

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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Wednesday, April 23, 2025

hardwickgazette.org

Volume 136 Number 17

## Board, Shattuck Respond to Redevelopment Questions

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO – Residents and community members came out in force at Wednesday evening’s informational meeting concerning the Rural Edge town hall redevelopment proposal. The April 14 meeting began with statements from the select board and Executive Director Patrick Shattuck of Rural Edge before transitioning into a question and answer session.

Residents voiced concerns over the sale process, potential wastewater issues, the current purchase and sale (P&S) agreement, and the potential occupants of the building.

Shattuck began with a statement, “One thing I think we can all agree on since we started this

discussion six years ago, the need for housing has not gone away. It certainly increased. and through this process, I’ve heard from so many of you sharing your stories

See **QUESTIONS, 5**

### Wastewater Worries Dominate Discussion

by Raymonda Parchment

GREENSBORO — Residents and community members came together for an informational meeting concerning the Rural Edge town hall redevelopment proposal, April 14. In

See **WASTEWATER, 7**



Greensboro residents line up to mic to address the select board and Executive Director Patrick Shattuck of Rural Edge, questioning the town hall redevelopment proposal. photo by Raymonda Parchment

## Flood Damage Buyouts Funded, Email Provider Selected

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – At the April 14 select board meeting, Emergency Management Director John Gordon reported two flood damage buyout applications he submitted to the Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) managed by Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) have been selected for funding. A budget of \$537,368.42 has been approved to acquire, demolish and restore the site of the original fire station at 3664 Vt. Rte. 14 and the Shattuck residence at 3665 Vt. Rte. 14. Gordon said the budget includes money for project management.

Details will need to be worked out. Peduzzi

will find an attorney who can do the title search in a timely manner and Baron will handle other requirements, including providing insurance certificates to the state.

The board accepted a proposal shared by Skip Marchesani to contract for a Microsoft 365 business basic service through RB Technologies to provide email addresses for select board members. It will include internet security and email security, preserving email records for as long as is necessary to meet state requirements.

The cost is \$72 per year per address, for a total cost of \$216 per year to cover three addresses for the select board. Email addresses will be set up in the form of first name dot last name @ woodburyvt.org. File sharing will be available and training will be provided.

Following a lengthy discussion about details of the new email service, select board Chair Chris Casey signed a document advising NEKCV that John Reed has been appointed

See **BUYOUTS, 7**

## A Tranquil Stream Floods a Home

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – Vermont’s landscape, defined by its rugged terrain and abundant waterways, is not accurately reflected in FEMA’s Floodplain maps. These federally-generated maps often fail to capture the flood risks posed by small brooks and streams; features that are common in many Vermont towns. While the State of Vermont does attempt to address this gap by identifying river corridors (areas where water bodies may meander beyond traditional flood zones) That designation overlooks many of the smaller watercourses scattered throughout the state.

A compelling example can be found at 2832 Craftsbury Road (Route 14 North) in Hardwick, where a small mountain stream flows down a hillside and beneath the road through a series of culverts. The house that once stood there took full advantage of the peaceful setting. The



Craftsbury Road in Hardwick flooded for a second time on July 9, 2024. The equipment from the demolition was still on site when the second flood occurred. courtesy photo

homeowners built a deck overlooking the stream and enjoyed the tranquility of the location.

But in July 2023, that peaceful setting turned perilous. Following heavy rainfall, the stream swelled beyond its banks. By the end of

See **HOME, 8**



The Lamoille River flows through downtown Hardwick on a rainy Saturday afternoon of the first Hardwick State project created by The Civic Standard, April 12, offering a wide range of courses proffered by members of the community.

photo by Paul Fixx

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**WEATHER WATCH**



Rain hitting the water during a downpour at Caspian Lake in Greensboro Saturday formed designs. photo by Vanessa Fournier



April 23 - April 29

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**Kellogg's Frosted Mini Wheat Cereal**  
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**Kellogg's Pop Tarts**  
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**Barilla G.F. Pasta**  
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**Annie's Mac & Cheese Dinners**  
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**Chef Boy-Ar-Dee Canned Pasta**  
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**Motts Applesauce**  
\$2.29 23-24 oz.

**Tutorosso Tomatoes**  
2/\$4 28 oz.

**Hormel Corned or Roast Beef Hash**  
\$3.19 14 oz.

**Newman's Salad Dressing**  
\$3.99 16 oz.

**Betty Crocker Cake Mix or Frosting**  
2/\$3 12-16 oz.

**Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts**  
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**Planters Mix Nuts/Peanuts or Cashew Halves**  
\$4.79 8-10.3 oz.

**7th Generation Dish Liquid**  
\$3.59 19 oz.

**Kleenex Facial Tissue**  
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**Warming Again With Rain For The Weekend**

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – This past weekend featured warming temperatures, with highs largely in the mid-60s both Friday and Saturday. We stopped short of 70 degrees on either day, but a soaking rain via the initial warm front Friday night and subsequent showers and thunderstorms during the day on Saturday brought close to an inch of rain. Some more greening up of the ground was evident thereafter.

This comes after a short-lived cooling earlier in the week, which brought us a total of a dusting of snow in the lower elevations to just over two inches of snow in the higher elevations Wednesday into Thursday morning.

We moderate a little bit more this week, although we once again start with the weather on the cooler side. This is the result of a low-pressure system exiting New England, with some clearing skies and a northwest wind meaning highs will be in the low-50s today and drop into the lower 30s tonight under mostly clear skies. Ridging crests overhead tonight into tomorrow morning, with mostly sunny skies remaining through midday Thursday. Sunshine becomes filtered by high clouds Thursday afternoon. A warm front approaches from the Ohio Valley overnight Thursday into

Friday morning with some light rain. Friday is largely overcast but warming progressively as we remain in the warm sector of this storm system.

A wave of low pressure approaches for Saturday, with moderate rain likely throughout the day. Total rainfall will be three quarters of an inch to an inch. That storm clears out for Sunday with mostly sunny skies again and seasonable temperatures. No snow in sight this week. The landscape should continue to green up with these intermittent rainstorms in the middle of warming. May flowers beyond that, but here are the expected weather conditions in the meantime:

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny. High: 53. Low: 32. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with increasing clouds by evening. High: 62. Low: 41. Light and variable wind.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain in the morning, then scattered showers in the afternoon. High: 67. Low: 47. South wind 5-10 mph.

**Saturday:** Cloudy. Rain. High: 61. Low: 37. Southwest wind 5-10 mph, turning northwest and increasing to 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. High: 58. Low: 36. Northwest winds around 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log

April 13: Information, Friendly Lane/Turcotte Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Granite St.; Assist – Public, Vt. Rte. 16.

April 14: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN Verification, Craftsbury Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Rte. 14 S.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.

April 15: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St. (2); Wanted Person, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

April 15: Assist – Agency, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Special Operations Team, Hazen Union Drive; Fraud, Wolcott St.; VIN Verification, High St.

April 16: Medical, Hazen Union Drive; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Suspicious Event, Mackville Road; Wanted Person, Vt. Rte. 14.

April 17: Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15 E.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Information, Hazen Union Drive; 911 Hangup, Center Road; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Cottage St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Cottage St.

April 18: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Citizen Dispute, Mountainview Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.

April 19: Information, Nichols Pond Road; Medical, Dutton Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

April 20: Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Found Property, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Scott Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Elm St.; Odor Investigation, Highland Ave.

## Hardwick Police

### Motor Vehicle Violations, Accident

HARDWICK – On April 16, at 7:05 p.m., the Hardwick Police stopped a vehicle on Vt. Rte. 14 near the Dollar General for multiple motor vehicle violations. The operator of the vehicle, identified as Lucas J. Molleur, of East Hardwick, had an in-state warrant out for his arrest. He had failed to appear in Orleans County court for a March 25 arraignment. Molleur was arrested without incident and issued a citation for April 17, per the dictates of the warrant.

On April 17, at 6:55 a.m., a two-vehicle accident with no injuries occurred on Vt. Rte. 15 in

Hardwick approximately seven miles west of the Walden/Hardwick town line. Sabrena Ducharme, of Walden, was driving a school bus west on 15 and Seth Lajoie, of Peacham, was following her in a three-axle truck hauling whey. Ducharme intended to turn left into Mayo Crane, and when Lajoie attempted to slow or stop, the brakes malfunctioned on his truck. There was extensive damage to the left side of the school bus in the area of the wheel well. There was extensive damage to both front fenders and front bumper of the truck.

## Berlin Police Department

### DUI/Wreckless Endangerment

BERLIN – While patrolling in the area of 1083 US Rte. 2 in Berlin, Officers located 20-year-old Solomon N. Croce of Greensboro Bend sleeping in his vehicle. Upon being woken, Croce attempted to move his vehicle, almost colliding with a police vehicle. After a brief roadside investigation, Croce was taken into custody for suspicion of driving under the influence.

After being processed and released, Croce then pointed a

firearm at Berlin Police Officers.

Croce was released with a citation to appear in Washington District Court on May 1, to answer to the charges of Driving While Intoxicated/Wreckless Endangerment.

Point of Clarification: The Berlin Police Department has no control over bail or incarceration. Those matters are handled by the judicial system, including the judges, court clerks and the state attorney's office.



Seth Brunell listens to testimony during his murder trial in Lamoille County Superior criminal court in Hyde Park on Tuesday, April 15. Brunell is accused of killing Fern Feather in 2022. photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

## Seth Brunell Reaches Plea Deal in Feather Death

by Peter D'Auria, VTDigger

according to court records.

HYDE PARK – Seth Brunell, who was charged with second-degree murder in the 2022 killing of Hinesburg transgender woman Fern Feather, reached a surprise plea deal Thursday midway through the trial.

Under the terms of the deal, Brunell will plead guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter and will serve a decade of probation but no additional prison time. He has been jailed since his arrest in 2022, as his trial has been repeatedly delayed.

Lamoille County Superior Court Judge Mary Morrissey approved the plea deal Thursday. Under the conditions, Brunell will be prohibited from consuming alcohol or drugs without a prescription, will be barred from possessing firearms and will wear an electronic monitoring device during his probationary period,

A second-degree murder conviction could have resulted in Brunell being incarcerated for life.

The deal comes partway through the first week of Brunell's trial in Lamoille Superior Court in Hyde Park, and a day after his attorney, Jessica Burke, made a motion for a mistrial. Burke filed the motion after discovering that a Lamoille County Sheriff's deputy had allegedly improperly spoken with Brunell about the incident while transporting him from the courthouse to Southern State Correctional Facility on Monday afternoon.

According to Burke's motion, a state police investigator directed law enforcement officers in a "scheme" to record the conversation during the transport in the hopes of obtaining "evidence of Defendant's statements to use against him during the pending trial."

**See PLEA, next page**

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# POLICE REPORT

## Plea

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During that conversation, a Lamoille County Sheriff's deputy asked Brunell specific questions about the day of Feather's death and Brunell's relationship with his attorney, all of which he answered "candidly," according to the motion for dismissal.

That resulted in statements from Brunell "obtained in violation of his Miranda rights, to his right to counsel, and in violation of attorney client privilege," Burke wrote.

Reached by phone Thursday afternoon, Aliena Gerhard, the Lamoille County state's attorney, declined to comment on any connection between the mistrial motion and the plea deal. According to reporting from WCAX, Gerhard criticized the actions of law enforcement during the transport. The scrubbed trial also drew a critique from Feather's mother, the TV station reported.

Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux said he was not immediately able to comment on the matter Thursday afternoon. A Vermont State Police spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment.

Burke, Brunell's attorney, said

the potential mistrial was a major factor in the plea deal.

"My client and I and the state were all prepared to see this trial through," Burke said in an interview. "That was everyone's intent, that was everyone's goal, but unfortunately, due to this unconstitutional behavior on the part of law enforcement, we were suddenly left without a path forward to try the case."

Brunell was confident about the case, Burke said, but it didn't make sense to risk further litigation "when you have an outcome that can result in freedom, which is what this offer did."

The plea deal puts an end to the high-profile criminal proceeding spurred by the April 2022 stabbing of the 29-year-old Feather, whose killing led to an outpouring of grief and condemnations of violence against the Vermont LGBTQ+ community.

Prior to the plea deal, however, Brunell's attorney had argued that he was acting in self-defense after Feather made increasingly aggressive sexual advances.

The plea deal also resolves a separate charge related to a 2023 escape attempt from Northeast Correctional Complex.

## Sheriff's Deputy Placed on Administrative Leave

by Lamoille County Sheriff's Department

**HYDE PARK** – Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux wrote in a press release on social media, April 18, "On April 16, 2025 I learned that Deputy Sheriff Christopher Turner engaged in inappropriate conversations with murder suspect Seth Brunell while transporting him to trial. In light of these conversations, Mr. Brunell's defense team raised objections and sought a mistrial, and those objections resulted in a plea agreement between the prosecution and defense.

"As soon as I learned that Deputy Turner engaged in these

inappropriate conversations, I placed him on administrative leave, and initiated a thorough and impartial investigation into his conduct. Deputy Turner's conduct was unacceptable to me and not consistent with the standards to which I hold my Department. I am ultimately responsible for the conduct of my deputies, and I sincerely apologize to all who were impacted by Mr. Brunell's crimes.

"This matter has been referred to Chief James Pontbriand, Vermont Regional Internal Investigations Team for investigation. This Department will issue no further statements until the investigation is complete."

## Hardwick Fire Department

### Rte. 15 Closed due to Fire Caused by Downed Power Lines

by Hardwick Fire Department

**HARDWICK** — On April 20 at 3:30 p.m. The Hardwick Fire Department (HFD) was toned for mutual aid to Wolcott on Vt. Rte. 15, near Fort Hill Road, for power lines down that started

a wild land fire. Engine 1, Engine 2 & W1 responded. Vt. Rte. 15 was closed to traffic between Gulf Road and North Wolcott Road while crews worked on extinguishing the fire.

HFD was released after roughly two hours on scene.

## Vermont State Police

### Violation of Abuse Prevention Order, St. Johnsbury Barracks Saturation Patrol

**CABOT** – On April 18, at approximately 12:03 p.m., Troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a report of an incident that occurred during a vehicle repossession in Cabot. The investigation determined that Stephen Strait, of Cabot, discharged multiple rounds from a firearm in close proximity to another individual and near a residence. No one was injured due to the incident. Further investigation revealed that Strait was in violation of an active abuse prevention order. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing. Strait was released with a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Washington County Criminal Division, on April 21 at 12:30 p.m. to answer to the charges of Violation of Abuse Prevention Order, Aggravated Disorderly Conduct and Recklessly Endangering Another Person.

**ST. JOHNSBURY** – On April 15, Troopers from the St. Johnsbury State Police Barracks conducted a saturation patrol on Interstate 91 in Caledonia County.

The patrol focused on the section of the interstate between St. Johnsbury and Lyndon. The objective was to identify and deter aggressive driving behaviors and to promote roadway safety.

Details: Number of traffic stops: 37, Number of tickets issued: 22, Number of warnings issued: 36.

Highlights: Two operators were issued tickets for traveling at speeds exceeding 90 mph. Two operators were issued tickets for operating without a driver's license. One operator was issued a ticket for operating with a suspended driver's license. Multiple operators received tickets for operating vehicles with expired registrations and/or expired inspection stickers. One vehicle was towed after it was determined that the license plates were not assigned to the vehicle.

The Vermont State Police reminds all motorists to drive responsibly: designate a sober driver, maintain a safe following distance and refrain from using handheld electronic devices while operating a vehicle.

## Unlawful Trespass and Mischief

**CRAFTSBURY** — On April 18 at approximately 9:06 p.m., the Vermont State Police were notified about a person unlawfully trespassing at a residence located on Lake Road in the Town of Craftsbury. Upon arrival, State Police identified the subject as Jacob Emerick, of Craftsbury. Further investigation determined Emerick had forcefully entered

the residence without permission after previously being served an eviction notice. Emerick was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to the Derby Barracks for further processing. Emerick was later transported to Northern State Correctional Facility and lodged for Unlawful Trespass (F) and Unlawful Mischief.

## AWARE Report

**HARDWICK** – Eight people used AWARE services between April 13 and April 20. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence.

AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit [awarevt.org](http://awarevt.org).



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## Questions

**Continued From Page One**

about your struggles with housing. Your family members, your neighbors, your friends, the people who contribute to your community, who can't find housing. It's not because they don't want to be in the community, it's because there simply isn't housing stock . . . so, believe me, since last year what I've been saying is, let's get to a vote, because it allows us to move on, and this allows you as a community to decide what you need and what the future for your community is."

Shattuck offered context about their other work locally. "We are here to assist. And so we're in your community, we're funding accessory dwelling units, we're funding several units by private landlords, we're partnering with Habitat [for Humanity] the stewardship and home-buyer education for the homes being built in the Bend, just last week our SASH, Support and Services at Home, signed up two new Greenboro residents for our free services to help elderly and disabled folks stay in their homes. So we're engaged in housing in your community, and this is a vote to see whether this proposal is investigated some more. The way this is structured and your select board has been very clear, is that if this doesn't prove feasible, it doesn't go forward. If we can't produce the units and we can't find something, if there are issues, we don't get permits, the sale doesn't happen. And the whole time until that, it continues to function. If it doesn't go forward, then you've got other ideas and the building doesn't go away. But we've got a challenge. It's hitting you in Greensboro, it's hitting us across Vermont, it's hitting us across the country. Housing is desperately needed, and we're here to be part of the solution and hopefully, tonight there will be some agreement to move forward one way or another."

Someone asked Shattuck how much time he will devote to working through the necessary issues to get construction started. "We would start right away. There would be additional funding that would need to be secured. Certainly, the funding environment has become far more challenging this year. The purchase and sale agreement says the goal would be within a year, but that's not guaranteed. And again, if it's clear that this isn't going to go forward, we aren't going to continue. We will start right away, looking at all of those things," said Shattuck.

Another resident asked whether or not the fire department was prepared for such a large addition to the community, as well as who would be responsible for maintaining the building. Shattuck responded, "Assuming ownership transfer, we have full responsibility to maintain it, that includes the yard, plowing, all of the utilities and the exterior maintenance. Part of our development, we recapitalize reserves. When we have a project, we look at what the life cycle costs are for that building over time, and we make sure that we have money initially set aside that can't be touched for things like roof replacement and heating system replacement, through the life cycles. We get capital gains assessments, which look at every component of the building and sort of project outward." Shattuck says they frequently have on-site storage so there is capacity stored within the building to support the sprinkler system, but that doesn't take up the demand.

Area EMS representative Karl Stein spoke in favor of the project, offering perspective on the town hall's current state. Stein said he has stayed away from the discourse on Front Porch Forum, waiting instead for the informational meeting. "I want to see what it would cost to get the town hall to where it was usable from top to the bottom, renovated and fixed. I was for saving that building, and in 1987, when the school board was looking to move our students into that building. And we had an estimate back then . . . it was close to a million dollars."

He continued, "I've been through the roof, I've been through the floor, I've been under the stage. I'd be glad to take anybody through any of that, you want to see the damage. In addition, the cables that are keeping the building from collapsing, the joints aren't attached at this point, the main feed-ins aren't attached. So there's a lot of work, and that's a million dollars back then, you know, now if we're lucky, maybe four or five million dollars right now. I want to see that, I want to see that estimate, and I'm willing to work with anybody who will want to work with me, to find out what the costs are, because I'm a taxpayer, I'd have to pay the bill."

Select board member Tim Brennan spoke to his own experience with the town hall. Brennan was on the WonderArts board in 2018, at the time they had an option with the town to develop the space, he said. They would have utilized it for WonderArts purposes and programming. According to Brennan, having hired an engineer and architect to some preliminary estimate resulted in a number upwards of \$600,000. "I did look at the inflation and construction on the Bureau of Labor and statistics site. It's been 58% since 2018. So a million bucks, and that's really basic, that was putting in the elevator to make the third floor accessible, a very basic kind of thing.

Board member Ellen Celnik added a point about long-term costs. She said even if the board was able to fund the building through tax payer money, or a combination of bonds and grants, the overall price tag including maintenance wouldn't be feasible. Anyway, you've got to get someone to schedule things, and oversee it and coordinate, and all of that stuff which from a staffing perspective is a whole other added cost, along with maintenance of the building and making sure it doesn't go into disrepair. So, let's think about the future versus sort of the immediate, what I would wish it to be. I would wish for a lot of things, it doesn't mean they are practical," she said.

Longtime area resident Sherral Lumsden said she had concerns about the scale of the project, "I feel it's too many apartments for the size of the building. It was a part of the town, if we lose it, sell it, then it's no longer the town's. I'd like it to stay in the community."

