



## GOT PLANS FOR VALENTINES DAY? IT'S TUESDAY!

It's not too late! Check out local offerings of food, drink and gifts. Treat yourself and celebrate!

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## GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT KILLINGTON FORWARD/TIF PLANS?

The second public hearing will be held Monday Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

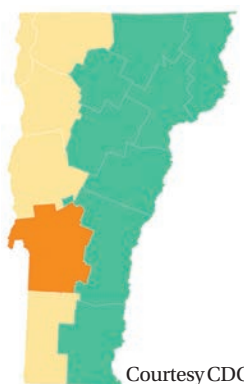
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## RUTLAND FATBIKE FESTIVAL RETURNS

The Rutland Cold Rolled Fatbike Festival is back for its third year on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 9 a.m. The event offers a day of fatbike stoke on cold-rolled singletrack.

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Courtesy CDC

## COVID LEVELS RISE IN WESTERN VERMONT

Recent data from the past few weeks shows metrics ticking up to moderate-high levels on the western side of the state.

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# Woodstock parents express concern about school safety

Board meeting drew nearly 200 after a student's threat lead to teacher and board member resignations

By Katy Savage

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

"I am disturbed by the latest incident at WES and how our district handles communication to parents, teachers, administrators and the community at large," Todd Ulman, who resigned from the School Board effective immediately on Tuesday, Jan. 31, said in his resignation letter. Ulman had one year left in his term.

School administration has repeatedly declined to comment on the incident, citing the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, but fourth grade teacher Stephanie Petrarca detailed the issue in her resignation letter on Jan. 29.

"I no longer feel as though I am physically safe in our school community," Petrarca said in her letter. "I have felt unsupported, misled, and disrespected as a professional since I first spoke up."

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

School safety concerns → 5

# Additional budget items on the school district ballot will increase tax rates, if approved

Fiscally conservative WCSD school district board member Jim Haff, Killington, explains why he'll be voting 'yes'

By Polly Mikula

When asked if taxes are going up, Killington selectman and Windsor Central School District (WCSD) school district board member Jim Haff didn't waffle. "Yes," he said bluntly. Then explained.

"There are two main parts of your tax bill, the state education tax makes up the majority and then there's the town's municipal tax," Haff began. "The estimated education base rate for the district based on per pupil spending is actually less than last year [\$1.4398 compared to \$1.5155] despite the fact that the district budget is up about 8% or so, because the state is using surplus money to lower that rate again this year... but it's the CLA that causes the spike in taxes for many towns, especially Killington," he explained.

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is a mechanism used by the state to assess fair market value of property. The lower the CLA the greater the differential between fair market value and the town's grand list, meaning a wider margin to make up.

"CLA takes into consideration the value houses were selling for a year and a half ago compared to the grand list and averaged over the past three years," Haff further explained. "With the current budget we're in, the CLA

for Killington property values was 75%; for the upcoming budget we're voting on it's 61.6% so that explains the increase you'll see in the education tax."

By way of example: Someone who owns a homestead property in Killington listed on the town's Grand List as \$400,000, will see a jump in taxes because the state assessed value of that property skyrocketed — from a CLA of 75.7% to 61.6% (in other words from a taxable value of \$497,200 to \$553,600). In FY23 the education tax rate was \$2.0020 per hundred dollars of property value (that property paid \$8,008 in education tax), but in FY24 the rate will be \$2.3373 (that property will pay \$9,349; an increase of \$1,341 or 16.75% over last year.)

But in towns with a less extreme CLA differential, the increase is much less.

In Bridgewater, for example, the CLA is 81.1% making their FY24 homestead property tax rate \$1.7742 (a property with a grand list value of \$400,000 will pay \$7,096.80 in education tax) just a 1.64% increase over last year (the lowest in the school district). Woodstock will see a 2.31% increase over last year, followed by Plymouth with a 7.81% increase, WCSD ballot → 7

In towns with a less extreme CLA differential, the increase is much less.



By Victoria Gaither

## New ice rink brings joy

Bree Sarandrea, age 10 and a 5th grade student at Killington Elementary School, skates at the new Killington Ice Rink at the Johnson Recreation Center on River Road. The rink is open from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily and has lights!

# Baird Farm, Pittsford resident appear on 'The Bachelor'

By Katy Savage

Baird Farm syrup in Chittenden is getting national attention as a local resident competes on ABC's dating reality show, "The Bachelor." On the show, former Pittsford resident Gabi Elnicki steps out of a limousine carrying a pint of maple syrup from Baird Farm. As she meets the bachelor, Zach

Shallcross, a 26-year-old tech executive who splits time between California and Texas.

"I'm from Vermont so I brought a little bit of home," Elnicki says to Shallcross. "It's my right to force you to drink maple syrup."

Shallcross takes a sip.

"Maple," he tells her.

'The Bachelor' → 2



Gabi Elnicki



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# Gun found near dumpster at Rutland High School

Staff report

Principal Greg Schillinger said an inoperable firearm was found near a dumpster at Rutland High School on Feb. 6.

Schillinger sent a letter to parents on Feb. 6, explaining the gun appeared to be left over the weekend.

"The hunting rifle was broken, rusted and appears to be very old," Schillinger said.

Schillinger said the Rutland City Police were contacted and removed the gun from campus.

"Rutland City PD con-

firmed that it is not functional and have begun the investigation into where it came from," Schillinger said.

"While the presence of a firearm near school is cause for concern, the situation did not pose a threat to school community safety."

Schillinger said the investigation is ongoing.

"This serves as a good reminder of our district's initiative: if you see something, say something," Schillinger said.

# Hartland board member criticized for overstepping

By Curt Peterson

Hartland's five-member Select Board aired some internal issues at Monday evening's meeting, Feb. 6. Town Manager David Ormiston described a phone call he received from Ann Gammell, chief engineer of the highway division at the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

According to Ormiston, Gammell made it clear the AOT would like to have "one individual" representing the town of Hartland, "to avoid confusion." She said one of the selectmen, subsequently identified as James Rielly, had been communicating directly with the agency, asking engineering and funding questions about three bridges in town.

As town manager, board chair Phil Hobbie said, Ormiston has sole authority to act as individual liaison between Hartland and the AOT.

"Very simply put," Hobbie explained to the Mountain Times, "the Select Board works on policies, while the town manager executes those policies, is the operational head of Chain of command → 15

## ← 'The Bachelor': Baird maple syrup makes cameo on the popular show with former Pittsford resident from page 1

Jenna Baird, the owner of Baird Farm, heard about Elnicki's bid for Shallcross' heart from a friend. She was surprised to see her family's maple syrup on national television.

"I messaged her on Instagram just to say, 'thank you for sharing our maple syrup with Zach,'" she said.

Baird has known Elnicki since she was a child. Elnicki and her parents are and are longtime customers.

"We usually see them a couple times a year," Baird said. "They've been loyal customers of ours for a while."

Baird Farm is a 560-acre farm that has been in the Baird family for four generations. Baird runs the farm with her partner, Jacob.

They tap 14,000 trees and make around 7,000 gallons of syrup a year. Baird Farm sells infused maple syrup, maple syrup ketchup, candies, hot sauces, maple butter and sugar.

Elnicki, now 25, was formerly a cheerleader at Rutland High School. Her father owns a scrap metal and recy-

cling business.

Rutland High School cheer coach Cara Gauvin said Elnicki was on her team all four years in high school.

"She's outgoing, she was a great teammate. She had a lot of friends," Gauvin said.

Gauvin didn't know Elnicki was going to be on show.

"I wasn't surprised," Gauvin said. "Gabi is a beautiful, intelligent, young woman. She's pretty worldly."

Gauvin said Elnicki seems authentic on TV. "The mannerism and comments, you know it's Gabi," she said.

Elnicki has an older sister and a younger brother, who is a junior at Rutland High School.

"I see her parents at games all the time," Gauvin said. "They're sworn to secrecy."

Elnicki graduated from the University of Mississippi with a business degree in 2019 and she now works as an account executive in Texas.

Attempts to reach Elnicki and her

parents weren't successful.

In her biography on the show, Elnicki credits her parents' love as the "blueprint for the kind of love she hopes to find."

"Gabi wants an honest, outdoorsy man who will always put her first," her biography says. "While it may take a little time for Gabi to come out of her shell, once she does, Zach will learn that she's adventurous, loyal and driven."

On the show, she competes against 30 other women and according to RealitySteve, a spoiler website, Elnicki makes it to the top three.

She returned to Vermont with a camera crew on Oct. 31, 2022 to show Shallcross her hometown, according to RealitySteve.

Baird is hoping for more maple syrup scenes. She launched a giveaway on Instagram for a gallon of maple syrup in the wake of national attention.

"It's weird to see somebody that you have seen in person so many times on TV," Baird said.

**COMMUNITY UPDATE**

KPAA ANNUAL MEETING  
RESORT UPDATE – PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE  
GREAT GULF – VILLAGE UPDATE  
TOWN OF KILLINGTON – WORKFORCE HOUSING

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KILLINGTON GRAND HOTEL

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**Michael Sneyd**, President of Resort Residential with Great Gulf

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# FAQs: Killington Forward

In response to comments and questions heard around town, on the slopes and at the public hearing, Jan. 30, the Killington Select Board answers questions on what voters need to know to be informed about Killington Forward before voting March 7 on Article 5.

## What is Killington Forward?

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.

## What is Tax Increment Financing (TIF)?

A 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.

Taxes from the original value of a property continue to go to the state Education Fund and Killington's annual budget. The "increment" is the difference between the original value of the property and the developed value of the property. A portion of the taxes on the "incremental value" during and after development of the project can be used to finance "TIF Debt" right away.

## Will voting for Killington Forward affect my taxes?

No. 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.

## What financial protection does the Town have if moving forward with a developer?

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 states that Great Gulf will allow the town to raise the land value to the needed assessment to raise enough taxes to pay the bond. The taxes needed to cover debt service are proportionately very small for the scale of the Great Gulf business entity.

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.

## How will the town manage the long-term intricacies of TIF financial management?

Killington's Select Board created a new position specifically to manage the financial and accounting scope of this project. Mark DeCota was hired as the Finance Director in 2022. In the proposed FY24 budget, there is also an Assistant Accountant position recommended, pending the passing of Article #5.

## Who will own the water infrastructure and will new users of the municipal water have to pay for it?

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.

## Will I be consulted if the road construction or pipe installation affects my property?

The town will make every attempt to stay within its right of way. However, if permission is needed for impact to private property, the town will be in touch on a case by case basis.

## What are we doing about workforce housing?

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 creation of this system will provide water down Killington Road to Ravine Road in Phase 1 and will open up eventual opportunities for parcels to be redeveloped or units to be added to existing properties. Meanwhile, the town also is taking further steps to ensure workforce housing will be secured on Killington Road. Details of these efforts will be announced in the coming weeks.

## How will parking be affected by the construction of Phase 1 and the ultimate development of the Village?

According to Michael Sneyd of Great Gulf, every space at Killington Resort that is being displaced will be replaced. In addition, all new condo units will have underground parking. Four parking areas will feed lifts, and a system of shuttles will become even more readily available.

## How does the creation of new residential units in the village, which will primarily be second homes, help our community?

There is a shortage of available housing at all price points around the entire state. In Killington, the problem has been magnified as second homeowners purchase the stock intended for year-round residents. This addition of housing supply at Six Peaks will ease the pressure both for residents and visitors.

Mike Solimano and Michael Sneyd have also indicated that Six Peaks Village will add new community gathering spaces, special events, and year-round retail and hospitality interest.

# VOTE TUESDAY MARCH 7 TOP PRIORITY ARTICLE 5

## KILLINGTON FORWARD—THE PLAN TO DEVELOP:

MUNICIPAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE  
WORKFORCE HOUSING

NEWLY DESIGNED KILLINGTON ROAD  
SIX PEAKS VILLAGE AT KILLINGTON RESORT

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

**FEBRUARY 13 • 6PM**

Public Safety Building/Zoom  
Town's Second Public Hearing for TIF

**FEBRUARY 16 • 5PM**

Killington Grand Hotel  
Resort's Community Update

**MARCH 6 • 7PM**

Public Safety Building/Zoom

**MARCH 7 • 7AM-7PM**

Town Meeting Day  
Vote at the Town Offices



LEARN MORE

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

AN ARTIST RENDITION OF THE SIX PEAKS  
VILLAGE AT KILLINGTON RESORT.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Johnson Recreation Ice Rink Now Open

This winter, The Town of Killington Parks & Recreation has added a brand new outdoor ice skating rink facility. Programs to be featured will be adult ice hockey, open skate, and more.

Please visit the Killington Recreation Department website for official opening and resurfacing information before you arrive.

**TIMES OF OPERATION:**  
9am to 8:30pm

**VOLUNTEERS:** Email Griffin Van Niel

at recadmin@killingtontown.com to volunteer to help with the ice rink.

### Volunteers for Appointed Positions Due 2.28.23

The Killington Select Board invites applications for the following appointed positions:

- Planning Commission
- Development Review Board
- Recreation Commission
- Town Service Officer
- Regional Ambulance Service
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission

- Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative
- Rutland Region Transportation Council
- Energy Coordinator
- Fence Viewers
- Inspector of Lumber Shingles & Wood
- Tree Warden
- Weighers of the Coal

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WILL BE CLOSED FOR  
PRESIDENT'S DAY MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 20, 2023**

**NOTICE** The Town of Killington now has one call in number: **802-422-3241**

All other Town Office numbers will be discontinued.  
Please follow the prompts to reach the Department of choice.



# RNESU superintendent full of hope and pragmatism

By Erica A. Langston/Addison County Independent

BRANDON — This fall, Kristin Hubert, the new superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU), welcomed the school year with hope and pragmatism. Six months into her tenure, it's these sentiments that continue to shape her vision and work in the district.

From school closures to a mass exodus of faculty and staff, to a cultural and political reckoning that has found its way into classrooms across the country, schools and the students in them have been through some of the most unstable and challenging times in recent memory. As Covid moved from a pandemic to an endemic, Hubert's hope that school might return to normal after more than two years of upheaval was palpable, if measured. Roughly halfway through the academic year, challenges both old and new remain.

On a day-to-day basis, the struggles are acute.

"We are really still struggling with workforce shortages in a really impactful way," Hubert said in a recent interview.

That's true especially for support staff like teachers' aides, custodians, substitutes and bus drivers. The boards of RNESU and Otter Valley Unified Union recently finalized a three-year contract with the educational support staff and bus drivers that secured a one-time wage increase of 8.20% and 4% annual increases going forward. Nevertheless, at the end of December there were still 28 openings for support staff positions in the district.

"We settled the new contract, and we're hoping to find more [employees] as the contract takes hold," Hubert said, but "you can't create a bus driver out of thin air." Even with the new contract, competition for support staff is fierce.

"Those professionals are people who can be grabbed by other industries. We're not just competing with other

schools, we're competing with trucking companies, and Dunkin Donuts, and UPS. In a way, we were attributing [the shortage] to the pandemic, but now it's just Vermont's reality," Hubert said.

To make matters worse, a perfect storm of Covid, RSV and the flu has exacerbated an already thin crew. At times, bus runs have to be combined because a driver is sick, which can significantly increase students' commutes. Teachers have to give up planning blocks and lunch breaks to cover for other teachers. Occasionally, classes have to be merged.

"It's not regular enough to find the need to respond in a different way, but it has been impactful. It makes it hard to do our daily jobs. We've been fortunate to be able to keep all schools open," Hubert said.

Not every district has been so lucky.

## Student disparities

Despite these shortages, Hubert — who replaced long-time Superintendent Jeanné Collins on July 1 and was the district's director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for three years before that — is determined to help the

RNESU → 16

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*Oh her amazing Valentine!*



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, Feb. 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

The Selectboard of the Town of Killington will hold a public informational hearing to consider the ballot item for Town Meeting Day (March 7, 2023) on a bond vote for the Killington Tax Financing District (TIF), to be serviced by tax increment financing. At this hearing, information will be provided to the voters on the amount of TIF District debt proposed to be incurred, the expected improvements to be financed to serve the TIF District, the estimated amount and type(s) of financing, the estimated related costs to be paid from TIF incremental revenues, whether interfund loans or interim financing will be used, and the anticipated development expected from the financing for the TIF District.

**The public hearing will take place on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Killington Public Safety Building at 800 Killington Road and via Zoom. Visit [KillingtonTown.com/calendar](https://KillingtonTown.com/calendar) for a link to attend the meeting online.**



Courtesy U.S. Ski Team

Hannah Soar got third place and her first podium of the season on Feb. 4 in Utah.

## Soar gets third place in dual moguls

Staff report

Killington's Hannah Soar secured a podium spot and a third place finish in World Cup dual moguls at Deer Valley Resort in Utah on Sunday, Feb. 4.

This was her best performance of the season and her first podium. Soar has previously done well at Deer Valley — the only United States resort to host a World Cup women's freestyle skiing event. A couple days before her podium, on Feb. 2, she scored fifth in moguls.

She got seventh place in moguls last year at the U.S. event and second in dual moguls in both 2020 and 2021.

Soar, 23, graduated from Killington Mountain School and grew up competing in mogul competitions at Killington Resort.

"It's been a minute since my last World Cup podium and I couldn't be happier to be back under the lights @ deervalleyresort and share the moment with @perrinelaffont and my archenemy @jaekauf Huge thank you to my most amazing teammates, you guys make these moments incredibly special — love you guys!" she wrote on Instagram.



**School safety concerns:** Parents question administrations on safety policy, transparency, protocols  
from page 1

“The threat was ... paired with the presence of ammunition that matched the weapon with which the threat could be carried out,” Petrarca wrote, explaining she was told about the incident by another female student.

The female student came forward on Jan. 25 when she was “overcome with emotions,” Petrarca said. The student told Petrarca she didn’t feel safe on the bus.

Principal Mills met with the offending student’s parents later that day and decided the student would be allowed back to school to serve in school suspension.

Petrarca protested and emailed Superintendent Sherry Sousa and Mills that evening to tell them she would not return to school until further notice “due to my disagreement with how the incident was being handled.”

Petrarca’s letter detailed a culture of silencing and hiding behind federal laws when violent threats occur.

Petrarca met with administration virtually on Jan. 26, where she was told the “message will not be shared with families to ‘not incite further panic,’” Petrarca said. “I did not agree with this statement and made it clear in the meeting.”

Sousa responded with a vague response to Petrarca’s concerns, telling Petrarca, “We are a district that focuses on restorative practices so that the student learns new behaviors and makes amends to the decisions they have made.”

Petrarca said the student was eventually suspended and she was told a safety plan would be put in place for the student and the student’s victims.

“Mrs. Mills insisted that the child is not a threat to our safety and that she was/ is comfortable with the student returning on Monday,” Petrarca said.

Mills also met with fourth grade students during this time and instructed them to keep quiet, according to Petrarca.

Petrarca returned to school on Jan. 27 and during a schoolwide meeting about the incident, Petrarca said she and her teaching partner were again silenced about the issue and kept from communicating their concerns with the wider school community.

Mills sent an email to fourth grade parents the afternoon of Jan. 27 and assured them there was a safety plan in place. But, when a school guidance counselor asked to see the plan, it appeared it wasn’t ready yet.

“I have nothing to show you,” Mills told a guidance counselor, according to Petrarca.

At the meeting on Feb. 6, dozens of parents echoed Petrarca’s concerns about the lack of communication regarding the incident.

“One day after the incident the children who knew the details of the incident were instructed by Principal Mills not to discuss nor speak to their friends because that is how rumors are spread,” Zoe Horneck said. “She continued to silence our children that week when she spoke to the entire fourth grade, telling them not to speak about the incident to each other.

“No matter what the intent of Principal Mills’ message was, her words have created fear in our children, fear for their safety, to speak up and fear to feel,” she said.

Sousa sent an email to all parents in the district on Jan. 30, explaining the district was going through a “deeply challenging time,” providing no other context.

“I want to assure you that violence has no home in our school district community,” Sousa wrote. “If there is an immediate threat to our students and school, law enforcement is called without hesitation.”

The lack of detail only escalated concerns among parents.

Sousa later clarified via email to the Mountain Times before the meeting that she had no specific concerns regarding school violence.

“We have strong support in all of our schools for students and families,” she said. “I do know that violent acts in our nation’s schools and communities have become common events which elevates all of our fears for what could happen.”

Parents said the issue in the past week is nothing new. Many of them detailed bullying incidents involving their own

“We’re all fed up and we need change. We’ve been saying it long enough. What we’re doing is not working,”

Bennett said.

children and the school leadership’s lack of response. Incident after incident, parents were told the same thing — the school was handling it. Parents said the offending students often immediately returned to school.

Mallory Bennett said a student yanked her daughter’s ponytail back on the school bus about eight months ago. The student “got in her face and called her an f’ing ‘B,’ among other things,” Bennett said.

Bennett’s other child in third grade was hit and shoved against a desk earlier this year.

“Nothing has ever been done,” Bennett said. “We’re all fed up and we need change. We’ve been saying it long enough. What we’re doing is not working.”

Several months ago, Holly Gaspar said her daughter walked off the bus with an unfired bullet in her hands.

“We brought it directly to the school administration and were asked to wait while the principal finished a meeting,” she said. “Our child was scared, we were scared as parents.”

Gaspar said she asked the school administration to take safety precautions and be transparent with the wider community. “We were told that this is not what the administration is being advised to do,” Gaspar said.

“All of these repeated incidents have been shared and communicated to us by our 7- and now 8-year-old, never from the school,” she continued.

Andrew Cleland said a student threatened to choke his 6-year-old son on the bus.

“My 6-year-old son should not be coming home thinking he is going to die,” Cleland said. “My son was harmed, even if he wasn’t physically choked.”

Jen Harris got emotional when she spoke.

“I haven’t been sleeping at night,” she said, alluding to an incident in Virginia where a teacher was shot by a 6-year-old student in early January.

