

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

Hardwick • Cabot • Calais • Craftsbury • Greensboro • Marshfield • Plainfield • Stannard • Walden • Wolcott • Woodbury

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

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## Bare-bones School Budget Up For Third Vote

by **Raymonda Parchment**

WOLCOTT – Area residents have yet another chance to discuss the proposed FY26 school district budget at a public information meeting, June 4, at 6 p.m., before a June 11 Australian Ballot vote. That will be the third school budget since town meeting day when residents voted down the first proposed FY26 budget.

The second school budget vote, Tuesday, April 28, failed with 150 no votes and 140 voting yes on the \$6.14 million budget.

The third proposed FY26

budget, at \$6,104,496.99, cuts another \$37,524.55 by eliminating \$3,000 from the library budget for books and the 0.4 time position of a technology integrationist employed to help teachers make the best use of the technology available to them.

Per pupil education spending of \$13,381.30 is down from the \$13,466.02 rejected by voters in the April 29 vote. It's a 19.36% increase from the current year.

Wolcott has little control over much of its school budget as large portions of it come from the schools to which middle and high schoolers

**See BARE-BONES, 4**



A third school budget vote will be held for Wolcott Elementary School on June 11 at the Wolcott town offices from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. A public budget informational meeting will be held on June 4 at the Wolcott Elementary School Library at 6 p.m.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

## CAE Receives Food Systems Infrastructure Award

by **Paul Fixx**

MONTPELIER – Hardwick's Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) was awarded an equipment grant of \$93,750 to increase the processing and distribution of regional products. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced over \$3 million in Vermont Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) awards on May 5. The program targets two segments of the Vermont food system; Infrastructure and Equipment.

Barred Woods Maple in Montgomery Center received a \$450,000 infrastructure award, which will allow them to construct a commercial facility to produce value-added maple syrup products.

"Barred Woods currently uses the kitchens at CAE's Vermont Food Venture Center (VFVC) two or three days per week, making their value-added maple

products," said the CAE's Jon Ramsay. "They will be building their own facility and we will be sad to see them go, but that is the whole intent of the VFVC; supporting farms and food businesses so when they build their own infrastructure they are ready and the business is scaled to support that next step in growth CAE has supported this farm for many years and it is exciting to see their success."

"Farms and rural communities are part of what makes Vermont so special," said Governor Phil Scott. "We're grateful to have this funding from USDA which will help us make important long-term

**See AWARD, 5**

A grant award to Hardwick's Center for an Agricultural Economy will enable it to purchase four new pieces of equipment for the Vermont Food Venture Center and new Food Hub, including a second Hobart commercial mixer.

courtesy photo



Gerard Fontaine (left) and Janet Ward fill their plates from the selection of entrees and vegetables at the first Greensboro Community Meal, Tuesday, May 27, at Lakeview Elementary School.

photo by Paul Fixx

## Village Intersection Plans Stymied, Limited Project Proposed

by **Paul Fixx**

PLAINFIELD – As the town grapples with the big issues of its response to flooding with the East Village Expansion Project and delays in work to improve sight-lines at the Main Street intersection with U.S. Rte. 2, discussion at the May 27 select board meeting veered into discussion of derelict housing and rabid raccoons for well over half an hour.

In an update from the East Village Expansion Advisory Committee (EVEAC) Jared Birchmore said the most likely funding for the project will come from the Community

Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) fund. That grant could likely fund most, if not all, of the project.

A second scenario could come into play if the town does not receive the amount CDBG-DR of grant money they hope for in the first scenario, said Birchmore. Funds raised for land sales could be combined with whatever is received from the CDBG-DR and smaller grants.

The Construction and Permitting group, a subgroup of the EVEAC, plans to create a sketch that accommodates 10 acres of saleable land (vs. the current scenario's 8.2 acres).

**See INTERSECTION, 4**



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**WEATHER WATCH**



The freshly mowed and plowed fields of the Laggis Brothers Farm in East Hardwick are seen from Center Road the morning of June 2, with the hills of Stannard in the distance.  
 photo by Paul Fixx

**Some Sun, Some Rain; Much Warmer This Week**

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK — Rain was relentless in May, the observing station in East Hardwick saw 4.40 inches, with the normal for the month being 3.83 inches. The heavy rain from Saturday's coastal storm did not count into this total because observations are taken in the morning, meaning an additional 1.02 inches of rain was received from that storm. May is the third month in a row with above-normal precipitation. The pattern looks to continue as we move into the first week of June. Designing the forecast this week required a lot of temptation to not simply copy the elements from last week's forecast. Some elements were left alone as they are indeed similar from week-to-week, although a few details have been altered to tell the story of the week ahead.

One of those dissimilar features is the air-mass in place currently. Rising heat and humidity is a new highlight under mostly sunny skies the next two days, which will cause a moderation of temperatures into the mid-80s. In addition, there will be some increased air quality issues due to a plume of wildfire smoke moving through on Wednesday. Although translation to the surface will be largely limited, air quality index values suggest those with known sensitivity to pollutants consider shortening outdoor activity.

By Thursday afternoon, enough energy will build up to

fire off some scattered showers and thunderstorms with the approach of a frontal boundary. A few storms may be strong to severe, with wind gusts being the primary concern. As the front marches south, it stalls a little bit, keeping things somewhat cloudy and showery for Friday.

Another low develops and approaches the northeast for Saturday. Some coastal development is possible with this, although models have been all over the place with where the primary energy will be centered. At any rate, expect this weekend to be not much different from the previous, with Saturday being our washout day. Some showers linger into Sunday, with prospects of clearing by the afternoon hours and cooler conditions. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny. Hazy. High: 86. Low: 63. South wind 10-15 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny in the morning, then partly sunny with showers and thunderstorms by mid-afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce strong winds to 50 mph. High: 81. Low: 62. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, with occasional breaks of sun. Scattered showers. High: 77. Low: 57. Light and variable wind.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain. High: 71. Low: 53. East wind becoming northwest 10-15 mph with gusts to 30 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning; becoming partly sunny by afternoon. High: 68. Low: 46. Northwest wind 5-15 mph.



June 4 - June 10

**Father's Day Sale  
Men's Footwear &  
Clothing 6/7-6/15**

**Spring Flower Bulbs  
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**Folgers  
Ground Coffee  
\$6.49** 9.6 oz.

**Starbucks  
Ground Coffee  
\$8.99** 12 oz.

**Kellogg's  
Assorted Cereals  
\$3.49** 8.9-12 oz.

**Hunt's  
Pasta Sauce  
2/\$3** 24 oz.

**Prince  
Pasta  
4/\$5** 12-16 oz.

**Success  
Rice  
2/\$5** 12-14 oz.

**Rice-A-Roni  
Side Dishes  
2/\$3** 6.5-7.2 oz.

**Desert Pepper  
Salsa  
\$4.49** 16 oz.

**Kraft Salad  
Dressings  
\$2.99** 16 oz.

**Food Club  
Mustard  
99¢** 20 oz.

**Food Club  
Ketchup  
\$1.49** 20 oz.

**Betty Crocker  
Brownie Mix  
2/\$4** 16.3 oz.

**7th Generation  
Dish Liquid  
\$3.49** 19 oz.

**Simply Done 6=12  
Roll Paper Towels  
\$5.99** 302.4 oz.

**Chobani  
Greek Yogurt  
4/\$5** 5.3 oz.

**Stonyfield  
Smoothies  
\$1.79** 10 oz.

**Food Club  
Frozen Ravioli  
2/\$5** 19-25 oz.

**Food Club Garlic  
Toast or Bread Sticks  
\$2.29** 10.5-11.25 oz.

**Hood  
Ice Cream  
\$2.99** 48 oz.

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Dark Cherries  
\$3.99** lb.

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Mangos  
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you probably  
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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Fire Department Controlled Burn



Hardwick Fire Department did a controlled burn starting at 5 a.m., Saturday morning, May 31. They wrapped up around 10:30 a.m. Mutual aid partners Greensboro Fire Dept and Wolcott Fire Dept. assisted with their tankers.

social media photo

## Hardwick Police Media Log

May 25: Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Welfare Check, W. Church St.; Alarm, Depot St.; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14 S.

May 26: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Medical, Daniels Road; Accident – TCNR, Mill St.; Medical, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Mackville Road.

May 27: TRO/FRO Service, Bunker Hill Road; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Mental Health Incident, Dale St.; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Vermont Ave.; TRO/FRO Service, Bayley Hazen Road.

May 28: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Parking Problem, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/ Carey Road; Traffic Stop, N. Main St./S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Accident – TCNR, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist – Public, Bunker Hill Road; Suspicious

Event, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Granite St.; Suspicious Event, Evergreen Manor Drive; Mental Health Incident, Maple St.

May 29: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; School Event, Hazen Union Drive; VIN Verification, High St.; Assist – Agency, N. Main St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Theft, Baker Hill Drive; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, West Church St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Treatment Plant Road; Vandalism, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Theft, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

May 30: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Drive; Animal Problem, School St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

May 31: Welfare Check, Marsh Road; Traffic Stop, N. Main St.

June 1: Medical, Lamoille Ave.; Animal Problem, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Burglary, Upper Cherry St.; Assist – Agency, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Craftsbury Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Eighteen people used AWARE services between May 18 and June 1. 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.

## Vermont State Police

### DUI Drugs, False Information

On June 1 at 12:24 p.m., the Vermont State Police were contacted regarding a male passed out in the driver's seat of a vehicle on Bothfeld Hill Road in Cabot. Troopers arrived on scene and spoke with Justin Gilbert of Cabot. While speaking with Gilbert Troopers detected indicators of impairment. Gilbert was subsequently arrested for suspicion of DUI Drugs. Gilbert was transported to the Vermont State Police barracks in Berlin for processing. He was later released on a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court on July 17 at 8:30 a.m.