Online participant and area resident Sheila Dillon had similar concerns about the scale, "So, I'm curious about how many parking spaces are planned, because I think it's important that we have a sense of what that will look like because it is in the center of town, but probably more importantly, there has been a lot of very thoughtful conversation over the last year, and a lot of folks have been saying, it's awfully big for the town. Have you considered the smaller project?"

Shattuck said parking has to be consistent with what is required by zoning. When looking at space analysis, there is a capacity

within what is available, currently hardscape, for about 50 spaces. "We wouldn't need that," he said. "What we've found is that many of our residents don't have cars. Certainly not two cars per household. So the requirement is there is ample space for parking, and an area is already used for parking. The second question was scale. We worked closely with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, which looks at scale and compatibility . . . they were involved in the sign off and ultimate massing of this."

Shattuck further explained the tenant selection process and elaborated on the proposed unit sizes. The proposed development would have two three-bedroom units, ten two-bedroom units and eight one-bedroom units. Each one of their properties has its own waiting list. They start pulling together a waiting list about six months before they begin occupying. That would give the town an opportunity to start gathering local names on that list, he said.

According to Shattuck, "What we find historically, is the folks who move into the developments we rebuild are local, they have long ties to the community. There's a reason people want to live in Greensboro, because they probably have connections, they work here, they were raised here and that is why they want to live here." he said. "We have lots of seniors who are over housed, they're incredibly expensive to maintain. They're looking for opportunities to downsize, so one thing we've looked at with our one bedroom units is making sure that they all have accessible passive travel. They're either accessible or easily adaptable, so they can age in place. In developing that unit mix, we would look to have the desires and the needs of the town, both needs for elders and families." said Shattuck.

A resident, identified only as Hugh, said "People here are coming up with arguments for and against . . . I think we need to focus on housing our population, this project doesn't do that. No matter how you phrase it or justify it, or whatever taking the town hall, public property, putting it private hands for a questionable purpose is, I think is just dumb."

Reverend Sarah Lammert responded, "I don't think it's fair to call it a dumb project, at all. I think that this is a project that could start to move us towards creating affordable housing and diversity in this town. There's a lot of people here with a lot of privilege, and you are housed," she said. "In my many years as a minister, I have noticed that when people are afraid of change, they bring up process questions and they swamp the people trying to bring change with the process questions. And that is what's going on here. When it comes to fair housing, it's always the wrong scope and it's always in the wrong place. No matter where it is, somebody who lives next door doesn't want it there. So, I'm sorry my tone is excited. I'm nervous to speak to you all, I love you all, I'm glad to be part of this community, and I'm glad we're having these conversations together," ended Lammert.

Despite Lammert's plea, process questions were shared by speakers that followed, on most of which, select board members deferred to Shattuck.

Area business owner Matteo Kehler also spoke in favor of the proposal, "I just want to remind us all that we are living in the middle of a crisis, that's a capital C crisis. There's nowhere

**See QUESTIONS, next page**

## Questions

Continued from previous page

to live in this town. If you go on Zillow, there are three properties listed, two are land. One is a seasonal summer camp for \$750,000. There's nowhere to live here. We started our company in 2020 . . . with the intention of building a liveable community and I feel like we're failing because there's nowhere to live. If we don't and, you know, the comment about the median age in Greensboro, rising ten years in the last five, that's real. We're looking down the barrel of something that's terrifying for me as a younger person in this community, and I'm 55." he said.

Kehler said, while this isn't a perfect project, nor is it in the perfect place, it provides a perfect solution "because there's nowhere to live." He continued, "There are so many communities around the state and the country that have sold municipal properties, schools, town halls, prime pieces of real estate in their city centers to develop housing because we need it, we need it terribly right now. The cost of construction has gotten way out of hand. The cost of real estate has outstripped the capacity of businesses like ours to pay our employees a wage that would allow them access to purchase homes.

"The opportunity to build wealth that we all enjoyed as we came up in this economy is gone.

Home ownership, the opportunity for young people to build equity is gone. Rentals are a great place to start. It's not the only solution. It needs to be a part of a big menu of options that we as a community rise up to execute so that we can create a future for this town because there isn't one if the median age is just going to keep rising and rising and rising."

Area resident Ryan Hall raised questions about the character of the potential occupants, "I have a young family. I've worked hard since I graduated, and I've had no problem moving into this community and finding a piece of property to fix up and live here. When we talk about the property values being so high in our community, that's a good thing. Now this is a tough statement but if you look at all the other Rural Edge developments around the state, the quality of the people living in them is fairly low. Do we want to bring that to our community?"

Online participant Vince Cabbage raised

similar questions about the tenant selection process and potential occupants. Cabbage questioned the special conditions in the P&S agreement such as the homeless tenant provision and rent limits. "It would be great to understand how your tenant selection plan is in compliance with the HOME program, and how that gels with the comment that Greensboro's process will allow tenants we want to live there, when your state funding sources have their own tenant selection." The HOME Investment Partnerships Program is a federal program that provides funding to state and local governments to create affordable housing for low-income households. It's the largest federal block grant specifically for this purpose.

Shattuck responded first, "So we look at income, assets, criminal, credit, landlord references. To get on the waiting list, you have to submit a whole application beforehand, and then when a unit becomes available an official screening takes place. So the restrictions call for an income, the units are restricted to households between fifty and 80% of the area median income. The governor's mandate required us to include three of those households. That is the governor's mandate for any publicly funded housing, fifteen percent be set aside so that's those three units."

He elaborated further, "It's homeless or at the risk of homelessness. So that means folks who are rent burdened, paying an inordinate amount of their income towards rent. We've heard so many people are couch surfing, or sleeping in their cars or in substandard housing. There's every best effort for a certain number of folks, it's a small number of below 30% of area median income. That is every best effort. So, you may have elderly folks with a Section 8 voucher, who may qualify. The [monthly] rents range from \$833 to \$1,387, and that was based on the operating pro formula.

Celnik then spoke out, "I've done this for 25 years in New York, and I understand how complicated it is. But if rent starts at \$1,833, somebody has to earn around \$33,500 to be eligible. So for somebody to be at 30% of median income, median income in Orleans county is around \$66,000, thirty percent is \$19,800 a year. They wouldn't be eligible unless they had a section eight voucher. Now, the Section 8 vouchers waiting list is closed. The waiting list takes about five years, or up to five years for people. Quite frankly, I'm actually

embarrassed that this town would even bring that up. Because, as an inclusive community, we have had families burned out of their homes in the bend. Should those people not be considered for housing? It really embarrasses me. I think we're better than that."

Greensboro resident and social worker Dahria Messina agreed, first providing some facts, before lambasting the previous speakers. "I am a resident of Greensboro and I am also a social worker at one of our local homeless shelters. So I'd like to just offer a little bit of perspective here. I am deeply in favor of this project. Something around 18% of Greensboro's year-round housing are rentals. 22% is the nationwide average, which is already low for the nation. 81% of Greensboro's housing stock is seasonal. 81%. That is a wildly high number. Especially for a town that is seeking to grow and is seeking to survive transitions into new generations.

"We have this space that is underused and needs a new purpose. We have a town that wants families and younger folks to settle here.

"Change is going to happen, that is the reality. Change is going to happen one way or another, and we have an opportunity here to steer that chance."

In closing, Messina remarked, "This project, it has been clearly stated, will not go forward if it is not viable, if it is not feasible. Other solutions will have to be sought, but right now, we have spent an awful lot of time road blocking the people that are trying to tell us if this project is feasible. I work with a community of folks who have been consistently dehumanized and ignored by our wider community. Everyone deserves a warm place to sleep. So I find it pretty disturbing when I hear people questioning what type of people this will bring to our town. That's a really upsetting perspective to come with, especially in Vermont.

"These are our community members, these are our Vermonters, just as much as we are. If we can offer more homes, then we need to do so."

The select board ended the meeting promptly at 8:30 p.m. as scheduled, after everyone who had wanted to speak had their chance and some had the opportunity to speak a second time.

The vote will be held on Tuesday, April 29, at Greensboro Town Hall, 82 Craftsbury Road from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Dressed as a bunny, Hardwick Recreation Coordinator Jason Bahner, stands amid the roughly 3,000 plastic eggs filled with candy that were spread on the Hazen Union School's front lawn Saturday. The annual egg scramble event was sponsored by the Hardwick Recreation Committee.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Children collect as many candy filled plastic eggs as they can at the annual egg scramble event on the front lawn of Hazen Union School, April 19. About 3,000 eggs were picked up in under 10 minutes. The Hardwick Recreation Committee sponsored the event.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Wastewater

**Continued From Page One**

In addition to the select board, Executive Director Patrick Shattuck of Rural Edge was present to field questions about the redevelopment project.

As discussion progressed, many residents posed questions about wastewater and water systems for the project. Some asserted the current wastewater system utilized by the building will not be able to sustain a project of the proposed size. Others were concerned about potentially overburdening the fire department, and if the sprinkler system storage could deplete the supply.

Resident Davis Barnett asked “What is the approach for solving the septic situation? Because obviously, septic is ground zero.”

Select board member Tim Brennan responded, saying “Davis, the issue is under the purchase and sale agreement, solving wastewater problems is their problem. The property doesn’t transfer, ownership doesn’t transfer until they have all the permits in place. So they’ve got to get a wastewater permit with the state. And Patrick,

not to put words in your mouth, I mean, this is not your first rodeo. I mean, you’ve dealt with septic problems in a lot of these properties that you have developed. There are solutions that go beyond these basic systems, there are more advanced technologies that will cost them more money. The property does not change hands until they have all those permits and financing, that is how this is structured.”

Shattuck also responded, saying while they did some initial feasibility, before they spend more money they need to know that there is an ability for the building to sell.

The organization has lots of experience with alternative systems, but more research is necessary according to Shattuck. “We need to dig into that before we spend more money because we’re a nonprofit, we’re charged with housing needs across the Northeast Kingdom and have lots of competing projects and not a lot of money just to spend for the sake of spending. We need to have some security. So, without that assurance, that the property would be available, we don’t have the ability and our board and partners agree with us that we

shouldn’t spend any more money,” he said. Brennan added, “Under the P&S [Purchase and Sale Agreement] wastewater isn’t our problem. There are solutions that go beyond the basic systems. The property doesn’t change hands until all those conditions are met.”

Online participant Vince Cabbage was skeptical that the project could move forward without wastewater, before asking why select board chair MacNeil recused himself in regards to a separate wastewater proposal. Cabbage also asked about the operating budget for the proposed project. Shattuck responded first, “Yeah, I mean, budgets change all the time, our projects are underwritten and have to prove that they’re financially viable based on the assumptions. We’ve talked about large chunks of how our cost estimate came about, what we’re looking for and allocating for. We explained what the feasibility analysis was versus what is done for actual development. So I think I’ll leave it there.”

“Yeah, I kind of disagree with your characterization Vince, I mean, first of all, if you have any properties around the Northeast Kingdom

that have been sitting there for years? Is it good for Rural Edge to have those expenses, taxes?” said Brennan. He then called attention to section 16f of the P&S, which read “If for any reason, not the fault of either party, the housing project contemplated in this P&S agreement cannot go forward as contemplated, then the contract is null and void.” Brennan continued, “So obviously either party could intervene to litigate that. This contract is not about some property sitting there doing nothing for years, that is highly unlikely, and there are avenues within the contract to pursue that and fix that.”

“I guess I would also offer, you know, we have some funding committed. There is incredible pressure across the state for diminishing resources. Our funders are holding us, they aren’t going to stay on there indefinitely with a commitment, if we are not showing forward momentum. So we are under obligation to keep that funding and to bring it here, it’s not like it’s allocated to Rural Edge for any project. It’s for this project, for Greensboro.” Shattuck added.

Ellen Celnik then interjected, saying “I understand that an email was sent to the water department a long time ago that wasn’t responded to. I also sent an email to the water station and did not get a response. At some point that’s going to have to be responded to because of the state requirement.”

A Greensboro Water District representative stepped up to the mic, saying “I’m John Mackin, and I’m the water guy. You don’t get any responses until you get permits. You need total water, wastewater. In 2019 we redid the system and ran a line to the present town hall, adequate for the sprinkler system for that size building. I don’t think the line is big enough to do what you want to do, so you’ll have to blast and elevate an underground storage tank. Possibly the town will have to buy a ladder truck, for about a million dollars for fire protection.” Celnik responded to Mackin, “I have a question, I’m assuming that the water capacity supported the school when there were way more students, and now that there are not that many, does that water capacity just go away?”

Mackin elaborated, saying “In 2019, we replaced the whole system for three million dollars, such a quaint number now. The only reason you have the circus, the theater, fire house, the Greensboro garage sprinkler system is because we have that capacity. Now, it’s not an endless source. Who knows, we could have drought years and then we lose volumes because your pumps can’t keep up.”

## Buyouts

**Continued From Page One**

town representative and Michael Gray, the alternate.

Paul Council was appointed for another term on the Conservation Commission.

Several other volunteer town positions remain unfilled, including a health officer that Chris Casey said is badly needed. In addition, a tree warden, solid waste district board representative and one or two planning commission seats are needed.

Town Clerk Robin Durkee reported dog licenses are way down from last year, with just 114 so far, 70 less than last year. She’ll be mailing notices to those who had registered dogs last year, but haven’t this year..

Town Treasurer Lilly Baron reported a final total of \$4,722 was raised for the library at the Pie Breakfast for \$4,722.

Baron is continuing her training and has started on-line accounting courses. She’s been working with John Reid to develop a reporting format that will be more user friendly for the board.

Gordon shared copies of the Local Emergency Management Plan that has to be updated, asking board members to suggest updates by their next meeting

Road Commissioner Alfie Larrabee reported the roads are holding up and the crew has been

grading and adding gravel in muddy spots.

Larabee asked the board for guidance on who is responsible for driveway culverts that need to be replaced or reset. The board told him to judge whether the failure of a driveway culvert was due to town road runoff, and not just poor maintenance by the homeowner. If the town road runoff and storm damage has created the problem, he can offer to have the town replace the culvert if the homeowner will pay for the culvert, generally for a cost of a few hundred dollars. If it turns out that the policy is subject to abuse, the board will reconsider it.

Casey reported on a meeting of the scoping committee meeting with Larabee, Skip Lindsay and Gray to begin listing flood control projects that might be funded with FEMA available due to the two bridge replacements coming in under budget. Members have lists in mind, but nothing on paper yet.

Projects for the town office building, including a new roof, windows and a drainage ditch behind the building might be doable by the road crew sooner than waiting to hire a contractor, Casey and board member Lizzy Higgins said they would prepare cost estimates for those.

A second meeting between Larabee, Gray and Lindsay

will take place next week to work on preparing a preliminary list for the next board meeting, said Casey.

Gray reported he and Larabee met with VTrans District 6 reps to go over a VTrans Structures grant application for the Valley Lake Road culvert replacement, March 27. Nate Sicard designed the culvert and suggested projects be put out to bid in the late fall or early winter when contractors are planning for their next season. His cost estimate from several years ago was \$275,000. The VTrans cap on such projects is \$200,000, so the town would have to budget for that match in FY 2027.

Casey continued a discussion from previous meetings about changing the format of select board meetings in the future, suggesting that the next meeting, on April 28, be held in the town office, with only essential reports. It would be more of a work meeting, with a lighter scheduled agenda and more time devoted to tasks the select board needs to address.

An executive session was called to review an employment application for a possible part-time addition to the road crew. No action was taken when the board exited the meeting 20 minutes later, after which bills and payroll orders were reviewed and signed.

## Home

**Continued From Page One**

the storm, over four feet of water and mud had flooded the home. The owners had evacuated with their son before the worst occurred. Their home was uninhabitable when they returned.

Initially, the family hoped to repair and return. They consulted the Town of Hardwick to explore their options. The property was located outside of both the FEMA floodplain and the state-identified river corridor. The stream responsible for the flooding was too minor to appear on any state or federal maps.

First Street Foundation, a private organization that develops flood risk models for insurance and financial sectors, had rated the property as a 9 out of 10 in terms of flood risk. Their model had not only predicted the 2023 flooding, but also anticipated future occurrences.

Faced with the reality of increasing flood risk and limited mitigation options, the homeowners

opted into the State of Vermont's Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) buyout program. Working with the Town of Hardwick, they sold their home, which was subsequently demolished and the lot was re-seeded in late June 2024.

According to the former homeowners: "The buyout was a financial blessing. We owned our house for 13 years. We had so much sweat equity in the place. It was our home. To be able to recuperate something financially toward a new home was huge. We were so grateful for the help from the Town, and we were grateful with how easy the process was..."

Then, on July 9, 2024, barely two weeks later, the same unassuming mountain stream rose again and flooded the now-empty site. For this location, options like elevating or rebuilding the home were not viable. The 2024 flood served as a stark reminder that climate-driven flooding is accelerating faster than state or federal mapping systems can adapt.

Today, the site sits empty, its



*The interior of the home at 2832 Craftsbury Road in Hardwick following July 2023 flooding that swelled a stream beyond its banks, filling the home with over four feet of muddy water, leaving it uninhabitable.*

*courtesy photo*

future uncertain but no longer tied to risk. With the threat of flooding ever-present, no major plans are expected. The town will introduce a field of wildflowers, perhaps, or a pollinator garden. What remains clear is that the family who

once lived here is now safely out of harm's way. In a time of rising waters and shifting climates, that alone marks a quiet success.

*Kristen Leahy is zoning and floodplain administrator for the Town of Hardwick*

# Burke Mountain Receiver Seeks Court Sale Approval

by **Habib Sabet, VTDigger**

BURKE – Michael Goldberg, the court-appointed receiver overseeing Burke Mountain Resort, has asked a federal judge to sign off on the sale of the Northeast Kingdom ski resort to a local group for \$11.5 million.

In a Friday court filing, Goldberg asked Judge Darrin P. Gayles, who has presided over the mountain's receivership in federal court in Miami for almost a decade, to grant final approval for the deal with Bear Den Partners, LLC.

The group is a consortium of parties with long-standing ties to the ski area, including Burke Mountain Academy, an elite ski school located in the area, and Ken Graham, whose family briefly owned the mountain in the early 2000s.

Bear Den Partners also includes the Schaefer family, who own the Massachusetts ski mountain Berkshire East and the Catsamount Mountain Resort in New York. The family would oversee resort operations at the resort, according to preliminary development plans shared with VTDigger.

"The Receiver unequivocally states that in his opinion Bear Den Partners is the best possible purchaser for the Burke Mountain Resort and believes that this agreement is in the best interest of the investors, the employees and the Burke ski community," Goldberg wrote in the filing.

If approved, the sale would wind down Goldberg's nearly decade-long receivership of the resort. Gayles first appointed Goldberg as receiver of Burke and Jay Peak, another Northeast Kingdom ski area, in 2016, when federal regulators brought a civil enforcement suit against the mountains' former owner, Ariel Quiros, and Jay Peak CEO Bill Stenger.



*Michael Goldberg, the receiver for Burke Mountain ski resort, is seeking final court approval for sale to a local group.*

*courtesy photo*

At the time, the two men were funding upgrades to both ski resorts with money from the EB-5 visa program, which pairs foreign investors with rural development projects in return for legal residency status. Regulators accused them of misappropriating \$200 million of the funds they had raised in what became the largest investor fraud case in Vermont's history.

Earlier this month, VTDigger reported that Goldberg was in the process of finalizing a contract for the sale of Burke Mountain Resort with the group, although no price had been made public at the time.

Burke Mountain's value is assessed by the Town of Burke at about \$20 million, according to public records, which is substantially higher than the \$11.5 million price tag.

But in the court filing, Goldberg said the mountain has been "negatively cash flowing" for the entirety of his receivership and has a slew of deferred maintenance obligations.

Bear Den Partners has also indicated it plans to put \$30 million overall into developing the resort in the long term, according to the filing.

"We look forward to adding our expertise to the mix and taking Burke to a level where we know it can excel for years to come," Ken Graham said in a press release Friday. "My family has been part of the Burke community for the last 50 years, and we are really excited to help write the next chapters at Burke for decades to come."

In the filing, Goldberg also asked the court to waive a requisite auction process that would allow other bidders to make offers for the mountain, calling such a process "very risky and not in the best interest of the receivership estate and the investors."

Goldberg had previously attempted to sell the mountain to at least two other buyers only to have agreements fall through at the last minute. In the filing, Goldberg suggested that opening the mountain up to new bids would threaten to tank the deal with Bear Den Partners, who agreed to buy the resort on the condition that there would be no auction.

