



STIFEL KILLINGTON CUP PROGRAMS ARE HERE
Learn all about the eighth Audi FIS World Cup ski race at Killington this weekend in the 164-page official program!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
“The turkey. The sweet potatoes. The stuffing. The pumpkin pie. Is there anything else we all can agree so vehemently about?” said journalist/filmmaker Nora Ephron. The celebration of Thanksgiving began with President Lincoln in 1863, it was signed into law as a federal holiday by President Grant in 1870, and we’ve been giving thanks ever since.

KILLINGTON'S VILLAGE PLANS TO BE UPDATED, RE-PERMITTED
New designs will require new permits, but the developer doesn't anticipate that causing much of a delay. Construction is planned for 2026 with the first buildings open by 2028.

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“It's not impossible but so many things have to go right,” Shiffrin said.

Shiffrin tees up potential for 100th win at Killington

By Polly Mikula

Mikaela Shiffrin, 29, the two-time Olympic gold medalist, six-time Stifel Killington Cup slalom winner and the winningest Alpine skier in history is set to crack another milestone: a historic 100th World Cup win, and it could happen this weekend at Killington Resort.

The milestone is monumental.

Two years ago in January 2023 she surpassed Lindsey Vonn's record of 82 World Cup wins, then two months later she surpassed Ingemar Stenmark, who held the men's record at 86, making her the winningest Alpine

skier in history. Since then she's continued to extend her lead.

At last year's Killington Cup, Mikaela Shiffrin won her 90th FIS World Cup race, one of her nine World Cup wins last season.

She began this season with 97 World Cup wins (and 152 podiums), and has since won both Slalom races leading up to the Killington Cup — Nov. 16 in Levi, Finland, and Nov. 23 in Gurgl, Austria — teeing up the possibility for her to hit the 100th milestone here this weekend at Killington.

Despite her dominance (she's won six of the past seven Slalom races at Killington and all four of the Slalom races she's competed in since returning from a knee injury last January), Shiffrin was humble when speaking to the Associated Press before arriving in Vermont.

“It's not impossible but so many things have to go right,” she said of the possibility of securing her 100th victory at Killington. “So, from the outside, it

looks like it is supposed to happen this way. But it takes, like even today, so much energy to bring out my top skiing, so it's certainly not easy... I am not taking that for granted.”

“I guess there is a bit of pressure around it, but I try to ignore that,” Shiffrin added. “If it happens, it's wonderful, if it doesn't happen it's kind of nothing to cry about in the grand scheme, but I hope to have a really good performance in front of the home crowd.”

The Stifel Killington Cup will take place over Thanksgiving weekend. A bib draw, deejay dance party and fireworks event will take place Friday night, Nov. 29, outside the K-1 base area, followed by a Giant Slalom race on Saturday and Slalom on Sunday.

General admission tickets are available for \$10 at killington.com/worldcup.

For more information, see pages 18-47.



Photos courtesy U.S. Ski & Snowboard

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Locals at odds over herbicide permit for Lake St. Catherine

By Greta Solsaa/VT Digger

On Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 20, more than 75 local residents from Wells, Poultney and other nearby towns packed into the town of Wells town clerk's office or joined online for a meeting held by the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

The crowd had gathered to learn more about a draft decision by the state to allow Lake St. Catherine Association and SOLitude Lake Management to continue the use of the herbicide ProcellaCOR (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) to target the invasive species called Eurasian watermilfoil on Lake St. Catherine.

Most public commenters spoke in support of the renewing the permit, asserting their belief in "evidence-based science" and that the lake has improved with the use of ProcellaCOR and the lake association's volunteer work.

But, the room erupted into cheers when David Emmons — the former president of the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund and a previous member of the Lake St. Catherine Association — finished his speech advocating against the permit, brandishing a list of 100 previously EPA-approved chemicals.

"The EPA has approved a lot of chemicals over the years and then banned them later on," said Emmons.

Kevin DeSanto, resident of Wells and owner of Wellness Fishing Adventures, which leads fishing expeditions on Lake St. Catherine, received similar applause, echoing Emmons call for a moratorium on the use of ProcellaCOR until further long-term study can be conducted.

"We didn't think they were going to approve the new permit," said DeSanto. "That's why we're in an uproar."
 Herbicide → 11

Most Vermont Castings employees set to be furloughed

By Shaun Robinson/VT Digger

Vermont Castings, a well-known manufacturer of stoves and fireplace inserts, plans to furlough most of the workers at its facilities in Randolph and Bethel around the start of next week.

Hearth & Home Technologies, the parent company, plans to furlough 78 employees in Vermont starting on Nov. 25, said Sarah Wellcome, the firm's vice president for member and community relations, in an email Nov. 19. Wellcome noted that 11 employees across both locations will continue working during the furlough — expected to last "a couple of months" — in order to maintain manufacturing equipment.

But the employees who assemble the company's stoves, and other accessories, will be out of work, Wellcome said. That's because the company has decided to temporarily stop manufacturing new products — it has too much inventory on hand as "orders for our products have been lower than anticipated," according to Wellcome.

"We will continue to monitor market trends and, should orders outpace our forecast, we will increase new production accordingly," she said, adding, "because of the high levels of inventory, no major disruptions are expected to our dealers or consumers."

Wellcome said that employees who are set to be furloughed will retain access to benefits during the time they aren't working. When the company decides to restart production, "all employees are expected to return to work," she said.

Hearth & Home Technologies is based in Lakeville, Minnesota. The company is itself a subsidiary of the Iowa-based
 Furloughed → 15

BJ Mattson appointed Hartland road foreman

By Curt Peterson

Long-time employee BJ Mattson is the recently appointed new permanent highway department road foreman. Mattson, 44, has worked for the department for 18 years. He replaces 20-year road foreman Bill Barrows, who retired in June.

Mattson has been "acting" road foreman since Barrows' departure, so it's just an official title change.

Town Manager John Broker-Campbell led the selection process for finding the new Hartland highway department road foreman; the job was posted on multiple platforms to increase awareness of the opening. Following the interview process, BJ Mattson was selected based on qualifications and experience within the department, Broker-Campbell said.

Mattson was born in



BJ Mattson

By Curt Peterson

Hartland, attended the Hartland school, graduated from Windsor High School, and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Champlain College in

Burlington. He lives with and cares for his elderly step-father in his home on Merritt Road.

"I'm looking forward to some years with the

department," he said. "I don't really like sitting at a desk, but I do like driving the trucks and operating the equipment, and this job is a blend of both."

Select Board chair Phil Hobbie remembered an anecdote that illustrates Mattson's leadership and creativity: Recently, the crew needed to patch some potholes, but were reluctant about doing it without a "hot box" to heat the patching material. BJ used his network to borrow another town's hot box, and the patching was much better.

"The patches we made with the borrowed hot box have lasted all year," Mattson told the Mountain Times, "and there's no waste."

He hopes the town will be ultimately able to buy a hot box of their own. "They
 Foreman → 15

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Youth survey: mental health challenges persist for Vt students

Survey measures social media use for the first time

New data from the Vermont Dept. of Health measuring health risks and behaviors among middle and high school students indicate progress on long-term challenges like youth drug, alcohol and tobacco use, while the number of young people reporting mental health challenges like stress, anxiety and depression remains high.

The 2023 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results, released Nov. 22 by the department show that a third of Vermont high school students struggle with poor mental health, while just over 50% of Vermont high school students feel like they

matter to their community. Students are reporting self-harm and making suicide plans seeing young people in Vermont grappling with persistent feelings of hopelessness

The survey data show 80% of high school students and 60% of middle school students check social media at least several times a day.

at the same rates as during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is especially a concern for female and LGBTQ+ students, who report poor mental health and self-harm at significantly higher rates than their peers do.

"In line with national trends, we are

and isolation in a much more pronounced way than was the case among the same age groups 10 years ago," Health Dept. Deputy Commissioner Kelly Dougherty said. "We have a responsibility as adults to believe what these students are telling us about how

they feel and to treat this growing crisis with the urgency it deserves."

New this year, students were asked about social media use and how often they use apps like Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and X. The survey data show 80% of high school students and 60% of middle school students check social media at least several times a day.

The biennial survey of Vermont high school and middle school students asks questions on a wide range of topics including sexual activity, drugs and alcohol, physical activity, nutrition, club and

Youth risk survey → 14

OBITUARY

Brenda Hathaway, age 61

Brenda Hathaway, formerly of Rutland, died Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, in Mesa, Arizona. She was born June 22, 1963, to Robert Milne Hathaway and Suzanne (Dexter) Hathaway, in Rutland. She attended Lincoln Elementary, Rutland Junior, and Rutland Senior High Schools. In 1983, Hathaway earned her degree in business administration from Castleton College — now Vermont State University, Castleton — and was awarded the Dow Jones Marketing and Finance Award.

Her mother, Suzanne, instilled in her family the love of horses. Hathaway

was heavily involved in the Wind Riders 4-H Club of Rutland. Working her way up to CHA Master Instructor, she developed a reputation as an in-demand riding instructor. Upon graduating high school, Mountain Top Inn in Chittenden recruited her to develop, manage, and grow their nationally recognized equestrian program.

One of her employees remembers: "Brenda was the most amazingly gentle and kind individual I've ever known. A true horse whisperer, gentle in her training of horses and her teaching of many students. She was goofy, silly, smart,

Obit, Hathaway → 6



Brenda Hathaway



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, gets a standing ovation after the incumbent was defeated in a race for majority leader during a caucus of Senate Democrats on Saturday, Nov. 16.



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D/P-Chittenden Southeast, asks a caucus of Senate Democrats for their vote for majority leader at the State House, Nov. 16.

Sen. Alison Clarkson ousted as Senate majority leader

After losing their supermajority, Democratic senators-elect vowed to refocus on rising property taxes

By Sarah Mearhoff/VTDigger

A week and a half after Vermont voters eviscerated their supermajority, Senate Democrats convened Saturday, Nov. 16, to reflect on their election losses and chart a new course ahead of the 2025 legislative session. They voted to retain one top leader — but jettisoned another.

Saturday's caucus at the Statehouse was the first time Democratic senators-elect had gathered after what Sen. Becca White, D-Windsor, called "an exceptionally difficult, tragic election night." Republican candidates flipped six Senate seats, ousting four incumbents, and established a new partisan breakdown in the chamber of 17-13 — the narrowest margin Democrats have held in nearly a quarter-century.

Seeing a need to change course, the caucus on Saturday voted out its incumbent majority leader, Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, who has held the post for four years. In her place, they elected Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D/P-Chittenden Southeast.

All of the votes Saturday were conducted by secret ballot. Democrats elected Ram Hinsdale their new majority leader by a vote of 9-7, with one member abstaining.

In his nominating speech for Ram Hinsdale, Sen. Andrew Perchlik, D/P-Washington, echoed what had already become a common refrain in the room Saturday morning: that on the campaign trail, Vermont Democrats failed at messaging and communicating to voters and combatting criticism from their Republican challengers and Gov. Phil Scott, also a Republican.

Perchlik said of Ram Hinsdale, "I don't think there is anybody in this room that's better at communication and messaging." He said he would also be "honest" about "the criticism that I heard of Sen. Ram Hinsdale, and one that I've had myself, and that is that she's a bit of an overachiever, and she's ambitious."

Senate shakeup → 15



Courtesy LiveKillington.com

Plans for a Killington ski village are underway at Ramshead.



Courtesy LiveKillington.com

Design changes delay but don't deter ski village plans

By Kevin O'Connor/VTDigger

Developers of a proposed 450-acre retail and residential village at the base of the Killington Resort — the biggest ski area in eastern North America — say design changes will postpone the project for at least a year.

Announced last winter, the Great Gulf plans include a new lodge, some 32,000 square feet of commercial space, 193 condominiums and 32 single-family homes — the beginning, it said, of a larger \$3 billion capital investment in the next quarter-century.

Developers had hoped to receive local and state approval for the first phase by this weekend's World Cup ski competition at Killington. Instead, they're now set to report a new timeline that will aim to seek permits in 2025, start construction as soon as 2026 and open the first buildings by 2028, according to Michael Sneyd, head of Great Gulf's resort residential division.

"When people tell me, 'How come you're not in the approval process right now and why are you not showing us your latest plans?' I tell them, 'Good design takes time,' Sneyd said. "The village will be the centerpiece, and so we really want to make sure we do the best job possible."

A year ago, Great Gulf hired the international architecture firm of Moshe Safdie — whose work ranges from Montreal's Habitat 67 World's Fair housing complex to the Singapore Marina Bay Sands resort featured in the film "Crazy Rich Asians" — and PWP Landscape Architecture, known for the National Sept. 11 Memorial in New York City.

Planning paused when Killington, owned by the Utah-

based Powdr Corp. since 2007, was purchased earlier this year by a group of local and regional investors that include Phill Gross, co-founder of Boston's Adage Capital Management and a member of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's investment committee; Michael Ferri, a Killington Mountain School trustee and partner in his family's Valvoline Instant Oil

The Great Gulf plans include a new lodge, some 32,000 square feet of commercial space, 193 condominiums and 32 single-family homes — the beginning, it said, of a larger \$3 billion capital investment in the next quarter-century.

Change franchises; and Great Gulf.

Killington's new owners offered their opinions about the village, starting with a proposed central lodge that would replace the existing Snowshed and Ramshead buildings.

"The resort has come back to us recently and said, 'Can we increase the size a little bit?'" Sneyd said, "and so that's something we're continuing to study."

The developers also are working to retain a pond originally planned for partial elimination, to reroute vehicle traffic to make the village more pedestrian friendly and to add more areas for spring, summer and fall recreation.

The idea for a village dates back to 1958, when Killington Peak, Vermont's second-highest summit, became a ski area. But decades of property and permitting issues have left blueprint upon blueprint sitting on the drawing board.

Great Gulf has yet to publicize a price tag for its overall

retail and residential project or individual housing units, although it paid \$43 million for the village land.

Local, regional and state economic leaders, for their part, have created a tax increment financing district that received town voter approval last year. A resulting "Killington Forward" package is funding more than \$60 million in public road and water infrastructure improvements through grants, forgivable loans and tax increment financing.

Once developers revise their proposal, they'll submit Phase 1 designs to the town's development review board and a state district Act 250 land use commission, the latter which received the initial concept for a village in 1998 and went on to approve an earlier proposal in 2013 and, upon appeal, again in 2017.

Subsequent stages of the project could add up to 2,300 housing units over the next two to three decades, along with an estimated 1,000 contracting jobs and 1,200 permanent positions, according to recent paperwork submitted to the state.

Great Gulf estimates construction could average \$118 million annually if the full quarter-century proposal is developed, but it would need to return to town and state reviewers for approval of future phases.

"Our goal is to make a ski village at Killington that is equal to the excellence of the mountain," Sneyd said. "We want to make sure we make our first steps right so when we launch this project, it's a big success from Day One and that will carry forward over the next couple of decades."



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← Obit, Hathaway:

from page 4

selfless.”

For many years, Brenda Hathaway was also the riding director at Camp Catherine Capers, in Wells.

There, she touched many young women’s hearts.

“I met Brenda at Catherine Capers riding camp when I was 12. I was a driven, Type-A rider with a fear of failure. Brenda taught me that mistakes are how we improve and helped me find my joy in learning again. I was blessed to have her as a teacher, mentor, and friend. Brenda and I kept in touch via snail mail. I often wrote to her about my pre-teen problems and challenges. Brenda’s letters validated my feelings and were filled with sage advice to help me navigate these

tionwide Insurance family. Hathaway excelled and was a top-notch adjuster, working in commercial vehicular bodily injury claims. All the while, she maintained her love of horses, spending many weekend hours at “the barn” at Bein Performance Horses.

Early on, a friend introduced her to Saint Timothy’s Catholic Church, Mesa. Converting to Roman Catholicism, she grew in her Christian faith, became a lector, and was promoted to be an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and Mass Captain.

Eventually, she migrated to the Crosiers, at Crosier Village, a religious order of priests and brothers in Phoenix. There, she became

One of her employees remembers:

“Brenda was ... A true horse whisperer, gentle in her training of horses and her teaching of many students. She was goofy, silly, smart, selfless.”

years. I still have every letter she wrote to me; they are priceless treasures. I carry her smile and laughter in my heart,” shared one of her campers and friends.

Hathaway was devoted to Castleton. After graduating, she was hired as an admissions recruiter. She attended college fairs throughout the Northeast, promoting Castleton’s benefits.

She was also responsible for organizing tours for high school guidance counselors, introducing them to various college campuses.

Always the avid rider, she spent her summer vacations near the Bear Claw in Montana, moving cattle on horseback. After a visit to Arizona and seeing the amazing sites, she decided to make Arizona her home; she moved in 1996, settling in Mesa.

There, she embarked on her new career working in the insurance industry, first for Sentry Insurance; she then moved to Scottsdale Insurance, part of the Na-

a Crosier Companion, eventually becoming part of the leadership team. She had found her spiritual home, which was her Rock!

Brenda Hathaway’s vigil and funeral mass were held in Mesa and Phoenix, Arizona, respectively, for her Arizona friends and “family.” Here, in Rutland, her life will be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Grace Congregational Church, at 1 p.m. A mass will be said for her on Friday, Dec. 20, at Christ The King Church at 4:45 p.m.

Survivors include her older brother, Ernie; her younger sister, Andrea and her husband Jake and son Jack, of Rutland; her younger brother, Robert, and his wife Linda, of Ivoryton, Connecticut.

Please consider a contribution in her memory to Companions in Wholeness at companionsinwholeness.org. They do a wonderful job of feeding Rutland’s homeless population. Brenda Hathaway would be greatly pleased!

Killington Mountain School announces World Cup-level ski service in partnership with Race Tech Ski Service

In a quest to further enhance its support for student-athletes at their world-class training venue, Killington Mountain School (KMS) announced Monday, Nov. 25, the establishment of an in-house World Cup-level ski service, providing elite-level equipment preparation for its ski racers. Through a new partnership with Mike Beers, owner of Race Tech Ski Service, KMS athletes will now benefit from the same expert service and ski preparation as those on the U.S. Ski Team.

Having an in-house ski service technician at Killington Mountain School offers significant advantages for student-athletes. With Race Tech Ski Service on-site, skis are precisely tuned for optimal race-day performance. This immediate access to elite service saves time and allows coaches to make real-time adjustments in collaboration with the tuning staff, enhancing training outcomes.

Utilizing state-of-the-art Wintersteiger equipment, Race Tech delivers consistent, reliable tuning that provides a competitive edge. Personalized attention to each skier’s unique needs boosts confidence and improves results, ensuring KMS athletes are always equipped to perform at their best.

Mike Beers, principal and head serviceman at Race Tech Ski Service, brings



Courtesy KMS

Mike Beers, owner of Race Tech Ski Service, has partnered with KMS to offer state-of-the-art equipment tuning utilizing Wintersteiger machines and expertise.

his extensive experience and renowned tuning expertise directly to KMS.

“Mike’s long career in both ski and cycling services, including over 15 years dedicated to high-level ski servicing, makes him the ideal partner for this exciting new venture,” stated KMS in a news release. “He has worked with some of the world’s best athletes as a service technician for the U.S. Ski Team, traveling with world with the men’s develop-

ment and NorAm teams to ensure optimal performance at every competition. He has also supported Olympic level snowboard athletes and the para-snowboard team at World Championships.”

Although Beers has spent 35 years in the ski industry, it was his time at Peak Performance Ski Shop (next door to KMS) that truly set him on the path to the highest levels of the industry, the news

KMS → 7



Courtesy Skiology Ski and Sports

Skiology, ranked second, is located at 937 Killington Road.



Courtesy Darkside, FB

Darkside, ranked 10th, is located at 1842 Killington Road.

Two Killington shops rank Top 10 in USA Today’s readers’ poll of the best ski shops in the U.S.

Staff Report

Skiology Ski and Sports and Darkside Snowboards have received recognition in a USA Today readers’ poll of the 10 best ski shops in the U.S.

Skiology Ski and Sports landed at an impressive No. 2 on the list. “This local shop offers a wide range of high-performance recreational and racing skis, from all-mountain and freeride to powder skis... and their Wintersteiger tuning machine will keep your gear at peak performance,” the article noted.

Darkside, which has locations in Killington and Ludlow, came in 10th. “With a selection so vast it’ll make your head

do a 720 on a half-pipe, Darkside Snowboards helps each boarder find the perfect setup to conquer the variety of terrain in Killington,” the article noted.

Overall, three Vermont ski shops received distinction on the list. The other non-Killington shop was Pinnacle Ski and Sports in Stowe, which earned the top spot in the rankings.

The poll serves as another reminder that Vermont is one of the premier skiing destinations in the country, and within the state, Killington and Ludlow are essential pillars of the ski and boarding communities.

Pittsfield gets \$157,899 to reduce town office emissions

By Brett Yates

The Vermont Dept. of Buildings and General Services will deliver \$157,899 to Pittsfield to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency at the town office.

Projects may include a heat pump, programmable thermostats, an energy recovery ventilator, a solar array, a tankless water heater, electric vehicle chargers, LED lighting, window replacements, and other air sealing and moisture mitigation measures. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, the grant does not require any local cost-sharing.

Town officials had applied for \$240,000 from the state in September. Although they may have to pare down their wish list, Selectman A.J. Ruben nevertheless called the reduced award “great news” at a meeting on Nov. 21.

Pittsfield must spend the money by the end of 2026. In the form of “implementation grants,” the Municipal Energy Resilience Program will send nearly \$36 million in total to 126 towns across the state.

Pittsfield voters to consider local option tax

By Brett Yates

Starting next year, Pittsfield may have a chance to draw from an additional source of municipal revenue. First, voters will have to approve a new “local option” tax at Town Meeting Day.

Some Vermont municipalities require restaurants, bars, hotels, and/or shops within town limits to add a 1% surcharge to each customer’s bill.

Alongside the state’s 6% sales tax, its 9% tax on rooms and meals, and its 10% tax on alcohol, the Vermont Department of Taxes administers supplementary “local option” tax options, sending 70% of the proceeds back to the town.

Hoping to tax rooms, meals, and alcohol, members of the Pittsfield Select Board voted unanimously on Nov. 21 to draft an article for residents to consider in March. By then, they expect to have data on the new tax’s potential yield.

“We’re trying to diversify our revenue stream, trying to

take it out of the property tax. It would be distributed more to people coming in,” Chair Ann Kuendig said.

Selectwoman Joyce Stevens owns the Swiss Farm Market on Route 100.

“It’s not going to hurt my business. You’re buying a sandwich for \$8, and you’re going to have a 1% tax on it,” Stevens said. “I don’t think people are really going to notice it.”

The board also agreed to draft a Town Meeting Day article that could turn Pittsfield’s annual town report into a mostly digital document.

“We will send out a postcard that the town report is available online at this link,” Kuendig said. “If you would like a hard copy, come to the town office, pick it up, or call.”

With the voters’ approval, the mailing of paper copies would end, except in cases of specific requests.

“That’ll save a lot of money,” Selectman A.J. Ruben said.

“It’s not going to hurt my business. You’re buying a sandwich for \$8, and you’re going to have a 1% tax on it,” Stevens said. “I don’t think people are really going to notice it.”

Outdoor recreation organizations implore courts to support public access to trails in Vermont

A coalition of outdoor recreation organizations led by the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (VTGC), issued a statement Nov. 18 urging the Vermont Supreme Court to carefully consider the long-term implications of its upcoming ruling regarding the maintenance of public access trails on private land.

The case, which involves the use of a “legal trail” maintained by the town that crosses private property in Tunbridge, has the potential to reshape public access rights throughout the state, with significant consequences for recreationists, landowners, residents, and municipalities.

The issue at hand centers on whether municipalities can continue to maintain and improve what were previously public roads and what have become public access trails that cross private property. The coalition acknowledges and respects the rights of private landowners, and believes it is crucial that any ruling takes into account the need for a balanced approach.

When trail stewardship organizations approach a landowner regarding the construction of a new public access trail, they wholly recognize that the decision as to whether or not to allow for such a trail, as well as what uses are permitted, is entirely up to the landowner. In cases where an existing public right-of-way that provides recreational access crosses a property, however, the coalition strongly feels landowners should not be able to assume control of what is an existing public asset and that management should remain with the existing public entity.

Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of Vermont’s economy.

In 2022 alone, outdoor recreation generated over \$1.9 billion in consumer spending and supported over 30,000 jobs across the state. Legal trails, which are not only integral to experiencing the state’s natural landscapes but also critical for economic activity tied to outdoor tourism, recreation-based businesses, and local communities’ connectivity to each other, are now at risk.

The right to maintain and improve these trails has long been a collaborative effort between landowners, volun-

teers, and outdoor organizations, with respect to private property rights and environmental stewardship and with the local municipality leading the charge. If the court rules in favor of the complainants, Select Boards, and the outdoor organizations that help these Select Boards maintain these trails, will lose the authority to manage the physical state of their legal trails.

Such a ruling could have an immense impact on the public access for the majority of Vermont’s municipalities, as there are currently 547 miles of legal trails in Vermont. If landowners can simply choose to manage — or not manage — them it could prohibit all use or certain types of outdoor recreation uses.

The coalition urges the Vermont Supreme Court to consider the broader implications of this case, including the critical role that legal trails play in the state’s economy, environment, and community health. Furthermore, we encourage lawmakers, landowners, and outdoor recreation groups to come together to explore new ways to ensure that Vermont’s trail network remains accessible for future generations.

With this objective in mind, the VTGC is currently advocating for legislation that will take the necessary first steps to establish a program that recognizes landowners who provide public access to recreation on their property with tangible benefits that encourage them to maintain that access.

The coalition stands united in a commitment to preserving Vermont’s long standing ethos of allowing public access to private land for outdoor recreation and to ensuring that public access to outdoor spaces remains protected. Public access trails are vital to Vermont’s outdoor economy, health, and well-being, providing residents and visitors alike with a chance to enjoy the natural beauty of our state.

Trails serve as critical connections to our communities, schools, and local businesses, contributing to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of Vermont.

For more information, visit: vermonttgc.org.

KMS:
from page 6

release continued. “Under the tutelage of Fred Coriell, Mike refined his skills in race ski tuning and preparation, gaining invaluable experience that paved the way for his work with Wintersteiger, the U.S. Ski Team, and Swix.”

After Peak, he continued to grow under the mentorship of Graham Lonetto, a respected figure in ski service. Lonetto’s influence further deepened Beers’ expertise, helping him solidify his place as a trusted name in World Cup-level ski service.

His latest venture, Race Tech Ski Service, opening on-site at Killington Mountain School at 2708 Killington Road mid-December, will provide full-service World Cup-level ski

Utilizing state-of-the-art Wintersteiger equipment, Race Tech delivers consistent, reliable tuning that provides a competitive edge.

preparation, while his online shop skituningtools.com supplies high-quality ski tuning tools and wax.

This level of expertise can also yield better quality results for the everyday skier, and therefore, in addition to serving KMS athletes, Race Tech also offers both recreational and race ski service to alumni, their families, and racers from around the world, with most services available overnight.

This partnership will also greatly benefit athletes from the Killington Ski Club (KSC), especially those traveling to Killington for weekend camps. “With access to professional overnight race ski tuning services upon arrival on Thursday or Friday nights, KSC athletes can hit the slopes each weekend with skis prepped for optimal performance,” KMS stated. “This ensures that they can fully capitalize on their training and racing opportunities, entering each session with confidence and fresh, pro-level race tunes.

“KMS has always been committed to providing the best resources and facilities for our athletes, and partnering with Mike Beers and Race Tech Ski Service is another step in that direction,” said Greg Hadley, director of admissions at KMS. “Having World Cup-level ski service in-house will elevate the training and competition experience for our students, ensuring they have every advantage as they pursue excellence.”

For more information, email: info@skituningtools.com.

Pandemic-inspired new arts school sees growth

By Curt Peterson

Hartland resident Charles Bestard was splitting firewood for seniors when he mentioned a brand new school in Lebanon that's focused on students yearning for exposure to and learning about visual and performing arts.

"During the pandemic, arts programs lost out," principal and founder of the New England School of the Arts (NESArt) Jennifer Chambers explained. "Students were able to continue their other studies remotely or in staggered in-person school days, but visual and performance arts were sidelined."

When the pandemic was over, Chambers, who is Bestard's sister-in-law, and her husband, Carl, perceived a need for an independent school for students needing to exercise their creativity. The first eight day-students began classes the fall of 2023 in an urban setting behind iconic Three Tomatoes restaurant. Not easy

school.

"Most helpful was early significant support from the Dorothy Byrne Foundation," Chambers said.

NESArt enjoys collaboration with other organizations. Their pupils thrive on regular exposure to different off-campus lifestyles and activities provided by the Stewardship Center, AVA Gallery and Art Center, CCBA Recreation Center (pool), Upper Valley Baroque (music), and on-campus visits by Michael Albrecht (comic artist) and other arts-oriented influencers.



Courtesy NESArt

Jennifer Chambers

"All these resources and activities are tied in with the students' academic courses," Chambers said. "We also toured Fuji Film Corp., and had a demonstration of Civilian Response to Active Shooter in School (CRASE) at the Lebanon Police Dept." Students have a group called "Triple Threat Troupe" that performs acting, singing and dancing for, and sometimes with, other organizations.

NESArt provides a New Hampshire-approved curriculum of standard courses. Languages include French and Spanish. Prospective students submit arts projects with

their entry applications.

"Most importantly, the kids are nice kids. They're kind kids," Chambers said.

Tuition is \$29,500 with some financial aid available. Eventually boarding will be provided for distanced students, although the logistics are yet to be formulated.

"When we have 25 students, the school will be self-sustaining," Chambers said. "The 100-student wish will take five to 10 years to materialize. The important thing is, we are filling a need in the Upper Valley."

For more information, visit: NESArt.org.

"When we have 25 students, the school will be self-sustaining," Chambers said. "Then the 100-student wish will take five to 10 years to materialize."

to find, but worth the effort. This fall NESArt opened admissions for grades 6-8.