On May 27 officers from the Berlin Police Department were monitoring traffic on Fisher Road, Berlin. Officers observed a motor vehicle and conducted a motor vehicle stop for a minor motor vehicle violation.

After the traffic stop, it was determined that the operator, Cody Bolduc, of Marshfield, provided false information about his passenger's identity. Officers later determined the passenger was not the person they claimed to be but Tyler Ehmman, of Montpelier.

Officers determined Ehmman had two active arrest warrants; one warrant was for driving on a suspended license, disorderly conduct, false information to police, cocaine possession felony amount and fentanyl trafficking. The other warrant is for cocaine sale felony amount, heroin possession felony amount, dispensing-selling regulated drugs in dwelling and two

counts of violation of probation. Ehmman's warrants were out of Washington County. The first warrant had a \$2,500 bail and the second warrant had a \$500 bail.

On June 1 officers from the Berlin Police Department located Bolduc's vehicle on Fisher Road in Berlin. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle on Paine Tpke N near the Montpelier Town line. In the vehicle, officers located both Bolduc and Ehmman.

Bolduc was issued a citation into Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division on July 7 at 8:30 a.m. to answer to the charge of False Information to a Police Officer.

Ehmman was taken into custody without incident. Ehmman was transported to the Berlin Police Department for processing.

Ehmman was issued a citation into Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division on June 2, at 12:30 p.m. to answer to her warrant. Ehmman was transported to Chittenden Regional Correctional center for lack of bail.

Ehmman was also issued a citation into Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division on July 17 at 8:30 a.m. to answer to the charge of False Information to a Police Officer.

Point of Clarification: The Berlin Police Department has no control over bail or incarceration. Those matters are handled by the Judicial System, including the Judges, Court Clerks and the State Attorney's Office.



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CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES



Helen Willey's house at 101 Granite Street is surrounded by flood waters, July 10, 2024. photo by Lori Ferland



Looking from Spring Street, Cooper Brook jumped its banks, July 10, 2024 and flows down Brook Street and into the Lussier house at 187 Granite Street. photo by Kristen Leahy

## Neighbors, Town Collaborate for Flood Resilience

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – After five flooding events in just two years, including three that triggered federal disaster declarations, residents of Hardwick's Granite Street Historic District are working with the town to take a proactive approach to protecting their neighborhood.

The area has been hit particularly hard by repeated Cooper Brook flooding. In July 2023, then again in July 2024, floodwaters entered basements and overwhelmed the town's aging stormwater infrastructure. While the town responded quickly with emergency clean-up and repairs to infrastructure, both residents and town officials recognized the urgent need for long-term solutions.

With support from a Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development 2025 Municipal Planning Grant, the town is now working with the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) and local residents to develop a Granite Street Flood Resiliency Plan. The goal is to help homeowners remain in place while reducing future flood risks.

The planning process will include an inventory of flood-proofing needs for all 65 structures in the historic district, the creation of a neighborhood emergency preparedness network and engineering

assessments for nature-based and green infrastructure improvements. Proposed ideas include restoring the stormwater garden on Cottage Street that is not working as envisioned, expanding flood storage capacity at Atkins Field and installing dry flood-proofing systems in historic granite basements. Other community-suggested measures include backflow preventers, temporary road closures during high water, backup generators to power shared sump pumps and a workshop series on emergency preparedness.

Community engagement has played a central role from the early stages of resiliency planning for the area. In August 2024, more than 20 residents gathered at Atkins Field for a shared meal and neighborhood planning session. Attendees voiced concerns about sump pump access, yard drainage, soil buildup from plowing and ensuring the safety of neighbors during future emergencies. Initial suggestions, such as the removal of an elevated section on Granite Street at Atkins Field, were implemented, but the neighborhood's input indicated that a larger planning process was needed.

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of the effort. Before the 2024 flood, one resident purchased a high-capacity sump pump that was shared among several households. In future events, the Hardwick

Supply and Support Center, located at the Hardwick Police Station and Senior Center during emergencies, will be equipped to loan out similar tools and equipment.

To build on this momentum, CAE has submitted a second grant application to support the engineering and implementation of the plan's recommendations.

The long-term vision is clear: help the Granite Street Historic District's neighborhood stay viable while preparing for the realities

of a changing climate. To move this vision forward, the Town of Hardwick has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a consulting firm that will help guide the next phase of the planning process.

This work marks a shift in Hardwick's flood response; from recovery to resilience, and highlights the power of community-led planning.

*Kristen Leahy is the Hardwick resilience and adaptation coordinator and zoning and floodplain administrator.*

### Intersection

Continued From Page One

Michael Billingsley mentioned a conversation he had with Arion Thiboumery regarding runoff from the meadow. With heavy rains, that runoff might exceed the capacity of the existing culverts, flooding nearby backyards, particularly at 99 Brook Road. They are considering a catch-pool, which would be harder to fit in if more of the land becomes allocated for sale.

The next EVEAC meeting is June 12.

Karl Bissex, reviewed the three VTrans options for addressing the Main Street and Rte. 2 intersection that were presented by Ken Robie from Dubois and King at the select board's May 12 meeting. There he outlined the history of work with the intersection, including a scoping study that started in 2014 with a construction cost estimate of \$750,000, an alternative plan developed in 2015 with an estimated cost of \$1.6 million and that ballooned to \$4.1 million last year.

Since then, VTrans has had budget shortfalls that have knocked the Plainfield project off the schedule.

In light of these developments, Robie identified three options: To cancel the project completely and start over from scratch at some future time, wait while it competes with other statewide priorities or

move forward with a project of lesser-scope that can be done in a more timely manner.

Peter Youngbaer proposed the select board offer a formal response to the VTrans proposal and include modifications, to include those suggested by Patti Jamele to create crosswalks, add street lighting for safety, potentially add a traffic light system and identify what parts of the project can be completed immediately.

Frances Rose asked about the possibility of resident initiatives that could include hand-painted signs to slow traffic, noting that painted murals are proven to slow traffic, but aren't appropriate on a federal highway. The discussion identified that signs cannot be placed in the right-of-way and their size is limited according to billboard laws.

Bob Atchinson, the property owner at 99 Main St., agreed to hire a professional exterminator to eliminate the problem, and possibly rabid, raccoons, while expressing concern that measures be taken to prevent them from being attracted to the area by food scraps in the nearby neighborhood.

The select board will look into ordinance options for vacant and dangerous property, including health ordinances, though it is a large project and will not happen overnight, noted the meeting minutes.

### Bare-bones

Continued From Page One

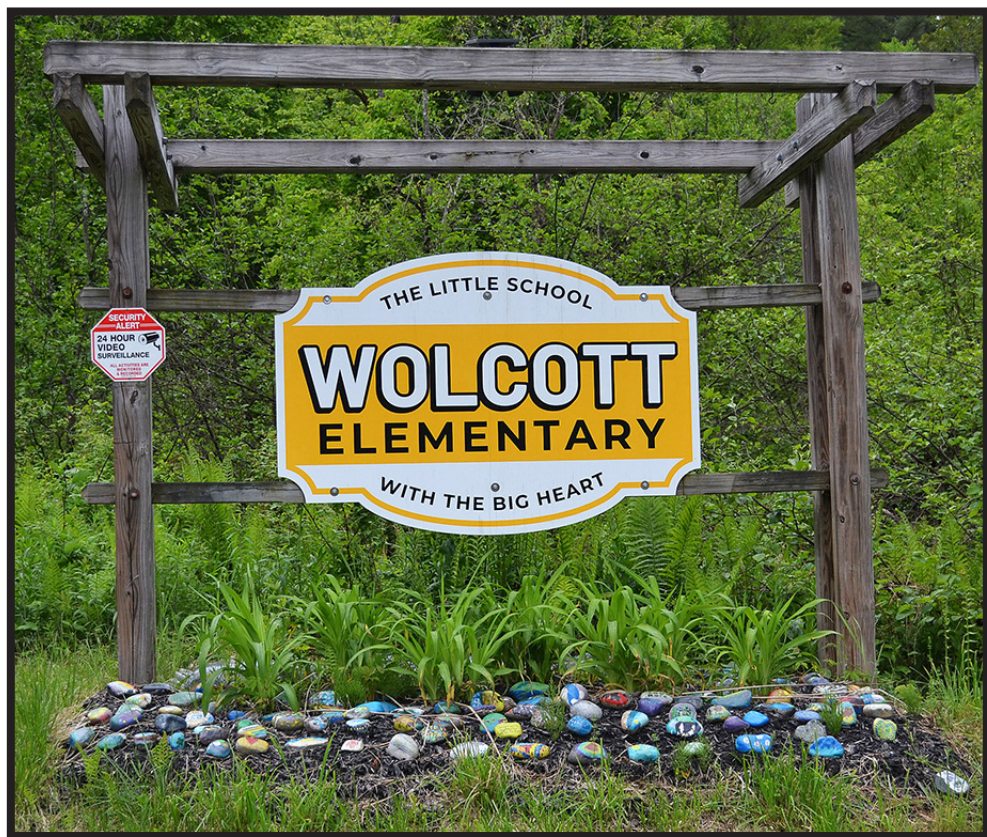
are tuitioned and the local contribution to the supervisory union budget. The FY26 OSSU budget of \$1.6 million allocated to Wolcott is a 37% increase of \$432k for the FY26 year.

The Wolcott School Board anticipated that increase in their budgeting and cut elsewhere to keep the overall increase to \$410k in the initial budget rejected in March.