"Bear Den Partners needs to close this transaction quickly and start making capital improvements to the property in order to complete them before next ski season," the filing states.

In 2022, Goldberg sold Jay Peak to the Utah-based Pacific Group Resorts Inc. for \$76 million after an auction process, and most of the proceeds from the sale went to defrauded investors.

It's unclear how much of the money from the Burke deal would be allocated to investors, but in the filing, Goldberg said the sale would allow him to "make further distributions" to the defrauded parties.

Goldberg also wrote that Bear Den Partners had indicated it "would be willing to allow the EB-5 Parties to benefit from the job creation expected to result from Buyer's intended investment."

# Hardwick's Jeudevine Memorial Library Prepares for a Move

## Photos by Diane Grenkow



The library Children's Room, emptied of books and furniture, with carpeting removed for the floors to be refinished, will contain some of the adult collection and reading areas.



Bookcases in the library's Adult Room have been emptied and moved to reveal the wood floor underneath, which will be refinished after the rug is removed. Shelving will be repurposed and the room used for some of the adult collection and seating.



A bat skeleton found in the library as it was being emptied to prepare for floors to be refinished prior to moving the office and children's collection into the new addition.



A bookcase that held the library's Vermont collection is being handed down to library Trustee Solomon Lew as the balcony is being cleared out to prepare for the move to the new addition as it is nearing completion.

# Hardwick's Jeudevine Memorial Library Prepares for a Move

## Photos by Diane Grenkow



*A view through the open door of the library into the empty computer area highlights the similarity between the colors of the stained glass windows and the siding of the library's new addition. After moving into the library's new addition, the main entrance will be through the arched entrance of the new granite facade on West Church Street.*



*The upstairs balcony area of the original library has been cleared out to prepare for its floors to be refinished as the library's new addition nears completion.*



*The library's new addition is filled with boxed books, moved out of the original 1896 library, as the floors are being refinished in preparation for the library's expansion into the new addition and reconfiguration.*



*The original library's circular stairs leading to the upstairs balcony area have been sanded to prepare for their refinishing.*

# Organizations Mark Sexual Violence Awareness Month

by Sarah Johnsen and  
Raymonda Parchment

VERMONT – In recognition of sexual assault awareness month, Tuesday, April 30, AWARE, based in Hardwick, is calling on the community to wear denim in recognition of Denim Day, a global campaign to raise awareness about sexual violence and support survivors.

Advocacy organizations across Vermont are taking the extra spotlight to celebrate their community, fundraise for programs and educate the public about their services.

The month-long campaign has been observed by groups and leaders nationwide since 2001, organized by the nonprofit National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Three groups across the state are advocating for a safer, more just Vermont.

AWARE, a non-profit organization established in 1984 and based in Hardwick, is dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area. AWARE provides services year-round, 24 hours a day, governed by a volunteer board of directors, utilizing paid employees and numerous volunteers. AWARE serves the towns of Cabot, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, Walden, and Woodbury.

“This is actually our first year for Denim Day, so we’re hoping that the community will join us in wearing jeans on that day or any denim,” said Interim Director Mirana Elkins.

According to Elkins, every year varies in how the organization brings awareness. She provided some context for this year’s denim day. “It began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court to overturn a rape conviction, because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the person who raped her remove them. Victim blaming. Following the reversal, the women in the Italian parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.”

What started as a local protest has since grown into an international symbol of solidarity and protest against victim-blaming and sexual violence. In addition to the Denim Day campaign, AWARE has an installation at Memorial Park in Hardwick to honor victims of domestic and sexual violence.

“So this is just one of the newer ways that we’re trying to spread awareness in our communities, along with the flags. We also have a fundraiser at the Buffalo Mountain Co-op in Hardwick,

asking shoppers to round up the total of their purchase,” said Youth Advocate Tonda Bryant.

Bryant provided perspective on the bystander effect, the impact of victim blaming and more. “When you hear someone say a sexist joke or make a comment, that is victim blaming. Sexual violence and assault sits on the foundation of our culture of victim blaming and sexism.”

“You can have a guy who’s a friend, who makes a joke and you think, okay, this is somebody that I know, that they don’t mean it in that way or whatever. But the fact that they’re saying that, and not having the awareness that people that you may or may not know, and maybe the person you know commits crimes against women and children,” she said, then reiterated her earlier point. “That rests on the foundation of a culture of sexism and victim blaming.”

“So many victims don’t come forward because of the victim blaming. The majority of victims, the vast majority of victims do not report,” said Bryant. “So it ties back into this, if the community can stand up and all wear denim, it makes a huge statement and shows that you are in support of those that may not be able to stand up for themselves,” continued Elkins.

According to Bryant, Hardwick’s unique geographic positioning means the organization answers to multiple county courts. The organization serves seven towns across three counties, working with the Caledonia Children’s Advocacy Center and Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Morrisville. “It’s three different courts, and there can be even four different local community partners in regards to family centers or DCF. So it gets complicated because of where we are located.”

Like many organizations in recent months, the current administration has created a sense of uncertainty regarding federally funded projects, programs, and positions. AWARE receives grant funding to assist survivors of sexual violence, as well as child sexual abuse.

“We have a lot of concerns, absolutely, we do. Like, right now, our funding has not been frozen as some other organizations are experiencing. But right now, we’re receiving funding,” said Bryant.

“We’re very concerned and we will cross whatever bridges we have to to continue to serve the community,” Elkins added.

She continued, “Contingency planning, things like that are happening. There’s a saying, prepare



A cluster of flags in Hardwick’s Memorial Park, April 20, calls attention to victims and survivors of all forms of sexual violence during April’s Sexual Violence Awareness Month.  
photo by Paul Fixx

for the worst, hope for the best. That’s where we’re at right now. It’s unique in a sense, but it’s also not unique that we’ve been through scary times before with federal funding and state funding. We’ve always made it through.”

According to the World Health Organization, one-in-three women, around 736 million, are subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner. To learn more about AWARE or how to get involved, call us at (802) 472-6463 or visit website AWAREvt.org.

Umbrella, a resource center for women, families and other survivors of domestic and sexual violence, serves Orleans, Caledonia and Essex counties. Its advocates help survivors through safety planning, assistance filing legal forms, emergency housing and a 24-hour hotline.

Umbrella also runs Kingdom Child Care Connection, which offers child care subsidies and works with child care providers to accommodate the sensitive and stressful needs of families facing violence. They also have a service called The Family Room, a monitored space for visitation or child handoffs in the case of shared custody.

In the spring of 2023, Umbrella launched The Spark, a violence

prevention hotline meant for non-emergency situations (unlike a hotline). The second of its kind in the U.S., according to Umbrella, the line accepts calls from people who want to stop or prevent themselves from causing harm to their partners.

The confidential phone line is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day and run by responders trained to guide abusive partners away from hurting others.

“It’s meant for folks to call as a way to ideally support them and de-escalate really heightened moments to prevent any harm happening in the relationship,” said Chelsea Coro, social change coordinator at Umbrella.

Umbrella also has youth education programs. Workers do classroom visits in high schools focused on building the idea of consent and healthy relationships.

Umbrella’s main programming focus lands in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but for this spring, the group will be hosting its sixth annual spring gala at Mountain View Farm in East Burke. The event is slated for May 16 from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

This year’s gala theme is “Radiance,” and all of the proceeds will go directly toward the nonprofit’s

**See AWARENESS, next page**

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## Awareness

Continued From Previous Page

programs, Umbrella says.

The Safety Team, based in South Burlington, is an interpersonal violence prevention organization that teaches people the basics of martial arts to help them heal from trauma or learn how to protect themselves and others in dangerous situations.

The Safety Team has two major programs. The first is the Trauma Recovery Program, which is funded in part by a Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services grant, though, the group says, that money is subject to a federal pause.

The program is a free set of sessions designed for women who have experienced any type of interpersonal violence. It focuses on how the brain and body respond to

trauma, and participants learn different techniques to feel empowered and safe. Participants learn about redirecting blame toward perpetrators, risk reduction strategies and strong boundary setting.

The second program focuses on physical and verbal defense techniques through workshops and demonstrations.

The Safety Team doesn't host sessions in a fixed location, instead bringing workshops to where they're needed most.

"We use community rooms; we've been on university campuses. We go wherever we are asked to go and can make happen," said Christine DiBlasio, co-founder of the group and a fifth-degree black belt in Kempo jujitsu.

Sarah Johnsen contributed via Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship.



WDEV in Waterbury has changed recently changed ownership after being owned by the Squires family for 88 years.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

# Under New Ownership, WDEV Seeks Second Wind

by Habib Sabet, VTDigger

WATERBURY – On its face, the partnership between The Nation magazine and Myers Mermel, the new owner of WDEV-AM, is an unlikely one.

Earlier this year, Mermel, who previously served as president of the conservative Ethan Allen Institute and once ran for the U.S. Senate as a Republican, entered the fabled Vermont radio station into an exclusive deal with the progressive monthly and online publication.

Every weekday afternoon, WDEV now airs podcasts produced by The Nation, featuring left-leaning voices from the magazine like Jeet Heer, whose show "The Time of Monsters" is broadcast on the station each Monday.

"When we bought the station people were like, 'Oh, well Mermel, he's going to turn it into Fox News, right?'" Mermel said. "But that's not what Vermont is. We're trying to serve a community."

The deal with The Nation is one in a constellation of sweeping changes that Mermel has enacted since acquiring the station from the Squier family last year. After 88 years of ownership, the family sold WDEV and its sister stations, WCVT-FM and WLVB-FM, to Mermel and his associate, Scott Milne, another former Republican candidate.

Although the Federal Communications Commission technically only signed off on the deal this month, Mermel has been serving as the station's main owner and operator for just over a year, he said.

Under the leadership of Ken Squier, who died in 2023, the station developed a reputation as a paragon of independent media, celebrated for its emphasis on local culture and its lineup of eclectic,

and often eccentric, shows like "Music to Go to the Dump By."

But since taking over, Mermel has begun to nudge WDEV in a new direction, trying to maintain what he called "the station's DNA" as a community radio station while branching out in new directions.

Mermel has funded upgrades to the station's infrastructure, including new microphones and computer systems. He has simultaneously been overhauling much of WDEV's traditional programming, injecting more "talk" and syndicated news into its lineup, largely with the hope of courting Vermont's younger, more politically liberal population.

"We felt it was very important to try to improve certain areas where we could, and capitalize on missed opportunities," Mermel said.

In addition to the programming from The Nation, WDEV has introduced a spate of new hosts to pad out its roster of commentators.

One of the new voices on air is David Zuckerman, a progressive and the state's former lieutenant governor. He recently began serving as the Thursday host of "Vermont Viewpoint," WDEV's flagship daily talk program, which features a different host each day.

Featuring discussion of a wide range of topics from food insecurity to health care, the segment is aimed at "cultivating a reasonable presentation of a perspective that maybe some folks didn't hear that much in recent years," Zuckerman said.

Ross Connolly, regional state director of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative libertarian advocacy group, has joined the station as another host of Vermont Viewpoint. Joseph Woodin, president and CEO of Copley Health

See WDEV, next page

### Member Organizations of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Search in table

Organization Name	Website	Counties Covered	Hotline Number	Office Number
AWARE, Inc.	<a href="http://awarevt.org">awarevt.org</a>	Caledonia, Washington, & Orleans Counties (of Hardwick area)	802-472-6463	802-472-6463
Circle	<a href="http://circlevt.org">circlevt.org</a>	Washington County	877-543-9498	802-476-6010
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	<a href="http://clarina.org">clarina.org</a>	Lamoille County	802-888-5256	802-888-2584
H.O.P.E. Works	<a href="http://hopeworksvt.org">hopeworksvt.org</a>	Chittenden County	802-863-1236	802-864-0555
NewStory Center	<a href="http://nscvt.org">nscvt.org</a>	Rutland County	802-775-3232	802-775-3232
PAVE	<a href="http://pavebennington.org">pavebennington.org</a>	Bennington County	802-442-2111	802-442-2370
Pride Center of Vermont SafeSpace	<a href="http://pridecentervt.org">pridecentervt.org</a>	Statewide	Support Line: 802-863-0003 or Toll-free: 866-869-7341 Phone: 802-860-7812	
Safeline, Inc.	<a href="http://safeline.org">safeline.org</a>	Orange County & Northern Windsor County	+1(800)-639-7233	802-685-7900
Sexual Assault Crisis Team	<a href="http://sactvt.org">sactvt.org</a>	Washington County	802-479-5577	802-476-1388
Steps to End Domestic Violence	<a href="http://stepsvt.org">stepsvt.org</a>	Chittenden County	802-658-1996	802-658-3131
Umbrella, The Advocacy Program	<a href="http://umbrellanek.org">umbrellanek.org</a>	Caledonia, Orleans, & Essex Counties	St. J. Hotline: 802-748-8645 Newport Hotline: 802-334-0148	St. J. Office: 802-748-8645 Newport Office: 802-334-0148
Voices Against Violence	<a href="http://voicesagainstviolence.org">voicesagainstviolence.org</a>	Franklin & Grand Isle Counties	802-524-6575	802-524-8538
WISE	<a href="http://wiseuv.org">wiseuv.org</a>	Central Windsor County & towns of Thetford & Fairlee	Crisis line: 603-448-5525 or toll-free 1-866-348.WISE	603-448-5922
Women's Freedom Center	<a href="http://womensfreedomcenter.net">womensfreedomcenter.net</a>	Windham County & Southern Windsor County	Brattleboro Hotline: 802-254-6954 or +1(800)-773-0689 Springfield Hotline: 802-885-2050	802-257-7364
WomenSafe	<a href="http://womensafe.net">womensafe.net</a>	Addison County & the town of Rochester	802-388-4205 or +1(800)-388-4205	802-388-9180

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## WDEV

Continued From Previous Page

Systems, has meanwhile begun to host “Vital Signs,” a weekly show about healthcare in Vermont.

“I imagine (Mermel) is trying to get a wide range of voices to continue what WDEV had very much been, which is a community radio station, which means having a range of voices,” Zuckerman said.

But the new programming has been accompanied by a string of staff and host departures in the year since Mermel took over.

Most recently, in late March, Jack Donovan, who hosted the weekly “Outlaw Saturday Morning” on WDEV, announced he would be retiring after half a century on the airwaves.

Just a month earlier, Brady Farkas, host of a daily hour-and-a-half sports talk show, abruptly announced he would be leaving WDEV (Farkas and Mermel declined to specify whether the longtime host was fired or quit).

The station has also moved Greg Hooker’s “The Getaway” and George Thomas’s “Dinner Jazz” off live air, making the two beloved music shows, previously daily, hours-long live programs, available as podcasts instead.

Radio personalities aren’t the only ones who have left WDEV since the station changed hands.

Last March, just months after Ashley Squier initiated the sale of the station to Mermel, she announced that longtime general manager Steve Cormier was leaving his role.

Besides Cormier, the station has also seen the departures of just under ten of its former sales and production staff in the last year, according to current and former WDEV employees, who spoke to VTDigger on condition of anonymity citing concerns about professional retribution.

Like the departed hosts, other staff members have reportedly left the station for a variety of reasons, including retirement, health issues and, in some cases, personal disagreements with Mermel, current and former staff members said.

Mermel declined to comment on the nature of any specific departures, but he acknowledged the station had gone through a transition period and said it had recently taken on more people than it had lost.

“I think as we have refocused on our mission, we’ve had a lot of buy-in for what we want to achieve,” he said. “For some people, they wanted to pursue different opportunities, but we’ve been able to staff up with people who agree with where we’re headed.”

According to Mermel, WDEV, which broadcasts 168 hours a week, has changed less than 10% of its programming since coming under his control. But longtime devotees of the station say those changes have struck at the heart of what made WDEV unique.

Up until recently, Dwight Day, 66, tuned into the station every morning, a ritual he had maintained for over 25 years. “I used to turn it on as soon as I woke up,” he said.

An early riser, Day, of Duxbury, was an avid fan of “The Trading Post,” the call-in show that for over 70 years aired daily at 6:35 a.m. and allowed Vermonters to buy, sell and swap goods on air.

But as the station has shifted its schedule, some classic segments like “The Trading Post,” which now only airs on Saturdays, have faded from the airwaves.

“Music to Go to the Dump By” is still around, but many of Day’s other favorite programs are no more. As a result, Day has found himself tuning in less and less, if at all.

“It was always good to get some local news and then some other



Weekly radio host David Zuckerman records a promo in the Dump Studio at WDEV in Waterbury on Friday, April 11.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

stuff,” Day said. “But the way it’s gotten now, it’s almost just non-stop news.”

Day is hardly the only listener to bristle at the new programming. Before it was recently taken down, the comment section on WDEV’s website had been rife with fans venting their frustration over changes in the station’s lineup.

“I try to avoid the comments right now because they hurt,” Ashley Squier said in an interview. “I’m not surprised about how people are feeling.”

Squier briefly took over ownership of the station after her father, Ken, died in November 2023, and she facilitated the sale of the station to Mermel, which had been negotiated prior to Ken’s death.

Squier acknowledged the station had shifted its orientation in the intervening months, but said she

fully supports the changes Mermel has made, which she considers necessary for the station to survive in a struggling industry.

Unbeknownst to most listeners, Squier said, WDEV had been operating at a deficit for much of the last few decades, maintained only by her father’s largesse.

According to Squier, Ken Squier spent “well over a million dollars” in recent decades to keep afloat the station, which she said occasionally lost as much as several hundreds of thousands of dollars in a given year.

“I knew that no matter who ran the stations going forward, changes would be necessary,” Squier said. “I’ll take “change” over “gone.”

Headlines and discussion of Hardwick Gazette stories are a regular feature on WDEV on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.



The annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held at Hazen Union School, April 16, and included, front, (all from left) Julia des Groseilliers, Kylee Fleming, Baylie Christensen and Ella Renaud; back, Alec Larrabee, Lincoln Hill, Daniel Pougner and Sullivan Laflam.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Harper Taylor, 6, is helped by her mom Mariah Gray of East Hardwick, as they empty candy from plastic eggs Harper collected during the annual egg scramble at Hazen Union School, Saturday. They were joined by Jason Behner wearing a bunny suit. The event was sponsored by the Hardwick Recreation Committee.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Craftsbury Home Wins “Best of the Best” Award for Builder, Designer

SOUTH BURLINGTON – The construction company and architect of a South Craftsbury Road home are among 13 firms honored for energy leadership at Efficiency Vermont’s annual Better Building by Design (BBD) conference, April 2 and 3.

Winners of a “Best of the Best” award for Residential New Construction in a Single Family Market Rate Project are David Koschak Design of Craftsbury and Kinsey Construction of West Glover.

They collaborated on a Craftsbury home that achieves high energy efficiency with double-stud construction, triple-glazed casement windows and heating and cooling via heat pumps. The home includes a super-insulated poured concrete basement with additional insulation measures applied to below- and above-grade walls and in the ceiling and attic spaces. Multiple measures in the interior walls, air and weather-resistant barriers and exterior sheathing help manage moisture and promote longevity. The home is a model for designers seeking to provide comfort, air quality and durability while meeting the housing

needs of Vermonters with average budgets, said Efficiency Vermont in the award announcement.

Koschak noted, “The interior layout was tailored to the family’s vision and focused on maximizing the connection to natural light and views towards the surrounding landscape. The result is a small efficient village home that feels open and expansive, while rooted both in the natural landscape and village character. This home is designed to meet Efficiency Vermont 3.0 standards.”

Efficiency Vermont’s annual event brings together design professionals, leaders in building construction, and experts in climate workforce trades. Thirteen “Best of the Best” awards were given out to builders, architects, designers, and HVAC and plumbing installers for their commitment to energy excellence.

Hosted at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center in South Burlington, the event was devoted to the theme of “2030 on the Horizon: Assessing Vermont’s Vision Versus Reality.” Attendees gathered to discuss the latest in efficiency practices and technologies, build new relationships



Craftsbury’s David Koschak Design and West Glover’s Kinsey Construction are winner’s of an Efficiency Vermont “Best of the Best” 2025 award for a small efficient village home that feels open and expansive, while being rooted both in the natural landscape and village character, on South Craftsbury Road.

courtesy photo

and professional connections, and share insights and experiences through nearly 50 sessions and workshops. In all, over four dozen vendors packed the sold-out exhibit hall with new products and systems that can help Vermont homes and businesses achieve their energy goals.

With volatility around prices, energy policies, and workforce

availability, Efficiency Vermont Managing Director Peter Walke told the crowd he remains optimistic about Vermont’s path to 2030. “Politics and policies may change, but what doesn’t change is how we deliver for our customers,” Walke said. “Investments in efficiency offer stability and affordability when so much else is uncertain.”