Currently students come from Vermont (Bradford) and New Hampshire (Plainfield, Lebanon and Claremont) but a recent Open House produced 10 new applicants. The founders hope when word gets out more students will come from the Route 4 corridor.

Chambers told the Mountain Times their hope is to eventually serve 100 students.

During the summer NESArt provides six 1-week camp sessions. After-school programs include modern dance for grades 4-7, special effects, mask-making and casting for grades 3-8, and general creative arts available for all grades K-12. Session attendance varied from 30 to 70 students.

Chambers said she appreciates experienced advice from Carl, who is principal at Mt. Prospect Academy in Keene, whom she originally met in New York City, where, after teaching in London, England, she taught music at Marymount School of New York. Moving north, Chambers taught at Hanover High School for 11 years. The couple lives in Etna, New Hampshire with their three children, ages 9, 16 and 17 1/2.

Chambers' original dream was to be an opera singer, and pursued the dream at DePaul University, then switched to education and achieved a masters degree in vocal performance at Hunter College.

When she conceived of NESArt, she discovered one of her fortes is fundraising, a necessary skill when founding a new



Courtesy NESArt

NESArt students pose before performances.





Submitted

VTSU sees 20% enrollment growth in plumbing, electrical apprenticeship programs

As the state kicked off Apprenticeship Week last week, Vermont State University (VTSU) announced that its plumbing and electrical registered apprenticeship programs have grown over 20% in two years. Enrollment for the current academic year is at a record high of over 870 apprentices after multiple years of sustained growth.

“Vermont State University is dedicated to equipping the next generation of skilled workers with the hands-on experience and training they need to succeed in high-demand industries,” noted Vermont State University President Dave Bergh. “In fact, 90% of this year’s apprentices come from Vermont and will be making a direct and sustained impact on the skilled workforce that the state and employers need in these critical fields. We’re incredibly proud of this program’s success and of the opportunities for meaningful work and a good paying job it makes available to its graduates.”

“Vermont desperately needs skilled workers in all sectors, but especially the trades. As someone who knows how valuable trades careers are, and how many plumbers and electricians we need here in Vermont, I’m so pleased to see such strong interest in Vermont State University’s apprenticeship-based training,” said Governor Phil Scott. “VTSU plays an important role in the state’s workforce development efforts and this program’s success is a testament to the strong partnerships between the university, local employers, and the Vermont Department of Labor.”

As VTSU continues to expand its apprenticeship offerings to meet demand, the university is committed to supporting Vermont’s economic growth by providing a steady stream of skilled workers in critical fields. With plans for further expansion in the coming years, VTSU is poised to remain a leader in workforce development and training in the region. Employer partners

like Vermont Mechanical are key to the success of the program.

“We are pleased to be a partner with VTSU on educating our Apprentice Plumbers and we directly benefit from having this established program in our region,” shared Rick McGrath, piping department manager at Vermont Mechanical. “Educational partnerships across our region are critical to supporting the construction trades and VTSU is at the center of this with their apprenticeship offerings. Our VTSU students have appreciated the support offered from administration and teachers as well as the flexibility of online learning. We look forward to this ongoing partnership.”

“Our apprenticeship program provides both students and employers with a unique opportunity to collaborate and build a workforce that is prepared to meet the evolving challenges facing businesses and the state,” added Sarah Ballou, program manager of VTSU’s registered apprenticeship programs. “Our team has worked hard to partner with the State of Vermont’s Department of Labor to better assist employers by focusing on the entire apprenticeship experience. This, along with the state’s dire need for additional workers in the trades and the requirement of a journeyman license to practice in electrical and plumbing, is really driving demand in this program.”

VTSU’s apprenticeship program is known for its flexibility and adaptability, allowing apprentices to gain valuable work experience while earning a paycheck and fulfilling educational requirements. Much of the classroom work is available online, offering maximum flexibility as apprentices also engage in work experience with their employer sponsors around the state.

For more information, visit: Vermont-state.edu/about/workforce-community-and-economic-development.



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Experts fear Trump environmental policies could undermine Vt's efforts

By Emma Cotton/VTDigger

As Donald Trump prepares to return to the presidency, experts worry that his climate and environmental policy goals could destabilize ongoing work in Vermont.

The president-elect campaigned on tossing out policies related to climate change and loosening or abandoning environmental regulations.

As a small state, Vermont leans on federal funding and regulatory frameworks to support a range of environmental programs, so Vermonters and the agencies that work for them are likely to feel the policy shift directly.

The former president is slated to take office during a period of unprecedented climate warming and impacts from human-caused climate change, including historic back-to-back floods that hit Vermont in both July 2023 and 2024.

"2023 was the hottest year on record," said Justin Mankin, associate geography professor at Dartmouth College. "It is now virtually certain that 2024 is going to be the hottest year on record. The march of warming continues, and the impacts associated with that warming continue to manifest."

Trump has called climate change a "scam," and plans to expand production of fossil fuels. He plans to repeal what he can of the Inflation Reduction Act, a landmark climate law passed by the Biden Administration.

"Across the board, I don't think any agency, any law, any regulation that deals with the environment is safe, frankly, from a serious effort to deregulate and repeal pretty much everything Biden did," said Patrick Parenteau, an emeritus professor and senior fellow for climate policy at Vermont Law and Graduate School.

Environmental policies → 79

Vermont receives \$5.3 million in federal grants to expand internet access across the state

By Klara Bauters / VTDigger

Vermont has been awarded \$5.3 million from the federal government to implement its Digital Equity Plan — which outlines how the state will provide individuals and communities with the tools and skills necessary to benefit from meaningful access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service.

"Internet and broadband. It's no longer a luxury. It's an essential service," Patty Richards, chair of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, said at a press conference on Thursday morning announcing the award.

Digital equity means all individuals and communities have access to the internet, technology, and digital skills needed to engage fully in modern life.

Recent data found that communities lacking fiber internet connection have more than double the number of low-income families compared with those who do have access, said Christine Hallquist, executive director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, which will distribute the federal funding.

"The digital divide is not just a technological gap. It is an economic divide that im-

pacts our communities and our families," Hallquist said.

By 2035, Vermont's Digital Equity Plan would ensure reliable and affordable broadband for all households, with 70% of eligible residents accessing cost relief and 95% having a device. According to Britaney Watson, the digital equity officer of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, which developed the plan, Vermont's plan has five components.

The first program is a capacity-building initiative to fund local organizations

serving populations most affected by the digital divide. The other programs include a regional initiative to improve access to devices used to access the internet and a statewide digital navigator program to provide personalized support for accessing digital resources.

The grants awarded to Vermont are part of the federal government's \$1.44 billion Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, one of three grant programs through the Digital Equity Act — an initiative from the Internet grant → 14



By Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Christine Hallquist, the executive director of the Vermont Community Broadband board, emphasized how broadband could improve efficiency and access to high-margin markets in rural areas.



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← **Herbicide:**
from page 2

'Spot treatment'

Situated near the Western border of Vermont, Lake St. Catherine stretches between the towns of Wells and Poulney and is a popular site for swimming, fishing, boating and camping for locals and tourists alike.

The 800-plus-acre body of water has been plagued with the aggressive and harmful milfoil since the 1970s, said Jeffery Crandell, an association trustee and chair of its milfoil control program.

"The lake was crystal clear. Native plants were providing a robust habitat for both fish and wildlife, and milfoil changed all that. It's one of the most invasive non-native plants you'll ever see," said Crandell. "It virtually eliminated our native plants, which are so important to the environment and the health of the lake. It decreases light penetration, it affects oxygen levels, it increases sedimentation."

Jeremy Jones, a lake association board member who works on the Milfoil Control Program, said in an interview that the association has attempted to eradicate milfoil through a variety of means, including harvesting machines that exacerbated the milfoil problem instead.

The LSCA determined that diver assisted suction harvesting with the ProcellaCOR used as a "spot treatment" is the most effective management strategy, Jones said, and in the past year the milfoil has decreased to the lowest level since the early 2000s.

But, Emmons and DeSanto said they are concerned about the impact of the herbicide on wildlife based on anecdotal evidence of species diversity decline around the lake, and the use of herbicide treatments' impact on tourism, recreation and property values.

"There's never been a study done, so anecdotal evidence says that there is a devastating impact happening, but nobody's studying it, so you can't quantify it," said Emmons, in an interview.

Emmons pointed to a recent study contracted by the Lake George Lake Association in New York. It found that use of ProcellaCOR killed a large amount of the milfoil and the herbicide was not detected in the water after 24 hours. But, the ProcellaCOR degradants spread past applied areas, were measured in the lakebed sediments, and adhered to native plants for at least three days.

Other effective techniques for addressing Lake St. Catherine's milfoil such as suction dredging and aeration with bio-remediation, Emmons said.

"You can't arrive at any finding that says this is safe for the environment. You can't arrive at any finding that says this is safe for humans. You cannot claim that there's no non-chemical alternatives, because there are non-chemical alternatives, and so every chemical treatment that's ever been done in Lake St. Catherine is a violation of the public trust," said Emmons.

In response, Jones and Crandell said the suction dredging and aeration with bio-remediation was not feasible because it would be too expensive and disruptive to native species. They said they consider the milfoil problem a greater threat to tourism on the lake than the herbicide usage.

Olin Reed, who leads aquatic nuisance control permitting for the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program, said the EPA-approved herbicide has been used 31 times in 11 lakes or ponds in Vermont since 2018 and ProcellaCOR is the only aquatic herbicide currently permitted in Vermont.

While there have not been long-term studies specifically conducted on Lake St. Catherine, Reed said the herbicide has gone through extensive evaluations by Vermont government



Courtesy of Andrew Gioulis/Lake Saint Catherine Association

Lake St. Catherine in Wells and Poulney recently received controversial permits for herbicide to combat invasive plants

agencies before its use was allowed in the state. ProcellaCOR is considered "practically non-toxic" at the level permitted by the state — between 5.79 to 9.65 parts per billion per acre foot, which is less than 20% of the amount allowed by EPA regulations, he said.

"The active and inert compounds have been reviewed by the Vermont Department of Health, and they've determined that there's no impact on human health," said Reed. "It's also been reviewed by state environmental toxicologists — the active and inert compounds — and again, it's shown to be a low risk for any sort of impact on fish or invertebrates or animals."

Comparison to Lake Bomoseen

A similar conversation cropped up last year when locals protested the use of ProcellaCOR on Lake Bomoseen, but the DEC denied the permit request in that instance. Emmons said that decision was the result of "well-organized push-back" by citizens that he hopes can be replicated for Lake St. Catherine.

But, Jones said the reason the Lake Bomoseen Association's permit request was denied was because they did not articulate a long-term management strategy that met the DEC permitting criteria.

"If you look at our permit, we were very careful to talk about exactly what our plan is, what we've done over the years, our results and how well our control program has worked," said Jones. "That's why ours was approved and theirs was not. It had nothing to do with ProcellaCOR."

Reed said the Lake St. Catherine Association's plan is more measured, and only seeks to use the herbicide on a little over 3% of the total lake. He said the five-year permit still requires continual check-ins with the state, and the association has been successful at continually reducing its use of the herbicide over the years.

Pat Suozzi, president of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, favors the lake association's integrated management plan, emphasizing that ProcellaCOR is specifically targeted to milfoil and is not a contact herbicide like the

commonly-known Round-up.

"It actually is a substance that the plants take up by their roots, and it disrupts the growth processes of the plant, so it sort of over-stimulates the plant, and because it gets over-stimulated, it dies," said Suozzi in an interview. "I think it's important to understand that, and because it's targeted to the growth processes of that specific plant, it doesn't have an effect on people."

DeSanto, the fishing guide, said in an interview that he was also concerned about the herbicide's impact on fish populations, as it was applied during spawning season on June 4 of this year, when diver assisted suction harvesting was not allowed until after July 1, after the spawning season.

Reed said in an interview that the reason herbicide treatment is "allowed that early is because there's not an immediate concern for fish spawning," whereas DEC considers the non-chemical harvesting method to immediately disrupt fish habitats because it's "basically a big lawnmower in the water."

DeSanto and others at the meeting also spoke to concerns regarding the size of the postings notifying the public of the chemical treatments, worrying that children and tourists would not notice the postings and unknowingly swim in the lake during the herbicide treatment period.

Reed said the permit was amended so the required size of the signage will increase and treatments can only occur on Mondays or Tuesdays, allowing the herbicide to dilute in the water before the weekend.

Jenny Austen, the program manager of the DEC Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection program, said in an interview that after careful review of the management strategy proposed by the lake association and SOLitude Lake Management, she is confident of the safety and efficacy of permitting the use of ProcellaCOR on Lake St. Catherine.

"As a concerned citizen myself, I was skeptical at first about the use of any chemicals in our waters," said Austen. "It's really meant to be a tool in the toolbox of a much larger management effort. It's a balancing act, and there's a lot of care that's taken in deciding when and where and how these chemicals are used."

"You can't arrive at any finding that says this is safe for the environment. You can't arrive at any finding that says this is safe for humans," said Emmons.

"As a concerned citizen myself, I was skeptical at first about the use of any chemicals in our waters," said Austen. "It's really meant to be a tool in the toolbox of a much larger management effort. It's a balancing act, and there's a lot of care that's taken in deciding when and where and how these chemicals are used."

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The season for thanks

By Anson Tebbetts

Editor's note: Tebbetts is the secretary of the Vermont agency of agriculture, food and markets.

This season, we gather with friends and family. Perhaps you're getting together for a home cooked meal, a potluck, or a special holiday celebration at the office or workplace. Maybe it's to visit your favorite restaurant. We are fortunate in Vermont to have extraordinary food and beverages in every corner of our state. This time of year, we enjoy feasts with fresh local veggies, meat, dairy, and specialty food and beverages made right here in Vermont.

Your local farmer works many long hours to produce a harvest that all of us may enjoy. You might find this season's bounty at the farm at the farmstand, farmers' market, CSA, retail store or co-op, or maybe delivered to your home. Many of our producers can ship your favorite "Taste of Vermont" right to your kitchen, and Vermonters may efficiently order online to support Vermont farmers.

As we close out 2024, it's also time to think of our Christmas tree growers. They provide us with the experience of getting that "perfect" tree for our family. Memories of a lifetime can be found, and made, at choose-and-cut farms across our 14 counties. If you have a friend or family

Acts of kindness often make the world of difference during the hardest of times.

member that misses Vermont this time of year, some growers will even box up trees, wreaths, or garlands and ship them to a home or office. Décor from fresh

Vermont trees is as beautiful to smell, as it is to see.

The holidays are also a time for giving and remembering those who are less fortunate. The year 2024 was a difficult time for many. Once again, floods and severe weather destroyed homes, businesses and crops this summer. The flooding is gone from the headlines, but the emotional and economic impact is still with countless Vermonters. You can still support them by checking on them, volunteering to help with chores or bringing them a home cooked meal or treat during the holidays. These acts of kindness often make the world of difference during the hardest of times.

Thank you for all you do to support your neighbors. We are grateful to have the privilege to enjoy the finest foods in the world. And thank you, farmers, producers and all those who make a living off the land. Your work, and the community we find together here in our brave little state of Vermont, is unmatched.

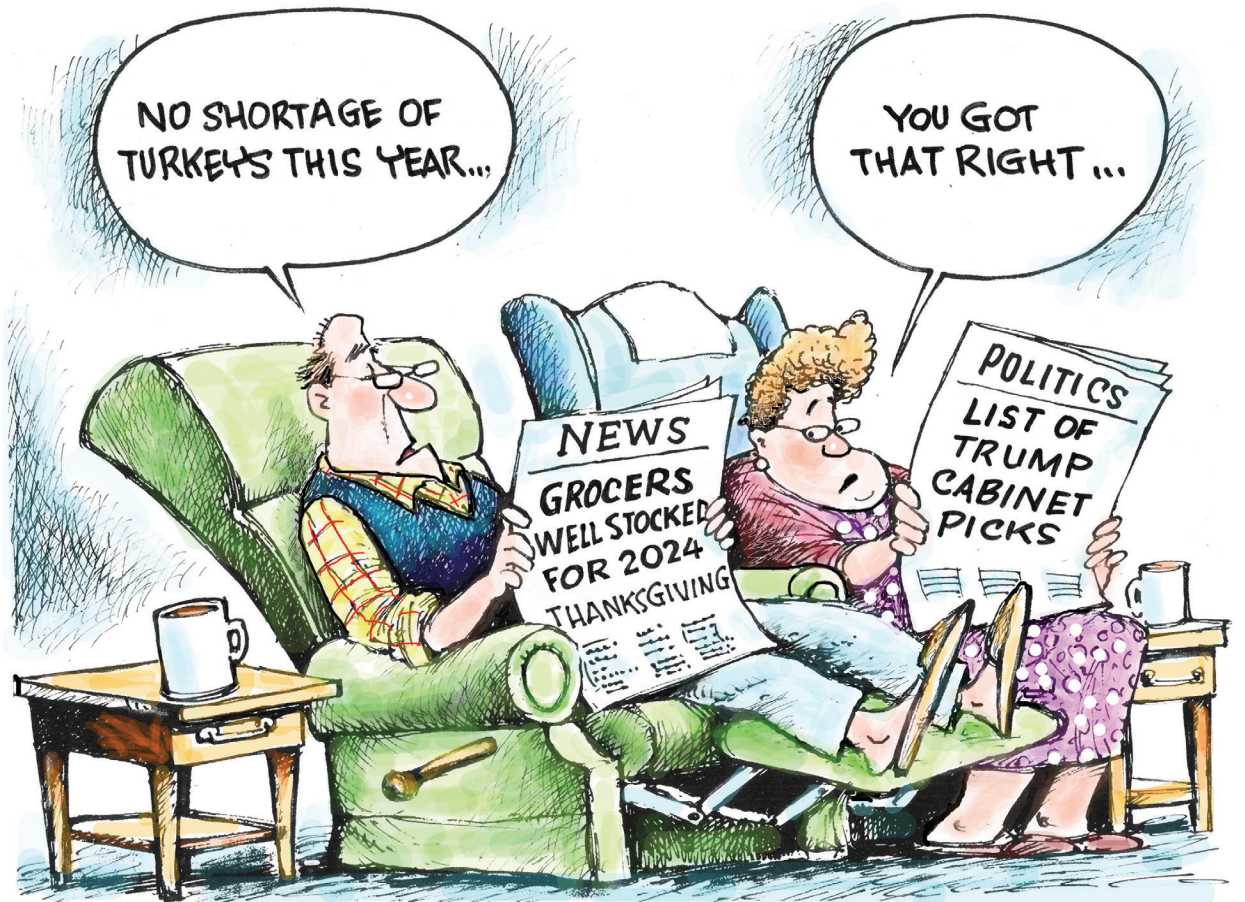
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LETTERS

Let's all pardon the turkey

Dear Editor,

This week, President Biden will pardon two turkeys at the White House, a symbolic gesture of mercy. Yet, over 224 million turkeys endure a far grimmer fate every year in the U.S. These gentle birds are raised in overcrowded sheds thick with toxic fumes, their beaks and toes clipped to prevent stress-related aggression.

At just 16 weeks, turkeys are slaughtered—throats slit, bodies dumped into boiling water for feather removal. Meanwhile, their meat, laden with cholesterol and saturated fat, poses health risks to consumers.

But there's promising news: U.S. turkey production has declined significantly as more Americans embrace plant-based options. Let's celebrate our good fortune this Thanksgiving with a cruelty-free meal—plant-based roasts, seasonal vegetables, fruits, and grains. An internet search for "vegan Thanksgiving" offers countless delicious, compassionate recipes.

Mario Vincelette, Rutland

KSAR gives thanks to the Killington community

Dear Editor,

The Killington Search and Rescue Team and the KSAR Foundation would like to thank the greater Killington community for their support during this year's fundraising drive. Between The Blast Off Party and the town of Killington's July 4th celebration, we raised over \$6,500 for the KSAR Foundation. We also received donations from businesses and individuals.

Thank you to Dream Maker Bakers, Sunup Bakery, and Mountain Creamery, who provided cupcakes and ice cream for July 4 and The Lookout and Basin Ski Shop for hosting the Blast Off Party and choosing the KSAR Foundation as its beneficiary.

KSAR is an all-volunteer, 24-person team of avid hikers and skiers. The team operates as a free public service under the guidance of the Killington Police Dept. This fundraising has helped fund some critical cold-weather gear needed for rescues this winter.

Josh Eckler, KSAR director

Progressives call out Governor Scott for refusing to call a special legislative session

Dear Editor,

Like many others, I am disappointed, though not surprised, that Governor Scott will not call a special legislative session to evaluate and respond, as needed, to incoming President Donald Trump's destructive policies.

After all, Scott's wait-and-

general around the country are organizing to address Trump's likely actions and policies. While supporting some of the Trump agenda, these leaders are making it clear they are ready to take action to protect the rights of all their people.

While Scott takes a wait-and-see attitude, governors and attorney generals around the country are organizing to ... take action to protect the rights of all their people.

see attitude is similar to how he engages in the legislative process: waiting until time is running out before becoming engaged. It also reminds us of his willingness to put off action while a problem gets worse, as evidenced by his failure to address homelessness, climate change, and other vital issues in a timely fashion.

While Scott takes a wait-and-see attitude, governors and attorneys

For example, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu took on Trump's border czar Tom Homan, saying that local authorities will not assist federal mass deportation efforts, pointing to a city ordinance that says law enforcement can only participate in such actions if the person has been involved in serious criminal activity.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey has stated
Special session → 14



CAPITAL QUOTES

Vermont's statewide property tax for education rose 13.7% in 2024, with an additional double-digit increase expected in 2025. These hikes pose a challenge to Vermont residents, communities and lawmakers who are faced with proposing solution to the rising taxes as well as the resulting impacts to education funding.

“Vermonters need, want, and deserve a thriving public education system as well as affordable and predictable property tax rates. In order to achieve both, we need the governor’s early, transparent, and collaborative engagement,”

said Senator **Phil Baruth**, President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate, in a statement released Monday, Nov. 25.

“It will require us to make difficult choices. We are operating with a limited amount of money but we understand that there is a need to make some stabilization in our system,”

said Interim Vermont Education Secretary **Zoie Saunders** in a statement regarding the issue.

“It’s fair to say that the elections made it clear that Vermonters want the Legislature and the governor to work more closely. We will be looking forward to very detailed proposals from the governor right away as the session begins,”

said Rep. **Peter Conlon**, D-Cornwall, chair of the House Education Committee.

“While education funding will no doubt be a ‘top priority’ this legislative session, there’s a clear distinction between education funding and the cost of education,”

said **Colin Robinson**, the Vermont-National Education Association political director on how the state pays for education spending.

COMMENTARY

Rutland sets example of how to grow local housing

By Angelo Lynn

Editor’s note: Angelo Lynn is the editor and publisher of the Addison Independent, a sister publication to the Mountain Times.

An important concept in building new housing was recently articulated by Devon Neary, executive director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. “Housing,” he said, “doesn’t just pop up out of nowhere. I think what’s most critical is that the city of Rutland is really laying the foundation for significant housing growth.”

Rutland and its county, as most of us know, has been losing population since area marble quarries declined in the 1970s-80s. But even though its population has been in decline, it also needs significant new housing to meet its needs, which were pegged at 7,000 new units for renters and homeowners by 2040, or about 450 new units per year.

To have housing meet such demand requires proactive planning, which Rutland has been doing. A year ago, Rutland Mayor Mike Doenges set a goal of creating 1,000 new housing units by 2028, or about 250 units per year. Step 1 was to recognize bureaucratic roadblocks and get them out of the way, that is to remove costs and zoning barriers that hamper building projects. Step 2 is to partner with affordable housing developers, such as the Housing Trust of Rutland County, as well as with area banks and private developers. The housing trust already has 46 new units in the works in two projects.

“It can’t just be the affordable housing organizations that are doing this,” said Mary Cohen, executive director of the Housing Trust of Rutland County. “It’s a lot of private developers that need to step to the plate as well.”

But because the market won’t support affordable housing without public subsidies, special programs have to be developed. Doenges and the city has worked with the Rutland Heritage Family Credit Union to launch a program called “Roofs over Rutland,” which recently received \$8 million to provide low-interest rate loans to developers. That money came from a fund set up by State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, called “10% in Vermont.” Since the rollout of the program last month, about a dozen housing development loan requests have been made.

Other steps to boost housing development in Rutland city include the reduction of “prohibitive” permitting fees and wastewater allocation permits, which were lowered from \$4 per gallon to 25 cents per gallon for residential developments.

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission also recently published a housing guide for developers with the goal of “bringing clarity to the housing production process” to help developers manage the city’s permitting process and better contain costs.

Neary has said the document “has been

monumental in removing some of the barriers, especially information barriers for accessing public money and incentives for housing development and really bringing resources directly to those developers’ fingertips.”

None of these action-oriented ideas have met the city’s current demands, but they are steps that don’t cost a lot of money, tap into existing grants and funding to help subsidize affordable housing, and let developers know the community is trying to pave the way for more housing developers to build and sell at a modest profit.

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency is the group that estimates housing needs for each county and major population centers, and its data profiles per town and county provide much needed information about current housing demographics, including projections of about 30 new housing per year in Addison County from 2020-25 — far less than what’s needed. A 2021 report by the Addison County Housing Trust found Addison County needed 230 new housing units at that time to meet demand, and a Vermont Futures Project report suggesting the state reach a population of 802,000 reported Addison County would need to build 358 housing units per year through 2035 to meet that lofty goal.

Those big housing numbers would help fill area schools, staff area businesses and hospitals to near capacity, reduce high labor costs, and create more vitality throughout our communities. The same is true even if the number of new housing units is a more modest 100 per year. The point is to meet existing demand, not continually fall behind.

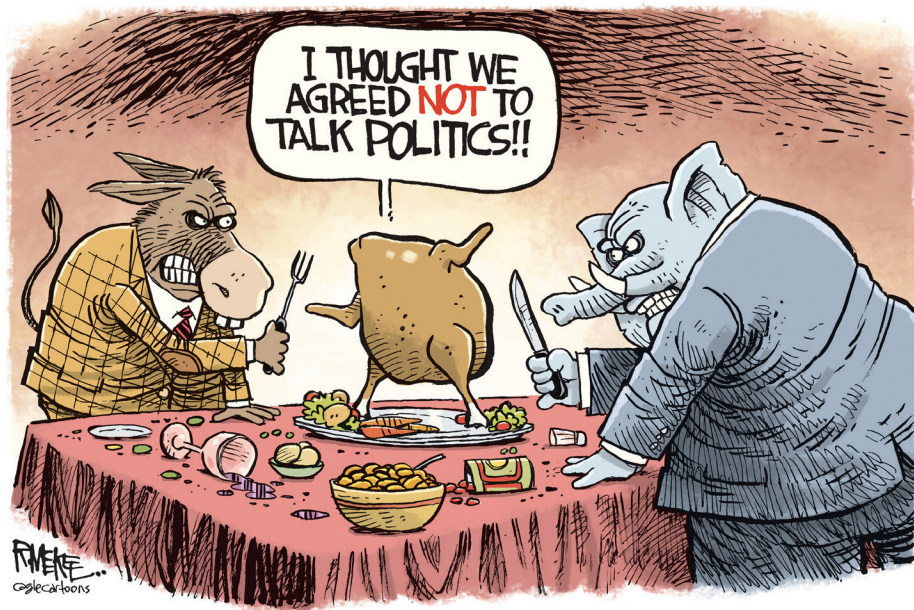
Of the several recommendations the Vermont Housing Finance Agency suggests for communities interested in tackling the problem, one is to establish a local Housing Committee to examine obstacles the town may be posing to developers, listen to local developers and address their concerns, help connect developers with grants and other funds to subsidize affordable housing units, and identify local parcels (perhaps by changing those parcels’ zoning from industrial to high-density residential, for example) that would be suitable for multi-unit developments.

None of this is to suggest Addison County hasn’t been working on increasing housing density and affordability for the past several years. They have been. But a formalized plan and a goal like what Rutland is pursuing, along with removing obstacles that are costly and subsidizing fees that are restrictive, are good ideas to copy. And because providing more housing is the linchpin to help solve the state’s and county’s other vexing issues — lowering the cost of healthcare and education — the sooner we lay the foundation and set achievable goals, the better off we’ll be.

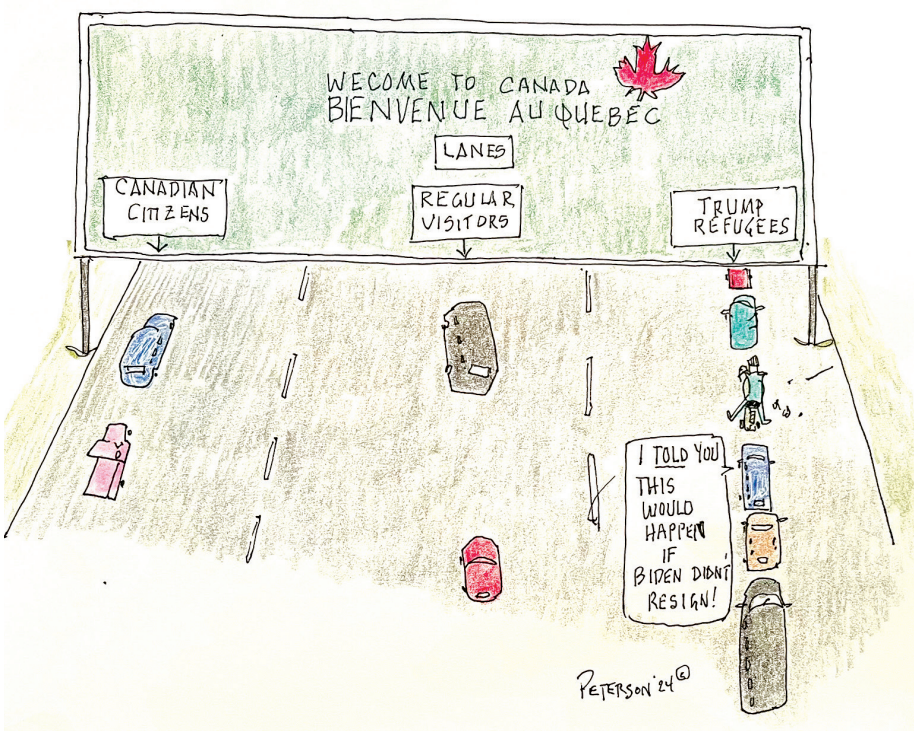
CARTOONS



Bear sees couple that want to hibernate by Christopher Weyant, The Boston Globe



Thanksgiving No Talking Politics Fight by Rick McKee, CagleCartoons



By Curt Peterson, Hartland

← **Special session:**
from page 12

that the state police would “absolutely not” assist in Trump’s planned mass deportation.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul initiated a program to address policy and regulatory threats from the Trump administration. Governors in Illinois, Colorado, and other states are taking action.

