



**SNOW!**  
Killington resort has received nearly 2 feet of snow in the past week with more predicted this coming week. Time to hit the slopes! Looks like March may be the snowiest month of the winter, as is common.



**TOWN MEETING DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 7**  
Get informed and vote this Tuesday on the issues most crucial to you and your town!



Courtesy Okemo

**RAIL JAM WEEKEND**  
Okemo and Killington both host rail jams.  
Page 22 & 27



Courtesy VINS

**PROWL FOR OWLS**  
Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS) hosts its popular Owl Prowl, Saturday.  
Page 23

## Nine candidates seek six Aldermen seats

By Katy Savage

Nine candidates are vying for six two-year seats on the Rutland Board of Aldermen on Town Meeting Day, March 7. Four of the candidates — Joe Barbagallo, Thomas DePoy, William Gillam and Carrie Savage are incumbents. The — Sherry Prouty, John Cioffi, Jr., John McCann, Alex Adams and Kiana McClure, are newcomers.

Meanwhile, former state Rep. Larry Cupoli and former Sen. Cheryl Hooker are both seeking unchallenged one-year terms on the Board of Aldermen.

Cupoli, who has lived in Rutland for 75 years, was Aldermanic candidates → 12



## Nine join 100 Day Club on 100th day

By John Everett

Killington Resort celebrated nine guests with perfect attendance on Day 100, Friday, Feb. 25. Pictured are Brandon Westburg, Leif Anthony Terjesen, Robert Berman, Bob Barrington, Patti Westburg, Young Namkung and Laury Gilliam. Missing from the photo are Emmet Rose and Rick Schirm. Resort President Mike Solimano and Director Amy Laramie joined the photo.

## Town of Killington plans for growth

Voters asked to approve budget, purchase/renovation of new town hall and TIF bond for municipal water and road reconstruction

By Polly Mikula

Killington voters will be asked for approval on three budgetary items on Town Meeting Day, March 7.

Article 5 (\$47 million TIF bond) has gotten the most attention over the past few weeks and for good reason: it will have the greatest impact on the future of Killington town and resort. But consequently, Article 4 (the purchase of the post office building) as slipped a bit under the radar. And Article 3, the general fund budget — which in most years is scrutinized — has hardly been addressed.

Here's a look at each of those budgetary articles in the order they appear on the ballot.

### Article 3

Voters are asked to consider a municipal budget of \$6.28 million (up about 4% over last year). Of that \$4,339,845 would be raised by property taxes. The balance is made up by non-property tax revenue (such as option taxes and short-term rental registrations, state payments, etc., for estimated \$1,735,700) and plus the balance from the 2022 general fund (about \$378,945).

The 4% increase over last years budget is mostly due to insurance and staffing, according to town officials.

"We only gave 2% cost of living increase to staff," the Select Board reported at a regular meeting last month. "The majority is from inflation and health insurance."

However, the town has also added a few new position to its staff: There's a new position allocated in finance, another full time policeman (officer Christopher Roy started in October), and for the first time a salaried fire chief (Chris LaHart started in January) — some of whose cost is offset with short term rental registration fees.

Due to greater than projected receipts from its 1% rooms and meals/alcohol option tax, state and federal aid and the expiration of the Killington Road bond, the 4% increase is more than offset. The town tax rate for the proposed budget (FY24) is \$0.5472 compared to the current year's \$0.5480 per \$100 of property value.

"There is no fluff in this year's general fund budget," said Selectman Jim Haff, who's historically been a critic of municipal budget spending.

### Article 4

Article 4 asks voters to approve the purchase and renovation of a new Town Hall (the post office building at 2046 US Route 4) for \$1.6 million. The cost of the building is \$1.2 million, but an additional \$400,000 will be set aside for renovations. The post office will continue to lease its portion of the building on the east side of the first floor for at least 15 years, which will offset the cost to the town by \$72,000 a year.

The Select Board is structuring the purchase of the building so that there would be no payments in the FY24 budget. Payments will begin in the FY25 budget, at which time there are other bonds, such as the golf course and road bonds that will be retired.

"The board is sticking to its strategic plan as promised five years ago," explained Haff. "We're not taking on new debt before other debt is retired; in other words we're working with the current tax rate to keep it flat as we take care of the needs of the town and our facilities."

The current town hall on River Road is 2,500 square feet. The proposed town hall building is 11,000 square feet of

Growth → 14

## Audit to be conducted on student behavioral problems

By Katy Savage

The Windsor Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) board voted unanimously Monday, Feb. 27 to conduct an audit at each school as student behavioral problems run rampant.

Around 40 people attended the special board meeting, which lasted about 3 1/2 hours. The meeting was called as a follow up to a Feb. 6 meeting attended by about 200 people who were frustrated with administrators' lack of transparency after a fourth grade student allegedly brought a 9 mm bullet to Woodstock Elementary School on Jan. 24 and made threats to students on a bus.

Fourth grade teacher Stephanie Petrarca and a district board member Todd Ulman resigned over

22.6% of students have initiated more than once incident in the past four months.

the incident and how it was handled by the administration. Petrarca provided a detailed letter to the board.

Some parents continued to share problems with transparency in all WCSU schools at the meeting.

Board member Matt Stout who has a fourth grade student at Woodstock Elementary School, said despite parent concerns, he thought administration kept students safe. He admitted communication was a problem.

"If you fail on communication, you lose control of the narrative and people assume the worst," Stout said.

Amy Miller told the board her 14-year-old daughter

Audit → 8



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

**WARNING:**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING: March 6, 2023**  
&  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: March 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Killington, County of Rutland, State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Killington Town Office at 2706 River Road in Killington on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian ballot on the following Articles.

Legal voters are further warned that a public informational hearing will take place at the Killington Public Safety Building at 800 Killington Road in Killington and via electronic means on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. For information on how to participate in this public informational hearing, please see the Public Informational Hearing Notice and Agenda posted herewith.

**Article 1.** To elect the following town officers:

- a. A moderator for a term of one year;
- b. A selectboard member for a term of three years;
- c. A town clerk for a term of three years;
- d. A lister for a term of three years;
- e. A cemetery commissioner for a term of three years;
- f. A library trustee for a term of five years

**Article 2.** Shall property taxes be paid in three installments: the first due August 15, 2023, and overdue subject to interest after August 25, 2023; the second due November 15, 2023, and overdue subject to interest after November 25, 2023; and the third due February 15, 2024, with the total tax delinquent after February 25, 2024?

**Article 3.** Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$6,409,784, of which an estimated \$378,945 shall be applied from the 2022 general fund balance, \$4,367,100 shall be raised by property taxes, and \$1,735,700 in estimated non-property tax revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?

**Article 4.** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2046 US Route 4 to become the new Town Hall?

**Article 5.** Shall the Town Selectboard be authorized to pledge the full faith and credit of the Town to secure indebtedness or make direct payments for the purpose of funding one or more public improvements and related costs attributable to projects serving the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, specifically:

- a) **Projects:** acquire and construct a municipal water system; construct new roads and upgrade existing roads and acquire those roads to ensure future maintenance.
- (b) **Related Costs:** payment of or reimbursement for TIF eligible related costs incurred by the Town for the creation, implementation and administration of the TIF District, including costs paid to outside vendors, consultants, and various related fees and other expenses related to the TIF District, as well as direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the District to the extent they are paid from the municipal and not education incremental taxes and are otherwise reimbursed in accordance with law; in a total principal amount not to exceed \$47,000,000 (which will bring the total TIF District debt approved since the TIF District's creation to \$47,000,000) and to issue bonds, notes or make interfund loans for such purpose, in one or more series, and expend up to \$650,000 for related costs, which will bring the total related costs authorized by voters to \$650,000, with the understanding that tax increment from the properties within the TIF District shall be pledged and appropriated for the payment of such indebtedness or direct costs of the improvements?

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 30th day of January 2023.

  
Stephen Finneron

  
Jim Haff

  
Christopher Karr

**OBITUARIES**

**James L. Kohnowich age 74**

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

Jim, as he was known, found joy in being a friendly neighbor; helpful friend; loving father and talented carpenter. Jim moved to Vermont after graduating college to surround himself with nature. He loved to ski and spent his early years working in ski tune shops and hitting the slopes of Killington. He was an avid fisher, reader and craftsman. He shared his love and fascination with wildlife and the outdoors with his children all their lives.

Jim was an accomplished swimmer. While at Southern Connecticut State University he won a total of 11 All-American awards in swimming. He won the NCAA Division II championship in the 100-yard freestyle in 1969. In 1994 he was inducted into the SCSU hall of fame, where he continues to hold the record for All-American awards.

He is preceded in death by his parents and older brother John, who passed from childhood leukemia. Please consider making a donation to Saint Jude's hospital in his name to help others fight childhood cancer.

**Michael Richard Perry, 77**

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

He was born in East Middlebury in 1946 to Pete and Rhoda (Goodro) Perry. Both sides of his family have deep roots in the state. His maternal grandfather was Harry Goodro who, with his wife Mildred, started a small lumber mill in Ripton in 1929, moving it later to East Middlebury.

It was there at the Goodro Lumber Company that Mike spent his formative years working with his extended family. His father's family, generally all from the Chester area, include George W. Perry, a well known Unitarian minister, state geologist, and founder of Eagle Camp in South Hero. Mike was an active keyboard musician throughout his life, playing in the Middlebury High School band, and in his own band, "The Four of Us," which he formed with his cousin, John. He played baseball from an early age, pitching for many of the leagues in and around Middlebury. He was educated at the village schools in Middlebury and then at Castleton State and finally at Dean Junior College. He was a professional bowler for a short time before returning to work in East Middlebury. In 1968, the Goodro family bought land in what was then the town of Sherburne and built a satellite location on the flats along State Routes 4 and 100. In 1974, Mike took on the role of managing the new enterprise. He would go on to buy the Sherburne location with his brother-in-law, Bill Shaw, in 1978, re-incorporate it as Goodro Killington Inc, and serve there in the capacity of co-proprietor and polymath for the next 30 years. He had a head for numbers and a fondness for the customer base, two qualities that flowed from him with a quiet humility. He retired from the business in 2009 and spent the following years enjoying the whimsy of travel and the twin pleasures of golf and the Boston Red Sox. In 1964, Mike met Sandra Shaw. The two courted for many years before marrying on Cape Cod in 1973. They enjoyed 50 beautiful years together at their home in Bridgewater. They were active members of the Oak Chapel Christian Fellowship where he served as an elder and as piano player. He leaves behind Sandie, his sister Martha, many cousins, nieces and nephews as well as many friends and co-workers. The family wishes to thank the caring people at The Meadows and Rutland Hospital for their help during Mike's last months.

## Prediction: 'Article 5 will pass 3:1'

Leading up to Town Meeting, Killington Select Board believes residents understand the crucial need for water and road upgrades

By Polly Mikula

After the year-plus it took to get the town of Killington qualified as a TIF district to finance necessary road and water infrastructure, and multiple information sessions over the past month to bring voters up to speed on the development plans, Killington Select Board Member Jim Haff is now confident that voter understand the issues and will vote "yes" on Article 5 at Town Meeting Day.

"I've spoken to a lot of people and I really believe it's going to pass, probably 3:1," Haff predicted, a week before the March 7 vote.

"I think the vast majority of folks understand the issues we face and this unique opportunity to fix them. We have a crucial need for a municipal water system and Killington Road needs to be redone. Those are both big and expensive projects but we now have this opportunity to get these things done without having to raise the municipal tax rate to pay for it all," he explained. "If we miss this opportunity, we're never going to get it back. There simply isn't going to be anything close to this good of a deal for the town ... it's a good deal for the resort, too, and the developer, but I really just care about the town."

Killington voters will decide whether to pass Article 5 at Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 7. Polls are open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Election results will be posted at [Mountaintimes.info](http://Mountaintimes.info) as soon as they're available.

## Inside the new Six Peaks Village

By Brooke Geery

*Editor's note: This article was first published on Killington Resort's "Insider Blog," Feb. 22. Minor corrections have been made for accuracy and clarity.*

The vision of a village at the base of Killington Resort predates most of the current locals. But as the resort has grown and changed over the years — adding lifts, trails, base lodges and more amenities — a village similar to those found at many other world-class resorts has long eluded Killington. Now, however, thanks to Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), federal grant funding and a strong partnership with international developer Great Gulf, the project is the closest it's ever been to reality.

The new Six Peaks Village will not only expand luxury slope-side accommodations at Killington Resort. It will also add new lifts and trails including a "ski beach," upgraded base lodges, revamped and expanded parking, and a plethora of family-focused activities and amenities beyond skiing and riding. The project is being completed in cooperation with the town of Killington, which is focused on a major development of its own to build as many as 300 units of affordable workforce housing.

One of the main reasons the village has taken so long to come to fruition is a startling lack of infrastructure in the Killington region. Many homes and businesses have long struggled with a lack of potable drinking water, but thanks to a \$47 million TIF bond, that problem may soon be solved. This funding goes to a vote on Town Meeting Day, March 7, 2023, and if passed, will break ground this summer.

With water woes eliminated, another challenge for Killington Resort was finding the right developer to tackle this long-term project. Great Gulf is that partner. The Toronto-based builder has been cranking out everything from 80-story skyscrapers to ski villages such as the one at Blue Mountain in Ontario since 1975. It has a proven track record of

Six Peaks → 13

# TUESDAY MARCH 7 VOTE KILLINGTON FORWARD ARTICLE 5

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

### SAFE DRINKING WATER

The installation of a municipal water infrastructure is essential to provide safe water for our schools, homes and businesses.

### UPGRADES TO THE KILLINGTON ROAD

Improved pedestrian, driver and biker safety through side walk expansion, bike lanes, bus stop pull offs and improved lighting.

### AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING

The development of 250-300 living units featuring a mix of multi-family buildings, duplex and single family homes.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST YOU?

The bond of up to \$47 million will be paid for by the village development (using a portion of the taxes collected from the increased in value of the village/TIF district). Read the development agreement with Great Gulf that guarantees the bond payments: [tinyurl.com/DAKillington](http://tinyurl.com/DAKillington)

To learn more about Article 5 and plans to move Killington Forward join us:

**MARCH 6 • 7PM**

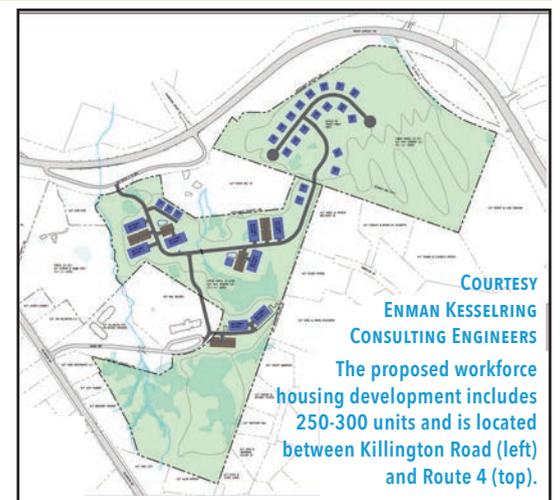
Public Safety Building/Zoom

**TUESDAY MARCH 7  
7AM-7PM**

**Town Meeting Day  
Vote at the Town Offices**



LEARN MORE



**HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: VISIT MVP.VERMONT.GOV**

TOWN OF KILLINGTON: 802-422-3241 Follow the prompts to reach the Dept of choice.



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**

VERMONT

**NECESSITY  
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Killington Selectboard has determined that the public interest and necessity of the Town of Killington and its inhabitants require that real property be acquired and municipal offices be constructed on 2046 US Route 4 in Killington (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the cost of the Project will be approximately One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000); and  
WHEREAS, this amount is too great to be paid out of the ordinary annual income and revenue of the Town of Killington, even after applying all grants in aid of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Killington Selectboard has determined that, for the reasons set forth above, authority to finance the Project through debt instruments for a term of more than five years, is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Selectboard of the Town of Killington that the proposition of incurring debt through issuance of such debt instruments be submitted to the qualified votes of the Town of Killington in the following form:

ARTICLE 4. Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2046 US Route 4, which includes the Post Office, to become the new Town Hall.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote on said proposition shall be conducted by Australian Ballot at the annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Killington Town Office, 2706 River Road, Killington, Vermont at which meeting the polls will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warning for the above-mentioned Town Meeting shall be published in the Mountain Times on February 16, 23, and March 2, 2023 and that the Warning for such meeting shall be posted in five public places in the Town of Killington, and the same shall be posted on the Town website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Selectboard will hold a public informational hearing on the above-stated proposition on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at the Killington Public Safety Building, 800 Killington Road, Killington, Vermont.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warning for the 2023 annual Town Meeting is specifically approved for use in connection with the consideration on the above-stated proposition of making public improvements and financing the same for a term not to exceed ten (10) years.

Dated at Killington, Vermont this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

Stephen Finneron

Jim Haff

Christopher Karr

Received for record this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2023.

Lucretia Wonsor  
Killington Town Clerk

# Chittenden may shrink elected government at Town Meeting

By Brett Yates

Vermont towns have a long tradition of electing their public servants, including some who occupy positions to which, in other parts of the country, they'd usually be appointed or hired instead. But in an era of waning citizen participation in local government, Chittenden may become the latest municipality to leave parts of this custom behind.

Chittenden's Town Meeting Day ballot includes 15 articles, the last of which would eliminate the town's elected board of listers. Before that, voters will consider whether to abolish the town constable and whether to make the collector of delinquent taxes an appointed position instead of an elected office.

Listers assess the fair market value of a town's properties for the purpose of producing its annual Grand List. The legal and technological complexity of the work, which typically pays a small stipend, has grown over the years, and with towns struggling to find residents willing to take on the responsibility, some have turned to professional assessors to fill the gap.

Chittenden may not have any other clear option. Already short one lister, the town received bad news last year about the remaining two: one would soon retire after a long tenure of service, and the other would decline to seek reelection at the end of her term in 2023. Nobody stepped up to offer to replace them.

Until recently, the Chittenden Select Board continued to search. Still hoping that candidates would emerge as it put together the municipal budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, the board didn't include funds to hire a professional assessor.

The proposed budget allocates \$6,618 for the listers' usual work. A professional assessor would cost more. The neighboring town of Pittsford, with about double the population, paid \$63,620 for the service last year.

"At the end of next fiscal year, we would explain in the town report the reason why there was an overage in that budget," Treasurer Alyssa Reynolds said.

Reynolds also serves as Chittenden's interim town clerk. She appears twice on the March 7 ballot, asking for voters' approval to

take over the final year of a three-year term won by her predecessor, Town Clerk Roberta Janoski, who retired last July, and to continue on as Chittenden's delinquent tax collector.

If Reynolds gets her way, it'll be the last time she has to run for the latter position. She asked the Select Board to add an article to the ballot that would allow voters to turn the delinquent tax collector into an appointed office, instead of one-year elected term.

"One year is kind of a joke, because it takes more than one year to get things in order and the training and the specific details of the steps you have to take for this position," Reynolds said. "Because of how much responsibility it has — potentially taking away the right to someone's personal property — it's not something that really should be upturned, potentially, every year."

Finally, the ballot will ask voters, in a two-part procedure, to eliminate the office of town constable, which has sat vacant for years in Chittenden. The municipality contracts the Pittsford Police Department for patrol services.

Besides the aforementioned potential downsizings, Chittenden's Town Meeting Day will feature one competitive Select Board race between Gary Congdon and Christie Garofano. The proposed municipal budget — \$1,534,659, before add-ons that would bring the figure to \$1,651,539 — would, if voters say yes to all articles, exceed last year's approved spending by \$244,485.

Along with voters in Mendon, Chittenden residents will also approve or reject a budget of \$5,596,599 for the Barstow Unified Union School District — a decrease of more than \$200,000 since last year, owing to a decline in the number of students. That ballot includes the election of an at-large school director, for which no candidates' names appear.

Chittenden's Town Meeting will take place by Australian ballot, with polls open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7 at the Chittenden Town Office. The Barstow School Hall will host an informational meeting the night before at 7 p.m. with a Zoom option.

# Pittsfield voters asked to consider municipal tax increase

By Brett Yates

Pittsfield's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 is smaller than the previous year's, but the amount to be raised by municipal taxes has gone up by about \$100,000.

"We had more surplus money last year than we do this year," Town Clerk Trish Abbondelo explained.

The town plans to spend \$633,140.46, of which municipal taxes would cover \$510,991.46. A pair of

articles could together add an extra \$95,000 for highway department building maintenance and the volunteer fire department's truck reserve fund. These additional approvals would bring the estimated municipal tax rate to 0.4774%, compared to 0.4285% in 2022-2023, according to Abbondelo.