“For so long I’ve been watching things on the news and feeling so thankful we live in this wonderfully safe community,” Harris said.

Mills declined to comment on the status of the offending student or details of the incident in an interview before the meeting.

“I have a lot of faith in our students,” she said in an interview. “I think we have kids that speak up when there’s a problem. I think we’re able to address problems as they come along.”

Mills said a school counselor is currently substituting in Petrarca’s 13-student class while they search for Petrarca’s replacement in the fourth grade.

“We’re working on that right now, we’ve posted the position and we’re exploring that,” she said.

Mills said Petrarca was planning on leaving at the end of the school year.

“She stated that she was going to explore other career opportunities,” she said.

Mills said she heard the feedback regarding transparency from parents and would take action.

“We need to continue to examine best practices in communication with families,” Mills said. “The feedback in that area is clear so that’s something I’ve definitely reflected on.”

School Board chair Keri Bristow, a longtime teacher, said the threat was “words only.” Bristow has friends in Woodstock Elementary School and admitted she knew more about the incident than she should as a School Board member.

Bristow said the school handled the problem well, “A threat was made, that’s very clear,” Bristow said. “(The threat was found to be untrue. The school moved forward with the emergency operations plan.”

The School Board went into executive session for over an hour at the Feb. 6 meeting.

Bristow said there would be another open meeting for parents to share concerns. A parent/student survey regarding school safety is also being circulated and the issue will be discussed at an upcoming school policy committee meeting.

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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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# Mentor Connector's John Woodward invests in our youth

Long before recently launched Vermont nonprofits began promising to help disengaged youths “feel valued and experience belonging,” there was Mentor Connector.



**For the Greater Good**  
By Liz DiMarco Weinmann

Working with families, educators, caretakers, business leaders, and other nonprofits, Mentor Connector offers a broad variety of programs led by trusted experts who have been helping youths feel valued, nurtured and welcome for nearly two decades.

The following is a glimpse of what the organization does: Mentor Connector's one-on-one mentoring helps support youth in life skills, education, and workforce development. Its group mentoring program provides youths the opportunity to learn a new skill, serve in the community, or get to know other youths and mentors in a safe environment. The organization's family mentoring program matches a community mentor with a family and each youth within the family, and the transitional living program helps endangered youths, ages 16-21, transition to self-sufficiency.

Frightening news reports about the challenges of America's youth bring to mind President John F. Kennedy's declaration, “Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” Last December, The Mentor Connector gained a new executive director named John Woodward, a dynamic career-long educator and compassionate youth advocate, for whom Kennedy's quote could become a personal mantra.

Becoming the leader of Mentor Connector represents a return to Vermont for Woodward, his wife Caroline, and their two daughters. A few years ago he served as director and community program manager for the Vermont



John Woodward

Submitted

Youth Conservation Corps, the youth development and leadership nonprofit in Richmond, a post that Woodward indicates he enjoyed immensely. While many dedicated educators are driven to make a

difference in the lives of young people, Woodward speaks unabashedly about his “curiosity and joy” toward his work.

In a recent interview over Zoom, Woodward's curiosity and joy were front and center. He provided hopeful perspectives about the challenges today's youth face; the essential skill all good educators, mentors, and parents should cultivate in nurturing our youth; and the respect and gratitude he has for leaders who have mentored him throughout his career. Following are excerpts from our conversation, edited for clarity and space.

“If all generations would engage with youth in a positive way,” Woodward began, “then they could change their narrative about these young people, simply by investing their time in them. In turn, the youths would give back to their community, which would benefit them and future generations,” he added.

Where others may see only problems, Woodward sees opportunities to look for the inherent good in young people, to help them develop skills they can be proud of so that, eventually, they can secure meaningful work. He greatly admires historian Louis (Studs) Terkel, whose landmark book, “Working,” still resonates with many educators, almost five decades after its publication.

“Everyone needs something they can point to, to note something they accomplished,” Woodward affirms, reflecting Terkel's often-quoted perspective that all work is valuable, and all workers should be respected.

Woodward is a staunch believer that drawing out, and honoring, an individual's unique strengths and potential to contribute to society, begins when they are children. He credits his time spent abroad, engaging with other cultures, in helping him develop his acute sense of empathy and active listening, with people of all ages and backgrounds.

“I immerse myself to learn about a new person or a new place,” said Woodward. “I believe it's a sign of respect, to be curious and interested in learning about them. So, I

Greater Good → 8

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Projected FY24 Tax Rates Calculation

	Barnard	Bridgewater	Killington	Plymouth	Pomfret	Reading	Woodstock
FY24 Est Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398	\$1.4398
CLA	0.7637	0.8115	0.6160	0.7702	0.8215	0.8262	0.7537
Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$1.8853	\$1.7742	\$2.3373	\$1.8694	\$1.7526	\$1.7427	\$1.9103
FY23 Homestead Prop Tax Rate	\$1.7043	\$1.7456	\$2.0020	\$1.7340	\$1.5571	\$1.5205	\$1.8671
Increase(Decrese) from FY23	\$0.1810	\$0.0286	\$0.3353	\$0.1354	\$0.1955	\$0.2222	\$0.0432
Percentage Change from FY23	10.62%	1.64%	16.75%	7.81%	12.56%	14.61%	2.31%

Courtesy WCSD

Chart shows the projected state education tax rate for the Windsor Central Supervisory Union towns. The top row is the base rate for the distrit, then CLAs specific to each town get factored in.

←

**WCSD ballot:** Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) makes tax rates rise as property value rises; not all towns affected the same, budget articles will increase further, but worth it from page 1

Barnard with a 10.62% increase, Pomfret with a 12.56% increase, Reading with a 14.61% increase and Killington with 16.75% increase — all based on varying levels of CLA assessments (see chart above).

**School district articles**

WCSD voters in Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading and Woodstock will be asked to approve the district budget (Article 2) which sets the rates above, plus three additional ballot items (Articles 7, 8 and 9), which if approve, would further increase education tax rates in the district.

Article 2 asks voters to approve the school districts budget of \$25,836,048 — \$23,135 per equalized pupil.

“I’m voting yes on the budget,” Haff said, explaining that the increase over last year’s budget was necessary due to “necessary things such as contractual salary increases, insurance, upping line items for the regular

maintenance of school buildings, etc... We also hear every day about double-digit inflation and that’s affected this budget, too.”

Article 7 asks voters to authorize the financing of the design, bidding, permitting, and document development for the proposed new middle/ high school in an amount not to exceed \$1,650,000.

Article 8 asks voters to authorize public school building improvements to convert the steam heating system to a forced hot water heating system at the Woodstock Union Middle High School in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Article 9 asks voters to authorize building improvements to replace the roof and implement an energy conservation project

at the Killington Elementary School in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000.

Haff called Article 8 and 9 “much-needed” explaining that this was “basic maintenance to take care of the assets we own.”

“These jobs have to be done. As a select board and school board member I’d ask you to please vote ‘yes’ on these items,” he said.

Article 7, which asks for \$1.65 million to plan for a new middle school/high school building, Haff endorsed less enthusiastically. “Look, this conversation has been going on for some 6-plus years... from where I stand, it’s about time that we get this question answered: new build or not. The new build group would feel more comfortable

with a yes vote here, to get a better handle on the pricing and permitting of a new build before they come back and ask you to pass a vote for the new building.”

“I’ll be voting yes on this article in addition to the other two,” he stated.

If Articles 7, 8 and 9 all pass, it will add 8.5 cents per 100 to the local base education tax rate — or \$80 per \$100,000 valuation — before the CLA.

In Killington that’s \$2.33 to \$2.45 per hundred (now \$9,800 for that house on the grand list for \$400,000 — \$451 more than without the three articles.)

Haff noted that non-homestead properties pay a flat rate set by the state and are not effected by these bond votes. This year that rate is of \$1.386 (before CLA). In Killington, once the 61.1% CLA is factored in, a non-homestead property will pay \$2.25 in education tax.

802

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## A weak hand

I have never been much of a poker player, but I do know when my cards could have been better. With an 8-4 partisan split on the House Appropriations Committee and only 38 Republicans in the full House, trying to negotiate a reduction in the \$91 million in new spending in the budget adjustment bill was probably a futile effort.

The budget adjustment, H.145, passed out of committee last Monday on an 8-4 party line vote. The continuation of the hotel voucher program without restrictions and \$50 million for undefined future housing projects were key areas of disagreement. While investments for housing have bipartisan support, the money comes out of the next fiscal year budget proposal, and no one knows what will be reduced or cut to pay for it. The governor also voiced concerns over the new spending in H.145 after the committee voted it out.

Hallway conversations continued up until a few hours before the vote by the full House on Thursday, Feb. 2, in hopes of finding a bipartisan path forward. Unfortunately, no changes were made, and the budget bill was approved again on a partisan vote by the full House. Let's hope we can come together in a better fashion as we begin reviewing next year's budget on Monday, Feb. 6.

As we move into February, various committees are busy working on their priority bills. A couple of these include:

- Senate Natural Resources is almost exclusively reviewing S.5, the thermal heat bill. A similar bill was vetoed by Scott last year, but lawmakers appear determined to move ahead with the initiative this session to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating fuels. Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore cautioned about the impact on the cost of fuel oil to consumers (up to 70 cents/gallon) and the



By Rep. Jim Harrison

- estimated \$1.2 billion cost of conversion. On the other hand, supporters of the legislation have a more optimistic view of potential price impacts.
- Senate Judiciary spent much of the week looking at S.36, which increases penalties for threatening and assaulting health care workers.
- Senate Economic Development is focusing on developing a housing bill that could address impediments to housing, such as local zoning restrictions and Act 250 hurdles in downtown areas.
- The Legislature's fiscal office identified several new taxes for legislators to consider if universal school meals are continued, including a new sweetened beverage tax, candy tax, online software tax and increasing the state sales tax (currently 6%).
- House General and Housing committee has begun work on H.66, a new paid family leave program funded by a payroll tax on wages.
- House Environment and Energy Committee is focusing its efforts on H.126, introduced by the committee chair, which aims to conserve 50% of land and water in the state by 2050. A similar bill was vetoed by Scott last year.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I often come away with new information and perspective on the many arms of state government. As an example, last week we heard from the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. It was chartered by the Legislature in 1884 and opened its doors in 1887. The residents of the home were initially referred to as inmates, a term that fortunately disappeared many years ago.

What most impressed me, however, was that the nursing home has earned a 5-star rating, one of just seven homes in that category in Vermont. I am proud we are doing our part to provide quality care for our veterans in their senior years.

*Jim Harrison is the state house representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us or harrisonforvermont.com.*

## Deep work on housing

The Vermont Legislature is now deep into the work of our 2023 session. To date, 230 bills have been introduced, committees are taking testimony on various issues, and the priorities we identified before session began are beginning to take shape in legislation. The discussion about the Senate's 107-page child care bill, S.56, and the rand report, which addresses the costs associated with our ambitious goals, has begun.

I serve on the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee – and our areas of jurisdiction encompass two of our other top priorities for the session: Housing and workforce development. We are now well into the work of what will be the Senate's omnibus housing bill. And, while we've been involved, the House is taking the lead and is beginning the workforce development bill.

As a result of the massive influx of federal relief money over the last two years, Vermont has been able to appropriate over \$400 million into housing – building new affordable, mixed income and middle income homes, rehabbing vacant, blighted and non-weatherized housing units, moving the homeless into homes, building new accessory dwelling units, expanding our supportive housing efforts, improving the infrastructure and renovating mobile home parks, modernizing our municipal by-laws, and investing in improvements to our downtowns and village centers. We have never had this kind of money to support our housing needs. The good news is that we will be able to bring several thousand units on-line with these efforts – the bad news is that it's not enough.

The need for housing far outpaces our ability to build it fast enough or finance it. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency now suggests we need 35-40,000 new housing units asap. We haven't gotten here over-

night – Vermont has been under-building housing since the mid-1980s. So, exacerbated by Covid, people's ability to work remotely, and more people relocating as climate change refugees – we find ourselves in a real housing crisis.

The primary objective of this year's housing bill is to expand access to safe and affordable housing and reduce barriers to building more housing in our smart growth areas – in our downtowns and village centers, especially those served by sewer and water. The



By Sen. Alison Clarkson

Vermont has been able to appropriate over \$400 million into housing .

committee is exploring reducing parking requirements, allowing duplexes where single family units are currently allowed, limiting the number of zoning appeals, increasing the

Act 250 jurisdictional threshold for housing units from 10 to 20, increasing the number of units a priority housing project can build, reducing duplicative permitting, reducing burdens on minor subdivisions, establishing by-right zoning, expanding home sharing opportunities, and further investing in mobile home parks, the Vermont housing improvement program and the creation of more accessory dwelling units. This bill is in its early stages of development.

Every year the Vermont state treasurer encourages Vermonters to review the millions of dollars of Unclaimed Property this office holds to see if some it might belong to them. Last year the average claim was \$400. This year they have \$119 million to return to rightful owners. You can search online at [www.MissingMoney.Vermont.gov](http://www.MissingMoney.Vermont.gov) or call the Unclaimed Property Division at (802) 828-2407 or toll-free in Vermont at 1-800-642-3191.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email: [aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us) or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 802-828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov)

## Greater Good: Mentor Connector helps support youth with one-on-one mentorship, seeks to become indispensable resource for community

ask questions first, and I listen intently to the replies," he explained. That's my definition of 'leaning in.'

"But I also learned how important it is to 'lean out,'" Woodward added, to reflect on what I'm hearing, before going ahead to analyze and weigh in with my own perspectives.

"It's in the 'leaning out' that we can clarify and reexamine our own values," Woodward advises. "Then we can become more creative about solutions to what might have seemed problems ... My goal is to meet folks where they are," he said. "That's what we need to do as teachers and parents, try to find the connection and where we overlap."

Woodward has tremendous fondness for the Vermont nonprofit leaders he met through his work at VYCC, whom he continues to seek out as advisers for his own development as a leader. "I've had success in fundraising, creating efficiencies in operations, and fostering an engaged organizational culture," Woodward noted, "but this is my first executive director job."

To that point, Woodward indicates he is looking forward to

connecting with other Killington-Rutland area nonprofit leaders, including those who also are first-time executive directors.

He has already begun to reach out to them, acknowledging how essential collaboration is in such a small state as Vermont.

"Mentor Connector will be strongest when we ourselves are connectors," acknowledges Woodward, "via the partnerships we create with other organizations in our community – whether they are youth-driven or serve other important causes. It's through those collaborations that I hope Mentor Connector will become an indispensable resource in the community."

"The services that Mentor Connector provides are essential for helping all of our young people, despite their challenges, develop their own social capital," said Woodward. "If we focus on inspiring our youths, facilitating their

development, then they will thrive."

John Woodward's profound respect for young people, and his empathy for diverse — and often disparate — points

of view should serve him well in his leadership of Mentor Connector. He is the embodiment of an educator who is deeply committed to helping young people thrive and convincing them that they truly are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.

For more information, including how to become a mentor, visit: [mentorconnector.com](http://mentorconnector.com).

*Liz DiMarco Weinmann, MBA, is principal and owner of Liz DiMarco Weinmann Consulting, LLC, based in Rutland, serving charitable and educational institutions: [lizdimarco-weinmann.com](http://lizdimarco-weinmann.com).*

"My goal is to meet folks where they are," Woodward said. "That's what we need to do as teachers and parents, try to find the connection and where we overlap."



# Covid levels rise on western side of Vermont

Staff report

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC reported that five counties, all located on the western side of the state bordering New York, had their Covid levels rise from “low” to “medium” as of Thursday, Feb. 2; and Rutland County rose to “high” levels.

Other Covid metrics showed signs of an increase, too, such as the state’s hospital admissions, which ticked up from 41 to 48

over the past week, the state department of health reported.

The department reported 41 people were hospitalized for Covid as of Wednesday, Feb. 1, including eight in intensive care; and 501 Covid cases were reported, which is up from 455 the week before.

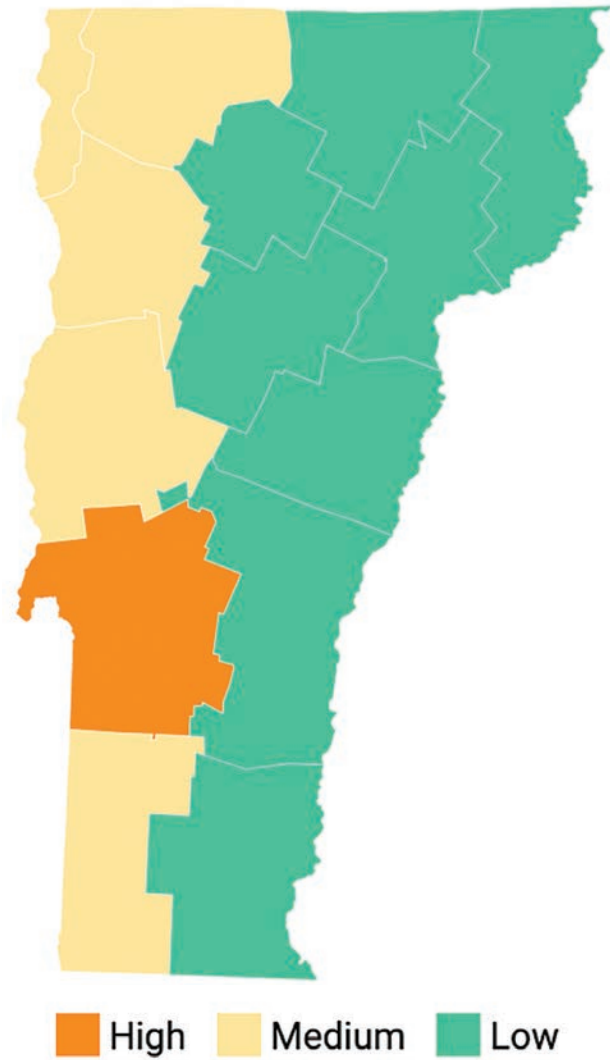
Case counts, however, are a much less reliable indicator than they were earlier in the pandemic as PCR tests are harder to access.

Covid case data does not include at-home antigen testing, so an actual count of cases can no longer be known.

The department also reported five more Covid deaths for January, bringing that month’s total to 17, compared with 20 in December. January’s total may continue to rise, as the department often reports Covid deaths retroactively as death certificates are completed. In total, 894 people in Vermont

have died of Covid since the beginning of the pandemic.

The latest update shows that Burlington’s wastewater plants did reportedly return to normal levels of the Covid virus in their samples as of Jan. 23, after reporting a record-high spike the previous week. But other wastewater collection sites reported varying Covid levels for the same time period, according to the CDC.

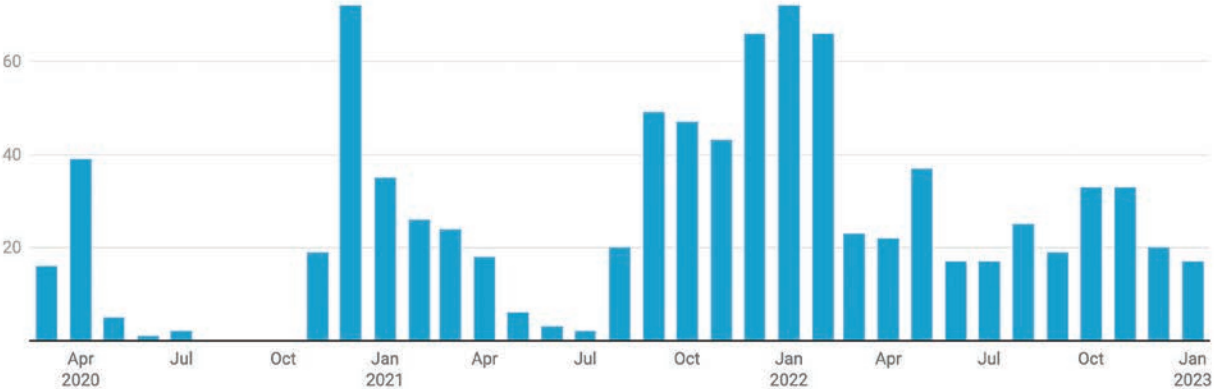


Courtesy CDC

Map shows elevated Covid levels in western Vermont the last week in January and first week of February. The CDC reports new data county by county on Thursdays.

## Monthly Covid-19 deaths

Most recent month is a partial total.

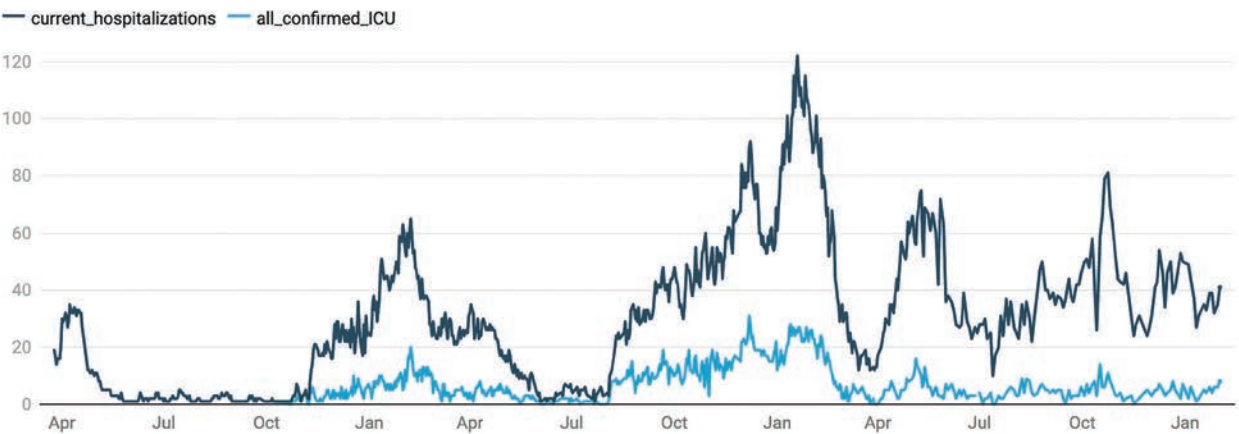


Courtesy VTD

Less people are dying from Covid since January 2022 but the numbers jumped up in October 2022 and have stayed moderate.