Hazen Union students who placed in Vermont’s top 100 in the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service included (from left) Shilo Allen, honorable mention; Summer Chernovetz, third place; Juniper Book, third place and Samuel Razionalle, honorable mention. Seven other Hazen top 100 students aren’t pictured. The art was displayed at the annual OSSU Art in Bloom event at the Highland Center for the Arts, April 8.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Local 4-H Horse Members Compete in Two Events

RUTLAND – Saturday, April 12, was a marathon day for 4-Hers enrolled in the horse project as this year the state hippology and horse quiz bowl contests were held on the same day.

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H sponsored the event at Rutland High School in Rutland, which attracted more than 50 horse-savvy participants from 10 counties. It was organized by Wendy Sorrell, UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator, with the assistance of several volunteers.

The first contest in the 2025 combined event was hippology, which tested the participants’ equine knowledge through a written exam, slides, identification stations and

two video classes for judging.

Local placements per age group in State 4-H Hippology Contest were Juniors (12-13), Catherine Mangan, Cabot (third); Juniors (10-11), LeighAnn Judd, Wolcott (second) and Adriana Holbrook, Hardwick (sixth).

For quiz bowl, points were awarded for being the first to buzz in with the correct answer to questions about horse colors, breeds, anatomy, tack and other equine-related topics.

The local individual scorers in each age group in the State 4-H Quiz Bowl were Juniors (12-13), Catherine Mangan, Cabot (fifth) and Juniors (10-11), Adriana Holbrook, Hardwick (eighth).

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# EDITORIAL

## Let's All Stand With Harvard

In her Monday blog post, Heather Cox Richardson, an American historian and Boston College professor wrote, "The Trump administration announced on April 11 that it would withhold from Harvard University \$2.2 billion in grants already awarded and a \$60 million contract unless Harvard permitted the federal government to control the university's admissions and intellectual content."

"Today, Harvard sued the government for violating the First Amendment and overstepping its legal authority under the guise of addressing antisemitism," she continued.

"The complaint notes the 'arbitrary and capricious nature' of the government's demands, and says, 'The government has not—and cannot—identify any rational connection between antisemitism concerns and the medical, scientific, technological, and other research it has frozen that aims to save American lives, foster American success, preserve American security, and maintain America's position as a global leader in innovation.'"

That seems very similar to the seemingly capricious withdrawal of BRIC funding the Town of Hardwick had applied for, as we reported on last week. In writing that story we omitted the headline of the FEMA press release that called the program a "Wasteful, Politicized Grant Program."

This week we learned a March 28 letter from the U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon notified state education leaders that funding has been withdrawn for educational programs under an ARP ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) program that was extended by the Biden administration. That funding "covered expenses such as literacy professional development for educators, HVAC controls maintenance in school buildings, and summer enrichment programming." said Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Superintendent David Baker.

Local schools intend to apply for reconsideration of those grants, but, in the meantime Baker said, "we put a pause on the literacy and math professional development. Summer enrichment programming is on hold." Good news is that, "We did get a full title allocation for next year in this budget bill. So I think we're going to be okay for fy26. We don't fund a lot of positions through federal grants," said Baker

While it's normal for priorities to change as federal administrations change, especially if they are from different political parties, it's incredibly unusual for a new administration to step into the purview of Congress by withdrawing previously allocated funds. It's hard to see how it can help anything specific.

Vermont's Attorney General Charity Clark has filed several lawsuits against the federal government on behalf of state agencies from which funding has been withdrawn.

Earlier this month we learned from a Wall Street Journal analysis of daily Treasury Department financial statements that government spending since the inauguration in January was \$154 billion more than in the same period in 2024 during the Biden administration. Elon Musk says DOGE has saved \$140 billion. The conservative American Enterprise Institute said on April 9, the "savings are much closer to about \$10 billion."

Either way, the savings aren't going to make up for that excess spending.

Which is all to say, Federal cuts are being directed to many places and lawsuits are being filed to correct what are seen as wrongs. That, in addition to almost weekly protests, at least at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier seems like ants attacking an anteater because the anteater has all the power.

The administration picking on Harvard seems a fool's errand, akin to going all in during a poker game with a pair of twos. If I had to bet on fighting a legal battle with Harvard University, the richest post-secondary school on the planet, and home of a prestigious law school, I'd bet on Harvard.

There's a lot on the line as the government's tactics of intimidation of Harvard and other high profile universities may likely cause other, smaller institutions to fall in line, regardless of how unreasonable the requests may seem.

I'm not willing to call what I see a Constitutional crisis until the administration defies a Supreme Court finding of contempt.

Until then, I put my money on Harvard and suggest we all stand with them.

**Paul Fix, editor**

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Smart Growth is Trojan Horse for Developers

by Suzanna Jones

WALDEN – Economist Kenneth Boulding famously said, “Anyone who believes that exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist”.

Boulding’s words came to mind recently during Vermont Natural Resources Council’s

(VNRC) Smart Growth Conference in Montpelier, which I attended.

Don’t get me wrong. Smart growth includes admirable principles, like restricting sprawl and protecting environmental, natural and historic features. But these goals are only aspirational. And the term “features” reveals a superficial understanding of what is at stake.

What concerns me most about smart growth is that it isn’t fundamentally different from conventional growth. It’s growth, with different branding. And at the conference it became clear that the term has become a tool in a coordinated effort to weaken or eliminate regulations that prevent rampant exploitation of Vermont’s environment. Without those laws, the development floodgates will open. Developers don’t care about aspirations. They care about profits.

To put it bluntly, smart growth is a Trojan horse for developers.

Kevin Chu of the Vermont Futures Project and member of the conference’s panel of speakers, told us that his parents emigrated from China in the late 1980s. They moved to Shelburne, and found Vermont to be a friendly and welcoming place. They worked hard, raised three boys and sent them to college. Chu is understandably motivated to help us return to a time when such opportunities were plentiful.

But then his tone changed: “We must acknowledge the history of how we arrived at today,” he said, and then read from a segment of Vermont Public Radio’s “Brave Little State.” “Act 250 has contributed to racial inequity in Vermont. There is some indication that racist fears shaped the law from the very beginning.” The “indication” is a disparaging remark about fast food joints made by governor Deane Davis, who advocated for and signed Act 250 into law in 1970. Governor Davis was concerned about the impacts of the sudden surge in development happening at that time.

Environmental historian Bruce Post, author of “The Mountain Manifesto,” explained that Vermont’s land use laws emanated from a groundswell of environmental concerns in the late 60s. Many Vermonters helped to frame the debate that led to the Gibb Commission and ultimately to Act 250 and other environmental measures. Vermonters were motivated by a desire to protect the land they loved from unchecked development, especially around ski areas. Governor Davis was worried about developers with big money paving over Vermont, not about people of color moving here.

Anyone who lived through the ‘60s and ‘70s can remember the collective cultural awareness that Nature must be defended from the voracious appetite of industrial civilization. The overarching goal of Act 250 was to find some balance between economic growth and

the continued health of the land. Governor Davis opened the 1970 Legislature with a speech titled “Environmental Control Message to the General Assembly,” in which he called for a commission to review the impacts of growth: “Humans are an inescapable part of an intricate system of life and growth that begins with air, soil, and water, and includes myriad forms of life and activity on which we are mutually dependent.” Among Governor Davis’s goals were restrictions on pesticide use, a ban on development at elevations above 2,500 ft, and restrictions on development in flood plains and lakeshores.

In a conversation I had with Carol Irons, former vice chair of Vermont’s Commission on Native American Affairs, she put it this way: “There are plenty of examples of racism in Vermont’s history, but Act 250 isn’t one of them.”

Act 250 isn’t a racist law, but describing it as one serves to undermine legislation that developers see as an obstacle.

Many people long to return to a time when possibilities and opportunities seemed endless. Gutting Act 250 will not bring that back. In fact, Act 250 was in full force during the era that Chu remembers so fondly. Act 250 isn’t to blame for the housing or affordability crises we face today: these problems are global.

The reason for these crises is that industrial civilization has exceeded its limits. As discomfiting as this is, it behooves us to face it.

Rather than attempting to expand the state’s population by 135,000, as the Vermont Futures Project proposes, we need a statewide discussion about how to ensure a decent life for those who live here now; about the failures of our existing infrastructure (especially municipal wastewater treatment plants); about the relationship between housing shortages and the explosion in short term rentals; about Vermont’s carrying capacity and the consequences of ecological overshoot.

As we enter an uncertain future, author, Wendell Berry provided a valuable perspective in his book, “The Gift of the Land,” “We have lived by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us.”<sup>1</sup>

That’s not “smart,” that’s wise. *Suzanna Jones lives in Walden.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Start With Why

To the editor:

The only spokesperson is the select board, all five of them. They are pushing the sale of Greensboro’s Town Hall. The only fearmongering, the deliberate arousing of public fear, is the fear of those in town to speak up due to possible retribution.

How can one be fearful of facts? The only fear in this case is of facing the facts, the truth. Certain members of our community have taken the time to research and provide facts to the community.

They have deliberately dug deep so that the community can cast their ballot based on an educated decision on April 29.

The sourced facts are the focal point, not the identification of who provided the information.

Start with why: the better question.

Why are these facts, this information, coming from the community rather than the town governance?

Why is the community being asked to vote on a town-changing and divisive issue without any facts?

Why has the select board not provided factual answers to questions they have been asked for over a year?

Why is the truth not evident? This is frightening. Be thankful for this gift of information, of facts. Do the homework. Research the facts.

Ask why rather than who. Due diligence before the sale, not afterward.

**Dede Stabler  
Greensboro**

### Significant Change Needs More Engagement

To the editor:

Last week the Town of Greensboro held the required public information meeting prior to the Australian ballot vote on the conveyance (Purchase and Sale Agreement) of the Greensboro Town Hall to Gilman Housing Trust (Rural Edge).

While the meeting provided an opportunity for members of the community to share their views on the project and ask questions, it also exposed the lack of community participation and leadership, which are critical to the success of any change.

The purchase and sale agreement that the community is voting on, has been developed behind closed doors and involved very few members of the community with relevant expertise. Greensboro has experts with deep knowledge of property conveyance, land development, building architecture, utilities, energy efficiencies and environ-

mental impacts. Their increased involvement could have enhanced both the leadership of, and community trust in, any proposals for the town hall redevelopment.

Trust is not a given, it is earned through inclusive and transparent communications. At the meeting, Mr. Shattuck of Rural Edge, stated that he began conversations with the planning commission and housing committee six years ago. A public meeting at that point to engage the wider community in a dialogue would have been very helpful and should have taken place. When significant change is involved, those being impacted need to be part of the process.

Whatever the outcome of the vote, I recommend that the Greensboro Select Board adopts a more engaged approach going forward to help rebuild the trust and heal the divisions in our community.

**Liz Steel  
Greensboro**

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## What Does the Bible Say About DEI?

by Virginia Lapierre

MORRISVILLE – In recent years, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) have become prominent topics in our society. DEI emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of inclusivity where people are treated equitably and feel valued regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status or other characteristics. As a Christian, I view the Bible as my operating manual; the standard by which I evaluate all ideas and values. Therefore, I wondered, what is a biblical approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

Diversity is the recognition and celebration of differences among individuals. The Bible clearly affirms the beauty of diversity in the created world. From the very beginning, the Bible reveals a God who created and delights in diversity (Genesis 1:31).

In the New Testament, this theme of diversity is amplified. Revelation 7:9 offers a powerful image of the heavenly kingdom: “After this, I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from

every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” This passage paints a picture of an inclusive community where people from all corners of the earth, representing diverse cultures, backgrounds and languages, are united in worship. The biblical narrative underscores that God values diversity and desires to see it reflected in His kingdom.

Equity involves ensuring fair treatment, opportunities and resources for everyone. The Bible teaches that God is just and impartial, and He desires His people to reflect these values in their relationships with one another.

For example, in Leviticus 19:15, God commands, “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.” This verse speaks to the importance of impartiality in the judicial process, ensuring that everyone is treated with fairness, regardless of their status. This is one example of a commandment designed to promote justice, particularly for the vulnerable in society.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ exemplifies equity through His interactions with those marginalized by society, including women, tax collectors, lepers, and the poor. He treated people with dignity and respect, breaking down societal barriers and showing that all people have inherent value in God’s eyes. The Apostle Paul teaches that in Christ, all divisions between people are erased, and the playing field is leveled. Everyone has equal opportunity before God, regardless of race, social class, or gender, to accept His free gift of salvation and join His family, or to reject it and spend eternity apart from Him.

Inclusion emphasizes creating an environment where everyone feels valued and has the opportunity to contribute and participate fully. Jesus’ ministry was one of radical inclusion. He welcomed those whom society rejected, tax collectors, sinners and Gentiles, and extended to them an invitation to be part of God’s family.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations.” This command to go to “all nations” reinforces the idea that the

kingdom of God is open to all people who are willing to put their faith in Him, regardless of their ethnicity, social status or past.

The Apostle Paul further emphasizes inclusion in his teachings. In Romans 15:7, he urges believers to “accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” The church is called to be a community where all are welcomed, valued and included, regardless of their differences.

At the heart of the Bible’s view of DEI is the command to love one’s neighbor. In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus summarizes the entire law with two commands: Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. This call to love transcends cultural, racial and social boundaries. It is a call to see the inherent dignity of every human being as created in the image of God and to treat others with kindness, fairness, and respect, knowing that none of us deserves God’s favor and salvation, but that it is a free gift offered to everyone (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

*Virginia Lapierre is a deaconess at the Lamoille Valley Grace Brethren Church, Morrisville.*

Jan. 19, 2025

The Lions lost last night.  
A bummer of a game,  
A city’s joy deflated,  
The ominousness of  
Monday,  
Looming as a dark cloud,  
That will hover,  
Overshadowing Dr. King,  
Portending bad times  
ahead ...

**Ross Connelly  
Hardwick**

*This poem was posted at the Galaxy Bookshop in Hardwick for the VerseVillage celebration of April Poetry Month.*

Sleet

Sound all around like the  
drumming of drums  
Louder than lightning longer  
than long  
Even in the shelter of a  
warm cosy house  
Everlasting sleet pounds  
on the roof  
The fire glows brightly and  
warms us all up

**Samuel Brown  
East Calais**

*This poem was posted at Front Seat Coffee, Hardwick, as part of the VerseVillage celebration of April Poetry Month.*

A Cardinal in the Snow

while cross country skiing  
with friends  
we noticed the rich, vivid  
red of a cardinal  
in the middle of the rolling  
farm field  
about a hundred yards  
away, alone  
in the snow, its slight flickering  
movements  
a sign of life in the empty  
vast whiteness  
sharing a moment of joy  
and surprise  
we talked of the rarity of  
this bird  
appearing here on this cold  
winter day  
until the skeptic skied in  
and showed us  
the folly of believing what  
we wanted to see  
and the small red flag the  
farmer planted last summer  
marking the danger of  
mowing through fields of hope

**Elizabeth R. McCarthy  
Walden**

*This poem was written for the VerseVillage celebration of April Poetry Month and is posted at Mike’s Service Station, Hardwick.*

## ANOTHER OPINION

### Why Review Copley Birthing Center

by Anne Bongiorno

MORRISTOWN – In 2022 regional legislators voted on behalf of their constituents to find ways to reduce health care costs. As a result, Act 167 was passed and the state hired the Oliver Wyman team to determine how to streamline healthcare in Vermont. The final Wyman report recommended Copley consider several changes to how we operate, including closing or growing our obstetrics service. Several hospitals with similar birth rates also were tasked to either “grow or shift birthing to other organizations.” as part of their long-term planning.

The trustees of Copley Hospital believe in responsible, affordable, and accessible healthcare. As a result of the Wyman report, and with great concern for our community, we decided to hire an independent consultant to gather more specific information about our birthing services and the needs of our birth family community in

Lamoille County. Additionally, a small working group is supporting this effort.

A thorough and responsible review takes time. We believe that it is important for the board to take a careful and somber approach to this important service in our community. A full review of options is expected in the summer of 2025.

The next steps will be dependent on many factors but include several options, such as a shift to a new birthing center model, currently under consideration in the Legislature, reconfiguring our current service to grow the numbers of birthing families we serve, closure of the service shifting births to another hospital. No matter what the board recommends, the decision will not be a rapid one, nor done in isolation. We will also want to include a well-organized plan to take care of all birthing families in our region.

*Anne Bongiorno, APRN-BC, PhD is chair of the Copley Hospital Board of Trustees*

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Committee Envisions Volunteer Drivers Recruitment

by Sen. Richard Westman

CAMBRIDGE – On Friday the Senate Transportation Committee voted out our version of the FY 2026 Transportation Bill. It is my first transportation budget as chair of the committee. The Transportation Bill (T-Bill) is the spending that operates the Agency of Transportation each year. The T-Bill this year included nearly \$900 million in total spending. Nearly \$50 million in this year's T-Bill goes to towns for local roads.

A little more than \$400 million, the biggest share, goes into state construction projects in the Program Development Division of the Agency and something over \$100 million goes into the maintenance division, which plows the roads. The rest of the \$300 million in agency spending goes in varying amounts

to things like rail, aviation, central garage and public transit spending.

One of the most interesting areas we discussed in the committee, as we worked on the T-Bill this year, was regarding the Volunteer Drivers Program in Public Transit. All seven of the Public Transit Agencies across the state operate volunteer driver programs. These programs take people of all ages and all walks of life wherever they need to go. Specifically, they take elderly and disadvantaged individuals to medical appointments. In large part, volunteer drivers provide this service in what we refer to as medical transports.

With hospitals, home health agencies, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and all medical providers down-sizing and facing increasing financial challenges, transportation is becoming an increasingly bigger issue

for people. Individuals with driving disabilities and individuals of lower income find transportation an increasing barrier to services.

Covid-19 was hard on these volunteer driver programs across the state. In 2019, there were more than 300 volunteer drivers. By the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic that number was cut in half. In 2019 the volunteer driver programs offered more than 190,000 rides. During the Covid-19 pandemic that dropped to 90,000 rides. There is some recovery in rides provided, but nowhere near before Covid-19.

The question for us in the Transportation Committee became: How do we help grow this increasingly needed service economically? It became clear that recruiting volunteer drivers that only receive mileage reimbursement for the rides they provide has

to be part of expanding this service. What we added to the budget is monies for positions to recruit drivers statewide. The seven public transit agencies have never had a fully coordinated statewide recruitment effort and what is envisioned is just that kind of effort.

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) is our local public transit provider. They cover the Northeast Kingdom and Lamoille Counties and are now moving into parts of Franklin County. To volunteer to drive for them there is information on their website at [www.riderct.org/volunteer/](http://www.riderct.org/volunteer/)

To get information about their service for medical transports go to [riderct.org/non-emergency-medical-transport/](http://riderct.org/non-emergency-medical-transport/)

Senator Richard Westman represents Lamoille-4, a district that includes Wolcott.

# WEEKS GONE BY

## Local Lumps, April 23, 1925

by The Hardwick Gazette

HARDWICK – A telephone has been installed in Wade Benjamin's home on Cherry Street this week.

Work of repairing the suspension footbridge across the river near the Roy and Fulford saw-mill, was begun this morning.

Workmen have been busy the past week, repairing the broken cement wall at the rear of The Hardwick Savings Bank & Trust Co. vacant lot between the bank building and the fire station, on the bank of the river. This wall, or a part of it, was broken down during the flood of February 31st, last, and work of grading the lot is now going on rapidly. The work of erecting the new gasoline filling station is also attracting a great deal of attention.

The sextons of the Main Street

in the different cemeteries of the town.

Wade Benjamin and W.A. Dutton were in St. Johnsbury this forenoon, to attend a hearing of the Public Service Commission, relative to the bus line from Hardwick to St. Johnsbury, and a like hearing at Montpelier this afternoon.

Local fishermen put in several evenings last week before the snow-storm in fishing for smelt, which were running pretty good in the brook at the head of Big Elligo Pond in Craftsbury. Some got good catches. The regular trout fishing season opens on both ponds and streams on Friday, May 1st.

An unusual snow-storm was experienced Sunday last, when in a single day, nine inches fell, and older residents claim, not for half a century has the ground been covered with that depth of snow in one day so late in April. The snow began falling about eight o'clock, and continued intermittently throughout the day. Before this storm came there was very little of last winter's snow left, but the new fall gave us the appearance of winter again. Today most of the new snow is gone.