Wolcott School Board Chair

Elliot Waring said significant cuts were made in that budget, which reduced overall spending for the elementary school despite increased costs. He said the budgeting process has reached the point of diminishing returns and is already impacting areas that will have an affect on student outcomes.

The informational meeting will precede the June 11 Australian ballot, at the Wolcott Town Offices. The polls will be open from 8 a.m., to 7 p.m. that day.



The Wolcott Elementary School sign has rocks under it painted by students. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Award

**Continued From Page One** investments, benefitting the future of Vermont.”

Walden Heights Nursery and Orchard received a \$39,785 award to purchase two walk-in outdoor freezers, adding improved cooling capacity and increased storage, allowing them to expand value-added cider production.

The announcement encompasses the \$3.1 million in USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grants that Vermont announced in April 2024, supporting innovative projects designed to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems.

“The CAE has been an essential part of our journey from a start up company to where we are today,” said Barred Woods’ Barb Paggi. “Being able to rent the commercial kitchen at the facility as needed allowed us to develop and produce our products, such as maple granola, without having to make a large initial capital investment.”

“The staff at the CAE and other users of the facility have educated us over time on various food manufacturing and safety requirements,” said Paggi. “Colleen Crist and Jon Ramsay have been particularly helpful in ensuring the equipment we needed was procured and serviced and assisting us to improve our processes.”

“Infrastructure is vital to the future of Vermont’s regional food system,” said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. “The small organizations that are receiving these grants make the regional food

system work for our producers and consumers and support the public’s access to local food. This was a recommendation of Governor Scott’s Future of Agriculture Commission, and we are thankful to have these investments from USDA.”

As Barred Woods prepares to move on from the CAE incubator, the CAE award will allow them to add “a new 60 gallon kettle that producers at the VFVC will be able to use for many purposes and a second Hobart mixer,” said the CAE’s Ramsay.

A pallet reach truck purchase will “allow us to much more efficiently use the second and third level of pallet racking in the Food Hub. It has the lift and height capacity needed to move full pallets of meat, or ice cream or root crops high up. Lastly, we are looking to get a large electric pallet jack with about a 4,500 pound capacity,” added Ramsay.

“Businesses using the CAE spaces are local farms or food businesses who source all ingredients either from their own operation or from local and regional growers. This will support at least 85 local producers, allow for 15 new value-added products and at least 15 new markets established,” noted the state’s press release.

At Walden Heights Nursery and Orchard, the award will allow Todd Parlo and Lori Augustyniak to purchase equipment that will streamline their process and increase storage of a frozen product, resulting in more units moved through the supply chain, increased food safety compliance and energy efficiency. The investment will result in five new aggregated products and

# RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Sunday School.

## 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.

## 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. (Handicap 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. Rev. Nathan Strong 802-754-2790. “Join us in getting to know Jesus and the life He gives.” Sunday services: 10 a.m. Worship and

## 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. Information: 802-888-2248.

**THE HEALING STREAM CHURCH OF GOD,** Pastor Peter LaBonville, Wolcott Town Hall. Fellowship Service, Sunday 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Wheelchair accessible. Information: 802-635-9503.

**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.congregation-beth-el.org.

## Johnson

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

## Hyde Park

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

## Derby Line

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



On Monday, May 26, Community members prepping for the town’s first Tuesday Community Meal are (from left) Liz Chadwick, Virginia Lapiere, Jennifer Ranz, Fran Recchia, Liz Steel and Julie Porrazzo. Contact Naomi Ranz-Schleifer to volunteer to help at future meals by emailing nranzschleifer@gmail.com, or calling (802) 535.8090. photo by Naomi Ranz-Schleifer

# Jasper Hill Farm's Kehler Confronts Boycott, Housing

by David Goodman, VTDigger

GREENSBORO – In 1998, brothers Mateo and Andy Kehler bought a piece of land in the North-east Kingdom town of Greensboro that would become home to Jasper Hill Farm. Within a few years, the brothers were producing award-winning cheeses and had created an iconic Vermont brand. Among the numerous accolades received by Jasper Hill are Best American Cheese from the World Cheese Awards, gold medals from the International Cheese Awards and Best of Show from the American Cheese Society.

Today, Jasper Hill, the largest employer in Greensboro with 85 employees, is confronting headwinds. Its lucrative Canadian markets have completely dried up. Canadians are boycotting American-made products in response to President Trump's tariffs and his threats to make Canada the

51st state. And Vermont's housing crisis is making it extremely difficult for Jasper Hill's employees to live and for the company to grow.

The local housing crunch is so severe that Jasper Hill has bought 11 properties and is subsidizing rent so its employees can afford to live.

"The folks that are living in our houses can't find anywhere to live. There's nothing to buy and there's nothing to rent," said Kehler.

But despite the town's dire need for moderately priced housing, Greensboro residents recently voted down a plan to redevelop its derelict and underused town hall into affordable housing. As VTDigger has reported, the plan was for the nonprofit Northeast Kingdom housing agency Rural Edge to invest \$10 million in rehabilitating the town hall and create up to 20 units of affordable housing.



Jasper Hill Farm co-founder Mateo Kehler in the farm's creamery in Greensboro. photo by David Goodman, VTDigger

Greensboro, with about 800 year-round residents, is one of the wealthiest communities in Vermont. It has the highest rate of second home ownership in the state. In 2019, Greensboro's town plan and a housing needs assessment detailed Greensboro's "great need" for moderately-priced housing.

Jasper Hill Farm co-founder Mateo Kehler described his neighbors' rejection of the affordable housing plan as "soul crushing."

Kehler described what has happened to his Canadian sales. "We were expecting to sell nearly \$1 million worth of cheese to Canada and Montreal, which is our closest metropolitan market and is the best cheese market in North America."

"It went from going gangbusters to a zippo in just a few, the span of a month," he said.

"I don't think you can overstate the consequences for small businesses on the border here," he said of the shutdown of Canadian business. "It's been a disaster."

Kehler said that he has received some blow-back as a result of his vocal advocacy for affordable housing. "Everybody loves

Jasper Hill until we start talking about housing. And everybody wants housing in theory, but almost nobody here wants housing in practice."

"Families with children . . . are the way that communities replicate themselves," said Kehler, "and Greensboro has lost its capacity to replicate itself." He said that Greensboro has erected a metaphorical gate that keeps out young people.

Jasper Hill Farm is "going to be fine, but . . . Greensboro is not going to be fine," he continued. The housing crisis "is not existential for us but it probably is existential for the nursing home, and it is absolutely existential for the school, and it's going to be a huge problem for the town when there's nobody to volunteer for the fire department" and other town organizations.

Kehler is now advocating for affordable housing on a statewide level. He said that Vermont needs a new model of multi-unit housing.

"The days of single family homes spread out and in the middle of nowhere on the back end of dirt roads is basically over," he asserted.



The kitchen crew at Greensboro's first Tuesday Community meal, May 27, are (from left) Katheryn Hansis, who works in the Sterling College kitchen; "The Lunch Lady," Sterling College Director of Dining Services, Elizabeth "Liz" Chadwick and Anastasia Scollon, a Greensboro community volunteer, photo by Paul Fixx



Visitors attend the first Greensboro Community Meal in the Lakeview Elementary School Gym, May 27. Over 80 people came out for the first of what organizer, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer hopes are many more Tuesday meals. Many community members contributed, with Jennifer Ranz making bouquets for the tables and Aileen Gebbie bringing repotted peace lilies to give away.

photo by Paul Fixx



Work inside the building at 9 S. Main Street in Hardwick is being done to rebuild areas damaged by the December 2024 oil spill, prepare upstairs areas for tenants to return and convert the heating system, Friday, May 30. Rural Edge expects the work to take roughly another month.

photo by Paul Fixx

# Blooming Crabapple Tree Brightens View

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD – A huge crabapple tree in a Hudson Street yard stopped debris from hitting nearby houses and ended up with close to two feet of muddy silt around it after flooding July 11, 2024. This year it has its “best bloom ever,” said Lauren Geiger.

Geiger said the tree is in the yard of a neighbor’s rental property, but is in her view, so she’s adopted it and employed Montpelier’s Tree Works to give it the attention it’s needed.

Bill DeVos, the former Tree Works owner, and still an employee, said it’s among the biggest and oldest crabapple trees he’s ever seen. In recent years the company has pruned it, added cabling to hold the several stems together and fertilized it.

Flooding in 2023 reached the tree, but it wasn’t as bad as in 2024, said Geiger. Last year, it’s estimated that roughly 1,000 trees washed down the Great Brook. Many of them lodged against the Mill Street bridge in Plainfield, backing up water that created a

lake, flooding the Hudson Street area.

There was so much mud and silt from the flood, Geiger said it took a team of 100 volunteers two and a half weeks to dig out the basement of her house. All of her gardens that had been replaced after the 2023 flooding, and a new stone wall built then, were gone after the 2024 flooding.

It wasn’t clear then that the crabapple tree would survive.

Geiger consulted with DeVos who instructed her to remove the mud and silt covering the root system, which was done with a backhoe. Leaving it would have prevented air from reaching the tree’s roots. Tree Works then applied fertilizer. Arborist Geoff Hurley has also pruned the tree, said Geiger.

This spring, with none of her gardens to admire, Geiger said she’s glad to have the crabapple tree to brighten her view.



The crabapple tree in Lauren Geiger’s view on Hudson Street in Plainfield has its best bloom ever, May 15, she said. It is the only thing she can see that’s blooming after July 10, 2024 flooding destroyed her gardens that were replanted in 2023 after flooding July 10 that year. photo by Lauren Geiger



A crabapple tree on Hudson Street in Plainfield, near the Great Brook, on July 11, 2024, after severe flooding, held back debris and had almost two feet of mud and silt covering its root system. photo by Lauren Geiger

# Menard Road Culvert Installed, Work Continues

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – In a Thursday, May 29, report, Cabot Foreman Sid Griggs reported work on “Menard Road is moving along well. The Fenoff crew installed the new culvert yesterday and began backfilling. They will continue to work on the headwalls and backfilling before the weekend rain to allow water to flow through the culvert for the weekend.”