Pittsfield's total tax rate will depend upon its education tax rate, which, as in other towns, will be set

according to a formula devised by the state. Voters will consider a \$994,945 budget for the Pittsfield School District, which spent about \$52,000 less last year.

Pittsfield's Town Meeting Day is not expected to feature competitive races for any of the 12 elected offices listed on the warning.

Pittsfield voters will meet at the Town Hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7 to transact business from the floor.

# Five candidates run for Rutland city School Board

By Katy Savage

Five candidates are seeking four three-year terms on the Rutland School Board of Commissioners on March 7.

Incumbents Kevin Kiefaber and Cathy Solsaa are running against newcomers Mary McDonald, Heather Hauke and Ryan Carney as Alison Notte, the chair of the board, and Peter Fagan, who was nominated to the board in May, aren't seeking reelection.

### Cathy Solsaa

Incumbent Cathy Solsaa, 55, has lived in Rutland for the past 25 years.

She said the biggest challenge facing the schools is Covid pandemic recovery.

"I'm running for my second term to continue the momentum we have gained, particularly around the strategic planning work we've done and will continue over the months to come," she said.

### Kevin Kiefaber

Incumbent Kevin Kiefaber has lived in Rutland 34 years.

"The biggest challenge we face is trying to balance giving our students

a solid base of knowledge while also teaching the critical thinking skills they'll need to navigate the future's ever changing technological landscape," he said.

### Heather Hauke

Newcomer Heather Hauke, 38, has lived in Rutland for 13 years. She graduated from Castleton State College and now works part time at Killington Resort and is involved in human resources and bookkeeping.

Hauke has four kids in school, ages 14, 12, 8 and 4. All are active in sports and Hauke is involved in all school activities.

"I'm an invested consumer," she said. "I've always been really passionate about being there for all the things."

She said she's concerned about school violence.

"Schools should be a positive, safe environment," she said.

### Ryan Carney

Newcomer Ryan Carney, 32, has lived in Rutland for 12 years. He said he wants to focus on art education.

"As the parent of two young children, I want to make sure they and all

students have the best opportunities we can offer," he said.

### Mary McDonald

Newcomer Mary McDonald, 43, has nine kids and owns a pre-school, which she runs out of her home.

McDonald has also been a substitute teacher for Rutland City Public Schools and a paraeducator for 30 years.

"A few challenges that I see and have been approached about are the lack of staff members in the school systems to support our teachers," she said. "Each teacher should have a paraeducator in their classroom at all times. Teachers should have access to help and assistance throughout the day."

She said more life skill teaching is needed and she wants to integrate services offered through Rutland Mental Health, Chaffee Art Center, Wonderfeet, Stafford Technical Center, Mentor Connector, 4-H and other programs.

"I think we need to utilize what we have in our community to make our community stronger by building on what we have," she said.



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# Woodstock to decide on listers

By Curt Peterson and Katy Savage

Woodstock voters will decide on a \$7,681,341 budget on Town Meeting Day, March 7. Major items in the budget include \$2,254,023 for highways, \$1,402,577 for ambulance department expenses, \$622,430 for the fire department and \$446,103 for police.

One town budget item is \$271,250, labeled "Select Board contingency." This line item is intended for unpredictable emergencies or expenses that might occur.

Voters will also authorize the elimination of town listers under Article 3 and replace them with a professionally qualified assessor or assessors. The town currently has two listers — Kathy Avellino, whose term is up in 2024 and Tim McCarthy, whose term is up in 2025. A third seat is currently vacant.

Tom Yennerell Woodstock's interim town manager explained the reasoning behind eliminating the lister position

Listers → 8

# Vermont State Police responds to crash involving Amtrak train, tractor trailer in Sharon

Vermont State Police troopers and members of DMV Enforcement responded to a collision between an Amtrak train and a tractor trailer on Quarry Road near Route 14 in Sharon.

No injuries have been reported in the crash, which occurred at about 11:45 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27,

2023, when the train struck the tractor trailer's trailer section. The flatbed trailer was carrying a load of stone from the nearby quarry.

The Amtrak train was carrying 66 passengers at the time of the collision.

The investigation into this incident is in its early stages, police reported recently.

# Hartland's \$1.5 million intersection project moves forward

By Curt Peterson

The Hartland Select Board voted unanimously on Feb. 21 to go forward with the \$1.5 million Three Corners intersection reconfiguration project, ending a struggle that started at Town Meeting in 2014.

The selectmen will sign a contract with Nott's Excavating, Inc. of White River, to begin the project this spring, according to verified specifications, for \$1,283,889.50, about \$35,000 more than the state-assisted estimate used in deciding to send out requests for proposals.

Town Manager David Ormiston pointed out the Nott's firm has done successful projects for the town in the past.

One listserv poster tried to encourage residents opposed to the project to express their displeasure at the Feb. 21 meeting, but only a few people attended. Four testified to the Select Board, one opposed and three in favor of going forward, including Hartland Fire Chief John Sanders and Windsor County state representative John Bartholomew.

Following input from residents the board discussed the bid, the next move, and the pros and cons of the project in general. Board chair Phil Hobbie and selectman Clyde Jenne were both in favor of accepting the Notts bid. Board members Mary O'Brien, Mandi Potter and Jim Rielly all expressed personal doubts about it, but O'Brien and Potter agreed with Jenne that the voters had clearly expressed their desires in 2021, and felt they had to vote in favor representing those voters.

"I'm not here to represent myself. I'm here to represent the voters," O'Brien said, "and they have said twice they want this project."

Rielly, who had suggested a litany of possible options, added his vote in order to make the decision unanimous.

Detractors are still active on the listserv, accusing the selectmen of "PUSHING THIS THROUGH," and rallying residents to pack the March Town Meeting to demand a revote, assuming that might overturn the two-to-one mar-

Intersection → 13

# MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

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# Okemo: Innovative vision, entrepreneurs lead to success

By Karen D. Lorentz

One of the nation's most successful ski resorts since the 1990s, Okemo, like many mountains, had humble beginnings. The vision of its founders, the approaches to problem solving, and the hard work of its leaders, however, made a tremendous difference for the community-started ski area.

Okemo's progress was tortoise-like steady for its first 26 years but once it changed hands in 1982, it became Vermont's fastest growing ski resort. A primary focus on the ski product along with teamwork, management, service and the development of more slopeside residences enabled the ski area to transition to a popular and profitable year-round resort, a rare phenomenon in the challenging ski business.

## Community support

Skiing on Okemo began in the early 1900s with skiers "skinning up" to ski down or engaging in ski jumping contests on its lower flanks. Local Finns and Norwegians introduced townspeople to skiing and ski jumping and made skis for them. Athletic clubs sponsored ski meets and winter dances in the 1920s and 1930s and snow trains brought Appalachian Mountain Club skiers to the mountain the week of February 19-26, 1921, providing one of the earliest President's Day weeks for Okemo!

Vermont State Forester Perry Merrill, who had purchased 4,000 acres in 1935 for mountain recreation — and the "Best Ski Ground in New England" — found his plans stymied when some politicians opposed his "extravagant" use of state dollars for recreation during the Great Depression.

But with Ludlow's previously prosperous wool and wood-working mills dying by the 1950s, a group of local leaders were eager to attract new business to the town and pursued a ski area. They leased state land on the upper mountain, and the state constructed a ski shelter/restaurant building and parking lot below.

Okemo Mountain, Inc. was incorporated on January 11, 1955 with \$300 from the sale of stock (\$10 a share) to 27 incorporators. They bought private land on the lower mountain for ski operations and set up a board of directors to oversee ski area development. Former FIS racer Andrew Titcomb checked out the mountain, proclaimed it "FANTASTIC," and drew up plans for the first lifts and trails.

Enthusiasm ran high for the ski area due to its exposure, potential for long runs, snow-pocket location, and a town in its backyard. Titcomb noted it was "one of five ski areas in the country with an existing town at its base."

Whereas many areas were started with out-of-state investors, Okemo was unique because the directors chose only to sell stock to Vermonters, reasoning that it would be too expensive and time consuming to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The budget for two lifts, trails, warming huts, restrooms, and working capital was \$125,000. Almost \$100,000 worth of stock was raised in three months — most in small lots to people within a 30-mile radius of Ludlow. The corporation continued to issue stock as well as take out loans and reinvest profits to fund capital improvements.

Because there were limits to the amounts that could be raised, however, buying and selling land for skier homes was put forth as a way to move the mountain forward by building a loyal base of families.

## All ski home, path to success

The board formally adopted a policy of buying land to sell for second homes in 1960. The decision to establish an on-mountain bed base was part of a vision to create a year-round family resort. It made Okemo one of the first ski areas in the U.S. to promote trailside homes and the first in Vermont to begin a mountainside village with ski-on and ski-off access.

From the first construction of five homes in 1961, first development and sale of lots in 1963, and the first hotel-styled ski lodge built in 1964 (on a commercial lot sold to its developers), Okemo continued to purchase and sell land to foster slopeside homes and condos.

When Tim and Diane Mueller became new owners of Okemo in 1982, they were aware of the potential for building more ski-on/ski-off condominiums and homes because the



Courtesy Okemo

Okemo Ski Instructor Betsey Child demonstrates Natural Teknik on the Ski Chalet at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

Okemo 1982 Master Plan noted the possibility of \$2 million in gross land sales from a 45-acre trailside property the area had purchased.

Their first condo project on the main mountain began in 1983 with Kettle Brook and extended through the development of Solitude Village (condos, homes) starting in 1995 and the Village at Jackson Gore begun in 2003.

By 1996, Okemo had 1,012 units for a total of 6,900 beds on the mountain and by 2006 that number had risen close to 1,500 units (with 2006 construction of 221 units at Jackson Gore included) and a total of well over 10,000 beds on the mountain, a record not only in Vermont but the East as well, and eventually rising to over 15,000 beds.

Real estate profits fueled mountain growth with new lifts and trails and increased snowmaking and programming. But it was not the only source of revenues as Okemo became very profitable from operations. Together, profits were continuously reinvested in the mountain for Vermont's biggest snowball effect — a meteoric rise to number two in skier visits by 1996.

## Moving up with Natur Teknik, ingenuity

The road to profitability and success had been paved in Okemo's founding years with other pioneering moves as well. One was the 1963 adoption of the Natur Teknik, a way to teach parallel skiing from the start on the long skis of the day; it had some great results at Okemo with ski school business becoming a profit center.

Okemo promoted Natur Teknik by building a mobile Swiss ski chalet. Constructed with a specially carpeted roof section that could be unfurled and skied on, instructors used it to demonstrate Natur Teknik, thus bringing attention to the mountain and ski school. The chalet traveled to ski and travel shows in Boston, Hartford, and Albany; to the Eastern States Exposition; and to the 1964 New York World's Fair.

The ski area became so popular in the 1960s that the oft-expanded base lodge/warming hut had to be replaced by a bigger facility. The \$400,000 cost was prohibitive so the board sold land to a group of supporters who raised the funds to build the

lodge (1968) and then leased it back to Okemo with an option to buy (done in 1979).

The 1970s proved challenging. The Vermont Flood of 1973 wreaked havoc on the mountain. The national oil crisis, gasoline shortages, weak economy, inflation, rising interest rates, and "no-snow seasons" hurt all ski areas in 1973, 1974, 1980, and 1981. More competition from the new Western "destination ski resorts" affected ski-week business, and Act 250 constraints and land-gains taxes hit about the same time.

But unlike many ski areas that succumbed to money problems during these trying years — many Vermont areas experienced bankruptcy and most changed ownership between 1970 and 1982 with some going out of business permanently — Okemo surmounted its challenges.

Flood damage was fixed, snowmaking (first installed in 1966) was expanded three times (1972, 1977, 1981), and a third chairlift was installed (1971). In an ingenious move, General Manager Dave Rock obtained a source for gasoline and put in pumps so Okemo could "guarantee" skiers gas to get home. When he got calls from other ski areas, he sold gas to them, from Bromley and Magic all the way to Stowe.

After enduring the winter of 1980 when the upper mountain could only be skied four days due to lack of natural snow, Okemo installed snowmaking to the top in 1981. Very few areas had this capability, but while giving the area a competitive edge, it also meant using funds needed to replace the aging Red Pomalift with a chairlift.

Okemo had grown to 175,000 skier visits in a good year, but with the devastating no-snow 1979-80 season and poor weather 1980-81, visits plummeted. Although they bounced back to 146,000 for 1982, their lender pulled Okemo's line of credit, effectively curtailing replacement of the Red.

To remain a major family area in the industry, Okemo hired Sno-Engineering, a nationally renowned resort planner, to develop a new master plan in the late 1970s. It noted Okemo's potential to become a "major destination resort" but also spelled

A look back at Okemo → 14



# TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT

## FACT SHEET: FYE 2024 BOND AND DEBT SERVICE ARTICLES

**This year’s Town Meeting Warning includes articles related to the Town’s investment in infrastructure, Workforce Housing, and Town facilities. The articles and details are offered as follows:**

**Article 4.** *Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Killington in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000), subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and the application of available reserves, to be financed for a period not to exceed ten (10), years, be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the property at 2046 US Route 4 to become the new Town Hall?*

**Town Hall Relocation**

- Study Completed in 2019 to determine renovate or replace.
- Issues discovered in existing include wastewater limitations, portion of parking on federal land, construction issues, space needs not sufficient, will need new rec facility for eventual replacement of rec/pool facility.
- Determination made to relocate Town Hall due to cost of renovation and additional facility needs.
- Expected cost to be approximately \$3m including rec building prior to current pricing which will likely be 50% higher or \$4.5m.
- Purchase price is \$1.2 million plus required modifications of approximately \$400k.
- Total Town investment \$1.6 million.

**Tax Rate Implications:**

- The proposed sustainable budget tax rate of .5472 will remain virtually unchanged from last year including increases in staff, inflationary impacts, and the proposed new Town Hall. It is important to note that the Town Hall financing is offset partially by the rent from the Post office as well as the expiration of the Killington Road bond.

**Article 5.** *Shall the Town Selectboard be authorized to pledge the full faith and credit of the Town to secure indebtedness or make direct payments for the purpose of funding one or more public improvements and related costs attributable to projects serving the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, specifically:*

- a) **Projects:** *acquire and construct a municipal water system; construct new roads and upgrade existing roads and acquire those roads to ensure future maintenance.*
  - (a) **Related Costs:** *payment of or reimbursement for TIF eligible related costs incurred by the Town for the creation, implementation and administration of the TIF District, including costs paid to outside vendors, consultants, and various related fees and other expenses related to the TIF District, as well as direct municipal expenses such as departmental or personnel costs related to creating or administering the District to the extent they are paid from the municipal and not education incremental taxes and are otherwise reimbursed in accordance with law; in a total principal amount not to exceed \$47,000,000 (which will bring the total TIF District debt approved since the TIF District’s creation to \$47,000,000) and to issue bonds, notes or make interfund loans for such purpose, in one or more series, and expend up to \$650,000 for related costs, which will bring the total related costs authorized by voters to \$650,000, with the understanding that tax increment from the properties within the TIF District shall be pledged and appropriated for the payment of such indebtedness or direct costs of the improvements?*

**TIF District Financing**

- Killington Forward is a comprehensive, multi-phased plan to develop municipal water infrastructure, rebuild an improved Killington Road, allow for the development of Six Peaks Village, and lay the groundwork for workforce housing. It will be paid for by a combination of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as well as some grants and forgivable loans. On the March 2023 ballot, the town is asking voters to authorize, with a vote on Article #5, a not-to-exceed debt limit of \$47 million (\$26 million low interest loan and \$21 million municipal bond) for Phase 1 of the project.
- The TIF District is an area in which tax revenue generated from new development (in this case, the Six Peaks Village and Resort area) is utilized for public projects (in this case, water and road infrastructure) that support the private investment in the District.
- The water and road project in Phase 1 is paid for by a combination of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as well as a \$2.3 million ARPA grant and a \$3.6 million fully forgivable loan for emerging contaminants. The cost of the project will be paid for by property taxes incurred by the newly developed residential units and retail spaces of Six Peaks Village.
- The town spent much of 2022 negotiating a development agreement with Great Gulf (the Six Peaks developer) to secure the financing of this infrastructure investment. This agreement was vetted by the state (Vermont Economic Progress Council) and a third-party economic consultant, who determined that this provides for municipal protection for a project this size.
- The Development Agreement requires that the developer pays the taxes in order to pay for the bond, regardless of economic conditions. Conditions stay with the land regardless of the owner.
- The town of Killington will be the owner of the water system. As with any municipal water system, each user (including Great Gulf) will be charged service fees to cover the operations and maintenance and will be responsible for their own individual connections to the transmission line. The capital cost of building the system will be covered by the TIF and grants and will not create any additional fee for users.
- Access to clean municipal water is critical for the development of any housing. In fact, affordable housing developers will not consider sites without municipal water and the cost of providing water makes the development of workforce housing unachievable.
- The town has taken the step of obtaining a purchase and sale agreement for a parcel that could yield 250-300 units of workforce housing. If the voters approve the bond for the water system, the Town will move to engage with a housing developer or agency take over the project to construct the workforce housing units. The Town will NOT be the developer and will only provide the land to ensure it is used only for workforce housing.

**Tax Rate Implications:**

- **Articles 5:** The proposed TIF Financing will have no impact to the Town Tax Rate as the bond is paid by additional revenues produced from the Six Peaks Development.

## ← **Listers:** Woodstock voters might decide to end the town lister position from page 5

in the annual town report.

"It's now common in many towns for no one to run for the elected office of lister," Yennerell wrote. "The job is complex and sometimes controversial. An increasingly common practice is to hire an assessor to fill vacant elected lister positions. Town officials (Selectboard and trustees) need town wide voter approval to appoint an assessor(s). Currently, Woodstock officials don't have authority to appoint an assessor(s). Consequently, at Town Meeting, Woodstock voters will be asked to grant authority to the town officials to appoint

an assessor(s) and thereby avoid the potential issue of a lister shortage. There is no financial impact if the assessor system is approved."

Two Select Board seats, currently held by Keri Cole and Ray Bourgeois, are up for reelection as are Town Clerk Charles Degener and First Constable Kelly Linton's positions.

The Village will hold its annual meeting on March 12. Yennerell, who was formerly the town manager in Springfield, called the existence of the two entities "inefficient and cumbersome" in his report.

"The original reasons for creating the Village no lon-

ger exist because times have changed," Yennerell wrote. "The dual system requires countless hours of additional administration to operate both municipal entities. This translates to additional tax dollars needed to do the administration. It would be prudent to investigate solutions to improve this situation."

Most of the Village budget is consumed by the police department, which provides 24/7 coverage.

Merging the town and Village has been discussed in the past, but proven controversial. The decision is not on either the town or Village warnings this year.

## ← **Audit:** School Board decides to conduct audit of all schools in district from page 1

was raped in a Woodstock Union High School-Middle School bathroom during lunch in October 2020.

Miller, who admitted she doesn't live in the district, said she was in a "complicated divorce" and tried to get information from school officials without success.

"These administrators should be held accountable for their inaction and discrimination," she said. "The system's a complete failure for our children."

Parent Kristen Oates echoed Miller's concerns and said the administration withholds information, even if it pertains to their own child.

"It is a black hole of information when students are upset," Oates said.

The school district started using a data-driven approach to behavioral issues about four months ago with a program called Alma.

Cody TanCreti, the assistant principal at Woodstock Union High School-Middle School, said there have been over 1,114 behavioral issues in the past four months across the districts, including fighting, property damage, disruptive behavior and other problems. A total of 22.6% of students have initiated more than one incident in the past four months, according to that data.

The Prosper Valley School had the highest number of incidents, with 138 problems in the 98-student school. There were 263

incidents in the 254-student Woodstock Elementary School building in the last four months.

Alma also allows teachers to track the time of day incidents frequently occurred, the type of incident and the individual students who were repeating the same behaviors.

"We're trying to be investigators, it's a landscape that's new to us and we're learning," TanCreti said. "We're doing our best."

Board members also heard the effects of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. PBIS is used in all the district schools and has been in place at Killington Elementary School for about 18 years — the longest of any school in the district.

"It's not a silver bullet," Killington Elementary School Principal Mary Guggenberger said at the meeting. "You get out of it what you put in."

Guggenberger said PBIS takes a proactive approach to correcting student behavior. KES uses positive reinforcement by awarding students with stars for following rules and directions. Most students are successful, Guggenberger said, but about 15% of students need more intervention.

Board members questioned why there weren't more paraeducators, support staff and adults in the buildings and on the buses, where problems frequently occur.