EAST HARDWICK – A Chevrolet coupe left standing in front of the residence of G.H. Allbee at East Hardwick, started down the hill toward the river of its own accord sometime during the night and kept its course over the railroad track and down the highway, as if guided by human hands, until

MARKETS	
Dairy Butter.....	.54
Fresh Eggs.....	.30
Beans, .....	.10 and .12 1-2
Corn, per cwt. Cash.....	2.65
Oats, per bushel.....	.72
Provender.....	2.60
Hay, per cwt.....	1.35
Bran, per cwt.....	1.75
Bread Flour, 1-8 Sack.....	1.85
Pastry Flour, 1-8 Sack... ..	1.65
Cotton Seed Meal, 43 per cent ...	2.65
Potatoes, .. ..	.25
Mixed Feed .....	2.10

Commodity farm prices  
courtesy The Hardwick Gazette,  
April 23, 1925

it reached the foot of the hill, where it went through a section of the guard-fence to the left of the bridge and into the river, 15 to 20 feet below, landing right side up with the front end of the machine headed toward the place where it started from. The automobile was removed from the river Tuesday and to outward appearances had been little damaged. The windshield was broken and one lamp was bent and the lense broken. The section of the fence through which the automobile passed, was knocked down as cleanly as if it had been opened up on purpose, and the car being on its wheels and about face after the sharp drop, was also cause for wonderment.

Schools opened April 20th for an eight weeks' term.

Mrs. Hartwell is having her home wired for electric lights and is

making other much needed repairs.

Will Dimick has been working at The Belfry for a few days.

Charles Ward of Hardwick, who is wiring Mrs. Hartwell's house, spent Wednesday night with his brother, Walter Ward.

Charles Willis has taken the job to build the bridge near the Stratton place, the old one being carried away by the recent flood.

NORTH WALDEN – The ladies met April 15th at the home of Mrs. Nicholson and made two quilts. A third was completed at the home of Mrs. W.E. Hatch the next day.

Many of the farmers are carrying their milk to Greensboro Bend themselves, because of the high cost of cartage.

Henry Dimick is working at The Belfry.

Leonard Anair has purchased a new Overland automobile.

Fabian Michaud has finished his visit in Greensboro and returned home.

Editor's note: Style and spelling in "Weeks Gone By" are reproduced as they were at the time.

### Five Items of Interest

MANSFIELD TIRES—exceptionally good—two pounds heavier in weight and no heavier in price. You should see the tread!

Every car needs its Brakes tested and inspected occasionally. We charge nothing for this service. If they need relining, we have the right kind and size lining for your car. If they don't—we will tell you so.

Consult us about your battery, we will repair your old one or sell you one of those good EXIDE Batteries.

If your car is a source of income, if it carries you to and from your work, or if it is for pleasure only, you should enjoy the privileges an A. L. A. membership gives you. We will be glad to explain this.

And always remember our first thought is to give you first-class repair work by using good materials, genuine parts and skillful labor.

**THE ROCK GARAGE**  
GREENSBORO BEND, VERMONT

courtesy The Hardwick Gazette,  
April 23, 1925

cemetery will begin next Monday to remove the bodies in the vault and place them in the various lots

**C. L. FRENCH**  
DEALER IN  
**COAL**

courtesy The Hardwick Gazette,  
April 23, 1925

# ANOTHER OPINION

## Inspiring Others to Stay Engaged

by Mary Gagnon

HARDWICK – As people in our community and around the world call for change (many with groups like Indivisible and 50501, and some coming out in peaceful demonstrations in the streets/public places/town hall meetings, as well as the huge rallies being held by Bernie Sanders and AOC all around the country), I find myself feeling a bit stifled, being more or less confined-to-quarters by a broken leg and knee injury. I can't easily go, on Thursdays, to the local peace vigil which I often attended. I didn't go to the rallies and can't drive to any of the town halls.

However I have been blessed, in that I've had the time (and privilege of computer and phone availability) to be able to choose to follow events from my seated position, even while keeping my leg and foot elevated.

It is very trying at times to keep finding myself exposed to troubling info in the news (especially when the few sources who are willing to take the deeper dives on the issues start to become a bit more polarizing

than is their norm). Yet I persevere. Why? Because, I feel that willingly being out-of-the-loop is simply not an option. I may be limited, but I can still reach out to those around me; my neighbors, family, friends and you, my fellow Hardwick Gazette reader.

So, I am writing today in hope that I might encourage and inspire others to stay engaged in ways that my mentor/teacher friends have helped me to keep at it over my many years spent in activism.

Here are a few suggestions that spring to mind:

Look for and support a variety of well-vetted and trustworthy news sources. Locally we are fortunate to have: the weekly news, from the Hardwick Gazette; daily info shows, from WGDH, 91.7FM/WGDR.org (Central Vermont Community Radio); and shows of local interest from HCTV (Hardwick Community Television), available online as well as Cable Access Channel 1080 on Xfinity. All are supported by donations.

Put more trust in news sources who correct their errors than in

those who refuse to do so. Every source will make an occasional error. None are perfect. Not correcting errors should be a red flag.

Keep having civil dialogue with others in our/your own community. Aim for better understanding, not solely 100% agreement. Compare and contrast the news coming from different sources and be cautious and aware of bias, especially in corporate-owned and operated media.

Keep working to move out of the polarized orientation which the propaganda has pushed us into with one another.

Look for the good and praise it, in addition to making legitimate complaints about what's not working.

Do your part wherever and however you can, no matter how small or insignificant it may feel. You can never know what ripple you may start, or how far out it will spread. Celebrate each and every step forward, even if that is followed by a half-step back. We need to mark our success with and for each other. It is very important. What we put attention on grows.

Stay focused on peaceful resistance. Practice taking a breath

before an action and look for the common humanity you share with those who may be being seen as the other or the enemy of your cause.

I am open to discussion with others as my time allows. I hope we will all start being more willing to have peaceful dialogue around the very troubling issues our democracy is facing. I hope we can all become better informed and have more clarity by sharing our understanding of things with each other. I'll start.

I appreciate this video from our U.S. Congressperson Becca Balint who held a town meeting recently in Bellows Falls. Will you give it a look or listen? I'd love to know what you think after you have considered what is presented. The video can be found under the title "Rep. Becca Balint Bellows Falls Town Hall Conversations: April 14th, 2025."

I'm happy to take email responses privately, but far prefer to engage the larger community in the discussion, if possible. Maybe you will feel like writing a letter to the editor.

Let's talk. Let's compare info. Let's undivide.

Mary Gagnon is a resident of Hardwick.

### For the record

The remark attributed to Liz Baum in last week's story, "Residents Offer Climate Action Plan Input," should have been attributed to Liz Steel. In addition, comments attributed to Sophi Veltrop should have said, "A look at the sources of Vermont's energy identified only 25% of fossil fuel energy spending recirculating in Vermont with the other 75% leaving the State's economy, she said, adding that more than 90% of electrical energy comes from renewable or carbon-free sources."

An observant reader noted our mention of Sen. Sam Douglass in last week's story, "Beck Supports Study on Public Trail Use Compensation," should have identified him as a Republican.



Hardwick Elementary fourth graders Murray Meyer (second from left) and Payson Cadorette (second from right) read to first grader Brody Howard (left) during Reading Buddies, held once a week. Joining them, April 18, was therapy dog Teddy and his owner Lisa Lovelette (right) of Waterbury Center. Lovelette was the Hardwick Elementary School principal from 1994 to 2005.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Farmer and author John Churchman of Essex reads from one of his children's books to Lakeview Elementary School preschoolers through third graders, April 17. He brought his two border collies Tosh (center) and Laddie (front) who are featured in his books. Churchman has written eight children's books about the 80 animals on his farm and one on photography. The program was sponsored by the Greensboro Free Library (GFL). At right is GFL youth librarian Emily Purdy.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## There's Plenty to Talk About

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Both my friend Bea and I have functioning automobiles, which is fortunate, because we live (when you factor in stops for coffee, washroom, or gasoline) about four hours apart. We pretty much trade weekends for travel, and get together about twice a month. She's still teaching, so vacations are a pretty big deal. Almost as good are three-day weekends. This past weekend was one of those bonuses, thanks to Patriots' Day, now celebrated in about five states, and especially in hers. It was my turn to go to her house by the sea on Broad Sound in Nahant, Mass.; so Friday just past noon Kiki and I climbed into Batty, our current ride, and headed down the interstate toward what I feared might turn out to be a very busy and hectic travel day.

*Then I noticed that almost everyone around us, and there were hundreds, seemed jolly. If I just nodded at someone we met on the path or the bridge, I got a smile and a "How's it goin'?" A crowd of runners went by, probably a couple hundred. Bea asked what was going on. They were warming up for the Marathon the next day.*

I needn't have fretted. Traffic was, if anything, lighter than usual. Even a dreaded seven-mile-long stretch of I-95 as we neared our goal moved pretty smartly along. A little before five we hit the divided highway on the causeway leading out to Bea's sort-of-an-island sanctuary and shortly after were each relaxing: Kiki sniffing around the premises for the cottontail rabbits that thickly populate the place, and Bea and I catching up on a couple of weeks of pent-up conversation. You can well imagine that the day's New York Times and Boston Globe, open on the kitchen table between us, provided plenty of material for a lively discourse. I almost wish we didn't agree on so many things. It might be even livelier.

She was still decompressing from a hectic week (think government cuts to programs vital to her school's research), so I fed Kiki her evening rations and Bea and I supped quietly at a seafood restaurant located providentially only a mile and a quarter away, where diners have a choice of two large sports channel TVs or the tide rising or falling on the broad beach outside. The tide was just past high. The lights along the shore a mile or so away to the west bobbed and danced on

the waves. Very relaxing.

The wind next day was strong enough to tumble furniture around on the covered porch, but the lingering April chill was gone at last; so we did what almost everybody there seems to do when they can: We went for a walk on the beach. Kiki, freed from the confines of the house and her bed in the back of Batty, zoomed around the sudden vast Sahara looking for unwary gulls. She doesn't know that there are no such things. Then home for a snack and off to the home of some good friends for an Easter ham supper. More great conversation, a staring contest between Kiki and a large cat, and the promise of a hambone next day for Bea's pea soup recipe.

We drove into Boston next morning. I declined the honor of driving. Boston is for me too haunted by the ghosts of Tazio Nuvolari, Juan Fangio, and Stirling Moss, all driving Honda Civics. But there was something different that day, a hint of friendly cooperation. We lunched high in a Georgian brownstone in Back Bay with old friends of Bea's who obviously had been having the same conversation we'd had on Friday, and needed to share their concerns with other sets of ears. Say what you want about Donald Trump, he's given us enough fodder for 10 years of fraught conversations. We sipped slivovitz. Then came the treat of the day: matzah flour pancakes dusted with cinnamon and sugar and topped with Vermont maple syrup.

From the brownstone, the three of us walked just a couple of blocks to a pedestrian bridge over (I think) Storrow Drive, and down past the band shell to a bench by the river. Not only was it a holiday weekend, but the day before the Boston Marathon. The town was packed, everybody enjoying warm sunshine at last. Kiki looked a little shell-shocked and jumpy; people, cars, dogs everywhere. She'd just had a haircut and a deodorizing, so she got a lot of admiring smiles and greetings.

Then I noticed that almost everyone around us, and there were hundreds, seemed jolly. If I just nodded at someone we met on the path or the bridge, I got a smile and a "How's it goin'?" A crowd of runners went by, probably a couple hundred. Bea asked what was going on. They were warming up for the Marathon the next day. We sat on a bench by the river. I asked a young mother with a stroller and a kid if she'd take our picture. Of course she would. She was from Austin, Texas. Her husband was running the next day. She'd run it in 2022. Now it was his turn.

Boston, for this weekend of celebrating Revolutionary patriots and an athletic tradition, felt like one big, happy Irish family. I remembered Robert Frost's line: "...given my heart a change of mood, and saved some part of a day I had rued."

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR SURVIVING AS LONG AS YOU HAVE!"

## MEETING MEMO

### Monday, April 28

Cabot School District Board of Directors' Regular Board Meeting, 6 - 8 p.m., Cabot School Library and remote option also available.

Calais Select Board, fourth Monday of month, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6

Cabot Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Craftsbury Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

Marshfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.

Plainfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 7

Wolcott Select Board, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

Town Clerks

Cabot: [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us)

Calais: [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)

Craftsbury: [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)

Greensboro: [greensborovt.gov](http://greensborovt.gov)

Hardwick: [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org)

Marshfield: [town.marshfield.vt.us](http://town.marshfield.vt.us)

Plainfield: [plainfieldvt.us](http://plainfieldvt.us)

Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, [townofstannard@myfairpoint.net](mailto:townofstannard@myfairpoint.net)

Walden: [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov)

Wolcott: [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)

Woodbury: [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org)

## THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

# IN THE GARDEN

## Simple Tips Result in Stunning Clematis

by Nadie VanZandt

PANTON – With abundant blooms in a wide range of colors from soft white to dark purple, pink and even yellow, clematis reign supreme among climbers.

A genus in the buttercup (Ranunculaceae) family, clematis are versatile, easy-to-maintain perennials that grow as climbers, spreading shrubs or groundcovers. More than 300 species grow worldwide, including many native to North America.

The flowers and foliage depend on the species. Four to eight sepals surrounding a cluster of stamens form showy blooms in the shape of bells or stars. Their leaves may be deciduous or evergreen, typically compound with several leaflets and arranged alternately along the stem.

They thrive in locations where their foliage and flowers receive sun while their roots remain shaded. A low-growing bush, decorative stones or mulch will do the trick to shade the base of the plant.

Clematis enjoy moist and well-drained soil with neutral to slightly alkaline pH. Their deep roots require thorough watering. As heavy feeders, they will benefit from a low-nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer applied as needed during the growing season.

Depending on the species, clematis can thrive in U. S. Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zones 3 to 11 and bloom from spring to fall. They adapt to many climates,

temperatures and soil types, which explains their presence in forests, along rivers and on mountains and rocky slopes throughout the world.

These plants are divided into three large flowering groups designated as Group (or Type) 1, 2 and 3. The timing and method of pruning depends on which group and is crucial to ensuring abundant blooms.

Group 1: flowers in early spring (often with small flowers) and blooms on old (previous year's) stems. They do not require pruning, but you can prune them lightly in summer after flowering to remove dead or damaged shoots, and cut back branches above a large bud.

Group 2: flowers in late spring and fall. These large-flowered varieties bloom on old and new wood. Prune lightly before flowering in spring by removing dead branches and cutting weak ones just above a bud. To encourage fall blooms, perform a second pruning by cutting the plant to half its height after spring flowers fade.

Group 3: flowers in summer or fall on new wood. Prune them a foot above ground in late winter to encourage new growth.

All parts of the clematis plant are poisonous to humans and animals. When crushed or damaged, the plant releases a toxic compound that irritates the skin and can be harmful if ingested. It is advisable to plant them in an area least accessible to children and pets. While the plant's toxicity generally repels deer and rabbits, young shoots remain



*Clematis are versatile, easy-to-maintain perennials that come in a range of flower colors including dark purple, pink and white.*

*photo by Nadie VanZandt*

vulnerable.

Like any climbers, clematis plants need support to wind their tendrils. Whether using a trellis, wire mesh or netting, it is important that the support is installed four inches away from a wall to allow space for the plant to grow behind it.

To plant, dig a hole 8 to 12 inches away from the wall. It should be deep enough to bury the first set of leaves and wide enough to position the clematis at an angle with its stems towards the support.

Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain. Place the plant in the hole and water again. Add top

soil around the sides of the root ball and the first set of leaves, then pat down gently.

Finish by applying a general amount of compost followed by a one- to two-inch layer of mulch. With proper care, these remarkable vines will grace your landscape for decades.

For questions about growing clematis or other plants, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline at [go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion](http://go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion).

*Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Pantton.*

## In My Nature by Abrah Griggs



*Anna Morris, director of Wildlife Ambassador programs holds Miami, an Eastern Screech Owl. This was one of three different raptors she brought to the Highland Center for the Arts, April 19. The Vermont Institute of Natural Science presentation was sponsored by the Vermont Department for Children and Families in celebration of May is National Foster Care Month.*

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Ephemerals of the Forest

by Kent McFarland

NORWICH – Spring ephemeral wildflowers are perennial woodland plants that sprout from the ground early, bloom fast, and then go to seed—all before the canopy trees leaf out overhead. Often found in calcium-rich woods alongside Sugar Maple and Northern Maidenhair Fern, they include Dutchman’s Breeches, Blue Cohosh, Wild Ginger, spring beauty and hepatica.

The plants take advantage of the full sun reaching the forest floor during a short time in early spring. Once the forest floor is deep in shade, the plant’s leaves wither away, leaving only the roots, rhizomes, and bulbs underground.

Many of these plants rely on myrmecochory, seed dispersal by ants. The seeds of spring ephemerals bear fatty external appendages called elaiosomes. Ants harvest and carry them back to their nests just a couple of meters away to eat them (a single ant colony may collect as many as a thousand



Carolina Springbeauty  
(*Claytonia caroliniana*)



Dutchman’s Breeches  
(*Dicentra cucullaria*)



Sharp-lobed Hepatica  
(*Hepatica acutiloba*)

seeds over a season), and the unharmed seeds are thrown into the ants’ trash bin and eventually germinate.

Because short-distance dispersal is the norm, forest fragmentation is a threat to the survival of spring ephemerals. Once these plants are gone from a forest, they rarely return.

Long-term flowering records initiated by Henry David Thoreau in 1852 have been used in

Massachusetts to monitor phenological changes. Phenology, the study of the timing of natural events such as leaf-out and flowering, helps unravel the effects of climate change on ecosystems. Record-breaking spring temperatures in 2010 and 2012 resulted in the earliest flowering times in recorded history for dozens of spring-flowering plants of the eastern United States.

Be like Thoreau and help

monitor wildflower phenology. People can enter their observations of the spring ephemerals found this month on the website at iNaturalist Vermont. Include at least one photograph of the plant, and in the box next to “Add a field” type in Flowering Phenology, selecting “bare,” “flower,” or “fruit.”

Kent McFarland is a staff member of the Vermont Center of Ecostudies in Norwich.

by Spencer Hardy

NORWICH — For us bee biologists, nothing says spring quite like the first bumble bee of the year. Sometime between late March and early May, a loud, familiar buzz will get our attention and we will once again get reacquainted with these charismatic minifauna.

For the more casual bee enthusiasts, species in this genus offer the perfect introduction to bee watching, they are larger than other bees, common, and sometimes identifiable!

Unlike some genera of wild bees, most *Bombus* can be identified in the field or from photographs with a little practice. There are currently 13 species of bumble bee in Vermont, and we even have an easy-to-use guide to help you get started on your bee photograph collection.

For those of you who are birders, bumble bee identification is on par with identifying Catharus thrushes. If you can tell a Veery from a Hermit Thrush, separating a Common Eastern Bumble Bee from a Brown-belted Bumble Bee shouldn’t be too

## Bumble Bee Bingo: Can you collect them all?

<p>Perplexing Bumble Bee <i>Bombus perplexus</i></p>	<p>Brown-belted Bumble Bee <i>Bombus griseocollis</i></p>	<p>Tricolored Bumble Bee <i>Bombus ternarius</i></p>
<p>Common Eastern Bumble Bee <i>Bombus impatiens</i></p>	<p><b>Bumble Bee Bingo</b> Artwork by Abbie Castrella Design by Spencer Hardy</p> <p><b>Free Space!</b></p>	<p>Yellow-banded Bumble Bee <i>Bombus terricola</i></p>
<p>Two-spotted Bumble Bee <i>Bombus bimaculatus</i></p>	<p>Northern Amber Bumble Bee <i>Bombus borealis</i></p>	<p>Half Black Bumble Bee <i>Bombus vagans</i></p>

**ORLEANS SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION**

**NOTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY**

**April 2025**

**To: Parents, Guardians, Students, Teachers, Staff and Other Personnel**

**From: Joe Houston, Designated Person**  
156 Daniels Road, PO Box 338, Hardwick, VT 05843  
(802) 472-2934

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40 CFR 763.93 (g)(4)) requires that written notice be given advising that the following schools have management plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos containing materials found in buildings. These management plans are available and accessible to the public at the OSSU Central Office at the address above or at the administrative office of each facility as listed below:

School:	Address:	Phone:
Craftsbury Academy	1422 North Craftsbury Rd, Craftsbury	(802) 586-2541
Craftsbury Elementary	83 North Craftsbury Rd, Craftsbury	(802) 586-2541
Hardwick Elementary	135 S. Main Street, Hardwick	(802) 472-5411
Hazen Union High School	126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick	(802) 472-6511
Lakeview Elementary	189 Lauredon Ave, Greensboro	(802) 533-7066
Wolcott Elementary	320 School Hill Drive, Wolcott	(802) 472-6551
Woodbury Elementary	63 Valley Lake Rd, Woodbury	(802) 472-5715

daunting. Though, as with Bicknell’s and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, there are two bumble bees in Vermont (Half-black and Sanderson’s) that are best identified by measuring their “cheeks.” preferably under a microscope, though occasionally with a clear photo of the face.