He added that Menard Road was planned to be closed Tuesday, June 3, to remove the bridge and build the road surface up to travel level.”

Griggs reported Jug Brook Road was due to be closed Monday,

June 2, as planned.

In response to a question about whether Blodgett Road is a viable option to bypass Jug Brook Road from East Hill Road in Woodbury to West Hill Pond Road in Marshfield-Cabot, Griggs said, “it’s a Class 4 road.” Class 4 roads are not maintained by Vermont towns. Griggs would only say a proper vehicle is needed to travel a Class 4 road. “But I’m not going to say if it’s a viable option or not.”

Griggs said work to grade Cabot’s road is ongoing. “I’ve had one guy and then, at least one day a week I’m working alone. Between this and the weather, I am trying to get around to all the roads.”



Work continues to replace a culvert under Menard Road in this photo taken Wednesday evening, May 28 photo by Sid Griggs

# U.S. Route 2 Resurfacing Continues near Marshfield Dam

by VTrans

MARSHFIELD - U.S. Route 2 resurfacing continues this week as crews will be working near the Marshfield Dam between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. From Monday, June 2, through Friday, June 6 resurfacing activities on U.S. Route 2 were planned from the Plainfield-Marshfield town line,

near the intersection with Hillside Drive, extending easterly to a point just west of the Vt. Route 15 intersection in West Danville.

Motorists should anticipate minor delays and alternating one-way traffic in the work area. Flaggers and uniformed traffic officers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone.

# Alumni Association Plans Reunion Events

by Patrick Hussey

HARDWICK – With the advent of June upon us, the Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Alumni Association is finalizing plans for its two major events of the year.

On Saturday, June 21, the association will be hosting the annual alumni reunion. The reunion will return to the Brochu Pavilion at 2244 West Hill Road in Hardwick, where the event was held last year.

The reunion is open to all classes and staff from both Hardwick Academy and Hazen Union. The Association will be recognizing the five year classes ending in 0 and 5 from both schools.

Registration for the event will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The Village Diner will be providing a buffet meal starting at 12:30 p.m. The reunion is free to attend, the cost of the meal will be \$20 per person. The deadline to reserve a spot at the reunion is this week.

The Brochu Pavilion offers ample parking, including some handicap spaces, plenty of outdoor space, indoor cover, many picnic tables and bathroom facilities. The association will also have an additional tent set up for cover. Attendees are also welcome to bring lawn chairs.

This year's association honoree is Rick Norcross from the Hardwick Academy Class of 1963. Norcross spent most of his career as a successful artist, singer, songwriter

and instrumentalist.

Norcross recently announced his retirement from performing, having just turned 80. His band, Rick and the All Star Ramblers, a western swing band, have been singing together for over 20 years and performed over 1,000 times. Norcross said he began singing at the young age of 16.

Norcross recently released the last of his 16 albums, entitled "The 2nd Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote." He had a famous green tour bus he paid tribute to in his final studio album, "God Bless The Mighty Pickle." He will be bringing some of his recorded music to the reunion with him.

Also at the reunion this year, the association will honor the three students from Hazen Union who each received a \$500 award. Each gift from the association was named in honor of an alumni. The Tristan Southworth Service Award has been gifted to Emma Rowell, the Pat Gallant Spirit Award has been gifted to Baylie Christiansen and the Hardwick Academy Class of 1955 Future Endeavors gift went to Taylor Cloutier.

The alumni association will begin its weekend on Friday afternoon, June 20. The association will be hosting the annual Master's Memorial Golf Tournament at Mountain View Country Club in Greensboro. This event is a fundraiser for scholarships at Hazen Union and honors past golfers from the area.



Last year's Masters Memorial Champs included (from left) Monty Shatney, Bob Blake, Ben Forant and Will Shatney. *courtesy photo*

The tournament is a nine-hole scramble with tee times slated for 1 and 3:30 p.m. It is open to all golfers, not just alumni. The cost to play is \$40 for those who walk the course and \$50 for players wishing to rent a golf cart. If there is not a foursome, the organizers will try to set individuals up with a team.

The association will be selling food at the tournament and Teddy

Foster will be selling his french fries and fried corn. Food sales will be cash only.

Golfers are being offered free driving range use prior to the tournament and are urged to be present 30 minutes prior to teeing off.

To request a reunion registration form, or sign up for the golf tournament, email Dave Burnham at bulle54@yahoo.com.



Kenzie Wolff (left) and Delia Herman (right) of Wolcott School use nets to capture aquatic macroinvertebrates in the Lamoille River May 29 during their trout release and reflection study joining 31 other Wolcott fifth and sixth grade students.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*



Wolcott sixth graders Connor Spencer (left) who named his fish "Flippy" and Sawyer Vize (right) who named his fish "Tropical" measure, study and identify the parts of their five month old brook trout before releasing them into the Lamoille River Thursday.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

**THANKS**  
FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE



Hardwick Fire Department Foreman Davey Chase drives the department's new 2000 Seagrave Apollo 105 foot ladder tower truck in Hardwick's Spring Festival parade May 24. The truck arrived in early March and was put into service shortly after.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Spare Dehumidifier Discovered, Weekend Test Successful

by **Raymonda Parchment**

WOODBURY — At the May 27 select board meeting Town Clerk Robin Durkee reported she discovered a spare dehumidifier and tested it over the weekend. The drainage bin was full on Monday.

A sump pump is planned for installation when the contractor shows up, according to Durkee.

Board members learned about the nuances of compensation for full and part-time employees.

Director of Emergency Management John Gordon had no new news on the buyouts of two village properties, but plans to meet with state staff about it on June 15. Gordon said, the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) has been completed, mostly involving updating contact information for use during an emergency.

Skip Marchesani attempted to

set up the board with new emails, but has been unsuccessful thus far.

Town Clerk Robin Durkee said she will reduce her hours while she undergoes occupational therapy for a hand injury. She also said the Secretary of State's new system for voter registration will be available soon.

After some discussion, the board decided against investing any FEMA funds, upon the discovery that any earnings over \$500 must be returned to the government and accompanied with significant reporting requirements.

Town Health Officer Chris Casey asked about the requirements for following up on a dog bite, having received a report from an area hospital. The board learned that the person who was bitten must be contacted and asked whether they want any further action to be taken by the town.

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## STOWE ART WINE & FOOD FUNDRAISER

### Stowe Art, Wine & Food Annual Fundraiser Postponed

To Our Community,

For generations, Copley Hospital has been proud to provide excellent care to our community—and are deeply grateful for the trust and support we have received in return. Our relationship with our community is built on mutual respect, compassion, and a shared commitment to the health and well-being of everyone we serve.

Out of the utmost respect for the safety of all involved, the Copley Hospital Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership have made the difficult decision to postpone the Stowe Art, Wine, and Food fundraiser scheduled for June 5, 2025. This decision follows the announcement of a planned protest by the Save the Copley Birthing Center group at the fundraiser. We are mindful of our responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all the attendees.

We recognize this is a deeply emotional and trying time for many. The Board and Senior Leadership remain committed to open dialogue, and we plan to reschedule this event in the near future.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and continued commitment to Copley Hospital.



#### DIETARY MANAGER

The Craftsbury Community Care Center is seeking a full-time dietary manager to lead our kitchen team and operations by providing nutritious meals while satisfying resident needs. Duties include adherence to state regulations, menu and dietary planning, meal service, inventory maintenance, sanitation and equipment maintenance, meal preparation and scheduling coverage. Benefits include a collaborative working environment, scheduling flexibility, health, dental and 403B investment plans. Requirements include excellent customer service and communication skills, ability to multi-task and work respectfully and effectively with co-workers and residents. For more information or to apply, please contact Kim at (802) 586-2415 or email [kroberge@craftsburycarecenter.org](mailto:kroberge@craftsburycarecenter.org).

You can also complete an application on our website, [craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org/employment](http://craftsburycommunitycarecenter.org/employment)



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# Food Hub Community Room Hosts First Gathering

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The Food Hub hosted its first meeting in the Community Room, May 7, for the Vermont Internship Professionals Network (VIPN).

As the multipurpose meeting and workshop space is in the process of being outfitted with both kitchen and conferencing equipment, the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) is developing the guidelines and protocols for use of this new community resource.

To help test out the community room set-up and systems, CAE’s Place-Based Education Coordinator Reeve Basom partnered with Hazen Union School’s Work-Based Learning Coordinator Jen Olson to host a meeting of the VIPN with a focus on exploring the intersection of internships and place-based learning.

VIPN members attending were educators and program coordinators from around Vermont. They joined featured guests representing a variety of relevant place-based education work that included the Sterling College Dean of Work Learning John Helms, Sterling College student and intern Isabel Kapitulik, UVM Internship

Program Coordinator Kristen Andrews and an intern from the Northeast Kingdom UVM internship program, and Hazen Union students from the Recipe for Human Connection class.

The meeting was anchored by a series of small group discussions to learn from the work of guest presenters. Attendees then met in the community room as the Hazen students led everyone in making lunch and having a family-style meal together.

The day finished with a group walk on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, which passes by the Food Hub. The gathering was “a great way to complete the day, digesting the good food and good ideas that had been shared,” according to a CAE newsletter.

“A key takeaway, both acknowledged in theory and felt in practice by the group, was the reciprocal value of place-based learning for all involved, as both students and community members deepened their sense of connection, purpose and possibility,” according to the CAE newsletter.

