

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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## No Kings Day Rally Draws Over 260 Demonstrators

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – A No Kings Day rally Saturday in Hardwick organized by the Hardwick Indivisible group drew over 260 people who joined over 1,500 similar rallies throughout Vermont and the United States.

Organizer Carlotta Hayes said, “I am so proud of the team that worked together to produce this event in Hardwick today. I’m impressed by the number of protesters who kept arriving in waves, ‘peaceful, patriotic and pissed off,’ as Rachel Cole put it.”

The rally began soon after the scheduled 11:30 a.m. time with Hayes leading the crowd in the

Pledge of Allegiance as the crowd waved American flags or mostly handmade signs.

Vermont House Rep. Leanna Harple gave a speech in which she said, “. . . I came here today straight from the high school graduation just up the hill. Just a few hours ago, we sent nearly 50 graduates out into the world; my students. Your children. We’ve spent years loving them, teaching them, helping them build dreams.

“We owe our children a country that is worth inheriting,” she said. “We owe them more than a shrug and a ‘that’s just how things are now.’”

Jude Elford then shared her

See RALLY, 4



A crowd of over 260 people joined a Hardwick Rally organized by the Hardwick Indivisible group, Saturday, June 14, on No Kings Day. “to assert the classic American values associated with Flag Day: honor, courage, selfless service and loyalty,” said organizer Carlotta Hayes. photo by Paul Fixx

## Holcomb’s Cemetery Concerns Addressed by Remick, Upson

by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – The lengthy select board meeting agenda, had the board discussing grant proposals, cemetery maintenance, trash ordinances and the now usual host of FEMA related matters, Thursday, June 5.

To begin, the board clarified concerns about property values member Danny Hale shared after he received them by email. People are concerned that since their assessment doubled, their taxes are going to double. The board explained this is not true, because when the grand list increases the tax rate decreases. While they have not set the tax rate yet, the board anticipates a significant decrease in the tax rate.

Julie Holcomb was present to express concerns with the Main Street Cemetery. She had provided the board with photos via email and told the board her father passed less than three years ago. She said she is personally still in the mourning process, then talked about her concerns with the appearance and safety of the cemetery. “It doesn’t look like the vision statement,” she said. She provided examples, citing

See CEMETERY, 5



Town Manager David Upson (right) explains issues with lost cemetery revenues and the takeover of their management by the town to Julie Holcomb (left), who raised concerns about the condition of the Main Street Cemetery at the June 5 select board meeting. photo from HCTV recording

## Local Option Tax Considered, Second Monthly Meeting Added

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – At last Wednesday’s three-hour and fifty-three minute select board meeting, the board decided to begin having two select board meetings a month beginning in September. In addition, they discussed adding a local option tax of 1% to the state’s 9% rooms tax, plus perhaps also to the 9% meals tax and the 10% tax on alcohol sales, but deferred a decision until the July meeting to give residents a chance to have a say.

Christine Armstrong said current rooms, meals and alcohol sales in Greensboro approach \$1 million per year. While this figure does not break out each category of sales, the additional 1% tax would roughly raise \$10k.

The state would keep 25%, sending back \$7,500 to the town annually.

The vote to add a second monthly select board meeting might seem to be in answer to Davis Barnett’s suggestion during the meeting’s open comment period that the board meet twice a month to get more business accomplished and perhaps shorten each meeting.

His was not, however, the first time the suggestion had been made, and the board’s suggestion after the meeting that the legal item considered in executive session had to do with the frequency of meetings, suggested it had been previously planned for consideration.

On the subject of executive sessions, the VLCT website notes, the new law now

See TAX, 6



The eight Craftsbury Academy graduates throw mortarboards into the air after their ceremony on The Common, June 13.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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**WEATHER WATCH**



A rose orange moon, colored by atmospheric dust from Canadian wildfires, hangs low over the East Hardwick hills, late in the evening of Wednesday, June 11, as seen from Center Road. photo by Paul Fixx

**Rounds of Thunderstorms; Hot Weather on the Horizon**

EAST HARDWICK – A little bit of a flip occurred this week, with the weekend largely dry and sunny with some showers scattered throughout the rest of the forecast period. We still stopped short of having a completely rain-free weekend, with a couple of local observing stations reporting a few hundredths of an inch of rain on Saturday morning. All in all, though, milder conditions and a balanced precipitation pattern set the stage for a transition to summer, which arrives on Friday.

The forecast period commences with some morning showers, increasing humidity, and intermittent sunshine in the wake of a warm front lifting north across New England. Temperatures will reach the mid-80s for highs. All these ingredients may touch off some sporadic showers and thunderstorms this afternoon, with any thunderstorms having the potential to bring some heavy downpours. That activity wanes with the loss of daytime heating this evening. As a cold front approaches later Thursday and provides a lifting focus with the continued heating and humidity, thunderstorms will be more likely. Some of the storms will have the potential to produce damaging winds to 60 mph and small hail. Torrential downpours remain possible and there is an

isolated risk for flash flooding.

That frontal system exits for Friday, with a chance for some lingering showers in the afternoon and cooler conditions. A repeat of that scenario exists for Saturday as another wave of low pressure passes north of us, with possibly some heavier showers. Conditions are a little sunnier and warmer on Sunday. We may be looking at our first heat wave of the season by early next week. Here are the details in the meantime:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy in the morning. Partly sunny in the afternoon with scattered showers and thunderstorms, some with heavy downpours. High: 84. Low: 66. South wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny. Showers and thunderstorms likely in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may be severe. High: 85. Low: 57. Southwest wind 10-15 mph.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy with scattered showers by afternoon. High: 74. Low: 53. West wind 5-10 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy, becoming mostly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms by afternoon. High: 76. Low: 58. Calm wind.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny. High: 79. Low: 62. Southwest wind around 5 mph.



June 18 - June 24

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**Pure-Life Distilled Water**  
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**Quaker Cap'n Crunch or Life Cereal**  
\$3.49 11.7-13 oz.

**Kellogg's Pop Tarts**  
2/\$5 13.5 oz.

**Classico Pasta Sauce**  
2/\$5 15-24 oz.

**Barilla Pasta**  
3/\$4 12-16 oz.

**Alessi Risotto**  
\$2.79 6.5-8 oz.

**Annie's Mac & Cheese Dinners**  
2/\$4 6 oz.

**Chef Boy-ar-dee Canned Pasta**  
4/\$5 14.5-15 oz.

**Old El Paso Taco Dinner**  
\$3.49 8.5-12.4 oz.

**Wishbone Salad Dressing**  
2/\$5 15 oz.

**Chicken of the Sea Tuna**  
2/\$3 45 oz.

**Kraft BBQ Sauce**  
2/\$4 17-18 oz.

**Humpty Dumpty Potato Chips**  
2/\$5 6 oz.

**Loacker Wafers**  
\$3.49 7.76-8.82 oz.

**Blue Diamond Nut Thins**  
\$2.99 4.25 oz.

**Kellogg's Toasteds Crackers**  
\$3.49 8 oz.

**Scott 4 Roll Bathroom Tissue**  
\$4.79 419.2 s.f.

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log

June 8: Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Offense, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Carey Road; DLS, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Spring St.; 911 Hangup, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Animal Problem, Slapp Hill; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Lower Cherry St.

June 9: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Spruce Drive; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Rte. 15/Bunker Hill Road; Suspicious Event, Marsh Road; VIN Verification, Maple St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Citizen Dispute, Spruce Drive; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Animal Problem, Lower Cherry St.; Assist – Agency, Elmore Pond Road.

June 10: TRO/FRO Service, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Suspicious Event, Spring St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Alarm: Vt. Rte. 15 W; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte 15; Suspicious Event, W. Church St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte 14 S.

June 11: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/ Carey Road; Suspicious Event, Maple St.; Assist – Agency, Maple St.; Public Speaking, Main St.; Suspicious Event, W. Church St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Animal Problem, Bailey Farm Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./ Elm St.; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

June 12: Directed Patrol, S.

Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Union St.; Trespassing, Evergreen Manor Drive; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Accident – TCNR, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/ Vt. Rte. 16; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Suspicious Event, Church St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Theft, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Traffic Stop, Mill St./ Glenside Ave.

June 13: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, W. Hill Road; Citizen Dispute, S. Main St.

June 14: Assist – Agency, N. Wolcott Road; Medical Center Road; Accident – Property Damage Only, Craftsbury Road; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Found Property; Accident – Injury to Person(s), Vt. Rte. 16; Medical, Dutton Road; ATV Incident, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

June 15: Suspicious Event, Pleasant St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Medical, Craftsbury Road; Alarm, Depot St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Citizen Dispute, Spruce Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

## Hardwick Police

### Criminal Suspension

On June 8, at 3:43 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department conducted a motor vehicle stop of a pickup truck for a moving violation on Vermont Rte. 14 near the Dollar General. Investigation revealed the operator of the truck, Carson Murphy of Graniteville, was under criminal suspension. Murphy was issued a citation to appear in the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division Caledonia Unit to be arraigned on the charge.

On June 25, at 10:38 p.m., Hardwick Police Department responded to a report of vandalism of

two Port-a-Potties at Atkins Field on Granite Street in Hardwick. The structures were tipped over and consequently required cleaning and repair. Any information leading to the person(s) responsible should be reported to the Hardwick Police Department.

The Hardwick Police Report is based on information provided by the police and is not a comprehensive list of police activity. Individuals named in the police report are presumed to be innocent until they plead or are found guilty in court.

### AWARE Report

HARDWICK—Twenty-Six people used AWARE services between June 8 and June 15. 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.



The Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department and Montpelier Fire Department were called to a tractor fire on June 17, 3:47 p.m., at 1762 Vt. Route 14 in Calais. social media photo

## Lamoille County Sheriff Mail Theft

MORRISTOWN – On June 2, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department opened a mail theft investigation in conjunction with the Morrystown Police Department and the United States Postal Service. The investigation has resulted in the recovery of innumerable pieces of opened and unopened mail. The mail, which included thousands of dollars' worth of checks have been returned to their rightful owners with the assistance of the United

States Postal Service.

Investigators have arrested Audrey Roessler, of Lyndon. Roessler was cited to appear in Lamoille County Court on July 23. She was also cited to appear in Franklin County Court, August 12, to answer to the state charges of Fraud and Larceny.

Anyone having information about these crimes is encouraged to contact the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department at (802) 888-3502.



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# Rally

Continued From Page One

heartfelt thoughts about the significance of the day in asserting the power of the people to protect those who need protection. “I don’t want to be known as coming from a country in which senators are tackled for questioning the administration’s heads of departments.”

“My grandparents came here where free speech is valued,” she said. “We will not be silent in the face of illegal deportations,” and “I am here today because women desire to have choice over their own bodies,” she concluded

Grace Hurley then led chants and songs to the drumming of Jerry Schneider from Hardwick and Woodbury’s Ellie Hayes. One of them was, “We are the people. We want the government, elected by and for the people.”

Mary Gagnon, from Hardwick, led in a singing chant of “Power to the people.”

Someone in the crowd remarked that they had joined protests over 40 years ago to make the country a better and safer place for everyone, but in just a few short months, the present administration has worked to remove many of the guardrails put in place to restrict the power of the President and provide for the equal protections of not just citizens, but visitors and those from other countries working on farms, in service industries and construction.

Woodbury resident and Californian Florence Folk said in speaking of the reason for the rally, “It’s the beginning.”

Greensboro’s Erika Karp said she was there to support No Kings Day because “it gives Hardwick and the whole state something to keep moving onward for.”

Scott Luscombe joined from Hyde Park, saying he was there to “fight fascists.”

Many cars passing through

town honked and waved in support of the rally, with some even waving signs out of windows and sunroofs. One truck sported a tailgate marked, “No Kings Day.”

Some, however, took the opportunity to express their displeasure with the rally, mostly making faces or the thumbs down sign, though a few squealed their tires and one truck sported large American and Trump flags in the bed, with writing on the passenger side window that read, “Happy Birthday Mr. Trump” in white, with a red heart.

A child in the crowd carried a sign that read, “No Kings, More Queens” and said it meant we should treat each other the same way. Another sign that drew several comments from the crowd read, “Celebrate Migration, ABOLISH ICE.”

Hardwick Police Officer Dan Brunelle was walking among the crowd and speaking with rally goers. As he stood near Hardwick Select Board Chair Erik Remick, who was seated on the Hardwick Inn’s porch, Brunelle said people have a first amendment right to assemble peacefully and speak their minds.

Organizers, who said they expected perhaps 60 people, were amazed to see the crowd on both sides of the street stretching from in front of the Hardwick Inn and the Clip Joint across from in, all the way up South Main Street to the Village Restaurant and Positive Pie. They walked through the crowd wearing orange vests asking attendees to leave room for those passing by on the sidewalk and to stay clear of crosswalks.

Brunelle said he’d been suggesting to those he talked with that food trucks would have been a nice addition to the event.

Later, on the sidewalk by Front Seat Coffee, John Brabant remarked, “The only King we need is MLK (Martin Luther King)” as he walked with his dogs Daisy and



Greensboro’s Nancy Hill (left) stands with Stew Arnold who carries the flag of the Green Mountain Boys along with the American flag, Saturday, June 14 in Hardwick. photo by Becky Arnold

Georgie, who he said were “border collies for an open border.”

Some people joined the rally after attending a breakfast and coffee event with Senator Bernie Sanders at Oxbow Park in Morrisville, before he took a walk on the rail trail. They said Sanders was relaxed and offered a few friendly comments, seeming mostly to want to join with Vermonters in building community as he had at the recent Hardwick dance he held.

Those coming from Morrisville said they passed a small gathering of about 10 people in Wolcott waving signs and flags in solidarity with events elsewhere.

Craftsbury’s Anne Hanson visited a No Kings Day rally in Barton where she estimated there were 300 people gathered, then another with 400 people in Newport.

Hayes said, “On this historic, nationwide No Kings Day, people from Hardwick and neighboring towns gathered to assert the classic American values associated with Flag Day: honor, courage, selfless service and loyalty, as well as our history as a rule by ‘We The People’ crafted to replace a royal dictatorship,” she said. Adding, “To quote an anthem composed especially for this No Kings celebration “No Man Owns the USA!”



A mylar balloon on the Vermont Statehouse lawn during No Kings Day, June 14, and known as Baby Trump, satirizes President Trump as an angry orange baby holding a smartphone. photo by John Walters



A truck carrying a flag in support of President Trump has a window marked, “Happy Birthday Mr. President,” as it heads north on Hardwick’s South Main Street during a No Kings Day rally, on President Trump’s Birthday, Flag Day Saturday, June 14, in Hardwick. photo by Carolyn Stewart

## Cemetery

### Continued From Page One

scattered pieces of fabric and spots near headstones where the ground has settled. Holcomb reportedly twisted her ankle in one of the holes, a major concern.

“I noticed the tool shed, the dead brush, I noticed the steps people are walking down, their missing hand railings, there’s moss on the stairs, there’s dead grass clippings . . . It doesn’t send a message ‘That’s a place where I want to go to mourn my loved ones.’”

Holcomb said while she can’t expect the drug issues to be handled overnight, there are some quick solutions available. “It is part of the sextants job to take care of that, and I would like a place where I could go, and feel at peace; to communicate with my loved one who is spending eternity there,” she concluded.

Both Chair Eric Remick and Town Manager David Upson responded to Holcomb. Remick explained the town took over management of the cemeteries relatively recently, after the dissolution of the cemetery associations. The town has since hired a new sexton, with a primary focus on record keeping.

While Holcomb expressed her understanding, she said, when people purchase lots, they have an expectation that it will be kept a certain way under a contractual agreement they paid for.

Upson talked about the structure of the town’s cemetery management. After the former sexton assigned to Fairview and Main Street cemetery association unexpectedly quit, he discovered they had been taking cash payments for burials. Over the course of the next year and a half, the town worked to take control of the seven cemeteries that were under the control of the cemetery association.

Courtyard Services is now the sexton, having signed a three year contract with the town. Upson went over the maintenance list

of items that were completed last year. Each year, the board explained, they intend to make repairs as money allows. On Main Street, 32 headstones were straightened and they filled in three major sinkholes last year. The town has estimates and quotes for other restoration projects.

“We are slowly taking control of those cemeteries, so I ask that you give us time to improve the situation,” said Upson.

Holcomb said she would like to see the board have clear communication about who handles the various aspects of the cemetery. Feedback from the board was that she should contact Upson about her concerns, however, she said he was out of the office when she called last week.

“The town deserves to know who they should communicate with. I just want a peaceful place, not just for me to mourn but for everybody that has to go to the cemetery. And if you say to me, we’re working on it, I’m gonna trust that you are working on it,” Holcomb responded. She then expressed concerns about liability, should someone slip and fall leaving the town open to a lawsuit.

The board told Holcomb they appreciate her coming in and Remick added they have been slowly ratcheting up the budget that is allocated to the cemetery, so the process will be incremental.

“It’s good to hear that people in our community are watching. I appreciate it,” Remick concluded.

Moving on to the pedestrian bridge project, the board accepted a \$2,375,000 bid from CCS Constructors for the retaining wall repair and \$775,000 for the pedestrian bridge, with construction administration for those projects by SE Group.

After some discussion, the board voted to use Pike Industries for the Center Road paving project at \$688,605, authorizing Upson to sign a contract.