In April and early May, one species of bumble bee is immediately recognizable: the Tricolored Bumble Bee. Look for a large patch of red on the abdomen of this early spring insect. If you live in the Champlain Valley, you might need to look more closely after late May to avoid confusing them with

the uncommon Red-belted Bumble Bee, which has a similar abdomen pattern but with only a small black dot on the back.

Explore which species live in your area by filtering for location, and if you need help identifying the bees you encounter, consider sharing your photographs on iNaturalist. Check out these bee photography tips to get the best shot. Can’t find bumble bees in your neighborhood? Consider adding or encouraging more native plants or other habitat features.

Spencer Hardy is a staff member of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies in Norwich.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Bible Study Begins Wednesday

EAST HARDWICK – Bible Study at Touch of Grace Church will begin Wednesday, April 23, and continue every Wednesday through mid-November. The church is located at 104 Vt. Rte. 16.

## Seeking Flea Market Donations

MORRISVILLE – The Justice for Dogs flea market is seeking donations for drop-off on Thursday, April 24, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Morrisville V.F.W. Justice For Dogs is seeking quality household items (clean and in working order) including clean clothing items for the flea market.

Some items cannot be accepted, including car seats, TVs, computers, cribs, helmets, pressure cookers, knives, dehumidifiers, books (only children's books will be accepted), shoes, fluorescent bulbs, things with filters, construction supplies, and furniture that can't easily be moved. Justice For Dogs reserves the right to decline any donations that are not suitable for the sale. Flea market sale days will be Friday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Morrisville V.F.W. All money earned goes to help the animals. Justice For Dogs is organized and operated entirely with volunteers and serves only local animals that are in need of services.

## Guthrie Program, April 26

WOODBURY – Mark Greenberg will present a program on Woody Guthrie: The Dust Bowl Balladeer, April 25, 5 p.m., in the Woodbury Community Room. This will be a multimedia presentation with live music and is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council and the Woodbury Community Library.

## Craftsbury University Begins April 25

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury University will take place this year from April 25 to May 17. More than two dozen free workshops are available on topics from origami to changing your car's oil, culminating in a graduation party on Craftsbury Common, May 18, 2 p.m. All classes are free and hosted by Craftsbury community members. Sign up for classes, although as some classes have limited space, organizers will contact participants with confirmation and specific class details.

The full schedule, class descriptions and sign up information is on the town website at [townofcraftsbury.com/latest-news/2024/4/18/craftsbury-university](http://townofcraftsbury.com/latest-news/2024/4/18/craftsbury-university)

## Changing Hours for Spark

GREENSBORO – Spark, located downstairs at the United Church of Christ, has Friday hours will temporarily be limited until the end of the school year. From April 25 to June 13, community hours on Friday only will be 12:30 to 2 p.m. Spark will continue to be open from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Members will continue to have 24/7 access. Printing and making services will also be limited during April break, from April 22 through April 25. Full-service projects will resume on April 30.

## Variety Show Benefit, April 26

ALBANY – The Albany Variety Show will be held Saturday, April 26, 7 p.m., at the Albany Town Hall. The show features juggling, poetry and more. There is a bake sale at the event, with admission by donation. All proceeds benefit the Albany Historical Society.

## Eastern Coyote Program, May 4

GREENSBORO – A program on the eastern coyote in New England, a free presentation will be given on Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m. at the Highland Center for the Performing Arts. Chris Schadler will talk about how coyotes in the northeast vary physically and behaviorally from its smaller western relative while still carrying their adaptability. This presentation delves into the ecology and behavior of this creature and how it and humans can coexist.

After earning a master's degree in Conservation Biology with a focus on gray wolves in the midwest, Chris returned to the northeast and taught at the University of New Hampshire. She began farming sheep in the 1980s which laid the groundwork for her understanding of and living with eastern coyotes.

For more information email [info@protectourwildlifevt.org](mailto:info@protectourwildlifevt.org).

## Denim Day to Raise Awareness of Sexual Violence

HARDWICK – AWARE is calling on the community to join in wearing denim on Tuesday, April 30, in recognition of Denim Day, a global campaign to raise awareness about sexual violence and support survivors.

Denim Day began in response to a 1990s court ruling that overturned a rape conviction because the survivor had been wearing tight jeans. What started as a local protest has grown into an international symbol of solidarity and protest against victim-blaming and sexual violence.

“We invite everyone—businesses, schools, and individuals—to wear denim on April 30th and stand with survivors,” said Miranda Elkins, Interim Director of AWARE. “Raising awareness through simple acts like this helps break the silence and show our community's commitment to safety and respect.”

To learn more about AWARE or how to get involved, call (802) 472-6463 or visit [AWAREvt.org](http://AWAREvt.org).

## Singing French Songs, May 1

EAST CRAFTSBURY – A Memorial Library. Singing songs will help practice language. The event is free.

Call (802) 586-9692 or visit [jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://jwsimpsonmemorial.org) for more information.

## Auction Items Sought, May 9

GLOVER – Auction items are needed for the Shadow Lake Dam auction to be held May 10, with a potluck at 5 p.m. and auction beginning at 6 p.m. Auction items could include a gift certificate from a local business, art from local artists, plants, a cord of wood, a truckload of stone, a gift basket and baked goods.

Items may be dropped off on May 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Glover Town Hall or mail gift certificates to Town of Glover, 51 Bean Hill Road, Glover, VT 05839, Att: Shadow Lake Dam.

For more information or to inform of a donation, call (802) 525-7199 or email [theresa@townof-glover.com](mailto:theresa@townof-glover.com)

## Spring Craft Fair, May 10

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union Spring Craft Fair will be held Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Hazen Union School gymnasium. There will be hand-crafted items from over 40 vendors and a bake sale hosted by the eighth-grade class. Featured items include jewelry, wood products, toys, pottery, quilts, knitted items, bath and body products, hand-dyed, hand-spun yarn, candles and houseplants. Admission is free, with all proceeds to support the Hazen Union eighth-grade class trip to Montreal and to their junior prom and other future class activities.

## The Hardwick Gazette ~ Since 1889 ~ News, Opinion, Entertainment, Sports & More!

### Vermont Agency of Transportation

#### Public Notice Herbicide Spraying

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food & Markets, a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ULTRA, Garlon 3A, Oust Extra, Escort, Krenite S, Polaris, and Roundup Custom to control unwanted vegetation along all State highways. Operations are authorized to start approximately May 15th, 2025, but will not begin until the appropriate notification requirements are completed. The application will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand-controlled methods. The methods employed are intended to avoid or eliminate drift. Residents along the rights-of-way (ROW) are encouraged to protect sensitive environments or water supplies within 100 feet of the ROW limits, and to avoid entering the ROW as spray trucks pass and until products dry. Residents should notify VTrans of the existence of any water supplies within 100 feet of the State's ROW. Citizens wishing to inform VTrans are urged to contact the nearest District Transportation Administrator as follows: District 1 - Bennington - (802) 447-2790, District 2 - Dummerston - (802) 254-5011, District 3 - Mendon - (802) 786-5826, District 4 - White River Junction - (802) 295-8888, District 5 - Colchester - (802) 655-1580, District 6 - Berlin - (802) 917-2879, District 7 - St. Johnsbury - (802) 748-6670, District 8 - St. Albans - (802) 524-5926, District 9 - Derby - (802) 334-7934. The contact person at the State Highway Department Headquarters is Brandon Garretto, Vegetation Management Admin, 2178 Airport Rd, Dill Bldg Unit A, Barre, VT 05641 or [brandon.garretto@vermont.gov](mailto:brandon.garretto@vermont.gov). Contact can also be made using the VTrans Internet Web page at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/operations>.

The appropriate place to contact with comments other than VTrans is the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division at 116 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-1732. The link to their web page that would describe the VTrans herbicide application permit request can be found at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/>

# EDUCATION

## Hazen Union Students Win VFW Auxiliary Art Contest Awards

HARDWICK – Three Hazen Union School Art Honors students have been awarded top district honors in the VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Ella Renaud, 11th grade, secured 1st place; Karli Patridge, 10th grade, earned 2nd place and Brianna Holbrook, 11th grade, achieved 3rd place recognition.

Renaud’s winning artwork, an acrylic painting depicting her great-grandmother gazing at a photograph of her great-grandfather who fought at Iwo Jima, has advanced to the state-level competition. The powerful and heart-warming composition features an American flag backdrop that

complements the emotional portrait of her great-grandparents.

“My great-grandfather put his life on the line for the United States of America and also put his future on hold with his fiancé,” Renaud wrote in her artist statement. “I also feel that my great-grandmother made a tremendous sacrifice to wait three years for her fiancé to hopefully return; never knowing if and when he would come back. I am honored to have them as my great-grandparents, as they showed unimaginable strength and courage in such dark and scary times.”

Established in 1979, the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest invites high school students to create artwork that expresses their interpretation of patriotism. Over 4,000 students participate nationwide each year. If Renaud’s work is selected at the state level, it will advance to the national competition.

The national competition offers scholarship prizes totaling \$31,500, with the first-place winner receiving \$15,000 and the remaining nine national winners receiving varying amounts, all paid directly to their chosen American university, college or vocational/technical school.

“I am incredibly proud of my students’ achievements,” said Hazen Union art teacher Cindy Camber. “Their dedication to the arts combined with a deep appreciation for patriotism and family sacrifice represents the very best of Hazen Union.”

Additional information about Hazen Union School can be found at <https://hazen.ossu.org>.



Artwork by Karli Patridge, grade 10, is the 2nd place district winner in the VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

courtesy photo



An acrylic painting by Ella Renaud, grade 11, the 1st place district winner in the VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, depicts her great-grandmother gazing at a photograph of her great-grandfather who fought at Iwo Jima. courtesy photo



Artwork by Brianna Holbrook, grade 11, is the 3rd place district winner of the VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

courtesy photo

## Davis Places First on Vermont History Day

COLCHESTER – Samara Davis from Marshfield, representing Union 32 School, placed first in the Senior Individual Documentary division with her essay, “The Right to Suffer - The 1963 Birmingham Children’s Marches.”

Vermont History Day was held on April 5, at Saint Michael’s College with more than 350 students registered to attend.

The day is an annual educational competition for middle and high school-aged students from around the state, who research, write, design and build a project about a historical topic, and gather to present their work for the chance to win prizes and compete at the National History Day contest.

The winners of this year’s awards presented projects that covered everything from notable



Samara Davis

figures to events to movements across papers, performances, websites, documentaries, and exhibits. The top two winners in each category qualify to participate in the National History day competition, which will be held between June 8 and June 12 at University of Maryland College Park.

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Spanish Conversation Class, Through May 18

EAST CRAFTSBURY – Library. Classes are taught by Trisha Ingalls for all ages and levels. The library is located at 1972 East Craftsbury Road. Call (802) 586-9692 for more information.

## PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2024-2025



Preschool for children turning 3 years old by Sept. 1st 2025

- Head Start Full Day Preschool (ages 3-5)
- Early Head Start Home Visiting (ages 0-5)
- Free for eligible families
- Small class sizes
- Nutritious meals provided
- Family support services
- Health Screeners
- Parent Involvement opportunities
- Support for children with special needs

Please call us today to start the enrollment process, spots are limited!



**Albany Head Start**  
351 Main Street, Albany VT  
(802) 755 – 6811

**Island Pond Head Start/ Early Head Start**  
34 Cross St, Island Pond VT  
(802) 723 – 6231

**Barton Head Start/Early Head Start**  
130 Kinsey Rd, Barton VT  
(802) 525 – 6291

**Lyndonville Head Start/Early Head Start**  
1913 LynBurke Rd, Lyndonville VT  
(802) 626 – 8616

**Gilman Head Start/Early Head Start**  
2720 River Rd, Gilman VT  
(802) 892 – 5997

**Newport Head Start/ Early Head Start**  
76 Lakemont Rd, Newport VT  
(802)995-2058

**Hardwick Head Start/Early Head Start**  
61 Church St, Hardwick (802)  
472 – 5496

**North Troy Head Start**  
115 Pleasant St, North Troy VT  
(802) 988 – 2262

# OBITUARIES

## K.D. "TOD" MANN JR.



K.D. "Tod" Mann Jr.

VERO BEACH, Fla. – K.D. "Tod" Mann Jr. passed away April 17. His final day was spent with his wife and sons, who sang songs and held his hand as he peacefully faded away.

He was born on May 22, 1935, in Birmingham, Ala., the son of Kathleen (Clarke) Mann and Kenneth D. Mann. He grew up in Pittsburgh, Pa., eventually graduating from St. Paul's School and Yale University. He served his country as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve, holding the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Tod began his career as a steel salesman in Pittsburgh before

moving to New York City, where he thrived in corporate finance, starting at G. H. Walker, then joining White Weld and Tucker Anthony, and ultimately retiring from Dean Witter Reynolds. He raised

his family in Brooklyn where he served as president of the board of the HOPE Program and as a trustee of Packer Collegiate Institute. He spent every summer in Greensboro, Vt., with his extended family.

He was an avid golfer from a young age and loved working on his game. He was quite tickled when, at the age of 85, he scored three holes-in-one in a single season at Bent Pine Golf Club in Vero Beach. He enjoyed many years of doubles squash at the Heights Casino and countless rounds of golf at Mountain View Country Club.

Tod is survived by his wife, Gwen, whom he adored from the moment they met; his devoted sons, Ken and Scott; and four grandchildren: Pearson, Atticus, Phoebe and Cosby, who all amused and delighted him. He also leaves behind a legion of colleagues, friends and extended family who enjoyed his company and admired him for his kindness, curiosity, dignity, work ethic and unwavering integrity.

## JUNE COOK



June Cook

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – A Celebration of Life in honor of June Cook will be held May 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the United Church of Craftsbury.

**THANKS FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN**  
 THE **Hardwick Gazette** Since 1889

## WEEKEND SERVICES

**Hardwick**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF HARDWICK.** 216 South Main Street. 802-472-6800 for information. Sunday Service, 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Livestreaming. Communion Service first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, Music Director. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. All are welcome. Masks optional.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** 39 W. Church St., 802-472-5979. Office hours Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. All invited; all welcome. Sunday 10 a.m. Rite II Service with music. Coffee hour immediately following service.

**ST. NORBERT CHURCH,** a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, Father Raj Madri, S. Main St., PO Box 496, Hardwick, VT 05843; mary\_queenofallsaints@comcast.net; 802-472-5544. Office Hours: Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Confessions before Masses.

**HARDWICK BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH,** 296 S. Main St. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon; Thursday 6:30 p.m. For transportation or information call 802-472-5294.

**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,** Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, 9:30 a.m. children's story; 10 a.m. children's service, 10:30 a.m. The Act of Consecration of the Human Being. Information: thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

**East Hardwick**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,** (NACCC). Worship led by Jim Casavant, Interim Pastor, 11:00 a.m.  
**TOUCH OF GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** corner of Rts. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick; Sunday a.m. worship, 10 a.m.; 9 a.m. adult Sunday School and Prayer. Thursday Prayer at 5:30 p.m. Bible Study every Wednesday through mid November at 6 p.m. Information: touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

**Greensboro**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,** 165 Wilson St. 802-533-2223, (Office hours: Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) Weekly 10 a.m. Sunday Services. Also offered online. Communion Service first Sunday of the month. Rev. Dr. Ed Sunday-Winters, Pastor. Hal Parker, Music Director. Coffee hour following service. We are an Open & Affirming Congregation. All are welcome. Website: guccvt.org.

**Greensboro Bend**  
**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,** a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, Father Raj Madri, 802-472-5544. Mass - Sunday 10:30 a.m. Confessions before Mass.

**Craftsbury**  
**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CRAFTSBURY;** an Open and Affirming Congregation; Affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome. Church Phone: 802-586-8028. Information: www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com. Find us on Facebook, or e-mail unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com.  
**OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,** 21 Creek Road, Craftsbury. No scheduled Masses. Our Lady of Fatima is part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish in Hardwick. Please call 802-472-5544. mqasvt.org. email: mqas@vermontcatholic.org.

**EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.** 1773 East Craftsbury Rd., Craftsbury, VT 05856. Sunday Service, 11 a.m. (Handicapped accessible.) Bible Study at 10 a.m. Masks optional. Worship led by Rev. Joe Welker, Pastor. Tel. 802-586-7707. Email: epcvvt@gmail.com. Website: www.eastcraftsburypresbyterianchurch.org.

**Albany**  
**ALBANY METHODIST CHURCH.** Route 14, Albany,

Vt. "Join us in getting to know Jesus and the life He gives." Sunday services: 10 a.m. Worship and Sunday School.

**Calais-Woodbury**  
**CALAIS-WOODBURY UNITED CHURCH,** Worship and Sunday School, Rt. 14, South Woodbury Church, Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. Church Phone: 802-232-1013. Information: 802-456-1557.

**Wolcott**  
**WOLCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Route 15, will have worship Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.  
**THE HEALING STREAM CHURCH OF GOD,** Pastor Peter LaBonville, Wolcott Town Hall. Fellowship Service, Sunday 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Wheelchair accessible.  
**THE WOLCOTT MENNONITE CHURCH,** Rt. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott. Services every Sunday morning. Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Evening services held on the second Sunday of each month, 7:30 p.m. Call for more information about other special services. Pastors: Marlin Wadel - 802-888-5277. Stephen Groff - 802-888-9113.

**Marshfield**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF MARSHFIELD.** Pastor Carlyle Pierce, Tel. 802-684-2114. Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School.

**Cabot**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CABOT.** Tel. 802-563-2278. Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. Light refreshment and fellowship immediately following service. All welcome.

**Walden**  
**WALDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - Noyesville. Evening Worship Service. 7 p.m. Information: 802-684-1201.

**Danville/West Danville**  
**WEST DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Rt. 15, (across from Joe's Pond). Pastor Pam Smith. Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.  
**DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Danville Green. Rev. Henry Cheney, 802-684-3389. Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.  
**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH.** Danville. Our service book is the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. For information on worship service day and time, please call 802-755-6341 or 802-472-3324.

**St. Johnsbury**  
**BETH EL SYNAGOGUE,** Hospital Drive, St. Johnsbury. Meeting both in-person and on Zoom. Information: 802-748-5683 or www.congregationbeth-el.org.

**Johnson**  
**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** of Latter-Day Saints, Rte. 15 W, Johnson. Sacrament Mtg. Sundays, 9 a.m. Visitors Welcome. Bishop Erik Worthington, 802-326-3035, www.mormon.org.

**Hyde Park**  
**TRINITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** Rt. 15 East, Hyde Park. 802-888-7326. Pastor Ron Doyle. A small church with a big heart, where the full gospel of Jesus Christ is preached. Sunday morning Worship Service, 11 a.m.

**Derby Line**  
**FIRST UNIVERSALIST PARISH OF DERBY LINE,** P.O. Box 454, Derby Line, VT 05830. Information: 802-873-3563, derbylineuu.org. We are a Welcoming Congregation. 10 a.m. Service. Zoom Service.

## BREAKFAST COOK

Full-time position with full benefits at 18 Main Restaurant at the Green Mountain Inn, Stowe.

Call (800) 253-4400 x677

## Hardwick

Enjoy furnished third-floor bedroom in spacious in-town home shared with welcoming family. Shared bath, no smoking, hypoallergenic dog considered, no other pets. \$600 plus utilities. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## West Danville-Joe's Pond

Join sunny host and her pets on Joe's Pond for a quaint, camp-like experience. Beautiful views from bedroom, share bath, pond access, 40 minutes to Montpelier, less than 20 minutes to St. Johnsbury. Compatible dog and outside smoking considered. \$400 rent, \$100 utilities. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**OUR E-MAILS**  
[ads@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:ads@hardwickgazette.org)  
[news@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.org)

## Circus Springboard Show, April 24

GREENSBORO – The Highland Center for the Arts will present the circus springboard on Thursday, April 24, “Thank you for Waiting,” featuring America’s next generation of circus artists for one show only at 1 p.m.

The high flying show, created by the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA), is a modern circus tale of seven strangers stuck together in a perpetual waiting room. Based in Brattleboro, NECCA is a

circus arts training school and the performers are soon-to-be graduates of the school’s three-year full-time ProTrack program. Previous graduates went on to contracts with such companies as Cirque du Soleil, Ringling Bros, The 7 Fingers, as well as on Broadway and in cabarets around the world.