The CAE plans to share updates about the community room in the coming months.



Participants work together to make coleslaw and salad for lunch in the Hardwick Food Hub building, putting new kitchen equipment to use and getting a taste of the Recipe for Human Connection experience, May 7.

photo by Reeve Basom



Hazen students (on right facing camera), Lucas Hall (left) and Ginger Bowley host a round table station about their experience in the Recipe for Human Connection class which puts on a monthly community meal in Hardwick. The Vermont Internship Professionals Network meeting is the first to be hosted by the Center for an Agricultural Economy in the new Hardwick Food Hub’s Community Room.

photo by Reeve Basom



Hazen Union School Work-Based Learning Coordinator Jen Olson (pointing), invites participants at a Vermont Internship Professionals Network meeting in the new Hardwick Food Hub’s Community Room to share a place-based learning experience they would have wanted as a teenager, May 7.

photo by Reeve Basom



Wolcott fifth grade students Chayse Hudson (left) and Bentley Robarge (right) catch invertebrates from the Lamoille River to study during their trout release and reflection activity, May 29.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Shopping cart races was one of the many activities held May 24 for Springfest. Nathaniel Brandt pushes Levi Higgins (left) in a race against Joel Higgins who pushes the cart with Mason King (right) in it. All were from Woodbury.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# EDITORIAL

## Information Age Isn't Perfect Yet

I went to school in the days of the library card catalog and "Index to Periodical Literature," where research involved thumbing through the indexes and writing down what one wanted to go look for elsewhere. The biggest challenge we faced then was finding a library big enough to have what we wanted to read, or waiting for an interlibrary loan.

Notes would be copied from the source document into a notebook, or onto note cards, which would pile up like leaves in the fall, during any significant research effort.

By the early 1970s photocopiers (aka Xerox machines) were common enough that some handwritten notes could be eliminated.

To keep track of where things were, one had to devise some sort of system that would allow for easy retrieval of what one was looking for. Too bad looking under "E" for "elephant," if you filed it under mammal.

Between then and now mountains of every conceivable kind of source material have become available to us in the Information Age from a pocket device that would have astounded Dick Tracy and Maxwell Smart.

It's hardly necessary to index or file what arrives at an email inbox because it's all available in a search. There's no need to look for "elephant" or "mammal," when simply remembering I read it last Tuesday at noon, or there was the word blue in the message, is enough.

I stopped saving website bookmarks years ago because a simple search usually brings up most sites I want in the blink-of-an-eye.

All of which is to say that writing about local government and school board activities drives me almost insane some days. Every school board and town website is different. Some store documents in a form that aren't indexed by search engines. Some destroy documents that provide an historical record; for example, deleting a meeting agenda after the minutes are posted.

Each town and school district provides different information about meetings with some posting only minutes and an audio recording afterward, in which it's almost impossible to identify the speaker. It gets a bit easier to know who spoke in the recording of a virtual meeting when everyone has their own little box with a name, but even then those who call in by phone might be identified only by a number.

In the towns we cover, it's rare for each speaker to be iden-

tified by the chair or moderator, except perhaps at town meetings.

Open meeting laws essentially only mean the body can't hide most things from those in the room. And they can't talk about their business if there are too many of them in one place, or on an email thread. Policing of that is mostly up to members of the body and the honor system.

Figuring out what happened later is a whole other matter and most won't begin to spend the time searching for details.

Thankfully journalists exist to do it for you, but we sometimes get a bit grouchy as deadlines approach and any number of frustrations present themselves.

Paul Fixx, editor

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### We Welcomed More Recent Immigrants

To the editor:

Thursday, June 5, I will be attending my 70th reunion at Harvard, that festering nest of treachery in Cambridge, Mass. I hope to see you in a couple of weeks, unless ICE carts all of us away Thursday. That would be truly ironic, because our family

has been here since the 1600's on my mother's side, and the early 1700's on my father's. We welcomed the more recent immigrants, like the Trumps, the Millers and the Homans. Alas.

James Peale  
Bronxville, N.Y.  
Greensboro

### For the record

The May 21 story, "Fire Ignited by Crashed Car Destroys Iconic Red Barn," misspelled the name of the barn's owner in one caption. She is Leslie Jean Ballantyne.

In last week's story, "Peace Corps Panel at Greensboro Free Library," the photo of Arminda King and Corrine Pelletier shows Pelletier on the left.

In last week's Voices of Spirit column, "Finding the Treasure vs. the Coin," The dateline and town where Alex Jump lives should have been East Hardwick. Her children were grown when she moved to Greensboro.



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## THE Hardwick Gazette

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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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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Lawmakers Further Apart on Details of Ed Bill

by **Ethan Weinstein, VTDigger**

MONTPELIER – You couldn't walk 10 steps under the golden dome Friday without someone asking if we were getting out of here today. Legislative lawyers are under-rested and over-extended. Lawmakers have skipped too many meals. And everyone has a pet theory: so-and-so wants a delay, someone has a secret proposal they're waiting to unveil.

But it's not looking good, folks, thanks to the ed bill. Here's how it was going down (so far).

After a stalled morning, the H.454 conferees gathered for a brief meeting after 11. Despite an air of pessimism preceding the discussion, both sides expressed willingness to compromise on key issues that threatened to delay the day.

The surprise came later. I'll get to that.

House members, for their part, signaled a willingness to consider allowing districts to spend less than the amount a foundation formula would provide. Reaching agreement looked much less likely hours later.

When the group returned at

2:45 with the Senate's latest draft, there were some new ideas. Quite a few.

For example, a potential expansion of school choice. Components of a foundation formula pulled from a couple of weeks ago. And if districts can't pass a budget by a certain date, they get 90% of a foundation formula rather than the full thing unless they're a fully non-operating district, in which case they don't have to vote and get 100% of the foundation formula.

As the surprises arrived, both conferees and spectators struggled to control their shock. Eyebrows raised, one lobbyist leaned to the next and mouthed, "this is wild."

Senate members suggested they would consider the House's version of a property tax credit, which would significantly expand eligibility and relief over the existing system but cost more overall.

The new language proliferated throughout the Senate's proposal but was not in the chamber's original bill, the House's version or the governor's recommendations. With frustration palpable, Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, chair of the House Education Committee, called for a recess.



Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, gestures across the table as House and Senate members of the education reform bill conference committee meet at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Friday, May 30.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

When the group reconvened at 5 p.m., the Senators first appeared to pull their large changes off the table, before clarifying that most of it was still in play.

"Do you believe passing this tonight is the right answer?" Conlon asked the Senate members, holding up the afternoon surprise.

Sen. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, appeared to nod. But Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington,

was less sure.

"I don't know if that is the right answer. That was 15-minute at lunch's attempt to come up with an answer," she said.

Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, spoke up.

"We had a bill that was one caucus all the way through, and now we've got to square it up with both caucus and a Republican governor. So I guess, let's dig in."

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Late Night in the House

by **Rep. Leanne Harple**

MONTPELIER – I am writing to provide an update to the end of the 2025 legislative session. Friday, May 30, shortly before midnight, the House gavelled out without receiving a final bill on H. 454, the education transformation plan.

The Committee of Conference, made up of members appointed from both the House and the Senate, was unable to come to a final agreement. They will continue to work on the bill for the next two weeks, and the House will be called back into session on June 16 and 17, hopefully to receive and

vote on their final report. Until then, this process remains temporarily suspended. Please continue to write to the members of the Committee of Conference if you have thoughts you'd like to share about the education bill.

The House Committee on Education also remains hopeful that we will be able to pass H.54, the state-wide cellphone-free bill that we have been receiving much testimony on this year. H.54 requires schools to create or adopt policies that would prohibit the use of cellphones and other personal electronic devices by students throughout the entire school day. There is wide bipartisan support

for this measure, and I anticipate that when we finally adjourn for this year in a few weeks, this bill will be passed into law.

There are many other bills that have already been passed this year, all of which can be found on the General Assembly website. The last week has been a whirlwind, and a lot has happened.

Here are just a few of the latest updates: We have worked to reduce homelessness and provide more permanent housing to Vermonters as we phase out the inefficient and inadequate motel/hotel program that we have been relying on for too long. We have created programs to create more low, middle and

mixed-income housing, working towards the very end of the session to negotiate removing unnecessary barriers that will now allow more rural communities to participate in these programs. We passed laws to tighten our election processes and protect voters from fraudulent or AI-created information.

I will be providing a much more thorough end-of-year report when the session officially adjourns in mid-June (I hope) that will go into detail about specific key bills that passed this year.

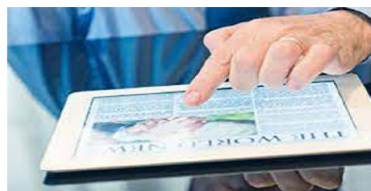
Leanne Harple represents Orleans-4 House District which includes towns of Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro.

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# OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## Should I Stay or Should I Go? One recent grad reflects on a future in Vermont

by Lucia McCallum

CABOT – Vermont is an idyllic place to grow up.

I was born and raised in Cabot. And as a kid there, I thrived in our small, tight-knit community.

Now, I'm living in Burlington. I just graduated from the University of Vermont. And as much as I love this state, I wonder if it makes sense for me to stay.

As a 21-year-old with an English degree, I worry about finding a job, affording a place to live, and building a strong community of people my age here. Moving to a larger state with bigger cities might make all that a little easier.

I know it's a privilege to get to choose where I want to begin the next chapter of my life. But still, I'm struggling with this decision.

And I'm not alone.

Most of the people who go to college in Vermont, 57 percent, leave the state after graduation. That's more than any other state, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

I ran that statistic by Art Woolf, an economics professor at the University of Vermont who specializes in Vermont demographics. He says to take the finding with a grain of salt, because so many of the people who go to college in Vermont come here from out of state.