Superintendent Sherry Sousa said the school district consciously hired less support staff in favor of hiring more licensed professionals after the pandemic.

"The philosophy is to hire licensed people who have advanced training," Sousa said.

Sousa also spoke about the challenges facing schools today.

"The level of tension between schools and families is at a level that I've never seen before," said Sousa, who's been in the district for 30 years.

She said the district is in a "weird position." There are limited outside resources available and it's difficult to find people to fill open positions.

"We're teachers," Sousa said. "We cannot address all behavioral issues happening in our communities. We need parent partners. This is not our specialty and it takes a high level of competency."

After the bullet incident, Sousa said Woodstock Elementary Principal Maggie Mills met with each staff member in the building and prepared a 10-page document. Sousa said a new assistant principal will be hired at WES to help with behavioral issues.

An online survey measuring parent, student and staff perceptions surrounding students' self-worth, engagement and sense of purpose was emailed to all district parents and staff this week. Input will be taken until March 13.

# Sending signals

This past week Governor Scott held a special press conference to talk about the need to maintain the \$150 million his administration put in its budget proposal for purposes of the state share of federal infrastructure grants. Under the so-called bi-partisan infrastructure legislation approved by Congress last year, Vermont stands to receive hundreds of millions for a wide variety of improvements, like roads, bridges, water and more. Much of the new federal funding requires a 25% match from the state.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

With the luxury of a current state surplus, Scott has earmarked \$150 million to cover those matches over the next few years. On hearing that some legislative leaders are more interested in spending the set aside in other ways, such as the setup of a new paid family leave program, Scott reiterated this reserve was very important to him and to the state's economic future.

And in the same vein, the governor has said before he's reluctant to support any tax increases this session for new programs or budget increases.

While maybe not drawing a line in the sand, it does seem clear that Scott is signaling that spending the proposed \$150 million reserve in other areas or increasing taxes could result in vetoes and negative economic impacts in his view.

### Other issues of interest:

- Senator Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden Southeast, successfully led her Senate Committee to a unanimous vote on a major housing initiative, S.100. The measure includes investments in housing and regulatory changes that will allow for development of more housing projects. It will supersede local zoning that restricts multi-family homes in areas served with water and sewer. It also provides some limited exemptions from the Act 250 process for smaller housing developments.
- The Clean Heat bill, S.5, continues to come under fire in the Senate by Vermonters fearing huge spikes in the cost of heating fuels. Spurred on by the Vermont Fuel Dealers Associations and others, some Senators report getting hundreds of messages from constituents urging them to vote no on S.5.
- The House Agriculture Committee advanced a continuation of universal school meals for all students on a 9-2 vote (was funded last year out of a surplus in the Ed Fund). The legislation, H.165, as currently drafted, would pay the estimated \$29 million annual cost by increasing property taxes. However, that could change

when the bill is reviewed by the Ways & Means Committee, which might look to increase other taxes to pay for the initiative. Universal school meals refer to free lunch and breakfast for all students, regardless of family income.

- The House Health Care Committee advanced a suicide prevention bill, H.230, which requires a minimum 72-hour waiting period for purchase or transfer of firearms. The measure will likely be reviewed next by the House Judiciary Committee.
- The Senate Finance Committee approved S.45, which helps to reduce federal income taxes on certain pass-through small businesses by increasing the allowable cap on State and local tax deductions. (I co-sponsored the House version of the same legislation with Rep. Ode, D-Burlington).
- Major childcare legislation, S.56, currently under consideration, is expected to get new estimates on its costs in the coming week. The chair of Senate Health & Welfare warned that trying to make all the changes proposed in the bill all at once could prove very costly and may have to be

While maybe not drawing a line in the sand, it does seem clear that Scott is signaling that spending the proposed \$150 million reserve in other areas or increasing taxes could result in vetoes.

phased in over several years.

- On Friday, the House voted to not accept the Senate version of the mid-year budget adjustment bill and set up a conference committee of three House and three Senate members to work out differences. The Senate had reduced the level of overall spending in the bill, but also added some policy language House Appropriations found problematic.
- Under a new bill, H.372, introduced by Representatives Small, P-Winooski and Surprenant, D-Barnard, along with 12 others, prostitution would become legal in Vermont, although human trafficking would continue to be illegal.

In closing, I look forward to giving a brief legislative update at each of the town informational meetings on March 6 (Mendon, 6 p.m. at VTrans office, 61 Valley View; Killington, 7 p.m. at the Public Safety Building; and Chittenden, 7 p.m. at the Barstow School) and the Pittsfield Town Meeting on March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Rep. Jim Harrison is the state house representative for Mendon, Killington, Chittenden and Pittsfield. He can be reached by email at [JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us) or [harrisonforvermont.com](http://harrisonforvermont.com).

# New sexting prevention program debuted for middle, high school students

## Project SELFIE offers tools to better navigate digital communications

In response to a new emerging issue, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont has developed a new sexting prevention program for middle and high schoolers.

Vermont youth are sexting at a rate that may surprise many adults. According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, in 2019, 27% of Vermont high schoolers surveyed admitted to either receiving or sending a sext in the past 30 days. This activity can cause youth legal involvement, emotional upset, and social distress as well as raising their risk of experiencing sextortion — pressure by another to send explicit images or video or threats to release illicit images if more are not sent.

Youth are not prepared for the pressures to sext and face these decisions without guidance, which is risky. Parents and other concerned adults may not understand why youth would be tempted to engage in this behavior.

So, in response, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont has developed a sexting prevention program for Vermont middle and high schoolers, their parents, and the staff of their schools.

Schools have looked to PCAVT for prevention education for many decades. So, when schools became aware that sexting was an issue for their students, they called PCAVT, because it is an organization that has expertise in designing and implementing this type of prevention education.

Project SELFIE (Safe Expression onLine For Internet Empowerment) was the result. Project SELFIE is an empirically-based, developmentally appropriate

program with a curriculum for middle schoolers and another for high schoolers. Students receive two interactive presentations on how to resist the pressure to sext, how to respond to requests to sext, the steps to take if an unsolicited sext is received, and how to get adult assistance to

have healthy digital communication skills. Parents and caregivers along with educators and other professionals also receive training in how to protect youth from a range of digital risks, such as, sexting, online groomers, others who cross boundaries digitally, and online pornography. Adults learn how to open lines of communication about these topics

with youth with an understanding of adolescence as a phase of development.

Evaluation results show that students had gains in their knowledge and skills about sexting and how to avoid it. Additionally, 90% of students were satisfied with the lessons.

Parents, caregivers, as well as school faculty and staff members who attended the training felt more prepared to monitor youths' internet activities and to guide youth to healthy digital behaviors.

Adults and youth need support to navigate the new world online. Project SELFIE was developed in Vermont for our students. It gives youth a chance to speak about their experiences online and to receive support to have healthy relationships in the digital environment.

To order Project SELFIE, sign up to become a trainer, or to see if PCAVT can present the program in your school, email [mhambrick@pcavt.org](mailto:mhambrick@pcavt.org).

27% of Vermont high schoolers surveyed admitted to either receiving or sending a sext in the past 30 days.

# VPA announces its Hall of Fame Class of 2023

## Two local coaches and athletes among those selected

Two local coaches and two student athletes have been selected for induction into the Hall of Fame for the Vermont Principals' Association in May.

Since the creation of the Hall of Fame in 2001, the VPA has honored more than 280 student-athletes, coaches/advisors, administrators, officials, media members, and contributors for their efforts on behalf of students across Vermont. Below is a list of the new inductees with brief biographical information on their outstanding achievements and strong sportsmanship through involvement with VPA activities.

The VPA Hall of Fame class of 2023 will be formally inducted on Friday, May 12 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier. Social hour be-

gins at 5 p.m., a buffet dinner at 6 p.m., and the induction ceremony at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame induction dinner and ceremony can be purchased through the ticket order form on the VPA website or by calling the VPA office at 802-229-0547. Tickets are \$50 each.

Each year, nominations are accepted throughout the year from the general public to honor those that have helped with sports and activities at VPA-member schools. The VPA's Hall of Fame committee considers the nominations based on the criteria outlined on the website. For more information about the nomination process, the criteria for selection, the current listed of inductees, the committee,

VPA → 38

# Vermont



**Universal School Meals benefits students + families + teachers + schools + farmers!**

## EDITORIAL

# Is Six Peaks Village a necessary evil?

Why Article 5 is the best deal for the town and its residents

By Polly Mikula

The need for clean reliable water in Killington (and everywhere) is well understood and agreed upon by nearly everyone. The need for a village at the base of Snowshed and Ramshead is not. Whether it's preserving a long-standing routine (and parking spot) or a fear that Killington will go by the way of other "Disney-fied" resorts, some residents are understandably resistant to change.

But Article 5 is not the place to wage battle against the village. A 'no' vote is akin to shooting yourself in the foot.

Why? It comes down to this: The village will pay for the town to get clean and reliable water. Otherwise taxpayers will be stuck with the cost for some worse alternative.

Our schools (Killington Mountain School and Killington Elementary) both need water. Nearly all the businesses along Killington Road have some level of PFOAs (and the level that's currently accepted is going to decrease) and homeowners are affected by PFOAs, too.

Without clean and reliable water, we won't even be able to sustain what Killington currently has. Private systems that effectively deal with PFOAs are simply too costly for most.

With municipal water, there's also the opportunity for workforce housing — another crucial need for current and future residents as well as business owners.

A municipal water system is the only way to guarantee clean and reliable water for all who need it. Yet building one is too costly for the town's population to shoulder on its own. (Not to mention the town doesn't currently own the land where the wells with enough potential to service the area are located.)

So the town would be stuck with a big problem and a big price tag, if it weren't for a developer interested in building a village that also needs water, will give the town the land to operate the wells *and* will pay for the bulk of it.

If you hate the village plan, think of it as a necessary evil to get what we need for ourselves: water. Without the village we're stuck in decline, the tax hike necessary to fund an alternative (should one exist) is akin to shooting yourself in the foot; we'd all be hobbled.

A secondary benefit to the town and its residents is that the new village development will pay to upgrade Killington Road, making it safer and saving taxpayers from bonding those cost in the near future.

So if not Article 5, then what is the right avenue to fight the village plan, if you don't like it? First, talk to the new developer. Michael Sneyd, of Great Gulf, understands the importance of creating a village that works for *all* of Killington. He said "If we don't get the first phase right, no one will buy into future phases... we are working with the resort; we want the plans to work for everyone." Second, residents can hold them to that word with Act 250. (Phase 1 was held up for over a decade but finally passed. All future phases are yet to be permitted.)

Article 5 asks voters to approve a \$47 million bond, paid for by the tax increment on the new development (TIF), which will begin the construction of a municipal water system. Please join me in voting 'yes' and approving this unique opportunity to get a big developer to pay for our crucial infrastructure needs.

The village will pay for the town to get clean and reliable water.



Beer Not Contaminated by Gary McCoy, Shiloh, IL

## LETTERS

## Vote yes to support Castleton Community Seniors

Dear Editor,

The Castleton Community Seniors extend a sincere thank you to the voters of Castleton, Fair Haven and Hubbardton for their continued support of our senior and disabled transportation program, senior meal site, health and fitness activities and numerous other educational and recreational programs and services for the community.

This past year, our elderly and disabled transportation program provided 1,459 rides for essential transportation to doctor's appointments, physical therapy and essential food shopping. The Castleton Community Seniors transportation program helps prevent social isolation for many older adults and is a vital link to the outside world.

The Castleton Community Seniors served 1,459 congregate meals at the center and helped to distrib-

Support srs → 14

## Legislators deserve publicly funded health care coverage; so do all Vermonters

Dear Editor,

The Vermont Senate is discussing a bill, S.39, that would make state legislators eligible for the state employees' benefit plan at no cost to the legislators. It would also provide legislators with childcare reimbursement and pay for out-of-session work that is not currently compensated.

The bill's goal is to make serving in the legislature more attractive to Vermonters with young children, those with low incomes, and/or those without a source of health coverage. That makes sense. We would all benefit from having the most diverse legislature possible. And it's true that legislators work hard and put in long hours during the 4 months they serve in the legislature and that they work in an unpaid capacity for the rest of the

Public health → 14

## Teachers support mandatory finance course

Dear Editor,

We are Vermont educators who teach high school personal finance, and we are united in support of legislation that would guarantee a full-semester, stand-alone personal finance course as a graduation requirement for all Vermont students.

Why is it so important to the future of our young students? Research by Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) and others demonstrates clearly that guaranteed personal finance education leads to positive outcomes and improves lives forever.

That is why we heartily endorse H.228, which would require just such a standalone course.

The traditional approach in high school is to teach students how to manage money for companies they will work for. But our young people never learn how to manage their own money,

Learning \$ → 14

## Support TIF March 7

Dear Editor,

As principal of Killington Elementary School serving children from ages 3 and 4 in prekindergarten through grade 6, I am writing in support of a "yes" vote for Article 5 on the town of Killington's ballot on March 7.

Your "Yes" vote on Article 5 is a key component to strengthening the Killington community.

Support for the TIF is critical to moving forward with safety upgrades and community sustainability.

The Killington Road improvements will include significant safety upgrades for transportation of students to and from school.

In particular, regrading of the Killington Road will create more access for

Yes for 5 → 14

## CAPITAL QUOTES

The new Vermont State University, which is the consolidation of three colleges on July 1, announced plans to create an all-digital academic library institution, causing outcry, backlash and discussion across the nation.

**“If these cuts lead to a large exodus of students and faculty, it could be terminal for those institutions which we cherish across the state,”**

said Lt. Gov. **David Zuckerman** in a statement.

**“We have spent quite a lot of time thinking through this. If our students need physical or specialized materials, we will request them,”**

**Parwinder Grewal**, president of Vermont State University, told Inside Higher Ed.

**“I love libraries. The physical touch of a book is hard to replace,”**

**Juan Meza**, professor of applied mathematics and former dean at UC Merced, told Inside Higher Ed.

**“But the nature of higher education is that those people will move on. Two or four years from now, there’ll be a completely new generation of students, and they might find that having an all-digital library is the norm,”**

**Steven Bell**, associate university librarian at Temple University, told Inside Higher Ed.

## COMMENTARY

# VSU’s library decision: many unforced errors

By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

*Editor’s note: Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, L3C, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: lizdimarcoweinmann.com.*

Pop quiz: The story behind the Vermont State University administration’s decision to eliminate all but a few select print materials from its libraries, in favor of digitizing most content, is an example of which literary genre:

- A) flawed fable;
- B) mind-boggling mystery;
- C) chaotic comedy of errors;
- D) all of the above.

There doesn’t seem to be an easy answer because there are plenty of plot-holes in the administration’s story, and way too much “spin” – i.e., an ill-disguised attempt to substantiate a pre-ordained decision the VSU administration claims resulted from a student survey.

Having spent most of my career orchestrating strategic plans and marketing campaigns that were highly dependent on market research, I’ve seen, heard, and yes, even manufactured, my own share of spin. When pressed, even the most benevolent PhDs who run the market research departments of major corporations will cheerfully acknowledge that their main responsibility in survey design, implementation, analysis and interpretation, is to deliver the results expected by those paying for the research.

Considering my professional experiences, and therefore skepticism, regarding most market research, and the numerous books and articles I’ve read about spin, I made sure to read as many opinions as possible regarding the print-vs.-online controversy — those advocating all-digital, and those championing the retention of print. The massive amount of content about these issues could convince Sisyphus that pushing that boulder uphill for all eternity is a far better fate than sifting through all the arguments in hopes of reaching an unbiased conclusion.

The VSU library issue is not just a brouhaha taking place in dusty faculty lounges. The decision smacks of malice aforethought, motivated solely by cost cutting, rather than preserving or creating value. It is a cautionary tale that relates to what we all choose to learn through reading — why we read, how we read, and where and when we are able to read.

So, as Dorothy Parker might urge, please excuse my dust, because how VSU handled this decision can indeed affect what poet Mary Oliver calls “your one wild and precious life,” in her beautiful poem, *The Summer Day*.

To make clear, I am not engaged in any way with VSU, so what I am aware of is what several of Castleton University’s most knowledge-

able scholars have communicated in various media. They have asserted the following: the survey’s design and content were biased; the survey’s delivery and timing were flawed; therefore, the survey’s interpretation is also flawed.

Most important, the way the administration communicated its subsequent decision to digitize the libraries is a textbook case study of how not to spin trends or influence people.

With apologies to Ms. Barrett Browning, let me not only count the ways they committed these unforced errors, but also offer the following recommendations, for how they might avoid similar errors in the future:

The decision smacks of malice aforethought, motivated solely by cost cutting, rather than preserving or creating value. It is a cautionary tale...

1) VSU administrators need to recognize that their particular area of scholarship does not deem them automatic experts in forging difficult leadership decisions. Management journals are full of cautionary tales

about leaders who were technical experts in their arcane fields, but who refused to engage professionals with experience and expertise more relevant to the task at hand.

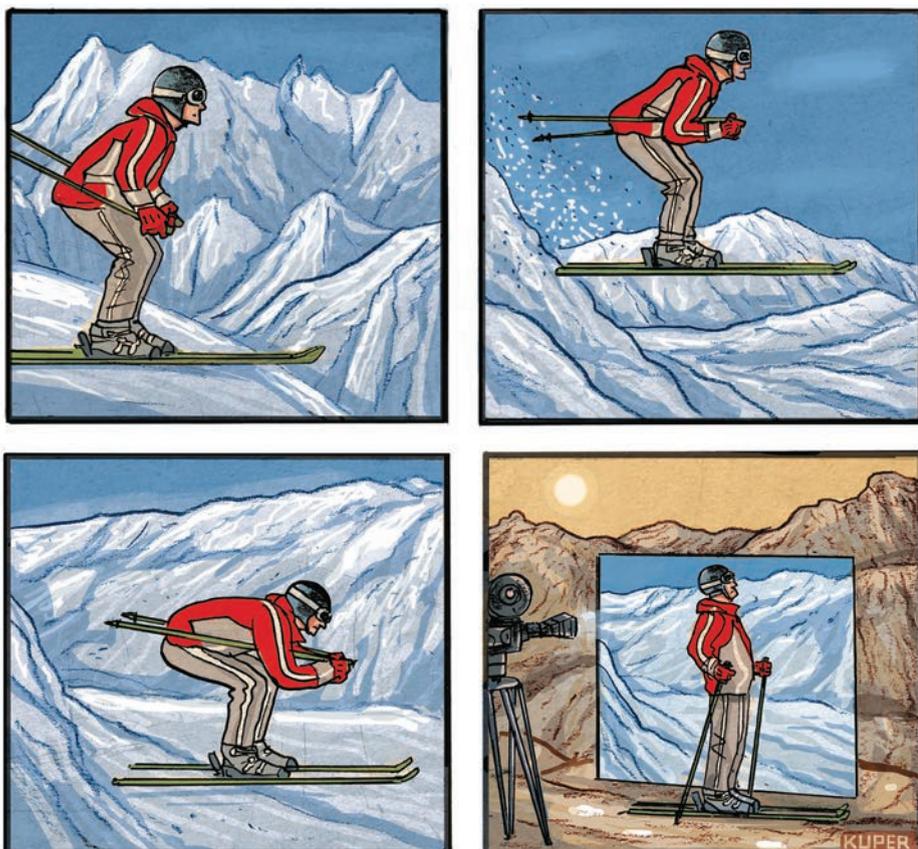
2) VSU’s administrators should consider forming a task force that includes university scholars with proven experience and expertise in business strategy. A few examples:

- If VSU administrators had engaged its finance professors for advice about computing and analyzing the specific expected financial return on investment regarding the library decision, then they might have been able to understand and communicate that information in a more credible way.
- If VSU administrators had engaged associate professor of political science Rich Clark, who according to his bio, “...has conducted well over a hundred surveys throughout his career, in almost every conceivable mode...,” they might have produced a more believable rationale for their library decision. Professor Clark’s background includes a three-year stint with Roper Research, the world’s largest public opinion data archive, and extensive experience and expertise in sampling methodology, survey development, data weighting, and data analysis.
- A consultation with Professor Michael Talbott might have yielded valuable counsel about messaging, cultivating media allies and handling difficult questions. Professor Talbott, who holds a PhD from New York University’s prestigious Tisch School of the Arts, teaches courses such as media, social activism and political action, as well as media writing. He is also an influential Rutland City alderman.

**CARTOONS**



DILBERT FIRED by Rick McKee, CagleCartoons



Ski Slopes with Climate by Peter Kuper, PoliticalCartoons

**Aldermanic candidates:** Nine candidates to appear on the ballot from page 1

appointed to the board in December to fill a seat vacated by Christopher Etori.