Road Foreman Tom Fadden said the crew put gravel on Kate Brook and Marsh Roads. They have been grading various roads around town. He said they completed most of the crosswalks before running out of red paint.

They replaced a culvert in East Hardwick, installed a set of guardrails on Hardwick Farms Road, where people expressed concern about a drop-off.

They have been patching holes on Center Road and around the village, with more planned downtown and on West Hill. Work on Center Road has been done in preparation for the upcoming paving.

After a lengthy discussion, the board decided to work to revise the language in the trash ordinance, as there are questions about the feasibility of enforcing it. Board member Shari Cornish volunteered to work with the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District to revise the ordinance and bring back suggested changes.

In other business, Jeannine Young of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) provided an update on the “never forget” garden in the Memorial Park.

The board approved the new private road name Draper Sugar Maples Drive.

Upson reported engineering firm Aldrich & Elliot shared a proposal to rehab sewer lines. Funds for that work would come from sewer capital.

The closing on 41 Brush Street happened this week, transferring ownership to the town in a flood-related buyout, prior to demolition. Upson shared there are four more closings scheduled for FEMA buyouts, two in June and two in July.

Upson thanked Jan Mueller for heading up Springfest, saying he put a ton of time and effort into it, for which the community is grateful.

The board voted to approve the liquor license renewal for House of Pizza Inc.

## RELIGIOUS 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. 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, Saturday, Dec. 14, 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. 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: ecpcvt@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 LaBonnville, 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.

**Tax**

Continued From Page One

“Require[s] meeting agendas to include sufficient details on the specific business to be discussed and details on proposed executive session, if included.”

The agenda noted: “Executive Session, Personnel - Set payroll, Real Estate - Town Hall and Legal.” While the personnel and real estate agenda items included limited detail about those subjects, the legal item did not include any detail at all.

In conversation following the meeting, board members indicated the legal issue involved their decision to add the second monthly meeting beginning in September.

During open public comment, Meaghan Meachem brought up the subject of the board holding a summer meeting to discuss the town hall’s future, saying it would allow more seasonal residents to be included in the conversation.

That item came up again later in the meeting during Kent Hansen’s Greensboro Planning Commission (GPC) Update. Board member Tim Nisbet wondered if the GPC could lead discussions about the future of the town hall, but Hansen responded that the GPC is busy with other activities. Josh Karp followed up to ask whether the GPC would consider taking it on when its workload lightens up, to which Hansen said he didn’t see it as an area for the GPC to lead.

Hansen’s GPC update covered many things the committee has been working on, including completion of FEMA-required flood bylaw updates, with new flood maps. Once the process is further along the GPC will schedule a public hearing, he said. That hearing will include discussion of Shoreland Protection District bylaw updates proposed in 2024, as well as

other bylaw updates required by changes to state statutes.

The GPC is also looking at amendments to the Extended Village District and Planned Unit Development bylaw sections, said Hansen.

He said the GPC plans to hire a consultant this summer to build public consensus on ways to increase the availability of housing in town using funds from a Vermont municipal planning grant.

Naomi Ranz commented that integrated mapping will be needed, as water and wastewater issues exist throughout the town. Hansen said the consultant will take all of that into the planning, and a community conversation will happen to present recommendations from the consultant and review advantages and disadvantages of the town’s zoning bylaws.

The housing subcommittee has been looking into ways to increase the inventory of both owned homes and rental homes, said Hansen. That group has suggested wastewater evaluations of the Glover gravel pit property owned by Greensboro to determine what areas may be suitable for housing. Peter Romans noted that was discussed a few years ago, and there are likely buildable lots just behind the field adjacent to Vt. Rte. 16 there.

Sheila Dillon was appointed to the planning commission following Hansen’s request that she is being recommended by the GPC. Board member Ellen Celnick suggested Dillon’s experience in Boston might not suggest she is in the best position to serve Greensboro’s needs, and others commented on her seasonal status. After Peter Romans rather heatedly commented that appointments recommended by town committees had generally been accepted previously, MacNeil quickly called for the vote.

It has been said that as much

as 80% of Greensboro’s property is seasonal and, while some seasonal properties are owned by Greensboro voters, one place those seasonal property owners can have a voice in town policymaking is on the Planning Commission, which, even with Dillon’s appointment, only 40% of planning commission members are seasonal Greensboro residents.

In other business, a bid was accepted for the purchase of a John Deere loader primarily for the gravel pit at \$179,644, after the \$62,000 trade-in of the current loader. Town residents can each receive up to 30 yards of bank-run gravel on July 16 and 17, which they must arrange transportation for.

The grand list was finalized with no suit or appeal pending.

Toward the end of the meeting, the board was in executive session for 37 minutes, combining three agenda items in a single session. Upon its exit from the executive session, two separate motions were made and approved. One was adding the second select board meeting and before that, it was voted to approve “a pay increase of 3.5% for town office staff and the

road crew, and a separate increase for milfoil staff.”

Greensboro had not posted a recording of the June 11 meeting at the time draft minutes were posted, as required by the Vermont Open Meeting Law. A Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) website page on Vermont Open Meeting Law changes effective January 1, 2002, notes they “Require the posting of meeting recordings when the minutes are posted, as opposed to when the minutes are approved.”

Minutes of the June 11 meeting were posted the evening of June 16, but a recording had not yet been posted at that time in the place where other select board meetings are posted.

In addition, no audio or video recording was made by the select board following its exit from executive session, despite an open meeting requirement to provide audio or video recordings of all select board meetings for 30 days after each meeting.

[Editor’s note: A partial recording of the June 11 select board meeting was posted to the town website, Tuesday morning, June 17. It ends at the vote to enter executive session.]

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**ACUDETOX**, Ear Acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, 4 p.m., Wednesdays, and every 4th Saturday, 11 a.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**AL-ANON MEETING**, Saturdays, 10 a.m., Community Justice Center, St. Johnsbury. Information: 802-626-5355.

**AL-ANON MEETING**, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**AL-ANON MEETING** - Thursdays, 6 p.m., Church on the Common, Craftsbury Common.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - Thursdays, 8 - 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, West Church St., Hardwick. Open meeting.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - Mondays, 7 p.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 S. Main St. Open discussion. Information: 748-3708. Local AA Phone (802) 334-1213 or toll free 1-877-334-1213.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - Wednesdays, 7 p.m., The Church in Cabot, 2 Common Road. Beginners’ Meeting. Open Meeting.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - Tuesdays, 6 p.m., Meditation Meeting, United Church, 6 Church Lane (next to library), Craftsbury Common. Open Meeting.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**, 6 p.m., Sundays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**, for Women Only, 7 p.m., Fridays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**, Step Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Saturdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**ALL RECOVERY**, 4 p.m., Thursdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**A2WARE OF CENTRAL VERMONT**, Approaching Autism with Advocacy, Recovery & Education, Autism Support Group. Information: Claudia at 802-229-4665.

**AS BILL SEES IT**, AA Meeting, Tuesdays, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP**, 1 to 2:30 p.m., second Wednesday of the month, Vermont Department of Health, 107 Eastern Ave., Suite 9, St. Johnsbury. Hosted by The Vermont Center for Independent Living. Information: 1-800-639-1522 or tyounkman@vcil.org.

**BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP**, with Vicki Rich, RN & IBCLS, hopes to start back up Spring 2022. Johnson Church of the Nazarene. Information: 802-888-3470.

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**, 1:30 p.m., The Health Center, Plainfield. Third Thursday each month. Information: 802-322-6600 or dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org.

**FAMILIES ANONYMOUS**, 6 p.m., Mondays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**GRIEF SUPPORT**, a safe, confidential space where you can share your story or just be surrounded by those who understand and care, first and third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Lamoille Home Health & Hospice Bldg., 54 Farr Avenue, Morrisville. Information: Oona Lee at 802-888-4651 or olee@lhha.org.

**MAN TO MAN** Prostate Cancer Support Group monthly meeting, 5-6:30 p.m., Norris Cotton Cancer Center - North, St. Johnsbury, Gladys Brooks Cancer Resource Library. Information: 802-748-2204 or 1-866-466-0626 (press 3, ext. 6308).

**THE MOMS IN RECOVERY** Support Program, tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 1 - 2 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com, 802-635-0084.

**NARCONON** intervention services and addiction screenings. To learn more about how to conduct an intervention go to <http://www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/the-power-of-an-intervention.html>. For free addiction screenings or referrals: 877-841-5509.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING**, Thursdays, 7 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**OSTEOPOROSIS EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP**, Better Bones of the Northeast Kingdom, first Saturday of the month, 1 p.m., Community Room at Community National Bank, Derby. Information: [www.BetterBonesNEK.org](http://www.BetterBonesNEK.org) or Mary King at [Mary@BetterBonesNEK.org](mailto:Mary@BetterBonesNEK.org), or call 802-535-2011.

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**, Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m. Saturdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**PARENTS OF CHALLENGING CHILDREN**: Support group for adoptive parents of children presenting serious emotional and behavioral challenges, first Wednesday of each month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Easter Seals Vermont, 641 Comstock Road, Berlin. Information: 802-223-4744.

**QUIT TOBACCO SUPPORT GROUP**, 3 p.m., Mondays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**REFUGE RECOVERY**, 3 p.m. Thursdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**SMART RECOVERY**, 4 p.m., Tuesdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information: 802-851-8120.

**THE DADS’ GROUP**, every Monday, 5-6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information: Rob at [rcary@LRCVT.org](mailto:rcary@LRCVT.org) or 802-730-3000.

**TOPS** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - every Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Weigh in at 5:15 p.m. United Church Dining Room, Hardwick.



A member of the crowd along Hardwicks S. Main Street on No Kings Day and Flag Day Saturday, waves an American Flag demonstrating allegiance to the country’s founding principles. photo by Paul Fixx

# Hazen Union High School Graduation Saturday, June 14



The Hazen Union 2025 Graduation ceremony recognizes the high school achievement of (from left) front row, Mariah Dunbar, Natalie Michaud, Aiden Sloan, Lillian Hayden, Erica-Lily Ainsworth, Nicole Ducharme, Megan Cane, Gracie Flanders and Mya Adams; second row, Brendan Moodie, Jamie Farrand, Marissa Langmaid, Breonna Cochran, Kaulah Watkevich, Emma Rowell, Baylie Christensen, Elizabeth Bowley, Rebecca Fulford and Gavin Stratton; third row, Aiden Fletcher, Carrick Wright, Kylee Fleming, Preston Williams, Gregory Patoine, Matthew Langdell, Chase Benway, Taylor Cloutier, Colby Mercier and Dakota Quinn; fourth row, Brandon Tardif, Alec Larrabee, Damon Crawford, Jasper Regan, Maximus Fortman, William MacLaren, Chad Mayo, Haeden Lumsden, Rowan Book, Ayden Laundry and Dorian Kassim. Missing were Mariah Bailey, Wyatt Larabee and Brooke Therrien.



Erica-Lily Ainsworth welcomes everyone to the 55th Commencement held at Hazen Union School.



Hazen Union senior speaker Megan Cane.

**Photos  
by  
Vanessa Fournier**



Hazen Union senior speaker Aiden Sloan.



Hazen Union junior class Marshalls Seville Murphy (left) and Sadie Gann (right) lead the Class of 2025 to their graduation ceremony.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union graduate Carrick Wright is surrounded by (from left) brother Aiden, mom Heather Nattell and brother Banoon, after graduation ceremonies Saturday.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union graduate Alec Larrabee is congratulated after graduation by sister Molly, mom Marcy and dad Jason.

# Craftsbury Academy Graduation Friday, June 13 Photos by Vanessa Fournier



The Craftsbury Academy Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony June 13 caps off the high school experience for (from left) front row, Emily Shedd, William Gehard and Natalie Cole; middle row, Lillian Bertrand and Savannah Boyce; back row, Anika Leahy, Logan Shedd and Evan LaMare.



Math interventionist and former Craftsbury Schools Principal Merri Greenia (right) was the guest speaker at Craftsbury Academy's Graduation, June 13. At left school board member Michelle Menard, Assistant Principal Melinda Mascolino and Principal Lisa McCarthy.



The Craftsbury Academy Class of 2025 turn to look and listen to their former principal and guest speaker Merri Greenia (right). Seated in back (from left) are Michelle Menard, Melinda Mascolino and Lisa McCarthy.



Craftsbury Academy Valedictorian Anika Leahy (left) is the daughter of Kristen and Sean Leahy of Greensboro. Leahy is going to Bates College in Lewiston, Me., to major in mathematics and earth and climate sciences. The class Salutatorian Savannah Boyce (right) will be attending Plymouth State University in New Hampshire to major in forensic science. She is the daughter of Jessica Boyce of Craftsbury and Anthony Boyce of Lyndonville.



Craftsbury Academy school board member Michelle Menard (left) presents graduate Evan LaMare with the Bradley Harris Memorial Award after he just received the Jean W. Simpson Award during graduation, June 13.

Right: Craftsbury graduate Logan Shedd is congratulated by Emily Sorensen after graduation Friday. At left is Sterling Blodgett.



# No Kings Day Rally Saturday, June 14



Jerry Schneider drums for chants led by Grace Hurley at the No Kings Day Rally, June 14

photo by Paul Fixx



Carolyn Stewart (Woodbury) leans in front of (from left) Maggie McGuire (Hardwick), Susan Alexander (Cabot), Connie Keresey (Woodbury), Lucinda Smith (Woodbury) and Mary Young (Greensboro), who all show their support at a No Kings Day rally Saturday on S. Main St. in Hardwick. courtesy photo



A young family brought their children to the No Kings Rally, Saturday in Hardwick to learn what democracy is all about.

photo by Paul Fixx



Attendees at a No Kings Day rally, June 14 gather in front of the Peace Park and Mike's Service Center. photo by Carolyn Stewart



No Kings Day Saturday drew a crowd of over 260 people who joined in chants and songs led by Grace Hurley and other community members, June 14.

photo by Paul Fixx



Leanne Harple speaks to the crowd of over 260 people who gathered on South Main Street in Hardwick for No Kings Day, June 14. She said, I am proud to live in a country that was founded on the overthrow of Kings. . . So let this day stand as a bold rejection of monarchy. Let it mark our renewed commitment to the work of the American people in defending our democracy."

photo by Paul Fixx

# Medical Reserve Corps More Than Just Medicine

by **Raymonda Parchment**

AREATOWNS – The Lamoille Valley Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has 26 active members. Career EMT and Greensboro Bend resident Karl Stein emphasized volunteers don't need a medical background. "We need people who know how to handle a hammer, we need people who know how to type. There's no profession, no skill, big or small, that we don't need people for."

The MRC is a national organization created in the wake of 9/11, to meet the needs for a structured system to mobilize community members to be prepared for public health emergencies. The MRC plays a critical role in bridging gaps in public health, emergency response, community service and support for the underserved.

MRC works year-round to prevent illness, promote healthy living, and reduce strain on the healthcare system by supporting large-scale community events such as village green events and gatherings, parades and fireworks celebrations. MRC conducts health screenings, leads disease prevention campaigns, supports sheltering operations and advances public health preparedness.

Public Health Specialist Matthew Ward said, "Our goal is to not only increase engagement with our volunteers, but increase our volunteer numbers so we can have a greater outreach within the greater Lamoille Valley area."

Stein says the MRC has two focuses; mass casualty events such as pandemics, train wrecks, or large crash sites. Their other focus is offering support services to the area, such as providing first aid at events, all the while coordinating and finding more volunteers. "We're the people who put shots in arms, but we also set up the tents and the school sites, organize them and lay the chairs out," said Stein.

In addition to providing medical support in the event of a crisis, they offer logistical support to ease the burden on first responders or involved organizations. "We very often have a supportive role, whether it be supporting a local hospital, the department of health with vaccines, we provide some of the extra bodies and those skills," Ward said.

Ward and Stein say some of what they do is simple health

education, such as CPR first aid classes, or safety campaigns like Stop the Bleed and Bright at Night.

"If there's any kind of crisis, whether it's a flood, or a family's home just burned down, we can mobilize people to help, at any level," said Stein. "We can organize people that will help muck out, or we can set up a shelter so the firemen and first responders have someplace to cool down or get oxygenated if they get too much smoke."

Stein cited some examples, like their collaboration with Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor (HANtN) group. HANtN can provide volunteers and the MRC can provide the necessary training for onsite safety, or set up crisis shelters for affected families until the Red Cross can arrive.

"It is a community effort. There are all of these entities that are there that we're trying to connect with and work together, preferably beforehand, if things take a sideways turn," Ward said.

"We are primarily a group of people that provide their expertise, unpaid," said Stein. For very few federal dollars, we provide a large amount of people benefit, he explained.

In the wake of the current administration's onslaught of federal cuts, the MRC won't count on federal help going forward. "This is where those partnerships that we have, that's key. Finding those people is huge," added Ward. "The federal funding is an angle we are looking at, we do work with a lot of partners within the federal and state government, who have different roles and contribute different things, and they will be affected. How that will affect us, I don't know."

"Developing resilient communities involves involving everyone, not relying necessarily for someone to come running to the rescue," Ward concluded.

For those interested in volunteering, visit [rms.vermont.gov](https://rms.vermont.gov). The site will have individuals fill in basic information and a contact for the MRC to reach out to. One field will ask for the organization name: click on the field and drop down menu and select Northeast Kingdom or Lamoille Valley MRC, who will receive that information and begin the process of formally on-boarding each volunteer.



