make music with him, and I owed him one because he played on my festival Outermost Roots & Blues Fest in Orleans a few years ago," he said, adding: "When Mihali invites me to come play, the answer is going to be, 'yes'"

Dutton, who is from Philadelphia, now calls Orleans, Massachusetts home. G Love and Mihali have a song together, "Strongest Of Our Kind," which is on Mihali's "Breathe and Let Go" album. After the Pickle Barrel, G Love is playing in Stowe at Apres Only on the 30th and then home for New Year's Eve.

Dutton is also excited to be playing with Taz again. He said, "I've been watching and jamming on shows with him since he was a little guy, and now he's a young man and a wonderful musician. It should be a lot of fun. I like to play guitar but Mihali and him are some of the best players out there so I'll have to see if I can keep them on their toes. You have to remember it's not how many notes you play, I just have this one note I can play and cut them both off stage. I don't know if I'm going to pull it out at this show or not but we'll see."

On Jan. 11, G Love and Special Sauce kick-off their 30th Anniversary Tour in St. Louis. They already played Europe and Australia, but this kicks off the celebration of 30 years since they released their self-titled debut album. It's a coast-to-coast tour with the closest shows to Vermont being Jan. 24 and 25 at City Winery in Boston. They're re-releasing that album on a double vinyl, a digital re-release, with old outtakes.

Dutton said, "This is a celebration of the epic record we made on Epic Records in 1993 that came out in the Spring of 1994. That has been the catalyst for my whole career."

(That album is amazing. I've been playing tracks off that since it's existence.)

Dutton said, "This all comes back to the support we've got from the people who've checked our records out and come to the live shows and come year after year after year. That's propelled everything."

G Love and Special Sauce have the support of so many artists. "A lot of artists from Jack Johnson to Jack White, Kid Rock to the Avett Brothers, Dave Matthews to a million people who've told me that album was a big inspiration for them. I think that record in a lot of ways changed music," Dutton said. "I graduated high school in 1991, the same year all The Roots did like Questlove and Black Thought, they

graduated from high school in Philadelphia in 1991, too. Both of us did something very unique with hip-hop and the reason that happened was because of our generation and growing up in Philadelphia. It's very interesting to me. We're kids who grew up being the first generation of hip-hop with the Beastie Boys, Run-DMC, LL Cool J. We're the people who took hip-hop and brought it into rock 'n' roll, which in turn brought it into every other type of music where it currently sits. That goes from country music to pop music, classical music and every other people that used hip-hop style productions to make records and do live shows."

He is right. There's so much great music from the 90s. Dutton said, "When we came out with that record, things were a lot different. At that point, hip-hop was an African-American art form. It was coming out of the black neighborhoods and the East Coast cities and then it was coming all over America and internationally. At that point, it wasn't a live instrumentation thing and that's why what we were doing was unique and what The Roots were doing was unique and there was a lot of push back on it from the hip-hop audience, not the artist side but the audience. It was challenging. We did a lot of tours with our huge hip-hop influences like Tribe Called Quest and Guru's Jazzmatazz in Boston. There were some shows that were really tough. To be up there in front of a crowd that was not feeling what we were doing. After that I leaned back on the blues a bit. Listen, I'm a hip-hop kid. I grew up in Philly. I was a graffiti writer, skateboarder, city kid listening to hip-hop but the blues and folk music was something I always did on my own. The music I was making converged with the lifestyle I was living and that's how my style came to evolve. We did something original and that propelled my whole career."

Dutton's advice for young musicians is: "Be original and have great work ethic. I'm not a great singer. I'm not the greatest guitar player or harmonica player but I love music. My passion for music has propelled me to get good at all those things. We're honored. I've seen a lot of people, much better than us, fall off and never get to exploit their gifts. I'm thankful we've been able to stay in touch."

Music is the thing that has kept him going all these years. He said, "Sometimes I'm in a bad mood but as soon as I step on that stage and see people. It blows me away, all the people who come out. I never take that for granted. It's so cool and exciting. I have the opportunity to make people happy, inspire them and do the same thing for myself. It's so healing in your body, soul and mind. That's why I love it and we appreciate everybody. I'm thankful for the people showing up, showing love and dancing. I like it when they dance."

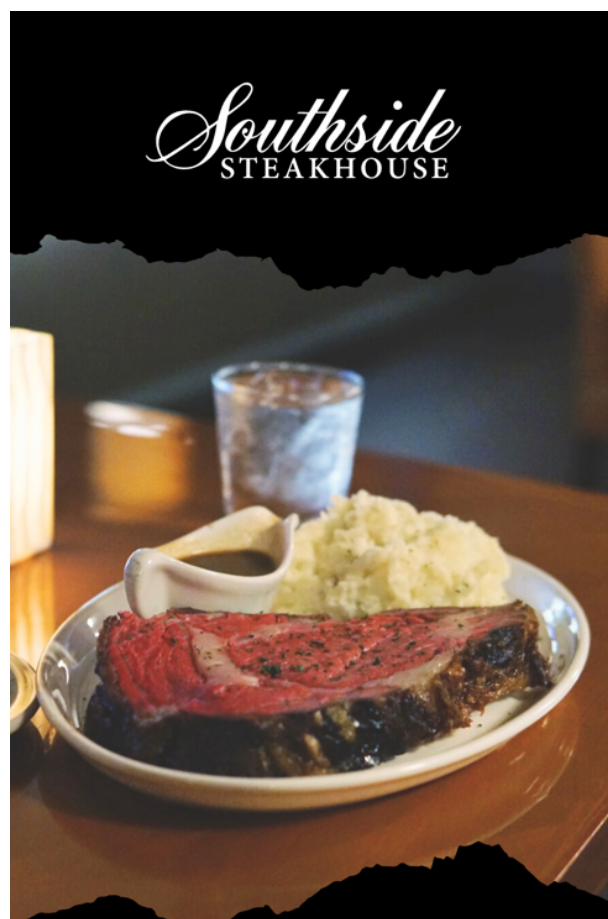
For more information, visit: philadelphonic.com.



G. Love

Submitted

Southside STEAKHOUSE



*A modern approach
to the classic American
Steakhouse.*

Join us for an inviting, upbeat atmosphere, featuring thoughtfully crafted food made with the highest quality steaks & chops, fresh seafood, and seasonal produce.

southsidesteakhouse.com

(802) 772-7556

170 S Main Street, Rutland, VT



Mary Lou's

"Mary Lou's is your perfect place to warm up and enjoy wood fired pizza, drinks and live music. Sit by the fireplace by the lower bar! Please check our updates by hitting the Update tab. See you here!" (802) 422-9885.

marylousskillington.com



Liquid Art

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



Back Country Café

The Back Country Café is a hot spot for delicious breakfast foods. Choose from farm fresh eggs, multiple kinds of pancakes and waffles, omelets or daily specials to make your breakfast one of a kind. Just the right heat Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellini, VT Craft Brews, Coffee and hot chocolate drinks. Maple Syrup and VT products for sale. Check Facebook for daily specials. 802-422-4411.



Killington Market

Take breakfast, lunch or dinner on the go at Killington Market, Killington's on-mountain grocery store for the last 30 years. Choose from breakfast sandwiches, hand carved dinners, pizza, daily fresh hot panini, roast chicken, salad and specialty sandwiches. Vermont products, maple syrup, fresh meat and produce along with wine and beer are also for sale. killingtonmarket.com 802-422-7736 or 802-422-7594.



Inn at Long Trail

Looking for something a little different? Hit up McGrath's Irish Pub for a perfectly poured pint of Guinness, live music on the weekends and delicious food. Casual dining at Rosemary's Restaurant. Visit innatlongtrail.com, 802-775-7181.



Soup Dog

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



Lookout Tavern

A place for fun, friends and good times here in Killington! Everything from soup to nuts for lunch and dinner; juicy burgers, fresh salads, delicious sandwiches and K-Town's best wings. Your first stop after a full day on the Mountain for a cold beer or specialty drink and a great meal! lookoutvt.com, 802-422-5665.



SouthSide SteakHouse

Southside provides a modern approach to a classic American steakhouse. Join us for an inviting, upbeat atmosphere featuring thoughtfully crafted food made with the highest quality steaks & chops, fresh seafood, and seasonal produce. We offer dinner and drink service in our dining room, bar & lounge, and on our seasonal patio, weather permitting. (802) 772-7556 southsidesteakhouse.com



Choices Restaurant & Rotisserie

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



Moguls

Voted the best ribs and burger in Killington, Moguls is a great place for the whole family. Soups, onion rings, mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers, buckets of chicken wings, salads, subs and pasta are just some of the food that's on the menu. Free shuttle and take away and delivery options are available. mogulssportspub.com 802-422-4777.



Mountain Top Inn

Whether staying overnight or visiting for the day, Mountain Top's Dining Room & Tavern serve delicious cuisine amidst one of Vermont's best views. A mix of locally inspired and International cuisine – including salads, seafood, poultry and a new steakhouse menu - your taste buds are sure to be satisfied. Choose from 12 Vermont craft brews on tap. Warm up by the terrace fire pit after dinner! A short drive from Killington. mountaintopinn.com, 802-483-2311.



Rutland CO-OP

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



Sugar and Spice

Stop on by to Sugar and Spice for a home style breakfast or lunch served up right. Try six different kinds of pancakes and/or waffles or order up some eggs and home fries. For lunch they offer a Filmore salad, grilled roast beef, burgers and sandwiches. Take away available. www.vtsugarandspice.com 802-773-7832.



Sushi Yoshi

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

THE PARTY STORE

The Party Store | 129 Strongs Ave Rutland | 802-773-3155

New Year Party Supplies!!

- Decorations
- Hats, Noisemakers, Poppers
- Party Kits for 10 to 50 people
- Balloons
- Tableware

AND SO MUCH MORE !!!



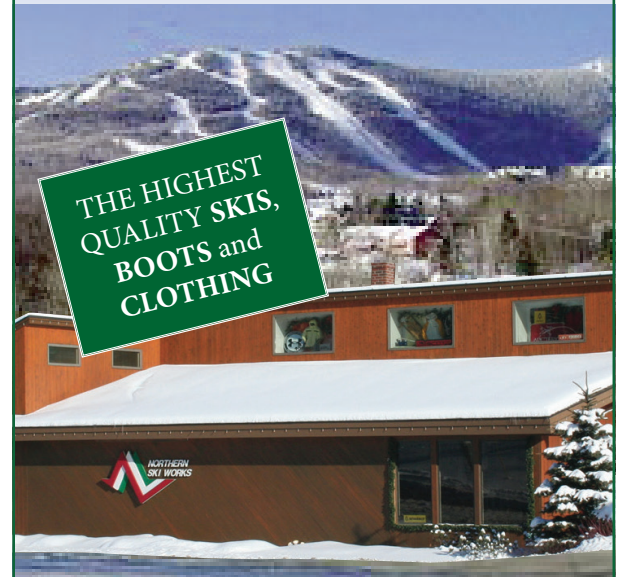
Mon-Fri 10-5:30; Sat 10-5



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT NORTHERN SKI WORKS

Member of America's Best Bootfitters
Best Selection of skis, boots, clothing and accessories

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Killington
(802) 422-9675
Killington Road

Ludlow
(802) 228-3344
Main St., Ludlow, VT

Shop online at: Northernski.com

**WILD
KIND**

TOYS

**Thoughtfully made TOYS
that inspire creative play!**

Stop in
or shop
online



wildkindtoys.com | 31 Center Street | Downtown Rutland

The Woodstock VT Film Series is presenting the film "Pianoforte"

Saturday Dec. 30-Sunday, Dec. 31—WOODSTOCK—Directed by Jakub Piatek, the 91-minute film "Pianoforte," which has been nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, is a fly-on-the-philharmonic-wall documentary that takes viewers on a journey through the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. The competition, held every five years since 1927, has been a platform for launching the careers of renowned pianists such as Krystian Zimerman and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

"Pianoforte" delves into the world of young professional piano players from around the globe as they navigate the pressure and drama of the competition. The film captures both the highs and lows of the competition, as well as the emotional moments that reflect the dynamic range of the instrument itself. The audience can expect to be entertained by this roller coaster ride of classical music.

The film will be shown at 3 p.m., Saturday Dec. 30-Sunday, Dec. 31 in the Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Tickets are priced at \$15 per person or \$12 for Billings Farm members.

For more info, visit: billingsfarm.org.



Courtesy Billings Farm and Museum

"Pianoforte," a film on the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw will be shown at Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center Theater.

Casual Fine Dining in
Rosemary's
 Restaurant

Serving Dinner
 Wed- 12/27 thru Saturday 12/30 from 5-9pm
 and Sunday 12/31 from 5-10pm.
 Join us for New Years Eve Celebration

Reservations
 appreciated
 802-775-7181

Inn at Long Trail

McGrath's
Irish Pub



Pub menu served daily
 Mon - Fri 3 - 9 p.m.
 Sat & Sun 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Live Irish Music with Shanagans
 Champagne Toast at Midnight**

Rte. 4 between Killington & Pico
 802-775-7181
innatlongtrail.com
 Rooms & Suites available

Perfect for holiday gifts & meals!

Vermont Farmers Food Center

ONLINE FARMERS MARKET

Produce, dairy, bakery, meat, maple, and specialty items

Fresh, nutritious, local, and convenient

Shop from local farms online for curbside pick up at 251 West St. in Rutland or at the Killington Welcome Center

vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/onlinemarket



Mary Lou's

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA • BAR • LIVE MUSIC

Dine-In
or
Takeout

Live Music
 Open Friday-Tuesday

MaryLousKillington.com | (802) 422-9885
 2841 Killington Rd | Killington, VT 05751

CHOICES

RESTAURANT & ROTISSERIE

Dine in or take out:
 2820 Killington Rd
 802.422.4030
ChoicesVT.com

In-house made pasta, breads, and desserts

21+ Wines by the glass

Chef owned

Open 6 nights a week
 (Closed Wednesdays)
 5:00 - 9:00 PM



Counting the birds with the Rutland County Audubon Society

...and a potluck dinner

Saturday, Dec. 30—RUTLAND—The Rutland County Audubon Society hosts its annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 30. Participants may join a group and venture into different sections of the Rutland area to count the birds they observe. If you live within the count area, you can also participate by counting birds in your own backyard or feeder. After a day of bird counting, all participants are invited to attend a potluck supper at the Proctor Library at 6 p.m. This gathering provides an opportunity for birders to add up their counts and meet other likeminded individuals. It's encouraged for attendees to bring a dish to share for the potluck, as well as their own plates, glasses, and silverware.

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual event that not only contributes to important bird population data but also allows for bird enthusiasts to connect with others who share their passion. Whether you're an experienced birder or just starting out, this event provides an exciting opportunity to explore your local area and contribute to citizen science efforts.

To join a group, reach out to the society at birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org.



Submitted

MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

Gary Hall

One of Vermont's Best Views Including:
Spa & Salon | Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides
Restaurant & Tavern Dining | Luxurious Accommodations
XC Skiing & Snowshoeing

Gold-Wing Photo

802.483.2311 | mountaintopresort.com

Solutions

From page 13

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

killington market

ATM LOTTERY

GROCERY

MEATS, PRODUCE & SEAFOOD

beer and wine

DELICATESSEN

Baked Goods & Breads
Pizza ~ Maple Syrup

OPEN DAILY
6:30 A.M. - 10 P.M.
2023 KILLINGTON RD
802-422-7736
DEC. 29 & 30
Open 6:30-11 P.M.