## People hospitalized for Covid over time

Number of people currently hospitalized for Covid:



Courtesy VTD

People hospitalized with Covid has spiked in the winter months of December and January for the past three years.

# End to national Covid-19 emergency order could affect Vermont’s ability to fight disease

By Erin Petenko/VTDigger

On Monday, Jan. 30, President Joe Biden announced that the federal government plans to end the emergency declarations for Covid-19 on May 11, a move that could affect Vermonters’ ability to access vaccinations, testing and treatment for the disease.

The national emergency and public health emergency declarations related to Covid have been in place since 2020, allowing a wide variety of regulatory changes on insurance, health systems, telehealth, pharmacies and vaccine authorizations.

One of the biggest impacts has been requiring Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program and private insurers to cover Covid-related care without cost

sharing, along with providing a way for uninsured people to get coverage for those services.

Agency of Human Services spokesperson Rachel Feldman said via email that Medicaid coverage for Covid testing and treatment without cost sharing would extend through Sept. 30, 2024.

The agency could not confirm whether other state-run programs would change their coverage as a result of the federal declarations ending.

At a press conference Tuesday, Gov. Phil Scott said the decision to end the emergency declarations was appropriate since Covid is “just going to become part of our everyday challenges.”

“We’ve gotten through this emergency. The vaccine we have is viable, and it will become — just like we do with the normal flu, I believe — that you’ll have Covid boosters on a yearly basis of some sort,” Scott said.

But Anne Sosin, a health equity researcher at Dartmouth College, pushed back on Scott’s characterization of the pandemic, pointing out that Covid remained the third-leading cause of death in 2022, even as pandemic restrictions were rolled back.

“We’re continuing to lose more Americans each week than in the 9/11 attack,” she said. “Even though we’re out of the earliest phases of the pandemic, it’s not in any way comparable to the flu or other respiratory viruses.”

She said the change would have a bigger impact on uninsured or underinsured Vermonters, who would lose



## Cannabis Control Board issues warning about contamination

The Cannabis Control Board (CCB) is issuing a consumer protection warning for flower produced by Holland Cannabis, due to pesticide contamination.

The CCB received a report of an adverse health impact allegedly related to the smoking of an unregistered strain of Holland Cannabis flower. The CCB obtained a sample of this product from the complainant and other samples of Holland Cannabis flower from a retail establishment and has verified that samples of multiple strains of Holland Cannabis flower tested above action limits for the active ingredient myclobutanil, a chemical used as a fungicide. The CCB is actively investigating this report and coordinating with other state agencies to gather information on the potential health impacts of smoking flower contaminated with myclobutanil. The scientific literature on the health impacts of heating and inhaling myclobutanil are minimal but implies the potential for the following symptoms: rash, headache, diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting, nosebleed, and eye irritation.

The CCB has stopped sale of all Holland Cannabis flower at all retail establishments

until it can confirm the safety of the company's flower. The CCB is issuing this warning for public and consumer awareness in the interest of public health and safety. Consumers who have purchased Holland Cannabis flower should return it to the store where they bought it. The CCB has confirmed that the following licensed retail establishments have sold Holland Cannabis flower: Zenbarn (Waterbury) The High Country Cannabis (Derby) The Green Man (St. Johnsbury) Lamoille County Cannabis (Morrisville) Capital Cannabis Company (Montpelier).

If a consumer has experienced symptoms consistent with exposure, or any adverse health effects from consuming any cannabis flower or products, they should seek medical attention or call poison control 800-222-1222 immediately, report the event to the retail establishment from which they purchased the product, and report the event to the CCB by submitting a complaint through the CCB website. The CCB is actively investigating this incident and will issue the appropriate health and safety orders in the coming days and will impose the appropriate regulatory actions upon completion of its investigation.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife service extends effective date to reclassify northern long-eared bat as endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is delaying the effective date of the final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The agency is extending the effective date by 60 days, from Jan. 30, 2023, to March 31, 2023.

The extension will allow the Service to finalize conservation tools and guidance to avoid confusion and disruption for landowners, federal partners and industry with projects occurring in suitable habitats within the northern long-eared bat's 37-state range.

The service remains committed to working proactively with stakeholders to conserve and recover northern long-eared bats while reducing impacts to landowners, where possible and practicable. We recognize reclassification of the northern long-eared bat has resulted in questions and concerns regarding compliance under the ESA for timber harvest, habitat management, development and other projects. A delay in the effective date provides stakeholders time to preview newly developed guidance and management tools before the rule goes into effect.

The rule reclassifying the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered was published in the federal register Nov. 30, 2022; the bat remains protected as

a threatened species with a 4(d) rule until the reclassification becomes effective on March 31. The northern long-eared bat was listed as threatened in 2015. It now faces extinction due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting hibernating bats across North America. Data indicate that white-nose syndrome has caused estimated declines of 97 to 100% in affected northern long-eared bat populations.

The Service is not accepting public comment on the extension.

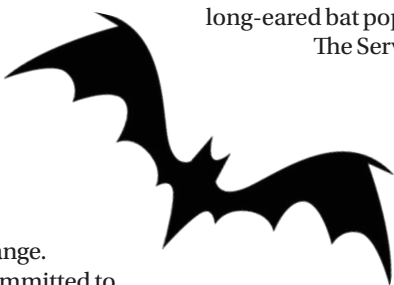
A Federal Register notice extending the effective date of the final reclassification for the northern long-eared bat was

published on Jan. 26.

The northern long-eared bat is found in 37 states in the eastern and north-central United States, the District of Columbia, and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia.

These bats mostly spend the winter hibernating in caves and abandoned mines.

During summer, northern long-eared bats roost alone or in small colonies underneath bark or in cavities or crevices of both live and dead trees. They emerge at dusk to fly primarily through the understory of forested areas, feeding on insects.



## Safe storage for firearms offered

Vermonters who need to remove firearms from their homes now have access to a renewed program that provides safe storage at sites statewide, the Vermont State Police and the Vermont Attorney General's Office announced Jan. 24. Two of the safe storage sites are in Addison County and one is in Brandon.

Under the Firearms Storage Program, eight federally licensed firearms dealers in the state have signed up to accept firearms for temporary storage due to a protection order or for other safekeeping reasons.

"When a protection order has been issued requiring the relinquishment of firearms, or for a host of other reasons, Vermonters need safe, secure and convenient options to store their weapons," Commissioner of Public Safety Jennifer Morrison said. "This program provides that resource at eight locations ... and we are working to expand that list to include sites in all 14 counties."

People may need to access safe firearms storage sites either due to a court order, or for other reasons such as travel, the presence of young children, mental health concerns, and more.

When a person is experiencing domestic violence involving a family or household member, the individual may seek a relief-from-abuse order. A judge can require the person who is the subject of the order to surrender any firearms. The police will serve a copy of the order on the person and

request immediate surrender of any firearms. Once the firearms are relinquished to law enforcement, the police agency may store the firearms with a federal firearms licensee (known as FFLs). Studies have shown that when people are experiencing domestic violence, having a firearm in the home greatly increases the risk of homicide.

People who are concerned about firearms that belong to someone other than a family or household member can contact a law enforcement agency regarding a court order called an Extreme Risk Protection Order, which requires a gun owner to surrender firearms. Only a State's Attorney's Office or the Attorney General's Office may file a petition for one of these orders.

Gun owners do not need a court order to voluntarily store firearms with an FFL. However, law enforcement agencies typically will assist with relinquishment only if a court order is in place.

The locations are:

- AGC Arms, Shaftsbury.
- Green Mountain Sporting Goods LLC, Irasburg.
- Hawk Hill Guns & Tackle, Brandon.
- J Stone and Son Transport, Hancock.
- Parro's Gun Shop, Waterbury.
- R & L Archery, Barre.
- Roland W. Hubbard Jr., East Dummerston.
- Vermont Field Sports, Middlebury.

## Vt not meeting its recycling goals

By Fred Thys / VTDigger

Vermont is still not meeting its goal of recycling and composting half its waste, according to a new report from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

"We need to do more with waste reduction," said Josh Kelly, the department's solid waste program manager and the author of the report.

Vermonters still generate about the same amount of waste as they did 10 years ago, when the state's Universal Recycling Law was passed, the report says. Meanwhile, the state's only landfill, in Coventry, has only about 20 years' capacity left.

"We're getting buried in our own trash, and this report from Josh Kelly brings it home for Vermont," said state Rep. Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury, chair of the House Committee on Environment and Energy.

In addition, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, are threatening recycling, composting and waste disposal, Kelly said. The report proposes

halting the production of these chemicals, which are found in many consumer products, from clothes to furniture, carpets and food packaging.

"It's a sleeping giant that we're all going to need to deal with in the coming years," Sheldon said. "It's highly toxic, and it's in all of us."

The report notes it is increasingly costly for municipalities to treat these chemicals in drinking water, wastewater, landfills, recycling and composting. It calls the Vermont law to ban PFAS in food packaging — which takes effect July 1 — "a good first step."

In addition, Kelly said, the cost to municipalities of collecting household hazardous waste, such as paint, paint thinner and pesticides, has skyrocketed over the past five years. He said when a resident brings a carload of these chemicals to the dump, it can cost a municipality up to \$400 to recycle them.

The report also says rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are causing fires

at solid waste and recycling facilities. The department supports including them in the Vermont battery recycling program, which it calls one of the most successful in the country.

Kelly said the market for recycling in general has dropped considerably. Recently, he said, there has been a push to include bottles containing water, flavored water, tea drinks and juice in the state bottle law, which charges a five-cent deposit for every bottle sold. The problem, Kelly said, is that redemption centers do not have the space to sort these additional bottles. In recent years, he said, they have also struggled to hire the staff needed to handle the volume.

Currently, bottles are sorted by brand, which means they end up in more than 100 different sorts, Kelly said. That is done to charge each brand for the number of its bottles that are recycled, he said.

"That means that that employee needs to keep in their head 100 or more

Recycling → 15



# Facing a crisis, House panel considers transforming the property value reappraisal system

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

With two-thirds of Vermont towns requiring property value reappraisals, the House Ways and Means Committee is considering a moratorium on them and transitioning to a state-run reappraisal system.

“This was not on my agenda coming into the session as, like, the project to take on,” Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, the committee chair, said at a hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 1. “But it does seem like we’re in a crisis. This is the moment to fix it if we’re going to fix it.”

Appraisals are the basis for property tax bills for homes and businesses. When those values fail to reflect what’s happening in the real-estate market, towns are required to reappraise properties within their borders.

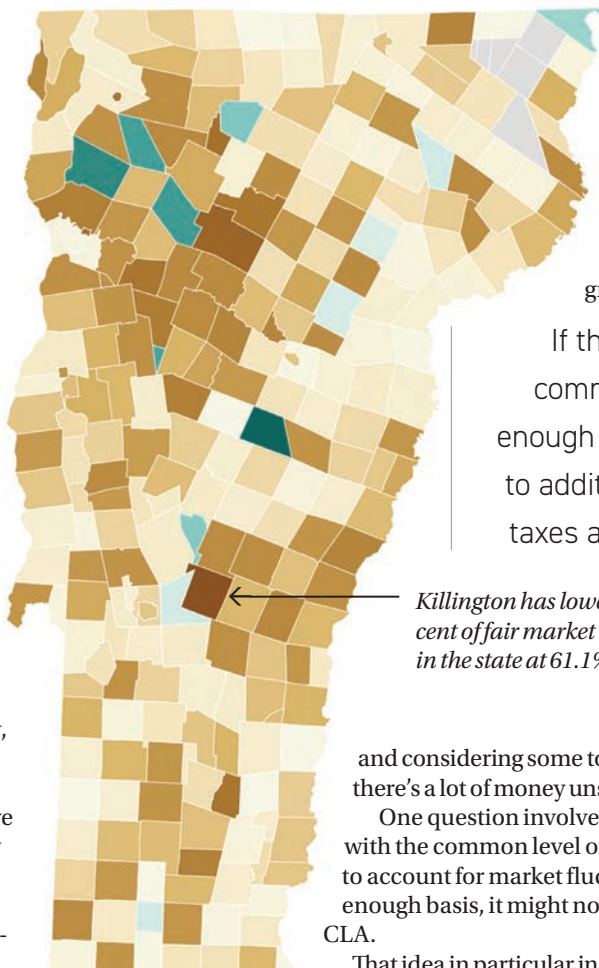
Jill Remick, director of property valuation and review in the state Department of Taxes, met Wednesday with committee members to discuss draft legislation that would transform Vermont’s property appraisal system.

If lawmakers choose to pursue Wednesday’s proposal, the state would impose a moratorium on reappraisal orders in 2023, gradually transitioning to a system in which the state, rather than towns, handled reappraisals. The switch would bring Vermont in line with most other states, Kornheiser said.

The draft language would also set up a system of regularly scheduled reappraisals for all communities. Under current law, municipal reappraisals are triggered when a town’s common level of appraisal — a measure of how a town’s property values differ from fair market value — drops below 85% or jumps above 115%. Towns can also be ordered to reappraise if local property taxes are unfairly balanced between more and less expensive properties.

“We’re very intrigued and interested in having this conversation with you all,” Remick told the committee. “The state’s at a crossroads,” left to choose whether to work with the old system, or “take advantage of this to try something a little different.”

But with only eight field staff, Remick stressed, she and her



Killington has lowest percent of fair market value in the state at 61.1%.

If the state reappraises communities on a regular enough basis, it might not need to additionally adjust property taxes annually using the CLA.

and considering some towns haven’t reappraised for a decade, lawmakers assumed there’s a lot of money unspent.

One question involved in a new potential system is whether the state could do away with the common level of appraisal, which annually adjusts property taxes in each town to account for market fluctuations. If the state reappraises communities on a regular enough basis, it might not need to additionally adjust property taxes annually using the CLA.

That idea in particular inspired joy from legislators.

“Can we say goodbye to the CLA, and would we get applause when we entered any town?” Kornheiser posed.

Beck imagined even bigger support from constituents: “Parades.”

staff do not currently have the resources to oversee town-by-town reappraisals if indeed the tax department began handling that process.

The draft language discussed Wednesday is far from finalized, and no bill has been formally introduced in the House. How frequently regular reappraisals would occur is still up in the air, as is the length of a potential reappraisal moratorium.

But the actions laid out reflect a legislative response to previous testimony from the tax department outlining the growing backlog in reappraisals and dearth of experts capable of handling the work.

One potential issue, raised by Rep. Scott Beck, R-St. Johnsbury, is how a state-run system would handle appeals. Under the current system, property owners have the ability to appeal property assessments locally.

Another unknown raised by lawmakers is what to do with the funding previously given to towns to make reappraisals possible.

Under the current system, towns receive \$8.50 per parcel per year to spend on an eventual reappraisal,

## Many second homeowners pay a lower tax rate than residents, will the Legislature change that?

By Ethan Weinstein/VTDigger

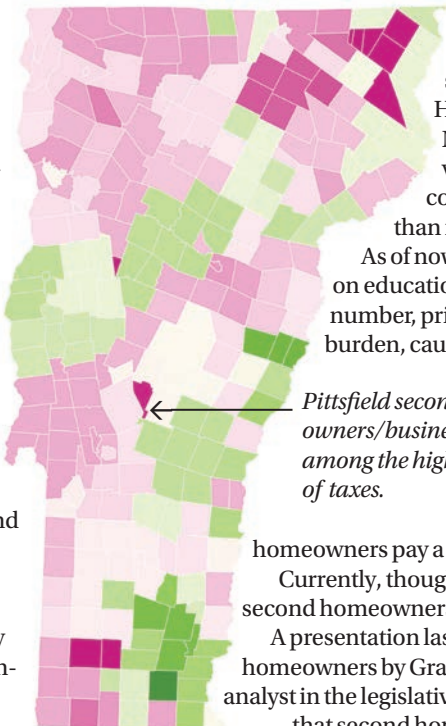
In more than a third of Vermont towns, primary residents are taxed at higher rates than those who own second homes or commercial land, according to a VTDigger analysis of property tax rates.

But that could change this legislative session if Vermont lawmakers take up reforms that have been researched throughout the past year.

“This is a hot topic this year as the Legislature looks for ways to fine-tune the property tax rates and relieve tax pressure on certain taxpayers,” said Jake Feldman, a senior fiscal analyst at the Vermont Dept. of Taxes.

Right now, property taxes pay for education spending at two separate rates: one for primary residents, and one for second homeowners, commercial landowners and other “nonhomestead” property holders.

In November, legislators, motivated by the state’s housing crisis, told VTDigger they wanted to consider taxing second homeowners differently than commercial and rental property owners, suggesting vacationers should shoulder a greater tax burden if they want to own homes that are occupied for only part of the year.



Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D/P-Brattleboro, who is now the newly seated chair of the tax-writing House Committee on Ways and Means, noted at the time that vacation homeowners in some communities pay lower tax rates than residents.

As of now, if a town spends more per pupil on education than a certain state-determined number, primary homeowners shoulder the burden, causing them to pay a higher relative rate than second homeowners. If a town’s school spending rate does not exceed the statewide standard, second homeowners pay a higher rate.

Currently, though, there’s no clear way to identify second homeowners in Vermont’s tax structure.

A presentation last March on taxes and second homeowners by Graham Campbell, a senior fiscal analyst in the legislative Joint Fiscal Office, explained that second homes are difficult to identify in the current property tax system because they lack a unique tax designation and are typically categorized as non-homestead taxes.

Non-homestead taxes → 15

## Info session set for Telephone Gap projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service invites comments for the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project located on the Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts of the Green Mountain National Forest. The 72,250-acre project area includes National Forest System lands within Rutland, Windsor, and Addison counties, including the towns of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon, Pittsfield, Pittsford, and Stockbridge. The Telephone Gap project proposal is now available for public review and the Forest Service is seeking public comment before preparing an environmental assessment.

The Telephone Gap project proposed management activities are the culmination of nearly three years of field inventory and public involvement conducted by Forest Service staff. Resource and public benefits of the project include improved wildlife habitat, restored soils and wetlands, a sustainable network of roads and trails, increased recreation opportunities, and timber harvesting to provide wood products for the local and regional economy while enhancing forest health and diversity.

Written comments will be accepted during the 45-day public comment period ending March 13. A public open house to learn more about the project proposal is scheduled for the evening of Feb. 9 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Barstow Memorial School, located at 223 Chittenden Road, in Chittenden. After a brief introduction, the open house will provide an informal opportunity to ask Forest Service staff questions regarding proposed activities. Maps and information regarding the project are available at <https://www.fs.fed.us/range/telephonegap/>.

Telephone Gap → 14



## GUEST EDITORIAL

## DeSantis, culture wars, and politics perpetuate grievance

By Angelo Lynn

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

It's hard to ignore Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, the Republican firebrand and likely presidential candidate leading the nation's third most populous state. His keen sense of timing when championing cultural issues is as impeccable as it is distracting. That's on purpose.

His latest move this week to have the state's Department of Education reject a pilot Advanced Placement African American studies course from being offered in Florida's public high schools is another example. It goes along with the governor's recently passed "Stop WOKE" law, which seeks to prevent the study of the full-range of experiences of African American and LGBT people in the

classroom — in K-12 as well as state-funded higher education and to essentially "white-wash" the teaching of American history.

These politically calculated moves mesh well with the "politics of grievance" initiated by

ex-president Donald Trump, who used the culture wars to build a solid white-majority fan base in his 2016 campaign.

In Florida, DeSantis is also riding a white wave of conservative support. By vowing to prevent the indoctrination of Florida students into political activism, as DeSantis claims such courses would do, he taps into the resistance of a state that is 79.5% White and Hispanic, and 17% African American. And because many Hispanics are conservative on social issues, they often support anti-WOKE legislation.

While the "Stop WOKE" law is being challenged for its unconstitutionality and opponents have won a preliminary injunction blocking Florida's Board of Governors from enforcing its "unconstitutional and racially discriminatory provisions at public universities," the outcome of the case is serious — some 15 other conservative states have filed similar policies which limit the teaching of the nation's Black history. It's a movement that must be fought.

Politically, however, the main benefit is transitory. DeSantis merely seeks to keep his name in the national spotlight as the new hero of America's conservative elites and a thorn in the side of the liberal agenda. He is, in today's highly partisan political theater, the conservative who can "stick it to the Democrats."