Stew Arnold (left), citizen scientist from Greensboro and Eric Hanson (right), loon biologist, teamed up for a talk on the loons of Caspian Lake, June 10.

courtesy photo

## Nesting Success on Caspian Lake

by **Bianca Caputo**

GREENSBORO – Seventy-five loon enthusiasts flocked to Greensboro's United Church of Christ on Tuesday, June 10, to hear loon biologist, Eric Hanson, share his knowledge on the species.

Since 1998 Hanson has coordinated the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, a joint effort between the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. This project works to protect loon habitat, raise awareness and coordinates the efforts of hundreds of citizen scientists throughout the state.

The loon population is one of the state's greatest conservation success stories, according to Hanson. In 1987 there were fewer than seven breeding pairs and subsequently the birds were placed on

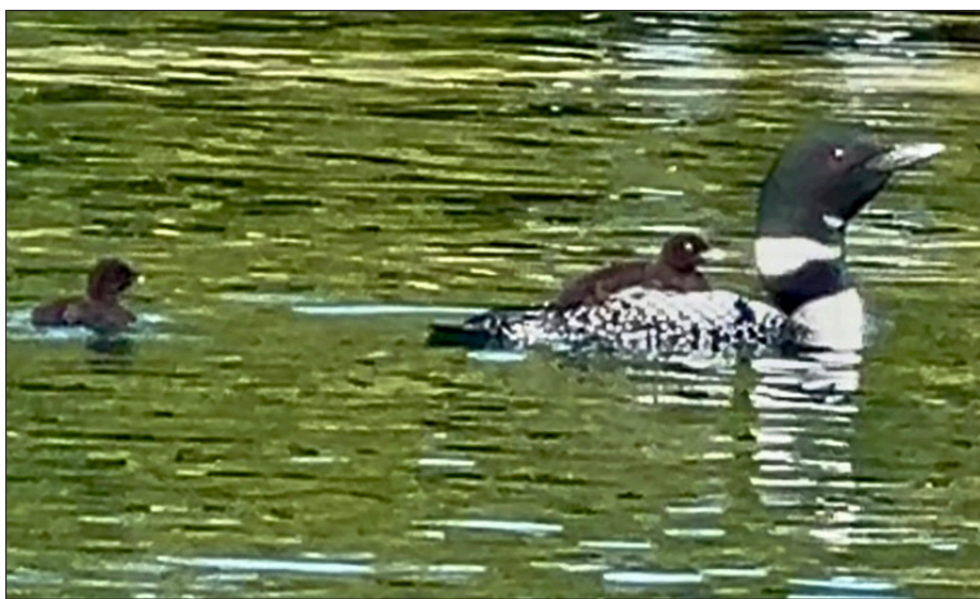
the endangered list. Today, loons are no longer considered endangered in the state. There are just over 100 breeding pairs, due to the monitoring, management and public outreach that Hanson coordinates.

One breeding pair on Caspian Lake had hatched one of their chicks that same morning. Hanson announced the news and shared a video taken by Stew Arnold, citizen scientist and Greensboro resident, showing the newly-hatched chick.

To learn more about volunteering for the loon conservancy or to report loon sightings, email [ehanson@vtecostudies.org](mailto:ehanson@vtecostudies.org).

The event was sponsored by the Greensboro Free Library.

*Bianca Caputo is the library services librarian at the Greensboro Free Library.*



One recently hatched loon chick swims behind its parent while the other hitches a ride, Monday morning, June 16. The five and six day old chicks hatched last week on Caspian Lake

photo by Stew Arnold

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Trivia at Harry's Hardware & the Den, Tuesday, June 10 was led by Harry Besett (standing left) and Joe Nudell (standing right) who talk with final event winners, the Kenosha Kickers. photo by Paul Fixx

## Six Teams Vie for Trivia Night Crown

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – Trivia night at the Den at Harry's Hardware drew enough players to fill six teams, Tuesday, June 10, where Harry Besett and Joe Nudell created questions and led the event.

Besett and Nudell's blend of straight trivia and categories resulted in a combination of puzzle answers that combined the two. The category must then be discovered by the players, who assembled into teams of three and four.

The evening's questions began with, "What branch of the U.S. military was formed on June 14, 1775," recognizing the capitol city's planned June 14 celebration. The answer, Army, was followed by the answers, murder, pride, sleuth and parade, leading to the category "groups of animals, with an army of frogs, a murder of crows, and so on.

An answer for the category is harder to arrive at when a team fails to answer several of the individual questions leading to it.

The second category resulted in random U.S. cities and states, all of which were names of food items, such as Boston Cream Pie and Baked Alaska. The next category was planets, with Freddie Mercury and the Venus fly trap as answers.

The Kenosha Kickers had 18 points and the lead after not

missing a single answer in the first three categories. They were followed by Far and a Whey with 16 points and The Little Lion Who Roared with 14.

The Kickers came up short on the fourth question, gaining just two points as they missed coming up with U.S. coins, but returned to form with just one wrong in the next category, which included the answers John Jay, Ellen DeGeneres, camel hump, Abraham and Mount Mansfield, leading to the category Vermont mountains.

The final category featured the names of songs, a poem and a book that came to their authors in a dream.

In the end, The Kickers walked away with 31 points and the top prize of a single beer, followed by Far and a Whey with 24 points, The Little Lion with 22 and Defecto, Woodbury Bear Gryllz and Tomkin bringing up the rear.

Harry's Hardware & the Den is billed by its owners as New England's only bar in a hardware store. Since 1896 hardware has been sold at the 3087 Main St. location in Cabot where the store has served as a community hub. The store is now a women-owned and operated business that continues to sell tools, hardware, lawn and garden products, livestock supplies, feed, pet food, Vermont craft beer and cider

Future trivia events have not yet been scheduled.

## U.S. Route 2 Resurfacing Continues

by VTrans

CABOT, MARSHFIELD – Construction continues this week on U.S. Rte. 2 from the Marshfield/Plainfield town line to the intersection with Vt. Rte. 15 in West Danville. Monday, June 16, crews were to place durable pavement markings at the Park & Ride in West Danville. Through Friday, June 20, they will continue to pave side road approaches and driveway aprons on U.S. 2 in Cabot and West Danville. In the case of rain, crews will

place shoulder gravel to back up the new pavement on U.S. 2 from the intersection of Vt. Rte. 232 in Marshfield to the old U.S. 2 intersection in Cabot.

From 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., motorists should anticipate minor delays and alternating one-way traffic on U.S. 2 from the intersection with Vt. 15 in West Danville heading west to the Marshfield town line. Flaggers and uniformed traffic officers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone.



A VTrans construction crew installs center line rumble strips during the resurfacing of U.S. Rte. 2 photo courtesy VTrans



The Early Music Group at the Greensboro United Church of Christ, (from left) Tom Anastasio, Hal Parker, Heloise DeGrugillier, Tricia Kammerer, Sonia Dunbar and Gina Jenkins, had a workshop with Heloise DeGrugillier on June 13. DeGrugillier is a performer and teacher from the Boston area, and has performed with the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Camerata, and Piffaro. The Early Music Group provides the prelude and postlude music for the church service every last Sunday of the month. courtesy photo

### OUR E-MAILS

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# EDITORIAL

## An Ode To Greensboro

Having entered my sixth month as a staff reporter for the Gazette, I have begun reflecting on my start in journalism, and the relationship the media has with our surrounding communities. Of the 11 towns we cover, I began my career by attending the Hardwick, Greensboro and Woodbury select board meetings.

I am grateful for having the opportunity to build my skills over time, all the while learning how local government operates. Moreover, I have developed an understanding of the importance of the work of our select boards and town officials.

In my coverage I inevitably noticed how each town is different, as is each board and the people on them. Something key I have noticed is the different levels of community engagement across each town. While attendance ebbs and flows, depending on the agenda item, one town has continuously impressed me over the past months.

When comparing my coverage of Greensboro to other area towns, I find myself taken aback at the contrast in civic engagement. Others and I have noted a consistent community presence at these meetings, a notable feat for a small town. Some attend with specific interests, others simply seek to offer thoughtful contributions to community discourse. Some attend purely for fun, simply observing the proceedings.

The citizens of Greensboro make their voices and faces known to the select board. In a world where apathy is on the rise, it is encouraging to witness a steady, consistent show of genuine passion and concern.

While some matters garner more attention and thus require more discussion, this level of engagement reflects a sense of responsibility and care from the people of Greensboro. I'd prefer a lengthy agenda and genuine concerns to an empty room.

In this day and age of distraction, deflection and oftentimes indifference, it is heartening to see people care so wholly about their community.

Although I've only spent a year regularly attending area meetings, I've come to at least one conclusion; Caring about what's going on in your community is how you get things done.

**Raymonda Parchment, reporter**

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Leaders Make it Up as They Go

To the editor:

These days, we see plenty of leaders who seem to make it up as they go. They say one thing today and something else tomorrow. That kind of unpredictability is troubling enough. But there's another kind of danger in politics that's even more serious and it doesn't always make the headlines.

It's the leader who believes he's been chosen by God to make decisions for the rest of us. Not as a matter of personal faith but as a reason to turn his private religious beliefs into public law for everyone.

That's the kind of leader we have right now in Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. And to be clear, this isn't my opinion: this is how he describes himself.

When asked about his political views, he said: "Go pick up a Bible off your shelf and read it. That's my worldview." He has said God placed him in his position "for this specific moment in this time." He calls the separation of church and state "a misnomer," meaning he doesn't believe religion and government should be kept separate.

Here in Vermont, and right here in Hardwick, we respect each other's beliefs. We don't all believe the same things, but we recognize that freedom means

living alongside people who see the world differently.

Speaker Johnson has used his office to push laws that would take away freedoms based on his religious views. He introduced a national bill that would prevent schools from even mentioning LGBTQ families. He's supported laws that could ban abortion, restrict fertility treatments, and allow businesses to refuse service to same-sex couples, all rooted in his personal interpretation of religion.

This isn't about protecting religious freedom. It's about using the government to enforce one set of religious rules on everyone else.

That's exactly why the Founders created the separation of church and state: not to diminish faith, but to protect both faith and freedom. When one person's religion becomes the law of the land, everyone's freedom is at risk.

Leaders who don't know what they're doing are dangerous enough. But leaders who believe God gave them authority to rule others, those are the ones we really need to watch.

Freedom doesn't protect itself. We need to stay alert and speak up. Right now, it matters.

**Jeff Pierpont  
Walden**



## A World Without the Hardwick Gazette is a World Without Truth

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# THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. We might rarely withhold the writer's name with good cause. Letters are limited to 400 words and must be addressed to the Gazette's readers, not to individuals public figures or organizations. Opinions longer than 400 words on topics of current and local interest to readers in our 11-town coverage area may be considered for publication. Thank you notes are not considered to be opinions and will not be printed as letters from readers.

Letters to the editor require the writer's name, town of residence and phone number. Letters and opinions may be mailed, e-mailed or brought to our office. Letters and opinions are the opinion of the author. Editorials are the opinion of the editor and not the staff or publisher.

**Submissions of Content and Deadlines:** The Hardwick Gazette is published late on Tuesday each week with Wednesday's date. Submit your community event information, announcements, opinions, press releases and business news the Friday before publication by 5 p.m. Local news and sports items, letters to the editor and church submissions are due Monday by noon. Deadlines may be earlier for holidays. Obituaries may be submitted at any time. We make every attempt to confirm receipt of obituaries by noon the next day our office is open. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week's edition. When sending photos, please send unedited files in the largest size available to ensure the best page and web presentation.

We make every effort to include all submissions with timely content in the earliest possible edition. Call with requests to include submitted content in specific issues. Submissions may be edited for style and length. We cannot guarantee publication dates.

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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Immigration Bans Weaken National Security

by Rep. Becca Balint

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, the Trump administration escalated its attack on immigrants by issuing a new travel ban. The proclamation bans immigrants and visitors from 12 countries and severely restricts immigrants from seven more. This move does nothing to make us safer or lower costs for working people in this country. In fact, Trump’s xenophobia and deliberate targeting of travel from Muslim-majority nations will only inflame international tensions and weaken our national security.

Here are the facts. The ban

went into effect on Monday, June 9. With very limited exceptions, citizens of these countries are barred from traveling to the United States: Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Trump’s order also includes travel and visa restrictions for citizens of Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. The proclamation warns that Egypt may be added to the list.

Importantly, this ban does not affect the immigration status of people already in the U.S. The proclamation does not give the

government the power to revoke anyone’s visa.

I’m incredibly concerned about the impacts this ban will have on all immigrants, particularly our Afghan allies here in Vermont, many of whom served alongside U.S. troops and were evacuated in 2021 with the promise that their families and children could join them within a year.

The Trump administration can’t get their story straight when it comes to Afghanistan. On one hand, Afghanistan is included in this new travel ban because of the dangers posed by the Taliban. On the other, Secretary Noem recently

terminated protections for Afghans legally residing in America on the baseless claim that the security situation and economy there have improved enough that returning does not pose a threat to personal safety. One of these has to be false.

The truth is that this is not a rational policy. It’s based on bigotry, hatred, and cruelty. I have joined my colleagues in calling on Secretaries Noem and Rubio to explain or defend this destructive policy. I will continue to oppose these hateful, anti-immigrant actions taken by Trump and his administration.

*Becca Balint represents Vermont in the U.S. Congress.*

## ANOTHER OPINION

### Rural Places Need Federal Partnership: Philanthropy Can’t fill this Funding Gap

by Rob Riley, Maura Adams

CONCORD, N.H. – The Northern Forest Center partners with rural communities to create places where people can thrive, and where the forested landscape provides rich opportunities for recreation, economic vitality and ecological stewardship. For more than 25 years we have worked with local, state and federal partners across all political parties to invest in the region’s people and its future. And when it comes to advocacy and public policy, we prefer to talk about what we are for, rather than what we are against.

Today, however, we feel compelled to raise our voice against budget and program cuts by the current federal administration that are gutting essential resources for rural communities. Our position is driven not by politics, but by data and people from across the region we serve.

In April, we informally surveyed 150 nonprofit organizations and municipalities across the Northern Forest region of Northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York to learn how they were being impacted by recent changes in federal policies. Sixty percent of the 79 respondents reported that they rely on federal funding for at least 20% of their annual budget.

The survey gave us a direct view into a rural-specific sample that revealed the significance of canceled contracts, eliminated grant programs and fewer federal staff. These 79 respondents alone reported a loss of at least \$18.1 million in canceled or frozen grants

or funds no longer available, citing 20 federal agency programs.

The cuts are putting nonprofit services at risk nationwide. In the Northern Forest region, cuts affect a wide range of projects that had been designed to revitalize communities – 200 units of housing in a single small town, conservation easements, community facility repairs, trail construction, water systems, food pantry provisions, downtown tree planting, sewer system upgrades, regional promotion, culverts for flood mitigation. The list goes on, well beyond the organizations in the Northern Forest Center’s direct sphere.

In addition, organizations and municipalities have been thrown into uncertainty, losing their ability to plan, hire staff and launch or deepen programs. More than 20 respondents expect that they will need to decrease programming and staff this year. Also evident in responses is the toll on people’s psyches. Respondents said the situation is “creating a sense of unease, which saps energy and morale,” and that staff feel rampant “uncertainty and chaos.”

These draconian cuts were not necessary. Having managed dozens of federal grants ourselves, we’re well aware that government regulations and processes can feel onerous and inefficient. A thoughtful, wholesale review of agencies, programs and systems could reveal many opportunities for improvement.

But indiscriminate slashing of staff and programs is only going to worsen economic prospects, setting back the positive momentum many rural places have begun to experience since the pandemic. Reform

can be valuable; destruction for its own sake is simply violence.

Ninety-two percent of affected respondents said they would need more non-federal grants and donations to make up for federal support. But philanthropy can’t fill this drastic funding gap. Rural places need game-changing investments in order to secure a diverse and robust economic future, and the federal government is a crucial partner in delivering them.

The Northern Forest Center will remain a steadfast partner to rural communities and to federal agency staff who deliver programs and funding across multiple admin-

istrations. We call on the current administration to reconsider its slashing of rural funding programs and the federal staff who deliver them and ask the members of the region’s congressional delegation to be vocal and active in defending these resources.

*This commentary is by Rob Riley and Maura Adams and was first published at VT Digger. Riley is president and Adams is director of community investment for the Northern Forest Center, a nonprofit investment and innovation partner dedicated to revitalizing Northern Forest communities in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.*

### OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org  
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### Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Monday, July 7, 2025, 7 p.m., at the Greensboro Free Library and via Zoom. The Board will consider a Conditional Use request by David Allen for a subdivision at 4550 Center Road. The application will be considered under the following bylaws: 2.5 Rural Lands District, 5.1 Zoning Permits (D) Subdivisions, and 5.4 Conditional Use. A site visit is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. The site visit and hybrid hearing are open to the public.

The meeting number is 824 558 6005. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at: +16469313860.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8245586005?omn=82343963212>

The materials under review are available at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, [www.greensborovt.gov](http://www.greensborovt.gov).

For further information, please contact Brett Stanciu, Zoning Administrator, at (802) 533-2640, or [zoning@greensborovt.gov](mailto:zoning@greensborovt.gov).