Take-Out Convenience:
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Facebook icon Daily Specials posted on Facebook & Call Deli 802-422-7594
Special requests are always welcome!

THINGS TO DO

Your guide to fun alternatives to skiing and riding in the area this holiday week



Soak in a salt cave at Pyramid Wellness

Step into tranquility at Pyramid Holistic Wellness Center in downtown Rutland, a haven dedicated to sound healing, crystals, and immersion meditation rooms. Devoted to the belief that holistic health shapes a fulfilling life, the heart-centered community fosters wellbeing through various mindfulness experiences. Nurturing, inspiring, and empowering, Pyramid Wellness embarks on a collective journey toward wellness, wisdom, and wholeness, influencing the transformative tapestry of our world.

Play elite golf course inside

Enjoy immersive indoor golf with friends, family, and co-workers on the high-tech, 18-foot simulator screens at Stonehedge Golf in Rutland.

Pick one of the fantasy courses or transport yourself to one of the world's most famous courses on highly accurate real-life course replicas. The state-of-the-art simulation technology means that your swings are as accurate for a truly immersive experience.



Take a sleigh ride at Mountain Top

Mountain Top Inn offers a magical winter experience amid the picturesque Green Mountains in Chittenden. Nestled in a cozy sleigh, guests experience old-time rides through fields and woods, drawn by majestic horses. The rustic charm of Mountain Top Inn adds to the allure, in its hilltop location amid the quintessential Vermont winter. Bring the kids along to make memories of a lifetime. Advance reservations required.

Jam at the Wild Fern

Discover rustic elegance at Wild Fern in Pittsfield. This charming eatery offers a delightful culinary experience, featuring locally sourced ingredients and creative dishes. Immerse yourself in a cozy atmosphere while savoring the flavors of the region at Wild Fern. You notice that as soon as you pull into the parking area and spot the flecks of green laser light dancing like snowflakes in the trees above you, and settling across the face of "The Luv Bus" that's always parked out front. Enjoy all this while drifting off to the soulful live performance of Rick at the mic.



Tube at Killington Resort's Tubing Park

Killington Resort's Tubing Park is a thrilling winter attraction for all ages. Located in Vermont's snow-covered wonderland, it offers an exhilarating tubing experience with multiple lanes for sliding fun. And—most importantly— a tow rope to bring you back up the hill. It's the perfect spot for families and friends to enjoy a snow-filled adventure together.

Cruise down the corduroy at our multi-lane tubing facility located at the Clubhouse on East Mountain Road (just across from the Killington Grand Resort Hotel.) Race your friends or try and best your own time, then do it again and again.



Local favorites for kids and parents alike

Eat lunch in a Yurt

Ski in/ski out its among our most unique slopeside dining experiences on the mountain, the LedgeWood Yurt embodies our philosophy of helping you create lasting memories during your winter visit to Killington Resort. Ski in mid-run to the Yurt's trailside location on weekends and peak dates for lunch by the woodstove.

It's open Friday through Sunday and holidays dates.
Hours: 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., subject to change based on weather.



Skiing at night at the Snowbowl

After years of planning, the Middlebury College Snowbowl finally opened for night skiing this winter. In addition to its regular 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. schedule it will remain open for night skiing until 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Located in Hancock, the Snowbowl is just 35 miles north of Killington with over 700 acres to ski and ride.

Indulge at the Woodstock Inn

After a day on the cross country trails, indulge in a delightful evening at the Woodstock Inn, where you can unwind with drinks or dinner while your kids have a blast in our lively retro game room. From pool to pinball, shuffleboard to Scrabble, the room is stocked with competition-worthy games. A wood-burning fireplace and several TVs make it the perfect lounge for any group. With retro video games and more, it's the ultimate family hangout, offering both fun and fantastic meals.



See a forest of fights

Thousands of lights transform VINS into a magical realm. Experience the charm of the VINS Forest Canopy Walk amidst the seasonal lights. New additions this year feature a twinkling Snowflake Tunnel, the Blue & White Icicle Tower, and the Fairy Lighting Hideaway. Delighted to welcome visitors back or for their first visit, this captivating exhibit promises a unique experience and is an ideal time to create lasting memories with family and friends. After the walk, guests can cozy up by the campfire, enjoying hot chocolate and delightful snacks available for purchase.

Located in Quechee.



Rutland County Humane Society



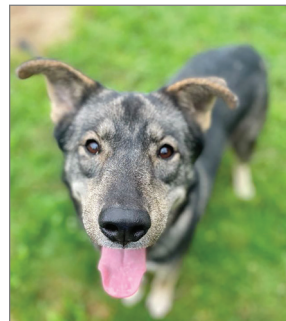
SLOAN

There is no greater love than that from a coonhound and Sloan is waiting to show you all the love!! Sloan is a long-legged 3-month hound mix that is an active boy longing for a loving home and we have reduced his adoption fee to \$250 to make that happen even faster!

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



Macaroon—1-year-old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



Raven—1-year-old. Spayed female. Mixed breed.



Rocko—11-Month-Old. Neutered male. Jack Russell Terrier mix.



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

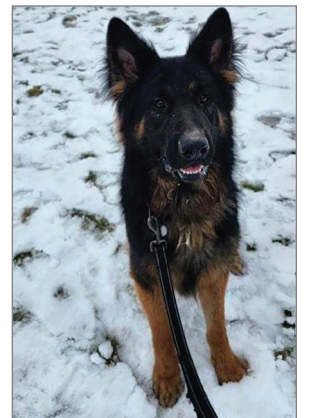


Charlie—8-Month-Old. Neutered male. Pointer mix.



SKYE

Skye—11-month-old. female. Aussie mix.



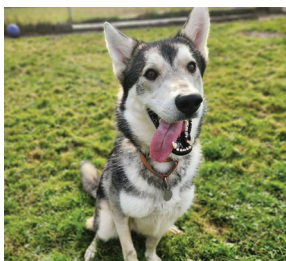
Aries—4-year-old. Male. German Shepherd.



ZUZU

I'm a 2-year-old spayed female. I am a fun, comical and adoring girl and am looking for a person or family that speaks my language! It's not unusual for me to get really excited - I just can't help myself! I love people and I love attention! I would do best in a cat-savvy home with people that have experience in reading feline body language.

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



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

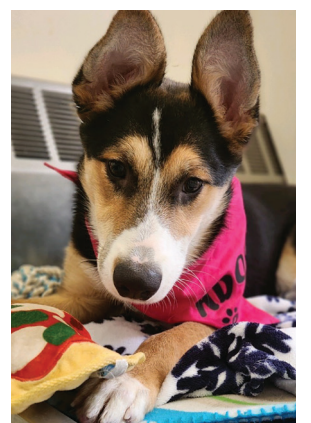
All of these pets are available for adoption at
Rutland County Humane Society
 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT • (802) 483-6700
 Tues. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Closed Sun. & Mon. • www.rchsvt.org



Fuji—6-7 Years Old. Neutered male. Domestic shorthair.



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



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

Catamount Pet Supply Company, inc.

296 U.S. Route 4 East
 Rutland Town, VT 05701 | 802-773-7642

OPEN
 MON. - FRI. 10^{am} - 6:30^{pm} & SAT. 10^{am} - 5^{pm}

Grooming by appointment | 802-773-7636

Kedron Valley
 boarding, grooming & daycare

Contact us to schedule your dog's grooming appointment today!
802-457-7498

KedronBoarding.com | 560 West Woodstock Road, Woodstock, VT

Cosmic Catalogue



Aries
March 21 - April 20

Give yourself permission to take your eye off the ball a little bit this week. The chance to wind down and take a break can help you realign with your mission and purpose. Home and Family are in focus, which may be the reason for the choice you're making. The confusion you feel today will be the clarity you feel tomorrow. Don't stress too much if you can't figure it all out now.

Leo
July 21 - August 20

Rest and relaxation aren't just about putting your feet up and doing nothing. Well, it can also be about that! But most importantly, the chance to go slow is the chance to reflect, gain perspective and consider what may need to change or improve in your life. In just a few short weeks, a significant change will occur in your Relationship Zone. This week, consider what this means for you and your life and what you need to do about it.

Sagittarius
November 21 - December 20

Life has felt a little bit confusing for you in recent weeks. Deep reflections, combined with fogginess has made it harder to feel clear about your sense of purpose. One thing is for sure, you've learned more about what you do not want. As Venus arrives into your sign, it will become easier to attract what you do want. Life will feel as though a little sugar has been sprinkled upon it. Be sure to enjoy it!

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

It's one thing to give without counting the cost, but it's also unwise to not know the value of what you give. As your ruling planet, Venus, arrives in one of your Financial Zones, you may need to consider the cost of your contribution. It's not just about the money, neither, it would be more about the effort you're making that isn't reciprocated or appreciated. If you're unhappy with this, then you need to speak up about it.

Virgo
August 21 - September 20

Your Home Zone is still the source of a few issues regarding logistics and confusion. You can go about these issues in one of two ways. Fight things but arguing facts or putting your opinions forward. Or, you can just let things happen naturally. Do you best to be the balm that helps cool frayed nerves or flared tempers. If in doubt, try and focus on common threads rather than the minutia.

Capricorn
December 21 - January 20

A Full Moon illuminates your Relationship Zone. This may or may not be a good thing for you. You may see what is missing or what needs to change. You're on the tale end of a massive personal cycle of growth and personal evolution. Chances are, what you once wanted, you no longer do or vice versa. Reflect on your deepest desires. Do your current circumstances even come close to what they are?

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You rarely shy away from a good debate or even a heated conversation. Not because you want to argue, you just love asking questions and learning new things. This week though, it would be wise to know when to use discretion as foot in mouth disease could land you in hot water with someone. Fortunately, as Venus moves into the picture, you'll be able to sweeten the situation or find commonality in order to keep the peace.

Libra
September 21 - October 20

As your star, Venus, moves into your Communication Zone this week, it may be easier for you to get your point across. Even if some people don't seem to want to understand you, there isn't much you can do about that. From now, it will be easier for you to ask for forgiveness rather than ask for permission. Also, it will be easier for you to gain respect this way. Do what pleases you, not just everyone else.

Aquarius
January 21 - February 20

Friends, social circles and your networks come into focus this week. New opportunities may arrive that while seemingly positive, may still be wrapped in some doubt or confusion. This may also be a lesson in learning to trust your instincts more than your logic. In fact, over the coming years, this will be what you'll be developing as a part of your evolution. Begin practicing trusting your instincts over logic now.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

A Full Moon in your sign may help you to reflect on the year that has been and the one to come. What is it that you want? Desire? Long for? Whatever your goals are, they will require work – not just hoping, wishing or praying, those they will be required also. As Pluto prepares to leave your Relationship Zone, a brand new chapter in love is about to open. The future looks very different than the past so leave the past behind.

Scorpio
October 21 - November 20

This week's Full Moon may evoke feelings of meaning and purpose. Not just this week, but also of the ways in which you'd like to see 2024 unfold. If this year felt a little bit ho hum, then let the energy of this week inspire you to bring somethings more into your life. This could be a spiritual pursuit, more holidays or just more of what inspires and motivates you. In any case, you just need more.

Pisces
February 21 - March 20

Nourishing Full Moon will help you enjoy the best of what this season has to offer. Fun, joy, frivolity and basking in a few of life's greatest pleasures. Jupiter, your patron planet, ends a retrograde cycle too. Renewed perspectives, strengthened boundaries and new goals will help you welcome a New Year while saying goodbye to one that has passed. Spend some time thinking about what you want out of 2024.

KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF



We are stocked with nonperishable food, paper goods & cleaning supplies. Any person in need, please call to arrange a pickup. Donations accepted. Please call Nan Salamon, 422-9244 or Ron Willis, 422-3843.
Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

Great Breakfast & Brunch
MTWTF: 7-12 | Sat, Sun: 7-1

BACK COUNTRY CAFE

EGGS • OMELETTES • PANCAKES • WAFFLES
TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE
923 KILLINGTON RD. 802-422-4411

@back_country_cafe

RUTLAND'S PREMIERE YOGA & PILATES STUDIO



TRUE YOGA

VERMONT

22 WALES STREET, RUTLAND

Go online to see our full schedule: trueyogavermont.com @trueyogavt



FIRST DAY PASS

\$10 WITH OR CODE



INTRODUCING **BLOCK THERAPY**
Limited time special offer: Free Sampler Program



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WHERE THE KILLINGTON ACCESS RD MEETS US-4
2363 US-4, KILLINGTON | 802-558-0547 | KBCKBC.COM | KILLINGTONBOOTCAMP@GMAIL.COM

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.



Discover the Killington Community

“It’s an exciting time to be in Killington; the public-private partnership has allowed for a win-win-win for the residents, resort and developer.”

- Town Manager Michael Ramsey

The symbiotic relationship between private investment and public infrastructure can be a difficult balancing act. The Town of Killington has helped to build partnerships that will catapult the community beyond what either entity could have accomplished alone.



Killington Town Manager Michael Ramsey (center left), Michael Sneyd from Great Gulf Residential (front center) and Selectman Jim Haff (right) cut the ribbon Oct. 4, 2023, officially kicking off the Killington Forward initiative.

Killington Forward

The Town of Killington has received approval as a master TIF District and has signed a development agreement with Great Gulf who will be developing the Killington Village at the Snowshed/Ramshead base.

This partnerships will allow for:

Clean water

via a new municipal water system that will serve residents and businesses on Killington Road.

New Killington Road

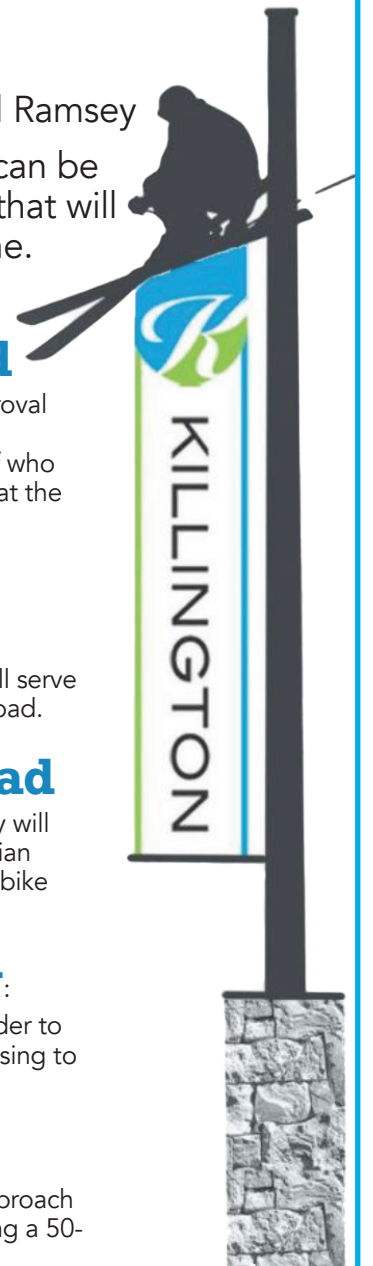
the reconstruction of this central roadway will make it safer and more bike and pedestrian friendly with bus pull-offs, sidewalks and bike paths.

Workforce housing:

The Town is actively pursuing plans in order to bring both affordable and workforce housing to the community.

Resiliency:

Killington Town has taken a proactive approach toward roadway infrastructure by adapting a 50-year storm design calculation.



TOWN OF
KILLINGTON
VERMONT

For more information, visit:
Killingtontown.com



Year in review

“New Year’s Day. A fresh start. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. New questions to be asked, embraced, and loved. Answers to be discovered and then lived in this transformative year of delight and self-discovery. Today carve out a quiet interlude for yourself in which to dream, pen in hand. Only dreams give birth to change,” said Sarah Ban Breathnach, best-selling author.