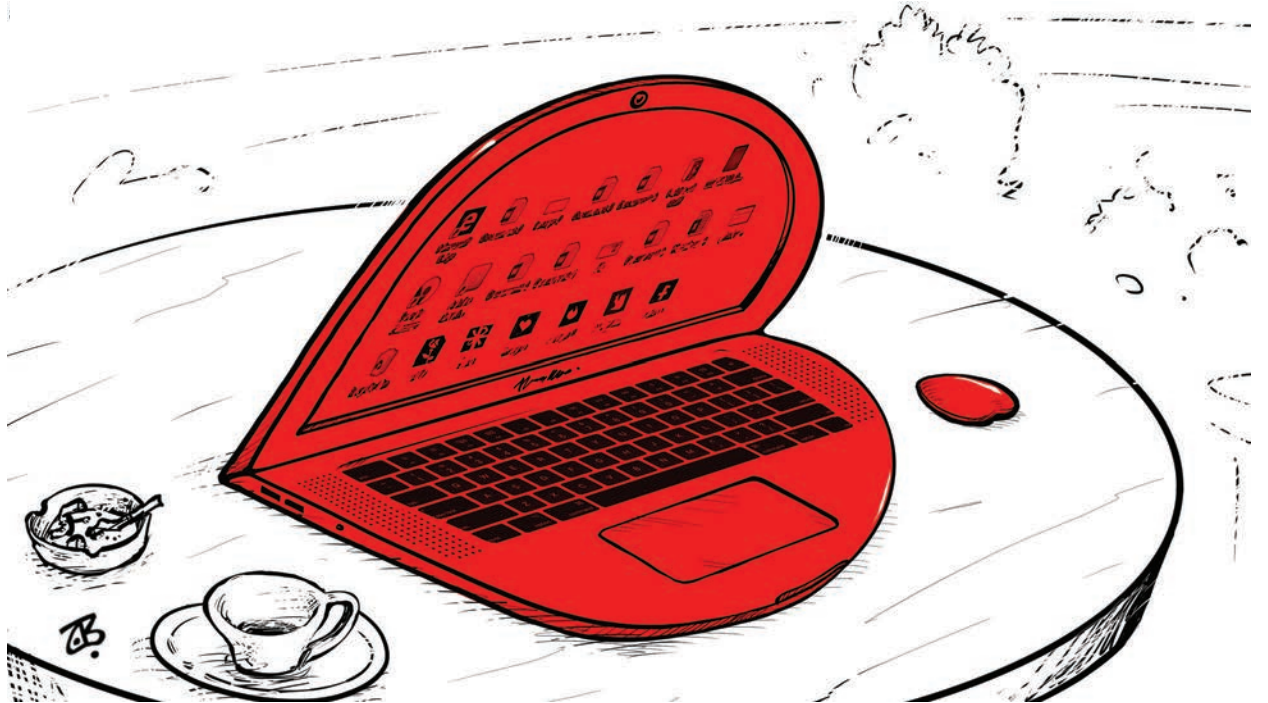
In an insightful column in the Jan. 24 New York Times, Jamelle Bouie notes how DeSantis has used this issue—as well as being among the first to be openly hostile to vaccine mandates, masking requirements, LBGT issues and anything or anyone deemed woke—to seize the right flank in the Republican presidential primary.

"There is a reason DeSantis has made these issues, and virtually nothing else, the platform from which he hopes to build national power. By leaning into high-profile battles as a culture warrior par excellence for the most reactionary segment of the American public — last year, to give another example, he picked a fight with the Disney corporation — DeSantis has made himself the hero of conservative elites and the bête noire of liberals and Democrats without so much as mentioning his radical and unpopular views on social insurance and the welfare state."

Why is this important for Vermonters? Two reasons

Culture wars → 14

15 other conservative states have filed similar policies which limit the teaching of the nation's Black history.



Valentine's Day by Emad Hajjaj, Alaraby Aljadeed newspaper, London

## LETTERS

### TIF vote will have big impact

Dear Editor,

There are few times in our lives when we have the opportunity to have the impact that we, Killington voters, have this March on Town Meeting Day. The last time someone or something had an impact this great on Killington, Pres Smith was hiking to the base of Killington

zle is public infrastructure — the roads and water.

It also should not go unmentioned that Killington Resort was made possible with public investment from the state for the construction of the access road and the first ski lodge; the next era of Killington's

Never again will your vote have the potential impact on a town than it does this March.

mountain to start planning for a Ski Area in 1955.

Not long after Killington Resort opened in the 1950s, the founders recognized the need for a ski village at the base of the resort. Since the early 1970s, when my parents moved our family to Killington, there has been talk of and desire to build a ski village. For too many reasons to mention, it's always eluded our town and Killington Resort.

I remember, in the late '80s writing an essay in college, about Parker's Gore and the bear habitat that stalled development in that area. That led to the big land swap in the '90s that finally opened the door for the Village on land that was previously the state-leased land at the base of Killington.

It's now about 25 years later and Killington is closer than it's ever been to the 50-year dream of a ski village.

The next piece to the puzzle

history again requires public investment. The state Legislature recognized the economic benefit back then and they do again now with the creation and approval of more TIF districts in the state.

TIF is the modern financing mechanism for public infrastructure to support private development. Quite plainly said, this project will not happen without the public/private partnership that is created with the TIF just like the partnership that was needed in 1957 for Killington to open.

And it's not just the ski village that needs clean water and a better Killington Road. Many businesses are dealing with the fallout from the state lowering the acceptable MCL of PFOAs that have been present at low levels in our water along the Killington Road for years. The lower MCL forced busi-

Letter, TIF → 14

### Opinion on natural gas was wrong

Dear Editor,

In the Jan 25 edition of The Mountain Times, environmental activist Bill McKibben opined about health and environmental risks of household gas stoves. He tries to make the case that nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emitted by stoves is a leading cause of asthma and he cites statistical studies to back that up. It strikes me that legislation to ban new installations of gas stoves is exactly the wrong thing to do and is not based on science.

Correlation does not equal causation. The latest studies published by environmentalists and public health activists try to pass off statistical correlation as the cause. One such report that made the rounds in congress and news shows in December was the Rocky Mountain Institute's study, "Gas Stoves: Health and Air Quality Impacts and Solutions. It used statistics to postulate that gas stoves cause asthma in children. It cited health statistics from mostly large urban areas where kitchen gas is prominent and compared them to households that use electricity, typically suburban or rural. That's it — just statistics with no scientific method and no control for comorbidity (e.g. obesity) or urbanicity. Facing scrutiny, on Jan. 13 this year RMI was forced to retract their conclusions and admitted that the paper does not demonstrate

a cause-effect relationship between gas stove use and asthma and that they did not actually test any gas stoves.

The broad view beyond the U.S. also contradicts any cause and effect role of NO<sub>2</sub>, given present standards. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), 38% of U.S. homes are connected to natural gas for cooking; Europe has a much higher installed base with 82% of homes using gas. Yet the incidence of asthma in Europe is half that of the U.S. (4% vs 8%), per the WHO. If there was a direct gas-asthma cause in humans, you'd expect Europe would be full of asthmatics, but they're not. The anti-gas activists also claim the NO<sub>2</sub> from stoves causes Learning Disabilities. Yet, Europe's incidence of that is just 1.33% vs. U.S. at 5.62%, per the WHO. Skeptical, yet?

Unfortunately, these agenda-driven studies cast a shadow on solid gov't research about NO<sub>2</sub> done in the past and recently.

The EPA has studied NO<sub>2</sub> emissions since the 1970s and they identified harmful effects from heavy NO<sub>2</sub> exposure. So since 2010, all gas stoves sold in the U.S. must meet the EPA standard of safe max exposure of 100 parts per billion (ppb) per hour. By 2018, EPA had identified three medical studies demonstrating a possible cause link between

Letter, natural gas → 15



## CAPITAL QUOTES

A balloon believed to be a Chinese surveillance tool spent five days flying over the United States before it was shot down by an F-22 fighter jet over South Carolina near the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, Feb. 4...

**"I ordered the Pentagon to shoot it down on Wednesday as soon as possible ... they decided that the best time to do that was when it got over water within a 12-mile limit. They successfully took it down and I want to compliment our aviators who did it,"**

said President **Joe Biden**.

**"As usual when it comes to national defense and foreign policy, the Biden Administration reacted at first too indecisively and then too late. We should not have let the People's Republic of China make a mockery of our airspace,"**

Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell**, R-Kentucky, said in a statement.

**"We still don't know what information was collected and where it was sent. This was a dereliction of Biden's duty, and let's hope the American people don't pay a price,"**

said Sen. **Tim Scott**, R-South Carolina.

**"The China balloon flying over the U.S. is a direct assault on our national sovereignty. Biden's refusal to stop it is a dereliction of duty. From flying balloons to open borders, Biden has no regard for our national security and sovereignty,"**

Texas Gov. **Greg Abbott** tweeted.

**"The Chinese side has repeatedly informed the U.S. side after verification that the airship is for civilian use and entered the U.S. due to force majeure - it was completely an accident,"**

the **Chinese foreign ministry** said.

## COMMENTARY

# Too late for business as usual

By Richard Hopkins

*Editor's note: Richard Hopkins is a retired public health official who has devoted himself to volunteer activities to try to reduce climate change. He is a member of the board of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County, and of the town of Middlebury Energy Committee.*

Do you remember when Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" came out? I saw it in a crowded movie theater almost 20 years ago. Recently I wondered how our local climate data in Vermont look now compared to then.

Quick answer: things have gotten worse.

One good summary measure for climate is daily temperature, averaged over a whole year. The National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) has a website where you can download such data (and some other summary measures) going back to 1895 for the western portion of Vermont.

You can see the data from 1895 through 2002. If you squint you can see a slight upward trend peeking through the year-to-year variability — such a trend would be a warming signal — but it could easily be dismissed as unimportant. There was a similar warm period during the early 1950s.

If you add in the years from 2002 to 2022, the years since the data shown in "An Inconvenient Truth," you can see that the slope looks much steeper since 2002, and now it sure looks like a clear warning signal. You no longer need fancy statistics or computer models to see an effect.

For us in Vermont, the amount of warming so far, or likely, in the near future is not an emergency in itself — if our climate became like that of Pennsylvania, it would be no tragedy. But as this trend continues, farmers and the winter sports industry will need to adapt, and we should expect increases in the frequency, intensity and timing of extreme weather events (floods, heat waves, blizzards, droughts).

We also should expect significant population pressure from climate refugees as flooding makes some coastal communities uninhabitable.

What we do locally to reduce the causes of climate change won't by itself affect the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere globally very much. It would be easy — and I believe wrong — to sit back and let other people far away make the needed changes, while we continue with business as usual. I think it is widely understood that for every part of the country, and every part of the world, business as usual is unacceptable.

The evidence in our 2017-2020 Addison County Greenhouse Gas Inventory is that so far, we do seem to be doing business as usual. (See more on that online at [tinyurl.com/LocalGHG](https://tinyurl.com/LocalGHG).)

Getting out of a business-as-usual mindset is a necessity and a challenge for all of us. You can take action in your own life, and as a member of your community.

The good news is that, in accordance with our state's Renewable Energy Standard for electric utilities, the electricity delivered by Green Mountain Power to its customers has gone from a low carbon content to a very low carbon content, perhaps close to zero. (Because our electricity is so low in carbon, reducing electricity consumption won't in itself have much effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.)

The bad news is that we have seen little overall decrease in use of fossil fuels: gasoline, diesel, fuel oil, natural gas, propane. The changes we have seen are mostly attributable to the Covid restrictions of 2020 and 2021; less travel, more home heating as more people worked at home. There has been some progress — sales of heat pumps and electric vehicles are up, people are weatherizing their homes and businesses and adding solar panels to their roofs — but those changes have not yet been widespread enough to affect the countywide totals.

Agriculture, especially dairy farming, is a major industry in Addison and Rutland counties, and has been a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions totals. Farmers tend to be conservative, in the best sense — they will adopt a new practice when it is economically feasible and there is good evidence and experience that it works. Leaders in agriculture need to continue to step up to hasten change.

Getting out of a business-as-usual mindset is a necessity and a challenge for all of us. You can take action in your own life, and as a member of your community.

In your own life, depending on your circumstances, you can replace the vehicles you drive and the powered equipment you use at home or in your business with electric equivalents when they need replacing, or even before. Similarly, you can heat your home, business or other buildings you are responsible for with cold-climate electric heat pumps, to replace your fossil-fuel heating system.

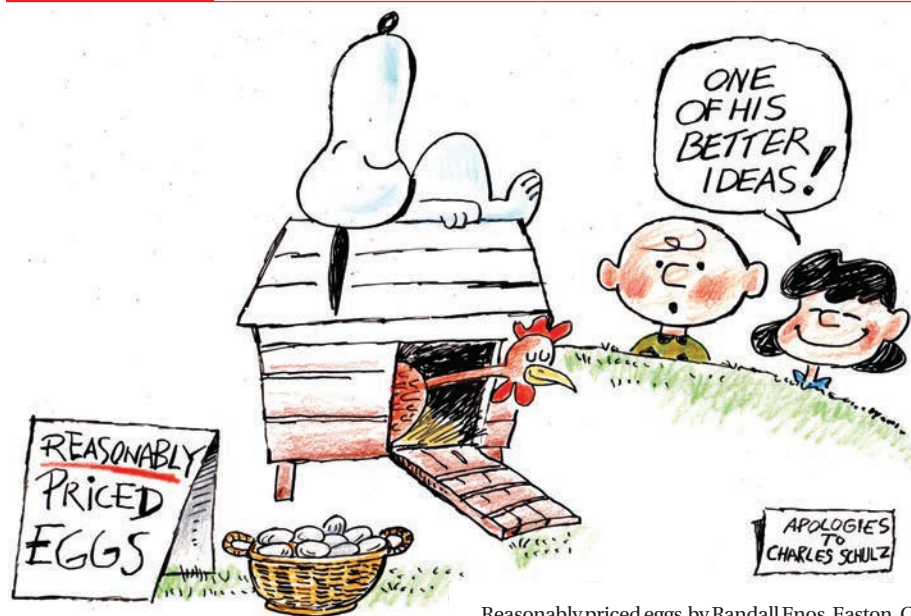
As a member of your community, you can insist that your elected and appointed officials (town Select Board, school board, planning commission members, and so on) figure out how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially when they make decisions about vehicles or building heat. You can join or form a climate committee in your town, your school, your workplace, or your place of worship. You can join an organization that advocates for climate-smart policy at the state or local level.

There is much to be done, and we are running out of time.

It's too late for business-as-usual.



CARTOONS



Reasonably priced eggs by Randall Enos, Easton, CT



Turkey Syria earthquakes by Osama Hajjaj, Jordan



Masks for Chickens? by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons



New Florida by Bob Englehart, PoliticalCartoons

← **Letter, TIF:** Vote 'yes' on Article 5, March 7, to support Killington's future from page 12

nesses to install, operate and maintain individual expensive water treatment systems that could be replaced by a public water supply.

Additionally, without a public water supply, businesses are not able to provide the water needed for the fire suppression systems required to expand or make major renovations, limiting growth and improvements.

These infrastructure improvements benefit all of us in town by creating opportunities for growth, more jobs and infill development that will increase the tax base.

The Killington Forward

Initiative and TIF district is the piece of the puzzle that's been missing for so long and it's not a recent concept that only benefits private development.

The Killington Select Board started investigating the TIF district options over 10 years ago. We also conducted a water study at that time to investigate the need and feasibility for a public water system along the Killington Road.

At that time we wanted the research to ensure that the town was ready to partner with the ski village development in building a water system that could benefit all down the road.

There were many barriers along the way and I applaud our current Selectboard, Planning Commission, Killington Resort, SP Land and others for their persistence and working with the state to finally get us to The Vote on the TIF District at Town Meeting.

I encourage you to visit the Town's website, do your research, and then join me on Town Meeting Day and vote in support of the creation of the TIF District. Never again will your vote have the potential impact on a town than it does this March.

**Chris Bianchi,**  
Killington

← **Telephone gap:** Public comments are welcomed on the 72,250-acre project from page 11

tion will be available for review.

Comments received from the public will be used to help focus the environmental analysis on resource issues of concern. A preliminary environmental assessment is anticipated to be complete by June 2023 that will be available for a 30-day public comment period.

A final environmental assessment is anticipated to be complete by fall 2023.

For more information, a detailed description of the Telephone Gap project proposed action, associated maps and direction on how to submit comments can be found on the project website at: [fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60192](https://fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60192)

← **Culture wars:** Mask DeSantis's platform to cut popular programs from page 12

resonate: to be grateful our own Republican governor doesn't dive to such low political means; and to understand the thrust behind cultural issues that may seem completely out of touch to many Vermonters, who may be thinking: Is it really necessary to wage an all-out battle to reject a new pilot textbook for a single AP high school course that seeks to teach African American studies in a new way?

It works only because it inflames the far-right fringe of the Republican Party, while distracting from DeSantis's political stands that are highly unpopular.

Bouie goes on to highlight DeSantis's ultra conservative agenda on the nation's main issues — primarily the wholesale slashing of government-run programs like Obamacare, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

As a congressman for three terms from 2013 to 2018, when he ran for governor and won (he just won his second term in Nov. 2022), he led the effort to shut down the government over funding for the Affordable Care Act in 2013, and that same year, Bouie noted, "voted to pass a budget resolution that would have cut more than \$250 billion from Social Security and Medicare over a decade. In 2017, he voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act and to cut taxes on corporations, high earners and wealthy heirs."

In his 2011 book bashing the Obama presidency, "Dreams From Our Founding Fathers: First Principles in the Age of Obama," DeSantis writes that the founding fathers "strived to construct a system of government that prevented government-mandated wealth redistribution."

It works only because it inflames the far-right fringe of the Republican Party, while distracting from DeSantis's political stands that are highly unpopular.

In today's economy, that misconstrued take-away is a sure-fire recipe for widening a wealth gap that has already created an unhealthy society of the ultra-rich versus a growing majority of Americans who are struggling to make ends meet.

Bouie's point is plain enough: American vot-

ers, and political opponents, should refuse to play his game on his turf (the culture wars) and, instead, press him at every instance to explain how his policies impact the issues that most affect Americans' livelihoods and pocketbooks. And, as importantly, challenge his ideology that would create an ever-larger segment of lower- and middle-income Americans unable to afford a quality of life their parents and grandparents enjoyed.

That policies DeSantis champions perpetuate the grievances of so many White Americans are not lost on Republican politicians. The culture warriors, like DeSantis, distract their supporters with emotional issues, while quietly passing bills against their economic interest.



## Chain of command: Select Board member reprimanded for communications from page 2

the town, and has management oversight of town employees.”

This relationship was clarified during an executive session meeting in December between legal counsel and the Select Board, at which Rielly was present, Hobbie said.

Ormiston said the AOT has been “very kind to Hartland” and upsetting the system that is working well and as it should “jeopardizes that relationship.” Nothing Rielly discovered during his interaction is information we haven’t discussed at Select Board meetings.

Rielly’s interference was called embarrassing to the town.

Rielly protested, saying he was just asking questions and doing research, which he felt he has the right to do.

Selectwoman Mary O’Brien spoke up: “If you want to get information, you go to the town manager, not to the AOT individually.”

Later, Ormiston said Rielly has never asked him individually about the bridges or anything else. Had he done so, he would share all the confirmed information he has.

Rielly said he would talk to Ms. Gammell individually and resolve the situation.

Hobbie looked at Rielly and said, “I’ve read your correspondence with the AOT, Jim. You are not having that conversation!”

The next morning Jim Rielly wrote, “I reached out to (Ann Gammell) today to apologize for any confusion I may have caused. She called me personally to say that here was no confusion and there were no concerns at her end.”

Although Rielly said he was acting as an individual and not as a selectman, his original email to Gammell began, “I’m on the Select-board in Hartland.”

Two of the bridges Rielly researched are wooden covered bridges over the Ottawa-quechee River in North Hartland. The posted weight limit is 10,000 pounds, which, residents on the far side point out, excludes fuel trucks,

garbage trucks, ambulances and firefighting apparatus, among other vehicles. Ormiston was told by a state engineer the highest weight limit the town might legitimately allow would be 12,000 pounds – too low for emergency and other heavy vehicles.

Ormiston said, “The town arranged a detour by which heavier units can access their homes, but they don’t like the detour, and continue to ask for a higher weight limit on the bridges.”

There was one incident when miscommunication required first responders to cut their way through a gate to help a resident in dire need of assistance, Ormiston said, but the fire and rescue squads have eliminated that problem.

“In fact,” he said, “Mill Street residents have the fastest response time in town, due to their proximity to Hartford.”

Ormiston said the bridges are in queue to receive attention and funding from state and/or federal sources, which is attributable to his efforts. The 10,000 pound weight limit has been in effect for many decades, and nothing could be done at this point to raise the limit sufficiently without incurring liability for the town.

“This has been discussed multiple times during public meetings at which Jim was present,” he said. “The only option is to wait to hear from the state.”

Jim Rielly said Mill Street residents claim they can’t get answers from Ormiston.

“They don’t feel they are getting clear and timely communication,” Rielly said in an email. “I listen to the concerns of residents and try to help. At times this may require that I do external research.”

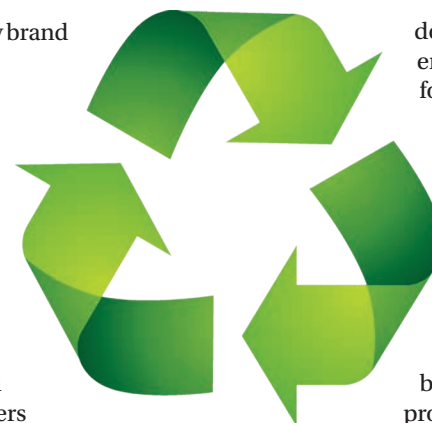
In an email he characterized Hobbie’s “calling out” of his actions, “a premeditated attempt to impugn my integrity.” He signed the email, “Disrupter in Chief,” a title often attributed to former president Donald Trump.

## Recycling: State falls short of targets, seeks ways to get back on track from page 10

brands and sort them by brand in order for the system to work,” Kelly said. He said if the bottle law is expanded to include additional beverage bottles, it would not work without other modifications.

Kelly said both recycling and the expansion of the bottle law could be supported by making manufacturers cover the cost of collecting recyclables. He suggested changing the system so that bottles could be sorted by material, such as glass, plastic or aluminum, rather than by brand.

“We have a consumer economy that



doesn’t require producers to be responsible for the products they are selling or even the packaging that is related to those products,” Sheldon said.

Sheldon’s committee is hearing testimony this week on a hazardous waste bill that would make producers fund reclamation programs that solid waste management districts run. Kelly

is scheduled to testify Wednesday Feb. 2

“There seems to be agreement that this is an urgent matter that we can do something about,” Sheldon said.