National and state-level advocacy organizations are also preparing to take a proactive approach to responding to Trump’s threat to human rights, economic justice, and public safety.

Recognizing the threats and the benefits of working in coalition with others around the nation, on Nov. 17, delegates to the Progressive Party convention unanimously passed a resolution that states in part, “We call on Vermont Governor Phil Scott to call the Vermont Legislature into a special session to pass legislation to protect Vermonters from threats to their rights and safety by President-elect Trump.”

We can learn much from others, including Vermonters, who are on the front

lines of the issues.

We hope that Vermont will join with advocates and other policymakers in understanding what we might expect and how we and others may respond.

A legislative session devoted to hearing from Vermonters and better understanding how the Trump administration will impact us is only common sense. So far, Governor Scott disagrees and is again choosing to sit on the sidelines.

Anthony Pollina, chair of the Vt Progressive Party

← **Internet grant:**
from page 10

National Telecommunications and Information Administration that focuses on reducing digital disparities by providing resources and support to under-connected populations.

The act also identified the eight populations most negatively impacted by the digital divide: incarcerated people, people with low income, veterans, people with disabilities, people who are learning English, people who are older than 59, people who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and people who live in a rural area.

“In rural Vermont, some of our towns have been left behind with slow internet service and not being able to participate in our modern way of life,” Richards said. “We need access, regardless of a person’s income, education, physical abilities, or just your general place in life.”

Connectivity could provide new opportunities in the state’s prison system, Hallquist said, by investing in digital infrastructure to offer certification and training programs that prepare people to reintegrate into society.

Burlington resident Brandy Rose was re-

cently released from prison and spoke at the press conference about how digital inequity impacted her life.

“While you’re incarcerated, you don’t really have the access to find jobs or housing, and you rely on your caseworker to help you do all of these things,” Rose said. “Unfortunately, I was released with nothing. If we’d had more access, I would probably be in better housing right now, and I would probably have a job.”

Family farms could similarly benefit from fiber connections. Hallquist described a woman managing a 900-acre farm in the Northeast Kingdom who drives more than 100 miles a day to check crop moisture levels.

“Imagine how remote monitoring technology could free her from that time-consuming task, allowing her to focus on more valuable activities,” Hallquist said, emphasizing how broadband could improve efficiency and access to high-margin markets.

The state broadband board plans to begin implementation of the project in January 2025.

← **Youth risk survey:**
from page 4

sport involvement and post-graduation plans. The YRBS data can help school and community organizations focus prevention efforts and determine whether school policies and community programs have the intended effect on student behaviors.

The survey, also given on a national level coordinated by the CDC, is a collaboration between the Health Department and Agency of Education.

Report highlights:

- 22% of high school students report using marijuana, a decrease from 24% a decade ago.
- The percent of high school students who believe their parents would think it’s wrong for them to use marijuana has decreased in the last decade, from 82% in 2013 to 75% today.

- 16% of high school students report using e-cigarettes, down from a peak of 26% in 2019.
- 28% of high school students are sexually active, an increase from the 2021 results.
- Condom use has significantly decreased among sexually active students over the last decade (62% in 2013 to 49% in 2023).
- 56% of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) students are treated unfairly at school because of their race or ethnicity compared to 14% of white, non-Hispanic students.
- Almost 40% of high school students report they are trying to lose weight.

For more information, visit: HealthVermont.gov/yrbs.



Courtesy Vermont State House

← Senate shakeup: from page 4

“I think that maybe there’s positions where you don’t want those characteristics in a person,” Perchlik said. “But I think we’re talking about electing a political leader, for a political caucus, in a political body, working in politics, and we want somebody that is ambitious.”

With her new leadership position, Ram Hinsdale will most likely forfeit her current position as chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs — a post from which she has been able to shape major policies in the chamber. That’s because of a longstanding tradition in the Senate, dating back to 1997, of caucus leaders not chairing policy committees to prevent them from accumulating too much power.

Ram Hinsdale tried to change that tradition on Saturday. In an unusual move, senators voted on a piece of internal guidance that would have allowed caucus leaders to serve as committee chairs, as well. Ram Hinsdale urged her colleagues to vote, ‘yes.’

In a speech to her colleagues urging their ‘yes’ votes, Ram Hinsdale chalked up the question to “basic math” in the 30-member chamber.

“We have 17 members of our caucus. When you subtract our new members ... you land with 14 members of our caucus, and you subtract the rest of the [leadership] positions ... you’re left with 11. Eleven Democrats to distribute leadership roles in each position,” Ram Hinsdale said. “There are 11 committees.”

From a “simple mathematical perspective,” she concluded, upholding the 27-year-old tradition would be “putting colleagues from the other side of the aisle further in line for a leadership role overseeing our policy agenda, frankly.”

Clarkson, who made the initial push for the caucus to vote on the matter Saturday, said that, given the 17-13 makeup of the Senate, that’s fair. Already, Sen. Russ Ingalls, R-Essex, chairs the Senate Institutions Committee.

“This is nothing new, and nothing new with these numbers,” Clarkson said. “Given the number of Republicans that have been elected, it makes sense that there will be at least one — we’ve always had at least one Republican chair — and ... my guess is there will be a second.”

What’s important to Clarkson, she said, is “empowering our caucus and empowering individual growth. I think it’s essential that we grow our leadership in this caucus.”

Ultimately, senators voted 9-6, with two abstentions, to defeat the proposed change to allow a caucus leader to also serve as a committee chair.

Democrats also opted not to make a change at the top of the Senate’s hierarchy.

Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, faced no challenger from within the caucus for his nomination to serve a second biennium leading the Senate. As the Democratic caucus’s nominee, Baruth will face a vote by all 30 members of the Senate on the first day of the 2025 legislative session in January.

But even within the caucus, his nomination was not unanimous. Fifteen senators voted ‘yes’ to renominate Baruth to the post, while two abstained. Following the vote, Baruth said that 15-2 is “a number that we should all have in our minds going forward, because if we vote 15-2 on the floor, we lose whatever bill is in front of us.”

With 13 Republicans in the chamber, Baruth noted that two Democrats splitting from the caucus would create a

15-15 tie on the floor. Republican Lt. Gov.-elect John Rodgers would then break such a tie.

“I understand I did not get a unanimous vote, that two people had their reasons,” Baruth said. “Every bill that comes to you, you may have

reasons why you might not want to vote for it. But we’re in a situation where the good of the caucus and the bills that you want to pass out of your committee are going to need you to be a little more amenable to other people’s bills. You’re going to have to stretch sometimes.”

Also on Saturday, Democrats elected White the caucus’s new whip, with 14 voting in favor and three abstaining. Perchlik, who had previously held the post, did not seek it again.

Democrats also nominated Sen. Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden Southeast, to serve as the third member of the powerful, three-member Committee on Committees.

That panel, which also includes the pro tem and lieutenant governor, draws up Senate committee assignments and chairmanships, playing a major role in choreographing the chamber’s policy direction. Sixteen Democratic senators-elect voted in favor of Lyons’ nomination, while one abstained. Lyons will also face a vote on the Senate floor in January before she can claim the title.

After selecting caucus leaders, senators-elect then shared with one another their priorities for the upcoming legislative session. They each rattled off a familiar list of policy goals — chief among them, to reduce Vermonters’ property tax burden and reform the state’s education finance structure.

Baruth told his caucus that he sees the state’s property tax conundrum as a “de facto emergency” — and said he plans to treat it as such from the first day of session. He proposed to clear the agendas of the Senate’s education, finance and appropriations committees at the start of the session, and offer a full week of testimony to the Scott administration to hear solutions from the governor himself.

The idea, Baruth said, would be to reach an agreement between the Republican administration and Democratic majorities at the start of the session, rather than the end. No longer holding a supermajority, legislative Democrats won’t be able to reliably override a veto from Scott — and so “no one is going home without a Phil Scott-approved tax plan,” Baruth said.

“If there is a message in this election, I believe it was that the voters wanted the governor’s ideas moved to the top of the agenda,” Baruth said. “That is literally what I’m suggesting.”

“If there is a message in this election, I believe it was that the voters wanted the governor’s ideas moved to the top of the agenda,” Baruth said. “That is literally what I’m suggesting.”

← Foreman: from page 2

make sense and work really well,” he added.

The highway department has five full-time employees, one fewer than last winter. Mattson believes the five can manage the town roads very well, and isn’t currently searching for an additional employee.

However, he feels the town needs to replace an older truck that has been giving the department problems for years.

“A new 10-wheeler will cost between \$280,000 and \$300,000,” Mattson said. “And there’s a 1 ½ year wait.”

Last Jan. 5 he told the Select Board about the necessary lead time. The town would purchase the cab and chassis and then send it to Viking Cives truck works in Williston for the body and any mechanical systems. He hopes the town’s budget will have adequate reserves to pay for the new truck on arrival.

Mattson has contributed to discussions about Bird Hill Road residents’ request for town take-over of their private road. The Select Board walked the site Nov. 18, and BJ has inspected the road from a highway department perspective.

“In order to qualify as a town road,” he told the Mountain Times, “the residents would have to add up to 4 inches of hardpack material, culverts would have to be checked against requirements, and some significant ditching would be needed for proper drainage. On the plus side, the road is wide enough for town trucks, and there is an ample turnaround spot at the end — very important!”

The real issue is the bridge that carries traffic from Brownsville Road to the residences on Bird Hill Road, its actual weight capacity and its statutory weight limit. Mattson said he is not qualified to comment on either, but it’s a concern.

“The road would have to be graded on a regular basis, and our grader weighs about 37,000 pounds,” he said.

← Furloughed: from page 2

HNI Corp., which acquired Vermont Castings in 2014.

At the time, Vermont Castings had passed through three different owners in six years.

HNI is among the world’s largest office and residential furnishing companies. In its latest earnings report, the company said that its residential division — which includes Vermont Castings, among about a dozen other brands — saw a slight uptick in orders in the third quarter of 2024, which runs from July to September, compared to the same time period in 2023. But it noted that projections for the fourth

“Incoming orders have been negatively impacted by record-low housing turnover, elevated interest rates, ongoing affordability issues, and economic uncertainty,” the corporation said in the report.

quarter of 2024, which started in October, show an expected drop in sales compared to that period a year prior.

“Incoming orders have been negatively impacted by record-low housing turnover, elevated interest rates, ongoing affordability issues, and economic uncertainty,” the corporation said in the report, which it released on Oct. 29.

The company’s 89 total employees in Vermont marks a decrease from years past. In 2018 — following a sweeping modernization of its plants in Randolph and Bethel — it had 100 employees across both facilities, the Valley News reported at the time.

A spokesperson for the Vermont Dept. of Labor said the state had been notified of the planned furlough and was in contact with the company’s leadership to offer services to employees who are set to be affected.

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Crowds flock to the Killington Cup to cheer on the world's fastest women

It's bigger than a race, the Stifel Killington Cup is a celebration of the history and passion for Alpine ski racing. In addition to watching the fastest female ski racers in Slalom and Giant Slalom battle for the top prize on the signature Superstar trail, the weekend is packed full of entertainment including live music, fireworks, movie screenings, panel discussions, athlete signings, a vendor village, pre-parties and after parties.

Killington Resort and the greater community of businesses, young racers and race fans are excited to welcome World Cup athletes back to Killington for the eighth time over Thanksgiving Weekend.

Tens of thousands of spectators will enjoy the live action, while millions more will watch the races broadcast in over 60 countries. The Stifel Killington Cup typically draws over 30,000 spectators to both race days combined — and there are more that attend activities around the races — and, of course, even more if you count those that just came to ski and ride.

The volume and passion of the fans sends a clear message: Alpine ski racing is alive and well in the East.

This year, the action will kick off with a parade of young aspiring athletes from clubs around the state and region. The young racers will be representing their ski clubs, full of anticipation to watch the best female Alpine skiers in the world show their skills on Superstar. Five-time Killington Cup victor Mikaela Shiffrin is always the crowd favorite and has risen to even greater heights of stardom since she first graced the slopes of Superstar in the debut Killington Cup of 2016. She has now won more World Cups than any other Alpine racer (male or female). Having been schooled at Burke Mountain Academy, Vermont gets particularly excited to cheer for Shiffrin.

The 2016 second event in Killington was the first FIS Ski World Cup held in the eastern USA since 1991 at Waterville Valley, New Hampshire and the second in Vermont since 1978 at Stratton Mountain.

Superstar: fit for worldclass race

Killington's Superstar Trail (the race trail) was selected because very little work needed to be done on it to make it FIS compliant and race-ready. It is 4,800 feet long, and drops 1,200 vertical feet with a pitch of 30 to 50 degrees.

Crews work hard to make it incredibly slick! More than 15 million gallons of water are used to cover Superstar Trail with depths of at least 3-5 feet of snow, which takes about



By Paul Holmes

Crews work to inject Superstar with water through high-pressure hoses along metal bars to make the course "extra firm."

100 hours of snowmaking. Then course crews inject it with water to make it "extra firm" — what most of us would call bulletproof ice!

The firmer the course the better it will hold up through the lineup of racers and through various weather events that otherwise could lead to postponement of races.

When a course is injected, high-pressure hoses force water 1 or 2 feet deep into the snow through small nozzles along long metal bars.

Course safety

Because FIS courses get so slick, more than 5 kilometers of safety fence are utilized on the race hill for racers safety. Additionally, U.S. Ski and Snowboard provides Killington with around two dozen airbags,

Blue dye at the edge of the course is another safety feature, helping racers when visibility is difficult. Crews carry backpacks of dye to spray reapplying as needed throughout

the event, in order to adjust to varying conditions and help all racers equally.

Course setting also requires that coaches consider the safety of the racers, in addition to creating challenging, dynamic and creative lines.

This year, the Giant Slalom on Saturday, will be set by Norwegian coach Hannes Zochling for the first run and Swedish coach Walter Girardi for the second.

For Sunday's Slalom race, the first run will be set by Austrian coach Klaus Mayrhofer and the second run by Swiss coach Jorg Roten.

The distance between the gates ranges between 7 and 13 meters. The course setter takes into account the distance and vertical drop of the hill to decide how many gates are needed to meet International Ski Federation standards.

Superstar typically has about 60 gates in the Slalom and 40 gates in Giant Slalom.



THE GOAT

GREATEST OF ALL TIME

Fans ready to cheer Shiffrin's success

By Polly Mikula

Mikaela Shiffrin, who attended Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont, has won the Slalom race at Killington six of seven times since the Killington Cup began in 2016. Fans always want to see her defend her title but this year that victory could bring with it another massive milestone: her 100th World Cup win! A feat no other Alpine skier in history has done. She began the season with 97 World Cup wins and there are three races before the Killington Cup — one Giant Slalom and two Slalom races, she won both Slaloms setting her up to possibly win her 100th at Killington.

After her 62 World Cup Slalom win last Saturday, Nov. 23 Shiffrin shared with Olympics.com. "I was really nervous on the top... It feels really satisfying to have a great run down this slope. What a wonderful day today."

While the competition is always steep, with less than a quarter second often separating places on the podium, Shiffrin has proven her podium prowess over and over in the 14 years she's been on the World Cup circuit. She has a 35.92% World Cup winning rate from 270 starts, according to Olympics.com. Of her 99 wins, she's won 62 Slalom World Cup events and 22 Giant Slalom events. Her podium rate is even higher at 56.29% with 152 World Cup podiums (84 in Slalom).

While Shiffrin has been most prominent in Slalom, she is a contender in Giant Slalom as well having won 22 World Cup Giant Slalom races and made the podium 43 times total in that event. She also won the overall globe in Giant Slalom for the World Cup season in 2022-23.

The Giant Slalom in Killington will be the second race of the season in that discipline. The first was the season opener in Soelden, Austria on Oct. 26 where Shiffrin placed fifth.

Shiffrin has podiumed twice in Giant Slalom at Killington: in 2019 she placed third and in 2017, second.

Records set

In January 2023, Shiffrin broke the women's record of 82 World Cup wins held by Lindsey Vonn (2018), then two months later she broke the men's record of 86 accumulated by Swede Ingemar Stenmark in the 1980s. She started this season with 97 after she tacked on nine more wins last season.

Shiffrin is tied with Stenmark and Lindsey Vonn for most season titles in a single discipline, with eight, and her 62 total World Cup Slalom wins are the most by any skier in a single discipline. (In addition to her 62 Slalom and 22 Giant Slalom wins, she has 5 wins in Super-G, 4 in Downhill, 3 City Events, 2 Parallel Slaloms, 1 Alpine Combined — and while this sounds a bit like "The 12 days of Christmas" I assure you those stats are accurate!). Shiffrin is the first athlete to win a race in six different Alpine disciplines.

In total Shiffrin has stood on the World Cup podium 154 times (86 in Slalom, 43 in Giant Slalom, 10 in Super-G, 7 in Downhill, 5 in City Events, 2 in Parallel Slalom and 1 in Alpine Combined), which is now just one shy of that podium record held by Swedish legend Ingemar Stenmark.

In one season (2018-19) she accumulated 17 wins, which

is the most by any skier, male or female, in a single season.

She has also won the Overall season title five times (2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023), which is one shy of the female record set by Austrian Annemarie Moser-Pröll in the 1970s — a record she may tie this year. (The overall title is determined by adding points from results in all 37 World Cup races across Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom and Slalom. While Shiffrin has chosen to bow out of Downhill races this season, she's still the heavy favorite.)

Of the 37 World Cup races this season, 10 are in Slalom, 10 Giant Slalom, 9 Super-G and 8 Downhill.

In total, she's won 15 World Cup Season titles (5 overall, 7 Slalom, 1 Super-G, 2 Giant Slalom); seven World Championship titles (4 Slalom, 1 Super G, 1 in Giant Slalom, and 1 Alpine Combined); and 3 Olympic

medals (Gold in Slalom 2014, Gold in Giant Slalom 2018 and Silver in Alpine Combined 2018).

Last season, Shiffrin was sidelined for an 11-race stretch after a crash in a Downhill event in late January at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, when she sprained left leg ligaments. Shiffrin returned in March and won her last two races, both Slaloms, and still won the Slalom season and finished third in the overall standings.

The first seven races this season are all technical events — Giant Slalom and Slalom — Shiffrin's best. Of the 37 World Cup races this season, 10 are in Slalom, 10 Giant Slalom, 9 Super-G and 8 Downhill.

Shiffrin is simply the greatest of all time (GOAT).



Courtesy U.S. Ski Team



Thus far in the 2024-2025 season: Shiffrin wins 2 of 3

Giant Slalom in Soelden, Austria, Oct. 26

1. Federica Brignone, 34, from Italy
2. Alice Robinson, 22, New Zealand
3. Julia Scheib, 26, Austria

Slalom in Levi, Finland, Nov. 16

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, 29, United States
2. Katharina Liensberger, 27, Austria
3. Lena Duerr, 33, Germany

Slalom in Gurgl, Austria, Nov. 23

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, 29, United States
2. Lara Colturi, 18, Albania
3. Camille Rast, 25, Switzerland

Audi FIS World Cup 2024-25 season schedule:

Oct. 26, 2024	Sölden, Austria	Giant Slalom
Nov. 16, 2024	Levi, Finland	Slalom
Nov. 23, 2024	Gurgl, Austria	Slalom
Nov. 30, 2024	Killington, USA	Giant Slalom
Dec. 1, 2024	Killington, USA	Slalom
Dec. 7, 2024	Tremblant, Canada	Giant Slalom
Dec. 8, 2024	Tremblant, Canada	Giant Slalom
Dec. 14, 2024	Beaver Creek, USA	Downhill
Dec. 15, 2024	Beaver Creek, USA	Super-G
Dec. 21, 2024	St. Moritz, Switzerland	Super-G
Dec. 22, 2024	St. Moritz, Switzerland	Super-G
Dec. 28, 2024	Semmering, Austria	Giant Slalom
Dec. 29, 2024	Semmering, Austria	Slalom
Jan. 4, 2025	Kranjska Gora, Slovenia	Giant Slalom
Jan. 5, 2025	Kranjska Gora, Slovenia	Slalom
Jan. 11, 2025	St. Anton, Austria	Downhill
Jan. 12, 2025	St. Anton, Austria	Super-G
Jan. 14, 2025	Flachau, Austria	Slalom (night)
Jan. 18, 2025	Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy	Downhill
Jan. 19, 2025	Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy	Super-G
Jan. 21, 2025	Kronplatz, Italy	Giant Slalom
Jan. 25, 2025	Garmisch, Germany	Downhill
Jan. 26, 2025	Garmisch, Germany	Super-G
Jan. 30, 2025	Courchevel, France	Slalom (night)
Feb. 22, 2025	Sestriere, Italy	Giant Slalom
Feb. 23, 2025	Sestriere, Italy	Slalom
Feb. 28, 2025	Kvitfjell, Norway	Downhill
Mar. 1, 2025	Kvitfjell, Norway	Downhill
Mar. 2, 2025	Kvitfjell, Norway	Super-G
Mar. 8, 2025	Åre, Sweden	Giant Slalom
Mar. 9, 2025	Åre, Sweden	Slalom
Mar. 14, 2025	La Thuile, Italy	Downhill
Mar. 15, 2025	La Thuile, Italy	Super-G
Mar. 22, 2025	Sun Valley, USA	Downhill
Mar. 23, 2025	Sun Valley, USA	Super-G
Mar. 25, 2025	Sun Valley, USA	Giant Slalom
Mar. 27, 2025	Sun Valley, USA	Slalom



Photos courtesy U.S. Ski Team

I AM FAST AND I AM FEARLESS

AUDI FIS SKI WORLD CUP
 NOV. 29 - DEC. 01, 2024
 KILLINGTON, VT
 KILLINGTON.COM/WORLDCUP

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: DUSTIN SKILOFF
 PAULA MOLTZAN | MEMBER OF STIFEL
 U.S. ALPINE SKI TEAM

By the Mountain Times

World Cup programs offer event keepsakes

Athlete autographs make them extra valuable, bring a Sharpie!

For eight years now, since Killington began hosting the World Cup races on Superstar in 2016, the Mountain Times has published a program in partnership with Killington Resort, the U.S. Alpine Ski Team and sponsors, creating a free keepsake for all attendees — a surprising number of fans have collected them all! There are autograph pages for athlete signing in the back.



Courtesy Killington Resort



Insider tips: How to get the most out of your World Cup weekend

1. Don't miss Friday night

Yes, we know you came for the races, but the bib draw presentation is a real party! Watch the top 15 women's Giant Slalom athletes draw their bib for Saturday's race. It's also your first chance to visit with vendors in the village and fireworks at Killington are second to none! Dress appropriately for the weather.

2. Arrive early, leave bags at home

While it's tempting to pack extra clothing and supplies, we strongly recommend packing as light as possible. Wear layers, instead! All guests are required to go through a security checkpoint in front of K-1 Base Lodge to enter the Festival Village, K-1 Lodge, and spectator areas, and those without bags get through quicker! Plus, you won't want to be lugging your pack around — or put it down on the wet ground.

3. View the scene from various points

The best viewing is in the eye of the beholder. Some prefer a direct angle up through the finish line. Others (especially kids) love to be as high up along the course as is permitted (and then slide down the steep hill between runs). The grandstand and premier grandstand seats also offer superb views (advanced purchase of tickets are required).

4. Jam with the bands

Don't miss the FREE outdoor concerts in the Festival Village Friday-Sunday. Kicking off the entertainment is DJ Ross One playing Friday night at the bib presentations and at the Wobbly after-party Saturday night. Matt Quinn (lead singer from Mt. Joy) is performing between runs Saturday. Fitz and the Tantrums are playing Saturday after the second run. Eve 6 is performing Sunday between runs.

5. Make dinner reservations

Killington has lots of options for dinner, but they do fill up when crowds like this come to town, so plan ahead and make reservations. We suggest going early, here's why: 1) You're going to be hungry after spending all day outside. 2) You're going to be tired. Getting off the couch at 8 p.m. could prove to be a herculean task, plus dinner at 5 p.m. is less crowded.

6. Get signed

Athletes will sign swag, posters and your official Stifel Killington Cup program (pick one up at the entrance to the event, inside the K-1 Lodge or at the Killington Welcome Center and flip to pages 160-161) at the finish line and at special autograph signing events at Killington ski shops throughout the weekend.

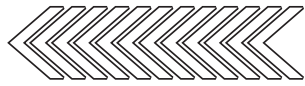


Courtesy Killington Resort

Watch the races, part-take in festivities

Friday, Nov. 29

- 3 p.m.**
Festival Village opens, K-1 Base Area
- 5:30 p.m.**
DJ Ross One, Kona Big Wave Stage,
Festival Village, K-1 Base Area
- 5:45 p.m.**
Athlete Bib Presentation, K-1 Base Area
- Dusk**
Fireworks, K-1 Base Area



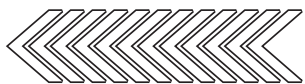
Saturday, Nov. 30

- 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
Festival Village opens, K-1 Base Area
- 8 a.m.**
VIP Tent opens, Festival Village
- 9 a.m.**
Opening parade, Festival Village
- 10 a.m.**
Giant Slalom run 1 on Superstar trail
Immediately following run 1
Live performance by Matt Quinn (lead singer from Mt. Joy),
Kona Big Wave Stage, Festival Village
- 1 p.m.**
Giant Slalom run 2 on Superstar trail
Immediately following run 2
Giant Slalom awards at finish area
- 2 p.m.**
Live performance by Fitz and the Tantrums, Kona Big Wave
Stage, Festival Village
- 3-8 p.m.**
World Cup Rebels Apres Ski Party benefiting the World
Cup Dreams Foundation (open to all), Pickle Barrel
- 6-7 p.m.**
HERoic Women's panel, Snowshed Ballroom
- 7-8 p.m.**
Movie: "Moving Right Along" and "Kindred," Snowshed
Ballroom
- 9 p.m. - 1:15 a.m.**
After party with DJ Ross One, Wobbly Barn



Sunday, Dec. 1

- 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
Festival Village opens, K-1 Base Area
- 8 a.m.**
VIP Tent opens, Festival Village
- 10 a.m.**
Slalom run 1 on Superstar trail
Immediately following run 1
Live performance by Eve 6, Kona Big Wave Stage, Festival
Village
- 1 p.m.**
Slalom run 2 on Superstar trail
Immediately following run 2
Slalom awards at finish area



Live broadcast schedule 2024

NETWORK	DAY/Time	EVENT
Outside	Saturday, 10 a.m.	GS Run 1
NBC, Peacock, Outside	Saturday, 1 p.m.	GS Run 2
Outside	Sunday, 10 a.m.	Slalom Run 1
NBC, Peacock, Outside	Sunday, 1 p.m.	Slalom Run 2



By Jerry LeBlond



By Aliya Schneider



Courtesy Killington Resort

Friday night the party kicks off a deejay dance party and bib draw followed by fireworks. Left: Mikaela Shiffrin draws her bib.



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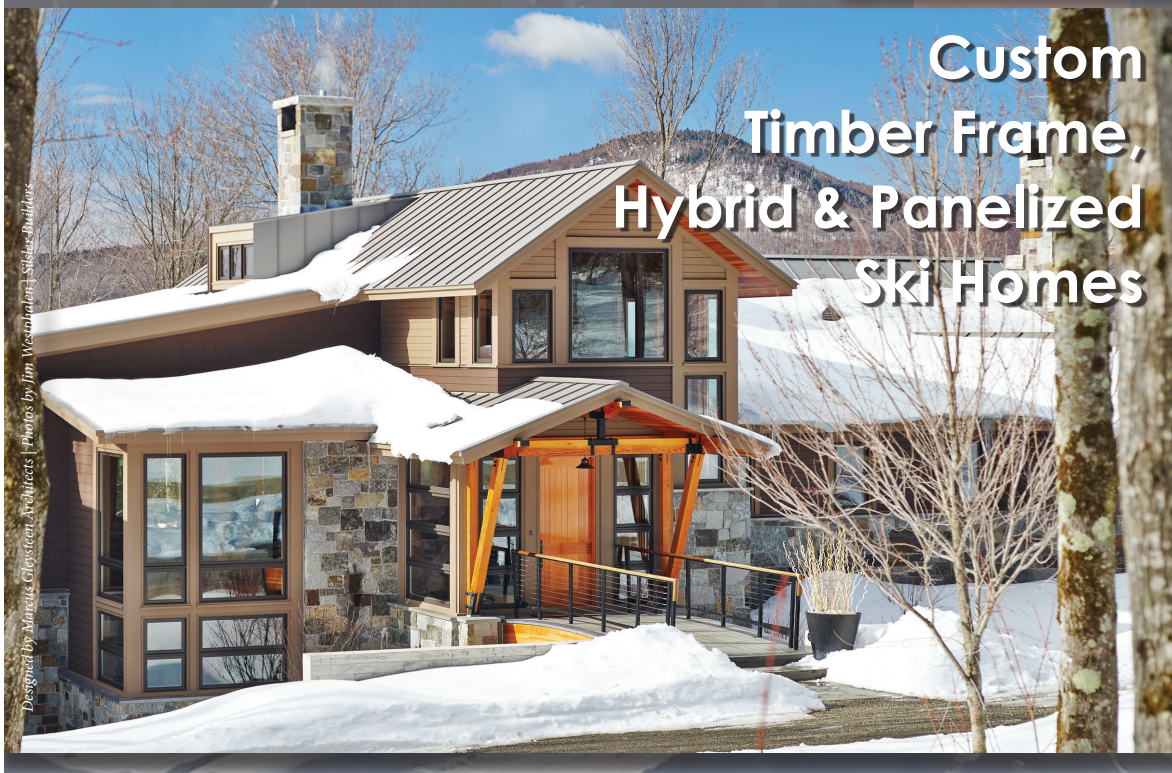
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Courtesy Killington Resort

Worldclass entertainment plays the Kona Big Wave Stage

By Polly Mikula

"Watching world-class skiing isn't the only reason to attend the Stifel Killington Cup," said Director of Brand Marketing and Events Amy Laramie. "I am really looking forward to this year's lineup of music, with high-energy bands that will keep the party going all weekend long."