"There are a lot of projects going on," Cupoli said. "It's good to be part of that."

Board of Aldermen President Mike Doenges isn't seeking reelection as he campaigns for mayor against incumbent David Allaire. Thomas Franco is also not seeking reelection.

**Sherri Prouty**

Sherri Prouty, 51, has lived in Rutland for 27 years and works as a career adviser for Goodwill and a coordinator for Companions in Wholeness. She also volunteers at Turning Point to help people in recovery.

"I moved back with my husband who was born here in Rutland," she said. "I always think everyone should serve somewhere to help their community out."

Prouty unsuccessfully ran for a House seat in 2020.

"I complain a lot so I'd figured I'd get out there and do something," she said. "I'd like to be part of the thought process of wanting to stay here."

**John Cioffi, Jr.**

Newcomer John Cioffi Jr., 37, owns Black Dog Guns and Shooting Supplies, Muckenschnabel's restaurant in Rutland and part of the Cape Cod Potato Chips franchise.

He ran for Aldermen in 2021 and lost by about 300 votes in a crowded 17-candidate field.

He wants to focus more on getting Killington and Rutland to collaborate more on tourism.

"We need to do a better job of telling people from out of town we have this great little downtown with all these little stores," Cioffi said. "There are a lot of dreams but not a lot of reality."

**Carrie Savage**

Carrie Savage, 53, a seventh-generation Vermonter, works at Vermont State University as the director of planned giving. Savage has served on the Board of Aldermen for one term.

Savage said she wants to focus on blighted properties and making the TIF district a reality.

"We've got a lot of work to go," she said. "I hope to be asked to help finish."

**John McCann**

Newcomer John McCann, 38, is a hydrologist. He grew up in New Jersey before attending Green Mountain College. He moved to Rutland two years ago and got interested in watching Board of Aldermen meetings.

"I was trying to learn about what the city was doing and found that was hard to find," he said.

McCann wants to create more government transparency and will focus on "Making sure people know what the committees do and why they exist."

He also said Rutland has a reputation issue. Prior to moving here, friends questioned his decision, asking him, "Haven't you heard that's the drug capital of the world?" McCann said. "They would point out all these negative things."

McCann wants to focus on the positive aspects of Rutland.

"People don't focus on the positives as much," he said. "We've got to start making people feel more proud of Rutland and the current things that exist."

**Alex Adams**

Alex Adams, 34, works as an apprentice relay technician at Green Mountain Power.

"I'm running because we're at a critical fork in the road and I see the potential we've got," Adams said.

Adams grew up in Rutland and moved back after graduating from college. He wants to focus on the housing crisis.

"Housing is the issue at the top of my list," he said. "I feel addressing it aggressively will contribute to finding solutions to other issues we face."

**Joe Barbagallo**

Joe Barbagallo, 73, was appointed to finish out the term of Devon Neary, who resigned to become executive director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

"I found I enjoyed trying to help the city," Barbagallo said.

Barbagallo, who is retired, worked for the Center Vermont Public Service Corporation for 44 years, most recently as a power system coordinator.

He wants to improve the job market and housing problem in Rutland.

"More and more landlords are giving up their rental spaces because being a landlord is not the easiest thing in the world," he said.

**William Gillam**

William Gillam, 68, served 16 years on the board before stepping down in 2008. Gillam was appointed back to the board two terms ago and has been on the board since.

"This will be my eighth term with a little break in the middle," Gillam said.

Gillam, who is now retired, works part time for the Green Mountain Council with kids and leaders.

Gillam wants to move the TIF District forward to clean the neighborhoods up and fix the housing issues.

"This is definitely Rutland's moment," Gillam said. "That's my slogan."

He also wants to upgrade the water system and sewer pipes that have been in the ground for 150 years. "It's very important we need to get these projects completed and off the ground," he said.

**Kiana McClure**

Kiana McClure, 23, is the youngest candidate. She works as a marketing associate at Same Sun of Vermont and community outreach coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County. She is also on the board for Downtown Rutland Partnership.

McClure grew up in Rutland. She moved back to the area in 2020 and started getting more involved in the community.

"Rutland has great bones," she said. "Rutland has a lot to offer."

She wants to create a city that young people want to move to and address the housing crisis. "A lot of our community problems really stem from the lack of housing," she said.

**Thomas DePoy**

Thomas DePoy, 52, is seeking a ninth term. DePoy owns a cleaning business and works all over Rutland county.

"There's still a lot that I feel I can offer the city — experience in trying to get certain things done."

He wants to focus on allocating federal American Rescue Plan Act money and repairing the Moon Brook watershed.

"It's going to be huge for the city," he said.

**← Intersection:** Approved by the board from page 5

gin in favor of the project expressed in the 2021 Australian balloting.

The process has been contentious, including proven incorrect claims the bids would be significantly higher than the estimate and the selectmen would accept them anyway, to demands for revoting approval of the project, to claims the Select Board had misrepresented the 2021 ballot item, to one individual selectman unsuccessfully trying to delay the process. At an earlier meeting several residents, some of whom testified their disapproval, packed the Damon Hall basement.

The additional funds to cover the \$35,000 difference between the estimate and Notts's bid will, like the difference between the estimate and the most recent voted proposal, probably come from a surplus fund the town has accumulated over 15 years.

Town Manager David Ormiston said the town engineer's analysis of Notts's bid found it "legitimate," and the contractor is capable of completing the work for the price quoted.

Ormiston said the bid requests were approved by the board, and Notts's bid was submitted February 10 as prescribed. Bids are only valid for thirty days, so any delay could mean losing the opportunity to accept it.

The Select Board hopes reconfiguration of the intersection of Routes 5 and 12, as well as Quechee Road in the works since 2014, will improve both safety and aesthetics.

**← VSU:** Decision made based on misleading data from page 11

3) In the immortal words of Arthur Miller, attention must be paid. In VSU's case, the persons responsible and accountable for the library survey ignored the age-old caution that the devil is in the data. They measured the wrong information, which led to stakeholders' assertions that the administrators manipulated the data in order to substantiate their pre-ordained decisions.

4) Dismissing the reality of competition — especially since some students are threatening to transfer — is never wise. While tuition is

that VSU has deployed, is out of sync with contemporary teaching and practices in effective organizational culture. They need to listen more, acknowledge challenges, and use every opportunity to engage and communicate proactively and credibly with the media.

For a closing call-to-action that VSU's administration officials should consider, following are a few lines paraphrased from Mary Oliver's *The Summer Day*:

*Tell us, what else could you have done?*

*While everything dies at*

They measured the wrong information, which led to stakeholders' assertions that the administrators manipulated the data in order to substantiate their pre-ordained decisions.

not the only revenue stream a university needs, accreditation officials as well as the funding community could look unfavorably on VSU's situation.

5) Universities should never believe the administration is more important than faculty, program staff, students, alumni, legislators, media, and the community itself. The one-size-fits-all, top-down, omniscient mentality, strategy and messaging

*last, and too soon.*

*Tell us, what is it you plan to do*

*With your one wild and precious life...as leaders.*

If it's too much to expect that VSU's leaders will deliver a happily-ever-after for this cautionary tale, perhaps they could craft a more equitable story, one that involves proactive collaboration, genuine empathy, and sincere respect for all concerned.



Rendering courtesy of Killington Resort and Great Gulf

**← Six Peaks:** New development to add 100 buildings over 10-20 years, needed for workforce, growth from page 3

quality, attention to detail and project completion. Perhaps more importantly, President of Resort Residential Michael Sneyd, who will be overseeing the Six Peaks project, is an avid skier. He was a master ski racer and spent years as a ski instructor at Fortress Mountain in Calgary before a development job opportunity brought him back to Ontario. Living there, Killington became his home mountain.

"I spend every moment I can thinking about skiing," he said, recounting his relationship with the Killington area. "I stayed at Sunrise when it was first built, I've stayed at Trail-side and up and down Killington Road. I love Killington, it feels like home for me."

**Development of the Six Peaks Village**

A project of this magnitude will not happen overnight. The village will be under construction for years to come, with a goal of adding 100 new buildings over the next 10-20 years. All projects will be staggered as to not affect operations at Killington Resort.

Major infrastructure changes required include moving the existing Killington Road and remapping the intersection with East Mountain Road as a roundabout, allowing village access, before continuing up the mountain to K-1 and Vale. Those upper areas will remain unchanged while the lower buildings are built and only see improvements once the lower projects are completed.

Once infrastructure is in place, the first building phase will be the replacement of the Ramshead Lodge, followed by the Snowshed Lodge. The current Killington access road will be depressed, allowing guests to ski across the "beach" between the two lodges. They will also be connected by an inside walking bridge.

The new buildings [in the village] will also house condominiums and each unit created will have more than one designated underground parking spot. This will accommodate owners and overnight guests, freeing up parking for the day skiers. For each spot taken away by the new village, a new stall will be added just to the north on the access road. These new lots will allow for easy access and take advantage of the sophisticated shuttle systems Killington Resort has developed through years and used when hosting the Killington Cup and other major events.

"These two new lodges will be as equal a splash as the new K-1," Sneyd said. "Our commitment to the day skier is that the experience will be maintained in the future. Our engineers are clever and understand the ski area has to continue operating without any interruptions. We're involving all the best minds in figuring out the best way to schedule it."

Of course, the new Six Peaks Village will be for more than just skiers. Great Gulf aims to build on Killington's summer success and create a true year-round destination with the potential to grow visitation during the warmer months

to the same levels seen in the winter. That means the new village will include things such as family-oriented biking trails running through the village and around the Killington golf course. Between the lodges will be a village green in the summer and an ice-skating rink in the winter and will offer space for events and live music. There will also be additional entertainment venues, such as a water park.

"Our goal to make gathering places. It isn't just a village for people driving in and parking underground, it becomes a village for the entire community — a cool place to come and just hang out," Sneyd said.

**Workforce housing**

Of course, a luxury village cannot function without people to operate all the aforementioned amenities. Many new jobs will be created, and it's no secret the Killington region is currently lacking in affordable workforce housing. So, the village project is happening in conjunction with another development made possible by the town of Killington itself.

The town has already invested some \$100,000 [with the option to] purchase 70 acres just off the Access Road for potential development of 250-300 units zoned for workforce housing. These multi-family and single-family dwellings will all be serviced from the municipal water system, which will begin upon the successful passage of Article 5 on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday March 7.

The Killington Selectboard will work directly with a third party organization (like the Housing Trust of Rutland County) to ensure these new units can never become short-term rentals — there will be federally mandated restrictions in place to ensure salary qualifications are met for all units.

The town has also applied for a RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant through the U.S. Dept. of Transportation to help perform necessary upgrades to Killington Road including adding sidewalks and lengthening and leveling out the landing pad at the intersection with Route 4. When completed, many of the current issues faced in the area should be resolved.

Killington Resort and the town of Killington are proud to be working in unison to see this project become a reality and improve the area for current residents and visitors as well as those visiting in the future. As such, everyone involved in this project, including Killington President and General Manager Mike Solimano, encourages all registered voters in the town of Killington to go to the polls on March 7, 2023.

"The vote has to go through for this to happen or it will be tabled for another 30 years," Solimano said. "If the vote is yes, new parking lots will start being built as soon as this summer."

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

**Growth:** Town of Killington asks votes to approve plans for growth: general fund budget, acquisition of new building for town hall and TIF bond for municipal infrastructure from page 1

which about 3,000 square feet is occupied by the post office. "So we'll have the other much-needed 8,000 square feet for the new town hall," Haff said.

The town plans to occupy all of that space.

When asked why the town needs a new town hall, Selectman Chris Karr explained at a public hearing that this has been part of the town's sustainable budget plan for at least five years. But that the plan had called for the town to find land on which to build.

"After our experience with the public safety building we know how much that can cost... when this building came up for sale for a quarter of what we would have otherwise had to spend, we thought it was the smartest path forward."

"We all know land is expensive, and building is expensive — like \$400 a square foot these days," Selectman Jim Haff added. "The purchase of this building is under \$100 a square foot."

The town has also outgrown its current building, according to Haff, who is also the interim zoning administrator for the town.

"The town is growing, programs are growing, and there are stricter requirements for record keeping — all that requires more space," he said, adding by way of example, "I share a table with the planning person, Development Review Board (DRB), and short term rental administrator, we're just running out of space."

While the current building is "outdated for the requirements we need at town hall," it is "a perfect fit for the plans we have for a growing rec department and can also offer space for seniors, and space for historians to keep their records and hold meetings," Haff said.

Preliminary plans for repurposing the current town hall call for the basement area to be used for recreation

activities (including the rain location for summer camps). The right side of the upstairs (the current clerk's office) could become the recreation department administration area with the vaults repurposed for use by the historians, who have already officially requested it for their artifacts. The left side of the upstairs (where the town manager and planning admin offices currently are) could become space for seniors.

"I hope you see the value in passing this article as I do," Haff concluded.

**Article 5**

Article 5 asks voters to consider a \$47 million bond for municipal infrastructure (water and road) to be paid for through tax increment financing (TIF).

The select board has held two public hearings on this article, plus an additional hearing on the workforce housing plan off Nanak Way (which is contingent on municipal water). "I sincerely hope, at this point, that everyone has a very good idea of what TIF is and sees the opportunity for us to use it as

a financing tool to get necessary municipal infrastructure without having to use municipal taxes to pay for it all," Haff said.

While the town's proposal to the state for a TIF district was predicated on municipal infrastructure (water and road) being necessary to spur the Six Peaks Village development; it'll ultimately be that development that pays for most of the water and road infrastructure that's crucial for the town.

It's not just necessary for growth but also for sustainability, according to the town.

"Forget about the growth part," Haff said. "We can't even sustain our current businesses without clean water..."

"Forget about the growth part," Haff said. "We can't even sustain our current businesses without clean water."

and our schools need clean water and there are affected residents ... we simply need clean water; and we can't afford the project without TIF"

The possibility to develop workforce housing is also predicated on a water system. Housing trusts have three requirements before they'll consider a site qualified for workforce housing: a suitable building site, sewer, and water, according to Mary Cohen of the Housing Trust of Rutland County.

"We have identified a piece of land suitable for this project [70 acres off Nanak Way] and it is accessible by existing municipal sewer," Haff said. "Now we just need Article 5 to pass in order to get municipal water."

"The Killington Select Board doesn't want to be like other ski resorts where workers have to live multiple towns away and commute to work," Haff added.

**Summary: what's the affect on taxes**

If all three articles pass on Town Meeting Day, the municipal tax rate will remain about even compared to the current rate due to revenues offsetting additional costs.

The \$47 million TIF bond (Article 5) does not affect the municipal tax rate as the bond payments will be covered over time by the increased tax increment of the Village property as guaranteed by Great Gulf in the development agreement.

"Even if Great Gulf or Powdr was to walk away or sell, the agreement follows the land which will retain its value," Haff explained, calling the development agreement "bullet proof."

"Long story short, municipal taxes will remain flat even with the purchase of the post office building and TIF is not going to affect your taxes and it's going to vastly improve our municipal infrastructure," Haff summarized. "Down the road, when more housing is built, it will further increase the grand list and that has the potential to actually decrease future municipal tax rates."

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The board of **Killington Pico Area Association** supports

**Article 5**

Please  
**Vote YES**  
on March 7th

Move Killington forward  
**#onekillington**

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Kelsey Cruickshank  
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Krista Mosher  
Mike Drayton



Courtesy Okemo

The Lower Pomalift, later known as the Yellow Poma, as it looked on Feb. 18, 1956, Okemo's first season.



Courtesy Okemo

The Red Poma as seen March 24, 1956.

**← A look back at Okemo:** The family friendly ski resort in Ludlow had humble beginnings. Skiers started using the mountain in the 1930s from page 6

out deficits and the need for \$8 million in improvements. Stymied, the board of directors faced standing still and losing Okemo's competitive edge or moving forward with a new owner with the means to make the necessary changes. To go from a shareholder-owned ski area to a private one was seen as a necessary sacrifice; a way to fulfill the mountain's potential to be one of New England's finest family resorts.

**Big dreams realized**

Okemo was the longest most successful community-owned and supported Vermont area before it changed hands in 1982. The Muellers acquired the area having seen "a diamond-in-the-rough" and "the potential for Okemo to be a major New England destination resort."

With experience in building homes in Vermont as well as in operating and enlarging a beach resort in the Caribbean, they spruced up the area, promised a new lift for the 1983-84 season,

and instilled in staff the importance of customer service. They placed a priority on great customer service in the early 1980s as a way to make a difference in guest experiences as they proceeded on a path of lift upgrades and mountain expansion. They put a priority on grooming and snowmaking — a snow-making pond for water storage was built in 1990 — and Okemo gained a reputation for having good, reliable conditions.

The area increased its daycare options, expanded family and ski school programs, added more packages, and catered to youngsters with a halfpipe (the first in Vermont) and new terrain parks. When guests requested high speed detachable quads for Solitude Peak and South Face, Okemo obliged.

Okemo became a true year-round destination resort with the addition of the Jackson Gore slopeside village. The Inn, outdoor pool, condos, Roundhouse (cafeteria that converts to an impressive banquet facility), Spring House (aquatic, fit-

ness facility), and Ice House (skating, summer tennis facility) along with the close-by Okemo golf course (winter Nordic skiing, snowshoeing) further enhanced its appeal and reputation.

Little wonder then that when looking to expand to the East, Vail Resorts made a surprise offer to purchase the area in 2018. While Covid delayed some plans, the new ownership carried on the innovative approach by offering Epic passes and continued the improvement focus by replacing the Jackson Gore bubble quad with a new six-seat detachable lift and the Green triple with the bubble quad renaming the Evergreen lift.

Vail Resorts' vision of providing "epic experiences" is in line with that of the founders when they envisioned Okemo as a great family mountain. Ironically, the parent is once again a shareholder-owned company — albeit a larger one with 40 mountains worldwide.



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 <p><b>JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$49<sup>69</sup></b> SAVE \$9.30</p>	 <p><b>ABSOLUT VODKA</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$36<sup>99</sup></b> SAVE \$6.00</p>	 <p><b>HENDRICK'S GIN</b> 750ML</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$36<sup>99</sup></b> SAVE \$4.00</p>	 <p><b>MAKER'S MARK BOURBON WHISKEY</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$54<sup>99</sup></b> SAVE \$3.00</p>	 <p><b>CANADIAN HUNTER</b> 1.75L</p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$13<sup>99</sup></b> SAVE \$3.00</p>

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# MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

### Support srs: from page 10

ute 6,525 home-delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels program. In addition to providing healthy, nutritious hot meals, the Senior Meals program offers an important socialization opportunity.

In addition to nine wellness classes, we offer eight different group activities that provide opportunities for socialization, a key element in reducing loneliness and depression for older adults.

Castleton, Hubbardton and Fair Haven residents, please vote yes to support the valuable programs and services offered by the Castleton Community Seniors at the polls on Tuesday, March 7. If you cannot vote in person, be sure to call your town office and request an absentee ballot.

Thank you.  
**Jo Ann Riley,**  
 Director, Castleton Community Seniors

### Public health: Cost free health care is needed for all Vermonters from page 10

year. Their salaries are relatively low, they receive no help with childcare, and they must count on getting health coverage through other sources, if that is available to them.

So, I have no objection to providing legislators with publicly funded comprehensive health care coverage for themselves and their families. But I can't for the life of me understand why those benefits shouldn't extend to all Vermonters.

I say so having watched the Senate Government Operations committee hearing this week at which several legislators testified as to why health coverage should be offered to them, free of charge, and why this bill should move forward. The reasons offered apply to most Vermonters, not just legislators. People are having to stay in jobs they don't like or decline jobs they

do want based on whether the jobs did or did not offer health care coverage.

They outlined many of the reasons why legislators decided to serve only because they were able to secure health care in some other way, like a spouse who has good health insurance through their job, or from the employer for whom they worked when the legislature was not in session. Again, these are problems many Vermonters deal with on a continuing basis. In fact, 44% of all Vermonters with health insurance under the age of 65 are under-insured - a major illness would lead to financial bankruptcy. Many people in this position avoid care, leading to worsening health and even premature death.

The final irony of S39 is that it is being swiftly moved along in the legislative process, unlike legislation that

would apply to all Vermonters. Another bill, H.156, that would implement publicly funded health care for all Vermonters starting with primary care, is being completely ignored by health care leadership.

And this bill has 59 legislative sponsors. Backers of this bill were told "we don't have time to take it up" among a whole host of other excuses.

Yet it appears they have time to work on legislation to extend publicly funded health care to themselves. And if S39 passes the legislators would all be eligible for cost-free health care by January 2024.