## Non-homestead taxes: Do second homeowners and businesses pay more? from page 11

rized with other nonhomestead properties, such as businesses.

Campbell also found that “Vermont does not provide any specific tax benefits to second homeowners that don’t apply to primary homeowners.”

Taxing second homes differently from other non-homestead properties would be one way to disadvantage nonresident homeowners, the presentation noted, but that system might rely on second homeowners to voluntarily declare their property’s use.

“This past summer, we did take the time to look into whether any other jurisdictions were taxing second homes so we could see what definition they were using,” Feldman said, “but we couldn’t find any examples in this country.”

Julie Marks, founder and director of the Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance, said she believed increasing taxes on second homes would cause some property owners to list their second-homes as their primary residences. The change could also drive more property owners to rent their homes through Airbnb or cause those already doing so to raise their prices, she suggested. Marks also said prospective vacation home buyers would be more likely to purchase properties elsewhere in New England.

“Whether these outcomes would be ‘good’ or ‘bad’ is subjective and differ for each individual,” Marks explained. “Second homeowners who are part of our association are generally aware that they already contribute more in property taxes than Vermonters with primary homestead declarations do.”

On average, non-homesteaders are expected to pay a higher tax rate than primary homeowners in the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years, according to the state Department of Taxes. Everyone is expected to pay more than years past because of rising education costs and increased property values, Tax Commissioner Craig Bolio told VTDigger in December.

Under the current system, those who qualify — 64% of homesteaders in 2023, according to the tax department — can pay education taxes based on their income rather than their property. The maximum household income to qualify was \$136,900.

A more drastic reform would be to shift Vermont’s public school funding to an entirely income-based tax rather than funding education through the homestead property tax. A panel of lawmakers met throughout the fall to consider what an entirely income-based system might look like.

### Who pays the most right now?

Although in most communities, second homeowners pay a higher tax rate relative to that of their resident counterparts, that’s not always the case. For the current fiscal year, homeowners in 88 towns pay higher rates.

The starkest example is in the Windham County town of Marlboro, where homesteaders paid 32% more than non-homesteaders. Second homeowners are paying significantly less in other nearby towns like Townshend, Newfane and Jamaica, as well as Fairlee and Vershire in Orange County.

Other outliers include all seven towns in the Windsor Central Unified Union School District (Killington, Bridgewater, Woodstock, Barnard, Pomfret, Plymouth and Reading) towns in the Harwood Unified Union School District, and much of Addison County.

### How have education taxes changed over time?

Most communities this year have a tax rate more favorable to primary residents than they did in 2016.

Pittsfield, in Rutland County, had the greatest change. Today, second homeowners pay a 45% higher rate than primary residents. But in 2016, they paid 21% less than residents.

Many Essex County towns, like Bloomfield and Brunswick, have had some of the largest swings in favor of second homeowners, as have the Windham County communities currently placing the largest relative burden on resident homeowners, like Marlboro.

Other towns that have swung in favor of second homeowners include Mount Tabor and Ira, in Rutland County.

## Letter, natural gas: Gas stoves aren't the problem from page 12

NO2 and asthma in children. But again, the exposure levels of NO2 studied were much higher than existing standards. So EPA left the standards in place and to be reviewed again in 2023. This decision to wait was not a “Trump call” and was fully supported by the non-partisan Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), which advises the EPA on science issues.

Enter Biden Politics. Unfortunately, the Biden administration now has stepped in front of the EPA’s planned scientific process and shifted responsibility for review and banning gas stoves to the politically-appointed Consumer Products Safety Council, which has no medical or scientific mandate from Congress. Its review is underway, so expect fireworks.

If health and safety is the primary concern here, then banning new installations of gas stoves is exactly the wrong thing to do. Today’s building codes require any new construction to be well-ventilated and modern stoves operate without pilot lights and test well below EPA NO2 ppb standards. I believe the focus should be on replacing older gas stoves with current generation and modernizing existing buildings ventilation to get up to current code. And I can see a time coming soon where today’s smoke/CO detectors and NO2 detectors will be integrated into a single affordable unit. Those should be mandatory in apartment buildings that are kitchened with natural gas and highly recommended for private homes.

On the other hand, if greenhouse gas is the pri-

mary concern for banning natural gas from kitchens, the reality is that the U.S. can’t fully transition to an ultra-low fossil fuel economy until 2050 at the earliest. Modernizing today’s home gas devices — rather than mandating them from existence - will stabilize emissions and give electricity producers and distribution utilities time to make smart power generation and grid upgrade investments. That’s the direction we should move.

If you just plain don’t want to use your current gas or inefficient electric stove and don’t want to buy new, the induction cooktops that McKibben suggests are simple alternatives.

Either way, make your views known to Senators Welch and Sanders.

**Charles Grace,**  
Rutland



## Brandon woman makes bid for selectboard

Brandon resident Cecil Reniche-Smith is seeking a one-year term on the Brandon selectboard.

A graduate of Vermont Law School, Reniche-Smith moved to Brandon after working for many years as a senior assistant attorney general for the state of Oregon, where she represented state agencies in state and federal courts. Before she was appointed to that position, Reniche-Smith worked in private practice, where she represented cities and counties in various stages of litigation.

Upon arriving in Brandon in 2019, Reniche-Smith threw herself into the life of the town. In addition to working part-time at The Bookstore, she is the chair of the Brandon Planning Commission and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Brandon Free Public Library.

"I come from a family of public servants," Reniche-Smith, 61, said.



Cecil Reniche-Smith

"For many years, my mother was active in the civic life of Bethel, Vt., where among many other things, she coordinated the clean-up efforts after Tropical Storm Irene. She has been a huge influence on my life."

Reniche-Smith's own volunteer history includes serving on the board of directors of REACH Community Development in Portland, Oregon where she worked to develop and promote equitable access to quality, affordable housing, supportive services and community. She also spent thousands of hours volunteering for the Oregon Humane Society, where she did everything from counseling potential adopters to caring for dogs seized from neglectful and abusive owners. She led the humane society's Technical Animal Rescue Team and deployed multiple times with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

← **RNESU:** Listens to suggestions for positive change from page 4

district tackle disparities common throughout the student population. Unequal outcomes for students existed before the pandemic, but transience, isolation, unequal access to technology and wifi, and food insecurity were all exacerbated by Covid and school closures. "We know there are some places where students have unequal opportunities," Hubert said. "Whether it's because of the school they attend, or because a student or family lives below the poverty line, or because a student has a disability or learning impairment, we know that our outcomes are skewed."

Both students and parents have voiced frustrations about their experiences in the school system. Hubert said she's committed to not only creating space to let those voices be heard, but inviting them to be part of the solutions that shape the district.

"We recognize that there is an awful lot that we don't know and we would be naive and arrogant to say we deeply understand the experience of being a student in our schools or a parent to a student in our schools. It is work we are digging into," she said.

Several initiatives, including a new parent advisory council and a new student council, have been spearheaded this year to inform the conversation. Otter Creek Academy, which encompasses the former Leicester Central and Whiting elementary schools, has a new group called "Up for Learning," which Hubert said encourages students to develop their own agency and voice while encouraging a deeper level of engagement within the school.

"It's about trying to understand the student and parent experience and making sure our schools are reflective of their values and their wants," Hubert said. "We want all of our students to have a common experience."

Hubert recognizes the limitations of her inclusivity vision. While schools can play a crucial role in student success, many face societal disparities that teachers and staff have little control over.

"It's hard because you have kids and parents who are demanding change and want to see change happen...but you can only do so much in a school," Hubert said.

### Life lessons

Part of the work Hubert hopes to oversee is preparing students for the obstacles and inequities they'll face outside of the classroom. Helping them find their voice and agency while learning to advocate for themselves out in the real world will be a life skill they can carry with them wherever they go.

What makes the Rutland Northeast community well positioned to address the frustrations this school year brings is its dedication to both kids and each other, Hubert said. From teachers and staff stepping up to cover for one another to active student and parent engagement, it's clear to Hubert that whatever differences the district faces at a local or national level, there is a unifying theme throughout RNESU.

"These towns rally around students," she explained. "They show up to sporting events, to arts, to plays, to concerts, to parent nights. They really, really show up for kids. We're a very passionate community. There isn't always the same thinking or agreement, but I have not been a part of any meeting or conversation where people's best intentions were not very clear, where people weren't kid-first or kid-focused."

It's this sense of community that continues to give Hubert hope.

"We're truly trying to help parents create kids who are the citizens of tomorrow, so we're not as a society stuck in this cycle where we can't talk to one another," Hubert said. "We want and need our kids to do better than that. Teaching kids how to have civil discourse, how to have a conversation with others who don't agree, how to recognize voices that are different from [theirs] and make space for those voices is far from easy or quick work, but that definitely is the work of this school year."

It's an ambitious goal that Hubert knows is only achievable with the community behind her. "Administration can't do that in isolation. Teachers can't do that in isolation," Hubert said. "It takes everyone's voice to do that."

## Brandon receives \$7,200 grant for preservation

Brandon is one of seven Vermont towns that received grant funding through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

A total of \$56,905 was awarded for projects through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program to support community-based preservation initiatives.

Brandon was awarded \$7,200 to hire a qualified consultant to undertake an overall survey of the important historical areas, industries, and people associated with Brandon. This study will focus on areas outside the identified historic districts and integrate the current information into a cohesive historical perspective. The final product will be a Survey Report summarizing the results of the project; an individual survey form for each property; photographs of each property surveyed; and maps showing the location of each property within the town.

"The documentation and preservation of a community's historic resources enrich the lives of its inhabitants now and in the future," said Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer Laura V. Trieschmann. "This pass-through funding from the National Park Service rewards that local commitment to historic preservation and should be celebrated."

Among the seven communities receiving funding are Hartford for the National Register of Historic Places nomination of Taft's Flat; Norwich for the Jones Circle National Register Historic District nomination; and the town of Stowe in partnership with the Stowe Electrical Department for the Moscow Mill Revitalization Plan.

Brandon was awarded \$7,200 to hire a qualified consultant to undertake an overall survey of the important historical areas, industries, and people.

"The Seaver Sawmill project will restore the mill as a community space and interpretative site," said Michael Lazorchak Stowe Electric Department's manager of regulatory affairs. "Stowe Electric will also restore the historic dam and modernize the hydroelectric plant as a community renewable energy project. The hydropower project will be the centerpiece of the Village of Moscow microgrid and serve as an example of how historic buildings can find new life as community-owned

infrastructure."

Designation as a Vermont Certified Local Government (or CLG) by the National Park Service recognizes those municipalities that have a special commitment to preservation through public policy with a historic preservation ordinance. Because preservation most often happens at the local level, joining the CLG program is an important and effective way to preserve Vermont's historic places. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation assists communities with the application process.

← **Emergency order:** End to national emergency for Covid could make treatment, access more of a challenge from page 9

guaranteed access to free Covid vaccinations and treatments.

Not all of that access will end when the federal emergency declarations do. Free vaccinations and antiviral treatments such as Paxlovid are expected to remain in place until the federal government depletes its purchased supply, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

But once the U.S. reaches that point, the price of vaccines could skyrocket, going up at least three or four times their current cost, according to a Kaiser analysis.

"The price of vaccines may quickly be out of reach of under- and uninsured Americans," Sosin said.

"Many of us are very concerned that this will exacerbate the disparities that we've seen throughout the pandemic, that it will create a situation where people with good insurance and good access to health care will have limited impacts, and those who have poor insurance or who are uninsured and who have less access to health care will be more impacted," she said.

It also could disproportionately

impact high-risk Vermonters, who are the target of many Covid treatments such as Paxlovid.

Sosin said the end of the emergency declaration said more about the deprioritization of Covid at a policy level than it did about where things are from a public health perspective.

"We need much more work done to lay the groundwork for this next phase of the pandemic... If we think that Covid is going to be with us for a long time, that means we need to build the systems to manage it into the future," she said.



WORDPLAY

'ALL ABOUT BABY' word search: Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards

SUDOKU

Solutions → 35

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

- BABY

BASSINET

BATH

BOTTLES

BOUNCER

BURP CLOTH
- CARRIAGE

CARRIER

CAR SEAT

CRIB

DIAPERS

HAT
- MOBILE

MONITOR

ONESIE

PAJAMAS

RATTLE

SLING
- SPIT

SPOONS

STROLLER

SWADDLE

SWING

TOYS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions → 35

- CLUES ACROSS

1. Functions

5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart

8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)

11. Secret political clique

13. Type of gibbon

14. Nocturnal S. American rodent

15. Famed American playwright

16. Mesopotamian goddess

17. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment

20. A place to stay

21. Actor Idris

22. One who behaves in a rebellious way

25. A way to measure movement

30. Distinguish oneself

31. Type of drug (abbr.)

32. Basketball great Baylor

33. Masses of salivary matter

38. Calls balls and strikes

41. Plant that grows along the ground

43. A recreational
- activity in the air

45. Consumes too much

47. Island nation

49. Pistol

50. Mixtures of soul and calypso

55. Ancient Greek City

56. Similar

57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game

59. Semitic fertility god

60. Born of

61. Frogs, toads, tree toads

62. School in the northeast (abbr.)

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. “\_\_ the Man” Musical, baseball player
- CLUES DOWN

1. Fiddler crabs

2. Discount

3. Partner to “flows”

4. Ethnic group of Laos

5. Beloved “Seinfeld” character

6. Book of tickets

7. The last name of “Hermione”

8. Type of TV package

9. Helps to heal a cut

10. Town in Galilee

12. Actor Horsley

14. “Hocus Pocus 2” actor Ed

19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)

23. They respond when someone is sick

24. Emerged

25. Midway between south and southeast

26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan

27. Unit of work or energy

28. Indicates near

29. Famed river

34. For each

35. News organization

36. CNN’s founder

37. They \_\_

39. Areas off to the side

40. Satisfies

41. A spare bed

42. Legendary singer Diana

44. Frothy mass of bubbles

45. A kind of sorcery

46. River in South Africa

47. Philippine Island

48. County in China

51. S. American plant

52. Beverage containers

53. Edge

54. Protein-rich liquids

58. Moved quickly on foot

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

10. Town in Galilee

12. Actor Horsley

14. “Hocus Pocus 2” actor Ed

19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)

23. They respond when someone is sick

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51. S. American plant

52. Beverage containers

53. Edge

54. Protein-rich liquids

58. Moved quickly on foot

## 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.

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

Level: Intermediate

## Eat, Drink, Shop *Locally*

MOUNTAIN TIMES

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Mississippi on February 11, 1979. I grew up in a family of musicians. My younger brother is a performer as well. I gained fame on a hit TV series in the 1990s.

Answer: Brandy

## KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF



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



## WEDNESDAY FEB. 8

### 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.

### Winter Story Time

10:30-11:30 a.m. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, Ludlow. Free. Story Time is the perfect opportunity for children and caregivers to make new friends, practice early literacy and language skills and have fun! Each week features stories, songs and hands on art or STEM activities. For more info visit: fmlnews.org.

### Saving the American Chestnut

6-7:30 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Tom Estill of the VT/NH Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation speaks on the history of the American Chestnut tree and recent scientific discoveries revealing the exciting possibility of a new blight resistant American Chestnut tree to be released into the wild. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### The Green Mountain Fly Tyers meeting

7:30 p.m. The Godnick Center at 1 Deer St. Rutland. \$20. Presenting for the evening will be Michael Roussel leading a presentation on fishing the Upper Delaware River system followed by a demonstration on how to tie a couple of early season dry flies.

## THURSDAY FEB. 9

### 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.

### Winter Death Race

Multi-day. Riverside Farm, 57 Tweed River Drive, Pittsfield. Cost is \$350. The world-renown Death-Race created by Spartan Founder Joe De Sena. Participants to challenge the mind-bending mental and physical winter challenge designed to break the strongest of individuals. For more info visit peakraces.com.

### Killington Bone Builders

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

### Homeschool Club: Musical instrument petting zoo

11 a.m.-Noon. Fox Room/Rutland Free Library/10 Court St, Rutland. Free. Join us in the Fox Room for this Homeschool Club gathering. Ms. Helen from Green Mountain Music is providing us with a Musical Instrument Petting Zoo! She'll be here with a ton of her instruments for you to test out. For more info visit: rutlandfree.org.

### Drive-up pick-up meals

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

### 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.

### 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 be covered in thousands of lights. The Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

### Watercolor Class

6-8 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South main Street, Rutland \$35 Watercolor Thursday, February 9th 6-8 p.m. Instructor: Dale Bills, all materials included Min: 5 For more info visit: chaffeeartcenter.org

### Tomásio: Abstractions of a Metaphorical World

5:30-7:30 p.m. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row in Rutland. Thomas Hacker or Tomásio's robust, energetic, acrylic paintings explode off the canvas. Tomásio's creative work ranges from music, poetry, sculpture and fashion. For more info visit: castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries.

### 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. Open gym will run until March. Thursdays will be basketball. 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.

## FRIDAY FEB. 10

### Snowdevil Ultra Snowshoe race held at Riverside Farm (Stage 1)

6 a.m. Riverside Farm, 57 Tweed River Drive in Pittsfield. Cost is \$50-\$400. An epic 6.5-mile looped course on the trails at Riverside Farm. Participants will race through narrow, technical terrain with incredible views of the Green Mountains at the peak. Do not underestimate this as just another snowshoe event, participants will be tested multiple times on a thousand-foot, three-mile climb that ends through a dense, dark spruce forest aptly called the Labyrinth. For more information visit: PeakRaces.com/snow-devil-snowshoe-race.

### All about the arts for ages 3-5

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. Free. Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more with instructor Lori Sullivan. 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 and must pre-register by Wednesday each week. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Art Adventures for ages 2-5

9:30-10:30 a.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. \$20/class. Every Friday students will create an art project based on an adventure into the land of Book Nook Discovery. One free book will be given every class thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Lego Play

2-5 p.m. Kimball Library, 67 N Main St, Randolph. Free. Come to the Kimball library on Friday afternoons for free play and creative building. For more info visit kimballlibrary.org.

### Explore drawing animals, age 6-12

3:45-5 p.m. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. \$100 per participant. All supplies included. Students will learn about the principals of drawing with instructor Helvi Abatiell. The four-week course will focus on drawing animals. Course dates are: Jan. 20, Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and Feb. 10. Attendees will receive their own sketchbook. A minimum of five students are required. All must pre-register. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Castleton women's hockey to host 15th annual

#### Pink the Rink game

6 p.m. Spartan Arena. 100 Diamond Run mall Place, Rutland. \$7 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2 for students. For the 15th consecutive year, the Castleton Women's Ice Hockey Team will trade their traditional Spartan green apparel for newly designed, limited edition pink jerseys to raise awareness and funds for the Foley Cancer Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center. For more information visit: RRMCM.org or call 802-747-3634.

### Tomásio: Abstractions of a Metaphorical World

5:30-7:30 p.m. Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchants Row in Rutland. Thomas Hacker or Tomásio's robust, energetic, acrylic paintings explode off the canvas. Tomásio's creative work ranges from music, poetry, sculpture and fashion. For more info visit: castleton.edu/arts/art-galleries.

### Valentine's Day Date Night

5:30-8:30 p.m. Killington Elementary School. Drop your students off and enjoy a romantic evening. For more info visit: killingtonrec.com

### Movie Screening of "CORSAGE" (R)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Pentangle Arts. Cost: \$10 adults, \$9 seniors (62 & up), \$8 kids (12 & under), \$8 members. A dramatic re-telling of the life of Empress Elizabeth of Austria who is idolized for her beauty and renowned for inspiring fashion trends, but who must rebel against the hyperbolized image of herself and comes up with a plan to protect her legacy. For more info visit: pentanglearts.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 be covered in thousands of lights. The Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.



**SUBARU  
WINTERFEST**  
SAT & SUN @ 9 A.M.

## SATURDAY FEB. 11

### Snowdevil Ultra Snowshoe race held at Riverside Farm (Stage 2)

6 a.m. Riverside Farm, 57 Tweed River Drive in Pittsfield. Cost is \$50-\$400. An epic 6.5-mile looped course on the trails at Riverside Farm. Participants will be tested multiple times on a thousand-foot, three-mile climb that ends through a dense, dark spruce forest aptly called the Labyrinth. Snow Shoes and headlamps are required. For more information visit: PeakRaces.com/snow-devil-snowshoe-race.

### Valentine's Day scavenger hunt

All day Okemo Mountain Resort. Keep an eye out for red hearts that are hidden around the mountain. Find one and bring it to Guest Services at the Clock Tower base area or Jackson Gore base area to redeem a prize! The Scavenger Hunt will run until the hearts run out! Keep an eye out on our social channels for some hints and clues throughout the day. For more info visit: okemo.com

### Subaru WinterFest at Killington Ski Resort

9 a.m. Killington Ski Resort. Subaru is thrilled to welcome back, #SubaruWinterFest, a one-of-a-kind music and mountain lifestyle tour that invites friends, family, skiers, snowboarders, music fans, and dog-lovers alike to bask in their love of adventure and all things winter! The annual mountain destination event will feature nationally recognized Americana, bluegrass, indie, and electronic music talent. Delicious treats, warm beverages and tasty surprises will be provided. We welcome dog-lovers and their pups throughout the weekend with a fun dog-friendly experience. Subaru owners will enjoy VIP treatment and special gifts while supplies last. For more info visit: subaru.com/winterfest.

### Magic of Maple, learn how to make sugar on snow

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. in Woodstock. Cost is \$10. \$5 for members. Learn how to make sugar on snow. taste a sample. Learn to churn butter. Listen to a children's story. Get warm at the fire pits with s'mores and hot cocoa. Tour the 1890 farm manager's house and visit the cows and calves in the milking Barn. All of this and more this Saturday at Billings Farm and Museum. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

### Friends of the Fair Haven Free Library Announce

#### Book Sales

10 a.m.-Noon. Fair Haven Free Library. Our "take what you want and pay what you can" book sale was so popular, that the Friends have decided to host another event on Saturday at the library. For more info visit: fairhavenfree.org.