The action begins Friday on the Kona Big Wave Stage in the Festival Village at K-1 Base Area, which opens at 3 p.m.

DJ Ross One begins the party at 5:30 p.m. with the Athlete Bib Presentation at 5:45 p.m. followed by fireworks.

A staple on the Hollywood party circuit, DJ Ross One will pump up the crowd and the athletes with musical vibes spinning a seamless mix of tracks while emcees host a full show complete with prizes, a t-shirt gun, mascots, vendors, food and beverages and more. The evening concludes with a bang as the fireworks display is enhanced by the reflections off the snow cover slopes.

Live music continues on the Kona Big Wave Stage between Giant Slalom races Saturday as Matt Quinn, lead singer of the indie folk rock group Mt. Joy, will delight crowds with a

"I am really looking forward to this year's lineup of music, with high-energy bands that will keep the party going all weekend long," Amy Laramie.

unique solo, acoustic set. His unique blend of indie rock, folk, and jam-band influences creates a powerful live experience that Stifel Killington Cup audiences are sure to appreciate as they dance to keep warm between the action.

Performing after Saturday's race is Fitz and the Tantrums with their signature mix of neo-soul and indie pop that captivates audiences with energetic performances and infectious hooks.

"The Killington Cup is much more than a race, it is also one of the biggest parties of the year," said Killington President and General Manager Mike Solimano. "With great music all weekend long, spanning genres, this year's line up is sure to

keep fans' toes tapping between heart-pounding runs on the course."

"The Northeast's passion for ski racing runs deep," Solimano continued. "The athletes, fans and volunteers bring a level of energy that is unmatched by anything else we experience at the resort."

"The Killington Cup has become a fan and athlete favorite," said Eric Webster, senior director of events at U.S. Ski & Snowboard. "It's a true celebration of ski racing excellence, the international race community, and inspires the next generation. Since bringing World Cup ski racing back to New England, Killington Resort and Vermont has set a new precedent for ski racing internationally, boasting the largest World Cup crowd for women on the entire circuit."

Fans are encouraged to dress warmly and wear waterproof footwear as the festival village area is snowy and can be wet and/or muddy.

For more information visit: killington.com/things-to-do/world-cup-fis-ski-racing/killington-cup.



DJ ROSS ONE

Friday, Nov. 29

5:30 p.m. on the Kona Big Wave Stage in the K-1 Festival Village

DJ Ross One will keep the crowd and vibes going with his seamless mix of tracks, setting the perfect atmosphere for the night.

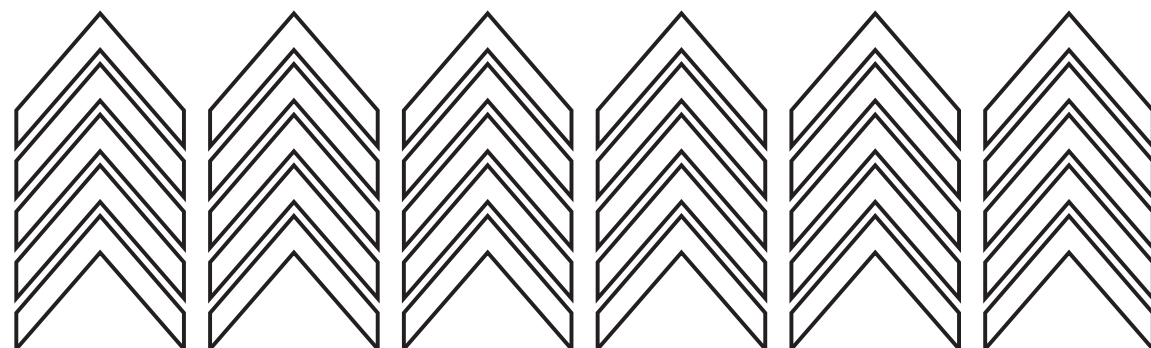
The entertainment kicks off on Friday with DJ Ross One who will perform during the athlete bib presentation and fireworks display. Ross One is considered one of the top open format DJ's in the world. A staple on the Hollywood party circuit, DJ Ross One has toured with artists such as Kanye West and Rihanna. He has earned the reputation as the go-to DJ for everything from Grammys after parties to Paris Fashion Week.

MATT QUINN

Saturday, Nov. 30

Between Giant Slalom Runs on the Kona Big Wave Stage in the K-1 Festival Village

Between runs on Saturday Killington will welcome a truly unique solo, acoustic set with Matt Quinn, lead singer of the indie folk rock group Mt. Joy. After releasing three very successful studio albums Mt. Joy returned in early 2024 with the poignant and deeply personal single "Highway Queen." His soulful vocals and heartfelt songwriting have earned Mt. Joy a dedicated fanbase, with hits like "Silver Lining" and "Strangers" defining their sound. His unique blend of indie rock, folk, and jam-band influences creates a powerful live experience, sure to resonate with audiences looking for authenticity and emotion. Matt Quinn's set at Killington will follow Mt. Joy's headlining Madison Square Garden on Sept. 28 and sharing the main stage at Ocean's Calling Music Festival with Dave Matthews Band.



FITZ & THE TANTRUMS

Saturday, Nov. 30

After the Giant Slalom race on the Kona Big Wave Stage in the K-1 Festival Village

After the races conclude on Saturday, multi-platinum artists Fitz and the Tantrums will perform.

Fitz and the Tantrums bring their signature mix of neo-soul and indie pop to the stage, captivating audiences with energetic performances and infectious hooks.

Fitz and the Tantrums is a band who have energized popular music and culture with a series of unshakable, undeniable and ubiquitous anthems and albums.

Along the way, they've tallied just shy of 4 billion streams and counting powered by hits such as the 4x-platinum "Hand Clap," 3x-platinum "Out of My League," platinum "The Walker," and gold "Moneygrabber." The Los Angeles collective has magnified the scope of pop with a dash of indie, a dose of soul and a whole lot of dancefloor-ready bounce. Their latest album explores new sonic territory, while keeping the upbeat and feel-good vibe fans have come to love.



EVE 6

Sunday, Dec. 1

Between Slalom runs on the Kona Big Wave Stage in the Festival Village

On Sunday, American punk-pop trio Eve 6 will take the stage mid-day following the first run of the Slalom race. For over two decades, Eve 6 has been a force in the alternative rock scene, captivating audiences with their infectious sound and compelling lyrics.

Eve 6, the iconic alt-rock trio, is back and bringing their '90s post-grunge sound to a new generation. With a discography that spans hit albums like "Eve 6" and "Horrorscope," the band has left an indelible mark on the music landscape. Known for their smash hits "Inside Out" and "Here's to the Night," Eve 6 combines introspective lyrics with a hard-hitting rock edge that has stood the test of time. Their live shows are a high-energy journey through nostalgia and modern rock. Eve 6 continues to resonate with fans, delivering a high-energy experience that transcends the boundaries of alternative rock.



Discover the Killington Community



Killington Forward initiative

The Town of Killington is currently undergoing a multi-year infrastructure investment to build its first municipal water system and reconstruct its main road to better serve its residents and businesses as well as support growth. In order to finance the projects, the town qualified for a Master TIF District designation and brokered a development agreement with Great Gulf who will be developing the Killington Village at the Snowshed/Ramshead base area.

Municipal water

A new municipal water system will serve residents and businesses on Killington Road, providing clean, reliable water which is necessary for growth and redevelopment.

New Killington Road

The reconstruction of Killington Road will make it safer for drivers as well as bikers and pedestrians with bus pull-offs, sidewalks and bike paths.

Workforce housing

Once the municipal waterline is extended to the base of Killington Road, a workforce housing development can get underway.

Resiliency

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

Phase 1 has begun

The first section of Killington Road — from Route 4 to Anthony Way — was reconstructed this summer; kicking off the first major construction of the Killington Forward initiative.

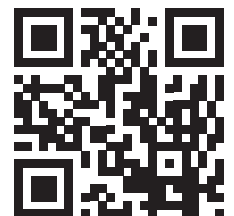
Work is underway for the water transmission line from Route 4 uphill to East Mountain Road, just east of Highridge condominiums. Continuing work on the well house and the high pressure pump station on Route 4 (along "the flats").

The partnership between private developers and the town's municipal government to fund public infrastructure will catapult the community into a new phase of growth.



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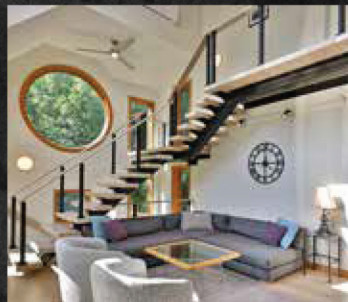
270 

HOURS OF TRAINING



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FEATURED MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES



Brookside, Killington \$2,795,000

This generous single-family home has recently been totally re-imagined by a well-known Vermont architect to incorporate the natural beauty of the land into the interior of the home. Large round custom windows, wide plank white oak quarter sawn flooring and natural Vermont granite are seen throughout the interior and exterior of this magnificent home, connecting it to the beautiful private landscape. Listed by Bret Williamson

360 Dean Hill, Killington \$2,225,000

Standing majestically on a 1.9 acre lot in the heart of Killington, this custom timber-framed home is an architectural delight. Floor to ceiling windows offer trail views of Killington Resort and surrounding mountains. Radiant heat warms the red oak flooring for a luxuriously cozy feel, and a grand stone fireplace anchors the main-floor living area. Listed by Bret Williamson



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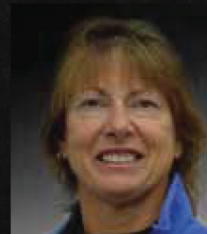
Bret Williamson
BROKER, OWNER



Judy Storch
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Gary Thompson
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Past podiums at the Killington Cup

2023 Giant Slalom

1. Lara Gut-Behrami, SUI
1:53.05
2. Alice Robinson, NZL
1:53.67
3. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:53.86

2023 Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:42.02
2. Petra Vlhova, SVK
1:42.35
3. Wendy Holdener, SUI
1:43.39

2021 Giant Slalom

Canceled due to weather conditions.

2021 Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:38.33
2. Petra Vlhova, SVK
1:39.08
3. Wendy Holdener, SUI
1:39.16

2019 Giant Slalom

1. Marta Bassino, ITA
1:38.19
2. Federica Brignone, ITA
1:38.45
3. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:38.48

2019 Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:50.45
2. Petra Vlhova, SVK
1:52.74
3. Anna Swenn Larsson, SWE
1:53.18

2017 Giant Slalom

1. Viktoria Rebensburg, GER
1:57.63
2. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:58.30
3. Manuela Moelgg, ITA
1:59.12

2017 Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:40.91
2. Petra Vlhova, SVK
1:42.55
3. Bernadette Schild, AUT
1:43.58

2024 Giant Slalom and Slalom

Results will be posted at MountainTimes.info



2022 Giant Slalom

1. Lara Gut-Behrami, SUI
1:44.08
2. Marta Bassino, ITA
1:44.15
3. Sara Hector, SWE
1:44.28

2022 Slalom

1. Anna Swenn Larsson, SWE
1:42.97
1. Wendy Holdener, SUI
1:42.97
3. Katharina Truppe, AUT
1:43.19

2020 Races

2020 Killington Cup was canceled due to Covid

2018 Giant Slalom

1. Federica Brignone, ITA
1:51.33
2. Ragnhild Mowinckel, NOR
1:51.82
3. Stephanie Brunner, AUT
1:52.11

2018 Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:43.25
2. Petra Vlhova, SVK
1:43.82
3. Frida Hansdotter, SWE
1:44.33

2016 Giant Slalom

1. Tessa Worley, FRA
1:59.26
2. Nina Loeseth, NOR
2:00.06
3. Sofia Goggia, ITA
2:00.37

2016 Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, USA
1:27.95
2. Veronika Velez Zuzulova, SVK
1:28.68
3. Wendy Holdener, SUI
1:28.81



Courtesy Simon Pearce

This year's Stifel Killington Cup trophies will be the hand-blown Revere Hurricane (right) in various sizes. Small Vermont Evergreens (left) will also be given to the athletes at the bib draw Friday night.

Simon Pearce glassblowers craft unique Killington Cup trophies for winners

Simon Pearce in Quechee produces the Killington Cup trophies in crystal glass.

"Since the first year we hosted the event, the trophies have been from Simon Pearce," said Amy Laramie, Killington's vice president of brand marketing and events. "It's a different design each year."

Simon Pearce, just 22 miles east of Killington, has earned international prestige for design and craftsmanship since it opened in 1981.

Like all of Simon Pearce's creations, the trophy begins as a blob of molten glass at the end of a pipe. It then gets molded, shaped on a lathe, trimmed and cooled using centuries old and perfected techniques. Each vessel is one of a kind. The trophies take three full days to produce.

Killington Resort chose to partner with local glassblowers at Simon Pearce to get something "unique and hand-crafted to represent our state," the resort said.



Submitted

Doug Lewis, former Alpine Olympian from Vermont and Stifel Killington Cup announcer, holds a past year's Killington Cup trophy. Each is uniquely handmade by Simon Pearce glassblowers in Quechee.



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DECEMBER 5 - 7, 2024



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Tree Decorating Party & Community Mixer with Silent Auction & Music by Chad Hollister

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 - Doors 4:30pm Concert 5pm

School Concert Night, Festival of Trees, Vendor Village, Silent Auction

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 - 9am - Noon

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3:00pm - 7:00pm

Storytime with Santa, Festival of Trees, Vendor Village, Live Music

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Rutland to Killington

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Top of West Street **	7:16 AM	8:16 AM	9:16 AM	10:16 AM	11:16 AM	12:16 PM	1:16 PM	2:16 PM	3:16 PM	4:16 PM	5:16 PM	6:16 PM	7:16 PM	8:16 PM	9:16 PM	10:16 PM	11:15 PM
Rt 4 @ Lafayette Street **	7:17 AM	8:17 AM	9:17 AM	10:17 AM	11:17 AM	12:17 PM	1:17 PM	2:17 PM	3:17 PM	4:17 PM	5:17 PM	6:17 PM	7:17 PM	8:17 PM	9:17 PM	10:17 PM	11:17 PM
Town Line Road **	7:23 AM	8:23 AM	9:23 AM	10:23 AM	11:23 AM	12:23 PM	1:23 PM	2:23 PM	3:23 PM	4:23 PM	5:23 PM	6:23 PM	7:23 PM	8:23 PM	9:23 PM	10:23 PM	11:23 PM
Mendon Mtn Orchards & Motel **	7:24 AM	8:24 AM	9:24 AM	10:24 AM	11:24 AM	12:24 PM	1:24 PM	2:24 PM	3:24 PM	4:24 PM	5:24 PM	6:24 PM	7:24 PM	8:24 PM	9:24 PM	10:24 PM	11:24 PM
Mendon Mountain View Lodge **	7:32 AM	8:32 AM	9:32 AM	10:32 AM	11:32 AM	12:32 PM	1:32 PM	2:32 PM	3:32 PM	4:32 PM	5:32 PM	6:32 PM	7:32 PM	8:32 PM	9:32 PM	10:32 PM	11:32 PM
Pico Resort Hotel	7:36 AM	8:36 AM	9:36 AM	10:36 AM	11:36 AM	12:36 PM	1:36 PM	2:36 PM	3:36 PM	4:36 PM	5:36 PM	6:36 PM	7:36 PM	8:36 PM	9:36 PM	10:36 PM	11:36 PM
The Inn at Long Trail **	7:38 AM	8:38 AM	9:38 AM	10:38 AM	11:38 AM	12:38 PM	1:38 PM	2:38 PM	3:38 PM	4:38 PM	5:38 PM	6:38 PM	7:38 PM	8:38 PM	9:38 PM	10:38 PM	11:38 PM
Killington Motel **	7:40 AM	8:40 AM	9:40 AM	10:40 AM	11:40 AM	12:40 PM	1:40 PM	2:40 PM	3:40 PM	4:40 PM	5:40 PM	6:40 PM	7:40 PM	8:40 PM	9:40 PM	10:40 PM	11:40 PM
Deli @ Killington Corners	7:41 AM	8:41 AM	9:41 AM	10:41 AM	11:41 AM	12:41 PM	1:41 PM	2:41 PM	3:41 PM	4:41 PM	5:41 PM	6:41 PM	7:41 PM	8:41 PM	9:41 PM	10:41 PM	11:41 PM
Killington Park and Ride	7:42 AM	8:42 AM	9:42 AM	10:42 AM	11:42 AM	12:42 PM	1:42 PM	2:42 PM	3:42 PM	4:42 PM	5:42 PM	6:42 PM	7:42 PM	8:42 PM	9:42 PM	10:42 PM	11:42 PM
Hillside Inn	7:45 AM	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	11:45 AM	12:45 PM	1:45 PM	2:45 PM	3:45 PM	4:45 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:45 PM	10:45 PM	11:45 PM
Killington Center Inn **	7:49 AM	8:49 AM	9:49 AM	10:49 AM	11:49 AM	12:49 PM	1:49 PM	2:49 PM	3:49 PM	4:49 PM	5:49 PM	6:49 PM	7:49 PM	8:49 PM	9:49 PM	10:49 PM	11:49 PM
Killington Road Stops ***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
K1 Base Lodge	7:58 AM	8:58 AM	9:58 AM	10:58 AM	11:58 AM	12:58 PM	1:58 PM	2:58 PM	3:58 PM	4:58 PM	5:58 PM	6:58 PM	7:58 PM	8:58 PM	9:58 PM	10:58 PM	11:58 PM
Human Resources	7:59 AM	8:59 AM	9:59 AM	10:59 AM	11:59 AM	12:59 PM	1:59 PM	2:59 PM	3:59 PM	4:59 PM	5:59 PM	6:59 PM	7:59 PM	8:59 PM	9:59 PM	10:59 PM	11:59 PM
Snowshed Base Lodge	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM	12:00 AM

Killington to Rutland

Killington Grand Hotel	8:03 AM	9:03 AM	10:03 AM	11:03 AM	12:03 PM	1:03 PM	2:03 PM	3:03 PM	4:03 PM	5:03 PM	6:03 PM	7:03 PM	8:03 PM	9:03 PM	10:03 PM	11:03 PM	12:03 AM
Mountain Green Resort	8:06 AM	9:06 AM	10:06 AM	11:06 AM	12:06 PM	1:06 PM	2:06 PM	3:06 PM	4:06 PM	5:06 PM	6:06 PM	7:06 PM	8:06 PM	9:06 PM	10:06 PM	11:06 PM	12:06 AM
Killington Road Stops ***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Killington Center Inn **	8:12 AM	9:12 AM	10:12 AM	11:12 AM	12:12 PM	1:12 PM	2:12 PM	3:12 PM	4:12 PM	5:12 PM	6:12 PM	7:12 PM	8:12 PM	9:12 PM	10:12 PM	11:12 PM	12:12 AM
Hillside Inn	8:13 AM	9:13 AM	10:13 AM	11:13 AM	12:13 PM	1:13 PM	2:13 PM	3:13 PM	4:13 PM	5:13 PM	6:13 PM	7:13 PM	8:13 PM	9:13 PM	10:13 PM	11:13 PM	12:13 AM
Killington Park and Ride	8:14 AM	9:14 AM	10:14 AM	11:14 AM	12:14 PM	1:14 PM	2:14 PM	3:14 PM	4:14 PM	5:14 PM	6:14 PM	7:14 PM	8:14 PM	9:14 PM	10:14 PM	11:14 PM	12:14 AM
Gazebo Plaza (Stops at Post Office) **	8:15 AM	9:15 AM	10:15 AM	11:15 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	2:15 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:15 PM	6:15 PM	7:15 PM	8:15 PM	9:15 PM	10:15 PM	11:15 PM	12:15 AM
The Inn at Long Trail**	8:21 AM	9:21 AM	10:21 AM	11:21 AM	12:21 PM	1:21 PM	2:21 PM	3:21 PM	4:21 PM	5:21 PM	6:21 PM	7:21 PM	8:21 PM	9:21 PM	10:21 PM	11:21 PM	12:21 AM
Pico Resort Hotel	8:23 AM	9:23 AM	10:23 AM	11:23 AM	12:23 PM	1:23 PM	2:23 PM	3:23 PM	4:23 PM	5:23 PM	6:23 PM	7:23 PM	8:23 PM	9:23 PM	10:23 PM	11:23 PM	12:23 AM
Mendon Mountain View Lodge	8:25 AM	9:25 AM	10:25 AM	11:25 AM	12:25 PM	1:25 PM	2:25 PM	3:25 PM	4:25 PM	5:25 PM	6:25 PM	7:25 PM	8:25 PM	9:25 PM	10:25 PM	11:25 PM	12:25 AM
Pico Mountain Commons **	8:27 AM	9:27 AM	10:27 AM	11:27 AM	12:27 PM	1:27 PM	2:27 PM	3:27 PM	4:27 PM	5:27 PM	6:27 PM	7:27 PM	8:27 PM	9:27 PM	10:27 PM	11:27 PM	12:27 AM
Old Turnpike Rd **	8:28 AM	9:28 AM	10:28 AM	11:28 AM	12:28 PM	1:28 PM	2:28 PM	3:28 PM	4:28 PM	5:28 PM	6:28 PM	7:28 PM	8:28 PM	9:28 PM	10:28 PM	11:28 PM	12:28 AM
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Nichols Street **	8:38 AM	9:38 AM	10:38 AM	11:38 AM	12:38 PM	1:38 PM	2:38 PM	3:38 PM	4:38 PM	5:38 PM	6:38 PM	7:38 PM	8:38 PM	9:38 PM	10:38 PM	11:38 PM	12:38 AM
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Staples Plaza	8:55 AM	9:55 AM	10:55 AM	11:55 AM	12:55 PM	1:55 PM	2:55 PM	3:55 PM	4:55 PM	-	6:55 PM	7:55 PM	8:55 PM	9:55 PM	10:55 PM	-	-
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Hundreds of hours, volunteers

The people who make the Killington Cup happen

Hundreds of resort employees, volunteers from across the region and contractors have worked tirelessly over the past few weeks in order to pull off all that's necessary to make the Killington Cup a success.

"It was a real battle with Mother Nature this year, but once again our superstar snowmaking team was able fire up 125 snowmaking guns to lay down enough snow for a world-class show," said Killington President and CEO Mike Solimano.

Killington Resort has more than 300 volunteers that support the Stifel Killington Cup each year.

Meg Laferriere Horrocks who's managed the volunteer Beast Crew for the Killington Cup, is proud of its members' dedication and what it is able to accomplish each year at Killington.

"Without [the crew] we could not pull off a solid race venue," she stated.

From snowmaking and

grooming (it takes about 100 hours of snowmaking to prepare the World Cup venue) to accreditation, set up and security.

The Killington Resort crew operates with a "no regrets plan" when it comes to snowmaking for the World Cup. And sometimes it comes down to the wire.

"We're ready Oct. 1 to start making snow anytime we have the temperatures," said Steve Reynolds, the snowmaking control room supervisor at Killington Resort.

"It was a real battle with Mother Nature this year, but once again our superstar snowmaking team was able fire up 125 snowmaking guns to lay down enough snow," said Solimano.

There have been a few years when it came down to the last week — including this year when temperatures remained unseasonably warm through the first half of November.

Crews check the forecast, every day, twice a day starting Oct. 1, hoping the temperature drops to about 31 degrees or lower. When the forecast looks favorable, crews are lined up 24/7 to get the guns blasting!

The resort was able to secure a positive snow control announcement from FIS (International Ski and Snowboard Federation), the governing body of the Audi FIS Ski World Cup, on Thursday, Nov. 21, assuring the races would take place as scheduled this year.



Photos by Paul Holmes

Hundreds of people behind the scenes work hard to make the World Cup happen each year.



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Shiffrin announces partnership with Share Winter

Organization funds programs that help more people fall in love with winter sports

By Polly Mikula

Last month Mikaela Shiffrin announced a partnership with Share Winter, a foundation that brings winter sports to kids and communities that historically have not had access to them — she plans to expand her commitment with another announcement made in tandem with her 100th win, whenever that happens.

“As I head into the @fisalpine World Cup kickoff week in Sölden, I am honored to share today that I am officially joining the Share Winter team as an Ambassador,” Shiffrin posted on her Instagram account. “Share Winter’s efforts have always been near and dear to my heart, and as I head into the last few seasons of my career, it’s important to me that I amplify and elevate causes that transcend the sport and create more access to this sport that is so near and dear to my heart,” she wrote.

Constance Beverley, CEO of Share Winter, said that Shiffrin is the first official ambassador in the program, but noted that the organization also works with three-time Olympic medalist cross country skier Jessie Diggins, the most accomplished U.S. cross-country skier in history, who’ll also join it.

“We’re super lucky that we get to work with the best women in the sport,” she said. “We’re doing a good thing and really awesome people recognize that.”

The mission at Share Winter is to create “opportunities for people who have been historically denied access to skiing and riding, the opportunity to fall in love with winter,” Beverley explained. The organization focuses on learn-to ski and ride programs funding and coordinating opportunities across the U.S. (mostly in areas that are within an hour and a half of skiing and snowboarding).

Beverley explained that as an Ambassador “Mikaela will utilize her platform, her time and her notability to shed light on the fact that access to skiing and riding is not easy here in the United States. That for families that aren’t traditional ski families, they’re not going to have the same opportunities that she had to get up on skis at age 2. So it involves raising awareness ... and serving as inspiration and as a connection to the competitive side of skiing and racing ... she’s kind of our bridge to the alternate universe that is competitive sport.”

In addition to Shiffrin announcing her ambassadorship for Share Winter, she’s also planning an announcement with

the organization to coincide her 100th win, “to help bring visibility and greater access to snow sports,” she wrote.

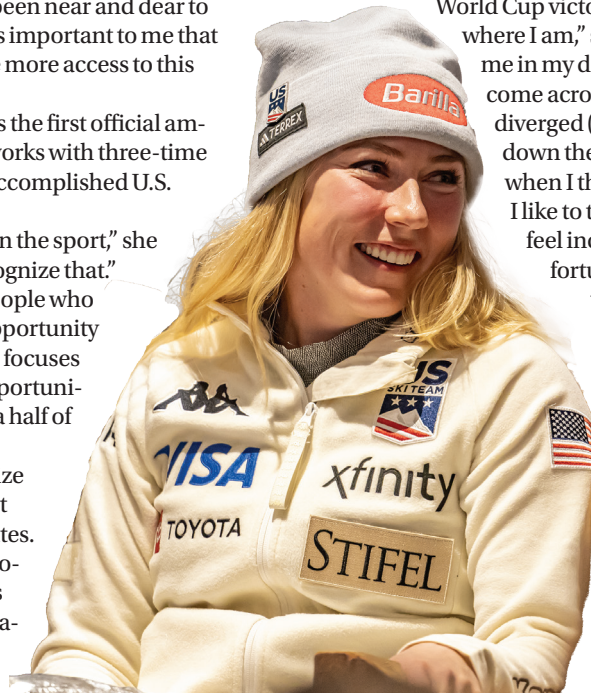
Shiffrin, who shies away from talking about records and goals, has said she’s excited to instead use her spotlight to shine light on the efforts of Share Winter, acknowledging that not everyone is given the opportunity to fall in love with snowsports as she has.

“Looking back on my career to this point—from my very first turns to my 97th World Cup victory—I feel like a million different stars aligned to help me get to where I am,” she wrote on Instagram. “A thousand different people assisted me in my dreams and showed me support at the most crucial times. I’ve come across hundreds of different moments where the path in front of me diverged (...in a yellow wood...) and I either chose to take or was guided down the ‘right’ path to this point now. It’s actually pretty incredible when I think about it, and even though it has taken a lot of hard work and I like to think that ‘luck’ isn’t part of the equation, I still can’t help but feel incredibly lucky. I know that not everyone is blessed with the good fortune I have come across, in fact very few are, and over the years the lack of accessibility for a diverse group of people in winter sports has funneled us into a very *not* diverse community. I love this community, but can’t help but wonder how much more potential there is for it to be stronger if we could help #sharewinter with everyone, rather than just those of us who have the means, the access, or the background (and bloodlines) to support it.”

Beverley from Share Winter will be at the Killington Cup with members from the Association for Africans Living in Vermont (AALV). AALV with organizes two 4-week courses at Sugarbush Resort, which provides free ski and snowboard lessons, equipment, and lunch to AALV’s youth members. The program started in 2022 and is part of a national partnership with Alterra resorts.

The AALV ski program has also received Killington World Cup Foundation grants.

For more information, visit: [Sharewinterfoundation.org](https://sharewinterfoundation.org).



Courtesy Killington Resort

Shiffrin smiles at a press conference between races at a previous Stifel Killington Cup event.

Killington World Cup Foundation awards over \$330,000 in grants to 33 nonprofits

During the Killington Cup, Killington Resort provides exclusive access to the KWCF to provide VIP ticket sales, and these funds go to support the programs throughout the season. While there are many World Cup events each season, the Killington Cup is the only one giving back to the community.

The Killington World Cup Foundation (KWCF) awarded 33 grants totaling \$330,000 to Northeast area nonprofits in eight states, with five of this year’s grantees being new to KWCF. The foundation also donated \$170,000 to support athlete housing at the Stifel Killington Cup. These grants were made possible as a result of last year’s 2023 Stifel Killington Cup.