Too bad the same cannot be said for the rest of Vermonters.

*Deb Richter, Montpelier*  
 Editor's note: *Deb Richter is a practicing family physician and addiction medicine specialist.*

### Learning \$: Teachers advocate for learning personal finance in high schools from page ?

and their parents often are not money-savvy either, since they also were not taught personal finance.

In 2023, we believe that all high school graduates must be financially literate, whether they are headed to college, work or the military after graduation.

We are fortunate to be in schools that have a guaranteed personal finance course. Many of us have designed our own lessons and materials, but now, free curricula, lesson plans and other resources are available online through non-profits like NGPF.

Some high schools have partnered with the Community College of Vermont to attract students to the class who were college bound and had busy schedules. Now they can take the class and obtain college credit.

Our students think they will be rich if they earn \$40,000 a year when they graduate. In our classes, we help them to realize how expensive their dream lifestyles are. Such reality checks force them to question decisions in their near futures, like college majors, job salaries, the cost of credit and more.

You would not believe how often we hear from stu-

dents and their parents that our course has changed the direction of students' lives for the better. And as teachers, we learn too. After all, we have household budgets, kids to send to college and retirement to think about.

Not long ago, a report showed that parents would rather talk to their kids about sex than about money. Personal finance classes make talking about money at the dinner table the new normal. Students in our classes use math, reading and language skills while working on monthly budgets and retirement plans. What could be more important today?

Many of Vermont's educators have become confident teaching personal finance through free training provided by Champlain College's Center for Financial Literacy, NGPF or other organizations like the JumpStart Coalition.

So we have confident, trained teachers, free curriculum and with innovative ideas, we can make room for high school personal finance. There is no reason not to move forward.

The good news is that teachers, administrators and legislators across the nation are passionately

advocating for this change. As of this writing, 17 states have passed legislation guaranteeing full-semester personal finance courses, and NGPF reports that there are currently 74 bills in 21 other states, including Vermont, in process.

We hope all states, including Vermont, adopt a guaranteed high school course. It's an especially important issue in many black and brown school districts, where access to personal finance learning is more limited than in whiter, more affluent districts.

Personal finance is a critical skill that perhaps more than any course sets students up to succeed in life. We never have to explain to our students why the course is important. They get it. Let's make sure all Vermont high school students get it.

*Courtney Poquette, Winooski High School, Winooski*  
*Mary Brouillette, Bellows Free Academy, St. Albans*  
*Bob Fredette, Lamoille Union High School, Hyde Park*  
*Angela Pandis, Missisquoi Valley Union HS/MS, Swanton*  
*Drew Gordon, South Burlington High School, Burlington*

### Yes for 5: from page 10

students to be transported by bus to and from school, thereby decreasing the necessity for individual households to drive their children to school.

The addition of sidewalks, a bike path, and improved lighting will also provide a safe route to school for young children, as well as other pedestrians, who are able to walk or ride bicycles to school. Not only will these opportunities help to cut down on the carbon footprint of school transportation, students will also be able to experience how they can be part of the solutions to climate change.

Article 5 also supports a viable water source, which is a necessary prerequisite to the construction of workforce housing.

The ability to attract and retain professional educators and quality staff at Killington Elementary School is directly dependent upon available and affordable housing in this region.

Your "Yes" vote on Article 5 is a key component to strengthening the Killington community.  
*Mary Guggenberger,*  
 Principal, Killington Elementary School

**WORDPLAY**

'EMPLOYEE BENEFITS' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

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

- |          |              |          |            |           |
|----------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| COMMUTE  | HEADQUARTERS | MEETING  | RAISE      | TIMECLOCK |
| COMPUTER | HIRE         | OFFICE   | RESOURCES  | TRAINING  |
| COWORKER | HOURS        | PAYCHECK | ROLE       | WORK      |
| DEGREE   | INTERVIEW    | POSITION | SUPERVISOR |           |
| EMPLOYEE | JOB          | PROGRESS |            |           |

**SUDOKU**

Solutions → 29

**How to Play**

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

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

Level: Intermediate

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

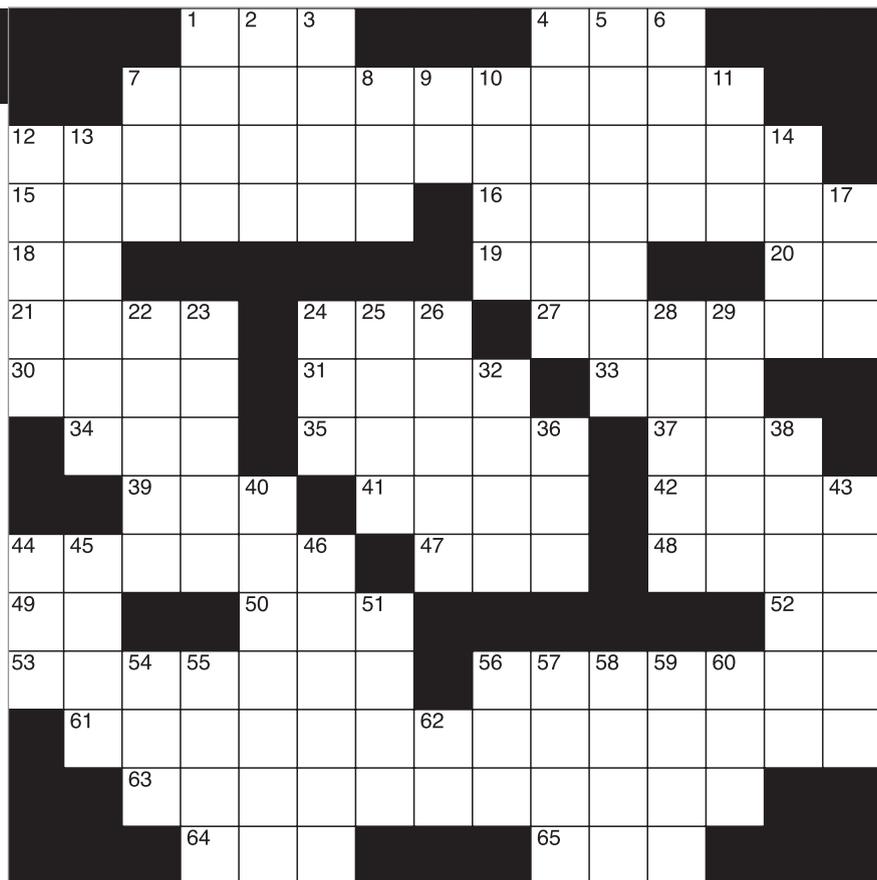
Solutions → 29

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Relaxing place
4. Plant by scattering
7. A type of explorer
12. Unique traits
15. Lady
16. Dismayed
18. Railway
19. Type of whale
20. Sodium
21. Manning and Lilly are two
24. Where golfers begin
27. Entrapped
30. Influential punk artist
31. Hebrew calendar month
33. Car mechanics group
34. Undesirable rodent
35. Minneapolis suburb
37. Witch
39. Get free of
41. A written proposal or reminder
42. British School
44. Country on west coast of Africa
47. Cool!
48. Information
49. \_\_\_ route
50. Jim Nantz's network
52. Something to

**CLUES DOWN**

1. A person with unusual powers of foresight
2. Single sheet of glass
3. Portrays a character
4. Expresses happiness
5. Acquires
6. "The Martian" author
7. Degree
8. 60-minute intervals
9. A detective's pal
10. Group of nations (abbr.)
11. Popular Georgia rockers
12. Fencing swords
13. Basement
14. Samoan monetary unit
17. Male parent
22. Finnish lake
23. A smooth fabric
24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
26. Very willing
28. Expressed pleasure
29. Lasso
32. Hindu model of ideal man
36. Move your head in approval
38. Ill-\_\_\_: gained illegally
40. Die
43. Accused publicly
44. Precious stone
45. Individual thing or person
46. Behaved in a way that degraded
51. Derogatory term
54. No seats available
55. Liability
56. Popular beverage
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Troubles
60. Negative
62. Camper



*Guess Who?*

I am a professional makeup artist born in the Netherlands on March 2, 1994. I joined YouTube in 2008 after being inspired by other online makeup artists. I joined Colourfool Agency in 2011, and now have more than 14 million subscribers on my YouTube channel.

Answer: Nikkie de Jager

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## WEDNESDAY MARCH 1

### Woman's Nordic Ski Skate Clinics

9-10:30 a.m. Woodstock Nordic Center lodge at Woodstock Inn & Resort, 14 The Green, Woodstock. \$25 daily drop-in rate or \$115 for a 5-session punch-card. Intermediate to advanced skiers looking to improve their skate skiing. For more info call 802-457-6674 or email xcski@woodstockinn.com.

### Early Literacy Playgroup

10 a.m.-noon. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. A fun playgroup for your 2-5 year old. Miss Allie, a certified teacher, hosts.

### Union Arena's upcoming public skating

4:30-6 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 ages 13 & up; \$5 ages 4-12; Free ages 3 & under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions.

### Name that Fish Stew! Cooking Class

7-10 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$95. Chef Ted will teach the skills to create a delicious New England seafood stew with shellfish and vegetables. For more info visit [odysseysvt.com](http://odysseysvt.com)

## THURSDAY MARCH 2

### Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Road, Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday. For more info call Pat 802-422-3368.

### Circle of Parents

10 a.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual. Circle of Parents is a professionally facilitated, peer led self-help support group for parents and other caregivers. Participants meet weekly for 60-90 minutes online in virtual meetings. For more info and to join a group contact Amber at [amenard@pcavt.org](mailto:amenard@pcavt.org) or 802-498-0603.

### Storytime at Rutland Free Library

10 a.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Storytime promotes early literacy and socialization skills in a fun setting. Each session might offer stories, movement, and an activity. No registration required, free and open to all. Fox Room, Geared towards ages 2-5. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit: [sherburnelibrary.org](http://sherburnelibrary.org).

### Union Arena's upcoming Public Skating

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$6 Ages 13-up \$5/Ages 4-12 FREE/Ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions.

### Ukelele group

12-1 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street in Rutland. Free. Meet on Thursdays as musician Steven Wilson leads attendees through specific sheet music. All levels welcome. This is not a class, but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register: [chaffeeartcenter.square.site](http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site) or call 802-775-0356.

### Tomasio: "Abstractions of a Metaphorical World"

12-6 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row in Rutland. Free. Thomas Hacker or Tomasio's robust energetic acrylic paintings explode off the canvas in every imaginable hue. These multilayered works ask the viewer to find the organization and abstract forms shifting in the pigment. For more info visit: [castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries](http://castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries)

### Drive-up pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St. in Rutland. \$3.50 donation ages 65+, \$6 fee under age 65. Reservations required. Godnick Center, in partnership with Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging and Meals on Wheels, is providing drive-up pick-up meals on Mondays and Thursdays at noon at the Godnick Center. For more info. visit: [namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups](http://namivt.org/support/peer-support-groups).

### Circle of Parents in Recovery

3 p.m. Virtual. Free. Support group meets weekly online on Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. For more info visit: [pcavt.org](http://pcavt.org).

### NAMI Connection peer support group

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

### Circle of Parents for Grandparents

4 p.m. Virtual. Free. Meets weekly online. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: [pcavt.org](http://pcavt.org).

### Yoga with Kellie

4-5 p.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Kellie for yoga weekly in the Fox Room. For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

### Kids Handbuilding with Clay

4-5:30 p.m. Chaffee Art Center on 16 South Main St. in Rutland. \$50 for the 2 classes. Students will learn to create with clay. After the project is kiln fired, they will learn how to finish the piece. Both classes needed to produce a finished piece. [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### VINS: A Forest of Lights

5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit: [vinsweb.org](http://vinsweb.org).

### Adult Handbuilding with Clay

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center on 16 South Main St. in Rutland. \$60 for 2 classes. Students will learn to create with clay on March 2. After the project is kiln fired, they will learn how to finish the piece on March 9. Both classes needed to produce a finished piece. Must pre-register at: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Open gym: basketball

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card at the door. Open gym will run until March. Thursdays will be basketball. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: [Killingtonvt.myrec.com](http://Killingtonvt.myrec.com).

## FRIDAY MARCH 3

### Slash and Berm Banked Slalom

8:30 a.m. The Stash terrain park at Killington Ski Resort. Cost ranges from \$25-\$60. Killington Resort, Darkside Snowboards, and Burton are teaming up once again for the 9th annual Slash & Berm Banked Slalom. Snowboarders will gather at The Stash terrain park in Killington to take advantage of the natural terrain and all the creative elements the mountain has to offer for a great cause. This year's event will benefit Ryan Manning to help with his medical bills and care for the journey ahead. For more info visit: [killington.com](http://killington.com).

### Art Adventure for ages 2-5

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. in Rutland. 4 Classes for \$60 or \$20 per class. Let's have an adventure with the arts! During each class, students will create an art project based on adventure into the land of Book Nook Discovery! One free book will be given every 2 weeks thanks to our partners at the Rutland Free Library. Adults may accompany children under the age of 4. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### All About the Arts

11 a.m.-Noon on Fridays. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St. in Rutland. Free for ages 3-5. Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more! One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week. For more info visit: [chaffeeartcenter.org](http://chaffeeartcenter.org).

### Tomasio: "Abstractions of a Metaphorical World"

12-6 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row in Rutland. Free. Thomas Hacker or Tomasio's robust energetic acrylic paintings explode off the canvas in every imaginable hue. These multilayered works ask the viewer to find the organization and abstract forms shifting in the pigment. For more info visit: [castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries](http://castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries)



## OWL PROWL AT VINS SATURDAY AT 5:30

### Union Arena's upcoming Public Skating

3-4:10 p.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Cost is \$6 for ages 13-up; \$5/ages 4-12; free for ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions.

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### Owl Prowl at VINS

5:30-7 p.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way in Quechee. General public \$13.50 / VINS members \$11.50 Explore the natural world as we snowshoe the beautiful trails at the VINS Nature Center and prowl for owls. Find out "Hooos" out there making raucous noises in the nighttime forest and discover the secret life of New England's nocturnal residents. We encourage participants to bring a flashlight/headlamp and dress in layers. Complimentary snowshoes available. Please pre-register. For more information, call 802-359-5000 or email: [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org).

### That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

7-10 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. Come have a fun cooking party workshop! We'll greet you with a warm welcome at our mountain top retreat which, wherever you look, has views and picturesque vignettes. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. We'll use mostly organic and regional ingredients that hail mainly from nearby Vermont farms. BYOB and eat what you make! Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / [info@odysseysvt.com](mailto:info@odysseysvt.com).

## SATURDAY MARCH 4

### Slash and Berm Banked Slalom

8:30 a.m. The Stash terrain park at Killington Ski Resort. Cost ranges from \$25-\$60. Killington Resort, Darkside Snowboards, and Burton are teaming up once again for the 9th annual Slash & Berm Banked Slalom. Snowboarders will gather at The Stash terrain park in Killington to take advantage of the natural terrain and all the creative elements the mountain has to offer for a great cause. This year's event will benefit Ryan Manning to help with his medical bills and care for the journey ahead. For more info visit: [killington.com](http://killington.com).

**Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 18

### Build your own ukelele at The Mint

9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Mint Makerspace, 112 Quality Ln. in Rutland. Cost (includes materials): Members \$500; Non-members \$600. This is a beginning-level workshop for folks who want to experience the joy and personal satisfaction of building your own concert ukulele. This is a four-session class, taking place on Saturdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25. (brown bag lunch) For more info visit: rutlandmint.org/events.

### Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 92, Rutland. Free. The Vermont Farmers Market is one of the largest and most diverse farmers' markets in Vermont, and the first to operate 52 weeks out of the year. The farmers market bring together as many as 60 vendors. With a seasonal variety of produce, local grass-fed meat, eggs, artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, jellies and jams, maple products, honey, CBD products, delicious hot foods, wine and spirits, artisan crafts and more, the Winter Market is a great place to shop, eat and visit. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

### Rutland Railroad Museum & model club

11 a.m.-1 p.m. 79 Depot Lane (off Route 4) Center Rutland. Free. Children of all ages will delight in the HO scale model railroad operating display (HO is a rail transport modeling scale using a 1:87 scale). The depot is now a museum that displays hundreds of rare or antique model trains, photographs, signs and diverse memorabilia saved from an earlier time, including the former Rutland Railroad caboose #45. For more info visit: rutlandrailway.org.

### Nuno Felting with Mallory Zondag

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave., Suite E in Rutland. Cost is \$170. Learn the art of Nuno Felting during this day long intensive workshop with Mallory Zondag. Nuno felting is the art of felting wool fibers into a silk background, allowing for free-flowing creativity when arranging your wool fibers along with silk fibers and others to make organic patterns, textures, and images. Using a variety of nuno felting techniques, we will create a felted wall hanging during this workshop. Two pieces of silk will be made available for each student to create two individual hangings. All materials are included in the cost of the workshop. For more info visit: greenmountainfibers.com.

### Tomasio: "Abstractions of a Metaphorical World"

12-6 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row in Rutland. Free. Thomas Hacker or Tomásio's robust energetic acrylic paintings explode off the canvas in every imaginable hue. These multilayered works ask the viewer to find the organization and abstract forms shifting in the pigment. For more info visit: castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries

### Learn to Spin

1-4 pm Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 259 Woodstock Ave., Rutland. Cost is \$50. Join Marilyn Brandner, of Mount Nickwackett Sheep Farm and Pride of Vermont, to learn how to spin your own yarn. Spinning wheels and supplies will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own wheel if you have one. Class is limited to 3 students, so there will be plenty of individualized attention. Cost includes all materials. Preregistration is required. More info: greenmountainfibers.com.

### The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

12-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. BYOB and eat what you make! Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseventsvt.com

### VINS: A Forest of Lights

5-7 p.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. \$10/adults. \$5/youth (4-17). The VINS Forest Canopy Walk and surrounding woodland will take on a festive look and feel this winter. Covered in thousands of lights, the Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the immersive forest of lights and experience the peace and wonder of the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

### Rockstar and Rails: Okemo Parks Rail Jam

6-9 p.m. Okemo Clock Tower Base & The Bull Restaurant and Bar. Free. Join us for Rockstar and Rails! A competition including insane fun, prizes, music, food and drinks under the lights. Our Okemo Parks team is putting together a unique set-up in the Clock Tower base to showcase advanced riding abilities from competitors all over. Enjoy the hype all weekend long with the Rockstar team onsite at Okemo with a variety of athletes, product samples, and a chance to win some cool prizes. If you have any questions, please reach out to Okemoinfo@vailresorts.com.

### Hands-on Hand-made Pasta Lesson

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners Bridgewater. Cost is \$85. Learn how to make three different types of pasta: tortellini, fettuccini, and ravioli plus three different fillings and three accompanying sauces. BYOB and eat what you make! Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseventsvt.com

### The Benderz: Live at the Wobbly Barn

9 p.m. The Wobbly Barn in Killington. Cover charge may be required for entry. The Benderz are a touring cover band based out of Philadelphia. Playing music to thousands of fans all over the country, every show that they play is a high-energy event! The Benderz are a well-schooled, committed, and highly professional attraction. Off-stage, The Benderz are practically "family." They constantly welcome new fans with open arms and rocking performances. For more info visit: Killington.com.

## SUNDAY MARCH 5

### Slash and Berm Banked Slalom

8:30 a.m. The Stash terrain park at Killington Ski Resort. Cost ranges from \$25-\$60. Killington Resort, Darkside Snowboards, and Burton are teaming up once again for the 9th Annual Slash & Berm Banked Slalom. Snowboarders will gather at The Stash terrain park in Killington to take advantage of the natural terrain and all the creative elements the mountain has to offer for a great cause. This year's event will benefit Ryan Manning to help with his medical bills and care for the journey ahead. For more info visit: killington.com.

### Union Arena's upcoming Public Skating

10:10 a.m.-11:20 a.m. Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Cost is \$6 for ages 13-up; \$5/ages 4-12; free/ages 3-under. Rental Skates available! \$6/pair. Your chance to enjoy ice skating at Union Arena Skating Rink. For more info visit: unionarena.org/public-skate-sessions.

### The Soufflé Also Rises and Apple-Tart Cooking Class

Noon-3 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Learn how to make our un-classic fallen soufflé. First, we handle the classic combo of Vermont dairy and eggs in an unclassic "fallen" soufflé. Then with apples from local orchards, you'll learn to make a light and delicious apple tart with Vermont maple cream. If it's sugaring season we may even walk to our neighbor's shack to see some of the processes. BYOB and eat what you make! Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseventsvt.com.