### Winter Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Franklin Conference Center, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 92, Rutland. Free. Shop fresh food and crafts from local farmers and artisans. For more info visit: vtfarmersmarket.org.

### ONLINE Sculpture Workshop for Young Artists (Ages 12-16)

10:15-11:30 a.m. The Carving center and Sculpture Studio. 636 Marble St. West Rutland. Cost is \$50. This 4 week workshop meets every Saturday through February, and explores how to create a successful and meaningful sculpture. We will do so using super sculpey clay. For more info visit: info@carvingstudio.org.





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

### The Dating Game

11-11:45 a.m. VINS, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. What is a red-tailed hawk's ideal first date? Would a barn owl bring you a bouquet? Learn all about the natural history and courtship rituals of three bachelor birds as they compete for the hand of our lovely bachelorette contestant in VINS' very own version of The Dating Game! Three lucky members of our ambassador raptors will field questions from a mysterious bachelorette as they attempt to woo her. Who will get the girl? For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

### Rutland Railroad Museum & model club

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 79 Depot Lane (off Route 4) Center Rutland. Free. Held in the Hawkfly or Neale Pavilion. For more info visit: rutlandrailway.org.

### Learn to Crochet

1-2:30 p.m. Green Mountain Yarn & Fiber, 217 Woodstock Ave, Suite E, Rutland. \$20. Join Ruth to learn how to crochet! This class is for complete newbies to crocheting. Participants will begin a simple crochet project. You will need a size H hook for the class. Preregistration is required; register on our website. For more info visit: GreenMountainFibers.com

### Next Steps In Handmade Books

1-3 p.m. Gallery at the Vault. 68 Mainn St. Springfield. Cost is \$7-30. Learn to create sewn and adhesive bindings. For more info visit: galleryvault.org

### Woodstock VT Film Series: Hallelujah: Leonard

#### Cohen, a Journey, a Song

3-5 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. in Woodstock. \$12-15. A deep-dive into the iconic hymn, Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song chronicles the life of legendary musician Leonard Cohen, whose poetry evolved into a successful career as a singer-songwriter. Inspired by the book The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley & the Unlikely Ascent of Hallelujah by Alan Light, Leonard's story is told here by those who knew and loved him. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

### Killington Mountain School 39th annual Auction

#### and Gala

6-9 p.m. Killington Grand Ballroom varies. There will be plenty of food and goodies, more than enough for a meal, all while enjoying live music and circulating among friends, bidding on amazing silent auction items, and pausing for a very select few, amazing live auction items. See Pre-registration info. For more info visit: kms.ejoinme.org/register.

### 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 be covered in thousands of lights. The Forest Canopy Walk will glow with magic and enchantment. Visitors are invited to stroll through the Forest Canopy Walk at night. For more info or to purchase tickets visit vinsweb.org.

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**SUNDAY**  
FEB. 12

### Subaru WinterFest at Killington Ski Resort

9 a.m. Killington Ski Resort. A music and mountain lifestyle tour that invites friends, family, skiers, snowboarders, music fans, and dog-lovers to bask in their love of all things winter! The annual mountain destination event will feature nationally recognized Americana, bluegrass, indie, and electronic music talent. Delicious treats, warm beverages and tasty surprises will be provided. We welcome dog-lovers and their pups. Subaru owners will enjoy VIP treatment and special gifts while supplies last. For more info visit: subaru.com/winterfest.

### Tell a Friend Tour with Andy Parry

10 a.m. Killington Peace Park. Join us for this traveling freeskiing demo tour that focuses on fun and eating pizza! Come ski with Andy Parry and the Tell A Friend Tour crew at the Woodward Killington Mountain Park. Guest skiers for the event will include: Will Wesson, Reagan Wallis, Andy Parry, Simeon Glas, Kevin Merchant, Shane McFalls. A helmet is required to participate in this event! For more info visit: killington.com.

### Cold Rolled Rutland

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pine Hill Park, 2 Oak St Ext, Rutland \$35-\$100. Fat bike event hosted by MTBVT, Ranch Camp, Pine Hill Partnership and Rutland Rec. There will be guided rides for different levels of ability and fitness starting at 10 a.m. For more info visit: eventbrite.com/e/rutland-cold-rolled

### 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.

### Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

6-8 p.m. Okemo Ski Resort in the Jackson Gore courtyard. Free. Community guided snowshoe hike in the trails among the trees. Nature Valley granola bars will be provided. Must bring your own snowshoes but headlamps and whistles will be provided. For more info visit: OkemoInfo@vailresorts.com.

### Ethan Allen Homestead Museum's Book Club

3 p.m. Via Zoom Cost: Adults \$15, students (ages 5-17) \$7. Under 5 are free. Seven Years of Grace: The Inspired Mission of Ascha W. Sprague by Sara Rath published by the Vermont Historical Society. Seven Years of Grace is an historical novel, based on a true story and steeped in primary source research, about Achsa W. Sprague (1827-1862) of Plymouth, Vermont, one of America's best-known Spiritualists of the 19th century. In addition to Spiritualism, Sprague was active in the abolition of slavery, women's rights, and prison reform. Her muse? Another woman's husband. For more info visit: ethanallenhomestead.org

### Woodstock VT Film Series: Hallelujah: Leonard

#### Cohen, a Journey, a Song

3-5 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. in Woodstock. \$12-15. A deep-dive into the iconic hymn, Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song chronicles the life of legendary musician Leonard Cohen, whose poetry evolved into a successful career as a singer-songwriter. Inspired by the book The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley & the Unlikely Ascent of Hallelujah by Alan Light, Leonard's story is told here by those who knew and loved him. For more info visit: billingsfarm.org.

### Movie Screening of "CORSAGE" (R)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Pentangle Arts. Cost: \$10 adults, \$9 seniors (62 & up), \$8 kids (12 & under), \$8 members. A dramatic re-telling of the life of Empress Elizabeth of Austria who is idolized for her beauty and renowned for inspiring fashion trends, but who must rebel against the hyperbolized image of herself and comes up with a plan to protect her legacy. For more info visit: pentanglearts.org.

**MONDAY**  
FEB. 13

### Babies and Toddler Rock

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

### Friends Book Sale

10:00 AM-4:00 p.m. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. In lieu of fixed prices, donations are gratefully accepted for the items you choose. Come explore the library basement to visit the Cellar Seller's collection of books, cd's puzzles, audiobooks, rare and antique books, and other lucky finds. Sponsored by the Friends of Rutland Free Library, the proceeds from our twice-monthly booksales support library collections and activities. For more info visit: 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 kimballlibrary.org.

### Puppet Making

10:30 a.m.-noon. Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street, Rutland. Cost is \$25. Saturdays 2/4-2/25/23. Pre reg. required. Puppet-making for ages 5-9. Learn to make various types of puppets from paper bag puppets to paper plate and sock puppets. For more info visit chaffeeartcenter.org.

### Drive-up pick-up meals

12 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer Street 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 Gonick Center in Rutland on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. This is a drop-in activity.

### Date Night Cooking Class: Romantic Fondue

5-7:30 p.m. Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Rd. in Woodstock. Price: \$190/couple, \$170/couple for members. You and a partner will follow Billings Farm's Chef Emery as you prepare a romantic fondue and more. The menu will feature three delicious and sharable courses starting with a creative crostini appetizer, followed by a fondue for two using Billings Farm Butter and Woodstock Reserve Cheddar Cheeses. Participants will learn knife skills, stirring and aeration techniques, and how to balance texture and flavor throughout the menu. Bring a beverage of their choice to accompany the meal. Please contact info@billingsfarm.org with questions.

### 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.

### 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. 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.

**TUESDAY**  
FEB. 14

### Bone Builders Mendon Seniors

10 a.m. Roadside Chapel, 1680 Townline Rd 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.

### Chess Club

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

### CEDRR Mixer Hosted by Stafford Technical Center

5-7 p.m. Stafford Technical Center, 22 Stratton Road, Rutland. Join us and enjoy food prepared by Stafford Technical Center's own Dollhouse Restaurant. Raffles and door prizes. Open to everyone! No need to be a member of the Chamber to join in the fun! For more info visit: RutlandVermont.com.

### Swing Dancing Class

6:30-8 p.m. Every Tuesday Fox Room. Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland. East Coast Swing Dancing is back! Come move to music with Richard and Sue every Tuesday, 6:30-8 in our Fox Room February 14- March 21. 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.

### Maclure Library True Story, Theme: Love

6:30 p.m. Maclure Library, 840 Arch St, Pittsford. Free. A True Story event based on the popular NPR program, "The Moth." We invite all storytellers to sign up. All stories must be true, have a beginning, middle and end and follow the theme. For more info visit: maclurelibrary.org.

### The Rutland Extension Master Gardener Group

#### presents Martha Molnar

7 p.m. The Godnick Center. 1 Deer St. in Rutland. Martha Leb Molnar has a certificate in Botany from the New York Botanical Gardens. She is a freelance writer and commentator. She will discuss her third book, Playing God in the Meadow, How I learned to Admire my Weeds, which is about how her and her husband learned to stave off non-native-invasives in their dream acreage in Vermont. For more info visit: rutlandrec.com/godnick.

### 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. You may not purchase punch cards in advance. For more info visit: Killingtonvt.myrec.com.





Submitted

Many bikers will roll in to the fatbike fest this Sunday at Pine Hill Park for the third Rutland Cold Rolled festival. The event features group rides and delicious community lunch at Pine Hill Park.

## Rutland Cold Rolled: Pine Hill Partnership hosts annual fatbike fest

Sun, Feb. 12, at 9 a.m.—RUTLAND—Rutland Cold Rolled Fatbike Festival is back for its third year! Cold Rolled offers a day of fatbike stoke on cold-rolled singletrack!

Join in Sunday as fatbikers from around New England and New York gather in Pine Hill Park (PHP) to challenge Old Man Winter, replete with group rides, demos, and hearty brews around warm fires.

The event will feature a vendor village, rides for all ages and abilities, and groomed packed powder trails. Group rides will begin at 10 a.m. at the Giorgetti Athletic Complex, located at 2 Oak St. Extension (the Pine Hill trailhead) where we'll also convene for lunch at 12 p.m. The remote aid station (a.k.a. party central) will be located at the overlook and will feature a bonfire and our favorite mid-ride refreshers. Lunch at Giorgetti will be catered by our friends at Ranch Camp (located in Stowe, Vermont).

"We're beyond excited to bring the Cold Rolled back to Pine Hill — this trail network has some of the best fatbiking in the state, and the community rallies to maintain them

all winter," said event cofounder and Killington Valley local Nate Freund of MTBVT. "We're stoked to bring the party to Rutland and introduce riders from around the northeast to these amazing trails!"

The \$50 ticket price (\$35 for the under 21 crowd) includes group rides, lunch (with both carnivorous and veggie options), and a signed original Cold Rolled Rutland artist print. So air down those tires, break out the extra layers, and get ready to party MTBVT style.

### Schedule:

- Vendor setup 8-9 a.m.
- Registration / Expo area opens 9 a.m.
- Advanced ride departs 9:45 a.m.
- Intermediate ride departs 10 a.m.
- Beginner ride departs 10:15 a.m.
- Remote aid station opens 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Lunch 12-2 p.m.
- Event ends 3 p.m.

### Group rides

**Advanced:** This ride's duration is up to 3-ish hours. The pace is for avid riders that enjoy covering ground at a steady pace. You can expect up to 12-ish miles of riding over variable terrain.

MTBVT party ride (intermediate/advanced): The "magical mystery tour" in search of "hidden treasure," the MTBVT party ride will take you on a tour of PHP's classic trails with several stops along the way to soak in the scenery. This is a long ride but the pace will be fun and casual.

**Intermediate:** These rides are for most folks looking to have a good time, stop at the fire for a bit, and be guided around PHP. This ride will be 3 hours in duration with opportunities to bail out or put in a few extra miles.

**Beginner:** The beginner rides take folks on the easier terrain and no experience is necessary to join in on the fun. This ride will bring participants to the remote aid station and back to base.

For more information visit: [PineHillPartnership.org](http://PineHillPartnership.org).



[MUSIC Scene]

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

WED  
2/8

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Daniel Brown  
  
6 p.m. Rivershed – April Cushman  
  
6 p.m. The Foundry – Micah Iverson  
  
8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – King Arthur Jr

LUDLOW

7 p.m. Off The Rails – Chris Pallutto

QUECHEE

6 p.m. The Public House – Kim Wilcox

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Open Mic hosted by JD Tostoi

RANDOLPH

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

RUTLAND

5:30 p.m. Strangefellows – Ryan Fuller  
  
9:30 p.m. Center Street Alley – Open Mic hosted by Rick Urbani

WOODSTOCK

5 p.m. Sante – Jim Yeager

THURS  
2/9

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 and Silas McPrior  
  
2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Nick Bredice  
  
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 – Purple: A Tribute to Prince  
  
9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter & Friends

LUDLOW

8 p.m. Off The Rails – Breanna Elaine

POULTNEY

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

QUECHEE

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

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  
2/10

CASTLETON

5 p.m. Castleton Pizza Place & Deli – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave

KILLINGTON

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

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Chris Pallutto

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

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

4 p.m. The Foundry – Just Jamie

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rob Pagnano

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

6 p.m. The Summit Lodge – Duane Carleton

7 p.m. The Foundry – Live Music

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

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Crash The Party

8 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Faces For Radio

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Just Jamie

9 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Acoustik Ruckus

LUDLOW

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

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Clear River Tavern – JD Tolstoi

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Mike Schwaner

QUECHEE

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

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. The Underground Listening Room – Rustie Bus with The Steppes

SAT  
2/11

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Ray Jubela from Heart Radio

KILLINGTON

8 a.m. K1 Base Lodge – Subaru Winterfest

11 a.m. Skyship Mid Station: Jerk Shack – Subaru Winterfest with Silas McPrior

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Subaru Winterfest with The Tenderbellies

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

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Live Music

3:30 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Subaru Winterfest with The Infamous Stringdusters

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

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – All Request Apres Ski with DJ Dave

6 p.m. Killington Grand Hotel - 39th Annual KMS/KSC Auction & Gala with music by Ryan Fuller

6 p.m. O'Dwyers Pub – County Down

6 p.m. Preston's at the Grand Hotel – Silas McPrior

6 p.m. Rivershed – Rob Pagnano

6 p.m. Still on the Mountain – JD Tolstoi

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jenny Porter

6 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Krishna Guthrie Band

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

8 p.m. Moguls Sports Pub – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet and Jeff Poremski

9 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Crash The Party

9:30 p.m. Wobbly Barn – Faces For Radio

LONDONDERRY

6 p.m. New American Grill – Rustie Bus

LUDLOW

8 a.m. Okemo's Sunburst Six Bubble Lift – Music by DJ Dave

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

2 p.m. Off The Rails – Jamie Ward on Piano

6 p.m. Calcuttas – Mark Harding

8:30 p.m. Off The Rails – Bear Mountain Boys

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Claudine Langille

PROCTORSVILLE

5:30 p.m. Outer Limits Brewing – Sammy B

QUECHEE

5:30 p.m. The Public House – Brooks Hubbard

SUN  
2/12

KILLINGTON

8 a.m. K1 Base Lodge – Subaru Winterfest

10 a.m. K1 Base Lodge – Subaru Winterfest: Bluegrass Brunch

12 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Subaru Winterfest with Hayley Jane

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

2 p.m. Snowshed's Long Trail Pub – Acoustik Ruckus

5 p.m. The Foundry – Summit Pond Jazz

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tee Boneicus Jones

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

RUTLAND

1 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller

MON  
2/13

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 – Acoustik Ruckus

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  
2/14

KILLINGTON

2 p.m. K1 Base Lodge – Sammy B

5 p.m. Mary Lou's – Mountain Music with Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

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

6 p.m. Rivershed – Name That Tune Bingo with DJ Dave: Valentine's Edition

LUDLOW

8 p.m. Off The Rails – SINGO

PITTSFIELD

6:30 p.m. Town Hall – Tuesday Acoustic Music Jam

POULTNEY

7 p.m. The Poultny Pub – Open Bluegrass Jam

QUECHEE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager

**LOVE IS ON A ROLL**

**SUSHI YOSHI**  
CHINESE GOURMET  
HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE

Mid-way up Killington Access Rd.  
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## Castleton women's hockey to host 15th annual Pink the Rink game

Friday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. — RUTLAND — For the 15th consecutive year, on Friday, Feb. 10, the Castleton Women's ice hockey team will trade their traditional Spartan green apparel for newly designed, limited edition pink jerseys to raise awareness and funds for the Foley Cancer Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

The 15th annual Pink the Rink will pair the Spartans with Johnson and Wales University in an exciting match-up scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Spartan Arena.

Joining the festivities this year will be Boston Bruins national anthem singer Todd Angilly, a native of Warwick, Rhode Island, who has been the Bruins' primary anthem singer since 2019 and has performed the anthem at Boston's TD Garden as

far back as 2017. Angilly's impressive resume includes performances of the national anthem for all five Boston professional sports teams.

"The Pink the Rink game is an important event for the Castleton University women's ice hockey team and our local region," said Head Coach Tim McAulliffe. "We are proud to continue to help raise awareness and support in the fight against breast cancer."

All proceeds from tickets sales and a raffle at the event for an authentic Pink the Rink jersey will benefit the Foley Cancer Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center. Supporters may also bid on an authentic team-player jersey online at: 32auctions.com/PTR2023.

In addition, there will be multiple baskets of goods

auctioned as well as a bake sale at the event. And, once again Foley Services, Inc. will be giving away custom pink towels to the first 200 attendees.

Since the inception of the annual Pink the Rink event, close to \$81,000 has been raised in support of the Foley Cancer Center. The cost of admission to the game on Feb. 10 is \$7 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2 for students.

"We continue to be grateful for the ongoing partnership and collaboration with Castleton University and the Women's Hockey program in support of the Foley Cancer Center," said Traci Moore, senior director of development and community relations at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC). "The time that the coaches, players, parents and volunteers put into the game each year is considerable, and we are grateful for their efforts."

For more information about the upcoming Pink the Rink game, visit RRMC.org or call 802-747-3634.

**Feb. 10**

Calling All Hockey Fans! **Feb 10 at 6pm**



Submitted

The Castleton women's hockey team will face Johnson and Wales for Pink in the Rink.



# Winter Death Race 2023 seeks to break the bravest athletes over a weekend of pain

Feb. 9-11—PITTSFIELD—The Death Race is the ultimate challenge, designed to present athletes with the unexpected and the completely insane! Nothing else on earth will challenge you like The Death Race, both mentally and physically.

The Winter Death Race will be punishing souls in Pittsfield, Vermont, as one of Joe De Sena's (Spartan founder) signature events. As with the spirit of the Death Race, participants will endure the most demanding tasks while experiencing the winter elements for 50+ hours of mind-bending mental and physical functions designed to break the strongest of individuals.

Every Death Race is its own uniquely brutal challenge, no two races are alike. The race, created by ultra-athlete and Spartan Race founder Joe Desena, was developed as a way for athletes to test themselves both mentally and physically. The Death Races take place in the unexpectedly challenging terrain of the Green Mountains in and around Pittsfield, and have lasted over 70 hours. Organizers provide no support, don't tell you when it starts and don't tell you when it ends.

They also don't tell athletes what it will entail and explicitly want you to fail — they even encourage participants to quit at any time. Think you got what it takes to persevere? Visit [PeakRaces.com/inter-death-race](http://PeakRaces.com/inter-death-race).



The death race is the ultimate challenge

Submitted

# Snowdevil Ultra Snowshoe race held at Riverside

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10-11—PITTSFIELD—The Snowdevil Ultra Snowshoe race is an epic 6.5-mile looped course on the trails at Riverside Farm 57, Tweed River Drive, just off Route 100N in Pittsfield. Participants will race through narrow, technical terrain with incredible views of the Green Mountains and by Shrek's Cabin at the peak. Do not underestimate this as just another snowshoe event! Participants will be tested multiple times on a 1,000-foot, 3-mile climb that ends through a dense, dark spruce forest aptly called the Labyrinth.

The loop totals approximately 6.5 miles with about 1,500 feet of elevation change.

Visit [GmTrails.org](http://GmTrails.org) to view a map of the trails.

## Feb. 10

- 100-miler: 6 a.m. (packet pickup 5:30 a.m.)
- 100K: 12 p.m. (packet pickup 11:30 a.m.)

## Feb. 11


- Marathon: 8 a.m. (packet pickup 6:30 to 7:15 a.m.)
- Half Marathon: 8 a.m. (packet pickup 6:30 to 7:45 a.m.)
- 10K: 8 a.m. (packet pickup 6:30 to 8:15 a.m.)

Snowshoes and headlamps are required. For more information visit: [PeakRaces.com/snow-devil-snowshoe-race](http://PeakRaces.com/snow-devil-snowshoe-race).



Submitted

The snowshoe race will be held at Riverside Farm this weekend. Various distances are offered but the vertical remains constant.



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## Subaru Winterfest presents a music and mountain lifestyle tour at K-1

Guided uphill travel offered Saturday evening and Sunday morning

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 11-12—KILLINGTON—Subaru is thrilled to welcome back Subaru WinterFest, a one-of-a-kind music and mountain lifestyle tour outside our brand-new K-1 Base Lodge that invites friends, family, skiers, snowboarders, music fans, and dog-lovers alike to bask in their love of adventure and all things winter!

The annual mountain destination event will feature live musical performances from The Infamous Stringdusters & The Tenderbellies presented by Harman Kardon and the latest gear and demos from Nordica, Thule, Dynamic Wax, and Arbor Collective.

Delicious treats, warm beverages and tasty surprises will be provided.