Tickets are moderately priced to encourage family attendance, and are available at [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org)



Kent Osborne (left) and Julian Jimenez (right) display graduation certificates with the Civic Standard’s Maria Amador outside the Cork and Fork in Hardwick where the Hardwick State graduation ceremony was held, early in the evening, Sunday, April 13. photo by Terry Allen



“The Hardwick Honky-Tonk Heroes are back on stage this Saturday,” wrote The Civic Standard about the Honky-Tonk Dance Party to cap off a day of Hardwick State classes, Saturday, April 12. Players in that band are (from left) Mike Drury, pedal steel guitar; Geoff Goodhue, drums; Justin Lander, bass; Geordie Lynd, acoustic guitar and Colin McCaffrey, electric guitar at Hardwick’s American Legion. photo by Terry Allen



Honky Tonk Night at the Legion Saturday evening, during The Civic Standard’s Hardwick State weekend drew a crowd of dancers, young and old, April 12. photo by Terry Allen



Al Stewart and The Empty Pockets perform at the Barre Opera House Friday, May 2. courtesy photo

## British Folk-Rock Icon Al Stewart at the BOH, May 2

BARRE – British folk-rock icon, Al Stewart, makes a stop at the Barre Opera House on Friday, May 2, 8 p.m. with Chicago-based rockers, The Empty Pockets.

Al Stewart came to stardom as part of the British folk revival in the sixties and seventies and developed the combination of folk-rock songs with tales of characters and events from history. Stewart has 19 studio albums between “Bedsitter Images” in 1967 and

“Sparks of Ancient Light” in 2008, plus the live album “Uncorked” with Dave Nachmanoff in 2009.

The Empty Pockets will open the show and perform with Stewart.

Tickets may be ordered online only at [barreoperahouse.org](http://barreoperahouse.org) or call the Barre Opera House at (802) 476-8188. The Opera House, at 6 North Main St., is handicapped accessible and is equipped for the hearing impaired.

## LCP Presents “The Rocky Horror Show”

HYDE PARK – The Lamoille County Players present “The Rocky Horror Show” live onstage at the Hyde Park Opera House, opening on May 1.

The original British stage show inspired the iconic 1975 “Rocky Horror Picture Show” famous for its midnight showings, audience callouts, and tossed confetti, toilet paper and other props.

Prop bags with participation items (and instructions for newbies) will be sold pre-show.

Performances are May 1, 2, 3, 8, and 10 at 7 p.m., and May 4 and 11 at 2 p.m. There’s a special 10 p.m. curtain time on Friday, May 9. The show is rated R (under 17 not admitted without a parent or guardian). Tickets and more information are available at [LCPlayers.com](http://LCPlayers.com).

Lamoille County Players  
Founded 1952

PRESENTS

# Richard O'Brien's THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Directed by Kenneth Grenier & Patricia Jacob  
Produced by Nick Allen - Choreography by Emma St. Cyr  
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien - THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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# Holch Wins Animation Film Awards for “Brother Bird”

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK – The animated film “Brother Bird,” created by East Hardwick’s Meredith Holch has won the Made Here Film Festival’s (MHFF) 2025 award for Best Animated Film. The film will be shown during the festival this weekend, with three other short films, collected as “The Great Outdoors,” Sunday, April 27, 2:15 p.m., at the Burlington Beer Company (BBCO) Lumière Hall, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington.

“Brother Bird” was created by laying colored tissue paper on glass plates and moving them past each other to create a three-dimensional effect of motion through stop-action photography, said Holch.

This is the fifth year of the Made Here Film Festival. It is co-produced by the Vermont International Film Festival and Vermont Public. MHFF is the only festival dedicated exclusively to the

films and filmmakers of New England and Québec. Jurors reviewed a record 130 film submissions, selecting a final 50 being shown during this year’s festival, April 24 to 27. “We feel the results are extraordinary, and hope you share our enthusiasm,” wrote festival organizers. “We’re excited that many of the filmmakers will be present for their screenings and for Q&As afterwards, as well.” Learn more at [madeherefilmfestival.org](http://madeherefilmfestival.org)

Holch intends to be at the showing of her film this Sunday in the red brick building constructed in 1901 by pioneers of early cinema, the Lumière brothers.

Her award comes with a \$250 prize for the film that tells real-life stories of loved ones who visit from the afterlife, told through tissue paper animation.

In October, Holch received another award at the Vermont Animation Festival, where they said, “We had an amazing collection of films



Meredith Holch performs a crankie in Detroit, Mich., pre-pandemic.

courtesy photo

this year! Meredith Holch’s ‘Brother Bird’ was awarded Best Film by a Vermont Animator. The images in this stop-motion film, constructed by layered tissue paper, accompany three real-life stories of dearly remembered loved ones who visit from the after-life in the form of birds or insects.”

Holch said she grew up with films and filmmaking since her father was a TV documentary journalist. In the early days of television he covered controversial topics relating to race relations and political issues in the U.S., winning an Emmy in 1991 for a story documenting the life of a German man who had been a member of the Hitler Youth and then turned against the Nazis.

Holch’s mother was a film librarian at the public library, in her hometown, close to New York City, where she’d often be called upon to serve on the jury for film festivals. In addition to the library’s Friday night film series and the extensive film collection, Holch was exposed

to the films her mother received to judge, saying her favorite was the now-classic, “Reefer Madness.”

Despite those beginnings, Holch said she had no early interest in film and moved to Vermont, wanting to be near an older brother, whom she greatly admired. Her brother had been a neighborhood leader as they grew up, organizing shows of various sorts and creating a local newspaper.

In Vermont, Holch became an apple picker, eventually becoming interested in Glover’s Bread and Puppet Theatre, where she spent five years. At one point she borrowed a Super 8 movie camera from her father and went backstage, using various toys to make a stop motion animated film; mostly playing around, she said.

Becoming more interested in film, though not to make documentaries as her father had, she ended up in San Francisco and took a class in Super 8 filmmaking. That

**See ANIMATION, next page**



Puppeteer Stoph Scheer presents a comic cabaret at Lost Nation Theater, Friday through Saturday, May 2 to May 4. *courtesy photo*

## Puppeteer at Lost Nation Theater

MONTPELIER – Puppeteer Stoph Scheer is back at Lost Nation Theater in her capacity as master puppeteer and comedian with friend, fellow master puppeteer Ant Selitto-Budney in tow. In “PUPPET SÉANCE: An Occult Summoning and Also A Comedy Variety Show and Also An Advice Show,” the puppeteers perform a variety of routines for an evening of puppetry, chaos, comedy and spiritualism culminating in their unprecedented attempt to make contact with entities from the otherworld and convene with them.

As part of this never-before-seen show, Scheer and Selitto-Budney will solicit questions

from the audience before the show and during intermission, which folks might need advice about. In Act 2, they’ll seek to summon spirits from the otherworld who will provide the answers.

The production will play Friday through Sunday, May 2 to May 4. Curtain is 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m., Sunday. Shows are live in person and live-streamed and recommended for age 13 and up. The flood made City Hall’s elevator inoperable, requiring climbing stairs to attend in person. Events are streamed to be accessible. For more information visit [lostnationtheater.org](http://lostnationtheater.org), phone (802) 229-0492, email [info@lostnationtheater.org](mailto:info@lostnationtheater.org)



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## Animation

Continued From Previous Page

led to her becoming involved with a Brattleboro TV station, bringing her back to Vermont. Eventually video cameras came into being, but they required specialized editing equipment, she said. That led to her exchanging time to tape select board meetings for studio time to edit her personal work. It wasn't glamorous work, but gave her access to the technology that was important to doing what was important to her, she said.

Along the way she enrolled in the Maine International Film and TV Workshop, leaving after a year to move to New York City. There she had the opportunity to learn about 16mm film at the New School, working as a video editor at the same time.

Eventually, she enrolled in Bard College, making more New York City connections. She ran into someone at a queer bar involved with accepting films for a festival that had just ended accepting entries, but gave her overnight to turn in a film. That led to her film, "Rocket Girls Revenge" appearing on PBS.

She did more animation at Bard, eventually returning to Vermont where she spent another 20 years. She said animation "is very labor intensive and hard to get grants for, so I gave it up. It seemed to be more of a hobby. I mostly enjoyed the engagement of making films, but not the distribution."

She began to do crankie shows, a form of visual storytelling using a hand-cranked scroll within a box on which drawings are made. Those were faster to make and gave her the same satisfaction, also putting her in front of a live audience, she said. "They were interesting and not commercial. Crankie performances for libraries and schools paid at least a little bit of money and it was enough to survive."

During the Reagan years Holch says she realized politics wasn't the way to make changes in society, but art was. "Animation seemed to draw everyone in, regardless of [their] age or politics." Holch pointed out that her own work carries themes of social justice similar to the documentary work her father did. The medium is different and her work connects with people more emotionally as art.

She made a film about migrant workers in Vermont in 2006, before most people weren't aware they existed. Farmers were reluctant to share that they employed migrants. She heard from one farmer they "would have liked to have a tunnel from the workers homes to the barn," she said.

Holch was instrumental in helping to get Hardwick Community Television (HCTV) off the ground and ran it for five years. Changes in the media landscape brought more

opportunities to stream content, leading to difficulties in the cable industry that affected HCTV's funding.

As it became harder to keep HCTV going, she became concerned and headed to Massachusetts, where a job at Belmont Media Center was available. That was just before the pandemic changed everything.

East Hardwick, where she had a home, and the connections she made in the area called to her, she said. She was able to get a grant for a film animating old photos of East Hardwick to tell the story of the place. That brought her back to Vermont as the pandemic ended.

Her brother, who she says "had trouble figuring out how to live," passed away in 2016. As she went through his things, she came across a series of books he'd written about "Farmer Fence."

During that period she had an experience with her mother and sister of her brother coming back as a seagull, she said. She didn't quite know how to relate the experience intellectually, but saw a connection to his "Farmer Fence" books, considering using them as the source for a new film, she said.

The books were in bad shape and others in her family weren't in favor of sharing them with the world. As she ruminated on the idea of a film, she discovered others had had similar experiences of connecting with departed loved ones.

The film "Brother Bird" came from that and tells the story of her experience with her brother and similar ones from two others.

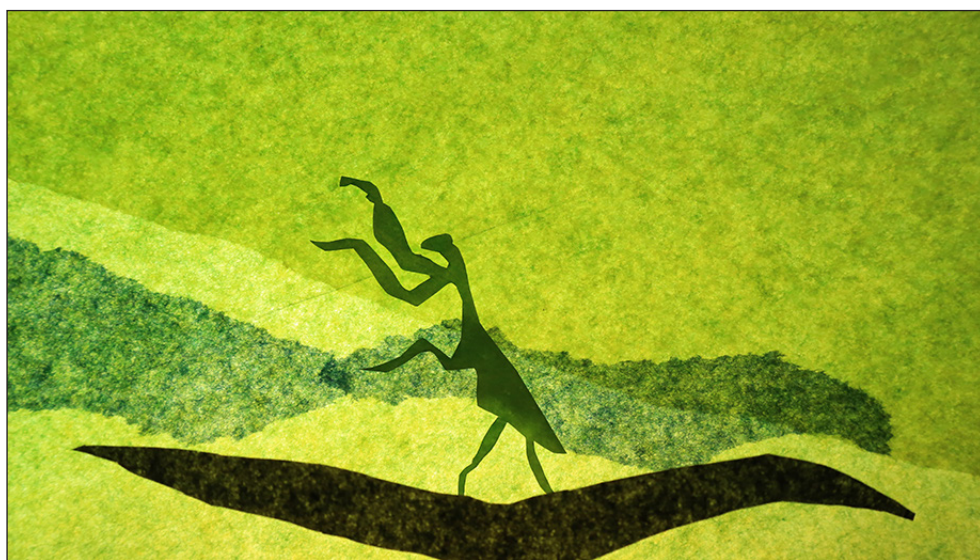
She entered the East Hardwick film in the Made Here Film Festival, but it didn't get accepted. Her recent success entering film festivals may seem encouraging, but she again finds making and showing crankies more interesting. The audience response is more direct, she says. "They are transportable, quick and fun, involving creativity, using rhyming, music and performing."

There may be more animation down the road, but it's not in her immediate future, she said.

Holch is an independent filmmaker specializing in mixed-media stop-motion animation. She is committed to producing work about socially relevant themes. Holch's animation and videos have been broadcast on PBS and have screened at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in NYC; the National Art Gallery in Washington, DC; The Exploratorium in San Francisco; the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston; as well as at international film festivals, art galleries, and colleges and universities. She particularly enjoys showing her animations at community spaces such as grange halls, libraries, the walls of endangered community gardens, and the sides



A still photo from Meredith Holch's animated film, "Brother Bird," winner of the Made Here Film Festival's 2025 award for Best Animated Film. The film will be shown with three other short films, collected as "The Great Outdoors," Sunday, April 27, 2:15 p.m., at the Burlington Beer Company Lumière Hall, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington. photo by Meredith Holch



A still photo from Meredith Holch's animated film, "Brother Bird." The film recounts real-life stories of loved ones who visit from the afterlife, told through tissue paper animation. photo by Meredith Holch

of old barns near her home in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

VTIFF is a non-profit film organization, with two annual festivals, and year-round screenings in both the The Film House at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center and The Screening Room @ VTIFF, a 32 seat micro-cinema.

Vermont Public is Vermont's unified public media organization,

providing local access to national programming from NPR and PBS, and serving the community with trusted journalism, quality entertainment, and educational programming.

VTIFF and Vermont Public both rely on membership to support their missions. For more information or to become a member visit [vermontpublic.org/donate](http://vermontpublic.org/donate) and [vtiff.org/membership](http://vtiff.org/membership)



About 100 students in fourth through sixth grades from Hardwick, Woodbury and Wolcott Elementary Schools sing for the third annual OSSU Art in Bloom event held at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro on April 8. Students include (from left) front, Christopher Rich, Owen Allen, Roman Jurkiewicz and Autumn Dailey; second row, Maddison LaPoint, McKenzie DeMag, Lexi Simard and Alaina Blair; back row, Kaydence Tucker, Garrett Devenger and Violette Diego. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# EVENTS

## Thursday, April 24

**DAVID WILCOX**, folk musician and storyteller performs, 7 p.m., Willey Building, 3084 Main St., Cabot. Information: (802) 793-3016 or email: [director@cabotarts.org](mailto:director@cabotarts.org). Tickets: [cabotarts.org](http://cabotarts.org).  
**CIRCUS SPRINGBOARD SHOW**, "Thank you for Waiting," featuring circus artists from the New England Center for Circus Arts, 1 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Tickets available at [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org).

## Friday, April 25

**FLEA MARKET** hosted by Justice for Dogs, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Morrisville V.F.W.

## Saturday, April 26

**GROWING HEALTHY SOIL**, with Ansel Ploog of Flywheel Farm, 2

p.m. Meet at the Community Garden at the Old Schoolhouse Common, Marshfield. Register: [marshfieldrh@gmail.com](mailto:marshfieldrh@gmail.com) or call (802) 426-3581.

**FLEA MARKET** hosted by Justice for Dogs, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Morrisville V.F.W.

**MARK GREENBERG** presents a program on Woody Guthrie: The Dust Bowl Balladeer, 5 p.m., Woodbury Community Room. A multimedia presentation with live music. Sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council and the Woodbury Community Library.

**ALBANY VARIETY SHOW**, 7 p.m., Albany Town Hall. Juggling, poetry and more. Bake sale. Proceeds benefit the Albany Historical Society.

## Sunday, April 27

**THE POETRY OF A PLACE** and

its People: David Budbill's 'Judevine,'" 5 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library, 149 Common Loop. Presented by Nadine Budbill. Information: (802) 586-9683.

## Monday, April 28

**HISTORIC BUILDING INFORMATION SESSION**, on the future of the current Civic Standard building at 42 S. Main St., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will begin with a tour of the property then move to the Memorial Building at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation and discussion. All are welcome. Information: [thecivicstandard@gmail.com](mailto:thecivicstandard@gmail.com).

**HEAD START OPEN HOUSE** and Safety Fair, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., with Northeast Kingdom Community Action, 61 Church St., Hardwick. Tours and free take-aways. Fire truck, ambulance, police car

and the Tooth Tutor available for touring.

## Wednesday, April 30

VerseVillage Open Mic Night, 7 p.m., The Galaxy Bookshop, 41 S. Main St., Hardwick. Register at [tinyurl.com/GalaxyBookshop](http://tinyurl.com/GalaxyBookshop). Information: (802) 472-5533 or visit [galaxybookshop.com](http://galaxybookshop.com). Open to the public.

## Thursday, May 1

**SESSION ON SINGING FRENCH SONGS**, La Chanson Francaise with Don and Mabel Houghton, 4 to 5:30 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library. Information: (802) 586-9692 or [jw-simpsonmemoria](mailto:jw-simpsonmemoria)

## Saturday, May 3

**ART AND AUTHOR AFTER-**  
See **EVENTS**, Next Page

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# EVENTS

**NOON** with artist Cynthia Ross and poet Marjorie Ryerson, 4 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

## Sunday, May 4

**EASTERN COYOTE PROGRAM**, 4 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro, with Chris Schadler. Information: info@protectourwildlifevt.org.

## Ongoing Events

**VERSE VILLAGE** is Hardwick's town-wide celebration of National Poetry Month. Fifty-three poets from 25 Vermont towns have their poems in windows along Hardwick's Main and Mill Streets. There will be opportunities to meet other poets and to read their poems throughout April.

**WINTER CRAFTea**, held through April on the last Monday of the month, 5:30 to 7 p.m., hosted by the Jeudevine Memorial Library, held at the Hardwick Community Center, 56 High St. Bring whatever handiwork you are working on.

**MONTPELIER CONTRA DANCE**, 8 - 11 p.m., Capital City Grange. Newcomers lesson at 7:40 p.m. First, third and fifth Saturdays. Information: (802) 225-8921 or cdu.tim@gmail.com

**MOVEMENT, MEDITATION, QI-GONG**, with Ellie Hayes, the first Saturday of each month through May, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Library community room, 69 Valley Lake Road. All are welcome and children can join the story time from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited. Call (802) 472-5710.

**OLD-TIME JAM SESSION**, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities encouraged to attend. Jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

**COMMUNITY DINNER**, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Sharyn Salls at (802) 472-6566 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.

**DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS** for Young Adventurers, first and third Mondays, Craftsbury Public Library, for children ages 8-13. Reserve a spot to play by contacting director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

**EARLY LITERACY STORYTIME**, Craftsbury Public Library - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. For children ages 0 - 5. Information: childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Hardwick Area Health Center, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul

Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

**LIBRARY KNIT NIGHT ON THURSDAYS**, 3 - 5:30 p.m., the Greensboro Free Library, 53 E. Craftsbury Road. Volunteers will provide help with knitting.

**CRAFTING GROUP** on Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

**MAGIC ON TUESDAY**. A group of young people get together at The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. Games gin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

**PARENTING GROUP**, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared for babies 0-18 months. Siblings invited. 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER**, every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick.

**COMMUNITY DINNER**, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, every Friday, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free and open to anyone in the greater Craftsbury area and neighboring towns. Hosted by students in the Food Harvest and Conservation class. Students will give brief presentations at 5:30 covering a couple components of the menu they create.

**STORYTIME, PLAYGROUP ON FRIDAYS**, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

**MENDING CIRCLE MEETS**, every third Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., the Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction and snacks will be supplied.

**BOOK CLUB** meets the second Thursday of each month, 1:30 p.m., the Flower Basket, Main St. Hardwick. Hosted by the Galaxy Bookshop. Call the Galaxy or stop in to reserve a copy of each month's book at 20% off for book club members. Tea and other drinks and small treats for sale.

**HARDWICK HAIKU CLUB**, every first Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick. A time to read published haiku, brainstorm some Vermont kigo, or season words, and write your own haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.

**TRIVIA NIGHT**, at the Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, Thursdays, 6 - 8 p.m., unless there is a home basketball game. A limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for roughly 10 teams.

**MEDITATION** at Craftsbury Com-

munity Care Center, the second and fourth Fridays, 3. to 3:45 p.m., 1784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Offered by Nancy Milholland. Open to all and sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.

**HANG OUT ON THURSDAYS**, at the Civic Standard, 42 S. Main St., Hardwick, 2:45 p.m. - 6. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, or just spend time with friends. Facilitated by Hazen Union's Community School Coordinator Vaiva Velzis, with support from The Civic's staff. Snacks provided. Information: Vvelzis@ossu.org.