Still, Vermont is not retaining recent college graduates. Woolf said one reason is because young people tend to want to live in urban areas.

"Now there are some people, young people, who really like the outdoors and being able to kayak and hike and ski, and that is a certain subset," he said. "But it's not the majority."

I like rural Vermont, and I feel like I could build a life in Cabot. But I still don't know what to do.

So I headed back to my hometown to talk with some locals about my dilemma. My best friend and fellow Cabotian, Mia Preston, tagged along with me. "I think the older I get, the more I feel like I'm going to have a really hard time leaving Vermont," Mia told me.

Mia is graduating from the University of Vermont in the fall, and she's considering moving back to Cabot within the next year. Like me, she loves our hometown, but doesn't know if it is feasible to live there right now.

"I thrive with people my own age, and I don't really see that much here," she said.

Once in Cabot, we went to Harry's Hardware. Harry's is a community hub, part hardware store, part bar. Inside, each of the metal tractor seat

stools at the bar was occupied. People chatted and ate pizza at tables scattered around shelves of tools and animal feed. Toward the back, a group played Magic the Gathering.

Mia and I asked Harry's regulars about what they did when they were our age.

Alanna Flynn said as a teen, she was itching to get out of Vermont. She's originally from Benson, and she left Vermont four days after she graduated from high school.

"I got on a train and I went to Columbus, Ohio, where my oldest brother lived," she said. "I hung out there for a while, and then I toured with him and his band back to the East Coast and up back to New England, selling merchandise for him."

Kenny Gokey was born and raised in Cabot, but left when he was 17.

"My dad passed away when I was just a freshman, so I ended up quitting school went to work in a granite shed," he said. "And then Uncle Sam wanted me, so I joined the military, and ended up in Vietnam."

Seth O'Brien grew up in town and left for college.

"I wanted to see something bigger. So I went to New York, and then decided that was too big and too busy, and made my way back."

In fact, Flynn, Gokey and O'Brien all came back.



Mia Preston at Harry's Hardware in Cabot in April 2025.

photo by Lucia McCallum

Flynn moved to Cabot to be a bartender at Harry's six years ago. She doesn't work at Harry's anymore, but still lives in town. O'Brien started a computer shop under the Cabot Village Store, and has found community at Harry's where he now hosts Magic the Gathering sessions on Wednesdays. And Gokey said he always knew he wanted to come back to Vermont.

Talking to them, they seemed to share an undeniable feeling that Cabot is home.

Flynn says it's because of the people.

"There are beautiful places all around the country that you could live, but the community and the camaraderie of Vermonters is something that you don't find everywhere," Flynn said.

Kenny Gokey suggested I stay in Vermont. He says a younger crowd would benefit Cabot.

"If you're a true Vermonter and you've lived here all your life, well, it's like home, you know," he said. "So I really feel strongly that, if you grew up in this town and you went to school in this town, yeah, you know, come back and tell us how we should be fixing things."

Ama Peyman agrees. She has an organic vegetable farm in town, and she said more young people here could help strengthen the community.

"I think we need you," she said. "I think



Lucia McCallum at her graduation from the University of Vermont on May 18, 2025.

photo courtesy of Lucia McCallum

that Cabot's aging out a bit. When I look around at my neighbors, a lot are older than myself and my husband, Nate. And when I go to church here, I attend the little old church here in Cabot, and almost everyone's older than ourselves."

But others, like Flynn, told me there's something to be said for leaving.

"I think that you've gotta leave for some period of time, whatever that looks like," she said. "I mean, maybe not everybody feels that way, but I feel like you have to know what else is out there to be certain about where you want to be."

Unlike me, some young people already know what they want.

High school senior Cian Nott plans to live in Cabot with his girlfriend after they graduate and take a cross-country road trip this summer.

"Where I go to school, there's definitely a lot of people who can't wait to get out of here," he said.

After we left Harry's Hardware, Mia and I decided to drive up Cabot Plains Road to go sit by the covered bridge and watch the sunset, something we did religiously in high school. It's a place that's sacred to us. As we drove, Mia sung along to the radio, and the sky grew pink.

I'm moving into an apartment in Burlington for the summer, and I don't know when I'll be living in Cabot again. But I do know that in that moment, I was home.

I think it's really the way you grow up, and the lifestyle you want to lead. For some people, Vermont is the perfect place for a quiet, happy lifestyle."

Lucia McCallum writes for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship, in partnership with Vermont Public.



Mia Preston recording her thoughts on a future in Vermont as she sits parked off of Cabot Plains Road in April 2025.

photo by Lucia McCallum



Best friends Mia Preston and Lucia McCallum (front row center) as children with their Cabot soccer team on October 19, 2011.

photo courtesy of Lucia McCallum

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Tough and Tender Thoughts for Turbulent Times

by Avril Cochran

HARDWICK - "Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8.

If Mother Theresa said she was but a small pencil in the hand of God, I may be comparatively a speck of broken chalk. But we are all called to leave our mark no matter how small and fragile. Some will do remarkable things that get noticed. Others will do everyday things that build up over time or only impact a few people. Some will help save the planet, change laws, lead organizations or combat injustice. Others will simply plant flowers. Each is doing what they can, where they are, with what they have, and to how they feel

called. Justice is being fair and unbiased however we view and participate in our world.

Showing mercy (compassion, forgiveness, grace, humanity, kindness) to all is no easy task. It takes submitting to a higher love than my own. It takes thoughtful intention. It takes trying over and over to get it right so that it's not just arrogant self-righteousness. God is love. Love flows from God to us and is meant to flow out to others; a constant stream. We are just conduits of that love.

Humility requires us to consider others above ourselves. Humility is not natural. It is about dropping our tools of destruction and picking up utensils of creativity and growth.

Walking humbly is knowing that others may have answers we don't, others may possess knowledge we don't, others who think and live differently than us may have something to teach us.

Walking humbly means listening, not with a ready answer waiting on our tongue, but listening to understand, to help, to encourage and to come along beside and partner with others for the common good. Listening is active, thoughtful and encourages connection.

Prayer is the heart's cry for something else, something more, something holy. In the asking, in the acknowledgement that the Creator of the Universe is greater than we are, there comes a peace

that doesn't make sense, a joy in spite of what is going on, a hope for an unseen future and a love that daily makes a difference in how we approach others.

History is fraught with turbulent times. Profound truths often seem too simple to address the problems of our day. Wiser minds than mine have stood up in turbulent times and with simple acts and profound insights have changed the course of history. Let's go and do likewise as we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

*Rev. Avril Cochran is the pastor at The United Church of Hardwick and a registered nurse working as the clinical director for Orleans-Essex VNA and Hospice.*

# ANOTHER OPINION

## Americans are Exhausted and Angry

by Joe Murphy

I've been worrying a great deal about President Trump's disregard for the rule of law and his demolition of valuable publicly funded programs and institutions. At the same time, perspective is important: it's important to understand that Trump and the MAGA movement didn't just appear out of thin air, or arise because a cohort of alleged racists who never before voted decided to come out of the woodwork and cast ballots.

The MAGA movement and Trump are the logical outcomes of a rotten system and the repulsiveness of Democrats on a national level.

Americans are exhausted and angry at the corruption and hypocrisy in D.C. They're hungry for radical change. And if they can't have the change they seek, they seem content to watch the whole enterprise implode. They're content to settle for someone who will take an axe to whatever object they've been conditioned to project their anger on, such as social programs or immigrants, rather than the wealthy and powerful.

The Democrats and Republicans have a stranglehold on America. They're funded and controlled by the same cohort of wealthy special interests: the military industrial complex, big pharma, big ag, insurance companies. Just take a look at campaign finance reports. Sure, there are some differences in policies and funding between Democrats and Republicans. But

what's more telling, and more important, is their unity; the funding and agenda of elites on whose behalf they legislate, while they virtue signal and handwave about the sanctity of our democracy.

But it isn't just the fact that we live in an oligarchy in which our votes at the national level are essentially theater. The Democrats have not only dropped the ball; they've popped it with a knife and thrown it into a dumpster fire. I constantly hear from Leftists that Democrats are "the lesser of two evils;" they're confused about why so many people clearly disagree. First of all, evil is still evil, and secondly, it's worth examining at least some of the reasons why voters have every right to reject Democrats. Let's survey just some of what Democrats have brought us since President Obama: Obama took us from two wars to seven, bombing seven countries in his first six years in office; prosecuted and terrorized whistleblowers; suspended habeas corpus; and assassinated a U.S. citizen. The Democrats shelved a public option for healthcare even when they had an historic supermajority. They bailed out Wall Street, and then, afterwards Obama went on a speaking tour for the very banks he bailed out to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars per speech.

The Democrats foisted Hillary Clinton, one of the most corrupt and unpopular politicians in the country, upon the Democratic base, with the DNC openly cheating Bernie Sanders in the process.

Then they had the audacity to call people sexist for not voting for her, as if there were no other possible reasons why people wouldn't cast their ballots for Clinton.

During Trump's first term, all the Democrats managed to accomplish was to spread Russiagate propaganda. And they fell in love with neocons critical of Trump, including Liz Cheney and George W. Bush, even though they got Obama elected largely on the back of how awful Bush was, the same president who greenlit two illegal wars and a sadistic torture program.

Four years of President Biden brought us to the brink of nuclear war with Russia. His administration colluded with social media companies to censor political speech. It tried to implement a de facto vaccine mandate that would have affected upwards of 80 million workers while at the same time calling itself "pro choice." Its health authorities promulgated pandemic policies that took a sledgehammer to public education and detonated a bomb on small businesses.