In the past four years KWCF has donated more than \$2 million in incremental

resources to the winter sports infrastructure and youth snow sport programs in the region.

The Killington World Cup Foundation grants ranged from \$1,500 to \$25,000. All of the grant recipients are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or have a fiscal sponsor. Awarded projects included: supporting and expanding youth community snowsport programs in rural North Carolina, funding for the Nordic Rocks program enabling more youth to experience Nordic skiing, helping to grow the program for the Share Winter/Association of Africans living in Vermont, and providing trail expansion and equipment for Nordic, adaptive, Alpine and snowboarding youth organizations.

Grants were awarded June 15, and funding began Sept. 15, 2024.

“The KWCF is critical to not only the success of the Killington World Cup events each year, but it has changed the lives of so many young ski racers across the Northeast with its goal of benefiting local and regional youth development programs. KWCF continues to provide opportunity and critical help to clubs to help them support the dreams of their athletes,” stated Doug Lewis, a former World Cup alpine ski racer with the U.S. Ski Team and two-time Olympian in 1984 and 1988 from Vermont. He has been an announcer at the Killington Cup since its inception.

“We appreciate so much the Committee’s support and recognition of YES’s work in making snowsports an

accessible and comfortable destination for Boston youth!” said Bryan Van Thorpe, executive director, Youth Enrichment Services (YES).

Grant applications were reviewed by a committee that included: Tiger Shaw, CEO Wasatch Peaks Ranch Club; Grace Macomber Bird, volunteer, Kelly Brush Foundation; Harry Ryan, Facey, Goss & McPhee, P.C.; John Casella, chairman and CEO of Casella Waste Management; Kenneth Graham, founder and chairman of Inverness Graham; Phill Gross, lead investor in new ownership group of Killington Resort and managing director, Adage Capital Management and U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board of Directors.

For more information, visit: kwcfivesback.org.



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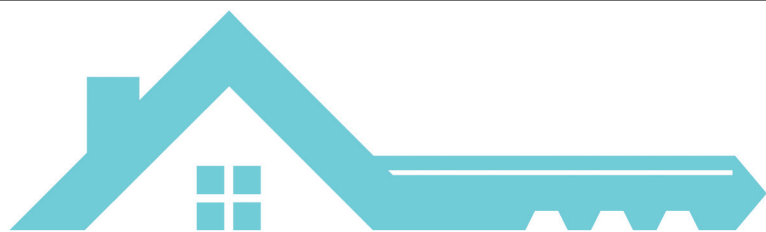
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HERoic initiative, films showcase role of women in snow sports

By Karen D. Lorentz

“Women worked in the shadows of the historically male dominated ski industry, but that is changing and the future is bright,” noted Sophie Goldschmidt as she introduced the first HERoic panel presentation at the 2022 Killington World Cup.

Goldschmidt, who is president and CEO of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Association, the national governing body of Olympic skiing and snowboarding in the U.S., said, “The HERoic initiative was created because U.S. Ski & Snowboard is committed to providing more leadership, opportunities, and mentorship for women to achieve further greatness in our sports. It is also about investing in their future success. There is so much upside and things that can be done.”

With the Women’s Slalom and Giant Slalom World Cup races at Killington attracting thousands of women and young girls each year, the HERoic panel discussions have increased the awareness of the opportunities and possibilities for positions and advancement in the ski industry.

The inaugural panel of ski industry women leaders in 2022 discussed the challenges women face, changes that have occurred, and opportunities for women wanting to work in the ski and snowboard industry after they retire from racing or graduate from college.

The 2023 HERoic panel focused on “Doing It All: Women Leaders.”

This year’s HERoic panel presentation focuses on women who work for themselves and the women around them by blazing a trail.

Goldschmidt will host the discussion. Panel participants include: Constance Beverly, CEO of the Share Winter Foundation; Amy Laramie, VP of brand marketing and events at Killington Resort; Megan Harrod, publicist

and brand manager for Mikaela Shiffrin; Corrine Privot, founder and owner of Skida; and Anouk Patty, chief of sport for the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Team.

This year’s HERoic panel event is Saturday, Nov. 30 and is open to the public (\$10 admission ticket to the World Cup is required) and takes place in the Snowshed Ballroom (second floor of the Snowshed Lodge) from 6-7 p.m.

Movies

The panel discussion will be followed by two movie screenings — “Moving Right Along” and “Kindred” starting at 7 p.m.

“Kindred” is a short film about skiers Devin Logan and Caroline Claire. Both are U.S. Olympic team members and skiing soulmates. The film follows them as they take the next step in their careers: big lines, raw honesty, and camaraderie that stretches from the half pipe to the backcountry. “Kindred” was directed by Iz La Motte and Sara Beam Robbins.

For more information, visit: Stio.com/pages/kindred.

The evening concludes with Season 3, Episode 1 of “Moving Right Along,” a documentary series about six-time Killington Cup winner Mikaela Shiffrin. This episode details how she has impacted the sport since the beginning of her World Cup career nearly 13 years ago and features: her involvement with ushering in the next generation; the leadership and work she does with her teammates; the impact she has on young boys and girls alike; and the philanthropic work she does to support underserved youth with resources to help them both on and off the field of play.

All events at the Killington Cup are included with the \$10 admission.

For more information, visit: Killington.com/worldcup.



By Victoria Gaither

Karen Futterknecht looks out at Superstar from K-1 Lodge.

Local excitement grows as the weekend approaches

By Victoria Gaither

This weekend, the world’s eyes will be on Killington to watch the best women Alpine skiers at the Audi FIS Ski World Cup race.

As Mikaela Shiffrin sets her sights on coming home to Killington to race after Thanksgiving, workers,

crews, volunteers, skiers, riders, and locals watch Killington’s Superstar transformed into a world-class event venue.

“It’s awesome to see how well Superstar is groomed and how well they main-

Local excitement → 47

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Courtesy U.S. Ski & Snowboard

Stifel U.S. Alpine Ski Team boasts many VT & NH athletes

The Stifel U.S. Alpine Ski Team for the 2024-2025 competition season has deep roots in the Green Mountain State. In fact, three of the seven women on the Alpine A Team this season trained in Vermont before making the national team.

Mikaela Shiffrin, 29, who trained at Burke Mountain Academy, leads the team as the

winningest Alpine athlete in history.

She is joined on the A Team by fellow Burke alumna Nina O'Brien, 27, and Paula Moltzan, 30, who raced for the University of Vermont.

AJ Hurt (who raced for Dartmouth College) from California, Lauren Macuga and Isabella Wright from Utah, and Jacqu-

line Wiles from Oregon, round out the women's side of A Team.

In addition to AJ Hurt on the A Team, six more alumnae of Dartmouth College (just 34 miles east of Killington) made the B, C and Development Teams. They include: Tricia Mangan, Elisabeth Boccock, Mary Boccock, Stella Johansson, Kaitlin Keane and Emma Resnick.

Additionally, Dasha Romanov raced for the University of New Hampshire, Kjersti Moritz race for Middlebury College in Vermont and Ava Sunshine raced for Burke. Collectively, 13 of the 22 women on the U.S. Women's Alpine team — or 60% — have trained in Vermont or New Hampshire.

"This is a dedicated and de-

termined group of athletes ready to compete at the highest level as we head into a World Championship season," said U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport Anouk Patty. "These skiers are poised to enter the winter season ready to race. We cannot wait to see what they achieve."

For more information visit: usskiandsnowboard.org.

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Ella Andrews of KMS makes U.S. Ski freeski team

Killington Mountain School (KMS) is thrilled senior Ella Andrews, 17, has made the Stifel U.S. Freeski Team for the upcoming 2024-25 season where she competes in Big Air Slopestyle and Halfpipe events.

Andrews earned her first podium on the World Cup last March, placing second in Slopestyle at Mammoth Mountain in California. She also had a top-five finish at the Youth Olympic Games and a top-10 finish at Junior Worlds.

"Andrews, a rising star in the world of freeskiing, has shown exceptional talent and dedication, earning a well-deserved spot on the prestigious team," KMS said in a statement.

"Ella has been making waves in the skiing community with impressive performances in recent competitions."

Some highlights from last season include: a podium



Courtesy US Ski & Snowboard FB
Ella Andrews

"I am excited to compete alongside such talented athletes," said Andrews.

finish at her first World Cup event, a top-five place at the Youth Olympic Games and a top-10 finish at Junior Worlds, and numerous wins at the national level.

"I am incredibly honored to be part of the Stifel U.S. Ski Team," said Andrews. "This has been a dream of mine, and I am excited to compete alongside such talented athletes. I look forward to representing my country and giving my best in every competition." Peter DuBois, director of the Freeski Program at KMS and

Andrews' coach, said, "Ella is one of the hardest-working students at school, both athletically and academically. She doesn't take coaching personally but thrives on it to improve her technical skills." DuBois added, "Ella is kind, humble, a positive influence on other athletes, and an all-around great teammate."

Andrews started skiing at a young age on weekends at Killington Resort with the KSC/KMS Development Program and quickly advanced, eventually attending KMS.

"My mom originally wanted me to be able to ski anything on the mountain so she put me into an all-mountain program. There, I discovered my love for park skiing and started to specialize. When we moved to Killington, I joined the park team at KMS," said Andrews. "My passion for the sport slowly built over time and I grew to love the competition environment and seeing how hard work can pay off... I am so grateful for the opportunity to pursue free skiing."

Q&A: Ella Andrews

By Katy Savage

What does it mean to you to have the World Cup come to Killington?

Ella Andrews: Having the World Cup in Killington is a really cool opportunity for young girls in our community to see the pros. They are such good role models and I know that personally seeing these amazing athletes up close definitely influenced me when I was younger. I wanted to be just like them and it showed me how strong and amazing female skiers can be.

What are your future goals for the sport (for your own race career or for any other career in skiing)?

EA: My main two goals results wise have always been to make the Olympics and the U.S. Pro Team. However, I've always said that my goal is just to keep improving and loving the sport, which is the most important thing.

Are there any female ski racers or athletes who have inspired you to pursue your goals? What have you learned?

EA: Older teammates on my various teams have always been my biggest inspiration over time. Looking up to them and seeing them ski up close gave me examples of what I can be if I try hard. Being on the U.S. rookie team right now, Rell Harwood, Marin Hamill, and Grace Henderson are

the oldest pros on the U.S. Team and they are so cool to see out on the hill. I've learned from them that women can lift weights and train just as hard as men and can be so courageous. I remember their encouraging words while I am skiing all the time.

What does it mean to you to be part of a growing community of female athletes in freeskiing?

EA: Female freeskiing has always been a small group of people, and we all have to stick together and support each other. It's been growing so quickly and the progression I have seen over the past few years has been incredible. I am so excited to push the envelope along with some of my closest friends who have always pushed me to be my best. It's very exciting and I can't wait to see where the sport goes!

How do you think the freeskiing community can further support and uplift women in the sport?

EA: I would love to see more female ski movies or female features in ski movies. I think girls have just as much of a place in those film areas of skiing as the men do. It would be really great to be able to inspire more younger girls in the sport and would hopefully grow the sport. If we can get more girls into skiing, we will have more visibility and progression.

KMS Claire Butler reflects on path from KMS student to the head of school

By Katy Savage

Claire Butler became the headmaster at Killington Mountain School five years ago. It was a full-circle moment for Butler, who began her ski career in development programs at Killington before she became a student at Killington Mountain School. She earned an undergraduate degree from Bates College, where she was captain of the Alpine ski team and eventually joined the program as an assistant coach. She was also a coach at Gould Academy in Maine and then Clarkson University in New York. As the head Alpine ski coach at Clarkson University (Div. III), she lead the team to annual USCSA National Championship appearances and coached the men's team to win a National Title in Giant Slalom.

Q&A with Claire Butler

What are some challenges (or opportunities) in being a female leader in the ski industry?


Claire Butler: One big challenge is getting started. I was fortunate to enter the ski industry as a competitive athlete first, starting in ski racing right here at Killington, and then coaching at the academy and collegiate levels, working in both education and business, and picking up an MBA before serving as head of school at Killington Mountain School. Through those experiences and transitions, I was able to build some significant grit and perseverance, and meet a lot of great people in the industry who became a support system and source of guidance for me in my career. Increasing the visibility of women in the industry and everyone in the field adopting a posture of being incredibly open to networking and sharing experiences and advice are some of the bigger opportunities that will help reduce any perceived barrier to entry, or any roadblocks along the way in a person's career. There will always be those who are

Butler → 47



Courtesy KMS

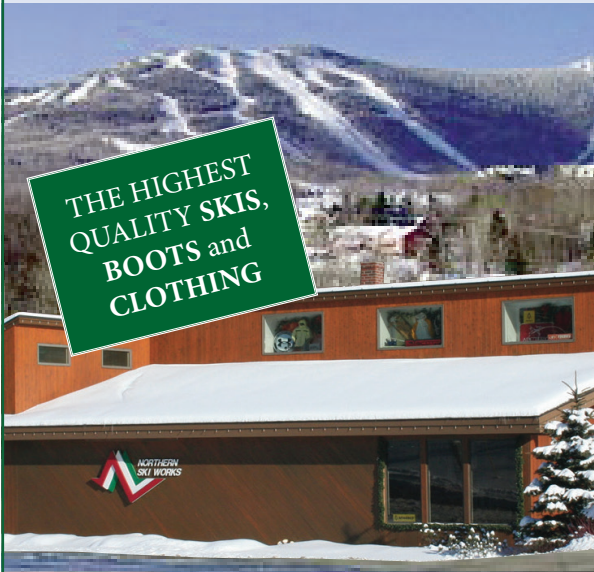
Claire Butler, KMS head of school



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Courtesy KMS

Eva Young, a KMS senior, practices Slalom in advance of her last season racing at KMS.

Eva Young reflects on KMS racing

By Katy Savage

Eva Young is an 18-year-old Killington Mountain School student who's graduating this year. She's competed in a number of Nor-Am cups and national junior races in the Slalom and Giant Slalom.

Q&A with Eva Young

What does it mean to you to have the World Cup come to Killington?

Eva Young: Having the World Cup come to Killington is inspiring. To be surrounded by women who are competing at the level I aspire to compete at, and to have this happen on my home hill makes my dream feel that much more attainable.

What got you into ski racing, and how did you first discover your passion for the sport?

EY: I started ski racing at age 4, following in the footsteps of my older brother. When I was 12 and learning how to block gates my passion for this sport was truly ignited.

What are your future goals for the sport (for your own race career or for any other career in skiing)?

EY: I intend to continue working diligently on my ski racing path with the intent of one day racing on the World Cup circuit and when I transition away from my racing career, I look forward to giving back as a coach. I even started coaching training camps this summer.

Are there any female ski racers or athletes who have inspired you to pursue your goals? What have you learned from them?

EY: Two athletes come to mind ... When I was 13 I had a school assignment to write a letter to a famous person I respected and



Courtesy KMS

Eva Young

I chose Mikaela Shiffrin. I looked up to her as an athlete at the time and after receiving a thoughtful handwritten response, I now look up to her as a person as well. One of the other female athletes I look up to is Petra Vlova because of her strong will and determination.

What does it mean to you to be part of a growing community of female athletes in ski racing?

EY: It is wonderful to see all the young girls being empowered by each other as they grow and experience the world from a different perspective.

Young → 47



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Rhi Lubaszewski sets sites on World Cup

By Katy Savage

Rhiannon “Rhi” Lubaszewski, 19, lives in Rutland and graduated from Killington Mountain School last year. She competes in Slalom, Super-G and Giant Slalom and hopes to make it into a Division 1 college and eventually compete on the World Cup circuit.

Q&A with Rhiannon Lubaszewski

What does it mean to you to have the World Cup come to Killington?

RL: Rhiannon Lubaszewski: After all these years of Killington having the World Cup, not one year has it been less exciting. It is so inspiring to see these women who I’ve looked up to my whole ski career in person where I ski daily in the winter. I strive to be in their position one day and I cannot wait to ski a World Cup at my home mountain in the future.

What got you into ski racing, and how did you first discover your passion for the sport?

RL: When I was 5 I saw Nastar, a fun pay-to-race organization, and wanted to try it. After that I joined my local race team. My love for racing didn’t come until years later though, I was at a preseason camp and my coach told me, “those girls are all faster than you” and walked away. From there on out that lit a fire like nothing I have ever felt and that’s when I fell in love with the sport.

What are your future goals for the sport (for your own race career or for any other career in skiing)?

RL: This year I am taking a gap year to further advance my skiing and to get a spot on a D1 college team. Afterwards, my goal is to represent Team USA on the World Cup circuit.

Are there any female ski racers or athletes who have inspired you to pursue your goals? What have you learned from them?

Lubaszewski → 47

Mendon's Victoria Johnson seeks metals in mogul comps

By Katy Savage

Victoria Johnson, 15, lives in Mendon. The sophomore at Killington Mountain School (KMS) competes in Moguls and Dual Moguls.

Q&A with Victoria Johnson

Mountain Times: What does it mean to you to have the World Cup come to Killington?

VJ: Victoria Johnson: It shows that our mountain has the ability to take me to where I want to go and beyond. It also shows that Killington has the resources to be able to hold the highest levels of competitions. Maybe someday we’ll get to see a Mogul World Cup at our home mountain.

What got you into ski racing and how did you first discover your passion for the sport?

VJ: I got into mogul skiing because of my older brother. I started skiing when I was 1 year old and started mogul skiing soon after. I have always been trying to chase my brother in everything he tries to do, but when I ski moguls, and mogul competitions, it was like something just clicked.

What are your future goals for the sport (for your race career or any other career in skiing)?

VJ: I plan to pursue my skiing through at least high school and excel as far as I can in the sport. After that I plan to see where the wind takes me. It has been an amazing experience over all these years, and I will value the unique experiences, skills and relationships I have made through this sport, regardless of where it may take me.

Are there any female ski racers or athletes who have inspired you to pursue your goals? What have you learned from them?

Johnson → 47



Courtesy KMS

Alice Padilha

KMS' Padilha trains for Brazilian team

By Katy Savage

Alice Padilha, 17, is a senior at Killington Mountain School. She’s originally from Brazil and competes in Slalom and Giant Slalom in hopes of competing full time on the Brazilian National Team.

Q&A with Alice Padilha

What does it mean to you to have the World Cup come to Killington?

AP: Alice Padilha: Experiencing a World Cup in front of your own eyes is amazing. Seeing all of the idols I look up to, it’s something to be proud of in my home mountain. The loud cheering and atmosphere is something everyone should experience in their life.

What got you into ski racing and how did you first discover your passion for the sport?

AP: I first got into ski racing when my twin brother started in the development program. I didn’t even know what ski

Padilha → 47



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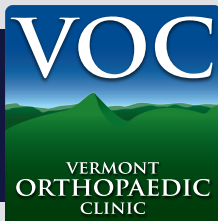
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← **Johnson:**
from page 45

VJ: When I was younger, I always looked up to Hannah Soar as she was really committed to her sport and was also really good at it. She has been a great role model for all the young athletes here at Killington and it has been fun to watch her go all the way to the Olympics.

What does it mean to you to be part of a growing community of female athletes?

VJ: It makes me feel like I am part of something and it makes me want to push harder and excel at what I do.

How do you think the ski racing community can further support and uplift women in the sport?

VJ: Especially in my sport, encouraging more female athletes to stay in the sport beyond competition to become coaches and officials. But don't get me wrong, I have fantastic mogul coaches.



Courtesy KMS
Victoria Johnson

← **Padilha:**
from page 45

racing was, so I started watching YouTube videos of World Cup skiers. That's when I fell in love with the sport. The more I started racing and training, the more addicted I started to become. I started to ski for myself and finding the excitement in the sport has been super fun.

What are your future goals for the sport (for your race career or any other career in skiing)?

AP: My future goal would be to ski for the Brazilian national team full time and race all over the world. But I have been just going with the flow and letting life take me on this adventure.

Are there any female ski racers or athletes who have inspired you to pursue your goals? What have you learned from them?

AP: A female racer who has inspired me lately in skiing is Zrinka Ljusic from Croatia. I have learned from her to keep things simple and enjoy being present watching her skiing

has been the highlight of the World Cup season for me, and how she has been sending it, especially in SL. I cannot wait to see what she brings into the circuit this year. Keeping up with her on her summer training has also been super motivating to me to keep working hard in the gym.

What does it mean to you to be part of a growing community of female athletes in ski racing?

AP: It's super exciting being a part of the female athlete community. It's inspiring to look at my idols in ski racing and hoping in the future I can inspire young girls to chase the same dream.

How do you think the ski racing community can further support and uplift women in the sport?

AP: I think that the ski racing community should support all athletes and uplift female athletes' achievements more on social media.

← **Young:**
from page 44

How do you think the ski racing community can further support and uplift women in the sport?

EY: Over the many years I have been in this sport I have seen the toxic culture. To shift this culture, we need both athletes and coaches who are willing to set down their egos and be more inclusive. I love the ski racing community and I want to watch us grow and flourish together.

← **Local excitement:**
from page 41

tain it," said Karen Futterknecht, skiing Killington Saturday, Nov. 23.

After skiing the fresh 12-inches of snow that blanketed the slopes of Killington, Futterknecht took a break in the K-1 Base Lodge. She looked out the window toward Superstar in awe at how Killington was able to transform the trail so fast.

The New Jersey resident, having attended two World Cup events in her day, said she will watch the race on television but has the feeling of being at Killington.

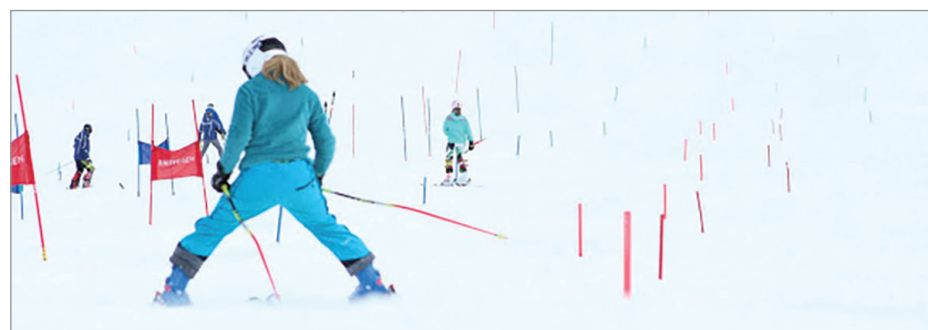
"I can view it on television when the women come down and picture myself here watching it and being here. Superstar is a great slope," said Futterknecht.

"It's awesome to watch those girls rip down the hill and not to mention the confidence the mountain has this community seeing Killington pull this off every year and even with a little bit lighter of the snowfall, Killington does

it," said Lisa Beck, who was at the Killington Cafe and Wine Bar at the Spa in the Woods for a tasting night Nov. 22. Much of the talk at the event was about the World Cup and how, every winter, Killington pulls it off, she said.

Joe Cuzzo, owner/general manager said opening his cafe and wine bar a week before the Stifel Killington Cup is a dream come true. "On a whim, I found myself staying in a shared house in winter, and that's when I caught the 'Killington bug.' I remember watching Mikaela Shiffrin in 2019 and wanting to be part of this town. Fast Forward to now, one week before the Killington World Cup, and here I am," he said.

Cuzzo and owners James Sherman and Howard Levin hope to welcome many World Cup fans over this coming weekend to chat about the races over his specialty wines and crafted food.



Courtesy KMS

Killington Mountain School women slip courses before race training for various disciplines.

← **Lubaszewski:**
from page 45

RL: I have always looked up to Lindsey Vonn. She has always inspired me because no matter where you come from, whether it's from a ski town or an area where winter is only three months long, with hard work you can make it from anywhere. Her battles and resiliency with injuries has taught me to keep fighting for the sport I love and to never give up no matter what.

What does it mean to you to be part of a growing community of females in ski racing?

RL: It feels really empowering to be amongst a group of such strong and powerful ladies, and to share similar experiences and passion for the sport makes it that much more special to be a part of.

How do you think the ski racing community can further support women in the sport?

RL: Overall I think in the ski community, women's skiing is supported and uplifted more so than other sports, the Killington World Cup is a prime example. We as a community need to keep supporting these strong and inspiring women while keeping equality and fairness prominent in the sport.



Courtesy KMS

Victoria Johnson

← **Butler:**
from page 43

threatened by you, critical of your ideas, or approach, and wishing for your failure, regardless of gender. If you have a good group of trusted peers and mentors, facing that each day becomes just a part of life. It's even motivating.

What are some of your proudest moments as headmaster so far?

CB: I really enjoy the days I'm able to get out on the mountain and watch our student-athletes in their element. It's a great reminder of how formative this time in their life is, how hopeful they are for futures and the 100% effort they put in each day to better themselves and lift each other up. It's an enormous privilege to be in a position to ensure that our student-athletes today and those that will come after them benefit from a KMS experience. I also really love being a college advisor where I have the opportunity to be a sounding board and provide guidance to our seniors as they assess their next steps after graduation.

I know the school recently acquired Moguls' Sports Pub. What was that like? What are your future plans for the property and how is the property being used now?

CB: Thrilling! KMS has been growing and we are in need of additional space to realize our ambitious goal to be the premier institution for competitive mountain sport student-athletes pursuing academic and athletic excellence without compromise. We have a clear vision for campus expansion and enhancement and are currently in the process of incorporating the new property into our master plan. We look forward to prioritizing projects from there that will dramatically level-up the experience we can

provide for our students, families and the community. More soon!

What are some of your goals for KMS going forward? What are some of your personal goals you want to accomplish in the ski industry?

CB: We are so excited to continue our strong partnership with Killington and Pico Resorts under the new ownership. Many of the investors and the resort's management team already have connections to KMS, value what we are doing and want to continue to see this local center of excellence thrive. KMS is a huge asset to not only student-athletes from away, but it serves a large day student population of local Vermont students.

We are also one of the largest employers in the town and wish to continue taking good care of our people who are some of the most dedicated educators, coaches and staff I've ever had the pleasure to work with. Continued investment in our people is on the list alongside investment in our physical places. Improving access to sport is both a goal for KMS and one for me personally. Winter sport and sport in general is the ultimate foundation for living a purposeful life, yet access to the training, competition and education required to give a child the best chance for success, is often cost prohibitive. I want KMS to be a leader in providing a well-resourced and world-class experience for as many deserving student-athletes as possible, regardless of their financial background. We will continue to invest in student scholarships.

Keep an eye on us, or even better, get in touch and join us!

WED
11/27

S.E.A.T. Exercises

9-10 a.m. (Wednesdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Killington Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays) The Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal, the tip is covered by local donors. 908-783-1050

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Road, Woodstock. \$15 or \$30 for three classes. Yoga class for seniors. wisepines.com/events

Diabetes Support Group

1-2 p.m. (Second Wednesday of every month) RRM Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group

Public Skating

2-3:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

3:30-4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises to increase strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org

Learn to Skate

4:20-5:20 p.m. (Wednesdays through Dec. 19) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$140. Join Union Arena Skating Club for learn to skate lessons. Levels include Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Helmets required. Register at uaskateclub.com

Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (2nd Wednesday of every month) Community Health Castleton, 261 Route 30, Castleton. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcrr.org/diabetes-support-group

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

SUNDAY @ 10 A.M.



THURS
11/28

13th Annual Killington 5k

Turkey Trot

9:30 a.m. Pickle Barrel, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. \$30 before race day, \$35 on race day. The 13th edition of the Killington 5k Turkey Trot Run/Walk welcomes participants of all ages. Proceeds benefit the Pico Ski Education Foundation. Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Pickle Barrel. Register now at runsignup.com/Race/VT/Killington/Killington5KTurkeyTrot

18th Annual 5K Turkey Trot for Zack's Place

10 a.m. Woodstock Elementary School, 15 South St., Woodstock. \$35. All proceeds benefit Zack's Place. Participants can race in-person or remotely. Post-race festivities include food, a band, and awards. No pets allowed. Main registration takes place on Nov. 27 from 3-5 p.m. or on race day from 8-9:30 a.m. zacksplacevt.org

FRI
11/29

A Family Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend with historic cooking demonstrations, hands-on pie crust making, crafts, a StoryWalk, barn quilt exhibits, and children's activities. Enjoy outdoor firepits with hot cocoa, cider, and cider donuts available for purchase. Admission includes access to the Animal Barns, Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, and the 1890 Farm Manager's House. billingsfarm.org

Christmas Bazaar

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. Browse holiday gifts, crafts specialty foods, and more at this festive bazaar in the heart of Weston. yourplaceinvermont.com

Bone Builders

11 a.m.-noon. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class that focuses on weight training and balance exercises to improve strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org

Connections & Interconnections of Life

Weekly Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. A place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square.site

Holiday Open House

Noon-5 p.m. Mission Farm, 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington. Celebrate the new kitchen with an afternoon of fun, food, and cheer. Features local artisans, holiday wreaths for sale (\$25-\$45), coffee, and cider. missionfarmvt.org

World Cup Viewing Party

Noon-6 p.m. Rutland Beer Works Taproom, 136 Granger St., Rutland. Enjoy \$5 pours of Superstar IPA while watching the Killington World Cup races on a big projector. rutlandbeerworks.com/taproom

Stick & Puck

3-4:10 p.m. (All Ages) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net



KMS World Cup Kick-Off Celebration

3:30-5 p.m. The Foundry at Summit Pond, 63 Summit Path, Killington. \$40 advance, \$50 at the door. Celebrate Killington's World Cup weekend with an afternoon of music, drinks, and community hosted by Killington Mountain School. The first 50 guests receive a limited edition KMS swag item. Proceeds support the KMS Annual Fund. Pre-purchase tickets at kms.org

Downtown Rutland Tree Lighting

5:30-6 p.m. Depot Park, Rutland. Kick off the holiday season with a traditional tree lighting. Festivities include hot cocoa, cookies, and milk, with the first 200 attendees receiving holiday light specs and candy canes. Santa arrives by firetruck at 6 p.m. to light the tree. Enjoy decorated shop windows downtown after the event. downtownrutland.com/treelighting

West Coast Swing Dance Classes

5:30-6:30 p.m. Gymnasium, 11 Cottage St., Rutland. \$15 per class. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com

SAT
11/30

Audi FIS Women's World Cup: Day 1

7 a.m. 4763 Killington Road, Killington Resort. \$10+. Celebrate the history and passion for Alpine ski racing and cheer on Mikaela Shiffrin, who is on track for her historic 100th win. Free athlete bib presentation and fireworks display on Friday night. VIP packages are available. Shuttle buses to race venue from parking lots. See inside pages Mountain Times for details.