JANUARY

Killington tops state for undervalued Grand List

Of the 254 municipalities in the state listed on the annual Equalization Study, Killington topped the list for its actual property value being undervalued by its Grand List. According to newly released CLA determinations, Killington's Grand List accounted for just 61.60% of a property's true market value.

Gilmore Home Center destroyed in fire

Gilmore Home Center, which has been part of the Castleton community for more than 60 years, was destroyed in a fire on Sunday, Jan. 16.

Shiffrin, Moltzan make history in slalom

Two skiers with Vermont ties made history Thursday, Dec. 29 in Semmering, Austria.

Mikaela Shiffrin secured her 80th World Cup win and 50th slalom victory on Thursday while Paula Moltzan came in second place, earning her first podium in the discipline. It was the first time Americans finished first and second in a women's World Cup slalom since 1971.

State gets \$2.6M in cannabis revenue, new retail shops open

Excise revenue tax brought in an estimated \$330,000 to the state in October, when just three cannabis shops were open across the state, according to the Vermont Department of Taxes. Vermont cannabis stores sold \$2.6 million worth of product that first month of legal sales.

New moniker is simply 'Rutland'

Rutland School Board members settled the mascot debate on Jan. 10 and decided Rutland High School will simply be called "Rutland."

The approval of the name came after three years of contentious debate and community divide about what the mascot should be. The former Raiders mascot, deemed racist, was retired in August 2022.



Courtesy Gilmore's Home Center

Gilmore's Home Center perished by flames in January.



Remembering:

Gary Frank Salmon, 75

Gary Frank Salmon, (also known as "The Tree Guy," "Forest Recreation Guru," "The Answer Man") 75, of Shrewsbury, Vermont, died Jan. 1, 2023 at his home.

James Ruth, 82

James (Jim) R. Ruth, 82, passed away, with his family by his side, on Dec. 28 at the Rutland Regional Medical Center after a short illness.

Karen Bowles, 85

Karen Bowles (Riggs) 85, of Killington passed away on Dec. 12. She was predeceased by her husband, George. She is survived by her brother Peter, sisters-in-law Margaret Powers and Lucy Bowles, brother-in-law Raymond Bowles and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Plymouth Cheese prepares expansion plans in Bridgewater

Plymouth Artisan Cheese has a new pop-up shop in the Bridgewater Mill Mall in an effort to restore new life into the old building. Plymouth Cheese owners Jesse and Sarit Werner became majority owners of the building in March 2022 after a multi-year legal battle with previous owners Andrea Curutchet and Jireh Billings.



Submitted

Plymouth Cheese is now in the Bridgewater Mill!

FEBRUARY

Ludlow resident wins on "Jeopardy!"

Jake DeArruda, who is originally from Ludlow, is making a name for himself on "Jeopardy!" DeArruda won three games in a row on the popular game show Jan. 27 and Jan. 30-31 DeArruda now lives in Massachusetts and works as a delivery dispatcher for Yale Appliance.



Jake DeArruda, who is originally from Ludlow, had a winning streak on the "Jeopardy!" game show in January 2023.

Submitted

Barstow Memorial principal St. Germain dies

Barstow Memorial School Principal David St. Germain of Pittsford died over the weekend. Superintendent Kristen Hubert announced his death on Jan. 30 in an email to the school community.

"The news came as a shock to me and other administrators," Hubert said.

St. Germain, a life-long educator, was named principal of the elementary school in Chittenden in 2020.

"He loved his work with children and families. We will all miss him," Hubert said. "I know that he would want us to pull together during this difficult time."

Karen Prescott was named acting principal of the school.

"The adults in the building will do their best to continue to provide a supportive learning environment for our students, even as they experience their own grief," Hubert said. "Educating our children is the best way to honor David."



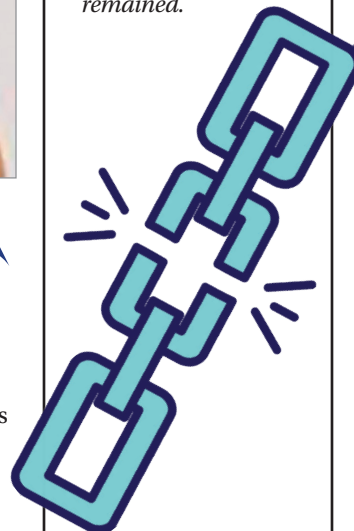
Submitted

Gabi Elnicki, from Pittsford, competed on "The Bachelor" in February.

Baird Farm, Pittsford resident appear on 'The Bachelor'

Baird Farm syrup in Chittenden is getting national attention as a local resident competes on ABC's dating reality show, "The Bachelor."

On the show, former Pittsford resident Gabi Elnicki steps out of a limousine carrying a pint of maple syrup from Baird Farm. As she meets the bachelor, Zach Shallcross, a 26-year-old tech executive who splits time between California and Texas.



Supply chain

While getting goods into the hands of consumers in 2023 was a bit easier than in earlier Covid-19 times, it proved to still be challenging and expensive as demand for supplies remain high and worker shortages across the board have remained.

Local police see significant increase in crime

Killington police report seeing a significant jump in crime. Police responded to 11 calls of theft from a vehicle in the first month of 2023. Last year, there were nine thefts in total from a car and the year before that, there were just five thefts reported.

Woodstock parents express concern about school safety

Nearly 200 parents sounded off at Windsor Central School Board members at a meeting, Monday, Feb. 6, for lack of transparency about a potentially violent incident at Woodstock Elementary School, which led to a School Board member's and fourth grade teacher's resignation.

Fourth grade teacher Stephanie Petrarca, who started teaching in the district in 2020, said the issue started Jan. 24, when a student in her class allegedly told a counselor he had a 9 mm bullet. Later that day, the student told two students on the bus that he had a hit list.



Submitted

A sign welcomes students to Woodstock middle/high school.

MARCH

Killington voters pass \$47M TIF bond, new town hall

On Town Meeting Day, 75% of Killington voters approved Article 5, giving the town authorization to proceed with water and road infrastructure projects that will support a new Six Peaks development at the base of Snowshed and Ramshead and then extend down the Killington Road. The vote tally was 337-119. Killington voters also passed Article 3, a \$6.4 million municipal budget (352 to 93) and Article 4, which authorizes the town to purchase the post office building on Route 4 and renovate it for use as its new town offices, at a cost of \$1.6 million.

Article 4 passed 348 to 106. Money will help fund new municipal water system

Killington awarded maximum CRRP grant of \$1 million

Killington received the maximum award of \$1 million for the “creation of a municipal water supply system and transmission to include the Valley Wells, well house, pump station, storage tank(s), and all transmission mains from the wells to the storage tank(s)...the transmission main from the storage tank to the Six Peaks Village and continuing to along Killington Road to its intersection with Ravine Road. This project will also require land acquisition and easements.”

Mendon woman dies in house fire

The Vermont State Police is investigating the death of a woman in a fire at her Mendon home late Saturday, March 18. The death of 52-year-old Helvi Abatiell Furlan is not considered suspicious.



Submitted

Local mogul skier notches a World Cup podium

Hannah Soar gathers with her Killington support crew at the Deer Valley World Cup 2023 where she placed third.

Killington Select Board denies separate department for KSAR, stands with chief

Seventeen current and former members of the Killington Search and Rescue team resigned in a letter to town officials on March 12 saying the new fire chief created a toxic work environment and mistreated women, but the Select Board largely dismissed the claims at a meeting on March 20.

Doenges named Rutland city mayor

David Allaire lost his mayor position to Mike Doenges 1,710 to 1,317 on Town Meeting Day, March 7.

His last day as mayor was Tuesday, March 14.



Remembering:

Michael Richard Perry, 77

Michael Perry passed into the arms of Jesus Sunday evening Feb. 26 at the age of 77 after a long fight with cancer.

James L. Kohnowich age 74

James L. Kohnowich died on Jan. 22, 2023. He was born in Saddle Brook, New Jersey on Dec. 23, 1948, to John and Julia (Thompson) Kohnowich. He is survived by his children Katie and John (Jenna); grandchildren Asher and Lilah; his sister Leslie (Jim) and nephews Jeff and Dave.

John M. Bruno, 80

John M. Bruno, 80, died Sunday March 26, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family.

Pat Keeley, 95

Glenna (Pat) Keeley of Woodstock, Vermont, formerly of Newport, Rhode Island, died peacefully on March 25, 2023, of natural causes. She was 95 years old



Submitted

Woodstock girls' hockey team was state champs again.

Woodstock girls' hockey wins state championships, again

Woodstock Union High School girls' hockey won the Division II State Championship at UVM's Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington on March 9, 2023. It was their second championship win in a row and the first time a Vermont D-II girls hockey team has defended a championship win since Montpelier's U-32 did it back in 2010 and 2011.



By Glenn Russell, VTDigger

Solimano honored with industry leadership award

Killington and Pico Resort Partners President and General Manager Mike Solimano has been named a recipient of the 2023 Sammy Leadership award, according to an April 10 news release. The 25th annual award honors innovative, inspiring, courageous, and passionate industry leaders making a difference locally and nationally. Recipients are determined based on nominations by members of the ski and snowboard industry, including many members of the Killington team, who shared their thoughts.

\$3.475 million sets new sales record for single family home

The most expensive house in Killington sold on March 28, for \$3.475 million after multiple offers, marking the first single-family home in Killington to sell for more than \$3 million.

The previous record was \$2.725 million, noted Kyle Kershner, broker/owner of Killington Pico Realty, who listed the new record home at \$3,250,000.



Courtesy Kyle Kershner

This \$3.475 million home set a new record price in Killington.



Jill Biden, first lady, visited Burlington on April 5 where she touted Biden's efforts to fund workforce development.

During Burlington visit, Jill Biden touts White House's investments in education, workforce development

In her first trip to Vermont since her husband assumed the presidency in January 2021, first lady Jill Biden visited Beta Technologies in Burlington on Wednesday, April 5, where she and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona touted the White House's efforts to fund workforce development and technical education.

Local New Yorker cartoonist remembered

'Out with his boots on': Friends and colleagues reflect on the vigorous life of Ed Koren who died April 22 at his home in Brookfield. He was 87 years old.



By Jon Gilbert Fox

Ed Koren was a popular New Yorker cartoonist from Vermont.



Courtesy VTSSU

Parwinder Grewal resigned as president of VTSSU in April.

Vermont State University president resigns just months before launch

Vermont State University president Parwinder Grewal has resigned after less than a year in the position and less than three months before the university is set to officially launch.

Controversial changes to libraries and sports programs will also be paused at the direction of the Vermont State Colleges board of trustees, officials said in a press release Friday, April 14.



Submitted

Taylor Swift is named Person of the Year

2023 belongs to Taylor Swift, 34. She led a record-breaking Eras Tour and concert film, re-released re-recordings to reclaim ownership of her music, and becoming a billionaire. She was named Time Magazine's 2023 Person of the Year as well as named "most powerful woman in the entertainment industry and the fifth in the world," by Forbes.

GREEN MOUNTAIN

ROCK CLIMBING CENTER

INDOOR

www.vermontclimbing.com

Open:
Mon thru Fri 3-9
Sat & Sun 12-5

RUTLAND | 802-773-3343 | 223 WOODSTOCK AVE, RT.4

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

A look back at some of the biggest national headlines

January

Kevin McCarthy elected, then removed

Disorder prevailed in the U.S. House of Representatives, where Kevin McCarthy was elected as speaker after 15 rounds of voting. He was later removed from the position nine months down the line.

February

LeBron James breaks scoring record

LeBron James, the star of the Los Angeles Lakers, became the NBA's all-time leading scorer with his 38,388th career point.

Super Bowl brothers make history

The Super Bowl this year featured a historic matchup between two brothers, Jason Kelce of the Eagles and Travis Kelce of the Chiefs.

March

Trump indicted

Donald Trump faced indictments in four cases — for the payment of hush money to an adult film star in New York, for a probe into classified documents in Florida, for his involvement in attempting to overturn the 2020 election leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack and for his efforts to reverse his electoral defeat in Georgia.

April

Starship launches

Elon Musk's spacecraft, named Starship, successfully launched on April 20.

May

King Charles III ascends to throne

Following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, King Charles III ascended to the throne in England.

June

'Titan' goes missing

A deep-sea submersible, on an expedition to explore the Titanic, garnered international attention when it disappeared in the North Atlantic Ocean. Authorities later revealed that the sub had suffered a "catastrophic implosion," resulting in the tragic death of all five individuals on board.

July

Actors go on strike

A strike by Hollywood actors and writers brought most film and TV productions to a halt for several months before they reached new contract agreements.

Murdaugh convicted

In a high-profile criminal trial, former attorney Alex Murdaugh from South Carolina was convicted of murdering his wife and son.

Barbie breaks records

Greta Gerwig's film "Barbie" became the highest-grossing movie in the U.S. box office after its July premiere.

August

Hawaii wildlife is deadly

The deadliest U.S. wildfire in over a century wreaked havoc in Hawaii in August, leaving parts of Maui in ruins and claiming the lives of over 100 people.

September

Thousands of fans stranded at Burning Man

During the Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert, more than 70,000 music fans found themselves stranded as torrential rain inundated their campsites with ankle-deep mud.

October

Shooting in Maine leaves 18 dead

Robert Card, 40, went on a shooting spree in Lewiston, Maine, which resulted in the death of 18 people and injuries to 13 others.

November

Sam Bankman-Fried faces convictions

Cryptocurrency expert Sam Bankman-Fried faced convictions of fraud and conspiracy in a scandal that sent shockwaves through the financial industry.

December

Santos expelled

U.S. Rep. George Santos of New York was expelled from the House of Representatives following a damning report from the Ethics Committee.

MAY



Courtesy Killington Resort

Greg Hiltz retired from Killington snowmaking after 45 years. He celebrated his tenure.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Dan Bergeron retired from Killington after a 37-year career and he's still smiling!

Remembering:

Richard Blaise Garofalo, 79

Richard Blaise Garofalo, formerly of Monroe, New York and a 27-year resident of Pittsfield, passed away on May 18, 2023 after a long illness. He was born to Stella and Philip Garofalo on July 30, 1943 in Queens, New York.



Submitted

Richard Blaise Garofalo died at age 79.

Rochester residents are rallying after learning Mac's Market is shutting down this month, leaving the area without a local grocery store

Around 108 people attended a community discussion on Thursday, April 27 — the first of what are expected to be several meetings.

"It's been an emotional situation and we all have a lot of thoughts about this," said Monica Collins, a Rochester resident who led the group.

RFL plans \$1.7 million renovation

The Rutland Free Library (RFL) has reinvigorated renovation plans to make the library (in its current location) more user-friendly, accessible and meet modern needs. And it hopes to get \$500,000 — about a third of the total project cost — from the state through Federal ARPA funds set aside for libraries.

Greg Hiltz retires from Killington snowmaking after 45 years

Not many people can say they've covered New York's Central Park with snow, but Greg Hiltz can. A select few people can say they've pulled off making enough snow for a World Cup course in one night, and they'd probably have to thank Hiltz for it.

In his 45-year career making snow at Killington Resort, he created, innovated, and made so many laugh, but on March 21, 2023, Hiltz took out his channel locks and turned off his final snow gun at The Beast.

Bergeron retires as snow sports operations manager at Killington

After a 37-year career in snow sports, Dan Bergeron is retiring.