Greensboro Development Review Board



Signs marking the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve at the recently built Woodbury trailhead parking area along County Road as it passes Greenwood Lake, to the northeast of Hovey Road, marks a trail in the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness that leads to a waterfall after a short walk.

photo by Paul Fixx



An unnamed waterfall on an unnamed stream flowing into Greenwood lake is reached after a short walk on an easy, but unmarked trail from the trailhead along County Road, near Hovey Road.

photo by Paul Fixx

## ANOTHER OPINION

### When Schools Close it Will Be Our Doing

by Rep. Leanne Harple

MONTPELIER – June 16 was a really big day in the State House. We adjourned around 8:30 p.m. after finally passing the big H. 454 education bill that was the main reason we had to adjourn for two weeks and then come back.

I voted No, one of only a few in the Northeast Kingdom.

The actual passing of the bill was very strange. In the floor speech I gave before the vote I said, “I admit that this bill was written with good intentions. But intentions do not shelter children from harm. They do not preserve communities. And they do not absolve us from the consequences of bad policy.”

In closing I said, “If we pass H.454, we will look back on this day with regret. And when the schools close and the towns wither, it will not be some distant accident. It will be our doing.”

Preceding the vote, there was a motion to suspend the rules, much as had happened in the Senate only an hour earlier, which would have rejected the Committee of Conference report because many perceived it went beyond its scope of responsibility by adding new articles to the final draft, rather than just negotiating what was already there. If that vote had passed, we could have killed the bill entirely, but it did

not pass. However, because this was unexpected and different from the way that votes usually happen in the chamber, many members (including myself) became momentarily confused about where we were in the process. The Speaker of the House asked if we wanted to adopt the Committee of Conference report, and I think that many thought she was asking if we were ready to move forward with the vote following the discussion about rule suspension, and didn’t realize she was actually asking what our vote was. I realize this is a really nuanced difference, but none-the-less, the effect that it had was that it caused people not to be ready for the vote, and additionally, no one rose to be the one to ask for a roll call or to be the first to debate the bill on the floor, and so in just a few seconds, the Speaker asked for the vote, took Yes or No as a single-bodied voice vote, and announced we were sending the results of H. 454 to the Governor.

Needless to say, people were shocked and angry. So the way that it was handled was that instead of debating H. 454, we debated whether or not to send it to the Governor, and people with No votes read their statements and voiced their opposition in a roll-call that way instead. If you find all of this confusing (which many of us did), you can check out the video



Rep. Leanne Harple

on the House Legislative channel on YouTube, or give me a call (802) 673-6742).

I think that the historical importance, as well as the divisiveness of the vote on H.454 last night also overshadowed what I think is one of most major accomplishments of the session, which came just a few minutes later, and that is that we passed the state-wide cell phone ban in all public or private Vermont K to 12 schools that will go into effect next year. This is a major win for all schools, all teachers, and most importantly, all Vermont kids. I consider this the big win of the session that I can hang my hat on.

We also passed a very complicated housing bill that will hope-

fully lead to more housing in rural areas, and we tried to pass H. 91, a bill related to reducing homelessness that the Governor vetoed. His veto is actually really baffling.

In his veto statement, which I am sure you can find on his Facebook page or his website, he listed all of the things that need to be done to end homelessness permanently, and what is crazy is that his list was exactly what this bill would have done. It made me wonder if he had even read it, or if he was just vetoing it because we are Democrats. He also went on about how bad, expensive and ineffective the hotel-motel program is, and what is so ironic is that, by vetoing the bill, he is the one that is ensuring that either this program exists for at least another year, or that thousands of people, including children, pregnant women, elderly, handicapped people and veterans, are thrown out onto the streets, which is just cruel and heartless. We had a plan and he ignored it for politics.

There is a lot more that we accomplished this year, and I am going to be putting together an end-of-session report this week. My first session has been trial by fire, especially on the Education Committee, but I am so grateful to be there doing this work.

Leanne Harple is the Vt. State Rep. for Greensboro, Craftsbury, Albany and Glover.



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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Housing, Healthcare, Education Legislation Passed

by Sen. Scott Beck

MONTPELIER – Vermont's 2025 legislative session ended on Monday evening, normally the session ends around Mother's Day. November's election demonstrated that Vermonters wanted change and that work took longer than is customary. Significant changes were made to healthcare, housing, and education.

Going into the session everyone knew that healthcare was struggling. Vermont Blue Cross Blue Shield's troubles have been widely reported as have the finances of Vermont hospitals. But we learned in January and February that it was even worse. The legislature passed legislation that limits UVM Medical Centers' impact on the system and reduces the pricing of specific drugs that have become very popular and expensive. Drug pricing changes alone are projected to save our healthcare system \$47M.

Healthcare, in my opinion, is the most complicated and costly issue facing the legislature.

Vermont has some of the most expensive health insurance in the nation and UVM Medical Center might be the most expensive hospital in the world. Vermont's aging population is a significant cost pressure as is the dramatic increase in the cost of a number of popular new procedures and medications. Expect a lot more legislative work on healthcare in 2026.

Housing received a major boost in legislation passed this session. Laws were passed that would make it easier and less expensive for towns to provide the infrastructure required for home building. Builders indicate that home-building projects just don't pencil out for most Vermonters if the builder has to take on the public infrastructure expenses of roads, sidewalks, sewer and water. An expansion of Vermont's Tax Infrastructure Financing (TIF) program will make housing projects more affordable and ease Vermont's housing crunch. These changes along with last year's Act 250 changes should increase



Sen. Scott Beck

home-building.

Education transformation and funding reform have begun. H.454 passed both the House and Senate on the last day of the session and is now headed to the Governor's desk; Gov. Scott intends to sign it. H.454 effectively ends Act 60 in the 2028-2029 school year. Instead, districts will receive a 100% payment which reflects the cost of providing an excellent education. Districts may request up to 5% additional with voter approval.

H.454 marks a critical step

toward reforming the way we fund and structure our schools. It begins to shift the system toward greater sustainability and predictability, so communities can plan responsibly and families can better afford to live and thrive in Vermont. Importantly, almost every town in Vermont will see lower home-stead property taxes under this bill compared to the unsustainable trajectory that Vermont is suffering from.

H.454 is not the last word on education reform. Many critical decisions will need to be made in 2026 as well, including governance reform and how to fund secondary education and career and technical education. Currently, Vermont has 119 school districts and 52 supervisory unions. A task force will meet over the summer and fall and then recommend a new district map in January to the legislature.

There are other issues as well. Please be in touch on issues that matter to you.

Scott Beck resides in St. Johnsbury, and is the Caledonia County Senator.

## FAUX GNUS

DAVID K. RODGERS

### More Executive Orders To Expect Soon

by David K. Rodgers

Faux Gnus Presents More Malodorous Executive Odors (sic) from the (Some Cards Missing) deck (sic) of the Oval Orifice (sic) in the Whites Only House of President-for-Life-Trump.

CRAFTSBURY – #101,728. Take a Billionaire-to-Lunch Program: Everyone earning less than a million dollars a year will be required to take a billionaire oligarch to lunch once a week at the most expensive restaurant in the area.

#53,907. Since transgendered kids playing sports and using bathrooms is the most important problem facing this nation today, I am declaring a National Emergency, suspending the Constitution and banning all future elections.

#2,931. Make a Constitutional Amendment preventing

transgendered kids from using any bathrooms, public or private.

#98,503. Ban all news media except Fox Noose (sic), Truth Social and Musk's X.

#703,295. Anyone who laughs at President-for-Life Trump, in public or private, will immediately be arrested and sent to El Salvador. A special Laugh Police will enforce this through the Surveillance State.

#2,063. Anyone drawing short mustaches on pictures of the Friendly Fuhrer will be sent to a concentration camp.

#701,395. Everyone will be required to have a copy of Mein Kampf on their bedside table. Aryan women who have a dozen or more Aryan children will get a substantial monetary award and a gold (plated) medal.

#173,296. No one can tell me what to wear to a funeral!

#5,602. Any company or organization that gets money from the Federal Government must remove all = (equal) signs from their mathematical equations.

#207,536. The Surveillance State (S.S.) will henceforth monitor all cell phone and computer activity through the Thought Police and the new office of the Grand Inquisitor.

#507,913. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) will be renamed the Klueless Klutz Klan, now that Donald Musk, President-for-life No. 2 has left.

#173,852. All officers arresting immigrants and enemies of the Fearless Leader will wear masks, black clothing without identification and use unmarked vehicles.

#995,073. A new edition of the Old and New Testament will be printed, called the Trump Bible (The Revised Standard Perversion),

taking out all the woke words like love, peace, compassion, charity, etc., and previous editions will be confiscated and burned.

#729,853. Change MAGA to MRGA (Make Russia Great Again).

#217,304. Give the Presidential Meddle (sic) of Honor to the Heritage Foundation for its 2025 Friendly Fascism Project.

#50,738. All future taxes and expenses owed to the Federal Government will have to be paid with Trump Family Cryptocurrency.

Brought to you by the Banana Republicans, the 2025 Friendly Fascism Project, Nails in the Coffin of Democracy, Mindless Puppets of Fox News, Immunity = Impunity, 1984 + 40, the Trumpenstein Corporation, the Kook Brothers and Endless Evil.

And remember: "Every day is April Fools Day!"



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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## A View of my Beloved Country

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Making hay while the sun shines and the roads are free of slippery impediments to travel, I did a little extra driving this past weekend. In the process, I got a better-than-usual view of my beloved country, on the car radio, passing through small towns, on my cell phone, and from some old friends. Kiki, as constant a companion as is my cell phone, went everywhere with me. The moon roof on my little hybrid makes it possible to leave her in the car for a short while if I have to be away.

We left for my friend Bea’s house in Nahant on Friday, the thirteenth, listening on the way to a Harvard anthropologist discussing triskadekaphobia, the ancient superstitious fear of the number thirteen. Even presumably well-educated people still are extra-careful on the date, and many hotels and office buildings don’t have a thirteenth floor. I’m above all that, of course, and Kiki seems utterly unaware of it. But I’ll admit I was a bit more cautious than usual as we plunged once more into a congested I-93 and later, a seven-mile obstacle course on I-95.

NPR accompanied us most of the way, filled with news and speculation about the competing events of the following day (Flag Day, a mild-mannered holiday now, sadly, observed only spottily): President Trump’s 79th birthday, the date of a grand, North Korean style military parade in downtown Washington, DC; and the occasion of a nationwide mass protest against the administration in general, but especially its bully-boy tactics in collecting and exporting presumed undocumented immigrants. The prospects for a lively weekend were excellent.

Saturday morning we drove to the farmers market for bunny-proof plants (Nahant is loaded with cottontails, in spite of the supposed presence of packs of coyotes) and on the way drove haltingly past a pretty healthy turnout lined up along the oceanside promenade in Swampscott. The district congressman was scheduled to talk nearby at noon, and everyone clearly expected a stemwinder. I’m no judge of crowds, except their moods, but it looked to me like about two thousand fired-up people. There must have been a run locally on sign-making materials. The theme, as all across 50 states, was “No kings!” But

there was one sign suggesting the real problem: “No eggs in the supermarket. All the chickens are in Congress.”

Sunday, we drove an hour north for brunch with old friends of mine from Outward Bound days. They’d been busy the day before protesting in Portland. They were just back from a fairly long visit with a daughter and grandchildren in China, and were loaded with information about the changes since their years of working there: a preponderance of electric vehicles, blue skies over the cities in place of the thick smog that threatened the Olympics years ago. Listening, I got the distinct impression that Donald Trump ought to pay better attention to his security briefings and spend less time insulting the Chinese. This may be their century.

The parade was probably the least-reported major event of the weekend. It took place during the evening under a threat of thunderstorms, and from the reports I’ve been able to glean from the coverage, it was a somewhat desultory affair. The troops marched with a less-than-North Korean precision, historic armor creaked past a small crowd quiet enough that the squeaks were dominant. The president seemed to fall asleep, as is his wont lately, which the amateur geriatricians of the media pounced upon gleefully. To a performer obsessed with the size of his crowds, the contrast between, say, the incredible crowd of protesters on the Golden Gate bridge, so great that it actually depressed the roadway, and the empty seats along his parade route must still be unnerving, at least.

The news reports came in one after another: judges placing stays on executive actions challenged as illegal; millions of people, newly energized and connected by social media, organizing around a national theme to protest; Kristi Noem cosplaying in fireman’s helmet, flak jacket, and wetsuit; a United States senator taken down and handcuffed at a press conference for trying to ask a question. It gets better and better. Almost none of this is specifically the result of presidential actions; it’s created by the hundreds of semi-anonymous minions toiling away behind the scenes.

The metaphor that comes to mind is that of a wooden ship captained by a half-crazy skipper and infested with teredos. After a while the pumps can no longer keep up with the rot in the hull. With the skipper screaming orders, down she goes.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“WELCOME TO FLORIDA!”

## MEETING MEMO

**Wednesday, June 18**  
Wolcott Select Board, third  
Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, June 19**  
Hardwick Select Board, third  
Thursday of month, 6 p.m.

**Monday, June 23**  
Cabot School District Board of  
Directors’ Regular Board Meeting,  
6 - 8 p.m., Cabot School Library  
and remote option available.

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

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## VOICES OF SPIRIT

### Savor the World to Save What We Can

by Reverend Sarah Lammert

GREENSBORO – The writer E.B. White, author of “Charlotte’s Web,” once wrote, “Every morning when I wake up, I am torn between the desire to save the world and the desire to savor the world. This makes it hard to plan the day!”

I have loved this quote for many years now. These days, with the Marines being sent to quell citizen protests, asylum seekers being incarcerated and alarming climate news arriving every day, it could be tempting to lean into saving the world at the expense of savoring the world. I believe that we need to heed both impulses.

Savoring means we slow down long enough to look around at the beauty of our Vermont landscapes, breathing it in. It means taking the time for a meal with family or friends and tasting the good food we are eating. Savoring means listening to music without distractions, taking time to enjoy a good book or joining a community activity.

Recently a therapist colleague shared this with me: “A recent study published in the Journal of Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being (Tao et al., 2024) found that savoring plays a role

in enhancing overall psychological resilience. Savoring, tuning into what we enjoy in our lives, can help us to build our resilience over time.” So, it turns out there is science to back up E.B. White’s desire to savor the world. We need to invest in our own well-being and resilience if we are to have any energy for saving our beautiful and aching world. I’m even arguing for extra savoring time. The more we are tuned into the world, the more we can act with courage and power in whatever ways we are called to show up right now.

I’m finding myself out in the streets demonstrating more than I thought I would in this later chapter of life, and it takes some determination and grit to get out there (and does it always have to rain or snow when Vermonters gather outside the Statehouse?!). I’m also watching and listening to birds, reading more and taking long walks with friends. I’m savoring the beauty of the world; and in doing so, I find the hope I need to try to save what I can.

*Reverend Sarah Lammert is the founder of Shared Vision Consulting in Vermont and works as the Federal Chaplaincies Endorser for the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

## ANOTHER OPINION

### This Father’s Day, Let’s Commit to Saving Rural Vermont

by Rural School Community Alliance

MONTPELIER – As Vermont dads of children attending Vermont schools and members of the Rural School Community Alliance, we’re used to showing up for our kids: on the sidelines, at bedtime, in the school pickup line, and around the dinner table. Today, we’re showing up in a different way: to urge lawmakers to stand up for our kids and our communities as they consider final changes to the education transformation bill.

We love Vermont for many of the same reasons we choose to raise our kids here: the tight-knit communities, the open spaces, the chance to know your neighbors, and the powerful bond between rural schools and the towns they serve. But right now, that way of life is at risk.

The Rural School Community Alliance represents school districts, supervisory unions, and municipal leaders in more than 100 Vermont towns and villages along with numerous supporters from non-member towns throughout Vermont. Rural community schools are not just places of learning they are cornerstones of civic life, economic resilience, and family stability. As the future of public education in our state hangs in the balance, we ask the legislature to keep five key priorities in mind:

Priority one is creating transparency around the funding formula. Before any new funding system is enacted, Vermonters deserve a clear, honest accounting of how it will affect our communities, property taxes, and school budgets. We can’t make decisions in the dark and our lawmakers shouldn’t either.

Priority two is protecting democratic engagement. No school should be closed without a vote of the people. Period. Community input is essential to maintaining trust and ensuring decisions are made in the best interest of kids, families, and taxpayers. A full educational and community impact study should be required before any closure is even considered.

Priority three is creating guidelines not mandates. Don’t tie the hands of education professionals. Apply guidelines, not mandates for class, school and district size. Especially in rural Vermont, flexibility is needed to maintain optimal learning environments.

Priority four is respect

for what works in rural governance. Supervisory Unions strike a critical balance in Vermont, allowing for collaboration and efficiency without sacrificing local voice and oversight. Any governance changes must build on what works for rural schools, not impose a one-size-fits-all model that erodes accountability, weakens community bonds and likely only costs more money.

Priority five is having a real community voice in redistricting. The Redistricting Task Force must listen to the people. Community-developed proposals should be seriously reviewed and, where possible, integrated into final decisions. The best solutions will come from the ground up, not the top down.

Vermonters asked for tax relief not a complete transformation of the education system. After years of pandemic recovery, workforce shortages, and skyrocketing health care costs, this is not the time for sweeping, untested reforms that put rural kids and families at risk. Proposals to further consolidate our schools, without strong Vermont-based evidence of cost savings or academic gains, are deeply concerning.