Vermont Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Free. Shop local produce, crafts, and goods every Saturday through May 10, 2025. vtfarmersmarket.org

A Family Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend with historic cooking demonstrations, hands-on pie crust making, crafts, a StoryWalk, barn quilt exhibits, and children's activities. Enjoy outdoor firepits with hot cocoa, cider, and cider donuts available for purchase. Admission includes access to the Animal Barns, Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, and the 1890 Farm Manager's House. billingsfarm.org

Christmas Bazaar

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Walker Farm, 705 Main St., Weston. Browse holiday gifts, crafts specialty foods, and more at this festive bazaar in the heart of Weston. yourplaceinvermont.com

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 48

Winter Pop-Up Art Market

11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., 2nd Floor, Rutland. Meet local makers, shop unique gifts, and enjoy light refreshments. Free parking available downtown. Gift wrapping on site. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site/

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N' Paint

Noon-2 p.m. (Saturdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org

World Cup Viewing Party

Noon-6 p.m. Rutland Beer Works Taproom, 136 Granger St., Rutland. Enjoy \$5 pours of Superstar IPA while watching the Killington World Cup races on a big projector. rutlandbeerworks.com/taproom

Public Skating

3:30-5 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

Santa in the Park

4-5 p.m. Fair Haven Park, Main St., Fair Haven. Join the festivities with hot chocolate, treats from Mrs. Clement's students, and Santa's arrival at 4:15 p.m. Enjoy the holiday decorations, lights, and photo opportunities with Santa

Fitz and The Tantrums Live

7 p.m. Killington Ski Area, Killington. Catch Fitz and The Tantrums live for an unforgettable night of music, featuring chart-topping hits like "Out of My League," "HandClap," and "The Walker." Tickets to World Cup required. killington.com

Pat Metheny: 'Dream Box/MoonDial' Tour

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$60-\$125. Experience Grammy-winning guitarist and composer Pat Metheny in an intimate performance. paramountvt.org

Movie - 'Wicked,' (PG)

7:30 p.m.-10:15 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Film adaptation of the musical phenomenon. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

SUN
12/01

Audi FIS Women's World Cup: Day 2

7 a.m. 4763 Killington Road, Killington Resort. \$10+. Celebrate the history and passion for Alpine ski racing and cheer on Mikaela Shiffrin, who is on track for her historic 100th win. Free athlete bib presentation and fireworks display on Friday night. VIP packages are available. Shuttle buses to race venue from parking lots. See inside pages Mountain Times for details.

Stick & Puck

9:40-10:50 a.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

A Family Thanksgiving Weekend at Billings Farm

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend with historic cooking demonstrations, hands-on pie crust making, crafts, a StoryWalk, barn quilt exhibits, and children's activities. Enjoy outdoor firepits with hot cocoa, cider, and cider donuts available for purchase. Admission includes access to the Animal Barns, Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, and the 1890 Farm Manager's House. billingsfarm.org

Santa's Workshop

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 66 Merchants Row, Rutland. Enjoy a holiday experience with cookie decorating, hot cocoa, keepsake crafts, and a visit with Santa. Tickets are limited for each time slot. Proceeds support the museum's mission to keep admission affordable and offer reduced-price memberships to families in need. wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org

Public Skating

11 a.m.-12:10 p.m. (Sundays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

Fair Isle Knitting Class

Noon-2 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 714 US-4, Rutland. \$30. This intermediate-level class guides participants through the Benon handband pattern by Hazel Tindall, focusing on Fair Isle colorwork with two colors in one row. Required materials: a 16" circular needle (US 3) and four colors of Jamieson's Spindrift yarn (10% discount on yarn purchased for the class). Participants must complete the first 7 rounds of the handband before class. Preregistration required. greenmountainfibers.com

Winter Pop-Up Art Market

Noon-4 p.m. Kaleidoscope Art Supply, 37 Center St., 2nd Floor, Rutland. Meet local makers, shop unique gifts, and enjoy light refreshments. Free parking available downtown. Gift wrapping on site. kaleidoscopeartsupply.square.site/

World Cup Viewing Party

Noon-6 p.m. Rutland Beer Works Taproom, 136 Granger St., Rutland. Enjoy \$5 pours of Superstar IPA while watching the Killington World Cup races on a big projector. rutlandbeerworks.com/taproom

Movie Marathon

2-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main St., Poultney. Suggested donation: \$10. Enjoy a lineup of films: "Box Trolls" (2 p.m.), "Hunt for the Wilderpeople" (4 p.m.), and "She Came to Me" (6:30 p.m.), each followed by a discussion. Snacks and refreshments provided. stonevalleyarts.org

Movie - 'Wicked,' (PG)

3:00- 5:45 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Film adaptation of the musical phenomenon starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Sap Bucket Tree Lighting

4:30-6 p.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm St., Pittsford. Celebrate with caroling, treats, and community at the sap bucket tree lighting ceremony featuring a performance by the Lothrop choir and special holiday guests. pittsfordvillagefarm.org/events

MON
12/02

Bone Builders

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

Monday Movie

1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Contact the library for the title. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765

Movie - 'Wicked,' (PG)

7:30-10:15 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Film adaptation of the musical phenomenon starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

TUES
12/03

Handcraft Gathering

2-4 p.m. (Every 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, Library St., So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abbottmemoriallibrary.org

Stick & Puck

3-4:10 p.m. (High School Level) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. All ages. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

Alzheimer's Support Group

4-5 p.m., (Every 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. chcrr.org

Learn to Skate Lessons

5:30-6:30 p.m. Union Arena Community Center, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$140. Join Union Arena Skating Club for learn to skate lessons on Tuesdays, from Nov. 5 to Dec. 18, 2024. Levels include Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Helmets required. Register at uaskateclub.com

Line Dance Classes

5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays) Bradford Methodist Church, 186 N Main St., Bradford. \$10. Easy line dancing at 5:30 p.m., perfect for novices, followed by a 6:30 p.m. beginner-level class. All ages welcome. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No need to register in advance. jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com

Rutland Area Toastmasters

6-7:30 p.m. (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) Courcelle Bldg, 16 N. St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening, and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org

Holiday Open House

6-8 p.m. Fair Haven Free Library, 107 Main St., Fair Haven. Enjoy the 28th Angel Tree display, with donations supporting the Friends of the Library. Features door prizes, refreshments, and a performance by the Hummin' Strummin' Ukulele Band. fairhavenfree.org

ONGOING

A Forest of Lights

4:30-7 p.m. Last check-in at 6:30 p.m. Weekends and select weeknights through early January. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Adults \$13, Youth \$8, Children 3 & under Free. Stroll through magical light displays featuring the Snow Shower Tower, Snow Globe, Whimsical Woodland, and more. Campfire and snacks available for purchase. vinsweb.org

Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'

Through Jan. 1, 2025. Northern Stage, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$24-\$94. Directed by Carol Dunne. northernstage.org

Holiday Exhibit

Through January, 2025. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland. Free. Annual holiday exhibit. chaffeeartcenter.org

Holiday Art Market

Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St., Brandon. Free. A festive holiday art market featuring handcrafted ornaments, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, photography, fiber art, and gifts for all ages. Open daily throughout the holiday season. brandonartistsguild.org

UPCOMING
12/4

Micky Dolenz in Concert

7 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. First time performing at the Paramount Theatre. Catch the Monkees lead singer Micky Dolenz, featuring hits like "Last Train to Clarksville" and "I'm a Believer." paramountvt.org

12/5-12/8

Vermont Comedy Festival

Various locations, Woodstock. Four days of live comedy featuring comedians from around the world, video sketch screenings, and networking events. Headlined by Tim Meadows, this festival serves as the unofficial kickoff to Woodstock's Wassail Festival. vermontcomedyfestival.com

12/8

Holiday Pops with the VSO Chorus

3-5 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. Enjoy the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and its 70-voice chorus, conducted by José Daniel Flores-Caraballo. The program includes traditional sacred pieces, sing-along carols, and festive selections with a touch of Spanish influence. Audience members are encouraged to bring canned food donations for Black River Good Neighbor Services. vso.org and paramountvt.org

12/13-12/15

Wassail Weekend

Join Woodstock in celebrating its most anticipated weekend of the year. pentanglearts.org

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'Warren Miller's 75'



Screens and Streams

By James Kent

The Town Hall theater in Middlebury was the happening scene for ski and snowboard enthusiasts of all ages on Wednesday, Nov. 20, for a special roadshow screening of "Warren Miller's 75." Now, if you're like me—a person who gets queasy the moment I step off a ski lift, or if the mere mention of the phrase, "Mad River Glen: Ski it if you can," brings up nightmares of a one-time run down an iced-over trail, hoping

and praying I'd make it in one piece if I managed to survive at all—you may not know who Warren Miller is. However, if you are like so many avid ski and snowboarders who call Vermont home or who make your way to this fine state come the sound of those first snow guns firing on Killington, you know who Warren Miller is and what it means to watch one of his ski films.

Thus, Wednesday evening began my formal education into the legendary skier and filmmaker whose ski films date back to 1949. Although Warren Miller passed away in 2018, his spirit and legacy live on with these films that bring the thrills and adventure of pure skiing to global audiences.

This new entry consists of 10 segments featuring a Who's-Who of skiing and snowboarding icons, including Selema Masakela, Shaun White, Caite Zelif, Jeremy Jones, JJ Henriquez, Max Hitzig, Danny Davis, Parkin Costain, Toby Miller, JJ Thomas, Alex Ferreira, Lexi duPont, Noah Maisonet, Zeb Powell, Daron Rahlves, Connery Lundin, Aaron Blunck, Mark Abma, Cassie Sharpe, Juho Kilki, Luis Medearis, Cass Jones, and Mia Jones.

I'm a newbie when it comes to watching a Warren Miller jam. Still, aside from maybe some of the younger in attendance (and there was more than one 4-year-old at my screening), the sold-out crowd at the Town Hall Theater, some 200-strong, were no rookies—these were veterans, all skiing and snowboarding fanatics. And no, no one had to tell me. I may not ski, but I can spot someone who does. You can see it in their eyes, that hunger, the longing, that insatiable need to get onto the slopes. These films are an entry point for the desire to take the sport to the extreme. And when I use the term extreme, oh, I mean it.

Are you looking for heli-skiing and cutting trails down steep rocky cliffs off mountainsides? Only the most experienced alpinist would dare traverse on foot but never mind on skis. Yeah, this film's got that. Backcountry snowboarding in Japan and jumping upside down over trees? I'll confess, I don't know how anyone learns to do that, but 15-year-old



Courtesy of Warren Miller Entertainment

You are never too young to ski down the cliffside of a mountain. Next-gen athletes featured in "Warren Miller 75" posed at Palisades Tahoe resort in Olympic Valley, California.

phenom LJ Henriquez makes it seem as simple as breathing.

This 2-hour experience, which included a 15-minute intermission during which the event hosts gave out prizes and announced raffle winners, was a lot for a novice such as myself to take in. I would have benefited from some on-screen captions that let viewers know precisely what other-worldly mountain or resort we were visiting next. I recognize most in attendance likely knew what breath-taking vistas we were gazing upon, but I had to listen to the athletes on screen to determine where they were.

As to the quality of the filmmaking on display, I can't speak to how an avid skier or snowboarder would view the film. How does it stack up against the 74 other Warren Miller films? I cannot tell you. But, as a first-time viewer, I was left impressed and dazzled by the feats of otherworldliness I saw captured on screen by athletes who truly possess skills only a few gifted daredevils can lay claim to at this high-level magnitude of pure-stoke adrenaline. It is clear from what I watched that there is no cinematic trickery here. No CGI, no AI, no bluescreen; these athletes are the real deal. The crew of talented videographers shot all the work of athletes operating at the highest level. And while the talent on hand for this 75th installment are all seasoned experts, in a segment late in the film, when a few 12-year-old boys skied down a mountainside at Palisades Tahoe, I realized to do the thing, one must possess the spirit to conquer, and there is no age requirement for that.

For those looking to catch "Warren Miller's 75" on the big screen, there will be an upcoming screening at Long Trail School in Dorset, VT, on Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information and tickets, go to: warrenmiller.com.



Hosts threw out prizes during intermission at the "Warren Miller's 75" film event in Middlebury on Nov. 20.

By James Kent

[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED

11/27

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

LUDLOW

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

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Aaron Audet

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

THUR

11/28

KILLINGTON

9:30 a.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub - 12th Annual Killington Turkey Trot
6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary
6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

FRI

11/29

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – Aaron Audet

KILLINGTON

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – James Joel
6 p.m. The Foundry – Music by Cooper

7:00 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Nick Bredice

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Mance

7:30 p.m. The Foundry – George Nostrand

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – Royals

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

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – 3AM Tokyo

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Main & Mountain – Liz Reedy

8 p.m. Off the Rails – The What Knota

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Jenny Porter

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Singer/Songwriter Lily Welch

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Chris Pallutto

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – DJ EG

SAT

11/30

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Kendall Farrell

CASTLETON

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel Nightclub – World Cup Rebels Charity Apres Ski Party with G. Love and Friends (All Ages)

4 p.m. Vermont Craft – World Cup Watch Party – Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Rivershed – Jeremiah Strauss

6 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet Band

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Apres Ski with the Krishna Guthrie Band

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Mance

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Royals
9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jamie's Junk Show

9 p.m. Wobbly Barn – World Cup After-Party with DJ Ross One

11 p.m. Wobbly Barn – 3AM Tokyo

LONDONDERRY

3 p.m. Black Line Tavern at Magic Mountain – Sammy B

LUDLOW

2 p.m. Okemo Mountain's The Bull – Apres-Ski with George Nostrand

8 p.m. Off the Rails – Rustie Bus

8 p.m. The Killarney – Bear Mountain Boys

PITTSFORD

8 p.m. Hilltop Tavern – Karaoke with Sunset Entertainment

QUECHEE

5 p.m. Harry's Cocktail Lounge – Live Music with Singer/Songwriter Katie Dobbins

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Colin Nevins

STOCKBRIDGE

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

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – The Freeze Brothers

SUN

12/1

BRANDON

3:30 p.m. Town Hall (Outside) – Lighting of Brandon's Memory Tree

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS
3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Evan Foisy

KILLINGTON

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Nick Bredice

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed – Trivia

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

7 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Comedy Night with Kendall Farrell

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

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem

MON

12/2

KILLINGTON

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

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with King Arthur Junior

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Angler's Pub – Trivia hosted by Sunset Entertainment

WOODSTOCK

6:30 p.m. Ottauquechee Yacht Club – Live Music

TUES

12/3

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – Nancy & Barry

7:30 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. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

RUTLAND

5:30 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller

6:30 p.m. Vermont Tap House – Trivia Night

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – EDM Night with DJ EG, DJ Sims and Sunset Dreamz

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It's time to turkey trot again: Woodstock and Killington's annual Thanksgiving traditions support local charities and causes



Submitted

Runners will gather at various locations the area to run or walk a 5K race and fundraiser on Thanksgiving day. The Killington Turkey Trot (above) starts at Jax on Killington Road.

WOODSTOCK—Nov. 28 at 10 a.m. The Zack's Place 2024 Turkey Trot 5K Thanksgiving race returns, bringing together runners and walkers of all ages for a cherished holiday tradition. This annual event, now a staple in the Woodstock community, kicks off on Thursday, Nov. 28, at 10 a.m. with the starting line at Woodstock Elementary School.

Key Details

- Packet Pickup: Available on Nov. 27 from 3-5 p.m. at Woodstock Elementary School.
- Race Day Registration: Opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 9:30 a.m. at the same location to ensure a prompt start. The fee is \$35 for racers.
- Live Music: John Snyder's Band will entertain participants and spectators throughout the event.
- Race Route: The course winds through Woodstock's historic village, past Billings Farm, around Mountain Avenue, and back to the town green, ending where it began.
- Participants can enjoy refreshments and live music during the award ceremony after the race, where medals will be presented to top finishers. This event caters to all fitness levels, with skilled runners leading the pack and families, including grandparents and young children, walking the course.

Community Growth

The race has grown significantly since its inception. In 2007, nearly 200 participants joined; by 2023, over 1,700 people raised an impressive \$119,000. Proceeds directly support operational costs, reflecting the community's dedication to this cause.

Important Updates

- Due to past issues, pets, including dogs, will no longer be permitted in the race.
- Satellite participants, joining virtually, are also welcome to contribute to this annual fundraiser.

Parking Information

Participants are encouraged to use the following parking locations

- Mill Building: 21710-41F Maxham Meadow Way
- Sunset Farms: 21710 Maxham Meadow Way
- East End Park: 217-03 Maxham Meadow Way
- OHC/Masonic Temple: 30 Pleasant St.
- Billings Farm & Museum: 69 Old River Road
- Woodstock Rec. Center: 54 River St.
- Woodstock Country Club: 78 South St.
- Village street parking is available on Elm, Central, and Pleasant Streets.

Please note that parking is not permitted around the Woodstock Village Green.

KILLINGTON—Nov. 28 at 9:30 a.m. It's double the turkey trot fun! If you'd like to support local charities, and Killington is the more convenient location, Killington's 13th annual turkey trot happens Thanksgiving morning at 9:30 a.m. Admission is \$30 in advance or \$35 on race day. The race begins at the Pickle Barrel, 1741 Killington Road. Registration starts at 8 a.m., and the run supports local charities and organizations. Plenty of parking is available, and run or walk, all ages are welcome to get in on the fun, which features live music, a bar, and an assortment of raffle prizes.

Whether you're trotting in Woodstock or Killington, if you're spending Thanksgiving morning supporting either event, you are guaranteed to start the holiday with some fine calorie burning and contribute to some worthy causes.

For more information, go to: zacksplacevt.org or killingtonturkeytrot.com.



Courtesy of Zack's Place

A family of runners posed for a photo op at a previous Zack's Place Turkey Trot.



Courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Children can learn how to weave a placemat at Billing's Farm's Thanksgiving weekend event.



Courtesy of Billings Farm & Museum

Experience historic cooking demos at Billing's Farm's Thanksgiving weekend event.

Celebrate Thanksgiving weekend at Billings Farm & Museum

WOODSTOCK—Friday through Saturday, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Thanksgiving weekend, Billings Farm & Museum invites families and friends to enjoy the warmth of holiday traditions, history, and crafts at a family Thanksgiving.

Step Back in Time

The 1890 Farm Manager's House will be bustling with festive preparations, with the table set with dishes reminiscent of the 1890s. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the kitchen will come alive with demonstrations of historic recipes featuring fresh ingredients from the Billings Farmstead gardens and orchard, including oyster soup, roasted squash, and baked apples.

Visitors can further explore culinary history through the "What's for Dinner" programs, scheduled at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and try their hand at pie crust making and tasting in the Learning Kitchen from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hands-On Fun for the Whole Family

Families can share their holiday traditions and stories on the Sharing Wall in the historic barn. Children will enjoy a variety

of activities, including weaving paper placemats, listening to Thanksgiving-themed stories at noon and 2 p.m., and following the StoryWalk along the pasture fence, featuring "Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message."

Guests can also explore the barn quilt exhibition, both inside the historic barn and outdoors, where colorful artwork adorns the buildings and barns.

Cozy Up Outdoors

Outdoor firepits will be available for warming up while sipping hot cocoa, coffee, or cider, and cider donuts will be available for purchase in the museum gift shop.

Admission and volunteer opportunities

General admission includes access to the Animal Barns, Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, and the 1890 Farm Manager's House, which showcases innovative features of its time, including the kitchen and creamery. Visitors can meet the farm's cows, draft horses, sheep, goats, and chickens in the barns and scenic pastures.

For more information, visit: billingsfarm.org.

Vermont Symphony Orchestra to usher in the season with Holiday Pops in Rutland

By James Kent

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) will brighten the holiday season with its beloved Holiday Pops concert series on Dec. 8 from 3-5 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., in Rutland. This cherished annual tradition will feature the VSO orchestra alongside its 70-voice chorus, delivering a blend of sacred holiday classics, sing-along carols, and festive surprises.

A Festive Program for All

Under the baton of José Daniel Flores-Caraballo, VSO's chorus director, the concert will include timeless pieces by John Rutter, LeRoy Anderson, George Frideric Handel, and more. Flores-Caraballo describes the program as a blend of nostalgia and celebration. "The first half of the concert has all those magnificent, sacred pieces that we remember from traditional Christmases. But for the second half, we'll have a big party, and I'll bring in some pieces from 'Mother Spain.'"

Flores-Caraballo, who originally hails from Puerto Rico, spoke with the Mountain Times about his upbringing and how he strives to introduce the spirit, enchantment, and wonder of the holiday season from his heritage to a Vermont audience.

"Winter in Puerto Rico is more like a nice spring day in Vermont," said Flore-Caraballo. "The traditions there, the people would go to homes unannounced late at night and sing. In most homes, people sleep with their windows open. All this music is being heard through the neighborhoods. We call it 'Trullas de Navidad.' It's a very joyful experience. People receive their friends at all hours and eat soup." In Puerto Rico, the season is a time for friendship and fellowship with friends and family, and Flore-Caraballo was excited to bring some Spanish traditional music to the program.

The two pieces Flore-Caraballo added to the program's second half, John Rutter's "Esta Noche" and Leroy Anderson's "Pastores a Belen," are popular holiday favorites in Puerto Rico.

"These two pieces are part of the folklore," said Flore-Caraballo. "They are, however, wonderful arrangements for symphonic and chorus. They are very fiery and enjoyable."

And with this program, Flore-Caraballo hopes to inspire and reach the audience more deeply.

"I think the holidays give us an opportunity to remember that despite how fractured things are around the world, and with so much that divides us, we are all one human-

ity," Flore-Caraballo said. "One of the things I'm trying to do with this music is to remind all of us of that. This concert is an opportunity to come together and celebrate as one people."

Spotlight on New Voices

This year's chorus features new members, including sopranos Meaghan Diffenderfer and Lorna Jane Norris. Diffenderfer, who counts Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride as her favorite piece, shared her excitement about performing with the orchestra, saying, "I grew up singing with an orchestra, so being able to

do that in Vermont is a really special treat." Originally from Boston, Norris highlighted John Rutter's What Sweeter Music as her favorite, adding, "As a British person, this piece resonates deeply with me."

Giving Back to the Community

Continuing a meaningful tradition, the VSO will partner with local food shelves in each community: Hedding United Methodist Church Food Shelf in Barre, South Burlington Food Shelf in Burlington, and Black River Good

Neighbor Services in Rutland. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring canned food items, which local volunteers will distribute. In 2023, audience members donated over 700 pounds of food through this initiative.

The entire concert program includes:

- Traditional (arr. Sebesky) - "A Christmas Scherzo"
- Traditional (arr. Willcocks) - "Adeste Fideles"
- George Frideric Handel - "And the Glory of the Lord" (from Messiah)
- John Rutter - "What Sweeter Music"
- Georges Bizet - Farandole from "L'Arlesienne Suite" No. 2
- Robert Shaw - "The Many Moods of Christmas", Suite 4
- Intermission
- Quinn Mason - "Christmas Eve Festivities"
- Mykola Leontovych (arr. Wilhousky) - "Carol of the Bells"
- James Lord Pierpont (arr. Brandau) - "Jingle Bells, Wassail"
- John Rutter - "Esta Noche"
- Leroy Anderson - "Pastores a Belen"
- Irving Berlin (arr. Huff/Moss) - "White Christmas"
- Frederic Austin (arr. Wilberg) - "The Twelve Days of Christmas"
- Leroy Anderson - "Sleigh Ride"

Whether it's your first time or a cherished family tradition, the VSO's Holiday Pops promises a memorable experience for audiences of all ages.

For tickets and more information, go to: vso.org.

The two pieces Flore-Caraballo added to the program's second half, John Rutter's "Esta Noche" and Leroy Anderson's "Pastores a Belen," are popular holiday favorites in Puerto Rico.

Chaffee Art Center hosts its 2024 gingerbread contest

The Chaffee Art Center in Rutland invites gingerbread enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds to participate in its 2024 Gingerbread Contest, inspired by this year's theme: "BELIEVE." The annual event offers bakers, schools, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals a chance to showcase their creativity and holiday spirit.

How to Participate

Entry is free, but participants must pre-register. Gingerbread creations can be delivered to the Chaffee Art Center at 16 So. Main St., Rutland, during the following times:

- Wednesday, Dec. 4: 12–4 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 5: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Additional drop-off times may be arranged upon request.

Showcase & Awards

The gingerbread masterpieces will be displayed at the Chaffee's historic 1890s mansion, beginning with the Gingerbread Contest Showcase Reception on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 12–2 p.m. The exhibit will run through Dec. 28, giving visitors plenty of time to enjoy the festive creations. Awards, including a People's Choice category, will be announced during the showcase reception.

Explore the Chaffee Art Center

The Chaffee Art Center is a hub of creativity, offering exhibits, classes, and events year-round. Visitors are encouraged to stop by during regular hours:

- Wednesday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

For more information, go to: chaffeeartcenter.org.



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killington market

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.



Ramunto's Brick and Brew

Ramunto's Brick & Brew in Bridgewater- come enjoy a delicious, wood-fired pizza in a relaxed, rustic atmosphere. Choose from a wide variety of pizza options, from classic margherita and pepperoni to more creative choices. We also offer a good selection of pasta dishes, salads, and appetizers, with a focus on fresh, high-quality ingredients.



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.



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.



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.



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.



Sushi Yoshi

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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.

Nonna's puts Monday dining back on the map in downtown Rutland

Walter and Lynn Manney, owners of Mendon's Maple Sugar & Vermont Spice and Rutland's Jones Donuts, like to go out to eat on Monday nights. There's only one problem: a lack of options in downtown Rutland. Some restaurants are open in Rutland on Monday evenings, but not enough. The Manneys devised a perfect solution: create a restaurant downtown open on Monday evenings.

Timing is everything

When Taso's on Center announced it was ceasing operations at the end of October, the Manneys wasted no time in securing the spot for an Italian restaurant called Nonna's. Nonna's opened on Nov. 8, less than two weeks after the Manneys took over the lease.

Walter Manney was looking for a new opportunity to bolster the Rutland economy, and the timing of Taso's closure created the perfect opportunity to open his third food-service business.

"I retired from the car business four weeks ago, and knowing I was retiring this year, there was an opportunity I kind of wanted," Walter Manney said. "I recognized the downtown, needing another restaurant, or two or three. There's definitely multiple needs down here."

Manney, a car salesman for over 21 years, in addition to his work with Sugar & Spice and Jones Donuts, cited former Italian dining establishments The Palms and Sal's as inspirations for choosing an Italian restaurant for downtown Rutland. However, the lack of restaurant options in the area, worsened by the pandemic, proved the driving force in opening Nonna's.

"Our purpose is here to supply a need, and that's probably what fueled my fire more than anything," Manney said. "We need a place to go to."

Fresh ingredients are the key to success

Nonna's offers a menu with all the classic Italian fare.

There are traditional pasta dishes, chicken Parmesan, meatballs, lasagna, chicken piccata, seafood Fra Diabolo, antipasto, Caesar salad, vegan and gluten-free options, and a limited kids' menu. Nonna's fully stocked bar has multiple beers and cider on tap, Italian wines, and mixed drinks for those coming in after work looking for a quick drink and a bite. And while the chicken Parmesan and lasagna are already proving to be perennial favorites, it's a unique appetizer that could soon prove all the rage.

Nonna's offers a different take on the standard fried mozzarella sticks that will get people's attention. The fried provolone is a generous, thick slice of lightly breaded and fried provolone cheese surrounded by Nonna's homemade tomato sauce, crostini for dipping, and a delicious swirl of green pesto. The Mountain Times got to sample this table starter, and let's just say—we've been

Nonna's → 58



Nonna's Italian Ristorante opened on Nov. 8 in downtown Rutland on Center St. Chef Gavin Tyson spoke with The Mountain Times about the menu based on fresh ingredients and from-scratch recipes. By James Kent

Killington's new wine bar opens

By Victoria Gaither

On Friday, Nov. 22, at 5 p.m., the Killington Cafe and Wine Bar opened its doors to the community for an invite-only tasting opportunity. Owner/General Manager Joe Cuozzo and partners James Sherman and Howard Levin welcomed guests into the cafe and bar and sought feedback. It was a packed house, with guests commenting on the atmosphere, the cheese charcuterie, meats, and wine.

Cuozzo said, "The menu truly reflects our collaboration, but the item I'm most excited about is The Transplant. It's inspired by my move from New York to Vermont and features the best pastrami you'll ever try paired with perfectly aged Vermont cheddar"

The Killington Cafe and Wine Bar will celebrate its grand opening Wednesday, Nov 27. The new café is located at The Woods, 53 Woods Lane in Killington.

For more information, visit: killingtonwinebar.com.



By Victoria Gaither

The Killington Cafe and Wine Bar is hosting its grand opening this week. Pictured (l-r) owners/general managers Howard Levin, Joe Cuozzo and James Sherman welcomed guests, Friday.

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← **Nonna's:**
from page 56

dreaming about it ever since. It's fantastic. Former Taso's head chef, Jeff Saunders, and new executive chef, Gavin Tyson, designed the menu. Saunders will be setting out on a non-food-related business venture but has agreed to assist with the transition. Tyson, a Castleton native who worked in restaurants in Florida and at Leunig's on Church St. in Burlington before returning to Rutland, sees the secret to success at Nonna's lies in offering homemade food with fresh, not frozen, ingredients.

"Everything we do is like from scratch," Tyson said. "There's not one thing that comes pre-frozen that we do. The sauce is something where everyone else kind of does like the same bagged sauces. Me? I like robust. I like flavor. So the point of this place is to be to stand out. We use really good olive oil in our sauce. So the flavor profile: it has fresh oregano and fresh basil. It's about freshness; you can taste it, and that's really important."