Prior to his 11 years as snow sports operations manager at Killington, he served as the ski school director at Okemo for 22 years and the ski school director for Mount Ascutney before that. The resort honored his tenure.

Rutland rep co-founds Young Democrats of Vermont

Rutland local Anna Tadio has co-founded Vermont's first Young Democrats group along with Giovanni Falco. Falco currently serves as the president of the organization while Tadio serves as general counsel.

Phil Scott vetoes Vermont's \$8.5B state budget, House Speaker calls for state of emergency

Gov. Phil Scott vetoed the \$8.5 billion state budget sent his way by the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

The governor's action was widely anticipated, but in a more unexpected turn of events, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, followed the governor's announcement by calling on Scott to declare a state of emergency "to address the transition of those in motels and avoid mass homelessness in Vermont."



Submitted

Gov. Phil Scott vetoed the proposed state budget of \$8.5 million in May of the past year.

JUNE



Courtesy Base Camp at Bear Mountain
New Bear Mountain condos cleared Act 250 permitting.



Courtesy Okemo Mountain Resort

Greg Carter retires after 40 years as lift maintenance director

Director of Lift Maintenance Greg Carter recently retired from a satisfying 40 years of working at Okemo Mountain.

Bear Mountain housing development in Killington receives Act 250 permit

After more than a year-long wait, developers were granted a permit to start phase one of a 102-unit ski on, ski off housing development in Killington.

The developer, Ottauquechee Realty Associates, LLC, was awarded an Act 250 permit for Phase 1 of the three-phase project on June 1, pending a 30 day appeal process.

Stable Inn in Rochester opens

An 1840s mercantile that once supported the agricultural community back when Rochester was dominated by farms and the logging industry, has been transformed into an inn.

The Stable Inn in Rochester opened in May after five years of renovation and development. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for June 7 at 3 p.m., with local musicians and food prepared by a wood-fired oven.

Rutland robotics team awarded Medal of Honor for collaboration at Mass event

The Rutland Area Robotics' FRC Team 2370- IBOTS, based at the Stafford Technical Center, traveled to a prestigious offseason event at Worcester Polytechnic Institute June 3-4, called BattleCry @ WPI '23.

The Rutland squad, Team 2370 – IBOTS, finished their run for the WPI BattleCry Victors title in third place on a four-team alliance including: Team 1073 “The Force” from Hollis, New Hampshire; Team 2423 “The KwarQs” from Watertown, Massachusetts; and Team 467 “The Colonials” from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

Killington names Ramsey new town manager

On Monday night, June 12, the Killington Select Board announced that current Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth would be stepping out of that role and into a new one as the public works director.

“We need to move someone over into this position and Chet is the right person,” explained Selectman Jim Haff announcing the motion to create the new position. “[Chet] knows the roads, he oversaw the public safety building, and he’s been working with us on TIF this whole time,” Haff said of his qualifications.

Michael Ramsey was named the new town manager.



Submitted
Michael Ramsey became the new town manager in June.



Submitted
New owners Cliff Johnson and Billy O'Sullivan celebrate.

Sleep Woodstock has new owners

Sleep Woodstock has a new owner after 10 years. Owner Patrick Fultz sold the motel to business partners Cliff Johnson and Billy O'Sullivan on June 15.

JUNE

25 depart Killington Fire over dispute with chief

Months after a dozen Killington search and rescue members quit or were fired, claiming new Fire Chief Chris LaHart created a toxic work environment, several longtime firefighters have followed suit, citing similar issues.

In total, 25 people have left the department — at least three said they were fired. They include some of Killington's longest serving and most dedicated volunteers, who've responded to the bulk of the alarm calls. Together, they have about 300 years of experience.

KSAR moves from fire dept to police dept

In an attempt to move on from turmoil, Killington's search and rescue team (KSAR) will fall under the purview of the police department going forward, moving away from the fire department.

Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery will become the new head of search and rescue. He plans to name a volunteer KSAR director in the coming weeks.

The Select Board voted unanimously Monday, June 26, to make the change after about 25 people, including 13 former KSAR members and a dozen firefighters, left the department over disagreements with Fire Chief Chris LaHart, who resigned effective June 20 after five-plus months on the job.



Killington's Public Safety building on Killington Road is home to fire, EMT, police, and rescue services.

Submitted

Paul Ginther named Killington's new Chief, Fire Chief Chris LaHart and Asst. Chief Glenn Burres leaves the dept.

After a tumultuous start to Killington's first hybrid volunteer fire department, the town's first paid fire chief and assistant chief have departed. Town Manager Chet Hagenbarth announced June 20 that he accepted Fire Chief Chris LaHart's verbal resignation on June 14 effective immediately, while Assistant Chief Glenn Burres was fired on June 19.



Photos by Brooke Geery

The sun was shining June 1 and Superstar held snow!



Courtesy Killington Resort

While Snowshed (left) and Ramshead (right) were green, Superstar at the top of Killington Road still held snow into June.



Skiing in June? Yes, once again only at Killington

Killington Resort offered skiers and riders a bonus day of skiing and riding spinning the Superstar Quad, Thursday, June 1.

While the spring sun made fast work melting the Superstar Glacier, the stockpile was sufficient to provide great skiing and riding for the second June in a row.

Locals and visitors alike made the pilgrimage to help celebrate and cap off the longest season in the East.

JULY

'It's like a scene from Irene'

It began with isolated flashfloods and a mudslide in Killington Friday, July 7, but rains continued — and worsened — Sunday and Monday escalating to become a State of Emergency. Estimates of 5-12 inches of rain were reported with some downpours dropping 2-plus inches an hour. The resulting floods destroyed business, displaced residents and washed out roads.

Ludlow, perhaps the worst hit town in the region, remained inaccessible on Tuesday, July 11.

Widespread flooding caused devastation to just about every business and several homes.

Banyai owes fines totaling \$100,600 plus \$200/day until property is compliant

A Vermont judge has ordered the arrest of Daniel Banyai, the owner of the paramilitary training facility Slate Ridge in West Pawlet.

In a decision issued Thursday, July 6, Judge Thomas Durkin of the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court found that Banyai is in contempt of a March 2021 court order that required him to remove unpermitted buildings on his property.



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger
Daniel Banyai

Former Woodstock Union High School coach sues district over termination

A Catholic Woodstock Union High School snowboard coach who was fired for expressing his views against transgender students competing in sports is suing the district for violating his freedom of speech and due process rights.

Dave Bloch filed a complaint on July 17 at the U.S. District Court of Vermont, explaining he was terminated on Feb. 9 — just before the end of the season — for expressing his views, based on religious beliefs, that males and females have different biology.

Giolito returns to KSAR as director

Killington's search and rescue team (KSAR) has a familiar face as its new director.

Bob Giolito, 48, one of the founders of Killington Search and Rescue returned to the organization as the volunteer director.

He was appointed to the position at a Select Board meeting on Tuesday, July 11 to direct the program under Killington Police Chief Whit Montgomery.

The appointment came after dozens of KSAR members resigned after conflicts with the fire chief. The former KSAR members formed another search and rescue team.



By Glenn Russell/VTigger

An antique truck was swallowed in Williams River in the July flood. The state qualified for federal aid due to costly damages.



By Glenn Russell/VTigger

Water pools over the road in Ludlow, a town that suffered bad infrastructure damages during the July flood.



By Glenn Russell/VTigger

Main Street in Ludlow was closed to traffic while crews worked around the clock to remove the piles of sediment from roads.

AUGUST

It's been a wet summer, what does that mean for fall foliage?

Vermont forests have experienced floodwaters, a general excess of moisture, wildfire smoke, unexpected frost and heat waves this growing season. Still, according to state officials, none of those conditions are expected to disrupt the fall foliage season.

"In general, things look really good," said Josh Halman, forest health program manager for the Vermont Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation.

Rutland city to reduce traffic lanes on Routes 4 and 7

After years of discussion, Rutland City officials are reducing traffic lanes on Route 4 and Route 7 in 2024.

The Board of Highway Commissioners voted 2-1 on Aug. 28 to reduce the lanes from four to two with a center turn lane.



Submitted

Katelyn Stewart, a stylist, opened a new salon in Killington.

Seventh Heaven Salon is now in former Mountain Cuts building

The July flood brought a new salon to Killington.

Owner Peggy Campney and stylist Katelyn Stewart opened Seventh Heaven Salon & Spa at the former Mountain Cuts building on Route 4 in Killington after their space in Ludlow flooded on July 10.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Gene Syria, Killington's longest-tenured employee, retired after 46 years.

Killington holds retirement party for Gene Syria

Killington Resort's longest-tenured team member is calling it a career after 46 years working at The Beast. Gene Syria first took a seasonal job working on the old Killington Gondola in 1977 on the referral of a friend, but he recalls getting the job initially wasn't quite that simple.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Mac's Market to get new owner

Mac's Market is under contract with a new owner.

The family-owned grocery store, with locations in Woodstock, Stowe and Essex, is in the process of being acquired by the Associated Grocers of New England.

"We're under agreement with them," said Mike Violette, the president and CEO of Associated Grocers. "Our plan right now is, we're looking toward purchasing the stores and closing Nov. 7."

The ownership change happend after a Mac's Market location in Rochester closed.

Mtn bikers show up despite rain

The rainy summer didn't diswade many from come to ride at Killington Resort's bike part. The resort said ridership was nearly equal to the past two years.

SEPTEMBER



U.S. Open of MTB returns

Killington Resort again welcomed back the best mountain bikers in the world Sept. 23 to compete in best whip, downhill, slalom and enduro races.

Spartans conquer the Beast

Killington's Spartan race is among the toughest on the circuit drawing thousands.



Thousands competed in the Spartan obstacle course races in Killington mid-September each year. This year temps were nice.

Railroad repairs near completion on Vermont's flood-damaged networks

Vermont's freight railroads took a beating in July's floods. But rail officials say repairs are happening quickly, and the lines that are still damaged should be back on track soon.

Farmers report \$12M in damage, survey finds

A new Vermont survey shows more than 200 farmers had damages totaling over \$12 million in the July flood. There was damage to more than 18,000 acres.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets sent out the survey to understand the scale of the damage throughout the state in early July.

Around 205 farmers responded to the survey as of Aug. 15. Rutland County farmers sustained an estimated \$391,000 and Windsor County farmers sustained around \$1.1 million in damages, according to the survey. Addison County also saw significant losses, with farmers reporting around \$2 million in damages.



Submitted
Farmers throughout Vermont saw \$12m in flood damage.

Woodstock puts pause on short-term rentals

Woodstock is temporarily suspending short-term rental and bed and breakfast permits while the Planning Commission reviews enforcement and compliance issues.

The Woodstock Select Board voted unanimously Aug. 15 to suspend short term rental and bed and breakfast applications for six months, starting Oct. 1 and ending March 31.

Killington receives state's largest Catalyst Grant for economic development

Towns seeking funding to improve stormwater infrastructure and municipal water systems topped the list of Catalyst Grant grant recipients in Vermont this year with Killington receiving the largest award at \$2.25 million, followed by Wilmington and North Hero, each with \$1 million.

Killington's grant will be used toward planned infrastructure improvements including a municipal water system and a redesigned roadway system which is required for the development of the Six Peaks Killington Village project (a village at the base of the ski resort).

A grant of \$2,250,000 was awarded to these Killington projects, which totals \$23,602,436 according to the grant application.

By Paul Holmes

OCTOBER



The remaining western portion of College of St. Joseph was officially purchased by Casella on Sept. 27; they now own it all.

Casella buys rest of College of St. Joseph's campus

A year after buying the eastern portion of the former College of St. Joseph (CSJ) campus, Casella Waste Systems has purchased the western portion, making them the sole owner of the property.

Casella bought the remainder of the campus from Heritage Family Credit Union for \$750,000 on Sept. 27, Rutland City records show.

Great Gulf announces design team for Killington Village

Killington village developer Great Gulf announced Thursday, Sept. 28, that the world-renowned Safdie Architects and PWP Landscape Architecture have been chosen as the design team for the future village at the base of Snowshed and Ramshead at Killington Resort.

Also, Thursday, Great Gulf launched an updated website for the Killington project: LiveKillington.com.



Submitted
The Pittsford Haunted House celebrated its 40th year.

Pittsford Haunted house returns for 40th year

Now, returning for its 40th anniversary, the Pittsford Haunted House sees up to 1,000 people a night on average and it raises up to \$30,000 a year for the fire department.

Plymouth gets new store after 11 years

After 11 years, Plymouth has a new store on Route 100. Chloe's Market and gas station, formerly the Plymouth Country Store, opened Oct. 3, giving a long-vacant stretch on Route 100 new life.



SALES FOR JANUARY 2024

Items on sale Jan. 1-31, 2024



Visit 802spirits.com for locations and details.

Not responsible for typographical errors



TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$38.99
SAVE \$4.00



JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$53.99
SAVE \$6.00



SVEDKA VODKA
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$18.99
SAVE \$8.00



BACARDI SUPERIOR RUM
750ML

SALE PRICE
\$10.99
SAVE \$5.00



HENDRICK'S GIN
750ML

SALE PRICE
\$36.99
SAVE \$4.00



MAKER'S MARK BOURBON WHISKEY
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$54.99
SAVE \$3.00



ABSOLUT VODKA
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$37.99
SAVE \$5.00



FIREBALL CINNAMON WHISKY
750ML

SALE PRICE
\$12.99
SAVE \$3.00



BOMBAY SAPPHIRE GIN
750ML

SALE PRICE
\$21.99
SAVE \$4.00



HORNITOS PLATA TEQUILA
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$41.99
SAVE \$3.00



PINNACLE VODKA
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$21.99
SAVE \$3.00



KAHLUA COFFEE LIQUEUR
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$44.99
SAVE \$5.00



FIREBALL CINNAMON WHISKY PET
750ML

SALE PRICE
\$12.99
SAVE \$3.00



CROWN ROYAL
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$53.99
SAVE \$5.00



MALIBU RUM
1.75L

SALE PRICE
\$31.99
SAVE \$3.00

This ad is paid for by Vt. Liquor Brokers or individual companies.

NOVEMBER

Another real estate record has been broken in Killington

A newly built five bedroom, 5.5-bathroom house with three stories on Trailside Drive sold for a record breaking \$3.75 million on Oct. 31.

The 6,048 square-foot home with ski-on,ski-off access to the Great Eastern trail, was listed for \$3.5 million on March 1 and sold above asking price on March 10. The home sits on just under an acre of land.

Woodstock looks to replace star

The 80-year-old illuminated star that shines above the Woodstock Village in the winter from top of Mt. Tom is getting replaced next spring.

The Woodstock Rotary Club is raising \$120,000 to turn the wood structure into a galvanized steel structure, ensuring the beacon will continue for generations.

Paul Gallo named Volunteer of the Year

When CEDRR named Paul Gallo, 61, its Volunteer of the Year on Tuesday, Nov. 14, no one was surprised — everyone who admired him was delighted. Except, perhaps, Paul Gallo himself.



Submitted

Paul Gallo was named the CEDRR volunteer of the year

Suspect arrested in shooting of 3 Palestinian American students

Burlington Police say they have arrested a suspect in the shooting Saturday night that wounded three young Palestinian American men. The three men, all 20 years old, were in Burlington visiting relatives of one of the men over the Thanksgiving holiday when the shooting took place around 6:30 p.m. Saturday on North Prospect Street.

Shiffrin dominates, secures historic 90th World Cup win

Mikaela Shiffrin won the Killington Cup Slalom again — her sixth victory in seven years.