Forced consolidation will hollow out our towns, reduce civic participation, and make it even harder for young families to stay in, or move to, rural Vermont. For us, this isn’t just policy. This is personal. Because when the local school closes, the town often fades with it.

This Father’s Day, we’re not asking for cards or neckties. We’re asking for leadership that values rural communities and keeps Vermont’s children at the center of every decision.

We urge legislators to do right by our kids and stand with rural families. Let’s build a future where every Vermont child, no matter their zip code, has access to a strong, vibrant community school.

Tim Scott, Peacham; Justin Park, Barnard; Ryan Williams, Marlboro; Peter Bent, Peacham; Matt Hennen, Moretown; Jamie Kinnarney, Calais; Seth McCoy, Randolph Center; Isaac Jacobs, Craftsbury; Eric C. Pomeroy, Peacham; Rob Backlund, Lincoln; Stician Samples, Westminster; Neal Yurick, Hardwick; Cameron Thompson, Newport Town; Dan Devine, Peacham; Kyle Landis-Marinello, Middlesex; Dwight Boerem, Wardsboro; Andrew Frost, Marlboro

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### High-Speed Internet Service Available

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – In a June 12 Front Porch Forum post, Kitty Ufford-Chase, community relations manager with NEK Community Broadband announced a “big expansion in Greensboro.”

The announcement provided a list of roads or road segments where high-speed internet service is now available in Greensboro. If a road joins up with those in the list, those residences can sign up for service, too, she said.

Greensboro Roads with new NEK Broadband Internet Service are Craftsbury and E. Craftsbury

Roads, Gebbie Road, Granite St., Harrington, Lake Shore, Lakeview, Loon, N. Shore and Shadow Lake Roads, plus Wilson St.

“In some cases only part of a road is ready,” wrote Ufford-Chase. “Check out the updated Service Map on [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org) to see where expansion work is currently being done or funding is being sought.”

“NEK Broadband is a not-for-profit Communications Union District (CUD) offering speeds of 100 Mbps and higher that will serve the needs of families and small businesses for decades to come. There are never any data caps,” she wrote.

# THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

# IN THE GARDEN

## Red Clover is State Flower of Vermont

by Nadie VanZandt

PANTON – Introduced to Vermont by European settlers, red clover has become an essential part of the state's landscape and identity. Designated as the state flower in 1894, this pinkish-purple bloom symbolizes Vermont's deep agricultural roots, particularly its dairy farming heritage, and serves as a living tribute to the land's rural character and economic lifeblood.

Originally from Asia Minor and southeastern Europe, red clover spread to the British Isles from Germany in the 1600s and was later transported to North America by English colonists.

Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) is an herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial belonging to the legume family. The plant typically grows erect stems with leaves composed of three leaflets, each including light-colored "V" shapes. Its pink to rosy-purple pom pom-like flower heads are dense oval or spherical clusters each consisting of up to 125 individual pea-shaped flowers.

Adaptable and relatively hardy, red clover thrives in U.S. Department of Agriculture hardiness zones 3 to 9. It prefers full sun and performs best when the temperatures are between 60 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit though it can tolerate both cold and heat. While it favors well-drained loamy soils,

it can also grow in a variety of soil types, including those with poor drainage, provided it receives moderate moisture during its growing season.

Like other members of the legume family (which includes peas and beans), the roots of red clover develop nodules when in contact with beneficial soil bacteria known as rhizobia. They convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that plants can use through a process called nitrogen fixation. This enriches the soil with nitrogen, an important macronutrient for plant health. Red clover can contribute 75 to 175 pounds of nitrogen per acre, an amount that underscores its value as a soil enhancer.

This nitrogen-fixing ability, combined with its fast growth, flexible planting schedule, tolerance for a variety of soil types and ability to break up compacted soils, makes red clover an exceptional cover crop. As the plant decomposes, it contributes organic matter that further improves soil structure and health.

To maximize nitrogen fixation, red clover seeds are often inoculated with *Rhizobium trifolii* bacteria and a sticking agent to encourage nodule formation. Inoculation is important in soils lacking sufficient populations of beneficial bacteria.

Red clover is typically direct seeded in the spring (April to May) or in the fall, assuming optimal moisture conditions. Fall planting



*Red clover, the state flower of Vermont, is a versatile plant used for everything from cover cropping to culinary dishes. courtesy photo*

should occur at least six weeks before the first frost to allow the plant enough time to establish.

Farmers use red clover in a variety of ways: as hay, forage in pastures, as a cover crop or as part of a crop rotation system to improve soil health and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers. In addition to its agricultural benefits, red clover is a magnet for pollinators. Many insects are drawn to its nutritious pollen and nectar with bees and bumblebees serving as its most effective pollinators.

Red clover is also edible to humans. The mildly sweet flowers are the most palatable, often added to salads, soups, jellies and baked goods. The leaves can be eaten in salads or brewed into tea. The seed

pods are typically reserved for animal feed.

Historically, red clover has been valued for its medicinal properties. Native Americans used red clover infusions to treat various illnesses and applied it as an ointment for venomous bites. Its healing reputation spans ancient traditions across the globe.

Brought by settlers and embraced by generations of farmers, red clover reflects Vermont's deep-rooted traditions and pride in its rural character. Its designation as the state flower honors both Vermont's agricultural history and its enduring connection to the land.

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

## Alternatives to the Standard Tomato Cage

by Benjamin Block

MONTPELIER – For some people, tomatoes are the pinnacle of summer gardening. Who doesn't love fresh from the vine juicy tomatoes?

Tomatoes can be easy to grow with some inexpensive equipment and a little know-how about this crop. First, when choosing a tomato variety, recognize there is a distinction between determinate and indeterminate tomato varieties that can make a big difference in your garden.

Determinate varieties are bushy and compact. The standard tomato cages work well for these plants. On the other hand, indeterminate varieties continue to grow throughout the growing season and can easily reach seven feet tall!

For indeterminate varieties, consider one of three alternative trellis options for in-ground beds

or one alternative for growing tomatoes in containers.

The Florida Weave system is foolproof and economical. Basically, twine is used to weave among the tomato plants and the ends are anchored to a set of T-posts.

I recommend seven- to eight-foot T-posts to accommodate indeterminate tomatoes. With this setup, it is important not to mix and match indeterminate and determinate tomatoes because the weave is strongest when wrapped among all the tomatoes in a row.

The Conduit Trellis system uses more costly materials but is equally easy to install as the Florida Weave. Two vertical metal conduits and a single horizontal conduit create a tall, anchor point for twine to hang from.

Tomatoes are planted in line with the horizontal conduit and are supported by the twine using tomato clips. So, as the tomatoes grow, you simply add another clip

to the line every foot or so.

Hoop house growers utilize a similar trellis system called the Lower and Lean system. This system is unique in that there is no fixed amount of twine between the anchor point on the top and the tomato plant.

Rather, a spool (various options available on the market) feeds out more twine, which causes the stem of the tomato plant to sag. This is useful to keep the top of the tomato plant within easy reach while preventing the tomato from making contact with the soil (where potential soil pathogens exist).

Lastly, for those gardeners growing in containers in small spaces, consider high quality, tall tomato cages on the market that will support tomatoes as they grow tall.

Many are made of durable plastic or steel and come in a variety of aesthetically pleasing shapes and colors. My recommendation for container tomato gardeners is to



*Indeterminate tomato varieties can grow several feet high so will require staking using one of several trellis options available to support growing plants. photo by Kathas Fotos*

invest in high quality trellises and consider determinate tomato varieties to avoid the frustration of your tomatoes overgrowing and/or toppling your cages.

With some upfront investment in equipment that can be reused year after year, tomato growing can be an enjoyable and delicious endeavor.

*Benjamin Block is a UVM Extension Master Gardener intern from Montpelier.*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Goldenrod Crab Spider Master of Disguise

by Lee Toomey

BURLINGTON – On a spring morning walk, I stop to smell a painted trillium and am greeted by a goldenrod crab spider (*Misumena vatia*). Bending down for a sniff of the white and pink blooms, I am face to face with the perfectly camouflaged white spider, hidden thanks to a remarkable color changing ability.

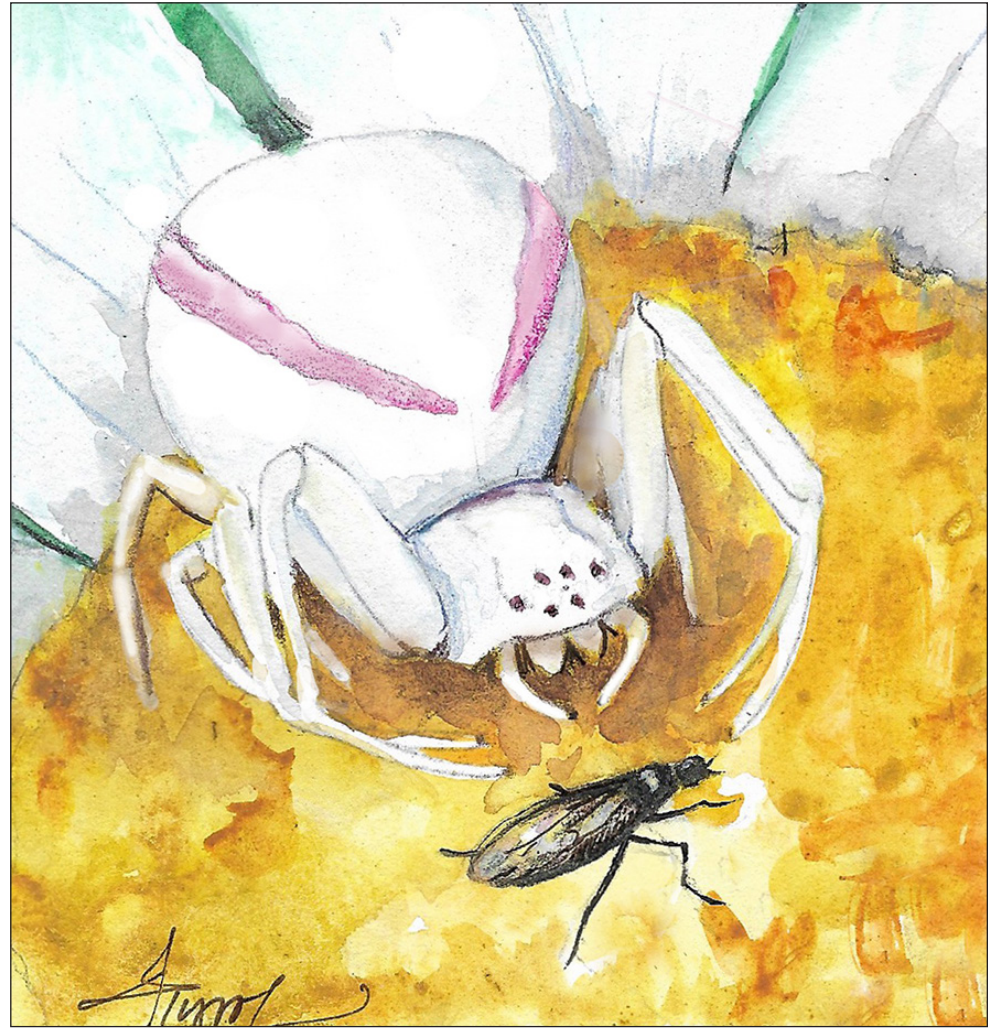
A member of the family Thomisidae, goldenrod crab spiders are both crabby and spider-y. A medium-sized crab spider, these creatures are familiar garden visitors across southern Canada and the United States. They are typically white or yellow with two pink or red bands along the sides of the abdomen. A sexually dimorphic species, females can weigh 100 times what a male weighs. One of the key identifying features for the species is the arrangement of the spider's forelegs, known as raptorial limbs. The two front legs are positioned skywards rather than forwards, twisting them into a laterigrade, or crablike, posture, not dissimilar to the smartphone shrug emoji. When startled, they crabwalk.

Unlike most spiders that spin webs to catch their prey, this sit-and-wait predator saves its energy by hiding in plain sight. Taking advantage of attractive flowers, the goldenrod crab spider camouflages on brightly colored petals, waiting to pounce on unsuspecting pollinators such as flies and bumblebees.

External digestion allows them to capture and consume insects that are unusually large compared to their body size. First, the spider grasps prey with its legs and immobilizes it with venom. Then, the spider injects the prey with powerful enzymes, liquifies their insides and slurps out the tissues.

Goldenrod crab spiders are also a bit chameleon-y. They are unique in their ability to change color to match the flower they are sitting on: if they're hunting on a daisy, they'll turn white, but if they're hunting on a sunflower, they'll turn yellow. This color change process from white to yellow and back again can take several days. (Admittedly unlike chameleons, who can change almost instantaneously.) Arrangement of their eyes allows them to see the plants and their own bodies simultaneously, so, to match their outfit to the flower, they likely eyeball it.

The crab spider's ability to change its appearance is a result of the concentration of its body pigments. The spider is covered by a transparent cuticle. Below, underneath the exoskeleton, is the hypodermis, aka the color factory. Inside, pigments called ommochromes produce bright yellow, and refraction of guanine crystals produces white. When light lands on a spider, the color reflected is a combination of the pigment contents. Basically, if the spider wants to appear more yellow, it builds more ommochrome granules. If it



Crab Spider

wants to appear white, it breaks those granules back down again.

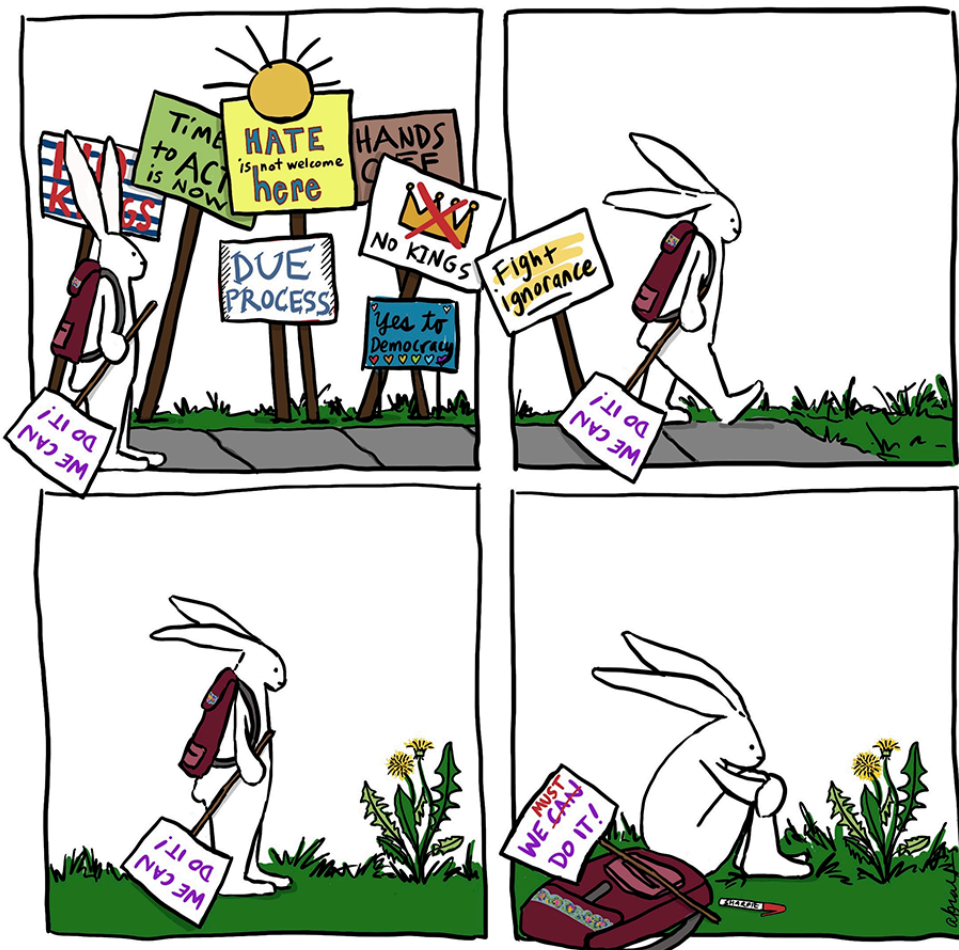
Though the phenomenon has been studied since 1891, the purpose behind the color change is still an area of active research. For centuries, the basic explanation was camouflage: blend into a flower and receive free meal delivery. But recent studies show that there might be more going on than previously thought. Because many insects see differently than humans via ultraviolet (UV) light, the crab spider may still be visible to a number of other insects. While the UV-absorbing spider might blend in on a UV-absorbing white flower, the spider might stand out on a UV-reflecting yellow flower. But this depends on the insect. One study found that honey bees may use green signal receptors unless they are very close to flowers, meaning the spiders stay well-hidden despite a UV color contrast, while another study found that honey bees can detect the contrast in colors, and may actually be indifferent to it. More research is needed on the

topic. So why bother changing color at all? Maybe the reason is both defensive (to hide from predators like birds) and aggressive (to lure prey). In some cases, the UV contrast might actually attract an insect, like a glowing nectar guide. Or it might help protect them from solar radiation. Either way, scientists say the skill is unlikely to be solely due to chance.