And the administration, in conjunction with mainstream media, ran cover for Biden's cognitive decline before, and on the campaign trail, gaslighting everyone who questioned his mental fortitude. Finally, the Democrats cemented their unpopularity by canceling primary debates, denigrating anyone who dared to call for an open and fair competition. Then they coronated Vice President Harris (who, by the way, no one thought was qualified until the very last

minute). They publicly displayed their disdain for democracy.

Democrats today prioritize spending hundreds of billions of tax dollars in foreign aid, most recently Ukraine, while a majority of Americans can't even afford a \$500 emergency. They openly embrace our economic reliance on low-wage non-citizen workers while blaming Republicans for average wages not keeping up with the costs of living. They holler about social justice, yet they've become a party of war and censorship that has turned its backs on the working class.

Chuck Schumer summarized their indifference to the working class best when he declared, "for every blue-collar Democrat we lose in western Pennsylvania, we will pick up two moderate Republicans in the suburbs in Philadelphia."

To my mind, the only strategy that sets Democrats apart from Republicans on a national level since at least 2016 has been to scream about Trump and lecture people about identity politics and microaggressions. They've deluded themselves into thinking that enough people are sufficiently fixated on abortion that they can cross the electoral finish line. All they have left is a smug unearned sense of moral superiority, and most regular people would rather vote for an untethered allegedly fascist billionaire than them.

If Democrats can't convince people to vote for them over a man who proclaimed he'd be a dictator on day one, then maybe the problem isn't Trump and the people who voted for him.

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## We Can Always Repeal It

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – My kid was mountain biking on a hill near his home in Arkansas and realized he'd lost his cell phone out of his pocket somewhere along the trail. Without his phone, he was incommunicado, but another rider lent him his. He called home, his wife hit "Find Will's phone" on her phone, and she was able to send him a map showing the exact spot in the woods where the mislaid phone lay.

Now, that's amazing to me, but it seems to be a normal, accepted fact of life in the electronic age, which I understand we're in. I heard about his pickle because I found myself in a similar one, but was stranded, with no idea what to do about it.

That's the trouble with change. It's exciting, sometimes threatening, and according to the sage Heraclitus (attributed), the only constant. There's no way we can avoid it, and a million ways we can respond to it. Miniver Cheevy, for example, a poetic creation of Edwin Arlington Robinson, spends his entire life crying into his beer over the loss of the good old days: ". . . [he] eyed a khaki suit with loathing; he missed the medieval grace of iron clothing." On the other hand, some of us clearly have never met a new idea we didn't like. I often think of Vermont vis-à-vis New Hampshire that way. New ideas introduced to the Vermont legislature often seem to evoke the reaction, "It's probably a wacky idea. Sounds unlikely. But hell, there's fewer'n 650,000 of us. Let's try it. We don't like it, we can always repeal it." The sober solons of Concord, however, sniff at it and declare, "If it's a good idea, we'd've had it 250 years ago. Forget it."

Me, I kind of like change. Polarfleece, which I looked at askance when it came out, has almost completely replaced wool and down in my winter wardrobe. Letting go of my tiny white gas camping stove was harder, but it's now in my museum. And if I wore a cap as Elon Musk often does, the slogan on the forehead would read, "Bernie was right!" Still, I've come a long way since our dial telephone was shaped like a blooming daffodil, the long series of typewriters and computers starting with my 1952 Smith-Corona, and news via a Western Union messenger at the door. So I hope I may be forgiven if sometimes I appear to be gasping.

The other trouble with change is that, as I ease into the unfamiliar territory of advanced age, it seems to be happening faster and faster, so that I'm not able to keep pace. It's probably a combination of diminishing speed of cognition and increasing tempo of innovations in the programs I use every day for writing and communicating.

I have a recurring nightmare of waking up in my tent in the morning in the middle of nowhere, finding my tentmate's sleeping bag gone, and hearing my chums outside sliding the canoes into the water. I'm getting left behind.

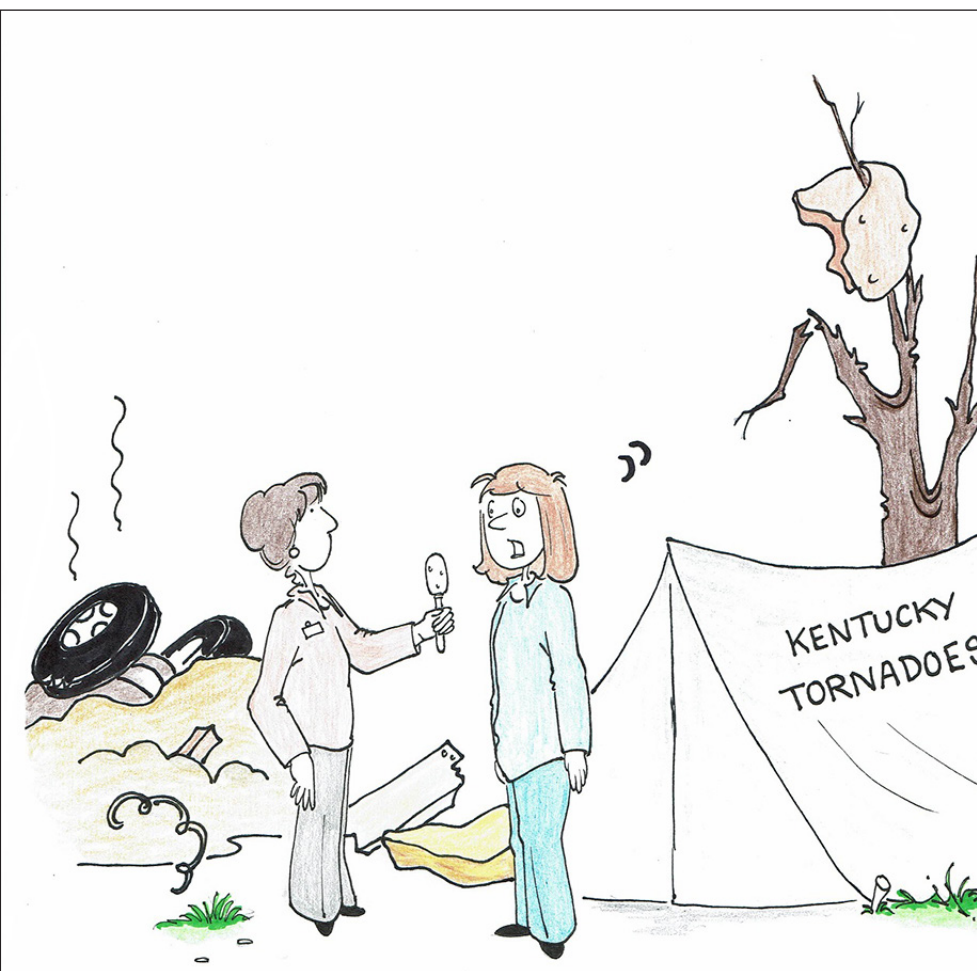
I'm very happy with my cell phone, but, I've found, have an inadequate appreciation of its value in my life. After I took a series of falls, my friend Bea urged me to get a Dick Tracy wristwatch like hers, which reacts to the motion of an apparent accident by asking if I'd like it to call for help. The two of them, the phone and the wristwatch, talk to each other all the time, unbeknownst to me till this week.

I woke up from a nap in my recliner and couldn't find my phone. Oh, boy! Not in the car, not in the bedroom, kitchen, bed, or bathroom. I looked everywhere (clearly not an accurate statement). Then, in a sudden burst of inspiration, I spoke to my wrist watch, asking Siri to find my phone. She hemmed and hawed for a bit, sort of cleared her throat, and said, "Pinging Willi's phone" (I use an old nickname to distinguish myself from my son). Next thing I knew, the recliner sprang to life. Kiki, snoozing peacefully in it, looked up with a sort of what-the-hell? expression. I followed the pinging, glimpsed the screen glowing far down inside the chair, and fished it out.

That evening, during my regular FaceTime call with the kids in Arkansas (See? I told you I was up to date), I ecstatically reported my success. They were singularly unimpressed, and responded with the story about my son's phone lost on the trail. In fact, they said, if they'd known about my situation, they could have located my phone here in my house from theirs in Arkansas. They implied gently, in deference to my feelings, that everybody knows that (another inaccurate statement). Well, I do now, and I'm ready for my next marvelous discovery.

It lies within three feet of me as I sit here at my desk. But what's the question?

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"I LIVE IN A TENT BECAUSE MY HOME WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO AND THERE'S NO HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT. BUT, HEY, TRUMP GOT HIS FLYING PALACE THAT HE WANTED!"

## MEETING MEMO

- Wednesday, June 4**  
Wolcott Select Board, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, June 5**  
Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.
- Monday, June 9**  
Caledonia Cooperative School District Full Board of Directors' Regular Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Walden School Room #192 and remote access available.  
Calais Select Board, second Monday of month, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 10**  
Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st Floor. Information: (802) 249-6004, Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.
- Wednesday, June 11**  
Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.
- Town Clerks**  
Cabot: [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us)  
Calais: [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)  
Craftsbury: [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)  
Greensboro: [greensborovt.gov](http://greensborovt.gov)  
Hardwick: [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org)  
Marshfield: [town.marshfield.vt.us](http://town.marshfield.vt.us)  
Plainfield: [plainfieldvt.us](http://plainfieldvt.us)  
Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net  
Walden: [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov)  
Wolcott: [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)  
Woodbury: [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org)
- Twinfield Union School

## THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## How Avian Influenza Might Be Affecting Loons

by Vermont Center for Ecostudies with contributions from Eric Hanson

VERMONT – The nature community is becoming concerned about how bird flu impacts Common Loons.