After winning her historic 89th World Cup in Levi, Finland in October, she extended her World Cup wins to 90, taking gold in the Slalom on Sunday, Nov. 26 in Killington, beating her Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova by 0.33 seconds. Swiss skier Wendy Holdener took third.



By Dave Young

A home on Trailside Drive sold for \$3.75 million in October, breaking a record for high price in the mountain town.



By Jerry LeBlond

Mikaela Shiffrin won her 90th World Cup in Killington.

Remembering:

Jeffrey Cushing, 73

It's with great sadness and a heavy heart that we announce the death of a great guy, Jeffrey Cushing. Jeff Cushing was 73, a resident of Killington Vermont, who peacefully passed away on Oct. 22 surrounded by loved ones. He fought a courageous three year battle with cancer.

Ken Squier, 88

Ken Squier, an American broadcasting legend and a beloved champion of Vermont, died on Nov. 15, following a brief illness. Squier, who spent most of his life in Waterbury and Stowe, was 88 years old.

Richard Moore, 78

Richard Moore, of Glastonbury, Connecticut and Rutland, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 8. He was the beloved husband of Helen Krzyczynski. Rick was born Jan. 26, 1945 in Prospect Park, Pennsylvania, to Noah and Hilda (Stahle) Moore. In 1981 he founded Richard Moore Construction in Killington and served as its president until his retirement in 2022. Moore Construction was known for building one-of-a-kind exceptional custom homes in the area but primarily Killington, a number of significant condominium communities and a number of commercial buildings and lodges associated with the Killington Ski Resort during its various stages of growth.



Courtesy Downtown Rutland Partnership



Mayor Doenges greets Santa

Mike Doenges shakes Santa Claus' hand in depot part during a tree lighting celebration.

Governor: 18.5% increase in property taxes is 'unacceptable'

The Vermont Dept. of Taxes is projecting a whopping 18.5% increase in residents' property tax rates, a spike that Gov. Phil Scott quickly seized on, calling for lawmakers to address the state's "affordability crisis" as soon as the information was released, Nov. 30.

Rutland jury finds former child care provider guilty of fatally medicating infant

Stacey Vaillancourt was convicted of manslaughter and child cruelty at the end of a five-day trial, Dec. 1. A former child care provider in Rutland was found guilty Friday, Dec. 1, of causing a child's death by giving the infant a sedative, which the defendant denied doing when she took the stand earlier that day.

A Rutland County jury found Vaillancourt guilty of both manslaughter and child cruelty resulting in the death of 6-month-old Harper Rose Briar in 2019. She faces up to 25 years in prison at her sentencing, which has yet to be scheduled.



Stacey Vaillancourt of Ludlow was convicted of manslaughter and child cruelty at the end of a five-day trial, Dec. 1 after the death of 6-month-old Harper Rose Briar in 2019.

By Tiffany Tan/VTDigger

DECEMBER

Flood waters rise again

Heavy rain and melting snow inundated much of Vermont on Monday, Dec. 18, leading to swift-water rescues, evacuations, road closures and early school dismissals. Many areas throughout the state received 2 to 2.5 inches, according to Jessica Neiles, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Burlington office. (Locally, preliminary reports from Quechee were the highest at 2.9 inches.)

The heavy rainfall was exacerbated by a number of factors, Neiles said: high temperatures, an abundance of fresh snow and frozen ground that could not absorb runoff. "Rainfall on top of snowpack is usually not a good thing," she said.

At a press conference late Monday afternoon, Gov. Phil Scott said that while the state was prepared, the extend of the flooding was unexpected.

"But it hit me by surprise," he said.

Agency of Education spokesperson Ted Fisher said many schools and supervisory unions called for early dismissals — the majority were located in Washington, Orange and Windsor counties. Mountain Views School district, serving the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock, closed at noon.

Ludlow businessman arrested in NYC for alleged fraudulent construction contracts

A Ludlow businessman was arrested Thursday, Dec. 14 in New York City on federal charges for unlawfully securing commercial construction contracts.

Troy Caruso, 56, owner of multiple businesses in Ludlow and the CEO of a New York City-based construction firm, McAlpine Contracting, faces one count of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud and one count of honest services wire fraud, both carrying a potential maximum prison sentence of 20 years.

Caruso bought a second home in Ludlow about 13 years ago and quickly began acquiring businesses around 2021. First, he purchased the former Okemo Valley Golf Club for \$2.71 million and renamed it Fox Run. He then bought a slew of restaurants, including Calcutta's, LaTavolta, Off the Rails, Sam's Steakhouse and Mr. Darcy's. He also owns the former Tater Hill Golf Club in Chester. Caruso said in previous interviews he planned to demolish Sam's Steakhouse and Mr. Darcy's after both were damaged in July flooding.

The charges allege Caruso was involved in a kickback scheme with business partner John Nolan, a senior executive at McAlpine Contracting.

The U.S. Department of Justice alleges the duo bribed a senior project manager at a Fortune 500 commercial real estate firm between February 2021 and September 2023. Caruso's company then reportedly secured a \$3.55 million construction contract for a health services business after manipulating the bidding process. Caruso and Nolan paid the real estate firm employee \$35,500 in bribes and \$33,000 in kickbacks.

Caruso planned to invest far more in the Ludlow community, including luxury senior housing units and a hotel. "Fox Run has plans for two subsequent phases of expansions to develop the 120 unimproved acres on the property," Caruso told the New England Real Estate Journal in 2021.



Submitted

Wilco's "Cousin" album cover is artistic and evocative.



Submitted

Jess Klein's "When We Rise" album hits a new high this year.



Submitted

Margo Price's "Straits II" blends genres of music masterfully.

Music review: Top 10 favorite albums of 2023

By Alan Sculley, Last Word Features

Not that long ago, this column was my attempt at a true best album ranking. But with the internet proliferating the number of album releases each year, one writer can't realistically compile a best album list encompassing every genre (including styles a writer respects more than likes, which for me includes hip-hop, jazz and today's mainstream pop). So I've settled on choosing my favorite albums from 2023, a year that didn't have a clear best album, but was exceptionally deep in quality releases.

1. Wilco: "Cousin"

Working with an outside producer for the first time since 2007's "Sky Blue Sky" – Cate Le Bon — this gifted band created a full-bodied work that incorporates a kaleidoscopic range of instrumentation and sounds. The sonic ear candy is fun, but the songs at their core are strong and often disarming, making "Cousin" an excellent addition to Wilco's formidable catalog.

2. Jess Klein: "When We Rise"

Klein has been releasing worthy albums since 1998. Now, a dozen albums into her career, she has hit a new high point, with a stellar album that meets at the intersection of rock, Americana and pop. Frisky songs like "Athena," "Never Gonna Break Me" and the title track are plenty catchy. "Safe Harbor" and "in The Arms of a Song" show Klein also has a way with rich balladry, while her folk roots shine in "That Was My Family" (an at-times wrenching immigration tale) and "Steal Away." How is Klein not a star?

3. Margo Price: "Straits II"

Seeming less bound by genres, Price readily mixes pop with rock on "The Mountain," crafts pretty piano-led pop ballads in "County Road" and "Anytime You Call," along with frisky roots rock ("Straits" and "Burn Whatever's Left") and more rustic fare ("Malibu" and "Where Did We Go Wrong"). You'll want to adopt these strays.

4. Wilsn: "Those Days Are Over"

This artist from Melbourne, Australia (real name Shannon Busch) sounds like she could have been raised in Memphis, recording during the 1960s for Stax Records. On this 13-track debut, she leans confidently into classic soul, but adds a modern pop accent while offering a nice balance of energetic and hooky songs, percolating mid-tempo tunes and stirring ballads.

5. Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit: "Weathervanes"

Isbell again shows his considerable story-telling talent on "Weathervanes," whether it's with the portrait of an unhinged lover ("Death Wish"), the tale of murder and family dysfunction ("Cast Iron Skillet") or any of the several other tales of lives on the precipice of defeat or heading down wrong paths. The music is just as impactful, whether it's light shuffle and soaring vocal that propels "Middle of

the Morning," the lovely violin-accented mid-tempo "King of Oklahoma," or the sturdy rock of "When We Were Close." In other words, "Weathervanes" is the kind of fine album we've come to expect from Isbell.

6. Olivia Rodrigo: "Guts"

Coming off a blockbuster debut album in "Sour," Rodrigo had set the bar high for her sophomore album. But there's no slump with "Guts," as she grows bolder with this 12-song effort. The songs are plenty edgy lyrically, but musically they're generally sweet, as Rodrigo rocks out on "All-American Bitch," goes a bit old-school pop on "Pretty Isn't Pretty" and verges on elegance on "Vampire" and the ballad "Making the Bed."

7. Foo Fighters: "But Here We Are"

The band's first album since the tragic death of drummer Taylor Hawkins finds Dave Grohl and company sounding as vital as ever. There's nothing particularly groundbreaking here – just more of the smartly crafted robust rock fans have come to expect.

8. The High Divers: "Should I Be Worried?"

On their third proper studio album, The High Divers show an uncommon ability to craft highly developed, multi-faceted songs that draw from rock, pop and Americana while eluding easy categorizing.

9. Matt Andersen: "The Big Bottle of Joy"

Andersen may be from Canada, but he knows a few things about Southern soul, blues and gospel, as he deftly blends these influences on a dozen nicely varied tracks that have strong melodies and plenty of tasty guitar and keyboard work.

10. Iggy Pop: "Every Loser"

The man that 50 years ago helped pioneer punk is up to his usual tricks, cranking out hard-hitting but always-catchy rockers and moodier yet punchy fare.

Honorable Mention

Here are 30 more albums that make up the next tier of my favorites – and there's not much separating them from the top 10.

- Carolina Story: "Colors of My Mind" (Some of the year's most melodically memorable Americana songs fill this duo's third album.);
- Nick Frater: "Bivouac" (Twenty-three hooky power pop songs – some of which are brief tunes woven into mini medleys or musical transitions -- make "Bivouac" a colorful trip.);
- Miley Cyrus: "Endless Summer Vacation" (Cyrus combines her gift for pop melody with the kind of intelligent lyrics that aren't that common in top 40 pop.);
- Mando Diao: "Boblikovs Magical World" (Swedish rockers' 11th album is an adventurous effort with

catchy songs that bend hard-hitting rock and edgy alt-pop in unique ways.);

- Drayton Farley: "Twenty On High" (Thoughtful folk-rock in the vein of Jason Isbell);
- Panthervision: "Now in 3-D" (Arguably the catchiest power pop album of 2023, think of a harder rocking Go-Go's.);
- Brandy Clark: "Brandy Clark" (Pretty meets gritty on this Americana/country gem with lyrics that range from searing to tender.);
- Anabel Lee: "Mother's Hammer" (Ambitious, edgy, catchy and at times quirky rock/pop that feels like Fiona Apple meets Courtney Barnett);
- Blondshell: "Blondshell" (Sabrina Mae Teitelbaum's darkly hued, deliberate and frequently tense rock makes for a striking musical combination.);
- Grace Potter: "Mother Road" (A feisty theme album that's rocking, funky, soulful, a bit twangy and just plain good.);
- Danny Liston: "Everybody" (Really sweet Southern blues and soul);
- William Matheny: "That Grand, Old Feeling" (Thoughtful rootsy rock and pop with sturdy melodies);
- The Shang Hi Los: "Aces Eights & Heartbreaks" (Sunny and punchy power pop);
- U.S. Rails: "Live For Another Day" (Tuneful, hearty rocking Americana); Ally Venable "Real Gone" (This potent effort should propel Venable to the forefront of the blues scene.);
- Katie Wighton: "The End" (Sweet melodies paired with some biting lyrics make this solo debut feel like the start of something special – not an ending.);
- Lucinda Williams: "Stories from a Rock 'n' Roll Heart" (Williams rocks out, while mixing in several sturdy ballads on this fun effort);
- Odds: "Crash The Time Machine" (The reunited band shines with this diverse set of finely developed pop songs.);
- Mya Byrne: "Rhinestone Tomboy" (Excellent Americana that spans winsome balladry, sturdy midtempo tunes and fuzzed-up rock);
- Parkington Sisters: "Collide" (An uncommonly pretty Americana/roots rock outing with rich harmonies);
- TV Party: "Psychic Driving" (Consistently catchy rocking guitar pop with new wave, psychedelic and glam accents);
- Mothboxer: "Breathe" (Dave Ody and company return with another album of distinctive, highly melodic pop.)

Slow listening: a return to how we used to enjoy music

By Bill Forman, Last Word Features

Last September at a Goldman Sachs-sponsored technology conference in San Francisco, Warner Music Group CEO Steve Cooper made what, for many, was a startling claim. Spotify and its competitors, he said, have now reached the point where 100,000 tracks are uploaded to their streaming music platforms every... single... day.

Think about that. If you listened to one new song today, that leaves 99,999 others that you've completely ignored, some of which are probably really good.

Inevitably, this unprecedented overload of information is provoking an opposite, albeit unequal, reaction. In a move that takes its cues from the "back to vinyl" movement, a growing number of consumers are just saying no to streaming music algorithms.

Think of it as "slow listening," the audio equivalent of slow-cooking, but much easier to pull off. But before we get to how it works, let's take a moment to put all this into a historical context.

Back to the future

Back in the mid-1960s, when full-length albums were first beginning to replace seven-inch singles as music fans' format of choice, the record industry was releasing just 5,000 albums a year. Recording and pressing albums was, after all, an expensive undertaking. That, combined with the fact that many artists were cranking out more than one album a year, made it relatively easy for teen music fanzines like "Hit Parader" and "Tiger Beat," bribe-hungry radio deejays like Alan Freed, and devoted fans like your parents (or grandparents), to keep track of what was happening in the music world.

Four decades and numerous formats later, that music world was a far more sophisticated, and lucrative, enterprise. During his keynote address at Apple's 2001 product pep rally, Steve Jobs paced the stage in his trademark black turtleneck and Levi's 501 jeans, building suspense for what would turn out to be an industry game-changer.

"This amazing little device holds a thousand songs, and it fits right in my pocket," he said, holding up a shiny new iPod prototype for all to see. "This is a quantum leap," he continued, "because for most people, this is their entire record collection."

As with so many other technological innovations, that once-revolutionary device and its 1,000 tracks now seem quaintly archaic. Especially now that Apple Music hosts more than 100 million tracks, many of which are said to be quite good. Rumor has it you can even upload your own music to the internet!

Siri, skip track

In his 1964 book "Understanding Media," the pop-culture philosopher Marshall McLuhan wrote about how radio was shifting "from an entertainment medium into a kind of nervous information system."

As it turned out, terrestrial radio couldn't finish the job alone, which may be why hundreds of stations today are experiencing, as one industry tip-sheet put it, "negative advertising growth." Meanwhile, the command "Siri, skip track" is being uttered by someone, somewhere in the world, every three seconds. (Full disclosure: I totally made up that last part, but you get the point.)

Psychologists have labeled this phenomenon the "paradox of choice," where a seemingly infinite number of options exponentially increases the likelihood that you'll be dissatisfied with whichever you end up choosing.

Streaming music algorithms are understandably concerned about this. After all, they've gone to the trouble of passing their Turing Test, developing an intimate relationship with your musical subconscious, and sorting

through a hundred thousand daily uploads to find the ones that are perfect for you. And now you act like you don't appreciate them.

Streaming music company executives are also concerned, both about profits and perception.

Earlier this month, when Apple Music announced its 100,000,000-track milestone, company spokesperson Rachel Newman addressed the matter in not entirely uncertain terms: "At Apple Music, human curation has always been the core to everything we do, both in ways you can see, like our editorial playlists; and ways you can't, like the human touch that drives our recommendation algorithms," she said. "With such a huge expanse of songs, we know you need someone there to guide you through. Gone are the days of hitting shuffle on your library. Now it's on us to help you discover new favorites and rediscover forgotten gems."