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**, Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 5. Cabot Public Library. Ages 9 - 13. Mysteries and magic, tails and talons, puzzles and prophecies.

**OUTDOOR STORY & ACTIVITY TIME**, with the Cabot Public Library, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30, Cabot Rec Field Pavilion. Join

Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**, Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - 5; Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime; Friday, 10:30 a.m. Homeschool Program. Greensboro Free Library. Information: (802) 533-2531.

## Exhibits

**LIZ CHADWICK**: Uphill, Acrylic Paintings on Cheeseboards. Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover. Through May 6. The Pie is open Tuesday through Sunday at 11 a.m.

**LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBIT**, the Third Floor Gallery, Hardwick Inn. A building-wide show on all three floors. Open during regular business hours. Show will be up through May.

**To have your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com).**



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## PUBLIC NOTICE


### INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDES

Green Mountain Power Corporation, 2152 Post Rd Rutland, Vermont 05701 has applied for a permit from the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture to apply herbicides. All herbicides will be applied by ground-based, hand-held equipment. This notice constitutes a warning to residents along the right-of-way that water supplies and other environmentally sensitive areas near the right-of-way should be protected from spray and that it is the resident's responsibility to notify the contact person of the existence of a private water supply near the right-of-way. The contact person at GMP is Jarod Wilcox, (888) 835-4672. Further information may also be obtained from Public Health & Agriculture Resource Management Division, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, 116 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901, telephone (802) 828-1732.

Operations will commence on or about June 9,2025 using one or more of the following herbicides: Garlon 4 Ultra, Escort XP, Polaris, KreniteS & Arsenal Powerline

Maintenance will be conducted on the following transmission lines in the following towns:

Line(s):	Town(s):
WELLS RIVER – RYEGATE	RYEGATE
BAY STREET – COMERFORD	BARNET WATERFORD ST.JOHSNBURY
GILMAN – ST.JOHSNBURY	ST.JOHSNBURY WATERFORD
ST.JOHSNBURY – LYNDONVILLE	ST.JOHSNBURY
FAIRBANKS TAP	ST.JOHSNBURY
BARKER AVE TAP	ST.JOHSNBURY
MARSHFIELD – COMERFORD	BARNET PEACHAM DANVILLE
MARSHFIELD – MORRISVILLE	HARDWICK
MCINDOES FALLS - RYGATE	RYEGATE BARNET



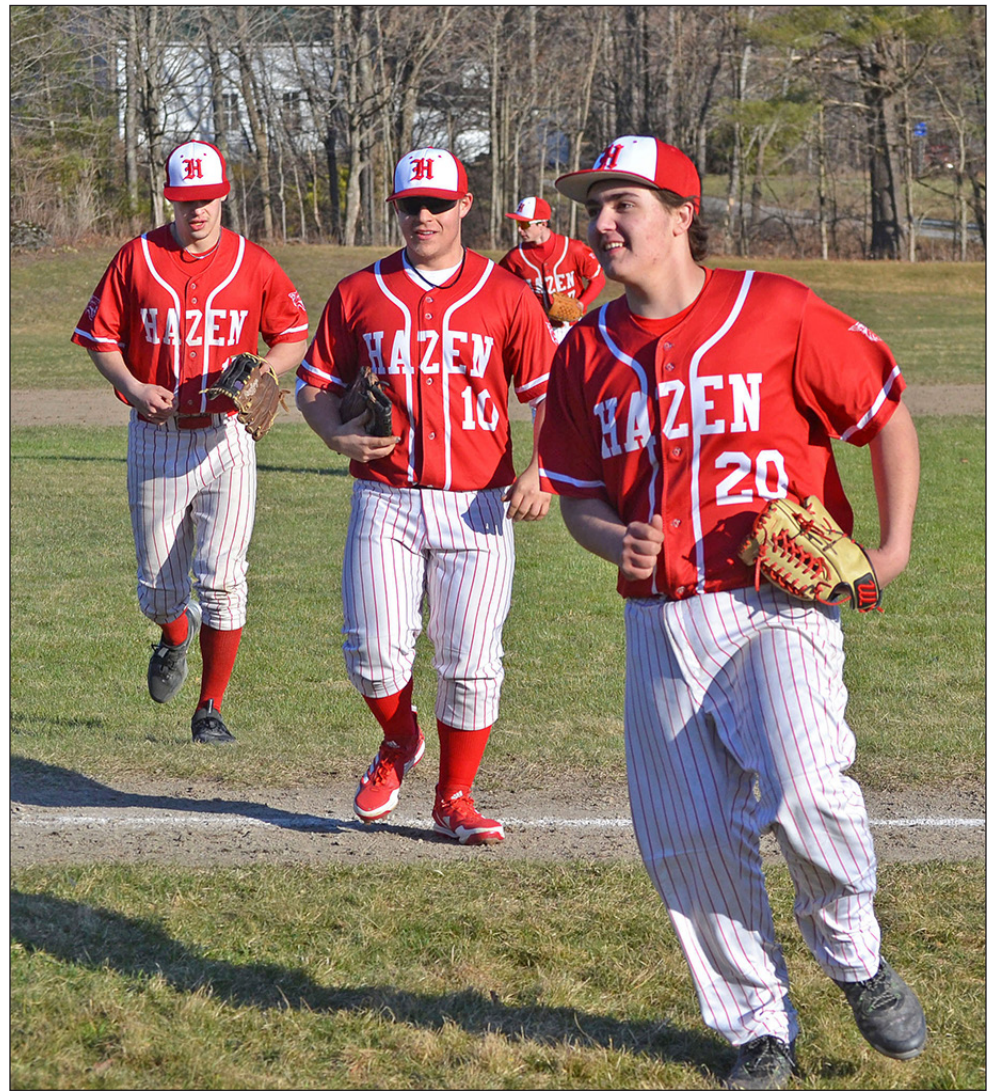
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HG-25



Hazen Union catcher Landon Miller makes a throw watched by home plate umpire Kee Gillen during action against Paine Mountain, April 17. Hazen won 6-5.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union players (from left) Justin Montgomery, Jake Hayden, Chase Newell (in back) and Jon Sicard come off Hudson Field after an inning against Paine Mountain, April 17. The Wildcats won 6-5.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Wildcats Earn Split to Start the Season

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union baseball team kicked off the season in dramatic fashion last week, bouncing back from an opening day loss to Montpelier with a walk-off win over Paine Mountain.

Craftsbury Academy junior (CA) Grayson McNaughten completed an epic comeback with a walk-off single in the bottom of the seventh to give Hazen a 6-5 home win over Paine Mountain last Thursday. McNaughten went 2-4 on the day with a double and three RBI's. Freshman Jon Sicard earned his first varsity win, striking out 11 over six innings

of work, while not allowing a single earned run. Landon Miller added a pair of hits in the win to help lead the Wildcats back from a 5-2 deficit entering the seventh inning. Owen Skorstad chipped in with a 1-4 performance for the Wildcat offense.

“It was great to see our young team get their first win of the season. Both teams started to get the timing down of the pitchers as the game went on after a really good pitchers duel through six innings. Jon threw 60 strikes out of 96 pitches and the only run they got off him was on a dropped third strike in the first. Grayson was the hero on the night, putting together a really good at bat in a

clutch situation,” said head coach Shaun Allen.

Earlier in the week, Division II Montpelier flexed its muscles with a 10-1 road win over the Wildcats. Soren Bay-Hansen twirled a two hitter, striking out seven Wildcats over six innings to earn the win. Brody Stanton led the Solon offense, going 2-3 at the plate, while driving in two. Arda Kohn added a pair of hits and an RBI and Bay-Hansen and Lucas Alber combined to drive in four more runs on the day. The Solons improved to 2-0 after blanking defending Division III champs BFA-Fairfax 7-0 on Thursday. Wildcat Freshman Zed Cloutier scored the only run for Hazen and

McNaughten took the loss on the mound with four innings of work. Sicard struck out five of the seven batters he faced in relief.

“We were a little shaky our first time out. Some key errors in the field really changed the course of the game. Zed Cloutier did a really nice job behind the plate for us in what was his first varsity start,” said Allen.

Hazen was scheduled to host BFA-Fairfax on Monday and will wrap their week with a trip to Paine Mountain on Thursday. They'll stay on the road next Tuesday with a short trip to Morrisville to face Peoples Academy. All home games can be streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

## Spring Turkey Hunting Begins This Weekend

by Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

VERMONT – Spring turkey hunting begins with youth and novice weekend on April 26 and 27, and the regular season from May 1 to May 31.

“The youth and novice turkey hunting weekend provides an excellent opportunity for experienced hunters to teach young or new hunters how to safely and successfully hunt wild turkeys,” said Toni Mikula, Vermont's wild turkey biologist.

To hunt turkeys on April 26 and 27, a youth must be 15 or younger and must have completed a hunter education course and possess a hunting license, a turkey hunting license and a free youth turkey hunting tag.

A person who has purchased their first hunting license in the past 12 months and is 16 or older may hunt turkeys as a novice on April 26 and 27. They must have a hunting license, turkey hunting license and a free novice tag.

The youth or novice must be accompanied by an unarmed licensed adult over 18 years of age. Shooting hours for the weekend are one half hour before sunrise to 5 p.m. Landowner permission is required to hunt on private land during youth-novice turkey hunting weekend.

The youth or novice may take one bearded turkey on the weekend and two bearded turkeys in the regular May hunting season.

Shooting hours during the May 1 to May 31 turkey season are one-half hour before sunrise to

noon, and two bearded turkeys may be taken.

A shotgun or archery equipment may be used to hunt turkeys. Shot size must be no larger than No. 2.

A successful hunter in Vermont's spring turkey seasons must report their turkey within 48 hours to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. This can be done at a local big game reporting station or online at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website.

Last year, youth and novice hunters took 683 and 29 turkeys, respectively during the April weekend hunt and hunters took 5,178 bearded birds during the regular spring season.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife's 2025 Turkey Hunting Guide is available on their website.

## KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS



Hazen Union head coach Shaun Allen (left) and assistant coach T.J. Davison (right) watch a recent home baseball game.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

### Tough Start for Lady Chargers

RICHFORD – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) softball team had the tall task of opening their season against two of the top teams in division IV on the road last week, resulting in mercy rule losses in both contests.

Defending Division IV champion Richford scored early and often last Monday, as they ran away with a 29-0 win to open

their title defense. Multi-sport senior star Kyrielle Deuso slugged a three-run homer over the center field fence and finished the game in the circle by striking out the side. Adi Chagnon and Kayliese McCray silenced the Lady Charger bats, combining for 7 strikeouts over four innings of work.

It didn't get any easier for CA on Friday as 2023 Division IV champion Blue Mountain cruised to a 23-0 win. Kaylee Hamlett struck out 10 to earn the win in

the circle, scattering three hits over five innings of work. Gabrielle Snider belted a three-run homer and Ava Kingsbury added a triple and a double on the day. The Lady Bucks look poised to make their third straight Final Four in June, outscoring their first three opponents of the season 53-0.

CA will get another crack at Richford on Thursday in their home opener at Dustan Field.

### Lady Cadets Tie Single Season Record

NASHUA, N.H. – East Calais' Caitlyn Fielder and her Norwich University women's lacrosse team downed Saint Joseph's College of Maine and Rivier University last week for their twelfth straight win, tying a program record with their fourteenth victory of the season.

Fielder has been on an absolute heater the last month and didn't show any signs of slowing down last week, finding the back of the net seven more times. The sophomore attacker and former U-32 standout continues to lead the Lady Cadet offense with 45 goals in fifteen games this spring.

Norwich remained perfect in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) standings at 10-0 and played a pivotal match to determine the top seed against

Emmanuel College on Tuesday to wrap up the regular season.

Fielder and the Lady Cadets will be back in action over the weekend, as the GNAC Tournament gets underway at Sabine Field at Haynes Family Stadium in Northfield.

### No Sophomore Slump for Alekson

FAIRFIELD, Conn. – Former Peoples Academy standout and Vermont Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year Ben Alekson, mowed down Merrimack last week to help his Fairfield University baseball team improve to 29-9 on the season.

The Stowe native struck out eight in seven innings of work, allowing just three hits on the day as Fairfield cruised to a 9-1 win at home last Thursday. Alekson improved to 6-1 on the season and lowered his earned run average to 2.59. The 6-2, 200-pound right hander is coming off an impressive freshman campaign with Fairfield that saw him go 6-1 with a 3.86 era. Alekson fired a gem in the 2022 division III state title game against Hazen Union at Centennial Field to help the Wolves win their second of three straight state titles.

Alekson and the Stags will wrap up a busy week with three game homestand against Quinnipiac starting on Friday.

## KEN BROWN'S RUNNERS' ROUNDUP

### Locals Shine at 50th Annual Paul Mailman 10 Mile

MONTPELIER – Hazen Union's Maxfield English posted a top five overall finish over the weekend, with several local runners shining in their respective age groups in the 50th Annual Paul Mailman 10-mile road race.

The 49-year-old English finished third overall on Saturday with a time of 1:02:24. Eighteen-year-old Jay Borland of Montpelier bested the field with a time of 57:55. Plainfield's Erica Rose won the 40-49 female age group with a time of 1:17:38, crossing the line a little over a second ahead of Greensboro's Rose Modry. former Hardwick Gazette contributor Jim Flint (West Rutland) finished second in the 60-69 male age group behind Waterbury's Tom Thurston. Mack Gardner-Morse of Calais finished third and Andrew Gilbert of Hardwick finished fourth.

"Temperatures were in the 50's with calm to light winds, making for fast times. The field of runners was the largest in several years and it was great to see old friends from Hardwick, Wolcott, Craftsbury, Greensboro, and Calais!" said Flint.

Local runners will be back in action at the Adamant Half Marathon, May 10.

### Chargers, Wildcats Kick-off Track and Field Season

ST. ALBANS – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) and Hazen Union varsity track and field teams officially kicked off their seasons last week under first year head coaches Kyle Anderson and Maxfield English.

Junior Adelina Augsberger was the local star of the week for the Chargers last Tuesday, posting a top ten and a pair of top five finishes. Augsberger finished third in the 200m event, with Hazen Union senior Chloe Dyer finishing just outside the top ten. Montpelier's Anna Wetherell clipped teammate Leyla Milak by less than two tenths of a second to claim first place honors. Augsberger also posted a fifth-place finish in the 400m and a seventh-place finish in the 100m, with Mount Mansfield Union's (MMU) Lily Waterhouse and Mallory Chicoine besting the field in each event. CA freshman Nora Van Gulden finished ninth in the 1500m and thirteenth in the 800m in her first varsity competition.

Freshman teammate Linsey Allen also didn't shy away from the big stage, posting a pair of impressive fifth place finishes in both the discus and shot put events. Junior Soren Stelma-Leonard finished ninth in the 1500m event, with sophomore Charger teammate Theo Alexander crossing the line five spots behind. Jacoby Soter took home the hardware for BFA-St. Albans in both the 1500m and 800m. Sophomore Kosmos Glestos posted a solid fourth place finish in the discus behind event winner Sebastian Hogle (BFA). Glestos also came in sixth in the javelin for the CA, Alexander finished one spot behind, with Hazen Union junior Lewis Lapierre finishing eighth. BFA's Levi Dalmer finished first.

Fresh off winning his fourth straight Division II basketball state title for Montpelier, 1,000-point scorer Carter Bruzzese bested the field in the 100m. Lamoille's Elliot Rowe took home titles in both the 200m and 400m events.

Craftsbury is scheduled to compete in their second event of the season at Essex today, Wednesday. Hazen will have a full week of practice before traveling to Lyndon Institute next Wednesday.

# Mountain View Offers Hazen Golfers Opportunity

by Ken Brown

GREENSBORO – Head coach Andy Hunt continues to work at growing his Hazen Union golf program in his third season, and Mountain View Country Club (MVCC) in Greensboro will once again step up its support this coming fall for the Hazen Union golf program by offering an unprecedented, discounted opportunity on playing privileges to Wildcat golfers.

Hunt and Mountain View have collaborated to approve a special rate for current and future members of the Hazen varsity golf program. As golf courses around the state ready to kick off their season, MVCC is offering a special playing permit to the Wildcat golf team, as well as those interested in joining the team. The permit is only \$100 and is active for the entire year. The special permit does limit student athletes access to MVCC during the peak season (July 1 to

August 14) to weekday afternoons and weekend evenings. Coach Hunt said he is grateful for the continued support from MVCC and is especially interested in helping the kids in the community learn to play the game of golf.

“Most high school golf teams are members of their host club, and this has been a unique problem for the Hazen Union golf team throughout the years. I have been able to get MVCC to approve a special permit to members of the Hazen Union golf team this season. It’s a fantastic opportunity for kids around the community from either Hazen or Craftsbury Academy (CA) to learn the game at both the middle school and high school level at a wonderful facility. Golf is a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime and MVCC giving our kids an opportunity to play and practice over the summer will help our program hit the ground running when compe-

tion starts up in the fall,” said Hunt.

The Wildcat high school golf program is made up of student athletes from both Hazen and CA, grade 9 to grade 12. The discounted \$100 MVCC permit offer has been extended to 7th and 8th grade student athletes interested in joining the team at the middle school level.

“If your child is a golfer or interested in learning the game, having MVCC in Greensboro as our host club this season is a tremendous opportunity. Anyone who can help spread the word to interested parents and student athletes; I really appreciate it. We can’t thank MVCC enough and this is a big step in the right direction for our program,” added Hunt.

Student Athletes (grade 9 to grade 12) must fully commit to the Hazen Union golf team before July 1 to be eligible for the permit. For more details, contact Hazen Union athletic director Aaron Hill.

# Willoughby Steelhead Rainbow Trout Jumping

by Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

ORLEANS – One of the state’s premier wildlife watching opportunities is taking place through early May as steelhead rainbow trout have started upstream migration, leaping up waterfalls on their way to their spawning grounds.

“Many people may not realize we have opportunities to watch fish in Vermont just like there are for birds and mammals,” said Jud

Kratzer, fisheries biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

“Witnessing these trout migrate is a powerful reminder of the importance of maintaining healthy and connected waters to allow fish to thrive. We’re working to conserve Vermont’s waterways and the surrounding habitats so that future generations can continue to witness this incredible migration each spring. While the annual migration occurs over several weeks, the best opportu-

nities for seeing jumping fish only last for a few days when flows and water temperatures are just right.”

Willoughby River steelhead also provide an excellent fishing opportunity attracting anglers from all over the Northeast for Vermont’s trout fishing season. The section of the river in Orleans from the downstream edge of the Tarbox Hill Road Bridge to the top of the natural falls just upstream is closed to all fishing until June 1.

## SPORT CALENDAR

### Wednesday, April 23

9:30 a.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at Essex.

### Thursday, April 24

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Blue Mountain  
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Paine Mountain.

### Monday, April 28

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Paine Mountain, at Danville.

### Tuesday, April 29

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Peoples Academy.

### Wednesday, April 30

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at Lyndon  
3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at U-32  
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Paine Mountain., at Hazen Union  
4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Paine Mountain, at Danville.

### Saturday, May 3

11 a.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Richford

### Tuesday, May 6

3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at North Country  
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Montpelier  
3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at North Country  
4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Vergennes.

### Thursday, May 8

4:30, Hazen Union Baseball at Thetford.

### Friday, May 9

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Craftsbury, at Danville.

### Saturday, May 10

11 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Spaulding.

### Tuesday, May 13

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. U-32, at Hazen Union  
4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. BFA-Fairfax, at Danville  
3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Track and Field at St. Johnsbury.

### Wednesday, May 14

3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at Lyndon.

### Thursday, May 15

4:30, Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Paine Mountain  
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Oxbow.

### Friday, May 16

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Richford, at Danville .

### Saturday, May 17

11 a.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs Lamoille, at Hazen Union.

### Tuesday, May 20

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Randolph  
4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Winooski  
3:30 p.m., Hazen Union Track and Field at U32  
3:30 p.m, Craftsbury Track and Field at South Burlington

### Thursday, May 22

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Lyndon.

### Saturday, May 24

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. North Country, at Hazen Union.

### Tuesday, May 27

4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball at Harwood  
4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball vs. Blue Mountain, at Danville.

### Thursday, May 29

4:30 p.m., Caledonia United Varsity Softball at Craftsbury  
4:30 p.m., Hazen Union Baseball vs. Lake Region, at Hazen Union.

### Saturday, May 31

Hazen Union Track and Field at Essex Invitational, time to be determined  
Craftsbury Track and Field at Essex Invitational, time to be determined

### Thursday, June 5

Division 3 Track and Field State Championships, date and time TBA