### Open gym: intermediate/advanced pickleball

2-4 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Sundays will be pickleball (for intermediate/advanced level players). The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

### The 14th annual Thrive Center Yoga Sampler & More

3-4:30 p.m. Petra's Wellness Studio in the Howe Center, 1 Scale Ave. Building 18, 2nd Floor, Rutland. Cost is \$20. The offering is: "A Preamble: Spring Equinox Yoga Soiree." The Instructor is: Petra O'Neill, LMT, RYT. Open to all levels, this 75 minute, Kripalu yoga session will be sprinkled with Meditation; Hands-On Reiki Energy Intermezcos by The Thrive Center's Lisa M. Donohue, MA, LMT; Skin Spritz Refreshes & Tips; and tea. RSVP at: petraswellnessstudio@gmail.com. For more info contact: Lisa Donohue: 802-446-2499, thrive@vermontel.net.

### That's Amore! Pizza & Calzone Cooking Class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$80. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. Come have a fun cooking party workshop! We'll greet you with a warm welcome at our mountain top retreat which, wherever you look, has views and picturesque vignettes. Award-winning Chef Ted will then lead a hands-on pizza and calzone-making class. We'll use mostly organic and regional ingredients that herald mainly from nearby Vermont farms. BYOB and eat what you make! Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / info@odysseventsvt.com.

## MONDAY MARCH 6

### Babies and Toddler Rock

10-10:30 a.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free and open to all. A music and pre-literacy program for children 0-24 months with Linda McFarlane. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### A Community of Parents

10 a.m. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum, 11 Center St. in Rutland. Free. The community meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum. Snacks provided, siblings welcome. Find connection, education, and a community to share with. They're here to support you during the transition of adding a new baby or child to your family - or whenever you need a community of parents to listen! All parents including expecting parents and caregivers welcome. For more info visit bit.ly/frontlineworkerssupport.

### Killington Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. In the meeting room at Sherburne Memorial Library. Weights provided. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

### Drive-up pick-up meals

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

### Bingo

1:15 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street in Rutland. Cost varies. Come play bingo at the Godnick Center in Rutland on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. This is a drop-in activity.

### "The Chosen" video/discussion series

5:30-7 p.m. Christ the King Church on Engram Ave. in Rutland. Free. The series will start with a weekly showing of "The Chosen." This is a historical drama series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. After the viewing there will be time for discussion regarding the film. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Charlotte Gillam at: cgillam66@gmail.com for more info.

### Knit Night

6 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Bring your knitting, or other handicraft, and enjoy an evening of crafting and socializing. For all ages and experience levels. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

### Gourmet Cookbook Club

6 p.m. Maclure Library, 840 Arch Street in Pittsford. Join our new gourmet cookbook club! Beat end-of-winter "blahs" by bringing a covered dish to cookbook club. For those wishing a recipe, check out "The Big Book of Casseroles." The sky's the limit on this one, as long as the food is in a dish and covered. For more info visit: MaclureLibrary.org.

### Open gym: indoor soccer

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run Mondays until March for indoor soccer. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20 at the door. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.

### NAMI Connection peer support group

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

### "Toto: The Dogz of Oz" World Tour at Paramount Theatre

7:30 p.m. Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St. in Rutland. Cost is \$69.50-\$89.50 + tax/fees. Toto, with now 40+ years together and literally thousands of credits, are the benchmark by which many artists base their sound and are one of the few '70s bands that have endured the changing trends and styles continuing to remain relevant while enjoying their multi-generational global fan base. For more info visit: paramountvt.org

## TUESDAY MARCH 7

### Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Road in Mendon. Free. Join Mendon Seniors for their bone building session every Tuesday and Thursday.

### Stories on a string

10 a.m. Fox Room Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join Ms. Helen of Green Mountain Music, for interactive storytelling, folk tales, and songs for all ages! No registration required, free and open to all. Geared for ages 2 and up. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### Dolly Parton Imagination Library meeting

2-3:30 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St. in Rutland. Free. Dolly Parton Imagination Library mails FREE books once a month to children ages 0-5 to support early literacy. This program operates with the support of Rutland Free Library and many many caring volunteers and donors. Parents can enroll at: imaginationlibrary.com. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

**Calendar:** Email [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info) from page 19

### Chess Club

4 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St. in Rutland. Free. Like chess? Come challenge an opponent to a friendly game and hone your skills. To register call 802-855-4533.

### Circle of Parents in Recovery

5:30 p.m. Virtual. Free. Virtual support group. Run by Prevent Child Abuse VT. For more info visit: [pcavt.org](http://pcavt.org).

### Grief support

6 p.m. VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office at 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland and virtually. Free. The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region. (VNAHSR) will provide grief support services both in-person and virtually every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. at the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Rutland office on 7 Albert Cree Drive. Led by Spiritual and Bereavement Coordinator, Collin Terenzini. Space is limited. For more info visit: [vermontvisitingnurses.org](http://vermontvisitingnurses.org).

### Learn to create top-notch veggie dishes, cooking class

6:30-9:30 p.m. Bridgewater Corners, Bridgewater. Cost is \$75. Award-winning chef shows you how to create beautiful veggie dishes. Perfect for vegans—or carnivores looking for special accompaniments! Learn hands-on how to prepare beautiful vegetable dishes. This is a perfect class for vegetarians or vegans who want to learn how to make special dishes and for carnivores who are looking for unique vegetable accompaniments—and for everyone a delightful lunch or light supper. BYOB and eat what you make! Call or email us to discuss. 802-342-1513 / [info@odysseyeventsvt.com](mailto:info@odysseyeventsvt.com).

### Swing dancing class

6:30-8 p.m. Fox Room Rutland Free Library 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. East Coast swing dancing is back! Come move to music with Richard and Sue every Tuesday. Good for beginners and intermediate swing dancers. Richard starts each class with instruction on steps; the rest is the dancing! For more info visit: [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org).

### Castleton Film Festival returns with women-directed films featuring: "Aloners"

7 p.m. Herrick Auditorium in Castleton. Free. Castleton University's Film Festival returns this March with a series of films directed by and centering on women. "Aloners" follows Jina, the top employee at a call center. Despite talking to customers all day, she has shut out the world beyond her headset; she lives alone, eats alone, sleeps alone, and her cell phone is her constant companion. For more information contact: [leo.richardson@castleton.edu](mailto:leo.richardson@castleton.edu).

### Open gym: beginner pickleball

7-9 p.m. Killington Elementary School Gymnasium, 686 School House Road, Killington. \$5 at the door or \$20 for a 10-visit punch card. Open gym will run until March. Tuesdays will be pickleball for beginner level players. The cost of entry is either \$5 at the door or you can purchase a 10-visit punch card for \$20. Cash payments or checks will be accepted, no credit cards. For more info visit: [Killingtonvt.nyrec.com](http://Killingtonvt.nyrec.com).

**Have a big (or small) event coming up? Let us know!**

Email: [events@mountaintimes.info](mailto:events@mountaintimes.info)

## TOWN MEETING PASTA DINNER



**Take out**  
Monday, March 6th

**DRIVE THRU AT THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING ON KILLINGTON ROAD**

**LASAGNA, SALAD, BREAD AND DESSERT.**

Serving from 4:30-6 p.m.  
Suggested Donation \$5



Proceeds benefit  
**THE KILLINGTON'S LITTLE WHITE CHURCH**

## End of an era or new beginning for Hartland store

By Curt Peterson

Hartland's "BG's", officially became Three Corners Market, Inc. as new management took over on Jan. 1, and was immediately "closed for renovations" for six weeks.

Residents say they never realized how important the store was until it wasn't available. Bill Gaucher, now 65, left town on an "on the road" odyssey for a month, visiting old friends and relatives around the country before returning.

Gaucher's parents, Bob and Jane Gaucher, opened BG's in 1980. Gaucher and Bob ran the store, and Jane kept the books. At some point an addition was added to the building, doubling the size of the store.

"We always treated people like people," Gaucher says. "We tried to have what they needed."

The store always came first, and Gaucher enjoyed the work. He says it was "fun most of the time. What I enjoyed most was the relationships with so many regular customers."

His parents died of cancer fairly young, and Gaucher was on his own. Married and divorced twice, he has three sons and a daughter.

His management style evolved over time. At first he was frustrated when micro-management didn't work. Then one day he decided to just "wing-it" – to try different ideas, listen to employees, and see what happened.

"It worked out fine," he said. "And I've been a lot happier." wBill always put the community first, according to daughter Morgan.

"Hartland was an extension of his family," she said. "He discounted meat for the Congregational Church's roast beef suppers, supported the Christmas dinners at the Universalist Church, took area youth out in the woods to learn about firearms, hunting, nature and tracking animals. He also coached middle school baseball."

When an Afghan refugee came to Hartland, hosted by John Bassett, Bill

welcomed him.

"Fill up his refrigerator," said Gaucher, according to an NBC report. "Give him access or open an account for groceries, meat, whatever he needs."

Things have not always been easy. In 2013 Mascoma Bank built their new branch building, which required ripping up some of BG's parking lot and temporarily covering 5 or 6 spaces with a "branch office trailer." Morgan said BG's revenue was seriously affected for a year, and recovery took a long time.

Ironically, Covid was a positive influence on the business, as customers avoided larger stores and came to BG's instead. Almost everyone wore protective masks, and anti-virus measures were carried out religiously in the store. Morgan, who says she was "born and raised in the store", after the pandemic, those custom-

ers have continued to patronize the business.

But the Three Corners intersection reconfiguration project was a "wake-up call," Morgan said. Store access may be affected for up to a year, and Bill said he couldn't face another rebuilding struggle.

The sale of the property and business came at just the right time.

He's very excited about the renovated market.

"These people have done an amazing job in a huge undertaking," he told the Mountain Times.

He has agreed to stay on at the store for an undefined period to support new manager, Ian Rose. His friends and long-time customers hope Bill's plans include a continued relationship with the community he has supported for so long.

As Morgan says, "We'll never see the last of Bill."



Submitted

Bill Gaucher, the former owner of BG's in Hartland, enjoys retirement.



Submitted

Bill Gaucher coaches youth baseball. Gaucher recently retired from being the longtime owner of BG's store in Hartland.

# [MUSIC Scene]

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

## WED

3/1

### KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Minute to Win it with DJ Dave

6 p.m. The Foundry – Silas Hamilton

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Arthur Jr

### LUDLOW

5 p.m. The Killarney – Sammy B

7 p.m. Off The Rails – James Joel

### QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Lily Welch

### POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Open Mic hosted by Danny Lang

### RANDOLPH

7 p.m. Kuyas at One Main – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

### RUTLAND

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Duane Carleton

9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Rick Urbani

## THURS

3/2

### BRANDON

6 p.m. Ripton Mountain Distillery – Open Jam

### CASTLETON

6 p.m. Third Place Pizza – Josh Jakab

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Daniel Brown & Silas McPrior

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

5 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

5 p.m. The Foundry – Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Red Daisy Revival

7 p.m. Rivershed – Chris Pallutto

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Couch

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

### LUDLOW

3 p.m. Okemo's Sitting Bull Lounge – Sammy B

8 p.m. Off The Rails – Mando Bob & Joey Vinyl

### POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

### QUECHEE

6:30 p.m. The Public House – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

### RUTLAND

6 p.m. Strangefellows Pub – Trivia Night

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

### SOUTH ROYALTON

6 p.m. 802 Pizza – Open Mic hosted by George Nostrand

## FRI

3/3

### BOMOSEEN

5:30 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge & Taproom – George Nostrand

### BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Matt Wayne (Comedy Central) hosted by Collen Doyle & Matt Vita

### CHITTENDEN

Chittenden Dammers Party with Ryan Fuller

### KILLINGTON

10:30 a.m. Bear Mountain Stash Trail – Slash & Berm Banked Slalom

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Duane Carleton welcomes Team Canada

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris P Duo

2 p.m. Pico's Last Run Lounge – Rhys Chalmer

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Daniel Brown and Silas McPrior

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

5 p.m. Darkside Snowboard Shop – Slash & Berm Kick-Off Party

6 p.m. Rivershed – Morgan Clark

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – King Arthur Jr

6 p.m. The Summit Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Lost in Paris

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Acoustik Ruckus

### LUDLOW

7 p.m. The Killarney – Acoustik Ruckus

8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Conniption Fits

### PITTSFIELD

8 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Karaoke Night with Fiona

### POULTNEY

6 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Mean Waltons

### QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. The Public House – Arthur James

### STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Krishna Guthrie

## SAT

3/4

### BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Matt Wayne (Comedy Central) hosted by Collen Doyle & Matt Vita

### CHESTER

6 p.m. The Pizza Stone VT – ODB Project

### KILLINGTON

10:30 a.m. Bear Mountain Stash Trail – Slash & Berm Banked Slalom

1 p.m. Bear Mountain Base Lodge – Rhys Chalmers

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Gully Boys

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

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

4 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Happy Hour with Jamie's Junk Show and special guest opener Jenny & Liz

4 p.m. The Foundry – Aaron Audet

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – USA vs Canada vs Sweden Minute to Win it with DJ Dave

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

6 p.m. Preston's at the Grand Hotel – Sammy B

6 p.m. Rivershed – Brian Hitchings

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Jim Yeager

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band

7 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

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

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Chris Pallutto

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Lost in Paris

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – The Benderz

### LUDLOW

2 p.m. Jackson Gore Courtyard – Apres Afternoon with Bobby Sheehan, Free Smores, Games and Fire Pits

4 p.m. The Killarney – Acoustik Ruckus

6 p.m. Calcuttas – James Joel

6 p.m. Okemo Clock Tower Base & The Bull Restaurant and Bar – Rockstar and Rails: Okemo Parks Rail Jam

8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Tony Lee Thomas Trio

### QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. The Public House – Micah Iverson

### RUTLAND

7 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller

## SUN

3/5

### KILLINGTON

10 a.m. Lil' Stash at Ramshead – Slash & Berm Banked Slalom: Grom and Supergrom Division

12 p.m. Rivershed – Brunch with Brian Hitchings

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Primo and Prior

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

6 p.m. Rivershed - Trivia

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Open Mic with Indigenous Entertainment

### LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off The Rails – Karaoke

### PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Clear River Tavern – Scott Forrest

## MON

3/6

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Duane Carleton

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

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – BAK'n

6 p.m. Rivershed – Brian Hitchings

6 p.m. The Foundry – Blues Night with the Chris P Trio

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Josh Jakab

### LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off The Rails – Sammy B

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

### WOODSTOCK

5 p.m. The Village Inn – Jim Yeager and Jeff Stedman

## TUES

3/7

### KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – Mountain Music with Bow Thayer & Jack Snyder

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

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

LUDLOW  
8 p.m. Off The Rails – SINGO

POULTNEY  
7 p.m. The Poultney Pub – Open Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE  
5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager



# Annual Slash & Berm banked slalom event held this weekend at Killington

Friday-Sunday, March 3-5—KILLINGTON—Killington Resort, Darkside Snowboards, and Burton are teaming up once again for the 9th annual Slash & Berm Banked Slalom. Snowboarders will gather at The Stash terrain park in Killington to take advantage of the natural terrain and all the creative elements the mountain has to offer for a great cause. This year's event will benefit Ryan Manning to help with his medical bills and care for the journey ahead.

The action will start on Friday with a shop team, invite-only banked slalom event. Local shops will enter teams to compete for the Slash & Berm Banked Slalom title.

Saturday's event is open to all snowboarders and will be timed individually.

The action continues on Sunday with the Grom event to take place in the Lil' Stash at Ramshead.

Returning this year will be the Just for Fun Run. This will be geared for participants who'd like to run the course in a non-competitive manner. Just for Fun participants will still have their runs timed, but their runs won't count towards the prizing for the Open/Legends divisions. All participants of this division will be entered into a raffle for some great prizing.

Registration & volunteer sign-ups for this event are open. Visit: [Killington.com/events](http://Killington.com/events).

## About The Stash

In 2003, Jake Burton started the conversation of his vision for a dream resort run. The run would blend freestyle and all mountain riding and give riders the features and lines to be as creative as possible while inspiring them to ride all types of terrain.

The Stash at Killington Resort is all about getting back to the roots of snowboarding and taking it back to the woods. We make the Stash runs as organic as the woods themselves. Every local has his or her favorite secret run. It's the one you create from scratch, the one that's a flowy mix of log jibs, pow slashes, speedy carves, jumps and drops all mixed-up along the way.

# Slash & Berm



## Join the Owl Prowl at VINS

Friday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m.—QUECHEE—Celebrate winter in Vermont! Explore the natural world as we hike the beautiful trails at the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS) Nature Center (149 Nature's Way off Route 4 east of Woodstock) and prowl for owls. Find out "Hoo's" out there making raucous noises in the nighttime forest and discover the secret life of New England's nocturnal residents.

Weather permitting, we will explore this wintry world on snowshoes at the VINS Nature Center. We encourage participants to bring a flashlight/headlamp and dress in layers.

Reservations and pre-payment required as space is limited and usually sells out. Adults 18+ only please. Cost for the general public is \$13.50; VINS members \$11.50. Complimentary snowshoes available. Please let us know your size at checkout. Event will run from 5:30-7 p.m. Cancellation policy: VINS reserves the right to cancel programs due to inclement weather.

For more information, contact us at 802-359-5000 or [info@vinsweb.org](mailto:info@vinsweb.org).



Courtesy VINS

Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences is hosting a prowl for owls on March 3.

# Toto to perform at Paramount, part of its Dogz of Oz tour

Monday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.—RUTLAND—Head to the Paramount Theatre in downtown Rutland this Monday to see the world famous Toto! Collectively Toto has over two billion streams worldwide on all streaming services. Just last year one of their biggest hits “Africa” went from being a Platinum single to being recently recertified 6X Platinum.

The band has found a new generation of fans. With now 40+ years together and literally thousands of credits, including the biggest selling album of all time: Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” and accolades to their names, Toto remains one of the top selling touring and recording acts

in the world. They are the benchmark by which many artists base their sound and production, and they continue to transcend the standards set by the entire music community, being simply synonymous with musical credibility. They are pop culture, and are one of the few '70s bands that have endured the changing trends and styles continuing to remain relevant while enjoying their multi-generational global fan base.

The “Dogz of Oz” world tour is presented by Toto co-founder and musical director David Paich. Joining Steve Lukather and Joseph Williams on the road are new band members bassist John Pierce (Huey Lewis and The News),

drummer Robert “Sput” Searight (Ghost-Note), and keyboardist / background vocalist Steve Maggiora (Robert Jon & The Wreck). Keyboardist Dominique “Xavier” Taplin (Prince, Ghost-Note) and multi-instrumentalist / vocalist Warren Ham (Ringo Starr) segued over continuing their tenure in the ensemble. This marks the 15th incarnation of the Toto line-up in consideration of band members or sidemen who joined or exited.

The band briefly split up in 2019. A reunion was announced in 2020 and the band returned to touring. Tickets are: \$69.50, \$79.50, \$85.50, \$89.50 + tax/fees. For more information visit: [paramountvt.org](http://paramountvt.org).

## Despite splits among band members, Toto perseveres through the decades

By Alan Sculley, Last Word Features

Not long ago – in 2019, to be exact – it looked like Toto’s long and successful run might have really come to an end.

In the time leading up to the split, there were questions about the future involvement of founding member, keyboardist David Paich, and long-time keyboardist Steve Porcaro. Then there was a lawsuit filed by Susan Porcaro-Goings, the widow of drummer and founding member Jeff Porcaro, seeking to recover royalties and other income she believed had not been paid to Porcaro’s estate. The suit created considerable tension between founding guitarist Steve Lukather and Paich and the Porcaro family.

The two sides feuded both publicly and in private, and the anger over the situation was plenty evident in the months leading up to the announcement that Toto was breaking up. The suit was settled in favor of Porcaro-Goings.

Singer Joseph Williams, in a mid-January phone interview, said Toto might have survived without breaking up had the lawsuit not happened, but he suspects the 2019 split was inevitable.

“Aside from the whole legal battle and all of that, Steve Porcaro was inching toward not really wanting to be a touring musician anymore anyway. So that would have come inevitably,” he said. “Also, Dave (Paich) was sort of up and down with his health. Although he’s great now and he’s fine and he still comes out and contributes stuff, touring is not for him anymore, either...But you know, the lawsuit was just sort of salt on a thing that was already happening.”

Williams (who was Toto’s singer from 1986-1989 and 2010 to 2019) and Lukather, meanwhile, saw no reason why they couldn’t form a new lineup and credibly return Toto to active duty.

“Luke (Lukather) and I just looked at each other and said we want to work and we want to play. And the music is still worthy,” Williams said. “We feel we can still do a good job and bring the music out, keep doing it.”