All of which brings us back to slow listening, a concept that has nothing to do with beats-per-minute and everything to do with regaining your sanity. If you or someone you love is suffering from audio-induced attention-deficit order, be sure to read the next section.

Slow listening made easy

Here's how it works. First, cancel your Spotify account. Then, do the same with your Apple Music account. Also, Pandora, Amazon Unlimited, Tidal, Quobuz, and anything else you can think of. Do this now.

Back so soon? Good job! Now it's time to commit yourself to avoiding these platforms for a period of at least 21 days, which researchers have determined is the amount of time it takes to break a bad habit.

Yes, this is a sacrifice, but one that will pay off in the long run. Soon you'll find yourself able to listen to full verses, repetitious choruses and pointless bridges, as you patiently

await the next track.

Here are the five easy steps you can take to do all that and more.

1. Go to a record store. If you search Google Maps, you'll be surprised by how many record stores you can find within a 50-mile radius. And while you may not find John Cusack behind the counter at all of them, you will hear real music, curated by real record store clerks. Now go up to the counter and ask the name of the album they're playing. Whatever it is, buy it, bring it home, sit down, and listen to it all the way. Not once, but several times. Slow listening is all about commitment. You can do this.

2. Listen to the radio. No, you don't have to go out and buy one, although you can if you want to. Instead, download the Radio Garden app. A modern-day equivalent to short-wave radio, its Google Earth-like interface is totally addictive. Just spin the virtual globe, zoom in on any geographic region that piques your interest, and then click on one of the many green dots, each representing a real local radio station that you can listen to in real time. Lately, I've been tuning in to "Shirley and Spinoza." A station out of Dali, China, it offers a mesmerizing mix of intentionally forgotten records, artful electronic manipulation, and avant-garde sound collages that, at turns, can be breathtaking (and, in their worst, unlistenable). The show is hosted by a pair of expats who'd previously run a low-power FM radio station in Northern California and performed in Negativland, an art-damaged San Francisco band that's best-known for trolling U2 into suing them.

3. Watch YouTube: According to a Pew Research Center poll, YouTube is currently the most popular app among teens, with nearly 95% using it more than any other service, and one-fifth of them saying they use it "almost constantly." Why do you think that is? No one knows. But what we do know is that YouTube has one of the absolute worst recommendation algorithms of all time, which in a tailored-to-fit world of streaming music services, makes it kind of refreshing.

4. Buy an iPod: This past May, after 20 years on the market, Apple discontinued its last iPod model, and the world breathed a collective sigh of indifference. Thankfully, you can still pick one up cheap on eBay. Look for the first generation, the one that will hold up to 1,000 tracks, because that's all you really need.

5. Get Sirius: Many of us view SiriusXM as a crass attempt to get people to install satellite tuners in their cars, turn Starbucks into a safe haven for indie-elevator music and cater to the kind of people who like Howard Stern. And it is all of those things.

But it's also a surprisingly good alternative to those streaming music apps you just deleted from your iPhone. While the majority of its 274 stations aren't exactly innovative, there are still a number of must-hear, human-curated shows like Diplo's "Global House Party," Furious Five MC Scorpio's "International Rap," and Black 47 frontman Larry Kirwan's "Celtic Crush." You'll also find stations devoted to everything from Hindi pop and bhangra beats to 24-hour trucking news and Francophone holiday music. In most cases, there's no way to skip to the next track.

Which is pretty much the point.



By Maria Jose Govea

Diplo's SiriusXM station is one of the places to go to escape getting sucked into trying to keep up with the avalanche of new songs getting released each day.

Mid-decade changes

It's the week between Christmas and New Year, where you don't know what day of the week it is nor what you should be doing.

On the one hand, the astrology of this week supports taking it easy and letting the atmosphere of the season take a hold.

On the other hand, you may be loath to get too comfortable because once the fog clears, things will look different.

A Full Moon in Cancer highlights home and hearth, kin and clan. A time to bask in and reflect the joy of what connectedness with those you care about really means. I

do implore you to revel in this as much as you can, but at the same time, don't take it for granted.

The peace you enjoy today didn't come for free.

The peace you want to enjoy tomorrow will come at a price.

This week defines the moment where we exit the early 2020s and nose dive into the mid-decade changes that will carry us through into the 2030s.

While this week may feel foggy and confusing, take the opportunity to realign yourself

with what is true for you and what may be required of you to defend it.



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

The painting of the New Year

It all begins with a twinkle,
The sun starts to rise,
Painting its colorful picture of
new year.

The shining sun rises,
The glowing moon falls,
The sky sparkles.

The snow glitters,
All sparkly and white,
The sky paints its picture,
For all to see.

The beautiful new year begins,
With a glistening sky,
The world stops and listens,

Birds sing happy songs,
The light sound of snow falling,
And over all these sounds,

Laughter,
Kindness,
And joy.

The world is so much happier,
When we spread,
Joy,
Love,

And Kindness,
Spread happiness and every-
one will be happy,
Including you.



Poetry Is Power
By Bree Sarandrea

A kid's winter back in the '50s

If you were a kid in Rutland back in the 50s, how did you spend your winter?

I will guarantee you that it wasn't spent inside looking at a digital device!

We were outside for the majority of the day even if was snowing. There is an expression that goes "There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!" Our mothers knew how to dress us for any kind of weather.

I grew up on a street that had about a dozen kids in the neighborhood. There was always someone to play with. We never telephoned one another we just knocked on our friends' doors and asked them to come out. There was never a refusal to our invitation for some fun!

If the snow was sticky it was time to build a snowman. Parents found scarves, hats and carrots missing as we made our snowman come to life. While the girls were doing that the boys were building forts from big balls of snow. Such simple things kept us busy for hours on end.

Many of the streets around Howard Avenue were not developed in those days. The terrain was hilly in places which meant great sledding. We loved going from

Howard down to Easterly via the current Taft Avenue which had no houses on it back then. The top section of Easterly had a hill that went down into Piedmont.

That was another great place to go sledding.

Our sleds were wooden with ropes on the front to drag them back up the hill so we could slide down it once again. On the cold days our mothers put so many layers of clothes on us that it was difficult to get on and off the sleds. They made sure that we weren't cold!

A round silver-colored metal coaster was another popular option for sliding down the hills. You held onto straps as you coasted down. You could steer a little by shifting your body weight but it was pretty much a "straight down" event. The icier the snow, the faster we went!

My father made me a wooden "jack jumper" which is basically a short ski with a seat attached to it that sits on a post. The ski was handmade by him. As I kid I didn't realize how talented and creative my father was. Everyone wanted to give the jack jumper a try.

Looking back → 49

Six-legged creatures of the winter stream

One winter day, while teaching a winter ecology class, I pulled on waders and rubber gloves, grabbed a catch net, and led my "Minibeasts of the Stream" program, discovering a rich variety of insects in the frigid waters of Kedron Brook in South Woodstock, Vermont.

Insects are abundant in winter streams because they are able to find food and, on most days, the water is warmer than the surrounding land. Many species hatch in time to consume autumn leaves and the bacteria that grow on them.

Winter light penetrates through naked tree crowns, allowing diatoms (single-celled algae) to flourish on rocks, becoming food for grazing insects.

Insect species that rely on streams for some stage of their life cycle overwinter in the forms of eggs, larvae, or nymphs. Most insect life cycles include egg, larva, pupa and adult. Many aquatic insects, however, move from egg to nymph to adult, with the nymphal stage developing through several instars.

Crane flies, caddisflies, and riffle beetles overwinter as larvae, while stoneflies, mayflies, dragonflies, and damselflies survive as nymphs. Black flies overwinter as eggs, hatching sequentially by species from late winter through summer. Most mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies develop in a single season, with mayflies living only a few days as adults. (The names of true flies – in the order Diptera – are spelled as two words, as in "crane fly." Those that are not true flies are one word; for example, "caddisfly.")

Winter survival requires moving around in the stream to avoid frigid waters, but the cold-tolerance of some aquatic insects is truly impressive: mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies can survive body temperatures as low as 19.4 degrees.

Crawling amid the rocks, soft-bodied caddisfly larvae weave ingenious silk tubes into mobile dwellings. Depending on the species and age (some larvae use different materials as they grow), they typically glue sand, leaf pieces, or small sticks onto the outsides of these silk tubes. Brachycentrus, the log cabin caddisfly, fashions a square home of minute plant parts. One genus, the Helicopsyche, was originally classified as a snail because its spiral case of minute sand grains is shaped like a nautilus.

Crane flies overwinter as 2-inch larvae that absorb oxygen through the skin and have an appendage that serves as a snorkel. In springtime, they transform into non-biting, nectar-sipping "mosquito hawks" that hover in shady places or flutter on screen doors at night. One of the most strikingly

beautiful insects, the black-winged damselfly, also called ebony jewelwing, spends winter stalking prey as an aquatic nymph before transforming into an elegant adult during the growing season.

Turn over a rock in a winter stream, and you will likely find stonefly or mayfly nymphs which, along with the water penny (riffle beetle larva), have flattened shapes, which allow them to cling closely to rocks in fast water. This 1- to 3-millimeter space around the rock, the boundary layer – where friction between rock and water slows the current significantly – becomes thicker in winter because cold water is more viscous.

Generally, mayflies are herbivorous, and stoneflies carnivorous. Sifting through submerged vegetation, however, you may encounter a nymph of one of the giant stoneflies, genus Allonarcyus, which feed largely on plants and plant debris. The 2-inch nymphs may take several years to mature.

And then there are marvels of nature that outdo the most stalwart winter-lovers among us: awe-inspiring adult winter stoneflies that creep along the frosty snow in search of mates. On sunny days from January through April, the nymphs emerge from streams and transform into tiny (1/2-inch) adults with dark brown to black exoskeletons that absorb the sun's heat. Their body fluids contain a natural antifreeze of sugars, proteins, and glycerol.

Less likable, perhaps, are black flies, of which New Hampshire and Vermont each harbor more than 50 species. Some overwinter as eggs that hatch into larvae in early springtime. Others overwinter as larvae, forming pupae from which adults emerge in April and May. The tiny larvae have bulbous butts that they anchor to submerged objects using silk threads, sticky saliva, and more than 100 hooks arrayed in a radial pattern. Sieve-like hairs projecting from each side of the head strain food including algae, tiny animals, and plant debris from the water. Only a few species of black flies bite people.

While we two-legged denizens of the North Country pride ourselves on being hardy and adaptable to the vicissitudes of Jack Frost, we don't hold a candle to the intrepid six-legged critters that prowl the streams of winter.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is the author of Pond and Brook: A Guide to Nature in Freshwater Environments. 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: www.nhcf.org.



The Outside Story
By Michael J. Caduto



It's just like starting over

Well, it's that time of year again. Another 12 months have passed, and we are now faced with that year-end tradition of reflecting on what's transpired. Are you a better person on Dec. 31 than you were on Jan. 1 of this past year? Did you improve your health? Did you break a bad habit? Did you make amends?

Ok, maybe you fell short in 2023, but the New Year is just around the corner, so now is the time to plan for your 2024 resolutions, just like mankind has done for thousands of years.

The practice of making resolutions at the start of a new year dates back over 4,000 years to ancient Babylon. The Babylonians celebrated the New Year during the first new moon after the vernal equinox (in late March). Their resolutions were often promises made to the gods to repay debts and return borrowed items.

Similarly, ancient Romans made promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. Janus was the god of beginnings and transitions, often depicted with two faces – one looking to the past and the other to the future.

Romans believed that by making promises to Janus, they would receive his blessings for the upcoming year.

In Celtic and Wiccan traditions, the festival of Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It was considered a time of reflection and spiritual connection, where individuals set intentions for the upcoming year. Neopagans have continued this tradition into modern times.

In Jewish traditions, Rosh Hashanah marks the New Year, with Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) following shortly afterward. During this period, individuals reflect on their actions over the past year, seek forgiveness, and make resolutions for self-improvement in the coming year.

The Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is a time when people in China and other East Asian countries make resolutions for the coming year. This includes setting goals for personal and professional development and expressing hopes for good fortune and prosperity.

Nowruz is the Persian New Year and is celebrated by many cultures in the Middle East and Central Asia. Like other New Year celebrations, people in this culture make resolutions to improve their lives and relationships.

Similarly in the Middle East are the Yezidi people, an ethno-religious group known

for a tradition called "Vows of the Peacock Angel." During the New Year, individuals make vows to the Peacock Angel, Tawusi Melek, expressing their commitment to virtues like truthfulness, charity, and compassion.

In the 19th Century during the Victorian era, New Year's resolutions often focused on etiquette and manners. Popular publications provided guidance on how individuals could improve their social standing and style in the coming year.

One of the more unusual New Year's resolution practices comes from a small town in Peru called Chumbivilcas. In Chumbivilcas, there is a tradition known as Takanakuy, which means "when the blood is boiling" in Quechua, the local indigenous language.

During the annual Takanakuy festival held on Dec. 25, community members gather in a designated fighting ring to settle grudges and conflicts from the past year. Participants, often dressed in colorful traditional clothing, engage in friendly, consensual fistfights as a way to release pent-up tensions and start the new year with a clean slate.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

Takanakuy is deeply rooted in the local culture, emphasizing reconciliation, forgiveness, and the resolution of conflicts through physical expression rather than harboring negative emotions.

While it may seem unusual, Takanakuy is deeply rooted in the local culture, emphasizing reconciliation, forgiveness, and the resolution of conflicts through physical expression rather than harboring negative emotions. The festival is considered a unique and communal way to promote unity within the community and ensure a fresh start in the coming year.

If you're looking for a roadmap to resolutions, perhaps you should consider Founding Father Benjamin Franklin's system of 13 virtues that he aimed to cultivate in his own character. These virtues, including temperance, silence, order, and humility, served as a form of personal improvement and moral development. Franklin tracked his progress daily, striving to live in accordance with these principles. If it worked for Ben, it might work for you!

However, if you're looking for an easy resolution, try resolving to visit the movie theater more often next year. I've been dismayed by how empty the theaters are these days and how few people take the time to travel out to enjoy communal entertainment.

Other than that, let me say, "Thanks." I appreciate the few moments of attention you give me each week when reading "The Movie Diary." Happy New Year!

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at moviediary@att.net.



New Year's resolutions

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from skiing. Right? Well, I have at least learned enough things from skiing that I should be able to translate those into my everyday life. Skiing teaches us so many things, like respect gets respect, body awareness and how (hopefully) to anticipate the reactions of others, to name a few. So while traditionally, my resolutions have been extremely on-snow based, I thought it might be time to see about transferring a few of those lessons into the real world.

Practice gratitude daily

It's funny, when winter rolls around I find gratitude so much easier to find. I am grateful to be in the mountains and skiing, no matter the conditions. I am grateful for r@*n, as it brings us a firmer, stronger base for all that snow. I am even grateful for death cookies, because they can be hilariously fun to ski. It's that whole "raised from ice" concept that New Englanders are famous for. It is always a good day when you're on skis. But ... I struggle to find gratitude in my non-ski life. Raised an academic, I was taught to critique everything rather than enjoying what life has to offer.

I started a gratitude practice after attending an international real estate conference and it has helped me open my eyes to the littlest things. All I do is start my day with two — just two — things that I am grateful for from either the previous day or what is going to happen. Like a great late night phone call with a friend or that the BF randomly made us sausage gravy and poached eggs for breakfast. That's pretty awesome stuff that I need to be thankful for.