Goldenrod crab spiders appear on a variety of flowers that bloom over much of the spring, summer, and fall. By the time the spiders have mated, and young spiderlings have hatched, late blooming goldenrod species provide a reliable hunting ground and a good opportunity for observation. These color-changing phenoms are common in New England woodlots and meadows but are often missed, so keep your eye out while you stop to admire the flowers.

Lee Toomey is an ecologist currently living in Burlington. They enjoy looking around for things outside. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

## In My Nature by Abrah Griggs





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# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Support Vermont's Pollinators in a Garden or Back Yard

by Izzy Wagner, VTDigger

VERMONT – Pollinators play a substantial role in Vermont, with 60% to 80% of the state's wild plants dependent on them to grow, but the typical American lawn may be helping drive them toward collapse.

In 2024 alone, U.S. beekeepers lost an unprecedented 70% to 100% of their managed honeybee colonies. But in Vermont, native bees are under the biggest threat of decline, according to Leslie Spencer, a University of Vermont Ph.D. candidate and Gund Institute fellow.

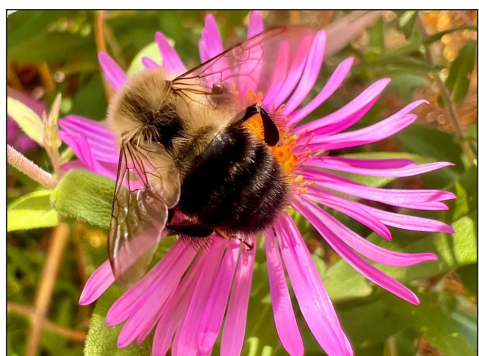
Spencer and other researchers say grass-only yards that lack food and shelter for pollinators are part of the problem, in addition to pesticides and temperature fluctuations due to climate change.

Lawn care campaigns like “No-Mow May” have grown in popularity, encouraging residents to pause mowing for a month to support insects emerging from overwintering. But protecting pollinators requires more than a single-month pause: it demands long-term, practical changes to how people manage their yards, according to Amber Jones, a staff biologist at the Vermont Center for EcoStudies.

“I think the first step is cultivating a safe haven,” Jones said. “Our yards should be pollinator and animal habitats. They shouldn't be bare wastelands for acres, if we can help it, because that just doesn't benefit the wildlife.”

Sustainable changes can include things like adding more native plants to your yard, constructing a pollinator garden or leaving some sections unmowed to help wildlife thrive. There are a few ways Vermonters can make their gardens and yards more sustainable.

A rule of thumb to follow when planting for pollinators is to add native species because these plants coevolved alongside Vermont's hundreds of native bee and



A common eastern bumblebee lands on a flower in White River Junction on Oct. 4, 2024.

file photo by Taylor Haynes, VTDigger

insect species, Spencer said.

Native wildflowers as well as orchard and berry-producing shrubs provide nectar and shelter for bees and insects and can beautify your garden in the process, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Some flowering plant options include: easier-to-grow starter plants such as goldenrods, milkweed and coneflower; popular wildflowers like native azalea, wild bergamot, violets and black-eyed Susan; and shrubs like crabapples, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries and roses.

Determining the site conditions can help assess what plants will grow best, but whether it is sand, clay, wet or dry soil in the outdoor space, native plants can grow. Most importantly, pollinator gardens should last year-round, Spencer said.

“You want something that blooms each month of the growing season,” she said, from April all the way to the autumn frost.

The Fish & Wildlife Department has a seasonal list of pollinator-friendly perennial species that includes each plant's bloom months and height.

Some gardeners may want to consider replacing or supplementing a traditional lawn or turf grass with low-growing alternatives, which can be an easy way to make your yard more ecologically beneficial, according to the Vermont Wildflower Farm. In Vermont, these traditional lawns can be swapped out for a variety of flowering ground-covers.

Clover requires less watering and maintains a vibrant green color.

Selfheal is a low-growing purple-flowered plant that thrives in lawns and supports native bees.

Wild strawberry offers food for pollinators and people with its flowers and edible berries.

Creeping thyme is a drought-tolerant herb and slow but effective ground cover.

Some of these alternatives can grow in lawns without being planted, such as wild strawberry plants and violets. According to Jones, simply raising the deck of your lawnmower four inches high can preserve these plants even as they grow among turf grass.

Lawn alternatives can boost biodiversity while creating a visually appealing yard. In addition, they are resilient, often requiring less mowing, watering and chemical intervention than traditional grass, according to the North



A bee lands on a flower at Billings Farm in Woodstock on Sept. 21, 2024.

file photo by Taylor Haynes, VTDigger

American Butterfly Association.

If opting to mow less, shrinking a lawn over time can also mitigate some of the invasive plants that can arise as a result, such as barberry, garlic mustard and even shrub honeysuckle. By watching out for invasives in concentrated areas, gardeners can quickly identify and remove them.

Spencer said another option is to “soften the edges” of a lawn, or put perennial garden beds on the perimeter to reduce the amount of grass in the area.

“Most of us aren't using the entirety of our maintained lawn space,” she said. “So you can either put in perennial beds or stop mowing bits of your lawn to really create some sort of wild edges.”

The choice to cultivate a wilder, more biodiverse outdoor space also sparks curiosity about why mowed and manicured yards have become common practice, Jones said.

Trimmed grass is part of a uniquely American homeowner

aesthetic. With more than 40 million U.S. acres covered by lawns, they are the single largest irrigated crop grown in the country.

An estimated two-thirds of Vermont's population live in rural areas, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grass-only lawns are common in these rural and residential spots, but they rely on pesticide and pollution-inducing fertilizer treatments while offering little to no food or habitat for wildlife, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

Although lawns can be used for sports or recreation, Spencer pointed out the low biodiversity, which are a major drawback for wildlife. Pollinators need varied habitats, which gardeners should be mindful of all year, Jones said. In the fall, insects nest and hibernate in hollow stems and sticks. The leaf litter and debris we often clear or leafblow could be instead used by bees, caterpillars and overwintering insects, she said.

“The lawn is not the only way to have a landscape,” Spencer said. “We put so many resources into creating a lawn because of this American status symbol that really permeates our residential culture.”

Even for those who cannot alter their lawns, due to rental agreements or homeowners association rules, Jones and Spencer agreed there are other impactful ways to support pollinators. Spencer recommended planting native species in container gardens and advocating against pesticide use.

“There are hundreds, if not thousands, of native pollinators that need protecting,” she said. “Most people don't even realize there's a whole world of insects right beneath our noses.”



Vermont Center for EcoStudies biologist Amber Jones and biologist intern Pia Carman count invertebrates collected from a lawn for the Upper Valley Backyard Tick Project.

photo courtesy of Gita Yingling

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Energy, Climate Action Committee Meeting, June 18

GREENSBORO – June 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the Greensboro Energy and Climate Action Committee will meet at the Greensboro Free Library, located on East Craftsbury Road. This is a hybrid meeting and all are welcome.

## Flood Safety in Community Presentation, June 18

HARDWICK – There will be a presentation on the Flood Safety Act, Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m., in the third floor of the Hardwick Memorial Building and on Zoom.

The Flood Safety Act (Act 121), passed by the Vermont Legislature in 2024, takes a comprehensive approach to reducing flood risk across the state. The legislation strengthens protection of river corridors, promotes the strategic removal of derelict dams, and supports the restoration of wetlands to absorb and store excess floodwater. Most importantly, it represents a critical step in safeguarding lives and property from future storm events.

In anticipation of new statewide river corridor protection standards, Lake Champlain Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy are partnering, at the request of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to conduct outreach with municipalities. The goal is to help communities understand the details, implications and timeline for implementing these protections and to answer any questions related to the Flood Safety Act.

The presentation is open to all community members.

## World of Mushrooms, June 24

GREENSBORO – Annabelle Langlois from Kingdom Fungi will present a program about mushrooms at the Greensboro United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, June 24, 5 p.m. The program will describe these organisms and how they live their secret underground lives, then learn how to tell mushrooms apart. The event is free and open to all ages.

Call the Greensboro Free Library for more information at (802) 533-2531 or email greensboroassistant@gmail.com.



A program to identify mushrooms, like this morel mushroom found in East Hardwick on May 25, will be presented on June 24.

photo by Bianca Caputo

## Habitat For Humanity Volunteers Needed

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Habitat for Humanity Initiative is seeking volunteers the week of Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27, to help erect the walls and roof trusses that will be delivered and craned into place by Bensonwood Homes that week. Volunteers are needed for supporting tasks including lifting and carrying, drilling, taping and screwing. Some tool knowledge is helpful but not required. Volunteer work days and sign-ups are managed through the online system, Volunteer Up. The work day is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., divided into morning and afternoon shifts. Volunteers can sign up for one shift or the full day at volunteerup.com

## Summer Reading Sign-Up, June 20

HARDWICK – Friday, June 20, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., youth of all ages can go to the Youth Booth at the Hardwick Farmer's Market to sign up for the summer reading program. Participants will receive goodies and have a chance to win raffle prizes, which will be announced at the end of the program.

For more information, contact jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hard-

# EDUCATION

## MacHarg Named to Dean's List

HAMDEN, Conn. – Aileen MacHarg of Marshfield, Vt., has been named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University. To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

## Hazen Union Students Win in Poster Contest



Winning posters by Hazen Union students Ella Renaud, Brianna Holbrook, Ava Gallison and Karli Patridge feature area covered bridges.

SAXTONS RIVER – Four students from Hazen Union School were winners in the Vermont Covered Bridge Society's (VCBS) poster contest held for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The winning entries were: first place, Ella Renaud with her depiction of the A.M. Foster Covered Bridge in Cabot; second place, Brianna Holbrook who focused on the Moxley Covered Bridge in Chelsea; third place, Ava Gallison who depicted the Church Street Covered Bridge in Waterville; and fourth place, Karli Patridge who included the Upper Cox Brook Covered Bridge in Northfield on her poster. Cynthia Camber, visual arts teacher at Hazen Union encouraged her students to participate and showcase their talent. Prizes for the top four winners included cash,

an award certificate, one-year VCBS student membership and a 25th anniversary tee shirt.

Governor Phil Scott signed a proclamation declaring August 2 to 9, 2025, as Covered Bridge Week in Vermont in recognition of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society's 25th Anniversary. In conjunction with these celebrations, VCBS sponsored the covered bridge poster contest open to all high school age students. All entries were submitted by May 1, and the final judging was done at the VCBS spring meeting on Saturday, June 7, in Saxtons River. The top four entries were chosen by all the members present.

For those interested in Vermont's Covered Bridges, see the website at [vermontbridges.org](http://vermontbridges.org) or contact Jeanne Beaudry at [vcbs.education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:vcbs.education@vermontbridges.org)

## CCV Graduates Local Students

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) earned associate degrees at CCV's 2025 Commencement on Saturday, June 7. They included Abigail Autumn Scribner, Cabot; Alan J. Celley, East Hardwick; Jasmine Raine Lane, Hardwick; Wendy E. Koponen-Robotham and Aedan Tether Scribner, Marshfield; and Darcy A. Bohannon, Wolcott.

## 2025 Graduation Schedule

- June 16 – Craftsbury 8th Grade Celebration, 6 p.m.
- June 16 – Hardwick Elementary 6th Grade Move-Up, 5:30 p.m.
- June 17 – Twinfield 8th Grade Step-Up, 5:30 p.m.
- June 18 – Wolcott 6th Grade Graduation, 6 p.m.
- June 21 – Twinfield Union High School Graduation, 11 a.m.

## OUR E-MAILS

[news@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.org)  
[ads@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:ads@hardwickgazette.org)

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Hardwick Gazette Joins The Vermont Journalism Coalition

by UVM Center for  
Community News

BURLINGTON – UVM’s Center for Community News (CCN) hosted its annual Vermont Journalism Conference on Friday in partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation, at which both organizations announced their support for the creation of a Vermont Journalism Coalition. The organization will promote long-term sustainability for Vermont news outlets.

The nonprofit association is the first to represent all entities producing journalism in the state, regardless of size, medium or business model. With the support of a part-time staff member, it plans to advocate for the rights of journalists, provide business and legal support to members, and raise awareness of the industry’s critical mission. More than 20 Vermont news organizations have signed on so far. [Ed. Note: including The Hardwick Gazette]

“Journalism has rarely faced as many threats as it does today, legal, financial, technological and otherwise,” said Paul Heintz, a senior adviser to the Center for Community News who is working to establish the coalition. “News organizations in the state must work together to

ensure that we continue to serve Vermonters, as we always have.”

At Friday’s conference, UVM’s Center for Community News and the Vermont Community Foundation’s Press Forward Vermont initiative announced an initial round of funding to support the Vermont Journalism Coalition for two years, making membership free to news outlets.

“Promoting a robust news ecosystem in Vermont is central to our mission at the Center for Community News,” said CCN Executive Director Richard Watts. “We are proud to support the establishment of this coalition, which will build on the news collaboration and innovation we’ve been growing at UVM for several years.”

“Access to local news and information keeps Vermonters informed and engaged,” said Holly Morehouse, Vice President for Community Impact at Vermont Community Foundation. “We are excited about the launch of the Vermont Journalism Coalition and the added strength it brings to the essential work of media organizations in our state.”

Friday’s conference at UVM’s Alumni House featured panels and breakout sessions designed to educate Vermont journalists and

brainstorm new solutions. A panel on the legal challenges facing the industry featured retired Vermont Supreme Court Justice John Dooley, ACLU Vermont legal director Lia Ernst, and Gravel & Shea First Amendment attorney Matthew Byrne.

Five policymakers, hailing from all three political parties,

were honored as “champions of Vermont journalism” for their work advocating for the industry and its principles. Recipients of the award were Lt. Gov. John Rodgers, Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Sen. Andrew Perchlik, Rep. Barbara Rachelson and Rep. Chea Waters Evans.



A panel discussion at the UVM Center for Community News Vermont Journalism Conference 2025 took on the topic, “Defending Journalism in Vermont and Beyond.” Panelists, Friday, June 13, were Lia Ernst, legal director, ACLU of Vermont; Matthew B. Byrne, attorney and shareholder, Gravel & Shea; John Dooley, former Vermont Supreme Court Justice and moderator Meg Little Reilly, managing director of the UVM Center for Community News.

photo by Paul Fixx

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Energy, Climate Action Committee Meeting, June 18

GREENSBORO – June Greensboro Free Library, located 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the on East Craftsbury Road. This Greensboro Energy and Climate is a hybrid meeting and all are Action Committee will meet at the welcome.

### Flood Safety in Community Presentation, June 18

HARDWICK – There will be a presentation on the Flood Safety Act, Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m., in the third floor of the Hardwick Memorial Building and on Zoom.

The Flood Safety Act (Act 121), passed by the Vermont Legislature in 2024, takes a comprehensive approach to reducing flood risk across the state. The legislation strengthens protection of river corridors, promotes the strategic removal of derelict dams, and supports the restoration of wetlands to absorb and store excess floodwater. Most importantly, it represents a critical step in safeguarding lives and property from

future storm events.

In anticipation of new statewide river corridor protection standards, Lake Champlain Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy are partnering, at the request of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to conduct outreach with municipalities. The goal is to help communities understand the details, implications and timeline for implementing these protections and to answer any questions related to the Flood Safety Act.

The presentation is open to all community members.



Current and former staff of The Hardwick Gazette visit and reminisce at the Vermont Journalism Conference on Friday at UVM in Burlington (from left) Paul Fixx, editor; Tommy Gardner, former Gazette reporter and editor, Vermont Community Newspaper Group; Raymonda Parchment, reporter, The Hardwick Gazette; Alex Strand, Gazette intern; Amy Kolb Noyes, former Gazette reporter and now a freelance journalist and Cassandra Hemmenway, editor-in-chief, The Montpelier Bridge. Not pictured are John Walters, board member, Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism and author, Vermont Political Observer and Mike Donoghue, former correspondent, The Hardwick Gazette, now a freelance writer, editor and executive director, Vermont Press Association.

courtesy photo



The Progress Pride Flag, designed in 2018, is flown in June at the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) in Greensboro. It is being held by Eleanor Guare, a member of the GUCC trustees committee. The flag incorporates the six rainbow colors of the Pride flag; LGBTQ+, with the blue, pink, and white colors of the transgender community; and black and brown stripes including queer people of color. photo by Hal Gray

## EDUCATION

### Upward Bound Provides Student Support

by VTSU

Education.

LYNDON – Vermont State University will help chart a course to a college degree with the support of Upward Bound, a free college preparation program available at VTSU. The program is open to eligible high school students from low or modest-income families who will be the first in their families to attend college.

Upward Bound, created in 1965, is one of the federal programs that support educational opportunities for Americans regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. This college preparation program offers free educational, cultural, and social activities funded by the U.S. Department of

The program provides year-round academic and career advising and coaching, a summer residential opportunity available each summer for up to six weeks, opportunities to develop leadership skills, fee waivers for AP and SAT exams and college applications, SAT exam preparation, as well as help completing financial aid and scholarship applications.

Upward Bound is available on three VTSU campuses. Craftsbury Academy and Hazen Union High School are served by the Lyndon campus. Each campus-based program serves students from high schools in the area. To participate in an Upward Bound program, visit [vermontstate.edu](http://vermontstate.edu)

## THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

### NOTICE TO WALDEN TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 4111 that the undersigned listers within and for the Town of Walden have this day completed the abstract of individual lists (abstract) of property owners as of the first day of April, 2025.