Tyson works with suppliers in Boston to bring fresh seafood up to the restaurant several times a week, and that desire and enthusiasm for making the customer's taste experience as good as possible makes Tyson a chef to watch.

It's early days for Nonna's, but word is already getting out about the high-quality food, and customers are returning for seconds. Bronwen Warner, a hairdresser at A Signature Day Spa in Rutland, has already taken her family to Nonna's twice. And for Warner, it isn't just the tastiness of the food that she appreciates; it's the value of the food. "They give you a delicious green salad with your meal that comes with homemade Italian dressing. Who else does that these days?" Warner said. "And they give you this delicious crusty bread with really good olive oil and garlic to dip into. I loved it."

Warner attested to the great taste of the Alfredo, which she had with shrimp, the chicken Parmesan, which she had on a different visit, and the seafood Fra Diablo and chicken picatta, which her husband and son enjoyed.

A Bright Future

Currently, Nonna's is open Thursdays through Mondays from 4-9 p.m., and Walter Manney envisions those days/hours remaining for the foreseeable future. Nonna's takes reservations by phone after 3 p.m. on open days only, but walk-ins are always accepted and available. The restaurant can seat 90 and is available for private functions.

Manney said they already have several holiday parties booked for December and believe there will be a full slate in the lead-up to the new year.

As for the future, Tyson envisions Nonna's becoming a staple of the community for years to come.

"I want this place to thrive," Tyson said. "I want it to be talked about the way The Palms or Sal's was. I want it to be a staple, not just for two years, and neither does Walt. It's supposed to be a generational thing where those people who are still in the community, who are 60, 70, or 80, who remember those other places, come here because they taste those flavors. I have friends who now have children and want them to come here. I want this place to be a staple of the community. Rutland's on the rise, and it's a perfect time for this place. It's marrying perfectly."

Judging by the community enthusiasm and response, Nonna's has received in just a few short weeks, it's clear they are well on their way to achieving that goal.

For more information or to book a reservation, call: (802) 772-7316.



By James Kent

Top: The fried provolone is one of Nonna's signature appetizers and a must-try for diners. Bottom: The staff of Nonna's posed for a photo shortly before a recent service.



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‘Wicked’ provides fine entertainment for the holidays

“Wicked,” the global musical sensation based on author Gregory Maguire’s 1995 novel, arrives in theaters some 20 years after its Broadway debut. Even if you haven’t seen the musical, you know about it, and chances are, you knew this movie was coming out around Thanksgiving. It would be near impossible not to know because the advertising campaign for this film, directed by Jon M. Chu (“Crazy Rich Asians,” “The Heights,” and uhm, “G.I. Joe: Retaliation,” has been nonstop. Still, suppose you weren’t familiar with “Wicked,” aside from perhaps the knowledge that it is tied to “The Wizard of Oz” in some way. In that case, you’d be forgiven in lacking the understanding that this film is a musical due to the marketing blitz’s keeping it a secret in much of its advertising.

Based on its stellar performance at the box office this past weekend, maybe those Hollywood marketing geniuses were on to something by not letting the unknowing in on the secret. It was a risky gamble, as the comic book faithful were not too pleased to discover that the Joker sequel had several song-and-dance numbers. I must confess that I find it amusing to think that some unsuspecting father got dragged to “Wicked” under the pretense that it is merely a backstory to the tale of the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda, the “Good” Witch. What a surprise it must have been to them the moment a cast of costumed extras started spinning around in fancied sets and singing their joy that the “Wicked Witch of the West,” at last, was dead before segueing into 2 hours and 35 minutes more of the story, and plenty more musical numbers.

Then again, should anyone be surprised at this? Wasn’t the original 1939 classic a musical? So, it makes perfect sense that re-imagining, re-telling, or providing alternative history should, at the very least, carry on that tradition.

Going into this film, I knew a few things: I read Maguire’s

book when it first came out in paperback. I had never had the opportunity to see a musical. I wanted to but never did. So, I’m a “Wicked” newbie. And yes, I am from Massachusetts originally, and yes, I knew this film was not a musical based on the Boston suburb’s favorite catchphrase. I also knew this would be the first of two parts. I mention this because not everyone at the theater where I saw this was aware of this fact until the movie started. The original theatrical production of “Wicked” runs 2-1/2, plus a 15-minute intermission. This first film runs for 2 hours and 41 minutes. Why couldn’t they tell the same story in one film? Well, it’s Hollywood folks, and no matter what they tell you or try to sell you on the reasons for making two movies instead of one, there’s one and only one reason that matters: money. These kinds of films are expensive, and if

“Wicked: Part 1” is a hit, then there will be plenty of money on the table to be made for Part 2. And it appears that the gambit will pay off.

So, what did I get for my \$10 dollars (which is a bargain compared with Broadway prices)? Pretty much everything I expected. Okay, not entirely. I was half expecting the film to be a slog. I could best entertain myself by hate-watching. I have no idea why I felt this way going into the movie, but the whole enterprise seemed to be a calculated money grab, and I couldn’t help but find the cynicism creeping through my insides. Turns out, I was wrong—mostly wrong.

“Wicked,” the movie based on the Broadway musical, is based on the 1995 novel, inspired by the 1939 film, and is based on the series of books from L. Frank Baum, whose personal racist views towards native Americans conflicted with his support of the women’s suffrage movement, make for some meaty material. The story of a university-bound Elphaba, the eponymous soon-to-be “Wicked Witch of the West,” and her frenemie

college roommate, Glinda, or Galinda as the character prefers for most of the first film, doesn’t break any new ground, but it is fun to watch for a couple of hours. Despite its ambitious runtime, the movie is never dull.

The plot of “Wicked” runs through a political narrative that amusingly parallels our current situation. In the land of Oz, a populist fool calls the shots, and the population is willing to go along with the scapegoating of anyone different from their own skin color if it makes them feel safe and morally centered on an imaginary high ground. The film is not an intentional direct commentary on our nation’s political and cultural divide, but let it never be said that fascism ever fully goes out of style.

Where “Wicked” succeeds is building an engaging backstory to one of the most famous screen villains of all time and suggesting that if you, the audience, knew the whole story, perhaps you’d realize that maybe she wasn’t the baddie you thought she was.

As for the music, I didn’t have issues with it, but aside from two numbers, “Popular” and “Defying Gravity,” I can’t recall them and will never think of them again. However, I am fully aware that this could be considered blasphemy in certain circles, and if you are a major fan of the musical, you may find even more to enjoy here.

Director Chu does a serviceable job with the film, and there is nothing wrong with the musical numbers, but only the two I mentioned in the paragraph above truly captivate. Every other number fell flat for me. What Chu lacks is the ability to use the power of filmmaking to suck the audience into the musical numbers. In Steven Spielberg’s criminally underseen and underappreciated remake of “West Side Story,” we are fully aware of his filmmaking gifts. His ability to use camera angles, composition, setups, and editing to breathe new life into material we thought had been well-worn by now still excites us. That film

Wicked → 65



Screens and Streams

By James Kent



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Ribbon cutting celebrates new housing development on Baxter Street

By James Kent

RUTLAND CITY—Not even the rain on a drizzly Tuesday morning could dampen the mood of the small crowd gathered at 76 Baxter Street, a once-condemned property in Rutland City. This day was one of celebration. Collaborative efforts between multiple community, city, and state officials, led by local developer Stephen Box, have transformed 76 Baxter Street into a four-unit housing development. The ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday highlighted the significance of this project in addressing Rutland’s housing challenges and revitalizing the neighborhood.

The building, previously gutted and even used as evidence by state police, underwent a complete rehabilitation. Now fully occupied, the property stands as a symbol of community-driven progress and continued signs of Rutland’s renaissance. Box credited the project’s success to partnerships with local organizations, neighbors, and the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP).

“For \$222,000, including state support, we’ve created housing that is more than shelter—it’s a public safety, public health, and education solution,” Box said. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and efficient use of resources, urging continued investment in housing initiatives.

Speakers at the event included Rutland City Mayor Michael Doenges, Vermont State Senator Dave Weeks, and Representative Mary Howard.

“This is a wise investment,” Weeks said, noting that the project addresses critical housing needs in the city. Howard added, “We need more people like Stephen to take risks and make Rutland a better place to live.”



By James Kent

A small gathering of community residents, state and local officials joined Rutland City Mayor Michael Doenges and developer Stephen Box for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 26 for four new residential housing units at 76 Baxter St.

The project is part of a broader effort to revitalize Baxter Street and its surrounding neighborhood, where several other properties are undergoing rehabilitation. Local residents noted visible improvements, including more well-maintained homes and a renewed sense of community pride.

The event concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and remarks celebrating the collaborative spirit behind the development.

For Rutland, the transformation of 76 Baxter Street is not just about creating housing—it’s a continued step toward building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant community.



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The halls of Proctor's Wilson Castle are alive ... with paranormal investigators

Hundreds of enthusiasts come every year in search of supernatural experiences, what do they find?

By Noah Diedrich, Community News Service

Editor's note: This article is provided by Community News Service, which provides local reporting from the University of Vermont. For this story, Diedrich, along with photographer Catherine Morrissey, braved the dark depths of Wilson Castle to follow ghost hunters.

If the assembly of tents outside Wilson Castle on a mid-October night was any indicator, the old brick mansion's reputation for being haunted is not without merit.

Perhaps it's the chill that permeates every room, the antique music box that is said to play on its own accord occasionally, or the ornate Gothic statues that would make even Shirley Jackson quiver.

Since its completion in 1885, Wilson Castle has changed hands several times. It was eventually purchased by Herbert Lee Wilson, a former radio engineer and the castle's last permanent resident, who died in 2010.

Since then, the castle's Addams Family-esque halls have been vacant. Or have they?

Rumors swirl of ghostly residents haunting the castle halls — the jury is still out — but the castle is still alive with visitors, paranormal or otherwise.

Hundreds of enthusiasts come every year in search of supernatural experiences, said Andy Probst, the castle's tour guide, social media manager, and odd-job man. The castle boasts visits from the likes of Jason Hawes, one of the star investigators from the television show "Ghost Hunters," Probst said.

On the night of Oct. 18, one of the many

Many guests have reportedly taken photos there in which the figure of a woman, believed to be Sarah herself, can be seen lurking in the background.

groups that poke around the estate each week gathered their ghost-hunting gear and set off to look for evidence of the paranormal.

Unsurprisingly, one of the most active floors for investigations is the attic, Probst said. While the rest of the castle has undergone significant renovations in recent years, the attic was left unfinished to give it an eerie feel.

The attic rooms are staged for photography and investigations, including props like a child's bed, a baby carriage, a wheelchair, and a real body basket—a wicker precursor to body bags.

But Probst said the rooms aren't all for show. Visitors typically experience some paranormal encounter in one of the attic's



Wilson Castle, in Proctor, is a site where tour guides tell of past and present paranormal activity.

many rooms, he said.

"[The spirits] always let you know they're here in some way," Probst said. "Not one group that's left has said it was a very quiet night."

Probst said the spookiest item in the attic is a small table in the corner of the attic's ballroom. The table is littered with notes and children's toys left by guests — bouncy balls, Matchbox cars, rubber ducks — in hopes of pleasing Elliot, the alleged spirit of one of the original castle owners' sons.

"They think that he comes back here as a 6- or 7-year-old child," Probst said. "He did not die at that age. He was in his 50s when he passed, and he didn't pass in this house. One of the theories is that he's here at that age because those were the best years of his life."

As he continued the tour through the attic, Probst issued an ominous warning to the group.

"Watch for shadow figures up here," he said. "They tend to peek through the door entrances."

Ed Bresette, a member of Portal Spirits Rising, a paranormal investigative team that makes videos of its spectral inquiries, attended the investigation that night with the rest of his team to scout out the location for a future video.

Bresette, a Plattsburgh, New York resident, said the cool temperatures inside the castle were optimal for spirits.

"If it's hot, the spirits just don't like that," he said. "They just like more of the cold. They get more energy from that."

While a reporter was interviewing Bresette in the castle's kitchen, a nearby device began to twitter and chirp — a signal that a spirit was nearby.

The gadget was a REM pod — an acronym for "radiating electromagneticity," a term that defies even Google's comprehension. According to Bresette, the pod operates like a theremin, emitting lights and noises in the direction it senses changes in an electromagnetic field.

Bresette also demonstrated a piece of equipment he recently purchased called a grounding pad. He said it gathers energy from the earth into the user's body. He said spirits can harness that energy to commu-

nicate better with the human world.

You place your bare feet on the rubber mat, which plugs into a wall outlet. "You just take your shoes off, socks off, and just sit there," Bresette explained. "I do about 15 to 20 minutes."

One floor below the attic is the bedroom of Sarah Johnson, one of the castle's original owners. Nothing about its distinct pink walls, ornate mirror, and unassuming closet elicit any signs of deviousness, but Probst said otherwise.

Probst said the pink bedroom has had the most reports of hauntings since the 1970s, and many guests have reportedly taken photos there in which the figure of a woman, believed to be Sarah herself, can be seen lurking in the background.

Probst said Wilson Castle's portal between the spirit world and the human world is within the bedroom closet. He first learned of the ghostly amenity from some visitors who told him the portal functions as a revolving door between dimensions.

"When they told me that, I think I laughed for a half an hour. I said, 'This is insane, what am I doing here?'"

Now, however, Probst considers himself a believer.

"It's the consistency of what these groups tell us," he said. "We've had guests come during the daytime for our historical tours where we're not talking ghosts, and they'll pull us aside and say, 'What the hell is going on in that closet?'"

Probst said guests report feeling uneasy when near or inside the closet and that

Wilson Castle → 63



Tour members viewed a wicker casket in Wilson Castle by torchlight at twilight.

By Catherine Morrissey

The Springfield Community Players urgently seek funds for a new roof

SPRINGFIELD—The Springfield Community Players, Vermont’s oldest continuously operating amateur theater group, urgently need funding to replace the roof of their South Street studio.

While the nonprofit theater group is hopeful the 35-year-old roof will withstand the upcoming winter, the threat of leakage looms large. Water and mold could damage the group’s vast collection of costumes and props.

The Players have saved about a quarter of the \$130,000 roof estimate and are asking the community for support through a GoFundMe donation campaign.

Without a reliable roof, the Springfield Community Players will need to rehome their costumes and props and find new spaces for rehearsal and performance, all of which would incur additional costs and constrain future productions.

Diverting funds from their production budget also means limiting the organization’s ability to provide local and affordable performance opportunities. The Players’ faithful audience includes many older area residents, many of whom may not otherwise be able to access live theater.

For over a century, the Players have welcomed new and returning actors to the stage, nurtured aspiring directors, and provided a sandbox for area writers to workshop new projects. Their recently wrapped 2024 season included Agatha Christie’s “The Unexpected Guest,” the musical “Godspell,” and Neil Simon’s “Rumors.”

Springfield Community Players have called the South Street building home since the 1980s. Originally built as a cafeteria to feed wartime factory workers, it served as a neighborhood elementary school before the Players assumed ownership and retrofitted the space for performances. Recent updates focused on improved accessibility, such as a removable row of seating to accommodate patrons who use wheelchairs.

To donate to The Springfield Community Players’ roof replacement campaign, please visit: <https://gofund.me/b900ebf8>. For more information, contact the Springfield Community Players at: Springfieldcommunityplayers@gmail.com.



Courtesy of Springfield Community Players
The Springfield Community Players’ South Street studio roof requires funding to replace its existing roof.

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← **Wilson Castle:**
from page 41

paranormal investigators' electromagnetic field equipment goes haywire when placed inside.

"You couldn't pay me to spend the night in this room," Probst said.

But groups often do — and can pay upwards of \$135 a pop for the chance.

A company called Are You Afraid of the Dark? Paranormal Events hosts group investigations and camp-outs at paranormal sites, including Wilson Castle.

One of the company's founders, Olivia Taylor, said it started with private events hosted by her and three friends. "[My friend] said, 'Why don't we make this a business?' And so we did," Taylor said.

The company, which celebrated its one-year anniversary last month, provides equipment for beginners. Recently, tools seen in shows like "Ghost Hunters" were strewn across a table in the castle's art gallery: spirit boxes, a Ouija board, electro-

magnetic frequency meters, and the like.

Taylor said participants are encouraged to explore the castle on their own and investigate where they see fit. Sometimes, they investigate until 4 a.m.

Take the company-hosted excursion on that mid-October night.

Gathered in a circle, a few brave souls stood in silence while "GhostTube VOX," a smartphone app that claims to emit the voices of spirits picked up over AM radio waves by the phone's sensors, played garbled bits of speech.

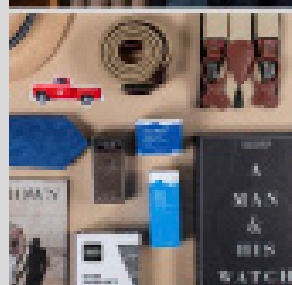
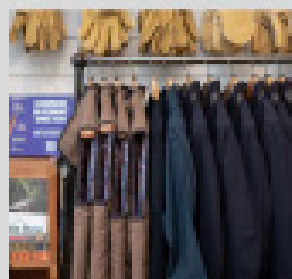
The investigators, seven in number, asked questions of what they believed to be a spirit in the room with them. "Who are we talking to?" "Is it Sarah?" "Somebody else passing through?"

It wasn't clear whether they got the answers they were looking for. But based on the excitement that night, they seemed to get their money's worth.

The company, which celebrated its one-year anniversary last month, provides equipment for beginners. Recently, tools seen in shows like "Ghost Hunters" were strewn across a table in the castle's art gallery: spirit boxes, a Ouija board, electromagnetic frequency meters, and the like.

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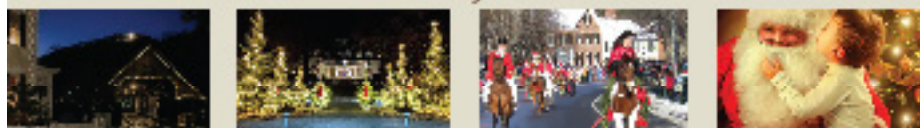
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December marks the start of bird-feeding season

Winter is the perfect time to observe and learn about Vermont's bird species. "Winter bird feeding is a great way to observe and learn about our year-round bird residents and winter visitors," said Jillian Kilborn, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's bird project leader.

Bird feeding tips:

The right mix: Black oil sunflower seeds are popular, but adding "thistle" (nyjer) or cracked corn can attract a variety of species. Suet is ideal for woodpeckers and chickadees.

Use Different Feeders: Hopper feeders suit large birds like blue jays, tube feeders are better for smaller birds, and elevated tray feeders attract ground feeders like juncos and evening grosbeaks.

Provide Cover: Place feeders near natural habitats or add cover, such as a Christmas tree in a snowbank, for birds to hide.

Keep Feeders Clean: To prevent disease, clean feeders every two weeks with a 10% bleach solution and put out only a day's worth of food.

Important considerations:

Predation risks: Feeding birds increases risks from predators, especially domestic cats. Keep cats indoors and position feeders close to windows to minimize bird strikes.

Bear awareness: Bears are typically dormant from Dec. 1-April 1, but warmer weather can bring them out. Remove feeders if bears are active to avoid dangerous encounters and potential property damage.

Consistency matters: If you start feeding birds, keep feeders stocked. Birds may rely on this food source during periods of extreme weather or scarcity. Taper off gradually when you stop feeding.

Disease prevention:

Remove feeders immediately if there are reports of avian influenza or other diseases. Concentrating birds at feeders can spread infections. If you find a dead bird, consult Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Avian Influenza Wildlife Health Bulletin for guidance.

Watching birds at feeders is a great way to connect with nature. Take note of their preferences, behavior, and interactions—it's a rewarding way to deepen your understanding of local birdlife during the colder months.

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Wicked:
from page 59

transformed me within the first few moments. "Wicked" kept me at a distance for most of its runtime, but that didn't mean I didn't have a good time. It's entertaining, and around the holidays, sometimes that's enough.

But here is why you should see "Wicked" if you weren't already one of its vast built-in fan base. The lead performances by Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande are outstanding. Both are excellent singers; having actors who can act and sing makes a difference. Erivo's Elphaba and Grande's Glinda (or Galinda, you choose) are always captivating to watch. Their casting is so spot on, so terrific, that it almost makes the miscasting of everyone else in the movie stand out. I didn't have an issue with Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard. At this point, he's doing his Jeff Goldblum character, like when Christopher Walken does his whole persona. It may not be an acting stretch, but it is ideally suited for a character who isn't supposed to be that good an actor. Michelle Yeoh. We love her. We worship her. It's hard to say anything negative about her, and she doesn't do an incompetent job as Madame Morrible, but it's

the wrong role for her. It didn't work for me. Jonathan Bailey as Fiyero? I don't know. He's playing the typical Prince Charming role, and I didn't feel anything about his character. As for everyone else in the movie, miscasting all the way. The screenplay doesn't do any of these actors favors because this film is all about its two leads. Still, it might have been nice if the film invested any time in building up some of these side characters.

The lack of secondary character development could be the result of splitting the film into two parts. And that is the problem when you get two stories that are supposed to be one—it's not an entirely satisfying experience. Pacing-wise, I was good. I didn't need this movie to go on any longer, and it ended at the intermission point of the musical, so it felt okay. But waiting a whole year to get this thing wrapped up? That's about as cool as it was when Peter Jackson made us wait a year between those "Lord of the Rings" movies. At least "Wicked" was good enough to make me want to buy a ticket to Part 2. So, the wait begins until next November.



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Cynthia Erivo, as Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, makes "Wicked" worth the ticket price.

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Solutions From page 17

Crossword

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Sudoku

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

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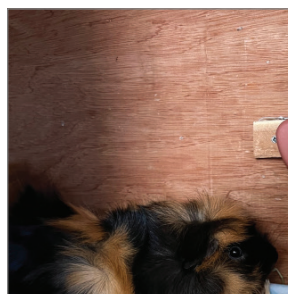
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STAR

Star—3½-year-old. Spayed female. Domestic shorthair.



Scratch—1-year-old.
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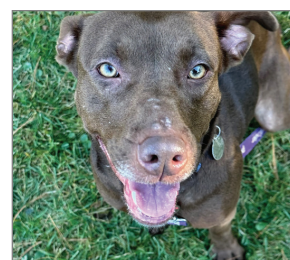
Frank—1-year-old. Male.
American Staffordshire terrier.



Gypsy Mae—5-year-old.
Spayed female. Husky/rotti.



Phoenix—1-year-old.
Female.



Willow—2-year-old.
Female. American Staffordshire terrier.



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Cosmic Catalogue



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

Truth in Wisdom

Many, many moons ago, someone told me that relationships end the way they begin. At the time, I remember thinking that was such a cynical attitude. It was like predicting the bitter end at the beginning when things should feel magical.

I'm much older and wiser now, and I do have to admit there was some truth in that wisdom. Not that I'd recommend approaching life with that philosophy, but it is

something to be aware of.

This week sees us cross the threshold into a new month, the one that will bookend 2024. Funnily enough, trickster planet Mercury embarks upon a retrograde journey at the exact same point in the sky where it ended once as the year began.

Thus, that old piece of wisdom I got, again, rings true. Something about how this year began will be exactly how it ends. We now live in a world where reality has lost its meaning. Where ethics and morality appear to have vanished. The gap between what you're told and what you know is true has never been wider.

If you found yourself lost in the crowd and unable to speak your mind, maybe it's time you get your voice back before it's too late.



Aries

March 21 - April 20

You could be reaching the end of the year wondering what happened to your hopes and aspirations for what you wanted out of 2024. Some years are like that, and there isn't much you can do about it. What is time anyway? Your best bet now is to slowly draw back your arrow, take aim, and let 2025 be all that you wanted 2024 to be and more. It's never too late to start again.



Leo

July 21 - August 20

Life probably changed a bit for you this year, and it will continue to do so. As such, you're being invited to start thinking about what joy and happiness really mean to you. This also includes love, romance, children, and any hobbies or activities you do for fun. If life gets a little bit too heavy lately, do your best to schedule some time to do things you enjoy and with whom.



Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

The time to slow down and begin the process of some self-reflection has arrived. You've learned a lot about yourself this year, and you'll need time to process it all and set new goals for yourself. While there may be other people in your life offering you words of wisdom and information, it's really up to you to make the choices that you know are right for you. Think about what you really want out of next year.



Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Every now and then, we have to face things we would rather not. These things could be money-related issues or other factors about what it means to be in a relationship with others, such as communication, logistics, and generally being on the same page. If you've lost your way in that regard compared to what you hoped 2024 would be, there's no time like the present to start again. Any issues can be resolved with an honest conversation.



Virgo

August 21 - September 20

Life at home is going to go haywire. Most likely, you're trying to be everything to everyone, both at home and in your professional life. You may need to take a little bit of time out and reconfigure your thoughts and beliefs about what you want your life to be like. You know what they say: If nothing changes, then nothing changes. If you want change, then be it!



Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

To make meaningful choices, we can look at all the facts and figures and try to make a logical decision. That said, you've been down that road before. If this year is beginning to close in the way it began, you may need to rethink your approach. Some time out in meditation or retreat can help you make better choices about how you spend your time next year.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Your planet, Mercury, will start moving in reverse in your relationship zone this week. At the same time, your relationship planet, Jupiter, is retrograde in your sign. Sound confusing? Well, it's not really. You're just being challenged to learn more, understand more, and develop what it means to you to be in a relationship with other humans. Don't just communicate to be heard, remember that you also need to seek to understand.



Libra

September 21 - October 20

If you need to add a little bit of excitement back into your life, then why not start by learning something new? Have you been curious about something recently or wanted to get back to a reading or writing project? Now would be an ideal time to double down on something that inspires you and helps you see beyond the here and now and where you would like yourself to be.



Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

You're changing, so don't be surprised that, as a result, the company you keep may also change. As Mercury moves in reverse through your friends zone, regular misunderstandings and confusion about communication and logistics may occur. It may also be a case of rethinking what some of these friendships actually mean to you. Your best bet is for the next few weeks, avoid trying to make plans work that don't want to work.



Cancer

June 21 - July 20

There's really no way around it, but you're in for a busy time in the next few weeks. Some of those issues you tried to correct as 2023 became 2024 may rear their ugly heads again. Frustrating as it may be, there really are solutions available to you, provided you're willing to simply change your mind! You know what they say about changing your thoughts and changing your life? Well, don't knock it until you've tried it.



Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

Whether it's your cash flow or your confidence about money, it's time for a rethink! Are you doing what you're doing because you want to? Or are you doing what you're doing because you think you have to? If you really want to make some great financial inroads in 2025, the time is now to start to think differently about money. When you develop more belief in yourself, your bank balance will reflect that eventually.



Pisces

February 21 - March 20

It's an excellent time for you to start taking stock of the year that's been. How did things pan out for you professionally? Did you make the moves you wanted regarding your overall life direction? You may discover you have many of the same goals you had around last year. This doesn't mean you've failed if you haven't achieved them like you hoped. It just means you've got another chance to actualise them this time around.

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

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How skunks prepare for winter

Several weeks and many baths ago, my dog discovered a black-and-white stranger crossing our lawn. Wagging vigorously and ignoring my frantic shouts, she ran up and offered her canine greeting: a nose-to-tail sniff. The encounter ended predictably, with the skunk waddling off into the dark, the dog staggering in circles, and me searching desperately through the cupboard for stink-dispelling supplies.

Skunks become conspicuous in autumn, including yards and—sadly—roads. This phenomenon is mainly due to dispersal, as young skunks that left their mothers at the end of summer are foraging in new home ranges. Residential areas may attract skunks of all ages as they consume as much food as possible and explore winter denning sites.

“They are trying to fatten up,” said Brehan Furfey, wildlife biologist and furbearer project leader for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. “Primarily, they’re eating insects, but they’ll eat other prey and some plant matter...and let’s

face it, we have all kinds of goodies in our yards.” Those goodies include unsecured garbage, birdseed, and fallen apples and mice that move into sheds and woodpiles as the weather cools.

Lawns also appeal to skunks because, this time of year, they contain a smorgasbord of easily accessible beetle larvae and other grubs. In turf and other surfaces that hold impressions well, such as moss and carpets of pine needles, you may find skunk snoot holes, each about half the diameter

and depth of a soda can. These are places where a skunk inserts its sensitive nose in search of prey. Other common signs of foraging are shredded rotten stumps and logs (like bears, skunks will pull apart wood to find wood-boring insects) and torn-up patches of leaf litter and soil.

Building up fat reserves is essential for skunks because they aren’t well adapted to forage in frigid temperatures or heavy snow.



The Outside Story

By Elise Tillinghast

“Primarily, they’re eating insects, but they’ll eat other prey and some plant matter...and let’s face it, we have all kinds of goodies in our yards.”

They will go out during thaws, but they remain in their dens during harsh winter weather and rely solely on stored calories. Females, especially, need to stock up as much fat as possible because they have limited opportunities to gain weight before giving birth in early spring. And when a mother skunk is caring for newborns, she’s likely to endure a new stretch

of foodless days. “She probably has them in the burrow around April, and she’s not leaving them because they’re completely blind and [helpless],” said Furfey.

Despite their presence around homes,

Furfey stressed that skunks are not aggressive, will retreat from danger, and often tolerate people walking nearby without incident. The trouble comes when they get startled. “They have poor eyesight,” said Furfey. “They don’t really see you coming.”

In addition to encouraging homeowners to minimize outside food sources, Furfey recommends blocking off potential denning sites when the skunks are not likely to be there. Sheds and porches attract

TOS → 71

How to engineer a snowmaking solution in 1965

Killington’s Spartan office was a concrete block structure above the maintenance area. I had a tiny office adjacent to the lower maintenance area. Preston Smith’s cousin, Barry Leete, was assigned to me, and he shared my small office with no other place to put him. At his request, I gave him the task of redesigning the controls for the chair lifts. The existing controls could not keep the lifts running at lower speeds and were prone to periodic failures. Leete designed and ordered direct current Cutler/Hammer controls. He also designed the intercom system for the replacement Snowshed base lodge.