Focus on the small things

I think about improving my skiing constantly. I analyze my ankle movements, how my center of gravity moves throughout the turn and am always focused on rotating my upper body in a counter rotative movement to my lower. Even something as tiny as a flick of the wrist can throw off form for a few turns. I ski so much that I can think of those things without even thinking about them. Small details to which I am always paying attention.

But those little things escape me when I'm home. Like putting my shoes immedi-

ately on the boot dryer when I get home so they're not lying in the middle of the room. Or putting my dirty dishes in the sink. A bad

habit from dormitory life, where everything stayed in your room at all times. If I can train my pinky toe to activate in a turn, then I think I can remember to put my clothes away before I go to bed. Little habits can make big changes in our lives, just like small movements can be the difference between on which level of the podium you stand.

Sometimes, you gotta do it twice to get it right

An instructor friend used this phrase to remind his students that we don't always get things right on the first try — nor, really, should we. Every time we try something new — a drastic change in snow surface, a brand new drill or a trail we've never skied before — we anticipate that there could be a struggle. It won't be easy the first time around and maybe not even the 10th. It takes a bit for your body and mind to adjust to the situation before moving forward productively.

Anticipating mistakes gives us the freedom to try that new thing, to go up to that new person and start a conversation, to try writing that novel or attending that paint and sip. It's okay to try and fail, it is okay to not be perfect and to accept the limitations of your mind and body. As long as you keep trying to move them forward. I am resolved to be more open to the challenges that life has in store for me, to approach a change in circumstances as I would a new trail. Like an adventure that I will be a lot better at the next run.

We spend so much of our time talking about what the resort should be doing to make our skiing experience better. But what if we took that energy (or at least some of it) and thought about what we could do to make ourselves and our community better? My head is always so focused on the mountain and being a skier, that I forget that I am a person as well. And so I am resolved to take the lessons learned on the mountain and bring them to life.

Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, KMS coach, bartender and local Realtor. She can be reached at female-skibum@gmail.com.



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

BEARDMORE PAINTING
 Commercial | Residential | Interior | Exterior



Derk Beardmore
 Box 251
 E. Wallingford, VT 05742
 802-353-9493
 beardmorepainting802@gmail.com

JW PLUMBING + HEATING
 Professional Service You Can Trust

802-770-8088 LICENSED & INSURED

www.JWplumb.com

THE KILLINGTON GROUP
 REAL ESTATE SERVICES

#1 RENTAL AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
 IN KILLINGTON FOR 45+ YEARS

- VACATION RENTALS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- CLEANING SERVICES

KILLINGTONGROUP.COM
 KILLINGTON ROAD - (802) 422-2300

WASHBURN & WILSON AGENCY, INC.
 144 Main St. • P.O. Box 77 • Bethel, VT 05032
 Providing Insurance for your Home, Auto or Business

Short Term Rentals • High Value Homes

Free Insurance Quotes

Call Mel or Matt 802-234-5188
 www.washburnandwilson.com

K&N Kitchen and Bath Design, LLC

- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Flooring
- Hardware
- Plumbing Fixtures
- Installation

Kelly & Nick | 802-245-4474
 125 Valley View Drive, Mendon, Vermont
 kndesigns125@gmail.com

MARBLE VALLEY FIRE

Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems
 Extinguisher Sales & Service

- Serving the Greater Rutland Area
- On-site Maintenance & Service
- Residential & Commercial
- Over 20 Years Experience

802-779-1928 | business@marblevalleyfire.com
 PO Box 1609, Rutland, VT 05701

Gauthier Home Services

Lee Gauthier
 leegauthierhandyman@outlook.com
 802-797-8269

- Property Maintenance and Preservation
- Interior & Exterior Repairs
- Small and odd jobs welcome
- 25+ years of experience
- Fully Insured



THE CLEANING CREW

Regular & Specialized Cleaning Services, for residential and commercial properties

- Carpet Cleaning
- Tile and Grout
- Upholstery
- Water Loss
- Appliances
- Wood floors
- And so much more!

Red Duck
 REFUSE & RECYCLING
 "We Refuse No Refuse"

Year Round . Seasonal . On-Demand . Bulk Pick-Up
 Residential Trash Pick Up Service to fit your needs

Serving all your cleaning and refuse needs since 1998. Call Today: 802-422-2230

CV OIL COMPANY, INC.

For All Your Home and Commercial Petroleum Needs

746-8018 • 1-800-281-8018
 Route 100, Pittsfield, VT 05762 • cvoil.com

Parker Water Wells

WATER WELLS
 PUMPS
 COMPLETE WATER SYSTEMS
 HYDRO FRACKING
 GEOTHERMAL

East Poultney, VT 05741
802-287-4016
 parkerwaterwells.com

VISION BUILDERS
 Custom Homes & Renovations

Free Estimates | Fully Insured | All Calls Returned

- Preventative Maintenance
- Siding
- Decks
- Framing
- Structural Repairs

Eric Schambach | (802) 342-6026 | visionbuildersvt.com

SINCE 1875

Clifford Funeral Home

2 Washington Street • Rutland, VT 05701
 (802) 773-3010
 Gary H. Clifford • James J. Clifford

Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

Michael J. Belanger
 Residential/Commercial/ Backflow Testing

VT Master Plumber
 Serving Central VT
 802-797-8292

Willow Tree Property Management
 The Care Your Property Deserves

(802) 282-7398
 info@willowtreepropertymanagement.com
 www.willowtreepropertymanagement.com

Services: Residential/Commercial Maintenance - Construction & Renovations - Outdoor Projects, patios, walkways and decks - Snow Removal and Ice management - Hot tub Maintenance

The Emporium TOBACCO & GIFT SHOP

Full Service Vape Shop
 Humidified Premium Cigars • Hand Blown Glass Pipes
 Hookahs & Shisha Roll Your Own Tobacco & Supplies
 CBD Products • Smoking Accessories

131 Strongs Avenue Rutland, VT
 (802) 775-2552
 Call For Shuttle Schedule

Like us on Facebook!

Goodro Lumber
 Bring Your Home Improvement Project To Us!

We Offer Solutions

Building Supplies, Hardware & Paint
 802-422-3469 | M-F 7:30-4:30 Sat 8-Noon | Route 4 Killington, VT

Sweet and sticky: How sustainable is the maple syrup industry?

UVM researchers embark on long-term study of the signature Vermont product's future outlook

Maple syrup conveys an image of healthy forests and a sustainable product made by farmers stewarding the land. Yet, there is little data available about how sustainable the industry is.

The maple sustainability Indicators project, funded through the UVM Food Systems Research Center's sustainability metrics grant, will develop a framework of indicators to evaluate the sustainability of the maple sector, according to a mid-December news release. By establishing monitoring programs, the research team will begin to investigate if the industry's positive environmental image can be verified.

"The program will evaluate the impact of maple syrup business activity in the northeast United States," UVM Extension Associate Professor Mark Cannella said. "Over 80% of the U.S. domestic syrup crop is produced in Vermont, New York, and Maine, and the industry has demonstrated rapid growth over the past decade."

Cannella leads the research alongside a team of specialists in economics, forestry, natural resource management, community development, and stakeholder engagement.

The monitoring programs will also reveal risks, challenges, or

weaknesses in the maple syrup industry's objective to be sustainable.

"This project will take the big step of measuring indicators related to communities, economies, and the environment to develop a more holistic understanding of how maple production impacts people and the planet," Cannella said, "and it will inform the industry of existing successes and weak points that individual producers and broader industry initiatives could focus on improving."

UVM Extension Maple Specialist Mark Isselhardt is also a researcher on the team, focusing on production statistics and best practices like the use of a reverse osmosis system to remove excess water from the sap before boiling, which reduces energy use.

"I think there are going to be some parts that surprise people—some people might think everything about sugaring is sustainable, but when you start factoring in on all the plastic use and tubing and where the electricity is coming from, there are parts that are less green," Isselhardt said.

The framework also includes a 10-year monitoring program from 2026 through 2036 that will identify methods, frequency, and resource needs for longer term measurement of key indicators.



Submitted

The sustainability of maple syrup will be studied from 2026 to 2036 with the help of a grant.

"With the evolution of new practices, dynamic markets, community transitions and ecological processes, a long-term monitoring program will be able to assess progress towards stated goals of improved sustainability,"

Cannella said.

The UVM Food Systems Research Center (FSRC) is the first USDA-funded research center to study the interconnectedness of all parts of a regional food system, from farm practices to food access.

They work to uncover solutions to pressing issues through the lens of food and farming. As pioneers in USDA-funded research, the FSRC is at the forefront of discovering how what's on our plate affects our society and the planet.

Looking back: from page 46

We didn't have to leave our street to ice skate. Warren and Eleanor Goodrich flooded their side yard and make a rink for us. It was lighted at night. As kids we didn't realize how lucky we were to be able to gather there. Now we can appreciate the fun times they provided for us.

If you wanted to enjoy public skating the place to go was Rotary Rink on North Street. The warming area was on the bottom level and you could skate right up to the door from the rink. The skaters had to go in one direction as music played through the speakers. There was a concession stand that the late Senator Jim Jeffords manned in his teenage years.

You could even ski without leaving Rutland. The Country Club had a 525-foot hill with a rope tow. Lessons were offered for both children and adults. Olympian Suzy Chaffee and her brother, Rick, spent some time on that hill. Mittens didn't last long if you rode the tow frequently. I remember my parents would drop me off with a friend and tell me what time they would be back to get us. No cell phones in those days so you couldn't call when you needed a ride. Bill Reardon from the Rutland Recreation Department ran the lift and was assisted by Pat Cauty who was a student at Castleton State College. If anyone needed to make a call they had to go down the hill to the Country Club and use the landline phone.

We were never bored with sledding and skating in our own neighborhood and the opportunity to ski without leaving Rutland. What more could a kid ask for?

Professional Service, Professional Results
For All Your Plumbing & Heating Needs
Specializing in Home Efficiency & Comfort
24 Hour Emergency Service
(802) 353-0125

Green Mountain Water Treatment Co.
Iron & Sulphur Removal • Water Pressure Tanks • Water Softeners
UV Light Systems • Arsenic & Radon Removal

FREE ESTIMATES
Jeffery L. Leonard, *Proprietor*
Professional Service Since 1983

Professional Solutions to your Water Quality Problems
(802) 236-0426

Buy Two Get One Free
for the month of December
Call for details.

- Blinds
- Shutters
- Home Automation
- Drapes
- Shades

We bring the showroom to you!
Budget Blinds of Rutland | 802-417-0020
Your trusted local resource

TIDY TIME SERVICES
(802) 282-7068

- BASIC CLEANING
- LAUNDRY SERVICES
- DEEP CLEANING
- QUICK TURN AROUNDS
- COMPETITIVE PRICES
- DETAIL ORIENTED
- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

FOR RENT

KILLINGTON APARTMENT FOR RENT 3 br/2 ba available now. 385-321-7529.

KILLINGTON RENTAL FOR ALL WINTER KILLINGTON 3 BED, 2.5 BATH, open for all winter. Sleeps 8. Located 1 mile from Access Road! 3 floors, wood stove, 6kw sauna, hot tub (negotiable), large decks, grill. Pets ok. Cable/plow included - must pay electricity. Price and term negotiable. 617-794-7180.

SEASONAL RENTAL KILLINGTON 5 bedroom_2 Queens in each. Located just off the access Rd. 2-min to the slopes. Game room with a foosball table. Private Parking. Call 413.388.34221.

ROOM FOR RENT. Newly renovated room in Rutland available in a wellness spa atmosphere. Email 163Jacksonave@gmail.com

WINTER SEASONAL RENTAL MENDON 1 Bedroom fully furnished apartment close to Pico and Killington. No pets. 802-558-6738.

SKI-IN / SKI-OUT HOME @ PICO MTN MONTHLY RENTAL Enjoy New Years Weekend and January Slopeside by a fire. Ski-In/Ski-Out onto the Sundowner Trail at Pico. Or Snowshoe to the nearby Appalachian Trail. Premier location on upper ALPINE DR. 3bed/2Bath. Available Dec 29th thru Jan 28th. \$12,500. 201-343-3263.

FOR SALE

150 ACRES OF LAND on Walker Hill Bridgewater Vermont. 2 mountain streams and waterfalls. Views of Killington and Pico. 38 foot camper with roof, propane heat and generator. 12 volt or 120 volt system. Land has not been logged in 50 yrs to my knowledge. Forester says \$1,500-\$2,200 per acre retail wood not counting great saw logs or veneer. Off grid everything goes. Tools: Chainsaw etc. \$800,000. Call for a tour. Doug 802-457-3577.

BARNARD INN FOR SALE mls# 4882340 Residential/ Commercial Vermont Safe, Cool, Green, Beautiful Call John 802-457-1515

LARGE METAL MEDIA RACKS 3 large metal media racks for sale. Brand new in great shape. Left here by Killington TV when they moved out. Willing to sell them for almost nothing. Just need them out of here. Call the Mountain Times if interested. 802-422-2399

FREE QUEEN MATTRESS almost brand new. Slept on 10 nights in total. Bought them for over \$1,500. Box spring and mattress included. Call the Mountain Times if interested. 802-422-2399

HELP WANTED

BUSY PITTSFIELD CONVENIENCE store. Full and part time positions available. No nights. Experience preferred but not necessary. Call Roger 802-345-5622.

MOGULS SPORTS PUB Help Wanted: waitstaff, line-cook, dishwasher. Apply in person at Moguls M-F, on the Killington Access Road.

BACK COUNTRY CAFE waitstaff, host, bus, line cook, Prep Cook positions available. FT/PT. Call 802-558-0793.

INN AT LONG TRAIL seeking part-time breakfast server/housekeeper. Flexible schedule (weekends required). Email resume to karen@innatlongtrail.com or call 802-775-7181.

KILLINGTON MARKET Cashier positions available. Mid-week days. FT/PT, call 802-558-0793.

Services

BEAUREGARD PAINTING, 30 years experience. 802-436-1337.

ROB WELLS INTERIOR PAINTING Over 20 years experience. Rutland, Killington area. 609-276-8420. robertwells1824@gmail.com.

CHIMNEYS CLEANED, LINED, built, repaired. 802 349-0339.

ELECTRICIAN FOR HIRE. Contracting or service. Call Jim at Leighton's Light and Power 802-356-2407.

LISA'S WEDDING AND vacation childcare, LLC. Serving all of Vermont 10 years experience. lisaseventcare.com 802-558- 3278.

REAL ESTATE

BARNARD INN RESTAURANT & TAVERN mls# 4882340. Residential/ Commercial Vermont. Safe, Cool, Green, Beautiful Call John 802-457-1515.

BEAUTIFUL HOME FOR SALE on 10 acres in Rutland Town with central A/C, 4 bedrooms and 3 and a half bathrooms. Very private but close to all amenities. Must see, 802-345-6502.

HOMESTEAD ACREAGES FOR SALE! All enjoy appealing country ambiance, surveys and septic testing or permits. **CHITTENDEN:** Several Parcels available, ranging from 1 to 12+/- acres; some with subdivision potential, ranging from \$65K to \$99,500. Minutes to Killington Resort, National Forest and Rutland City services. Unusual **BRANDON** two acre Lot with end-of-road location and house site at base of a 120 ft. high Cliff! Asking \$49K. **OKEMO** Country 3 acres with View in small ski home community offered for \$62,500. Contact Jeff at VT Country Sales & Consulting Services: Landtrade@aol.com (802) 770-0380. Unique rural property is my specialty!