So a reunion was announced in 2020, and after a delay due to the pandemic, Toto returned to touring in 2022, with a mix of headlining dates and a run opening for Journey. The group is continuing down a similar road start 2023, mixing in headlining shows between another run as Journey’s opening act on that band’s winter-spring tour.

The new lineup includes Williams, Lukather (who has also appeared on some 1,500 albums by a who’s who of music artists as one of music’s most in-demand session guitarists), bassist John Pierce, drummer Robert “Sput” Searight, keyboardist/background vocalist Steve Maggiora, keyboardist Dominique “Xavier” Taplin and multi-instrumentalist/vocalist Warren Ham.

“You’re going to hear the big hits that everybody knows from Toto and stuff that’s familiar from the more

successful albums, that kind of stuff,” Williams said of Toto’s shows. “And it’s very high energy, rock kind of take on it all. So it’s a lot of fun.”

The 2019 split was not the first time Toto had broken up, or at the least, been on uncertain footing.

Toto was formed in 1977 by high school friends Lukather, Jeff Porcaro (already an acclaimed session drummer), Steve Porcaro and Paich, with singer Bobby Kimball and bassist Dave Hungate completing the original lineup.

The group had immediate success, as the 1978 self-titled debut album spawned the hit single, “Hold The Line,” and went on to top two million copies sold in the United States alone.

The string of successful albums extended into the 1980s, with Toto hitting a peak when the 1982 album, “Toto IV,” became a triple platinum smash behind the hits “Rosanna,” “Africa” and “I Won’t Hold You Back.”

It was against the backdrop of that blockbuster success that issues started to blunt the band’s momentum. In 1983, Hungate left Toto (with another Porcaro brother, Mike, taking the bass slot) and the band fired Kimball, who was dealing with drug issues.

The band pressed on, bringing on Fergie Frederiksen as the new singer and making the 1984 album, “Isolation.” The album failed to achieve anything close to the sales of “Toto IV,” and Frederiksen did not work out as the singer.

This is when Williams, who had known the Lukather and the Porcaros going back to his middle school years, auditioned and was chosen as the next singer in Toto. Williams was thrilled to join Toto, although he was aware the group was feeling the weight of expectations at the time.

“There was pressure, but they never applied direct pressure, like if you don’t deliver we’re f\*\*\*ed;” Williams said. “It was never anything like that with them. But looking back on it, I can certainly remember sort of the tension between the other five

guys, just having the blockbuster album and losing a singer and then the follow-up (album) not being as big. They wanted to keep it going and do it right. They experienced a whole lot of pressure at that time.”

Williams made two albums with Toto – 1986’s “Fahrenheit” and 1988’s “The Seventh One,” but on tour the following year, vocal issues forced him to part ways with the band.

As the decade ended, Toto’s popularity had faded, particularly in the states. The band soldiered on through the 1990s into the early 2000s, with sustained popularity in Europe helping keep the band’s career viable. But along the way, the group suffered tragedies (in 1992, Jeff Porcaro died of heart failure while doing yard work, while Mike Porcaro was forced out of music in 2007 by ALS disease) and had multiple personnel changes. In early 2008, Lukather disbanded the group, saying it no longer felt like Toto.

Ironically, it was Mike Porcaro’s ALS illness that initially put Toto back together. In 2010, Paich called Lukather about doing a short reunion tour to raise funds for Mike’s medical treatments. Lukather agreed, but only if Williams and Steve Porcaro also rejoined. Everyone signed on and soon things evolved into a full reunion.

Over the next eight years, the band toured extensively, made a well-received studio album, “Toto XIV,” as well as several live releases, and then got an unexpected boost in 2018 when Weezer covered the band’s signature hit, “Africa.”

“When we play that song (now), everybody’s up, like it’s a soccer game,” Williams said. “So that’s our calling card and we’re grateful to Weezer for doing it and putting it in the ears of a younger generation, and also (to) the fans of Toto from when those songs were actually on the air, their kids are fans of it.”

Despite the renewed momentum, tensions over the lawsuit and between band members led to the 2019 breakup.

With Covid sidelining all live music, Lukather, Williams and Paich each made solo albums, before regrouping the current edition of Toto and returning to touring last year.

Williams is hoping for another long run with Toto. Lukather has ruled out making new albums as Toto, but the singer isn’t closing the door on anything going forward.

“We’ll see how it evolves. I understand how Luke feels just because if there were to really be a Toto album, we’d have to have the participation from particular people,” Williams said. “The way we’ve been doing it is Luke’s putting out a new album that we did last year. Dave put out an album. These sort of mini-Toto albums, you have to sort of throw them all together and get the (Toto) experience that way. It’s understandable, but like I say, never say never. We’re not old, old men yet. We’re just sub-elderly, so there’s plenty of time to change minds and do stuff.”



Toto photo of Steve Lukather (left) and Joseph Williams of Toto on stage.

Photo Courtesy of Toto

# Castleton Film Festival returns With four women directed films

Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m.—CASTLETON—This month, Castleton University's Film Festival returns with a series of films directed by and centering on women. The films feature themes of identity, womanhood, and coming of age from across the spectrum, each with a unique perspective. The Film Festival spans four days over the course of two weeks. Screenings will take place in Herrick Auditorium at 7 p.m. These events are free and open

to the public.

"Aloners" follows Jina, the top employee at a call center. Despite talking to customers all day, she has shut out the world beyond her headset; she lives alone, eats alone, sleeps alone, and her cell phone is her constant companion. When she's tasked with training a friendly and naive new hire, her icy armor is threatened. At the same time, she must navigate an incessantly ingratiating new neighbor, and an

Feature Films include:

March 7: "Aloners"

March 9: "Where The Lionesses Roar"

March 14: "Sirens"

March 16: "Honeyland"



increasingly urgent call from her father, leaving Jina on the edge and forcing her to confront why she has isolated herself all these years.

"Aloners" is a 2021 South Korean drama film edited, written and a directorial feature debut by Hong Sung-eun. The film premiered on April 30, 2021 at the Jeonju International Film Festival and was later screened in the Discovery section of the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival.

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# Okemo Parks hosts rail jam: Rockstar and Rails

Saturday, March 4 at 6 p.m. — LUDLOW— Head to Okemo Mountain Resort for Rockstar and Rails, a competition including insane fun, prizes, music, food and drinks under the lights at night.

Event begins at 6 p.m. and ends around 9 p.m. at the Okemo Clock Tower Base & The Bull Restaurant and Bar.

The Okemo Parks team is putting together a unique set-up in the Clock Tower base to showcase advanced riding abilities from competitors all over. Enjoy the hype all weekend long with the Rockstar team onsite at Okemo with

a variety of athletes, product samples, and a chance to win some cool prizes.

Bring the energy, jam out to music, and tune into the competition with our DJ friends from True Entertainment.

Not participating in the competition? Hang out at The Bull Restaurant & Bar patio by the fire pits with friends and family. An assortment of beverage options and a limited menu will be available for all to enjoy.

For more information visit: [okemo.com](http://okemo.com) or email: [Okemoinfo@vailresorts.com](mailto:Okemoinfo@vailresorts.com).



Cambell Allen

Submitted

## \$5,000 raffle held Friday

Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m. — CHITTENDEN — The Chittenden Dammers snowmobile club will be holding a “Dam Good Raffle” with a grand prize is \$5,000! Second prize is \$750 and third prize is \$250. Only 150 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held in the barn at The

Mountain Top Inn & Resort on Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m. or when all tickets have been sold. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased by calling 802-353-0789 or online at: [\[dendammers.org\]\(http://dendammers.org\).](http://chittenden-</a></p>
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The Chittenden Dammers maintain snowmobile trails in the Chittenden area. These trails are enjoyed not only by snowmobilers but many other outdoor enthusiasts year-round. The Chittenden Dammers are a 100% volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the natural environment in the Chittenden area. Get in it to win it!



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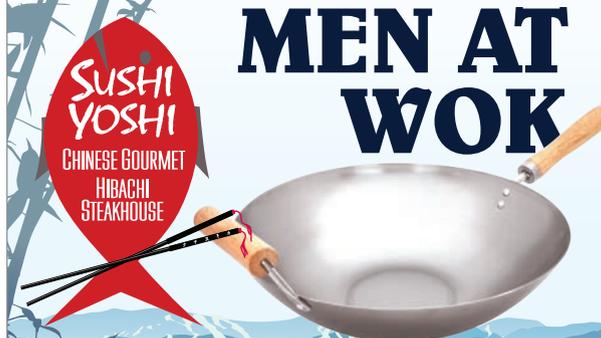


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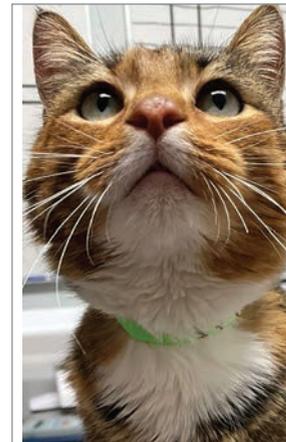
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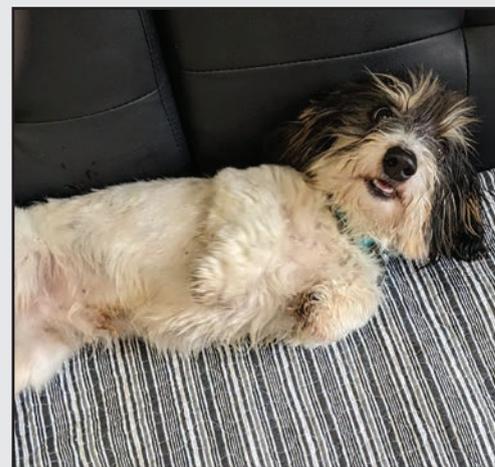
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## Don't forget to license your dog!

It's that time of year again so the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to remind you to license your dog at your town clerk's office by April 1! You'll need to have them up-to-date on their rabies vaccine so please check with your veterinarian and make an appointment, if necessary. Did you know that Vermont state law requires all cats to have their rabies vaccines, too? If you're not sure, please check with your vet to make sure your dog and cat are up to date on their shots. If you have any questions about the process to license your dog please contact your local town clerk.

# Cosmic Catalogue

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 **Aries**  
March 21 - April 20

You've got quite a lot to be excited about and hopeful for this week. As both Venus and Jupiter join forces in your sign, it's about saying "yes" to opportunities, even if you're not entirely sure of all you're saying yes to! You're also encouraged to rest and retreat a little bit at the same time. Let other people take the reins and offer their support if need be.

 **Leo**  
July 21 - August 20

The world could be your oyster this week! If you're wanting to travel, study or explore topics of spirituality and religion, the cosmos gives you the green light to jump right in! The chance to expand your horizons and broaden your perspectives may give you new insight around an existing issue. Quenching your thirst for adventure could be exceptionally life changing for you.

 **Sagittarius**  
November 21 - December 20

As far as fertility and creativity are concerned, your stars can't get much better! You might be experiencing more joy and happiness than you've had in a while. If not, then it's high time to take charge of that and turn the situation around. Seize opportunities by striking while the iron is hot. Dive right into a spontaneous encounter or invitation. The best things in life are on offer now.

 **Taurus**  
April 21 - May 20

Communication and connection are your theme this week. This might mean you have to say what you mean and mean what you say. Harsh? Yes perhaps! Honesty is always the best policy and if someone can't tell the difference between being clear and being mean, well, that's on them! Draw your line in the sand, then you can adjust accordingly if you need to.

 **Virgo**  
August 21 - September 20

Curiosity about someone close to you is set to heighten this week. In fact, the more you extend yourself to understand someone else, the easier the road ahead will be over the next couple of years. Effective communication is always easier said than done. That said, the cosmos gives you the chance to try. Try and think of someone else's point of view.

 **Capricorn**  
December 21 - January 20

As your patron planet, Saturn, prepares to change signs for the first time since late 2020, you might like to reflect on life – especially your finances – since then. What have you earned and what have you learned? It's likely you've come further down the road than you're giving yourself credit for. If so, give yourself a pat on the back.

 **Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20

With increasing focus on your overall life direction as well as your career, you might be thinking longer-term about what you want. This week is ideal for further planning and preparation. If you can get, at the least, some form of outline of the steps you need to take for success, then you're more like to get there. Winging it from here may not work so well.

 **Libra**  
September 21 - October 20

The heightened level of connection and togetherness continues thanks to Venus and Jupiter aligning in your Relationship Zone. If you're willing to ask for it, you might be amazed by just how much others are willing and able to support you now. Ask you and shall receive either at work or in your personal life – or both! You don't have to do it all alone.

 **Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 20

The cosmic sigh of relief has almost arrived. You've had to learn so much about yourself recently due to the heavy weight of choices and responsibilities. As a new era of growth and change awaits you, give yourself the chance to pause, reflect and breathe this week. Most importantly, give yourself the chance to mentally relax and destress.

 **Cancer**  
June 21 - July 20

Luck, abundance and general good fortune is possible this week. Your efforts at work may begin to pay off or you're visible in all the right ways. It may be a case of your reputation preceding you which helps put you in the right direction. Opportunities multiply when they are seized. This isn't the time to be coy – so strike while the iron of luck is red hot!

 **Scorpio**  
October 21 - November 20

You might get the rewards and recognition you've been striving for this week. That's because both lucky Venus and Jupiter align in your Hard Work Zone. Sure, you might be as busy as can be, but as long as you're enjoying yourself and there is some benefit to it – keep doing what you're doing. Just make room for a little bit of fun too!

 **Pisces**  
February 21 - March 20

Mercury in your sign gives you the chance to get to know yourself better. When you do that, you become more aware of what you're available for and what you are not. Seal up any leaks that are distracting you from your most important priority. Anything other than those must come a distant second. This week, think about where you want to be two years from now.

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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.

## Seismic shifts

When we look back on this moment in time, it's likely that the month of March will be one of those "where were you when 'x,y,z' happened?" moments. Seismic shifts can be expected that will close an era while ushering in another. The harsh line between the ending of one thing and the beginning of another is rarely definitive, rather, it happens over the course of many months and even years, sometimes, many generation

Suffice to say we have arrived at a crossroads. The path ahead is uncertain and daunting but to go back is not an option. Just as the Earth circles the Sun and the Moon



**Cosmic Catalogue**  
By Cassandra Tyndall

circles the Earth, we too must circumnavigate the current climate we find ourselves in — personally, collectively and spiritually.

The way out is the way through, no matter how dark the tunnel is, no matter how scary the monsters we encounter along the way.

In fact, it is the darkness where the solution and the healing lie. This year, the Winter Solstice and the New Moon happened very close together.

Thus, the Sun and the Moon arose from the depths of darkness and the Solar and Lunar year aligned. The invitation to align your spiritual and earthly patterns is now here.

## Willpower part 3: Phone down day

**Binguy**

I love foreign detective stories. Staying up each night later than planned, I used to binge-watch oodles of episodes. Cuddling up with my cell phone in bed was my favorite part of the day. Before a series even ended, I hunted for a new one with enough seasons to ensure a substantial run of binge nights.

But I noticed this habit had some negative health effects. Watching an itchy bitsy screen late at night was straining my aging eyes. I also headed to bed earlier and no longer watched an occasional movie with my husband.

Addictions are isolating. But the most health-distressing thing I noticed was the nightly disruption of my sleep. Falling asleep easily enough, the intense, audio and visuals had so overstimulated my brain, that I woke during the night, unable to get back to sleep. Still, I hated to give up this routine.

Behavior patterns are squillions of times stronger than the desire to change them.

A person can get addicted to anything. I define my personal addictions as anything that has more control over me, than I have over it. Things that sink their talons in my flesh. Mine in no particular order have been; Pop Tarts - chocolate - martinis - potato chips - scrolling - bingy crime shows - Chapstick - chewing ice. Some of them I have successfully removed from my flesh, and some are a work in progress—WIP.

I really hate when something gets its talons in me. I feel unfree, enslaved, and unsettled.

**Love affair**

In my early 50s, I had a 5-year love affair with dirty vodka martinis. During that time I noticed a similar sleep pattern disturbance. I would enjoy a cocktail or two in the evening, then, at bedtime, fall asleep easily. Waking at some Godforsaken hour of the night, I would

be unable to fall back to sleep. Realizing the martinis were more trouble than they were worth (in many ways), I let go of them.

I have learned that the best way for me to become free of any behavior that is not serving me well, is to add something in that is better than the thing I want to be free of.

Telling myself I should, or have to, stop doing something that I enjoy—has never ever, not once, worked for me. Longer than a minute anyway.

**Add in**

Instead of telling myself I had to stop binge-watching the nightly crime shows I loved but suffered ill effects from, I set an intention for something healthier to add in its place.

Driving my scooter on the backroads to a nearby village for errands and provisions, on a whim, I pulled into the town's charming library that I passed for decades but never visited.

Walking up the old wooden steps, I faced a set of exquisite, antique, oak

doors that met in an arch, high above my head. I grasped the antique porcelain knob and with an easy twist, let myself and the cool spring breeze in.

Behind a matching, antique, oak counter stood a young librarian that met my entrance with an electric smile, happy, welcoming energy. I sensed once again that doing something on a whim was in fact following my wild voice, which always has my best interest at heart.

I confessed to having never been in the library and Kate delightedly gave me a tour.

The building was charming beyond the beyond, and Kate showed me where the detective/crime books were. Familiar with some authors, there were many I was not, as I had stopped reading in favor of watching.

To my delight, many detective story authors are prolific. My answer to binge-

The Funologist → 36

## Musical fish in New England? Meet the burbot

In the midst of winter, the ice-covered lakes of New England seem quiet. It may, however, be a bit noisy below the ice. Winter into early spring is the spawning season for burbot, when males produce sounds to attract mates.

Burbot (*Lota lota*), also called cusk, lingcod, eelpout, and a few other names, are the only freshwater members of the group of fish that includes the cods. The body of a burbot is long and has two dorsal fins – the first being rather short and the second much longer; there is also a long anal fin along the underside. The scales are very small and embedded in the skin, making these fish very slippery. The head is somewhat flattened and broad, with a single fleshy barbel under the chin, a characteristic they share with other cods. Barbels contain taste buds that help fish identify potential food. Burbot also have two protruding tubular nostrils, similar to eels. The combination of an elongated, slippery body, eel-like tubular nostrils, and a head somewhat similar to that of a bullhead (a member of the catfish family also called bullpout), may be what earned burbot the name "eel-pout," although they are not closely related to either eels or catfish.

Burbot inhabit cold rivers and streams and deep, cold-water lakes across North America, Europe, and parts of Asia. Adult burbot are often between 12 and 24 inches long, but can exceed 30 inches. Females are generally larger than males. State records for burbot are 10.9 pounds in Vermont, 12.8 pounds in New Hampshire, and 18.5 pounds in Maine; in northern Canada and Alaska, burbot can exceed 20 pounds. Anglers value the species, as burbot yield firm, light meat similar to that of their cod cousins.

Those burbot that live in lakes spend much of the year in the deep areas, where the water is coldest, often passing the day in burrows in the substrate and coming out to feed at dawn and dusk. Burbot feed primarily on other fish, but will also eat aquatic invertebrates such as insects, clams,

and crayfish. Burbot grow slowly, typically reaching maturity between 4 and 7 years old, and can live to be 20 years old.

In winter, burbot move into shallower areas, typically under ice, and spawn over silt-free substrates such as sand and gravel when water temperatures are 34 to 40 degrees. Like their cod relatives, burbot use sound to attract mates during spawning. Males create sounds — ranging from slow clicks and knocks to faster buzzes — by rapidly contracting and vibrating muscles against the wall of their gas bladder, an internal gas-filled organ used to regulate buoyancy, which acts like a drum during sound production. The drumming muscles grow larger as the spawning period approaches.

To test the idea that male burbot use sound to attract females, researchers in northwestern Canada placed adult burbot in an enclosure within a lake, and recorded sounds using underwater microphones. Sound production was greatest between late January and mid-March, and was especially intense during two days in early February that coincided with the onset of burbot spawning in the bay in which the study was located.