Killington had never been able to run more than five or six snowmaking guns without at least one of the system’s pipes bursting. I spent much of my first winter analyzing the system to see why it didn’t work. The company that had sold the system to Killington was in the agricultural watering business and supplied quick-connect exposed aluminum piping. A quick analysis revealed that the piping was not suited for cold weather applications, and that was one of the primary problems.

Snow guns use a mixture of compressed air and water, so I did an energy balance analysis on the system. If the compressed air pressure were greater than the water pressure, the water would stop flowing and freeze, causing a pipe to burst, sending freezing water spewing over the ski slope.

This energy imbalance led to pipes bursting every time we turned on the system.

I hoped to have 50 guns in position on Snowshed and to operate not five or six but 25 at a time – which would cover half of the slope. The trick was to get as much water through the gun with as little compressed air as possible, as compressed air is expensive. With borrowed water meters from the Rutland Department of Public Works, we were able to measure how much water our test guns were using. We built a host of designs until we settled on a gun that maximized water use and minimized compressed air. The previous supplier was charging over \$200 per gun. Ray Tarleton and I built our redesigned and improved guns for \$25.00 each.

For the sake of efficiency and durability, I determined we should position our new guns closer to the pipeline, necessitating the purchase of a John Deere 350 bulldozer to push accumulated piles of snow across the slope. The dozer would be specially equipped with wide tracks and a wide blade, very much like the snow cats you see today. By December 1965, I was ready to present the redesign to Smith: all new pipes, guns, hoses, and a specially outfitted John Deere bulldozer—a complete rebuild. With over \$200,000 already invested in the snowmaking system, Smith was incredulous. “You want us to junk it?”

Slippery Slopes → 71



Slippery Slopes
By James
Kachadorian

The Gray

I’ve been checking in with myself on a concept I like to call The Gray. I am focusing on the gray as a way to meet situations I encounter in an open, honest and wholesome way. Paired with extreme ownership and radical acceptance, I am feeling more in control over things I previously felt discouraged by and disconnected from. Long gone are the days being and entertaining excuse makers.

But what is the gray? I included my insight on it below.

The gray is the in-between: good and evil. Positive and negative. Right and wrong. Compatible or incompatible. Fun or boring. Sweet or salty. Safe or unsafe. Healthy or unhealthy.

Neither good nor bad. The middle. Neutral. The acceptance of simply what is. Maybe not ideal with fireworks and a parade, but acceptable. The understanding that even though I am not perfect and a given situation may be difficult, I decide what happens next

for me.

The fortune of not knowing. The unknown. The time to consider. Opportunity to approach without preconceived opinions. Knowing that you do not know and using a discovery process toward finally knowing. Unassuming. Allowing yourself to meet a situation for the first time and reconnect with it, even if it is familiar.

Connect with genuine interest and curiosity. Engage with a fresh perspective and a clean slate. Be open. Be vulnerable. Be yourself, the kind of person that you really are now. Allow the situation the be what it is without tying uninformed conclusions to it.

If the situation is familiar, remember your roots. Respect it as you would if you were just meeting it.

Check in: are you bringing effort? Are you bringing expectations? Can you meet this situation the way it deserves to be met and

Dream in Color → 75



Dream in Color
By Will
O'Donnell

'Gladiator II': Fighting against the grain

When I graduated from college, very few people had a personal computer. Instead, we had campus computer labs that required students to reserve space at designated workstations. At your allotted time, you would enter the lab with a dozen other people and then reference your assignments from 5.25" floppy disks.

Then, only a handful of teachers outside the computer department required that work be handed in digitally. Over the next couple of years, that would change dramatically.

I was not a fan of the computer lab or any project that required me to be there. I'm somewhat ashamed that I paid a friend to undertake numerous assignments due to my lack of interest for and incompetence in the digital world. That said, it's not surprising that the only "D" I received in my entire school career was in "Intro to Computers."

Once I graduated and entered the real world, I realized the computer revolution was something I should be a part of. I wasn't interested in the programming end of things, but I could see that computers were overtaking most aspects of the business world. This position was reinforced by my disdain for manual labor as a career choice. I had painted houses as a summer job for several years, which convinced me that I would rather tax my brain than my body.

My first job after college was in sales. Sales seemed like an easy choice. I was personable and friendly, so how hard could it be? Well, it turns out that after a year of knocking on doors and getting rejected, my self-esteem wasn't as strong as I initially believed.

My second job after college was at The Mountain Times. The owner gave me 20 hours a week to draw local political cartoons. During these 20 hours, I started looking over the graphic artists' shoulders to see how they were digitally manipulating text and photos.

Before long, I was allowed to complete some minor tasks on those early Macintosh computers. I was initially intimidated, but my curiosity won out. I was all in within a week of my first foray into the desktop publishing world.

I immediately purchased every book I could find on operating systems, software programs, and computer hardware. I was obsessed with learning about computers and how they functioned. Before long, I knew how to utilize every piece of hardware

and software in the building.

This desire to lord over the digital realm also crossed into other areas. When the first iPhone came out, I was waiting at the door to buy one. The same held true for the first iPad (which I still own today). My entire career has been immersed in Adobe's Creative Cloud and Microsoft Office, along with a handful of proprietary software I've encountered.

Of course, when the internet arrived, I was also an early adopter. In fact, in the earliest years, I was the first person among my friend group who began sounding the alarms about the addictive quality of online scrolling because, God knows, I've done my fair share.

Looking back, it's ironic that, for someone so opposed to a particular category, I ended up building my career and personal life around it. It's funny how life throws your curveballs that way.

All in all, for someone my age, I have a highly competent understanding of the digital realm (a point recently reinforced when the new IT guy at my office complimented me on my networking skills). I hope to continue in that fashion well into my senior years when, as a second act, I'll likely be manning the computer help desk at my appointed senior center.

This week's feature, "Gladiator II," is a stellar example of how second acts can sometimes rival their forebears in both quality and vision. While the sequel to the 20-year-removed "Gladiator" fails to meet the lofty heights of the original, it does do the film justice as a worthy contemporary.

Starring Denzel Washington and Pedro Pascal, "Gladiator II" conjures up a scenario in which a relative of Maximus (Russell Crowe's character from the original) carries on the warrior's tradition of dominance in the Colosseum while trying to reignite Rome's glory for its citizens.

It's the time of year when the best films are finally being released, and this selection does not disappoint. Check this out if you're in the mood for a fantastic period piece of epic warfare, vivid character portrayals, and a story worth diving into.

A resilient "B+" for "Gladiator II," now playing in theaters everywhere.

Do you have a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at moviediary@att.net.



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi



Chairlift games

We've been riding the same chairlift up the same trail looking at the same trees for weeks now. We all talk about whether or not to choose Trail A or Trail B and then our minds are blown when Trail C opens up!

It's a snowmaking miracle, giving credit to the combination of Mother Nature and the best snowmaking team in the business. And this weekend, we will all be at the bottom of Superstar watching their prowess in action, as the best women skiers in the world take to the stage they set.

But it's not just the snow and the skiing and the riding that have us smiling ear to ear. It's the chairlift itself that has us smiling, starting with the tunes being played as you pull into the liftline. You can feel your body start to dance a little, still humming from the descent, and you fall right into the rhythm of whatever song the lifties chose this time. At Killington, we hear a lot of reggae thanks to our awesome Jamaican lifties, but I've also heard the Indigo Girls, the Killers and everything else in between. It doesn't matter, my body picks it up and we make the lifties laugh with our silliness.

As we load the North Ridge, we check the number. This past weekend, it was so loaded with rime ice that even finding the number on the chair became a game. A huge

shoutout to Liftie Warren for helping us find the numbers. You have to look behind you, in front of you, and do some basic math sometimes, but the chairlift is where so many of our young skiers and riders learn to count.

I ride with my little athletes (I coach the Killington Mountain School 5-6 year old weekenders called Team PomPom) and we spend many rides shouting out numbers as they fly by us on the lift. We argue about how many chairs the lift has and squeal with delight when we see chair No. 1. You know it's coming, because you can feel that elongated gap while you're waiting with your toes on the green line. Why is it taking so long, you wonder, your body so in tune with the spacing that you can feel the difference. Could it be because it's — it's Chair 1! We all scream.

As an adult, it's not much different. I still love getting Chair 1. But I also love getting chair 25 (that's my birthday). This year, I've gotten chair 46 twice already, because the lift is rudely reminding me of how old I am... I love getting chair 42 because it contains the secret of life, but someone pointed out yesterday that chair 42 and 41 together make up 4241 which is the height of Killington Peak and I cannot believe I hadn't realized that before. So now I am wondering if

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Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman

Remembering past holiday seasons

The holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving through New Year's is a busy time for most people. Was it like that back in the '50s? Let's take a look!

Preparing Thanksgiving dinner took a lot more time and effort back then. There were no microwave ovens to heat the various components of the meal. Usually when the turkey came out to cool the other items went into the stove's oven to heat up.

We always had relatives and friends at our house for dinner. I remember my mother getting up very early to cook the turkey and prepare the side dishes.

I think my mother's intent was to keep me occupied while she got the meal. One way to accomplish that was to give me the task of making folded "place cards." I wrote the person's first name on the card and selected a Thanksgiving decal to place on the card. That kept me busy for awhile!

My dad put the leaf in the dining room table and a crocheted table cloth that was handmade by my mother went on it. The good china and silverware came out of the hutch and a centerpiece that one of our guests always sent us was placed on the table. Of course, all the adults wanted to have

a drink before dinner and their choice was always rye and ginger. I remember them being served in short glasses with ice.

Colorful "drink covers" on the glasses kept their hands dry as moisture from the ice made the glasses wet.

Everything was homemade except for pumpkin pies. Those came from Bush's Bakery on State Street. They were delicious!

Once Thanksgiving had passed thoughts went straight to Christmas. The decorations went up downtown and Santa's sleigh, strung across Merchants Row to Woolworth's store, put you in the holiday spirit.

Downtown stores were open at night for Christmas shopping. My mother and I would go down at least once, which was a special treat as nighttime excursions were a rare thing in my childhood. The store windows were decorated beautifully.

Visiting Santa on the top floor of the Economy Store was the highlight of the holiday season. You could ride up in an elevator with an operator. Santa made sure you left with a candy cane and a smile on your face.

As we got older a few of the girls on our street walked downtown to get Christmas

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Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw



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← **Looking Back:**

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presents for our parents. They usually were purchased at Woolworth's and included such things as perfume, bubble bath and shaving products. I am pretty sure that the brands we bought there were not the kind our parents used but you would never know it from their happy expressions on Christmas morning.

Our Christmas tree came from a house on the corner of McKinley Avenue and Route 7. The scent of balsam filled the living room. Back then the lights were large compared to the small ones of today. They were always multi-colored and not white, which is so popular now.

When it comes to a favorite present I think it would be a small record player and some vinyl records. I played "Old McDonald had a Farm"

over and over. My parents may have regretted that purchase after a full day of hearing it!

The New Year always began with a noon-time at the home of our relatives, Mary and Eleanor Toohey, in Wallingford. There were no other children at the meal so I

was happy to sit in their den and have the TV to myself while the adults chatted away in the living room!

The holidays are filled with memories. Enjoy taking a trip back in time as you recall your own holiday memories.

Soon you will be decorating your Christmas tree. If you are like me the ornaments you place on the tree will have a story to tell. No doubt you will tell it out loud to those in the room with you...even if they have heard it multiple times by now!

Happy holidays!

← **TOS:**

from page 68

skunks, she said, because they often offer more warmth and protection from predators than do natural shelters such as underground caves (skunks dig their burrows and also use those of other animals such as woodchucks), tree cavities, and hollow logs. Furfey said that when the females are raising young, skunks establish multiple dens across their home ranges, so if you block them from entering one space, you aren't dooming them to wander outside in the cold. By preventing access to problematic denning spaces now, you can also discourage females from raising young near your home.

Furfey gets numerous requests to trap and relocate the animals, especially in spring, when young emerge from the den, and a previously tolerant homeowner discovers that "one skunk became five skunks." She always declines these requests, as trapping and relocating wildlife is illegal. Instead, in addition to preventative measures, she recommends patience when homeowners encounter skunk families. "They're going to move on," she said. "Give it a week."

I'm pleased to report that we haven't had additional skunk sightings at our house. Now, before we let the dog out at night, we take a precautionary sniff and make a flashlight sweep of the yard. And if all else fails, there's a crate with baking soda, a bottle of lemon juice, and dish soap stowed close to the bathtub.

Elise Tillinghast is the past executive director and editor of the Center for Northern Woodlands Education and is currently editor-at-large for Nature and the Environment at Brandeis University Press. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

Soon you will be decorating your Christmas tree if you are like me the ornaments you place on the tree will have a story to tell.

← **Slippery Slopes:**

from page 68

Smith said.

I explained my calculations, and after some back-and-forth, Smith finally agreed. We started removing the aluminum pipes, some of which I managed to sell to Suicide Six in Woodstock, which was still trying to use its original aluminum pipe system.

The compressor house was a scary place. It was located halfway up the Snowshed slope and about the size of a two-car garage. Inside, Killington had stuffed two huge air compressors purchased from a mine in Pennsylvania. Ray Tarleton was the only person who could get the compressors to work. Tarleton propped up the electric panel disconnect arm with a 2x4 to keep the compressors running. When the compressors were turned on, the lights on the access road would dim. One night, a pipe connection came loose, and the entire side of the compressor house was blown off. It sounded like a jet plane as the compressed air gushed out. In order to have enough air to run 25 guns simultaneously, we rented six construction diesel-powered compressors. Running them for 24 hours straight would require a daily fuel truck delivery—literally a pressure situation.

Tarleton would clock out every night exactly when the lifts stopped, on the dot. One night, on my way out, I noticed his car was still in the parking lot an hour after closing. By the time I got home, it started to bother me. I came up with an excuse to call Tarleton's house. His wife was upset, saying she knew I was calling because something had gone wrong. I returned to our maintenance building, hopped in a snowcat, and drove across the access road to the top of Snowshed. I started working my way toward the compressor house, looking for Tarleton. It was a bitterly cold night. As I descended the lift line, I saw a flicker of light falling to the snow. There it was again. It turned out that Tarleton, dressed in just a flannel button-down shirt, was stranded in one of the chairs, part way down the slope. He'd decided to hop on an empty chair to ride to the bottom without telling the lift operators. The lift operators were in the midst of shutting the lift down for the day and did not

The snowmaker had not been turned on. Where was everybody? Answer: It's the first day of deer hunting season. Another lesson learned for yours truly, engineer Jim, on the workings of our all-Vermont crew.

know that Tarleton had boarded a downhill chair in the middle of the run-out process. Tarleton was igniting pieces of the Styrofoam seat cover as he saw my snowcat coming into view.

I yelled to him, "Whatcha doin' up there, Ray?"

"Do I look like a hoot owl?" he yelled back. "Get me down!"

Fast forward to November, 1966. The new system was built, and we were waiting for the temperature to get cold enough to turn it on and see if it did what it was supposed to. I issued strict instructions to fire it up the first time the temperature fell below freezing. Watching the thermometer, I hurried to work on that first cold day, but there wasn't

a soul in sight when I entered the maintenance building. The snowmaker had not been turned on. Where was everybody? Answer: It's the first day of deer hunting season. Another lesson learned for yours truly, engineer Jim, on the workings of our all-Vermont crew.

We turned the system on the next day, putting the design and my credibility to the test. With all the expenditure and effort we'd put into the new system, my head was now on the chopping block. We went "all in" and turned on all 25 snow guns. The question on everyone's mind was: Would the new system last longer than the old one? How long

would she last before breaking down?

After three days of solid operation, we had to shut the snowmakers off because we had buried ourselves in snow! The John Deere worked like a charm, pushing the snow across the entire Snowshed slope. I had fulfilled my initial "marching orders" to make the snowmaker work. I knew it was a big success when I saw how many Killington employees rushed to take credit for it. Preston Smith would spend the rest of his career expressing how proud he was to be able to position Killington as a leader in the world of snowmaking.

Slippery Slopes is an ongoing series written by James Kachadorian about the early days of Killington. Look for future installments each week in the Mountain Times.



Skiing at Killington in the mid-'60s looked a bit different from today.

Courtesy of James Kachadorian

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By Mypod—Pixabay

Bare-root bulbs should be planted in nutrient-rich potting soil in a pot about an inch wider than the bulb and twice as deep.



By Herbert Aust—Pixabay

Amaryllis is a popular holiday plant as it requires minimum care and produces beautiful, colorful blooms from a single bulb.

Caring for amaryllis during the holidays and beyond

By Andrea Knepper, Extension Master Gardener, University of Vermont

Amaryllis bulbs and blooms make popular and appreciated holiday gifts. Gifted in full bloom to brighten the winter months or lovingly tended to bloom after the new year, amaryllis add vibrant color and joy to the dreary season.

Amaryllis are commonly available during the winter holidays because they bloom so willingly. They are easy to care for and, with careful attention, can produce flowers for 20 years or more. Some growers even report blooms from the same bulb for over 50 years.

Your amaryllis may bloom as a bare root or waxed bulb. Whichever type you have, each is easy to care for.

Bare-root bulbs should be planted in a pot about an inch wider than the bulb and twice as deep. Amaryllis prefer good drainage and nutrient-rich potting soil.

Fill the pot halfway with potting soil, and place the bulb on top. Once enough soil is placed under the bulb, fill in around it firmly with potting soil leaving the top of the bulb exposed. The top should be above the soil level to where it begins to round.

For the first watering, water thoroughly, allowing the soil to drain completely. After that, water when the top soil feels dry and just enough to moisten the soil. Place the amaryllis in a warm, sunny spot. Typically, your amaryllis will bloom in five to eight weeks. Refer to the plant tag for specific care instructions.

A waxed amaryllis bulb is a unique gift that requires almost no effort to produce a beautiful flower. Simply place the waxed bulb in a sunny spot, and you will enjoy the showy blooms in a few weeks.

Remove the wax coating after the flowers fade to keep your waxed bulb. Be careful not to detach roots or foliage. Check the bulb closely for soft spots, which may indicate disease or rot. If the bulb appears healthy, plant and care for it and its foliage as you would a bare-root bulb.

After the amaryllis blooms have passed their prime, cut back the blossom stalk but leave the long, spiky foliage leaves. The leaves will help the bulb gather nutrients in preparation for blooming next year. The foliage itself is an attractive plant that will thrive all summer.

The amaryllis needs to go through a dormant period. To force blooms in winter, stop watering the plant at the end of September and place it in a cool, dark place between 50 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the foliage browns, cut it back to the top of the bulb with sharp, clean garden shears.

Keep the bulb in darkness at this lower temperature for eight to 10 weeks. After that time, replant it as described above and place it in a warm, sunny spot. Before long, you will enjoy another season of beautiful amaryllis blooms.

Andrea Knepper is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Bolton.

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← **Dream in Color:**
from page 68

without prejudice? Are you taking ownership of your portion of the situation? Are you welcoming feedback and comments from the situation and respecting them identical to your own feelings? Are you respecting yourself and your boundaries in this situation?

In the modern dating world so many people tend to the extremes. Waiting for the perfect message to respond, the perfect first date, the perfect partner, something that requires zero effort and is unequivocally positive. But that isn't reality. Every silver lining has a touch of gray. With anything good, there is also bad and there is also gray.

Waiting for the perfect opportunity, or remaining indecisive, could cause regret and missing a life changing opportunity. Instead,

now I embrace the situation as it is and allow it to breathe as itself before drawing conclusions. Allowing myself to approach new, challenging things with an open mind and vulnerability. Allowing myself full freedom, by giving full freedom to the situation to be whatever it is.

As I study this concept, I look forward to rediscovering things I previously could only see as black and white, good or bad, and now seeing them as an opportunity at genuine acceptance of a complex situation that I do not understand. Embracing the gift of not knowing.

This holiday, let's all try to meet these situations in the gray and with acceptance, so we can see them almost for the first time and with a fresh and open perspective.

In the modern dating world so many people tend to the extremes.



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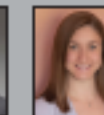
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Rutland County Head Start and Wonderfeet Kids' Museum announce a new partnership

Rutland County Head Start (RCHS) and Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, two of the Rutland area's leading play-based early childhood education organizations, announced a new partnership to enhance learning opportunities for the youngest Rutlanders.

The new partnership will include free monthly playdates for the community with children under the age of 5 and Wonderfeet memberships for all currently enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start families.

"One of Wonderfeet's core values is community partnership, and we are so excited to partner with Rutland County Head Start," said Liv Cadena, Guest Services Coordinator for Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. "This is an opportunity for us to provide support for children and families in ways that support is most needed. RCHS families can come play with their kids at Wonderfeet, connect with other families, and have fun — as families, and as a community."

"We believe this innovative collaboration will benefit the whole community in fun and new ways," said Donna Barrow, Director of Rutland County Head Start. "In addition to hosting the playdates at the museum each month, we will also be providing annual Wonderfeet memberships to all of our student families so they can regularly enjoy the museum and take part in the other wonderful activities offered there."

Kristen Nugent, Family Services Manager with Rutland County Head Start, will spearhead the partnership with Wonderfeet Children's Museum as part of her focus on engagement initiatives with the local community and

expanding services for Head Start students.

The Family Services department of RCHS currently hosts weekly "Coffee and Chats" and "Tea Time" for parents and caregivers with children enrolled in RCHS classes and playgroups at its two school locations. Starting Wednesday, Dec. 11, Wonderfeet and RCHS will begin hosting free monthly play dates at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum for any families in the community with children under age 5. Play dates will be held from 2:30-4:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month through June.

"Cultivating Partnerships is paramount to the foundation of Rutland County Head Start," said Nugent. "Wonderfeet Museum provides high-quality play and social experiences for children and parents, and we are grateful to be able to coordinate as providers so our families and those throughout the broader community can directly benefit. This partnership will allow families to actively participate in the Wonderfeet activities, which further connects them and RCHS to the community as a whole. We are grateful to have forged this alliance as we all build the village it takes together."

Barrow, Nugent, and Cadena are also exploring additional opportunities, such as the creation of "Parent Night Out."

For more information on the monthly play dates or community partnership opportunities, contact: Rutland County Head Start Family Services Manager Kristen Nugent at (802) 775-8225 or email her at knugent@rmhscn.org.



Courtesy of Rutland County Head Start
Rutland County Head Start family services Manager Kristen Nugent (left) and Liv Cadena, guest services coordinator for Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, helped announce a new partnership beginning Nov. 26.

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← **Living the Dream:**
from page 69

Killington holds the secret of life ... can't say it's not wrong.

But my favorite chair is 15. That was my dad's favorite number and the one he had on his baseball jersey. When I get that chair, I feel like he's riding the lift with me and a tear falls from my eye as I remember all our times riding the lift together. He loved to play the "Yankee Game," where we had to call out the name of which Yankee had the jersey number: 1 Billy Martin, 2 Derek Jeter, 3 Babe Ruth, 4 Lou Gehrig and so on. I still play that game sometimes, but I'll never be as good as he was.

You can also use the numbers to time yourself. When there is no line, we ski about 20 chairs faster than the North Ridge lift itself. Monday we rode chair 32, then chair 12 and then chair 92. I was impressed with our consistency for those few runs until we found some folks to chat with at the top. It was a super sweet couple of runs!

Have you ever played the wish game? If your chair stops on the stanchion wheels, then you get to make a wish. You cannot say it out loud, and you have to wish for snow, but you do get to make a wish all the same. Last year, I got to make about four wishes over the course of the year but this year I have had none at all!

Could you imagine if Mikaela Shiffrin was riding Superstar Quad and somehow got Chair 100 and it stopped on the wheels?? That would be absolutely amazing and then we would know without

a doubt that she would be getting her 100th World Cup victory here at Killington. I know that if my chair stops on the wheels over the next few days, I won't be wishing for snow. I'll be wishing for history to be made right here in Killington. It would be worth not wishing for snow this one time. Besides, our snowmaking team obviously has that covered.

Merisa J. Sherman is a long-time Killington resident, global real estate advisor, and Coach PomPom. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com.



By Merisa Sherman

A view of the last chair from the Walkway on Monday, Nov. 25.

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Submitted

← Environmental policies:

from page 8

The federal funding picture

In a typical year, about one-third of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' roughly \$200 million budget comes from the federal government, according to its leader, Secretary Julie Moore. Under the Biden Administration, the agency has received an extra \$100 million through such legislation as the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act.

From there, that money has been dispersed to a long list of projects throughout the state. Some has gone to the State Revolving Fund programs, which give low-interest loans to municipalities for water and wastewater upgrades. Some has gone to the remediation of brownfield sites, and more to programs that keep soil healthy and conserve forests.

In the last three years, the state has received money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act to manage PFAS, long-lasting "forever chemicals" that have contaminated drinking water and pose harmful health risks.

Money from the Inflation Reduction Act has also flowed through a number of state agencies, including the Department of Public Service, for projects such as electric panel upgrades for low-income people, weatherization work and Solar For All, a program that helps low-income Vermonters install solar panels.

Through the 2022 law, individuals can also claim tax credits when they purchase electric vehicles, install solar panels or take a slew of other actions that could help reduce planet-warming emissions.

Parenteau said it's hard to know how much of the money from the Inflation Reduction Act has already been obligated through contracts and is therefore safe. Trump would need approval from Congress to cancel or withdraw appropriations that have already been made, he said. Even with a Republican-controlled Senate and House, it could be tricky for the president to convince Congress to repeal the funding, Parenteau said — the majority of which has been designated for Republican districts.

While Parenteau said it's possible for Trump to "substantially reduce some of its programs," the Inflation Reduction Act has also given the private sector momentum toward the clean energy transition that Trump won't likely be able to reverse.

"A lot of the market forces that are underway in transitioning both the electricity sector and the transportation sector through EVs — those trends in the marketplace are going to continue regardless of Trump," Parenteau said.

Moore said she's hopeful that some of Trump's campaign promises "may moderate some" by virtue of general bureaucracy and the influx of more voices on each policy, but she acknowledged that "the federal funding picture is going to change pretty dramatically."

Mandate to deregulate

Recently, Trump announced plans to appoint Lee Zeldin, a former Republican member of the U.S. House from Long Island, to run the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Zeldin does not have expertise in environmental policy and has not held related positions in the past.

Despite that, Zeldin has done "some good things," Parenteau said, including supporting investment in the cleanup of Long Island Sound and backing regulation of PFAS.

"He's not a climate-denier," Parenteau said. "He thinks the answer to climate is more to do with carbon capture and technologies to allow continued use of fossil fuel and also ramping up construction of nuclear power plants and so forth," Parenteau said.

Vermont agencies collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency in many ways — for example, to ensure that the state's water and air quality meet federal standards. The agency oversees Vermont's work remediating the water quality of Lake Champlain and other water bodies, and holds the state accountable if more needs to be done.

The EPA could also take some actions outside of Vermont that impact the Green Mountain State. For example, when California advanced a rule banning new gasoline powered cars from being sold in-state after 2035, Vermont — and 15 other states — followed suit.

But California is the only state that can set stricter standards for automobiles than what's laid out in the federal Clean Air Act, due to a waiver the state obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency, and other states can only adopt those regulations if they match California's rule. Trump has stated his intention to revoke California's waiver, which means the 2035 regulations could be "on the chopping block," Parenteau said.

Zeldin would also oversee strategies to manage toxic chemicals, including PFAS. Recently, the federal government set a stricter drinking water standard for PFAS, and enough time has passed so that Trump wouldn't be able to repeal the regulation, Moore and Parenteau said. But Vermont may not receive much funding to manage the chemicals, which can be a costly process.

"Left to his own devices, [Zeldin] might be somebody who you could negotiate with on at least some issues," Parenteau said. "But the real question is, is he going to be given any of that latitude? His mandate is to deregulate and to reverse Biden's rules."

A warming planet

Moore, who took the helm of Vermont's natural resources agency as Trump took office in 2017, said conversations about federal funding were significant in those early days.

But for her, "the biggest difference in the environmental

space between my first four years of this job and the second four years in this job was the absence of federal leadership in the first four years."

During his earlier term, Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement, an international treaty to reduce climate emissions. He plans to do so again — Biden rejoined the agreement on his first day in office. Without a federal commitment, states signed on to the Climate Alliance, pledging to take action to reduce planet-warming pollution in line with the Paris Agreement. From there, Vermont's 2020 Global Warming Solutions Act was born.

Experts in the climate field worry, however, that action from states won't be enough to meet the moment. Vermont's own climate policies may have a tricky path forward after this month's state elections, in which Republicans made major gains in the Legislature after campaigning against state climate policies.

"You've got more red states than blue states right now, and unfortunately, climate has become a partisan issue, and so you are going to get a patchwork," Parenteau said.

And, if climate action slows, the world in turn is all but sure to heat up, increasing the risk of danger from extreme weather.

Events such as the recent flooding in Vermont aren't "going to stop — in fact, if anything, it's going to get worse," Parenteau said. That means "states like Vermont are going to be saddled with enormous costs of damage and disaster relief and adaptation," which could "fall on the taxpayers."

It's unclear yet whether Trump plans to make any major cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has said he intends to deprive California of disaster aid for wildfires unless the state subscribes to his policies, a stance that has left Mankin, of Dartmouth, concerned.

A report issued earlier this year found that Vermont is among the states that has received the most federal disaster declarations for extreme weather.

Mankin is worried that, if Vermont were to request a disaster declaration, "and if the Trump administration decides that, for whatever reason, this is a point of leverage with something that he has interest in in Vermont, that he could withhold that declaration request or turn it down pending some kind of concession from the state."

Vermont has relied on FEMA funding not only to respond immediately after a flood, but also to build back in a way that reduces flooding, or diverts waters away from people.

Mankin said that if Trump does become motivated to take action on climate change, it would come after witnessing tangible economic losses.

"The way that the Trump administration will wake up to climate change being a problem to contend with is that it's going to impact everybody and cost everybody something, and that means real pain and real loss," Mankin said.

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