### SCHEDULE:

#### Saturday, Feb. 11

*Free Subaru VIP parking at K-1 & Ramshead (first come, first served!)*

- 8 a.m. Subaru WinterFest opens!
- All day Free demos with the latest gear from Nordica, Arbor, Mammüt, and Dynamic Wax! Join us throughout the day and refuel at the Wilderness Café with coffee from Alpine Start, craft hot cocoa, Kate's Real Food, Inside Out S'mores, & more.
- Keep an eye out for Subaru WinterFest Stoke Patrol skiing around the mountain!
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Catch us mid-mountain at the Jerk Jamaican Mountain Grill for live music from Harman Kardon featuring Silas Prior
- 2-3 p.m. Live performance by The Tenderbellies
- 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live performance by Infamous Stringdusters
- 5 p.m. Subaru WinterFest daily drawing with over \$3,500 worth of outdoor giveaways!
- 12-1:30 p.m. Live performance by Hayley Jane
- 1:30 p.m. Subaru WinterFest daily drawing with over \$3,500 worth of outdoor giveaways!



Feb.  
11&12

Subaru and the National Ski Patrol will share how you can get involved and support the Avalanche Rescue Dogs. Subaru owners will enjoy VIP treatment and special gifts while supplies last. Also, be sure to stop by the Mammüt tent to learn about a guided uphill travel experience Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Gather your crew, head to Subaru WinterFest and join us for an incredible celebration at Killington Resort! As always, this event is free to attend.

(All pets on Killington Resort property or inside the Festival Village must be on a leash and are not permitted in the base lodges and in certain food venues.)

#### Sunday, Feb. 12

*Free Subaru VIP parking at K-1 & Ramshead (first come, first served!)*

- 8 a.m. Subaru WinterFest opens!
- All day Free demos with the latest gear from Nordica, Arbor, Mammüt, and Dynamic Wax! Join us throughout the day and refuel at the Wilderness Café with coffee from Alpine Start, craft hot cocoa, Kate's Real Food, Inside Out S'mores, & more.
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. SWF Bluegrass brunch (while supplies last) & live music by Harman Kardon featuring Acoustik Ruckus on the 3rd floor of the K-1 Base Lodge
- Keep an eye out for Subaru WinterFest Stoke Patrol skiing around the mountain!
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Catch us mid-mountain at the Jerk Jamaican Mountain Grill for live music from Harman Kardon featuring Nick Bredice.





## Tell a Friend tour with Andy Parry

Sunday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.—KILLINGTON—Join in for a traveling freeskiing demo tour that focuses on fun and eating pizza! Come ski with Andy Parry and the “Tell A Friend Tour” crew at the Woodward Killington Mountain Park. Guest skiers for the event will include: Will Wesson, Reagan Wallis, Andy Parry, Simeon Glas, Kevin Merchant and Shane McFalls. A helmet is required to participate in this event.

Park skiing will take place from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Peace Park followed by a pizza party and giveaways at 3 p.m. at the Snowshed Base Lodge (3rd Floor).

For more information visit: [tellafriend-tour.com](http://tellafriend-tour.com).



## Preparations begin for Poem Town 10th anniversary

Preparations are beginning for Poem Town Randolph's 10th anniversary celebration in April, National Poetry Month.

Several exciting poetry events are planned, including readings by well-known Vermont poets, a poetry with music event, a poetry open mic, and

the beloved Farmer Poets night at Silloway Sugarhouse.

Poem Town is now soliciting original poetry submissions to be considered for display in windows on Randolph streets and along the river trail, and for inclusion in its annual poetry anthol-

ogy. We encourage poets of any age residing in Vermont to submit poems for consideration. You must submit only one or two poems, and each poem must be no longer than 24 lines. Visit the Poem Town Randolph website [poem-town.org](http://poem-town.org) for information about how to submit.

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## Stone Valley Arts introduces Diane Bargiel as executive director

Stone Valley Arts (SVA) announced recently that Diane Bargiel is the new executive director at the arts center. With over 35 years of experience in the performing arts as a presenter, educator, performer, manager, and division and department chair, Bargiel will bring a multi-faceted perspective to her role at SVA.

"I am honored and excited to accept the baton being passed to me from SVA's incredible outgoing executive director, Erika Lawlor Schmidt. I love this town, its surrounding region, and this organization with its amazing board," said Bargiel.

Diane Bargiel received her bachelor of music degree in clarinet from the Dana School of Music, a master of music in clarinet from Michigan State University, certification in music education from Carnegie Mellon University, and a certificate in arts administration from New York University.

In 2021, she retired from SUNY Adirondack as the last humanities division chair and associate professor of music. In 2015, Professor Bargiel received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, and in 1995, while at Susquehanna University, was presented the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Several professional highlights included president of the New York Association of College Music Programs, president of Pennsylvania Presenters, a board member of Arts Presenters of Northern New England, the Pennsylvania state

chair of the College Band Directors National Association, a member of the first Creative Communities Council of Windham County (Vermont), a planning committee member for the first performing arts exchange that covered the entire East Coast, and a conductor and panelist at the 2000 CBDNA Eastern Regional Conference at Yale University, among numerous other roles and volunteer involvement.

A Poultney resident, Bargiel had served on the first Poultney 2020 planning committee, is a past board member of the Killington section of the Green Mountain Club, and is currently on the board of Stone Valley Arts.

"This 'Brave Little State' and its creative communities are leading the way in proving just how much of a positive impact that a dynamic creative sector can have on its people and towns. The arts entertain us, move us to new heights and depths, give us new skills, engage us, enrich us, inspire us, and enliven us," Bargiel said. "The creative economy helps cultivate good-old-fashioned towns with

thriving independent businesses and neighborly communities. I am looking forward to joining with other organizations in our region to enhance our quality of life, and our economy. We've got it all here: lakes, mountains, valleys, incredible farms, and beautiful stone with hard-working, creative people. And, we have a vibrant and growing arts community. SVA is proud to be a hub for the arts, and I'm proud to be a part of SVA!" Bargiel stated.



Submitted

Diane Bargiel

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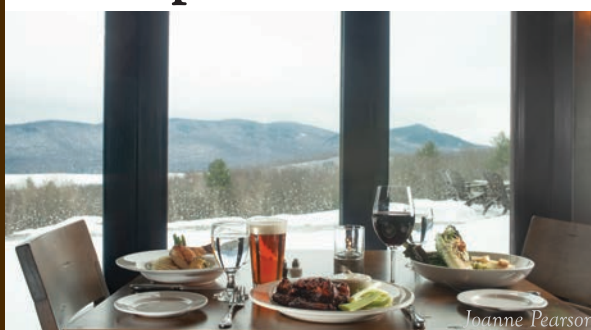
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# VFFC plans ‘Rutland County Eats,’ a community meal initiative

RUTLAND—With the Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) federally funded pandemic recovery program ending March 31, 2023, the Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) is “stepping up to the plate” to provide a sustainable long-term solution to food insecurity in Rutland County.

Rutland County Eats, inspired by the Vermont Everyone Eats model and specifically designed for Rutland County area residents, farms, restaurants, and caterers, will enable VFFC to administer a similar program at a smaller scale, starting in April 2023. The new program will continue to provide free meals for food-insecure residents and income for farms and restaurants in the 26 towns it serves.

“We are so grateful to have worked with Everyone Eats here in Rutland over the past 2 1/2 years. It has been powerful to come together as a community to support local farms, local eaters, local food businesses and community organizations during the pandemic. Together we’ve brought 350,000 delicious meals to our community and generated \$3.5 million in sales for the participating food businesses, which is something wonderful to celebrate,”

said Heidi Lynch, executive director of Vermont Farmers Food Center.

VFFC has already secured grant funding to continue

“We are so grateful to have worked with Everyone Eats here in Rutland over the past 2 1/2 years.

It has been powerful to come together as a community to support local farms, local eaters, local food businesses and community organizations during the pandemic,” said Heidi Lynch,

a restaurant-prepared meal distribution program for Rutland County, thanks to support from Rutland Regional Medical Center’s Bowse Health Trust and Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA).

Committed to sustaining the Everyone Eats collaborations and continuing a community supported meals model, VFFC is generating viable funding alternatives to raise funds to fuel and sustain the new program. The number of meals available for distribution will be depen-

dent on the financial resources raised through the greater Rutland community.

Over the next three months VFCC will work to create several types of fundraising models to include a “Spread the Love” campaign, now available in VFFC’s online market, and a future “Restaurant Week” style fundraiser sponsored by VFFC and local businesses.

Until the VEE program ends in March, VFFC will continue to operate a Thursday drive through Everyone Eats meal distribution in Rutland from 4-5:30 p.m. Everyone Eats meals are also distributed on Wednesdays in Brandon at Neshobe Elementary School and Fair Haven Revive Church, both at 5 p.m.

Vermont Farmers Food Center increases access to and availability of locally produced food in the Rutland Region through education, expanding markets and market access, aggregation, and distribution of locally produced and value-added agricultural products. VFFC is the initiative of the Vermont Farmers Market Education Center, Inc, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in Rutland, Vermont in 2012.

For more info visit: [VermontFarmersFoodCenter.org](http://VermontFarmersFoodCenter.org).



Long time volunteer Betsy Bauer distributes Everyone Eats restaurant made fresh meals from VFFC on West Street in Rutland.

Submitted



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## Puzzles offer relaxation after day on the slopes

By Victoria Gaither

When guests at the Trailside Inn in Killington return from a day of skiing, snowshoeing, or snowboarding, as well as a cozy fire, hot drink, or food, a jigsaw puzzle awaits them.

"Our place feels like it's a huge house, so a lot of times people are hanging out in the great room, and the kids are just doing puzzles," explained Joshua Eckler, the owner and innkeeper of the Trailside Inn.

Eckler said they have 30 to 40 puzzles they lay out for guests throughout the year, but one puzzle donated by a wedding couple's parent, a Liberty puzzle, is unique.

Liberty puzzles are hand-cut wooden jigsaw puzzles inspired by the 1930s, with complex pieces, and shapes, usually shaped like plants, animals, or geometric designs.

They aren't easy to finish, but that doesn't stop his guests from trying to complete them.

In downtown Rutland at Wild Kind Toys, owner Logan Paluch sells wooden puzzles for the little ones. "We have a few wooden puzzles—the tray puzzles for the littlest ones and a really cool 26-piece wooden puzzle that has different space-themed objects that all fit together."

Table and floor puzzles are popular on social media, with tens of thousands of fans and groups dedicated to showing off their skills. People from small to big love puzzles.

"I think there's something about the combination of the challenge of figuring out where the pieces go, and then there's a very clear sense of accomplishment when it's completed," Paluch said.

Paluch added for kids, "Puzzles are really great for a child's development! They help strengthen fine motor skills and can certainly be a way to learn perseverance and problem-solving—but they need to be developmentally appropriate."

Rutland resident Kimberly Adams said puzzles offer her and her wife, Nicole, a challenge and time to relax.

"I also am trying to spend less time on technology, and

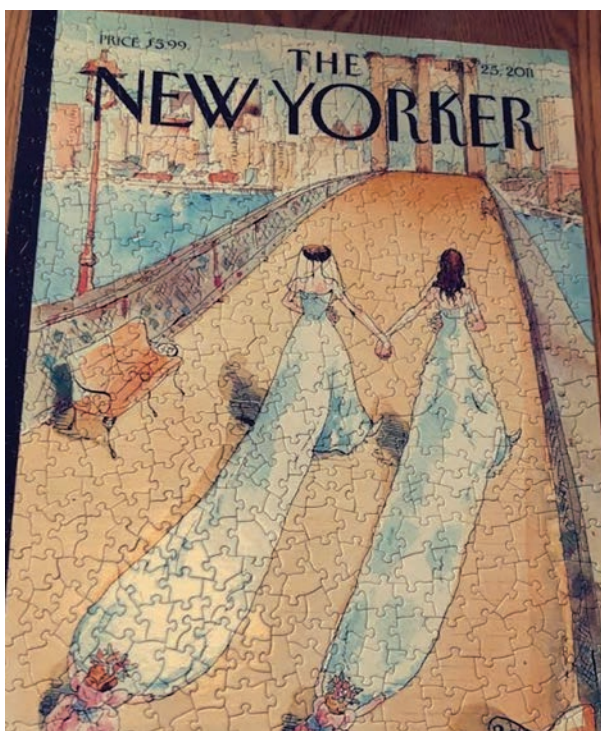
when I do a puzzle, I have no desire to look at my phone. I can shut out the stress of the world," Adams said.

The couple prefers to do puzzles of 1,000 pieces and Adams said her favorite puzzles are New Yorker magazine cover puzzles which, feature different covers from the magazine. One particular puzzle has a special meaning to Adams.

"I got my wife a 'New Yorker' puzzle that was a picture of two brides holding hands while walking down Brooklyn Bridge, and it is now framed on our wall," said Adams.

Advice for first-time puzzlers: Joshua, a former engineer, likes to organize his pieces first before diving in; Kimberly says to start with the edges first, and Logan believes puzzles have a meditative component so you can go back to them for relaxation.

However you decide to tackle them, puzzles are meant to be fun.



By Victoria Gaither

Joshua Eckler, the owner and innkeeper of the Trailside Inn opens an Liberty puzzle; a unique hand-cut wooden jigsaw puzzle.

## Ludlow Rotary Hears from Expeditionary School at Black River Board Member Patrick Pullinen

The Ludlow Rotary Club heard from Pat Pullinen of the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) board of directors on Jan. 11. The school is now in its third year of operation, offering project based learning to students in grades 7-12. The board has been working for state certification approval for the past three years. Certification would allow school choice for students to attend the school bringing state tuition reimbursement with them. This funding would permit the school to hire more faculty and accept more students.

The application to the state resulted in the board being asked additional questions, hosting a site visit and finally, subcommittee review. Unfortunately, the subcommittee recommended denial. The board has added requested procedures and processes as a result of the review. They will go through the certification process again, hoping to be

able to establish a \$150,000 budget. To be successful as a school, it needs to be able to plan and budget with state certification.

Expeditionary learning is a rare option for students. There are only 116 recognized programs in the U.S. that offer this interdisciplinary approach to learning. All students do projects as part of their education. Projects can be anything a student wishes. Each project includes math, science, and English combined into the project study. Proficiency based grading is used.

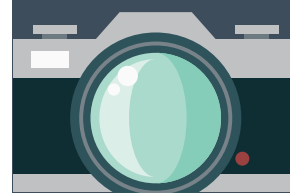
In response to a question, Pullinen stated that currently, the target number of students ESBR can support is 14 to 15, so they are not recruiting because they are at capacity. Expeditionary school should be the future of education, he feels. Pullinen did ask members of the Rotary Club to consider joining their board as ESBR is currently recruiting new board members.

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# Rutland County Humane Society



## KELLY & LYNN

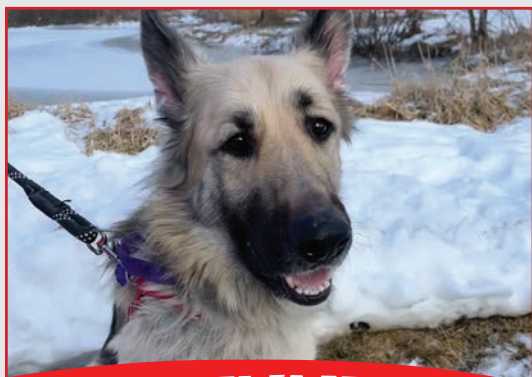
Kelly and Lynn are 5-month-old spayed lop mixes looking for an indoor home together. They are friendly girls that love their veggies and if adopted before Christmas promise to share their carrots with Rudolph. We have reduced their adoption fee to \$75 for the pair. These sweet girls deserve a loving home to grow up in. To adopt them go to our website [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org) and fill out an application or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

This pet is available for adoption at

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\*Open by appointment only. [spfldhumane.org](http://spfldhumane.org)



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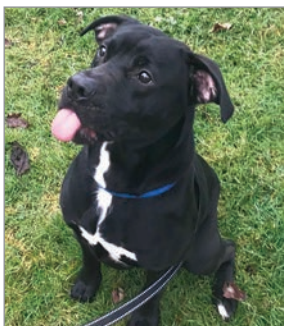
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and mellow pup.



Nitro—1-year-old. male.  
Lab/pit mix. Black. Nitro  
knows "sit," "wait," and  
"down" and can "shake"  
with both of his paws. We  
have been working on his  
impulse control with "leave  
it."



Harbour—9-month-old.  
male. Hound mix. Black  
and tan. Harbour is vocal at  
times and will need to work  
on basic puppy manners  
such as not jumping on  
people and walking nicely  
on a leash.



Bucky—18-month-old.  
Neutered male. Treeing  
walker coonhound. Tri-  
color. He loves exercise and  
is very affectionate, and his  
manners could use some  
fine-tuning.



Prince—4-year-old.  
Neutered male. Pit mix.  
Chocolate. If you are look-  
ing for a stoic, smart, and  
sweet pup, please consider  
Prince! He lives up to his  
name and is very regal.  
Prince was brought to us as  
an owner surrender.



Grace—2-year-old.  
Spayed female. Pitbull mix.  
Black. Grace is a sweet girl,  
who needs someone to give  
her patience and time to  
settle in.



## PEBBLES

Pebbles—6-year-old. Female. Spaniel mix. Black/  
brown. Who doesn't love adorable spaniel ears?  
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young pup!

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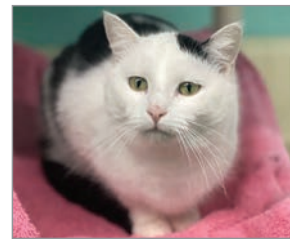
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up to keep you warm. To learn more about our adoptable  
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Opal—1-year-old. Spayed  
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Grey tiger. Opal is a petite  
little cat who has so much  
love to give.



Boo Boo—4-year-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic  
shorthair Brown/Black  
Tiger. She likes to be petted  
and loved up on but usually  
on her terms.



Moo—1-year-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic  
shorthair White with black.  
Moo is not only beautiful,  
she is such a loving cat. She  
has blossomed since she  
has been here.



Poppy—9-month-old.  
Spayed female. Domestic  
shorthair. Tortoiseshell.



Jasper \*\*FELV+—1.5  
year old. Neutered male.  
Domestic shorthair. Grey  
tiger. Jasper is a special boy  
who needs a special home.  
He is FELV positive. He  
needs to be the only cat in  
the home or be in a home  
with cats who are also FELV  
positive.






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### Aries

March 21 - April 20

History is written by the victors, that we know. What is it about your professional life or your major life direction that doesn't feel steered by your own desires? In other words, how have you let your mind be controlled by what you've been told you should do rather than what you want to do? If there is some talk about you behind your back this week, let that guide you in the right direction.



### Leo

July 21 - August 20

“No one puts Baby in a corner.” That line from "Dirty Dancing" is probably how you've been feeling for too long now. A lot of hard work and toil for little reward or recognition. That simply doesn't fly with you! So my question is, why are you putting up with it? This week will bring some tough choices and powerful new beginnings as you slowly rediscover and reclaim your own light and vitality once again.



### Sagittarius

November 21 - December 20

You've been wondering about abundance for a while now – what true wealth actually means. For too long in our culture it's been reduced to money. Not to say that a robust bank balance doesn't help, but it certainly isn't the entire picture. If you've been lured into thinking that that is all that there is to life and are feeling empty on the inside, rewrite that story this week! True wealth is so much more than just money.



### Taurus

April 21 - May 20

Your life philosophy has been under review for the past two months. This has helped bookend a cycle that began in 2008. Who were you back then versus who you are now? No doubt that has changed powerfully and profoundly. It's now time to be true to yourself and what you believe in. If you want to live differently or do something you've never done, this week may give you the mental fortitude to make a move.



### Virgo

August 21 - September 20

Joy and Happiness have been undergoing a process of review of late. What you once wanted in love, romance, children and your creative life may not be what it once was and it's taken some time to process that. Changing your mind isn't a bad thing, it shows you have the capacity to adjust when new information is presented to you – and that's true intelligence. Now is the time to acknowledge you now know something you didn't before.



### Capricorn

December 21 - January 20

This will be a very powerful and profound week for you as long and short cycles are in the process of ending. At one level you may feel relief, a weight off your shoulders. On another, it could be a major “what now?” feeling too. Take some time to reflect and think about what you've been through. Avoid the temptation to think things are what they are and continue doing what you've got used to, because you had to.



### Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Every single one of us has a proverbial dragon to slay in our life. For you, it's been about your fears and phobias – real or perceived. As your guiding star tangles with one of the most powerful planets this week, you'll be ready to tell yourself a new story. As you separate from an old narrative, debts or emotional entanglements you'll be ready to take charge and reclaim your direction. The energy you've been lacking will soon return.



### Libra

September 21 - October 20

The question of legacy may become an increasingly hot topic this week. What has come before you and what you leave behind may hold more power over you than normal. This may have something to do with real estate, family estates, your history and heritage or even in respect to your current domestic situation. What has been will likely come to its natural conclusion. Treasure in one form or another may be discovered or left behind.



### Aquarius

January 21 - February 20

If you haven't already, set a limit or boundary with someone else or within yourself. Or at the least, start thinking about ways you can implement them. It's not about building emotional walls and being stubborn, it's important you try to avoid doing that. Instead, think very deeply about what you are available for and what you're not. Negotiation and healthy compromise is the way forward once you've drawn that distinction in your heart.



### Cancer

June 21 - July 20

Relationships are some of the trickiest territories you'll ever traverse. For as many highs you'll have, you'll have just as many lows, and those are what really pull your heartstrings. The trouble is, we trip ourselves up by what we think love should be, rather than what it actually is. This week, you'll get the chance to rewrite this story and choose your own ending. What love really means for you is your choice to make.