KILLINGTON PICO REALTY donates 1% of every dollar we earn to charitable organizations. 2814 Killington Road, Killington. 802-422-3600. info@killingtonpicorealty.com.

KILLINGTON VALLEY REAL ESTATE Specializing in sales and listings of Homes, Condos, Land, Commercial Property as well as Winter Seasonal Rentals. Call, email or stop in. We are the red farmhouse located next to the Wobbly Barn. PO Box 236, 2281 Killington Rd, Killington. 802-422-3610 bret@killingtonvalleyrealestate.com.

PEAK PROPERTY GROUP—KW VERMONT LUXURY. Located at 1995 US Route 4, Killington. 802-353-1604. Visit our website VTProperties.net. Marni@PeakPropertyRealEstate.com. Specializing in ideal properties close to Killington, Okemo or Woodstock. Servicing all of Rutland and Windsor County. Focusing on listing and selling Homes, Condos, Land, Commercial, and Investment Properties.

PRESTIGE REAL ESTATE of Killington, 2922 Killington Rd., Killington. We're different. We only deal with Killington real estate, the town we love and call home. We concentrate on only one thing: property sales. And we do it well. Our focus allows us to spend more time understanding your needs — either as a buyer or as a seller of Killington VT real estate. Specializing in the listing & sales of Killington Condos, Homes, & Land. Call 802-422-3923. prestigekillington.com.

SKI COUNTRY REAL ESTATE 335 Killington Rd., Killington. 802-775-5111. SkiCountryRealEstate.com — 9 agents servicing: Killington, Bridgewater, Mendon, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Stockbridge, Woodstock areas. Sales & Winter Seasonal Rentals. Open Monday-Saturday: 10 am — 4 pm. Sunday by appointment.

WHITE CAP REALTY is an independent Equal Housing Opportunity real estate brokerage. Based in the Killington Valley and practicing across the State of Vermont. Contact Jake or Jadhiah at 802-345-5187 or www.real-whitecap.com.



Finance Director

BROC Community Action serving Rutland and Bennington Counties works to create prosperity for all. We provide hope, opportunity, and a path forward out of crisis or poverty, so our neighbors and community thrive.

BROC Community Action seeks an experienced finance or accounting professional to serve as our Finance Director. The position will direct and oversee the financial activities of the organization including preparation of the annual budget, preparation of financial reports, oversee audits, create financial forecasts, and monitor and evaluate the activities of all assigned financial and administrative functions. This role supervises a team of 3 staff members and works closely with BROC Community Action's CEO, leadership team and Program Managers.

We are seeking a candidate with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Finance or a related field and 5 years of relevant experience, or a combination of education and experience from which comparable knowledge and skills are acquired. Candidates should have strong supervisory and leadership skills with the ability to develop and communicate the mission, vision, and goals of BROC Community Action. Candidates should have effective verbal and written communication skills, excellent analytical and organizational skills.

We offer an excellent benefit package including medical, dental and vision insurance, generous time off, a retirement plan and life insurance. We are especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the mission and excellence of our organization. Please visit broc.org to learn more. Submit a cover letter with salary requirements, and resume to TDonahue@broc.org.

BROC Community Action is an Equal Opportunity Employer

45 Union Street, Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0878
[HelloBROC@broc.org](mailto>HelloBROC@broc.org)

FOR SALE

mls# 4882340

Barnard Inn Restaurant & Tavern
Residential/ Commercial Vermont
Safe, Cool, Green, Beautiful
Call John 802-457-1515

Want to submit a classified?

Email classifieds@mountaintimes.info or call 802-422-2399 by Monday at 4 p.m. Rates are 50 cents per word, per week; free ads are free.

branding
engage
BE found

Marketing
brought to you by the
MOUNTAIN TIMES

Need help marketing your business online?

It's a complex ecosystem to navigate. Let us help! (don't worry, it's cheap and easy)

802.422.2399



**GREAT
GULF**

THE PEAK OF TOMORROW

An Unexpected New Mountain
Lifestyle by Great Gulf.

DISCOVER MORE AT

LIVEKILLINGTON.COM





KILLINGTON GRAND FOR SALE

Owners Common Space

Affordability, amenities and convenience

Walk to and from lifts, Private owner's lounge, Valet parking, Year round heated outdoor pool, Private owner's locker room, Space Available Program, Rent your unit when you don't need it.

Each unit is a fully furnished condominium complete with kitchen. Ownership is in the form of a "Quarter Share" consisting of thirteen weeks, one week a month.



CURRENTLY FOR SALE

Unit 211, III, STUDIO B **\$53,000**
Studio Sleeps 2, Deck and Murphy Bed



KILLINGTON PICO REALTY

www.71MountHungerRoad.com

Lovely 4BR/2BA cape in Gaysville village with wonderful scenic surroundings. The perfect balance between rural living and modern comfort. A warm, inviting living space with hardwood floors and elegant gas fireplace. Open floor plan connects living area to contemporary kitchen with breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, granite counters and tiled back-splash. Radiant floor heating throughout. **Offered at \$625,000**



Offices in the **Killington Grand Hotel Lobby** and 2281 Killington Road

Grand Quarter Share Specialists:

Doug Quatchak, REALTOR
doug@killingtonvalleyrealestate.com
802-558-4645

Walter Findeisen, BROKER
walter@killingtonvalleyrealestate.com
802-770-0093



Killington Valley Real Estate

killingtonvalleyrealestate.com

KPR Cares. Killington Pico Realty is proud to donate 1% of every dollar earned to charitable organizations.

2814 Killington Rd.
802-422-3600
www.KillingtonPicoRealty.com



Kyle Kershner
Broker/Owner



Jessica Posch
REALTOR®



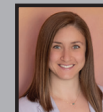
Daniel Pol
Associate Broker



Jane Johnson,
ALHS, ASP(®)
REALTOR®



Edward Herson
Lic. Assoc.
R.E. Broker



Krista Mosher
REALTOR®



John Humphreys
REALTOR®



IDEAL PROPERTIES CLOSE TO KILLINGTON, OKEMO OR WOODSTOCK!

HOMES | CONDOS | LAND
COMMERCIAL | INVESTMENT

802.353.1604

VTPROPERTIES.NET



Marni Rieger
Broker
802.353.1604



Alexandra Lemesciuc
518.760.1294



William Spanos
802.345.0693



Lindsay Cimadon
860.681.9302

Marni@PeakPropertyRealEstate.com
1995 Route 4, Killington VT
59 Central Street, Woodstock VT



NOW ACCEPTING NEW LISTINGS! CONTACT US FOR A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!



Fabulous Killington Estate with amazing views located a minute away from the Killington Access Road. You must see this gem!
\$2,600,000.



Sweet Investment Opportunity. Close to Killington or Sugarbush. 7 Unit Building Inclusive of a commercial linen shop business/operation. The Linen Shop.
\$745,000



SNOWMOBILE FROM YOUR DOOR TO THE TRAIL! Turnkey 3 bed/2 bath mountain chalet with amazing views close to Killington or Okemo. Outdoor hot tub. Sold furnished and ready to go!
\$519,900



2 miles from Okemo/Jackson Gore. Well known, successfully run for 35 years & the owners are ready to retire. 68 seat renovated restaurant. Sale includes the real estate, the business & all equipment/ furniture. Motivated Sellers.
\$399K



Prestige Real Estate
of KILLINGTON
Exclusively Killington!

CONDOS

- 3-bedroom/4-bathroom
- Steps to ski access
- Fully renovated
- New contemporary style furnishings
- Large primary suite featuring beautiful atrium windows
- Access to amenities



BEAR RIDGE AT SUNRISE UNIT D1

\$1,100,000



HOMES

Iconic Geodesic Dome Home!

- 4-bedroom/5-bathroom
- Sauna
- Fire pole extending from the 3rd floor all the way down to the first!
- Circular wood-burning fireplace



607 RIM ROAD
\$425,000



NEW CONSTRUCTION

EXCLUSIVE SKI IN/OUT LIVING

A collection of uniquely designed 4-bedroom townhomes within a private, gated community setting

- 3000+ square feet
- 4-bedroom/4-bathroom
- Bear Mtn. ski trail views
- Direct ski in/ski out access
- 2-car heated garage
- Landscaped grounds



Please call for details regarding the reservation process.

ABOUT US

We're different. We sell real estate exclusively in Killington, the town we love and call home. We specialize in listing and selling Killington condominiums, townhomes, single-family homes, multi-family homes and land. Work with us and you'll experience unrivaled customer service and top-notch local knowledge!



Heidi Bomengen
802.342.0355



Kaitlyn Hummel
802.353.6665



Liz Sailer
802.353.5555



Women-Owned and Operated

www.prestigekillington.com | info@prestigekillington.com
802-422-3923 | 2922 Killington Road, Killington, VT 05751



802-773-6795
800-924-8948

Mr Twitter's Garden & GIFT
and 3 Crows Vintage

Corner of Rt 7 N. Rutland and McKinley Ave.

Holiday & What You least
Collectibles & Expectables
Gifts + Treats + Treasures
Necessities + Pleasures
Candles · Soup · Statuary · pots
Birdbaths, Ornaments, Tools
Jewelry · Paper whites STOCKING
STUFFERS

3 Crows Vintage & ANTIQUES
STOREWIDE SALE

30% OFF

www.mrtwitter.com

Free Gift Wrapping
Shipping Service
Now-23rd to-5 Xmas Eve til 3

Please visit our Website
to view our most recent E-MAIL
Featuring Photos from
around the Shop...
IDEAS + INSPIRATION

Ski Country REAL ESTATE

Celebrating 33 years!
 802.775.5111
 335 Killington Rd.
 Killington, VT 05751

EDGEMONT - SKI HOME - SHUTTLE OUT

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



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

TANGLEWOOD DR - "Snow Haven"

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



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

TRAIL CREEK - SKI HOME & SHUTTLE OUT

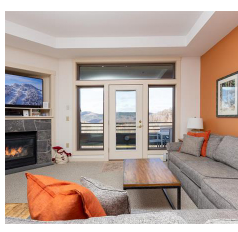
Upper level 2BR+LOFT, 2BA, 1,342 Sq.Ft.



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

LODGES - (SUNRISE/BEAR MTN)

SKI IN, take LIFT OUT



- 3BR, 3BA, 1-level unit w/1,647 s.f.
- Great rental income, propane gas heat
- 2BR suites, covered porch & mtn views
- Amenities (at Sunrise Sport Ctr): Tennis, hiking trails, restaurant, pools (in-&outdoor), fitness ctr.
- Furnished & equipped \$825K



Lenore Bianchi



Tricia Carter



Pat Linnemayr



Chris Bianchi



Michelle Lord



Meghan Charlebois



Katie McFadden



Patrick Bowen



Carolyn Bianchi



Short-term rentals: from page 7

part of larger concerns around housing availability and affordability.

"It's basic math - there are units of housing that people are living in for weekends instead of for the year," Brady said.

Many towns are in the midst of updating their zoning bylaws and town plans to comply with recent changes in state law aimed at encouraging denser housing development. And for some towns, debates around approaches to short-term rentals have cropped up during that process.

After a local report that found short-term rentals contributed to rising housing costs and declining availability of year-round rental housing, Londonderry's Select Board is considering limiting the number of these rentals a property owner can have. Chester has placed a six-month moratorium on all new short-term rentals where the host does not live onsite, as the town develops new rules. Dover has discussed contracting with a third-party registration company that could help manage complaints about noise or overcrowding, said Eric Durocher, the town's economic development director.

The League recently issued some basic information to towns considering short-term rental rules. The guidance summarized the array of options available - from registries to residency requirements to limiting where such rentals can be located - but it refrained from giving more specifics on how to regulate the industry. Brady said the organization will wait to see what further questions town governments have.

In September, Vermont saw the highest number of active short-term rentals out of any month on record: 11,747.

The only thing that is going to really make a dent in our housing situation right now is if we build more housing," Marks said.

At a short-term rental industry expo held this fall in South Burlington, Julie Marks, founder and director of the Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance, expressed concern that the town-by-town patchwork of rules lacked coordination and could take a toll on Vermont's "visitor economy," lowering tourist spending and state revenue via the meals and rooms tax.

The group has advocated for a state-wide short-term rental registry to gather more data before enacting additional regulations. State lawmakers have previously pushed to require short-term

rentals to register with the state as part of a broader rental registry, but Gov. Phil Scott opposed the measure.

Marks argued that short-term rentals should not be "scapegoated" for Vermont's housing shortage.

"The only thing that is going to really make a dent in our housing situation right now is if we build more housing," Marks said. "The only thing that's really going to take away the

focus on short-term rentals - and wasting all of these resources focusing on an aspect of the housing and tourism economy that just won't move the needle - is for there to be a fix and a correction to the housing market."

Lantieri, from VHFA, acknowledged that short-term rentals are likely not the biggest factor squeezing Vermont's housing market, but said shifting units away from long-term use could add continued stress. "Any additional pressure that is taking units out of that market is going to feel like additional downward pressure on people trying to find housing," he said.



ACS DESIGN BUILD

802.457.3995

ACSDesignBuild.com

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
 GENERAL CONTRACTING

Incorporated 1982

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
 AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Mountainside at Killington



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



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

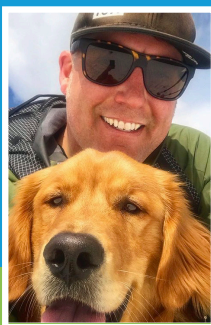
World Cup lift ticket winners

The Killington Group is excited to announce our lift ticket winners from the entrants that stopped by our booth at the World Cup. We had such a wonderful response with well over 200 people signing up for the free one-day lift ticket

good on any day during the 2023-2024 season, that we decided to give away THREE lift tickets instead of ONE. We asked the Mountain Times to draw the winners, who are:

1. Robert, Ringwood NJ
2. Esti, Orange CT
3. Stephanie, Tyngsborough MA

All of the 200+ entrants will be eligible for our 10% returning guest discount as well as all the other promotions that we offer in our monthly newsletter. Go to our website www.killingtongrou.com and add your name to our mailing list so that you can be eligible for the winter or summer promotions offered each month for lodging in one of over 100 properties that The Killington Group manages. An example of one of the summer promotions is a discounted golf package.



TUCKER ADIRONDACK LANGE
Real Estate Salesperson, REALTOR

📍 59 Central Street, Woodstock, Vt 05091
📞 303-818-8068
✉ tadkl@kw.com



Servicing Killington Vermont and surrounding areas
Each office is independently owned and operated



HOT TUBS • ENDLESS POOLS • SAUNAS

Inspiring happier and healthier communities since 1957



Call or Text : 802-327-7224

Base Camp
at Bear Mountain
Killington

Base Camp is an Exclusive gated Ski-in Ski-out community.

The future site of Basecamp will be built adjacent to the Bear Club Trail on the Bear Mountain side of Killington Ski and Summer Resort.



Prestige Real Estate
of KILLINGTON



Visit the Base Camp Discovery Center

adjacent to the Bear Mountain Base Lodge just below the Skye Peak Quad Chairlift

Hours 10-4 pm

Daily Dec. 26-31, then weekends through March 2024

www.basecampatbearmt.com

Fast Tracks

EXPRESS YOURSELF

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE.



Spend less time waiting and more time skiing and riding. Fast Tracks is your ticket to life in the fast lane. Upgrade to gain priority access to the most popular lifts at Killington through dedicated express lift lanes. **Reserve Fast Tracks for the day or entire season online in advance or slope side when you arrive.** But don't wait! Access is limited daily.