The Listers have this same day lodged the abstract in the office of the clerk for the inspection of taxpayers.

On the 18th day of June 2025 the undersigned listers will meet at the Walden Town Clerk's office, to hear appeals of taxpayers aggrieved by actions of the listers from whom timely grievances have been received.

To be timely, such grievance must be in writing and received (postmarks not accepted) by the close of business on the 18th day of June 2025.

At the close of grievance hearings, the listers shall make such corrections in the abstract as were determined upon hearing or otherwise.

Unless cause to the contrary is shown, the contents of said abstract will, for the tax year 2025/2026, become the grand list of the town of each taxpayer named therein.

Signed at Walden, in the County of Caledonia this 4th day of June 2025.

Listers of the Town of Walden  
Dia Michaud, Victoria Atwood

## OBITUARIES

### Richard William Davis

ALBANY – Richard William Davis, age 77, passed away Sunday, May 18, at his home in Albany, VT. Richard was born February 25, 1948, at the Brightlook Hospital in St. Johnsbury, the second son of the late Dr. Everett L Davis and Isabelle Farrar Davis.

Richard attended kindergarten at the Newport Eastside School, then at the Brookline, Mass., Baker School, and then returned to Newport to attend the Newport City Graded School when his family settled in Newport. He attended secondary school at the Sterling School in Craftsbury. After graduating from Sterling, Richard attended Vermont Technical College and majored in electrical engineering. Richard enlisted in the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and during his four years of service, he was assigned to Randolph Field Air Force Base in Texas, Shepherd AFB in Texas, Plattsburgh AFB in New York, Utaou AFB in Thailand and Loring AFB in Maine. His decorations and awards included NDSM, VSM/IBSS, RVCN, and AFM 900-3.

After his separation from the USAF, Richard resided at the Lake Hosmer Family Farm in Albany. During this time, he worked in farming, carpentry and masonry. Richard then worked for three years in electrical wiring and appliance sales and service. Richard became certified and registered in the profession of locksmithing, holding memberships in the Associated Locksmiths of America and the Green Mountain Locksmiths association. He was employed by Total Security Inc. of Irasburg for several years. In 2004, Richard then became an employee of Butler's Bus Service and drove the school bus for the Albany School system until his death. Richard was a dedicated bus driver over his last 20 years of service rarely ever missing a day of work. Richard was a member of the Hardwick American Legion, was a Silver Arrow Scout in Boy Scouts of America and a Boy Scout leader for the troops located in Eden. He also was a member of the Newport Post No. 798 VFW.

Family was extremely important to Richard. He enjoyed many special times with his immediate



Richard William Davis

and extended family and friends at Great Hosmer Pond in Albany. Richard loved spending time swimming, fishing and boating with his nephews and great nephews. Richard never wanted for material things and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life: a good steak on the fire, his favorite drink in his favorite plastic cup and an evening ride on his four-wheeler through the field on the family farm. On summer evenings, you would often find Richard at his well-loved picnic table at the lake or parked in his favorite spot in the corner of the field so he could capture the last ray of sunshine as it dipped below the horizon. The outdoors is where Richard found the most peace and happiness. Stopping for a moment and enjoying nature's simple beauty should be something we all strive to do each day. This lesson will be Richard's legacy to us all.

Richard is survived by sister-in-law Mary Davis of Albany; niece Jessica Trevits (Adam) of Albany; nephew Jonathan Davis (Lindsay) of Albany; nephew Jared Davis (Tracy) of Albany; nephew Ethan Davis (Lindsay) of Albany; and beloved great nephews, Connor and Nicholas Trevits of Albany, Asa and Eli Davis of Albany and Murphy Davis of Albany. Richard was predeceased by his parents, Dr. Everett L Davis and Isabelle Farrar Davis, his brothers, Terrence L Davis and wife Jane Chouinard Davis and Blaine G. Davis of Albany.

Arrangements will be handled by A.W. Rich Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., at the Albany Village Cemetery on July 12.

### OUR E-MAILS

[news@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.org)  
[ads@hardwickgazette.org](mailto:ads@hardwickgazette.org)

## Glorious Leader Offered Original Compositions, Mesmerizing Performance

### REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Glorious Leader, the solo project of Kyle Woolard, came to Greensboro on June 7, where he gave a mesmerizing performance, along with guest artist Jess O'Brien, at the Highland Center for the Arts.

In his original compositions he combined vocals and playing on the guitar, ukulele and small electric keyboard, melding with a background pre-recorded soundtrack. This was visually reinforced by a rhythmic, abstract light show by Cavin Meese, projected on a number of vertical boxes onstage, all seamlessly coordinated; quite a technological feat.

Woolard wore an elegant light blue jacket with gold braiding appropriate to his persona as Glorious Leader. He had a commanding stage presence throughout the evening, to which the audience responded enthusiastically.

Jess O'Brien started off the session with a fine song of her own, "These Days," the title of her recently released CD. The well-written lyrics

from the heart spoke to the celebration of being released from a dysfunctional relationship, no longer walking alone, crying or losing sleep, but now "I wake up and I'm smiling." Her voice is beautiful, naturally pure in tone and clear in her enunciation.

The second piece was likewise optimistic, where things were getting better and the refrain was "Hallelujah."

"Old War" was a powerful lament for the victims of endless wars where children die prematurely and survivors dig dead loved ones out of the rubble. "Rock My Soul" spoke to the sadness of a love gone south, with the audience joining in the refrain, "rock my soul." "Mary" was the story of an alcoholic husband, with the repeated pathetic pleas to his wife, "Won't you come downstairs, I need you."

Kyle Woolard then came on stage and sang with his warm expressive voice, while playing on a small electronic keyboard, a piece with lines like, "Why does this feel like the end?" and "We are pardoned." Altogether he performed 12 of his own works, but due to the volume of the instrumental background tape, it was difficult to hear the words of most of the selections. Thus it will have to suffice to give

a few of the texts from numbers he sang as published in his fast moving and curious fantasy novel, "How I Made My First Million."

The song "Wait" alludes to the roller coaster of romantic love with these verses: "What a shame that we don't treat our lovers/ the same way we treat our friends/ but we take for granted in each other/ we'll stick together to the end." And, "we can take just so much sunny weather/ before we need a storm to hit/ to create some darkness in the heavens/ and make us miss the sun again." And later, "What a grind, love turns into a mortgage/ but everybody settles in/ for the long ride, the payments get boring/ so let's make a mess of it/ till there is nothing around anymore/ till there is no one around anymore."

In "Can we don't though," an amusing title, emotional turmoil may be a spur to creativity for some artists: "tell me what you said/ I need the anger, the innuendo/ every pause, every crescendo/ I'll lock it in my head/ I'll replay it, analyze it/ add some chords and dramatize it/ give me something dark/ cause without it/ I can't write again/ like Hemingway without gin."

"I Don't Wanna Wait!!!" explores something of the inevitable underlying uncertainty of living with anyone: "can I touch you? To that part of the/ arrangement?"

Where is the line/ 'cause I sense you've got a finger on/ eject, and I can't read your eyes/ I don't want to wait till a moment too late/ to tell you what you mean to me/ but the second that I speak, we'll wake up from the/ dream, and you'll/ seem a million miles away."

Woolard also gave two songs from South America. The first, from Brazil, was entitled "The Girl from Ipanema," presumably after Antonio Carlos Jobin's very popular composition, but the words and melody seemed very different from the original's poignant evocation of unrequited love. After describing in some detail his adventurous trip to Ecuador, he sang a good tune about it.

Towards the end of the show Jess O'Brien returned to the stage and joined Woolard in a fine duet of their blended voices singing "Falling in Love With You," a song Elvis Presley made a hit out of in the 1950s.

Woolard's lyrics are quite sophisticated and reflect deeper personal experience, perhaps summed up by the observation that "there is no love without pain." He is clearly a born entertainer, his musical experiments are imaginatively different, and his charismatic performances leave a memorable impression. He already has gathered a loyal following and the audience gave him a hearty standing ovation.



Juneteenth will be marked at the Highland Center of the Arts in Greensboro by the East Coast Inspirational Singers, June 21. *courtesy photo*

## East Coast Inspirational Singers Mark Juneteenth at HCA

GREENSBORO – Mark Juneteenth with the vibrant energy of the high-spirited, Harlem-based supergroup, East Coast Inspirational Singers at Highland Center for the Arts on Saturday, June 21, at 7 p.m.

Moving audiences with harmony and an energetic and high-spirited style, the East Coast Inspirational Singers specialize in Gospel, R&B, Pop, Broadway, Jazz and Blues.

They are no stranger to the stage, having been featured in off-Broadway and Broadway shows such as Dreamgirls, Smokey Joe's Café, Ain't Misbehavin', Black Nativity, The Color Purple, Motown The Musical, RENT, Jesus Christ

Superstar, Hair and Showboat, with performances at world famous theaters like The Apollo, The Blue Note, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, and Carnegie Hall.

The group has toured with renowned artists including Josh Groban, Celine Dion, Alicia Keys, Mariah Carey, John Mayer, Patti LaBelle and many others, as well as made appearances on television shows such Good Morning America, Regis & Kelly, The Today Show, The David Letterman Show, The View and PBS.

Tickets can be purchased at [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org) or by calling (802) 533-2000.

## Vermont Supergroup Coming to Highland Center, June 28

by David Kelley

GREENSBORO – Leroy Preston, founder of the popular country band, Asleep at the Wheel, Taryn Noelle who was voted Western Swing Female Vocalist of the Year in 2019, and Paul Asbell, recognized as one of Vermont's greatest guitar players, have joined with Lucas Adler on drums, Michael Zsoldas on sax, Clyde Stats on bass and Chuck Eller on keyboards. Together they might be called a supergroup reminiscent of Crosby, Nash, Stills and Young. They will be performing at the Highland Center on Saturday, June 28.

Preston's song credits include many of Asleep at the Wheel's well known numbers including "The Letter Johnnie Walker Read." His songs have been covered by other notable artists such as Rosanne Cash ("My Baby Thinks He's a Train"), k.d. Lang ("Full Moon Full of Love"), Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, Los Lobos, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ruth Brown, Maria Muldaur, and countless others.

In 2023, Leroy enlisted the services of Unknown Blues Band veterans, Paul Asbell, Chas Eller, and



Leroy Preston

Clyde Stats, along with drummer Jeff Salisbury, to record a new collection of songs that Preston had written and as might be expected, great things happened. These new songs are a soulful blend of country, blues, jazz, and swing that create what Preston is calling, "a songwriter's album."

The Unknown Blues Band has backed up B.B. King alumnus, Big Joe Burrell for over 25 years. They have also toured extensively with blues icon, Paul Butterfield, as well as been the backup band for shows with New Orleans own, Marva Wright and Kenny Neal.

This top-notch supergroup is bringing their new style to uniquely American music and are performing on Saturday, June 28 at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro, Vermont. Tickets are available at [highlandartsvt.org/calendar/](http://highlandartsvt.org/calendar/)

# Bechdel's Book Talk Draws Supportive Fans

by Alex Strand

HARDWICK – A crowd filled the Hazen Union Auditorium last Friday to hear from award-winning cartoonist and author, Alison Bechdel. She discussed her newest comic novel, “Spent,” answered questions and signed books. “This is the very last stop on my cross-country book tour, and I am so excited to be finishing in Hardwick,” said Bechdel.

Members of the crowd included lifelong fans of the author, family friends and Hardwick locals. One couple was visiting from New Jersey on vacation, another had lived in the area their entire life.

Ruby Leslie, a Hardwick resident of over 40 years, came to support Bechdel because her daughter worked with the author on her previous book, “Are You My Mother.”

Olivia Gay and Janet Ansel were visiting from Calais. They are members of a book club with family members from across the U.S. Gay hopes to propose “Spent” as the book club’s next read.

The event’s location was moved multiple times, said librarian Diane Grenkow, due to the unexpected amount of ticket sales. The high school was chosen for its size.

“Spent” is a comic novel that includes both real and made-up details of Bechdel’s life in Vermont. The title has multiple meanings, she said on Vermont Edition. It references aging, exhaustion with the political and economic state of America and the literal



Alison Bechdel presents the dates for No Kings Day and other protests. photo by Alex Strand

process of spending and making money as an artist.

“I play around with what’s true and what’s fiction over the course of this story; one thing that’s true about this story is that I do live in Vermont, and the story is set in Vermont. Vermont is almost a character in this book,” said Bechdel. “I’m so grateful to Vermont. In many ways Vermont has made my life and my work possible. I’ve lived here since I was 30, and I’ve just felt very nurtured and sustained by our wonderful community and our beautiful landscape.”

The novel explores themes of capitalism in Bechdel’s life, as well as Republican administrations and Trump and pro-Palestine activism. She began writing shortly after Trump’s first term. She focuses on finding solidarity within her Vermont community,

and encourages readers to do the same.

“Another aspect of this book that is unfortunately completely true is the political backdrop. It’s tracking with all the terrible signs of a crumbling democracy that were going on in real time,” Bechdel told the crowd.

Bechdel showed scenes from the novel, explaining the use of characters from her original comic strip, Dykes to Watch Out For, which she stopped writing in 2008. Now, the characters have progressed; they have grey hair, and one couple has a child that is now college aged. The scenes she projected often brought the crowd to loud laughter as Bechdel spoke.

“It felt really good to come together with these old friends. They were just like the perfect companions for this moment, because they’re all still doing the vital community based work that they’ve been doing all along,” said Bechdel.

Bechdel’s partner, Holly, collaborated with her to color the illustrations.

Following her talk, she answered questions from the group, many of whom she knew by name, and signed books. Her final slide displayed information on the upcoming No Kings Day protests.

One crowd member asked about what brought Bechdel to Vermont. She came, and stayed, she said, because she was in love with the place, its mountains and has always felt safe to her, as a queer person, even in rural areas. She has lived in Vermont for 30 years.

## Whitewater Gallery Hosts Stark Retrospective

### REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

From this month into July the Whitewater Gallery in East Hardwick is featuring paintings by Kathy Stark of Craftsbury Common. As she writes in her overview of places she has exhibited over the years, “I am an abstract artist, since the 1980s. I have been working with repeat images. The focus has been on using a repeat mark to create paintings with depth, movement and light.”

In this exhibition her works can be grouped into three different phases: pieces primarily of colored dots, collages in horizontal bands with writing and abstract shapes combined in very studied compositions. They illustrate her explorations in being able to bring minute details into coherent wholes, much as Middle Eastern carpets manage to create a calm and harmonious unity out of numerous repeated elements.

The dot works at first suggest the pointillist technique of Seurat and other late Impressionists, but here they are not describing natural scenes. Rather, they have a

shimmering quality, comparable to the vibration of atoms I fields of energy at the most micro level of matter, where nothing is really solid. One could almost use these paintings in meditation and dissolve oneself into the cosmos. The clouds of dots are sometimes juxtaposed with vague diagonal, vertical and horizontal bands to give more structure and there seems to be an inner light generated by the choice of colors and visual textures. The titles are imaginative and intriguing: Deferred Dreams, Stories from the Heart, Now and Never Again, The Things Left Unsaid, In the Country of Dreams, The Movement Is Rich In Possibilities, Loss of Connection with the Future and The Edge Between Fear and Excitement.

The collage and writing works are from a somewhat earlier style, and many are characterized by layers of narrow horizontal bands ranging from eight to 20 in number, all in subdued colors with a great variety of rhythms and textures. Leaves, flowers, feathers, fragments of maps, musical notes and other repeated motifs blend in with adjoining strips of short vertical pen marks and carefully lettered words without spaces between them that one tries in vain

to decipher. One piece, Deep in the Night the Deer Cry Out Beyond the Edge of Dream, dominates the gallery wall dramatically with its long rectangular shape of at least seven feet, though hardly a foot wide. The amount of detailed work here is quite astonishing, a tribute to the unusual patience and persistence of the artist.

Other works in this mode have somewhat different compositional structures, such as Sound of One Hand Clapping #3, the title taken from the famous Zen koan. It has a floating assemblage of heads taken from old phrenological books illustrating different types of human personalities, with small pieces of printed pages interspersed, all carefully balanced. Another collage of the same title but numbered XV depicts the very linear palms of hands as in fortune telling, with similarly difficult to read texts. Conversations With My Mother is quite poignant, having two small portrait photographs and several hand written calendar pad notes with dates like January 19 or May 12.

The most recent paintings in the exhibition are quite a departure from her previous work, though incorporating some of the elements like dots and checkerboard patterns. The larger forms are mostly

abstract and unnameable, reminding one of some pieces by Surrealists of the 1920s and 30s. They are very consciously structured, though with a certain playfulness in their spatial ambiguity, where overlapping shapes are inconsistently positioned, strictly speaking impossible but fun. There is a lot of movement of curves and diagonals, constrained by contrasting horizontal bands and curtain-like black edges. Receding and advancing solid colored circles and finely dotted surfaces are juxtaposed with the textures of checkerboard areas. Almost as an amusing exception to the overall abstraction, some forms bring to mind stars, the sun, flowing water and even a basket with red fruit and spiky plant leaves. Again the titles are original if puzzling: Happening Somewhere Else, You Can Get There From Here, Many Moons – Many Eclipses, Where the Hummingbirds Feed in the Winter, How Different Than I Imagined and Taking the Long Way Home.