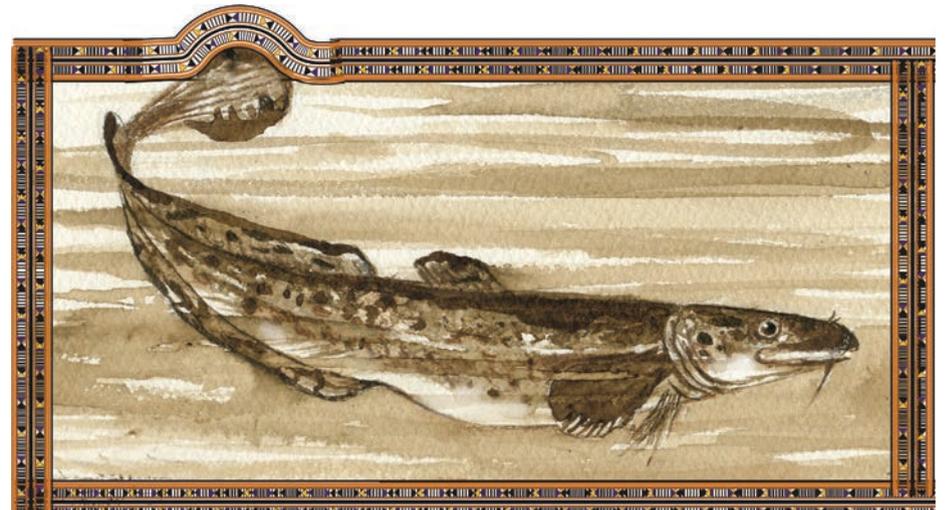
Spawning in burbot is highly synchronized, with fish congregating in large numbers. During spawning, females are often surrounded by multiple males, sometimes in large groups. Females release eggs while males simultaneously release sperm to fertilize the eggs. Burbot typically spawn several times during a 2 to 3 week period, and a female may release from 60,000 to more than 3 million eggs in a single spawning season; the largest females produce the most eggs.

Burbot do not construct nests – the fertilized eggs sink and develop among the sand and gravel substrate, taking from 30 to more than 120 days to hatch, depending on water temperature. Adult burbot do not protect the fertilized eggs or developing young, but they produce many eggs, thus increasing the likelihood that some will survive.

*Doug Facey is an emeritus professor of biology at Saint Michael's College and lives in Burlington, Vermont. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.*



**The Outside Story**  
By Doug Facey



## The waiting is the hardest part

Recently, I had a friend tell me that I absolutely had to watch the Paramount series, “Yellowstone.” He raved about the storylines, the acting, and the overarching grandeur of the show. I acknowledged his passion and said I’d check it out.



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi

But I won’t. It’s not that I have anything against that show in particular; these days I just refuse to dedicate the time required to watch a multi-season series. I’ve tried on occasion, but the only time I’ve actually made it from the beginning to the end of a modern TV series was a few years back when I got fully absorbed in “Breaking Bad.”

While I was in the throes of that series, I couldn’t think about anything else. I was stealing away on my lunch break to watch a half an episode; I was brushing my son off from playing catch just to see who got killed next; I was telling my wife I didn’t feel well just so I could curl up in bed to see what Walter White did next.

And when the series ended, I literally went through a detox period where I was angsty for more episodes to watch. Don’t get me wrong, “Breaking Bad” was a masterful entertainment experience, but once I got some distance between me and that show, I realized how much it had commandeered my life.

Obviously, there’s a lot of people in the world who need or even deserve a distraction of this type, in which case one of these series can provide great fodder. But I’m currently unwilling to give away those large chunks of my life.

I’ve thought about why I feel this way because, prior to streaming series like Netflix and Amazon Prime changing the way we watch television series, I was a fan of many, many shows. However, I think having a life-threatening illness several years ago played a big part in my refusal to willingly give away large swaths of my time.

But more than that, I think I’m simply more nostalgic of the way things used to be.

Actor Richard Belzer died a couple weeks ago, which brought a tear to my eye given that my wife and I watched every episode of “Law & Order” five times over. As a child, my father and I never missed one episode of “MASH” or “The Odd Couple.” And let’s not forget “Friends” and “Seinfeld,” the two

shows that defined my generation.

I loved these shows and planned my weeknights around their broadcast times. And maybe that’s why I feel alienated from these new series, which can be binge beginning to end without the need or anticipation of waiting a whole week for the next episode to drop.

But of all the shows I’ve ever watched, “Cheers” remains at the forefront. Running from 1982 to 1993 and encompassing 275 episodes, “Cheers” defined my burgeoning young adult life. The atmosphere of the show was unique, the writing was witty, and the fact that every character could equally be a god or a goat made it the most charming show on television.

However, of all the characters, Dr. Frasier Crane, played by Kelsey Grammer, remained my favorite. The hapless psychiatrist (who was initially only supposed to appear in a couple episodes as a love interest for barmaid Diane Chambers) made such a splash that he quickly became a reoccurring character and eventually enjoyed a spin-off show of his own.

Grammer’s life has not been an easy one, riddled with horrific family tragedies like the rape and murder of his sister and the murder of his father. These events and the stress of being in the public eye for decades led Grammer into countless bouts of drug and alcohol abuse and multiple failed marriages.

However, with all his trials, Grammer has settled into life in recent

years and begun working only on projects that are close to his heart. This week’s feature, “Jesus Revolution,” is one of those projects.

I happened to see Grammer on a clip from a talk show last week talking about his newest film. In the short time I watched, he had tears running down his face as he described the film as the best work he’s ever done. I was so moved by his reaction and candor, that I went to see his film that night.

“Jesus Revolution” is the true story of a religious movement that began in California in the late 1960s, when a young hippie preacher became friends with an elderly minister. Together they would start a Christian ministry that would send theological ripples across the country.

Many will be suspicious of this film given the title and religious content, but the historical storyline is interesting and worthy of being told. Given this one a shot if you’re in the mood to witness the unfolding of an unlikely revolution.

A pious “B-” for “Jesus Revolution,” now playing in theaters everywhere.

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



## Adjusting to changes, conquering fear

It’s scary, this new thing. This trail I have never been on before. For so many years of my life, this trail hasn’t changed and now, here it is, with a completely different pitch and angle from what Pres and Joe had created all those many years ago. The idea is the same, but this trail skis differently than the old one and I struggle with my fear of new things, my fear of rolling over the bridge and onto the new, now very steep terrain on the other side. It’s new, it’s steep and it’s big time scary.

Do I miss the old version of Great Bear? Sure. It was comfortable, I knew what to expect and where. Now, I’ve got to change all the angles as I come across the roll-over and you can see exactly where fear has taken over all the other skiers and riders as they try this trail. There’s no snow on the first section of the trail, it’s all been scraped off like everyone couldn’t breathe in those moments. No turns were made here, on this first scary steep part, just sideslipping or falling leaf. Fear has pushed all the snow down the trail, making the terrain even scarier for the next skier or rider to come this way. Fear has made this trail scarier, more dangerous and certainly less fun.

Why do we do this? Why, when we are most afraid, do we as skiers and riders end up inadvertently or maybe subconsciously, completely altering our ski technique? On blues and green, we have no trouble sliding along, our bodies perpendicular to the pitch of the trail. We are comfortable, we feel safe, and we can stand comfortably on our skis. But change the pitch or the terrain, and suddenly we are no longer assured of our safety. Fear changes us, whether we want it to or not.

Fear of the unknown, of the difficult, of a change from the norm. A fearful skier is easy to spot on the trail, their body fighting the pull of gravity as they do anything to prevent themselves from actually moving down the trail. The lower leg straightens, pushing the upper body back up the trail as much as possible. Instead of perpendicular, we are now at almost 45 degrees back up the trail. The ski edges dig into the trail so intensely, the edge angles so high, that you struggle to make transitions to the next turn and switch over.

It’s subconscious, this sitting. Our uphill leg shortens, trying to make room for the body’s weight on top of it and we start to sit down — this uphill movement instead of embracing life as

we flow down the trail. An instructor friend of mine calls it Monkey Butt, where you start pushing your center of mass backwards. For some, this might feel like protecting the internal organs from the dangers approaching if we move forward too quickly. As the body folds over, the butt begins to stick further and further out, until you start pointing your toes and really have nowhere to go but backwards, into a power wedge or just sitting your butt.

Everything that we need to turn is now counterintuitive. We need to ease up on our locked in edges and stop the skipping and sideslipping. We need to roll our ankles down the hill, embracing the down, giving the edge transition a chance to happen. We need to move our hips forward and pull our feet back underneath us, unweighting the edges

so they can release from the tight hold you have on them. We need to embrace the future, the beauty of what is happening right before our eyes. We need to free our bodies from the unwillingness to enjoy the ride.

So what can we do to work through this? How can we conquer Monkey Butt and Straight Leg Syndrome if they are caused by our subconscious and we don’t notice until it’s too late? According to Mermer Blakee, a former PSIA National Demo Team member, in her book “A Conversation with Fear,” we cannot do anything until we acknowledge that our fear exists. Once we acknowledge this fear, this penchant for sideslipping and ridiculously high edge angles, we can approach these moments with the right tools so that as we come over that roller, we are ready. We are prepared.

In order to surrender our fear to the mountain, we must embrace it. The whole experience. The glide, the float, the feeling of the glissé that is skiing and snowboarding.

Instead of fighting the pull of gravity, we must find a way to dance with it. Focus on the steps of the dance, on the movement of our hips and the roll our ankles down the mountain as we cross over the roller or step through the door. We must find ways to be comfortable with the change in pitch, because really, it’s only the first two turns that are scary. The rest are just left and right on repeat until you get to the bottom.



**Living the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman

Fear changes us, whether we want it to or not.





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The Clerk/Assistant Treasurer is also responsible for recording and posting to the town website the minutes of Select Board meetings, and other publicly warned meetings and hearings, including the Board of Civil Authority. Candidate should have a basic computer skills and able to learn to use programs for data entry and updating the Town website. An understanding of applicable state laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the governing of town business will be required, or the applicant must be willing to learn.

The Selectboard is open to whether this is a full-time, defined as 32 hours per week or more, or part-time position depending on the candidates needs.

Compensation will range from \$25 - \$30 per hour depending on the candidates experience and qualifications. A full benefit package is available for a full-time position, which includes medical, dental, vision insurance, as well as paid vacation, holidays, sick leave and Vermont Municipal Employees retirement.

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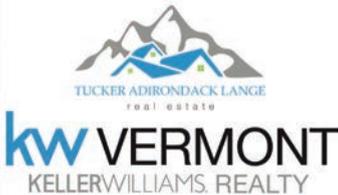
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## ← The Funologist Behavior patterns are squillions of times stronger than the desire to change them

from page 32

watching detective shows—is binge-reading detective stories.

Selecting Louise Penny, a top Canadian crime novelist who lives near the Vermont border and whose detective stories take place in a fictitious town just north of the U.S.-Vermont border, resonated with me. I am a dual citizen with family in the eastern townships and her stories are full of memorable dialogue, geography, and culture I treasure.

Selecting three volumes, I had just enough room in my scooter storage space. I couldn't wait to go to bed with them.

### Nitey nite

That night, I left my cell phone on the kitchen counter and took a Louise Penny book to bed instead. I was so excited to read this detective story, that I did not even miss the binge-watching behavior I had grown addicted to.

I did not miss my phone.

Now at night, I read until I grow sleepy and the words swim on the page. I generally don't want to stop yet and reread the same sentence 10 times without grasping it, then drop the book on my face. That's when it's time to go to bed.

I shut off the light much earlier than when binge-watching shows on a tiny screen.

### Phone Down Day

With a fun and refreshing reading practice in place, I enjoyed the backroad scooter rides to the library to hunt for more. Branching out, I found myself borrowing wonderful, old books on Vermont history before it became a state, and was referred to as the wilderness. The deep desire to be free from unhealthy anything, is the drumbeat I hear in the stories of my freedom loving, early Vermonters. They never gave up—and they never gave in.

This new, healthier practice had me thinking about other areas of my life that my cell phone was having a negative



Selfie by Sandra Dee Owens  
*Sandra Dee Owens takes a selfie with her scooter.*

impact on.

### My days

Every day, I picked up my cell phone a hundred times, did a wee bit of business—then scrolled. My cell phone had ceased being a tool and was a non-stop, entertainment device.

A pocket television.

So I mindfully stopped thinking of my cell phone as a phone (I do make occasional calls), and saw it clearly for what it was. A pocket computer connecting me all day, every day to everyone and everything in the world. Amazing. Too amazing. I lack the self-discipline for that much connection. It's too stimulating. And distracting.

I realized with a gulp that what I was spending most of my daytime hours doing, was watching other people's business. Instead of my own.

How could I expect to suck the juice out of every day, if I spent it watching memes, video clips of what others

were doing? So, I sent my phone to work in my husband's lunch box. As my husband backed down the driveway on my first phone down day, I felt a deep sense of ease, peace, and best of all—relief. It was gone.

The whole day was mine. I found myself doing so many more things that I often thought of but chose to scroll instead. From then on, I started doing phone down days regularly and I am much more productive. With my desktop, I have all the business and social connections I need to get work accomplished.

I've also noticed that my days feel a bit slower, there is more ease, more time. There is a deeply satisfying sense of minding my own business, which is surprisingly more fun than watching everybody else's. I am doing my own life. Write. Read. Work out. Run. Make custom engagement/wedding rings. Scooter. Ski. Snow. Swim. Adventure. Nap. Share.

It feels so damn good to be free.

For more about Sandra visit [sandradeeowens.com](http://sandradeeowens.com).

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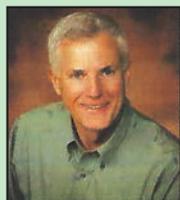
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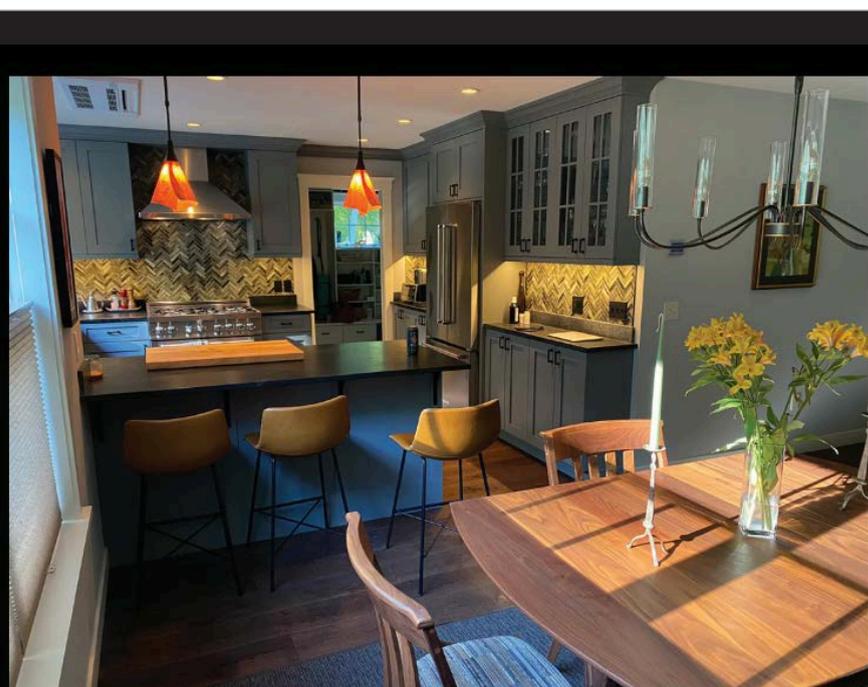
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Architect rendering.  
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**VPA:** New inductees announced, recognized from page 9 and more, visit: [vpaonline.org/athletics/vpa-hall-of-fame](http://vpaonline.org/athletics/vpa-hall-of-fame).

**Coach/advisors:**

Richard “Dick” Wilcox of Mendon was a basketball coach at Proctor from 2000-2012. During that time, the teams he led won five state Division IV championships, including a 95-game undefeated streak. He finished with a 200-68 record and was recognized as the Division IV Coach of the Year on two occasions.

Jay Wilson of Rutland Town has been coaching for 48 years. He has primarily coached basketball and soccer at Mill River, Rutland, Proctor, and Fair Haven. While at Mill River, he was the assistant coach for a Division II state soccer championship in 1985 and basketball state championships in 1982 and 1989. Wilson was Division II boys’ basketball Coach of the Year in 1989.

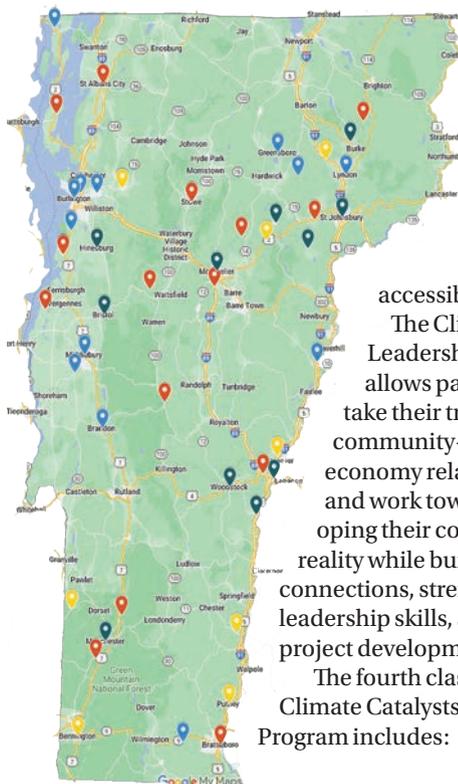
**Student-athletes:**

Meredith Bagley of West Hartford, Connecticut was an outstanding three-sport student-athlete for Rutland High School. She was a four-year starter for the soccer and softball teams, earning all-state honors in both as a senior (1995), while skiing alpine in the winter season. She led RHS to alpine team championships in 1993 and 1994 with dual individual championships in slalom and giant slalom each year. Bagley went on to play both soccer and softball at Harvard University.

Bruce Stryhas of Ludlow was an outstanding three-sport student-athlete for Black River High School class of 1962. Stryhas played soccer, was a great pitcher and hitter in baseball, and really shined on the basketball court. He was Black River’s first player to score over 1,000 career points, leading Black River to three appearances in the final. Stryhas was a great passer as well, he had 21 assists in one game. He went to the University of Connecticut for one year before transferring and being a standout starter for some of the top St. Michael’s College teams.

## VCRD welcomes fourth class of Climate Catalysts

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) announced Feb. 9 a group of 16 new participants to the 2023 Climate Catalysts Leadership Program from a strong pool of applicants. The 16 participants come from across the state and will focus their time on implementing projects addressing topics such as developing town climate actions; expanding outreach regarding weatherization



Courtesy VCRD  
The map shows the past four years of Climate Catalysts. Yellow indicates 2020 cohorts, red indicates 2021 cohorts, green indicates 2022 cohorts, and blue indicates 2023 cohorts.

programs; producing an educational series on local manufacturing; and making local food more equitable, affordable and accessible.

The Climate Catalysts Leadership Program allows participants to take their transformative, community-scale climate economy related projects and work toward developing their concepts into reality while building peer connections, strengthening leadership skills, and receiving project development support.

The fourth class of the Climate Catalysts Leadership Program includes:

- Lindsey Berk, Brandon
- Marcey Carver, Bradford
- Rowland Davis, Shelburne
- Parker Eversoll, Winooski
- Lena Greenberg, Burlington
- Beth Johnson, Marlboro
- Hannah Kornfeld, Essex
- Matthew LeFluer, Alburgh
- Lizah Makombore, Burlington
- William Marlier, Greensboro
- Jared Reynolds, Lyndon
- Mike Roy, Middlebury
- Melinda Scott, Williston
- Robert Small, Stannard
- Gabriella Stevens, Middlebury
- Jean Terwilliger, Cornwall

“Each participant will gain new lenses and tools to progress their projects, connect to others across disciplines, and ignite common threads needed to develop equitable climate actions,” said Laura Cavin Bailey, the climate economy program manager. “The breadth of project work speaks to the multi-faceted approach necessary to develop climate economy solutions that are co-produced within small communities with local champions.”

With the fourth cohort, there are now 60 Climate Catalysts throughout the state working to progress community led projects within the Climate Economy.

VCRD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of the locally-defined progress of Vermont’s rural communities. Actively non-partisan with an established reputation for community-based facilitation, VCRD is uniquely positioned to sponsor and coordinate collaborative efforts across governmental and organizational categories concerned with policy questions of rural importance. The organization has successfully completed over 86 community visits, resulting in locally defined projects like new childcare centers, wastewater infrastructure, and downtown redevelopments. For more info visit: [vtrural.org/climatecatalysts](http://vtrural.org/climatecatalysts).



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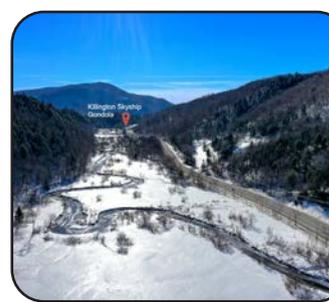


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