### Scorpio

October 21 - November 20

In such a digital and globally focused world, it can be easy to lose sight of what is right under your nose. The magic, mystery and wonder of your local environment can be missed if you're only viewing life through a smartphone. Put the device down and this week, make an effort to walk in nature, visit a library or read an actual book in a park or café. If you're lacking a sense of meaning, change your daily rituals.



### Pisces

February 21 - March 20

A reason, season or lifetime may be the way to approach what's weighing heavy on your mind this week. This may be to a friend, social circle or a professional community. No doubt some people won't survive this process. While sad, it's necessary. Among those that do, the connections you share will only grow deeper and will become a part of your own history.



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

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## Write your own history

I saw an interesting post on social media last week that read, "If you think the news is fake, imagine what history is like."

We are in an age where it's not about gold, silver or diamonds, but it's your data, your information, your digital behaviors that are being mined. This is part of the zeitgeist of the next two decades but that energy really starts ramping up over the next few months. Astrologically, it's the planet Mercury that holds dominion over facts, information, data and the internet. This week, Mercury will make its final conjunction with the power planet Pluto in

Capricorn until 2225 or in approximately 10 generations' time. A lot can change in 200 years. An entire religion, culture or belief system can be wiped out or largely forgotten. If you were born before the '90s and still remember the way we lived, learned, played and connected with other humans before the digital tentacles changed everything, then this week it may be worth connecting to the truth of what you know is real and doing something about it. Build your library with real books. Write your own memoirs. Write your own history so your descendants won't have to wonder whether it's fake.



**Cosmic Catalogue**  
By Cassandra Tyndall

## Hotels in Rutland: A look back to yesteryear

There is talk of building a hotel in downtown Rutland in the same location where the Berwick Hotel once stood. That hotel was destroyed by fire 50 years ago and since then the spot has been a vacant lot, known locally as "The Pit." Recently there have been both TV and newspaper stories "re-kindling" the details of that fire.

The time seems right to have a downtown hotel once again. You know the expression, "Build it and they will come." I hope we get to find out if that is true!

Back in 1849 when a railroad station began operation in downtown Rutland it created a hub of activity. Having hotels in close proximity to the station was ideal.

The Bardwell Hotel was the first one on the scene. Let's take a look at that hotel and then the others that followed its lead.

### The Bardwell Hotel

The Bardwell was built in 1851 on the corner of Merchants Row and Washington Street. Otis Bardwell and E. Foster Cook, his son-in-law, were the first owners. The interior was considered elegant. The Gold Room served as a restaurant and was the site for many social events. The hotel accommodated 200 guests. Among the famous guests were John Brown's wife and the people who were bringing his body back to North Elba, New York, in 1858. There was a bad fire at the hotel on Dec. 30, 1917. The upper story burned away but other sections of the hotel did not suffer severe damage. Thus, the hotel was able to be restored.

By the 1970s the Bardwell Hotel was known as a popular place for skiers to stay.

The time seems right to have a downtown hotel once again.

Large groups would arrive by bus to ski at Killington or Pico. Fall foliage buses also could be found there. By the 1980s the

hotel was no longer in operation. Today it serves as an apartment house for seniors and disabled adults.

### The Berwick Hotel

The Berwick Hotel was built in 1868 on the corner of Wales Street and Center Street (currently "The Pit"). There were two additions to the hotel in the late 1800s. Among its famous guests were presidents Taft, Franklin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt and Coolidge. Henry Ford and John Philip Sousa also stayed there.

In addition to hotel rooms there were businesses located within the Berwick. As time went on it became a popular hotel for both tourists and skiers. Some people, particularly those in the senior population, had permanent

The Berwick Hotel was built in 1868 ... among its famous guests were presidents Taft, Franklin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt and Coolidge.

room there. In 1971 the Godnick brothers, Gilbert and Ed, along with James Cibotti, bought the hotel and changed the name to The Town House. The lounge area was a popular place to go for a drink and listen to music. Renovations were planned after the sale but there was not enough time for that to happen as a fire destroyed the Berwick in 1972. Unfortunately, five people were killed in that fire.

### Hotel Hamilton

The Rutland Directory begins listing the Hotel Hamilton in 1914. It was located on the corner of West and Evelyn Street and George Trask was the proprietor. The overnight rate was \$2. But apparently you could also become a "boarder" there at the rate

of 50 cents per day. Boarding must have been popular as each year the Rutland

Looking Back → 37

## Water boatmen: Foraging beneath the ice

If you get a chance this winter, take a peek through the icy window of a pond surface. You may see water boatmen (order *Hemiptera*: Family *Corixidae*) clinging to the pond floor. Long oar-like hind legs propel these insects, inspiring their common name. Shorter, scoop-like front legs are used for feeding and singing.

This largest aquatic family of true bugs includes 128 North American species. Unlike their cousins the backswimmers, which swim upside down, water boatmen swim with their winged dorsal surfaces facing up. When not swimming, they cling to submerged objects with their clawed middle legs.

They cling, because otherwise they bob up like corks, and it takes precious energy to swim back down. Buoyancy is a side effect of breathing: beneath their wings and abdomens, water boatmen carry bubbles, which act like tiny scuba tanks.

Fresh bubbles from the water's surface contain 21% oxygen, the same as the air you and I breathe. Over time, the insect uses up the oxygen, and the concentration drops. But oxygen from surrounding water continues to diffuse into the bubble, which functions like a gill. Absent ice, the insects surface for fresh bubbles. But in winter, they can remain submerged for extended periods, as colder water holds more oxygen than warm water. Surprisingly, one North American species (*Cymatia americana*) can survive encased within solid ice.

Many water boatmen in small ponds and shallow wetlands, however, spread their wings and migrate before ice entombs them. Stephen Srayko from the University of Saskatchewan and colleagues have documented enormous corixid migrations from wetlands to larger rivers. After migration, researchers found more than 200 water boatmen per square foot in slow-water locations. The sci-

entists estimated that throughout the Prairie Pothole Region, spanning three Canadian provinces and five U.S. states, 13,000 tons of water boatman biomass moves from wetlands to rivers. Srayko and his collaborators found that most fish sampled in these rivers dined on corixids, which accounted for up to 97% of food consumed.

After overwintering in rivers, water boatmen returned to wetlands to feed and reproduce. Most water boatmen consume aquatic vegetation, but as many as a quarter of the North American species prey on invertebrates, including other water boatmen.

Some corixids generate sound announcing their presence to potential mates and rivals by rubbing file-like foreleg structures against a ridge called a "plectrum" on their cheeks. The sounds resonate through their air bubbles, and the size of the insect and its corresponding breathing bubble affects

The species measures 1/10 of an inch long and generates a 99-decibel sound that's as loud as a passing freight train.

pitch; bigger bubbles produce deeper songs. The sound of one European corixid in particular has attracted the attention of the folks at the Guinness World Records. The species measures 1/10 of an inch long and generates a 99-decibel sound that's as loud as a passing freight train. Curiously, this species generates sound by rubbing a ridge on its penis against its abdomen, earning it the record for the loudest penis on the planet; nature is stranger than fiction.

I was curious if corixid migrations to rivers happen in Vermont, so in January I grabbed a net and headed to the Winooski River. If vast swarms of water boatmen exist in the Winooski, they certainly eluded me. Despite several net sweeps from the bank, not a single water boatman revealed itself.

The Outside Story → 35





## United in love

My wife and I were having dinner with some friends recently when the couple started talking about a wedding they had just attended. It was a destination wedding near the ocean with about 25 close family and friends.

Apparently, the bride and groom wanted something simple since it was a second marriage for both. The idea was that everyone would wear white attire and flip-flops and then stand next to the ocean while a justice of the peace presided over the ceremony.

The problems began to arise when the weather decided not to cooperate. Of course, it was January in Florida, which means it could either be 80 degrees or 40 degrees depending on the jet stream. On this weekend, it was the latter.

Everyone wore white, but due to the bitter temps and brisk wind, most everyone had on coats or sweatshirts, few of which were the required color. Our friends said everyone hung out in their vehicles keeping warm until the allotted time and then rushed out onto the beach for the vows.

Unfortunately, due to the howling wind, no one could hear anything the justice of the peace or bride and groom said. But what really irritated our friends was that both the bride and groom wrote long epistles to express their unrelenting love for each other. Given the situation, brevity would have been the right choice for everyone involved.

However, the best part of the story was that the brother of the groom and the brother's girlfriend (who were both highly intoxicated by the time the vows were being exchanged) decided that it would be a monumental expression of love to have everyone jump into the ocean for a cold-water plunge.

They offered up the idea right after the bride and groom kissed by screaming, "Everyone into the water!" According to our friends, all the attendees looked at each in disbelief, praying that no one started running towards the ocean.

In an instant, the two inebriated relatives took off toward the water. The brother of the groom was obviously unrelenting in his drive to become submerged, but his girlfriend apparently started to chicken out once her feet got wet. To get her to concede, he yanked her forward, causing her to dramatically face plant into the surf.

Apparently, a few guests offered some assistance but most sheepishly turned and headed toward their cars.

My wife and I were rolling as our friends told us this story. They agreed it was a classic tale but had to admit that living through it was pure hell. Thankfully, the reception at a nearby restaurant was much less dramatic – and warm.

My wife and I spent the ride home from our dinner reminiscing about own experiences going to weddings. During our 20s and early 30s, it seemed like we had a wedding every other weekend. In fact, we used to complain that weddings were making us poor. We pined for the days when everyone we knew was married and the ceremonies would be over.

And that day did come.

Of course, then we entered our 40s and that's when the second marriages started to occur.

Most of the weddings we attended we decidedly normal. There was one where the groom passed out just before he had to say his vows. That was pretty dramatic, especially when the ambulance showed up and delayed the ceremony for over an hour (it turns out

the groom was a little dehydrated from the previous day's activities).

The added bonus to that event was that the groom's mother, in a fit of panic upon seeing her son drop to the floor in a church, got up and rushed to his aid only to twist her ankle on the slippery marble floor. Thankfully, the ambulance guys were able to attend to her as well.

In this week's feature, "Shotgun Wedding" starring Jennifer Lopez and Josh Duhamel, we meet a

mid-decided to throw their own destination wedding on an island in the Philippines. The only problem is that some uninvited guests decide to turn the event into a nuptial nightmare.

There's nothing special about this film. It's exactly what you think it's going to be. However, it did have enough comedic moments to make it a fun distraction. I'd recommend this movie if you have nothing else to do and are looking to share a diversion with your significant other.

A celebratory "C+" for "Shotgun Wedding," now available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

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



**The Movie Diary**  
By Dom Cioffi



## Crazy cold

It was quiet. A little too quiet. An eerie quiet. No fresh animal tracks on the ground, no wind moving the trees around. It's so cold, you feel like even the surrounding air must be frozen even though it truly freezes at temps colder than 300 degrees. You couldn't hear anything from the outside, like the world had frozen in place.

Looking from the inside out, the day looks perfect, not a cloud in the sky as if they, too, were afraid of the temperature. The sun, large in the sky, glistens against the snow and the world seems to be sparkle in the cold. It's so stunningly beautiful, that it almost tricks you into stepping outside into the dangerous silence.

So, you venture out.

Maybe just to the mailbox and you can feel the hairs in your nostrils freezing together and you keep wiggling your nose in an attempt to keep everything from stiffening up. Nordic races are cancelled at around -15 F. to prevent the lungs from freezing. If you can throw a pot of water in the air to make snow or instantly make Jello, it's cold enough for the body to start freezing from

the inside out. It's crazy cold.

indoors, however, you could hear sounds of the struggle for life as the house went through its aches and pains. The wood groans and cracks, whether it's freezing in the walls or burning in the fireplace. You put your hand on the wall and you can feel, not just hear, the cold air slowly seeping in through the tiniest of cracks.

And the scariest noise of all, the gurgling of the pipes. That fear of the frozen pipe, that faint tint of brown as the ceiling sheet rock slowly dissolves in water and your worst homeowner dreams are realized. You watch the sheetrock bubble up and fall, just as the walls seem to be melting right in front of you.

I have a few friends looking for a place to live for a few months while their homes are repaired. If you or anyone you know has liveable space or furniture to help out a member of our community rebuild, please reach out! Your neighbors need you.

*Merisa Sherman is a long time Killington resident, bartender, KMS coach and realtor. She can be reached at [femaleskibum@gmail.com](mailto:femaleskibum@gmail.com).*



**Livin' the Dream**  
By Merisa Sherman



By Merisa Sherman

*The bitter cold snap this past weekend reached scary lows; problems linger for some.*



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Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty in Kilmington has a new real estate agent.

Dismuke's love for Kilmington began almost 15 years ago when she started making snowboarding trips from Cape Cod, Massachusetts where she lived, worked in hospitality, and was taking post grad classes. Originally from western Massachusetts, Kerry graduated from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

A head-and-shoulders portrait of Dr. Sarah E. Hill, a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a black turtleneck sweater. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

*Kerry Dismuke*

She is a member of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association and has worked with Killington Mountain School as a mountain bike coach. Dismuke has also volunteered as a mountain bike leader for Killington's Dirt Diva women's group rides. She has participated in Killington Mountain Bike Club's summer race series and has stood on the podium every year since 2017. She has also raced multiple Enduro and downhill races with the Eastern States Cup.

Dismuke enjoys traveling to other mountain bike parks and exploring the many trail networks throughout the state. She enjoys snowboarding trips to other resorts,

New agent → 36

The Castleton Community Seniors held a 25th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Over 50 members and guests attended the dinner and watched a PowerPoint presentation with photos from the past 25 years showing the men and women whose vision helped make Castleton Community Seniors into the success that it is today.

This year, 2023, marks 25 years that many of the programs and services for the Castleton Community Seniors began, including:

- The first meeting

of the CCS board of directors was held January 20, 1998.

- The first newsletter (Old Homestead News) was published.
- The first senior meal was served February 4, 1998.
- The elderly and disabled transportation program began October 4, 1998.
- There were 69 members in 1998, and today the Castleton Community Seniors have over 500 members.



Submitted

*Castleton Seniors celebrated 25 years together on Feb. 1.*

I contacted Aaron Moore, who monitors river macroinvertebrates each fall for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. He told me that they occasionally get water boatmen in samples, but not in numbers to suggest mass migration.

I had more luck locating corixids in a nearby wetland. After breaking through ice, my first net dip captured a water boatman. With or without a net, the best way to see water boatmen in winter is to approach a pond or wetland edge and look for movement as these insects go about the business of foraging beneath the ice. I find that tapping the ice surface encourages a bit of swimming.

Whether you knock on the icy door or not, I hope that you are lucky enough to see water boatmen in a pond near you. If you do, give a listen; they might even sing for you.

*Declan McCabe teaches biology at Saint Michael's College. His courses include aquatic biology, and a new course taught in Ireland's Dingle Peninsula called Coastal Biology of Ireland. 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.*

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**< PUZZLES page 17**

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 **New agent:** Dismuke made Vermont her home from page 35

and loves hiking with her dog, among the other activities the area has to offer—split-boarding, cross country skiing, relaxing by the water, hot yoga, and Pilates.

On joining the Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty team, Kerry Dismuke commented, “I am confident in my transition to take my business to the next level and bring my clients world class service.”

Nathan Mastroeni, Sotheby's regional manager for

“Kerry is a wealth of knowledge on the Killington region and an active individual in the community. Stop in or call her for any of your Real Estate needs,” said Nathan Mastroeni, regional manager for greater Vermont.

greater Vermont added, “We are extremely excited to welcome Kerry to our Killington office. Kerry is a wealth of knowledge on the Killington region and an active individual in the community. Stop in or call her for any of your real estate needs.”

Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty is areal estate companies in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Upstate New York with the goal of providing its customers and clients with an exceptional level of service and unparalleled exposure.

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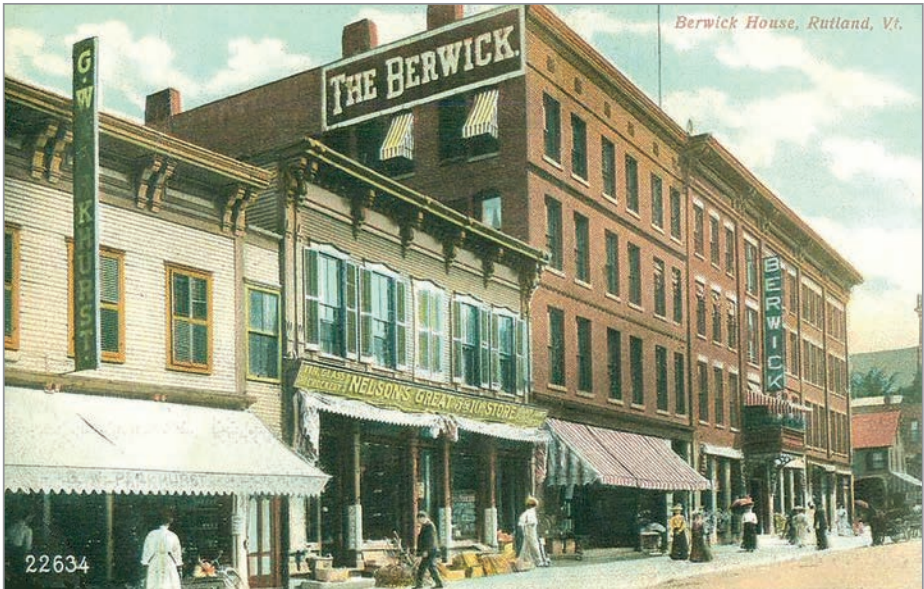
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The Berwick Hotel stood at the corner of Center and Wales streets.

**Looking Back:** The Berwick Hotel was a popular place for skiers to stay.  
from page 32

Directory lists several people as “boarders” at the hotel. A couple of local women were listed as waitresses there indicating that there was a restaurant on the premises. In the 1920 directory it is referred to as simply “The Hamilton.” An ad in that edition states that hot and cold baths are free! I wonder how many requests there were for a cold bath.

1980 is the last year that The Hamilton appears in the Rutland Directory.

**Hotel Saint James/Morris Inn**  
The Hotel Saint James began appear-

ing in the 1920 Rutland Directory at 59 West St. By 1930 it was known as the Morris Inn and ads show it offering both rooms and meals.

The United States Hotel Directory in the '50s lists it as a 40-room hotel. By 1970 the Morris Inn was gone and New England Telephone had its plant, construction and traffic departments at this location. The street must have been renumbered at some point as the telephone building is now considered to be at 55 West St.

Submitted



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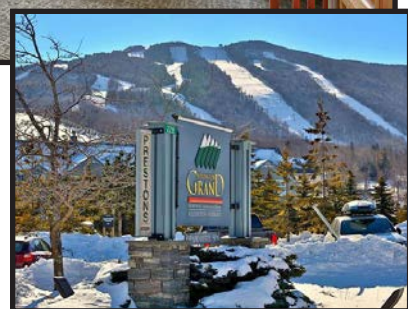
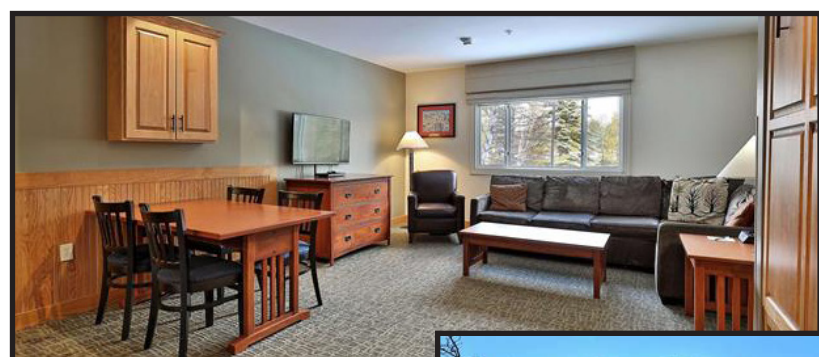
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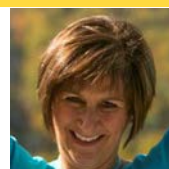


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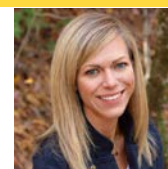
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WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE  
**Kerry Dismuke**

has joined Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty's  
Killington, VT office as a Realtor®

Kerry has four years of experience as a licensed Realtor® in Vermont. With the housing market boom in 2020, Kerry gained a lot of experience in a short period of time. She has helped buyers secure the properties of their dreams and has brought multiple offers to sellers in Killington and surrounding towns. Whether you are looking for an investment property, a second home/condo, or want to make the Green Mountains your year-round home, Kerry can point you in the right direction.



**KERRY DISMUKE, REALTOR®**  
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HIGHRIDGE	2BR/2BA	\$440,000
KING'S PINES	3BR/4BA	\$699,000



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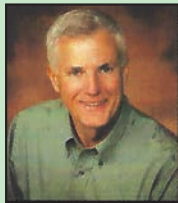
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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events on-snow behind K-1 Lodge unless otherwise noted

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

ALL DAY: Free demos from Nordica, Arbor, Mammut and Dynamic Wax; free coffee, hot cocoa, Kate's Real Food, Inside Out S'mores and more!

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.: Live Music featuring Silas Prior at Jerk Jamaican Grill

2:00 - 3:00 P.M.: Live Performance from The Tenderbellies

3:30 - 5:00 P.M.: Live Performance from The Infamous Stringdusters

5:00 P.M.: Winterfest Daily Drawing (over \$3,500 worth of giveaways!)

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

ALL DAY: Free demos from Nordica, Arbor, Mammut and Dynamic Wax; free coffee, hot cocoa, Kate's Real Food, Inside Out S'mores and more!

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.: Bluegrass Brunch & Live Music featuring Acoustik Ruckus, 3rd Floor K-1 Lodge

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.: Live Music featuring Nick Bredice at Jerk Jamaican Grill

12:00 - 1:30 P.M.: Live Performance from Hayley Jane

1:30 P.M.: Winterfest Daily Drawing (over \$3,500 worth of giveaways!)