This show will continue into July. Hours at the Whitewater Gallery are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, contact James Teuscher at (802) 563-2037 or the artist 1 kstark2102@gmail.com

# EVENTS

## Wednesday, June 18

**CRAFTSBURY ACADEMY FRIENDS LUNCHEON**, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Charlmont Restaurant, Morrisville. Information and to sign up: Stella Slicer at (301) 222-6924.

## Thursday, June 19

**MIGRANT JUSTICE RAPID Response Training**, 6:30 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. A discussion about immigration enforcement and Migrant Justice's work. Information: (802) 426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

## Friday, June 20

**SUMMER READING SIGN-UP**, 3 - 6 p.m., at the Youth Booth at the Hardwick Farmers Market. Goodies, raffle prizes. Informa-

tion at jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.org or (802) 472-5948

## Saturday, June 21

**ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP**, 2 - 4 p.m., 830 Main St., Albany. Teens and adults welcome. Writing prompts provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org

## Tuesday, June 24

**LECTURE SERIES ON THE HOLOCAUST**, offered by Jeff Pierpont, interim minister of the Greensboro United Church of Christ. "The Landscape of Memory: Walking Through the Holocaust in Poland" presented at 6:30 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts. Open to the public. Information: greensborochurch@gmail.com.

## Wednesday, June 25

**MARSHFIELD 4H CLUB** event, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Children will share what the organization is all about. Visit with goats, sheep and more. Information: (802) 426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

## Saturday, June 28

**CIRCUS SMIRKUS** kicks off tour, 6 p.m., The Circus Barn, Greensboro. Tickets and information: smirkus.org.

**SINGER-SONGWRITER MATTHEW LEE** performs, 7 p.m., The Den at Harry's Hardware. 3087 Main St.

## Sunday, June 29

**CIRCUS SMIRKUS**, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., The Circus Barn, Greens-

boro. Tickets and information: smirkus.org.

## Ongoing Events

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES**, Craftsbury Public Library, every Tuesday and Friday morning, story time, 10 a.m. Mending Mondays are first and third Mondays, 3 to 6 p.m. Second Thursdays, Movie Night (for grownups), 6 p.m. Talk of the Hearth on select Mondays at 7 p.m. More special events for kids and families, Tuesdays and Fridays, 3:30 p.m. starting June 24.

**HARDWICK PEACE (& Cease-fire) VIGIL**, Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick. (beside the river).

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
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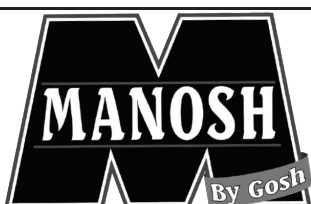


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# EVENTS

**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](mailto:cdu.tim@gmail.com)

**FRIENDS OF THE JEDEVINE LIBRARY**, meets the third Tuesday of every month, 5:15 p.m., at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.

**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](mailto:director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org).

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Atkins Field, Granite St., Hardwick, 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](mailto: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](mailto:nspauld@gmail.com) and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, [pfixx@pfixx.net](mailto:pfixx@pfixx.net).

**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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com), call (802) 426-3581 or visit [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://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 Community 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](mailto: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

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

## Cabot

Enjoy upstairs bedroom and half bath in rural home surrounded by rolling fields of former dairy farm. Host is seeking guest with some daytime availability to accompany her outdoors, lift or carry items, run occasional errands, provide occasional transportation. Rent-free with utility share. No smoking, no pets. Nut-free household. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## Request for Bids

Town of Walden is requesting bids for the digging, straightening, and stone line filling of approximately 1,800 feet on the Coles Pond Road in Walden. This is 900 feet on both sides of road. There may be some berm removal required. The location has been marked with orange grade stakes for reference. Contractor responsible for all trucking and materials. Work must be completed no later than September 19, 2025. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject all bids. Sealed bids must be received at the Walden Town Office on or before July 10, at 5 p.m.

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# KEN BROWN'S PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

## Hauser Caps off Dream Season for Hilltoppers

BURLINGTON – Rex Hauser got some help from his teammates in the biggest moments last week as the reigning Vermont Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year and his St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA) team outlasted top seeded Mt. Anthony to capture the Division I state title.

Fellow senior Will Eaton provided the game winning single in the top of the sixth for his second hit of the game to power the Hilltoppers to a comeback 9-7 win in the title game Friday night at Centennial Field. Carson Finn relieved Hauser after 80 pitches, striking out a pair in three innings of work to earn the win. Finn was a perfect 3-3 at the plate with a double and Connor Decker powered the offense for the comeback with a triple and three-run double. It was the first state championship for the Hilltopper program in nine years.

Earlier this month, Hauser became the first high school athlete in state history to earn Gatorade Player of the Year honors in both baseball and basketball. The 6-foot-6 senior led SJA on the mound with a 5-1 record, striking out 59 and walking only seven in 39 innings of work. He was equally impressive offensively, batting over .500, belting 4 homers,

while driving in 17 runs on the season. This past winter, Hauser led the Hilltoppers to the Division I Final Four, averaging over 23 points and nine rebounds per game. Hauser will attend the University of Maine next fall.

## Brown's Bullets Suffer Heartbreaker in Semifinals

S. ROYALTON – Hazen Union alum and current BFA-Fairfax head coach Mike Brown and his Bullet baseball program came up two outs short from upsetting undefeated White River Valley last week in the Final Four of the Division III tournament.

Brown's squad and their quest to defend a Division III state title were looking good through 6-1/3 innings last Tuesday, leading 2-0 before the Wildcats stormed back to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh before walking it off in the home half of the eighth to survive with a 3-2 win. Quinlan Grace earned the complete game win for White River, striking out 8 and walking four. Reagan Baumeister was the hard luck loser for Fairfax, recording 11 k's, while allowing just one free pass in eight innings of work. The Bullets (11-6) were gunning for their sixth state title in 29 seasons under Brown.

The Wildcats perfect season came to an

end with a 4-1 loss to second seeded Thetford Academy in the title game over the weekend.

## Lady Vikings Rally to End Rice's Season

LYNDON CENTER – Rice Memorial's quest to reach the Division II state title game came up short for a second consecutive season as top seeded Lyndon Institute rallied at home last week to end the Green Knight's season.

Down 2-0, the Lady Vikes pushed across three runs in the top of the fourth and leaned on their pitching and defense the rest of the way to escape with a 3-2 win last Thursday. Ashleigh Simpson belted a double and triple. Emmy Smith drove in the game-winner to advance to the title game for a second straight year. Sophomore Jenna Royer earned the complete game win in the circle. Ella Marshia and Kendall Hale combined to make spectacular defensive double play in the top of the seventh inning to end the game.

Finley Strong, granddaughter of former Hazen Union coaching great Jack Strong, and her Green Knight teammate's dream of playing for a Division II championship ended at 15-3 on the season.

Lyndon lost a 6-5 ten-inning heart breaker to second seeded Mount Abraham over the weekend at Castleton, as the Lady Eagles captured their second state title in three years.



Connor Rueda (center) reigned supreme in the 1k Miles Street Stock feature on Casella Night, flanked here by third place runner Dean Switser Jr. (right) and second place finisher Kylee Potter (left).

photo by Alan Ward



The second first time winner on Casella Night came in the Flying Tigers with Luke Peters (center) joined by second place finisher Mike MacAskill (left) and third place finisher Rich Lowrey (right).

photo by Alan Ward



Fairfax's Hayden Bushey rounded out the first time winning trio at Thunder Road on Thursday after taking the First-Time Winner's Race to round out the program.

photo by Alan Ward

# First Time Winners Flood Victory Lane

BARRE – Back for round No. 2 of Thursday Night Racing at Thunder Road, the pit area and grandstands alike filled, with three first-time winner's highlighting the action.

It all started with the Street Stocks, early on the card as a select group of non-winning drivers were eligible for the First Time Winner's Race at the end of the night. After an early fire-fight with Scott Weston, Juan Marshall took off with the lead for their 25-lap feature event. Over the course of the final 10 laps, former White Mountain Motorsports Park Rookie of the Year Connor Rueda charged up the outside groove, and even after a three-to-go restart shoot-out took down his first career win at Thunder Road over last year's Street Stock rookie Kylee Potter and Dean Switser Jr.

Returning at the end of the night for the First Time Winner's Race, Road Warrior graduate Jason Kirby led the early goings but it was another former White Mountain standout. Hayden Bushey power drove from seventh on

the grid on the high side to claim the Marvin Johnson First Time win, rounding out a great four-race start to the season at Thunder Road.

The Flying Tigers put on one of their best shows of the season with Travis Patnoe and Luke Peters showing the way under the green flag. Peters quickly got the better of Patnoe to lead the fray but it was the final 10 laps that once again showcased the Flying Tigers. With Peters leading, it became a seven-way race for the lead as seven stars of Thunder Road raced under a blanket. A completely full rear view mirror only motivated Luke Peters even more to seek out his first win in the Flying Tigers with Mike MacAskill and Rich Lowrey joining the podium in second and third.

The Late Models put on a green to checkered clinic. Outside pole sitter Scott Dragon led from the outside pole position in absolutely dominating fashion on Thursday to claim the honors. Stephen Donahue held on for second place more than a second back in second place with Darrell

Morin holding off Jason Corliss and Cooper Bouchard for third place.

Thunder Road International Speedbowl is back in action Thursday, June 19, for Nolato Vermont Night. The Flying Tigers prepare for round one of the Triple Crown Series with 75-laps on the board alongside the Late Models, Street Stocks and Road Warriors with a 7 p.m. post time.

## UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

### Late Models – 50 Laps

9. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott  
19. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common

### Flying Tigers – 40 Laps

12. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott  
19. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott  
23. 5VT, Tyler Austin, East Calais,

### Street Stocks – 25 Laps

2. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield  
13. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield  
25. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield

# Area Middle Schoolers Shine in Season Finale

by Ken Brown

NEWPORT – Several area middle school track and fielders wrapped up their season on a high note earlier this month at North Country High School.

Eighth grader Landon Garrand of Danville led the field with three individual titles in the 100m, 1500m, and long jump events. Garrand edged Lamoille's Micah Tursini by four tenths of a second in the 100m, with teammate Colin Gray finishing third. Hazen Union eighth grader Owen Welch posted a personal best time and a sixth-place finish, and seventh grade teammate Manny Caroli finished just outside the top ten in a field of almost 40 runners with his best time of the season. Garrand blitzed the field in the 1500m by nearly eight seconds, with Kingdom East's Landon D'Auria crossing the line second. Garrand's third title of the afternoon came in the long jump, with Hazen's Kolton Lumsden (3rd) and Caroli (5th) posting personal bests.

Craftsbury Academy (CA) seventh grader Hollis Allen earned a runner-up finish in the 400m, bested only by Olin McKay of North Country. CA seventh grader Oakley Crawford and Hazen's Owen Welch both posted personal

bests. Crawford also posted an impressive runner-up in the discus event, with Cooper Utley of Kingdom East taking home first place honors.

Colin Gray continued his strong day for the Danville boys with a third-place finish in the 200m, also a personal record. Allen, Welch, and Crawford all finished inside the top ten with personal bests, with Kingdom East's Jace Grayson besting the field. Gray also posted a top five finish in the shot put with Hazen Union sixth grader Kolton Lumsden one spot behind him, both posting personal records.

Mirek Siebenbrunner of Danville earned a strong runner-up finish in the shot put, with Utley capturing his second event of the day. Wyatt Mantius wrapped up a strong day for the Pride with a personal best and top five finish in the 800m. Hazen eighth grader Alden Pougner finished inside the top ten setting a personal record, with Kingdom East's Jonah Higgins-Matte running away from the field by almost 11 seconds.

On the girls' side, Danville seventh grader Althaea Irwin captured the title in the long jump, with teammate Riley Barret (3rd) and CA sixth grader Evelyn Stout (11th) posting

personal bests. Danville seventh grader Hailey Duprey was runner-up in the 400m, CA's Aemilia Terrone finished third, and teammates Adrienne Robillard (8th), and Stout (10th) also set personal records.

Danville sixth grader Taryn Barrett earned an impressive runner-up finish in the javelin event, with Enosburg's Maylin Muir besting the field. Hazen's Savannah Zornow-Figueroa also recorded her best throw of the season. Terrone finished fifth in the 200m for CA and Robillard tenth, both personal records. Robillard also posted a top ten and personal record in the 100m. Riley Barret earned top 10's with her best times of the season in both events. Irwin crossed the line fourth in the 100m hurdles for the Pride with a personal best, finishing just ahead of Terrone, who also ran her best time of the season. Lamoille's Jocelyn Rossi bested the field to take home the title.

Danville wrapped up a stellar day by earning a pair of runner-up finishes in both the 4X100m (Duprey, Irwin, R. Barrett, T. Barrett) and 4X400m (Duprey, Irwin, Willa Mantius, Hanalee Hill) relay events. Kingdom East took home the hardware in both events.

## Goodbout Jr. Dominates Strictly Mini Win

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – The annual Father's Day weekend special once again did not disappoint fans in the stands or those watching at home on the Northeast Short Track Network with five divisions of hardnosed racing that has made White Mountain Motorsports Park famous over the years.

It was time for the Strictly Stock Minis to have their day in the sun with 50 green flag laps on the docket as part of the annual Father's Day weekend special.

Jason Goodbout, Jr. took off from the outside pole starting position while McKenna Merchant gave chase just inches off his rear bumper. Physical fights mid-pack brought out a couple mid-race yellows, but through it all the battle between young-guns Goodbout and

Merchant wowed the crowd. Even while Goodbout began dirt-tracking his Cavalier sideways through lap traffic at the end, he held on to take the 50-lap Father's Day special ahead of Merchant and Jacob Roy for the honors.

The Kids Division got the Saturday night feature action started with Bella Hamel on the point in their 15-lap main event. Hamel led the early goings, leaving Clayton Houghton, Cooper Benoit and Madison Potter to battle behind her while Lucas Sidney powered through the field. With a lap nine caution, Sidney pounced to pull off the hat trick and claim his third win of the year in youth competition with Gracen Gorham and Owen Dupuis following him to the podium.

Barre, Vt.'s Tyler Pepin showed the way from the drop of the green flag in Flying Tiger competition, leaving Shane Sicard and Kyle Willis to fight for second. Even through lap traffic, Pepin never wavered and took down his first career Flying Tiger win followed by Sicard and Matt Potter across the stripe.

After a rough start to their 50 lap Saturday night feature, Kyle Goodbout pulled away with the lead in the Late Models ahead of Richie Brown and Jaden Perry. Following Jordan Davis' spin on lap 26, Tanner Woodard muscled his way into contention before pulling away behind Goodbout with Brown in tow. Sixth on back put on a clinic in the final 15 laps but it was Goodbout under the checkered flags. Unfortunately, post race tech-

nical inspection deemed Goodbout's #17NH too wide giving Tanner Woodard the win followed by Brown in second and Mike Bailey in third.

Thunder in the Mountains returns to White Mountain Motorsports Park Saturday, June 21, with the second round in the Flying Tiger Triple Crown. The 75-lap extra distance showdown joins the Late Models, Strictly Minis, Division and the Mini Late Models with a 6 p.m. post time.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

#### Late Models – 50 Laps

4. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick

#### Flying Tigers – 35 Laps

3. 23VT, Matt Potter, Marshfield

#### Kids Division – 15 Laps

8. 23, Madison Potter, Marshfield

## Record Season for Alekson at Fairfield

FAIRFIELD, Conn. – Former Peoples Academy (PA) three-time state champion Ben Alekson earned top Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) honors after he and his Fairfield University baseball team had a record-breaking season this past spring.

The Stags' season came to an end two weeks ago in the NCAA Regional in Conway, S.C., against nationally-ranked Florida after setting a program record with 39 wins and winning the MAAC Championship. Fairfield is coached by former University of Vermont skipper Bill Currier, who won nearly 500 games with the Catamounts prior to the baseball program at UVM going dormant after the 2009 season. Currier took over the Stags' program in 2012 and has led them to

the NCAA National Tournament twice in the last five years.

After a sensational freshman campaign at Fairfield that saw Alekson make the MAAC All-Rookie team with a 6-1 record, he took it to another level this spring, emerging as the Stags' ace. The big righty from Stowe tied a program record with nine wins, pitched a team-high 94.1 innings (84 strikeouts), and led the pitching staff with a 3.34 earned run average (ERA). Alekson was named to the All-MAAC First Team for his efforts, as well as being selected to the ABCA-Rawlings All-Region Second Team after earning the win with six innings of work and right strikeouts against Sacred Heart in the first round of the MAAC Tournament. He posted a perfect 6-0 record against MAAC oppo-

nents, holding them to a .223 batting average. He also led the conference with a 1.12 WHIP and finished second in ERA. Alekson was also one of 52 pitchers nationwide named to the National Pitcher of the Year Watch List.

Alekson finished his Vermont high school career with three consecutive state titles, including a complete game shutout gem against Hazen Union at Centennial Field in 2022. He was named 2023 Vermont Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year and signed a letter of intent to Currier and the Stags. Zach Davis, son of former Craftsbury Academy great Jeff Davis, took home top Gatorade honors on the diamond last spring after an outstanding high school career at Colchester. He just finished his freshman season at Bryant University.