Wendy Puryear with the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, presented the latest updates at the Northeast Loon Study Working Group's 2025 meeting, and this update draws on that, with some additional information from us at the Vermont Loon Project.

The H5N1 avian flu virus has circulated for decades, originating in East Asia and primarily affecting poultry and rarely, humans. Historically, outbreaks in wild birds were short-lived because infected birds would die before migrating.

But about five years ago, the virus evolved. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), caused by

influenza type A viruses, includes multiple strains, such as H5N1. The ongoing outbreak likely began in Europe in 2020 and was first detected in the U.S. in November 2021. This strain doesn't kill wild birds as quickly, allowing infected birds to migrate and spread the virus globally. It has since reached all 50 states.

Dairy farms have been badly impacted, especially in the Midwest. The virus is believed to spread through contact between infected poultry, wild birds and dairy cows. Transmission routes have broadened beyond traditional fecal-oral and respiratory pathways. Scavenging birds are now spreading the virus by feeding on infected carcasses. Predators may also contribute to its spread and free-roaming barn cats and other domestic animals may contribute to transmission, mainly if they consume contaminated raw milk or meat.

From 2022 to the present, HPAI has affected over 13,000 wild birds across 49 species, 1,300 terrestrial



Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)  
photo by Chris Roberts

mammals and 1,600 marine mammals in New England. Infections are increasing rapidly in ducks, particularly sea ducks, and HPAI has now been detected in songbirds. In Vermont, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, HPAI has been detected statewide in bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, Canada geese, wood ducks, mallards, black ducks and turkey vultures.

Loons might be less prone than waterfowl to becoming infected due to their solitary nature, as congregations of birds make transmission more likely.

Two loons in New York State

have been infected with HPAI. One died of it, while the other died of different causes. Several loons found dead along the Massachusetts coast during the spring migration in 2024 were also infected. But so far, HPAI has not been detected in loons in Vermont.

While human-to-human transmission remains rare, the virus continues to evolve in ways that are worrying to public health officials. The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation puts it well: "Researchers and public health workers look for ways to contain and slow down the spread of diseases, but it is not always possible to predict how a virus will mutate, or when. We can do our part by limiting our chances for exposure, supporting researchers by reporting cases and staying informed."

If a sick or dead loon is found, contact the Vermont Center for Ecostudies loon biologists at [loon@vtecosudies.org](mailto:loon@vtecosudies.org) or (802) 586-8065 with details and the location. Include photos and/or a video if possible.

## IN THE GARDEN

### Hildene is Vermont Historical Landmark

by Nadie VanZandt

PANTON – Perched on a hill in Manchester overlooking the Battenkill Valley lies Hildene, the Lincoln family estate. Originally built by Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln, the property features a stately mansion and expansive gardens. Due to its significant historical importance, this Vermont landmark has drawn the attention of historians, tourists and garden enthusiasts alike.

Built in 1905, the 412-acre property includes a Georgian revival mansion, 14 historic buildings, two working farms, a formal garden and a cutting and kitchen garden.

Following the death of Mary Lincoln Beckwith, the last Lincoln descendant to live at Hildene, the local non-profit organization, Friends of Hildene, raised funds to purchase the estate in 1978. Restoration of the formal gardens began that same year and is ongoing.

The formal gardens are an American version of a French parterre. A parterre (French for "on the ground") is a formal garden with colorful flowerbeds enclosed in box-shaped hedges that form the garden's structure. Sections of hedges are often separated by gravel, brick or cobblestone paths.

Parterres are known for the overall geometric shapes formed by their boxwood hedging, their most striking feature. They are designed to be appreciated from a higher vantage point, which explains their presence near castles and estates.

Hildene's parterre with its closely cropped hedges of privet was designed by Robert Todd Lincoln's daughter, Jessie Lincoln Beckwith, as a gift to her mother, Mary Harlan Lincoln. When seen from the mansion's second floor, the parterre



Visitors to Hildene, once home to Robert Todd Lincoln, can tour the Georgian revival mansion and its parterre, a formal garden with colorful flowerbeds enclosed in box-shaped hedges designed by Jessie Lincoln Beckwith as a gift for her mother.

photo by Robynn Beams Conley

resembles a stained-glass window where the privet hedge represents the lead contours and the flowerbeds the glass panes.

At Hildene, the formal garden has been restored to Jesse's original plans. It has been admired for its symmetry, beauty and attention to detail. Sections of the parterre were replanted with the original color scheme from updated hybrids of turn-of-the-century flowers.

Most of the hedges and peonies are original plantings. These peonies have survived for over 100 years, producing thousands of blooms each June. In 2005, a pergola recreated from historical photos was built, and in spring 2020, a full restoration of the original privet hedges dating back to 1908 began.

The kitchen garden, located where the Lincoln family spent time relaxing, supplied the family with fruit and vegetables. Today, it is managed by volunteers and harvested for the benefit of the

local food shelter. In addition, the Hildene Flower Ladies, a volunteer group, tends to the cutting garden and gathers fresh flower bouquets for the mansion and its welcome center.

Hildene also boasts a butterfly garden filled with nectar and host plants that bloom in succession throughout the season to attract a variety of butterflies and other pollinators. This garden is used in education programs for children to explore the habitat, life cycle and migration of monarch butterflies.

Pollinator sanctuaries are not limited to the butterfly garden but are found throughout the property in pollinator meadows, pathways and dandelion lawns.

In the same area, visitors can marvel at the berry cage, a large, framed structure covered in wire netting. Inside, several berry bushes, including blueberries, raspberries and gooseberries, grow shielded from voracious birds and squirrels.

The gardens at Hildene are part of a larger preservation effort. They often host cultural programs, events and garden tours that attract a wide audience. While preserving the past, Hildene's gardeners apply many sustainable and organic practices to protect the future of this landmark of rich heritage.

The diverse tree species, colorful flowerbeds and ever-changing seasonal plantings are sure to captivate those interested in gardening and landscape design. Hildene also has more than 12 miles of trails open to the public year-round, making this a perfect destination for warm-weather walkers as well as Nordic sports aficionados.

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

Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Pantton.

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Against the Flow: Spring Alewife Run

by Loren Merrill

MILLBROOK, N.Y. – One of the most exciting rites of spring is the alewife run, an annual event where throngs of fish race upstream from the ocean to inland water bodies on a reproductive journey. These “river herring,” as they are categorized, actually spend most of their lives at sea. Come spring, when the water warms to at least five degrees Celsius, schools of alewives gather near river and stream mouths. Striped bass, seals, and cormorants pursue them underwater, while osprey, bald eagles, and a cacophony of gulls attack from the air. The fish adopt a safety-in-numbers approach by congregating in dense groups, and when they make their push upstream, the water appears to reverse direction as masses of gleaming, silver bodies surge against the current.

Unless one lives close to an alewife stream, however, they may not be familiar with this natural spectacle.

Like their salmonid cousins, alewives are anadromous, meaning they migrate up coastal streams and rivers to breed in ponds, lakes, and slow-moving riverine habitats.

Breeding can start as early as February in South Carolina, at the southern end of their range, but not until late May or June in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the northern extent of their range. When alewives reach their spawning sites, they release vast quantities of eggs and sperm. Females can release over 300,000 eggs at times.

Soon after spawning, the alewives return downstream to spend another year at sea. Fertilized eggs hatch after a few days, and the young fish spend the next several months eating freshwater zooplankton and trying to avoid being eaten. Everything from dragonfly larvae to bass can dine on young alewives. In fact, biologists estimate that only one in 80,000 survive their first summer. At the end of summer and into early fall, those surviving individuals travel downstream to the ocean, where they spend the next few years feeding on marine zooplankton. After three to four years, they return to their natal freshwater bodies to spawn, drawn there by olfactory cues.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans and the construction of dams that cut off access to most of the alewife’s historic breeding grounds,



Alewife

alewives likely occurred in the billions. In 1634, an Englishman named William Wood who lived at the Massachusetts Bay colony from 1629-1633, published an account of the areas he visited called “New Englands Prospects,” in which he wrote of the alewife’s abundance:

“Alewives . . . come up to the fresh Rivers to spawne, in such multitudes as is allmost incredible, pressing up in such shallow waters as will scarce permit them to swimme . . .”

These multitudes resulted in huge volumes of marine nutrients flowing into inland ecosystems. Envision streams and rivers as a great circulatory system, transporting nutrients from the ocean across the landscape in a variety of forms. Not only do the fish excrete nitrogen and phosphorus as waste, fertilizing the water for aquatic plants and algae, but they also feed dozens of predator species. Large rivers like the Delaware, Hudson, and Kennebec served as major thoroughfares from which the alewives accessed thousands of smaller streams and rivers on their way to interior ponds and lakes. The impact of these fish extended far inland from the coasts, in some cases well over 100 miles.

In addition to their ecological role, alewives are thought to have been a significant resource for Indigenous peoples and early European colonists. Wood’s descriptions of towns often included whether an alewife river was present or not. In this account of a Massachusetts town, for example, he wrote:

“...Dorchester... which is the greatest Towne in New England... [has] no Alewife-river, which is a great inconvenience.”

There is evidence that Indigenous people used the alewife for fertilizer as well as food. Indeed, the alewife is suspected of being the fish most commonly used by the Wampanoags to fertilize their “three sisters” crop of corn, bean, and squash.

Today, the alewife exists at a fraction of its former levels, and spawns in a tiny subset of its native breeding sites. But as dams are removed and fish ladders added to those that remain, the alewife is slowly reclaiming portions of its historic range, where it may once again serve as a conduit for energy flow from the ocean to the land.

Loren Merrill is a writer and photographer with a PhD in animal behavior, wildlife ecology and physiology living in Millbrook, N.Y. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.



Those working at the site of the Habitat for Humanity community duplex home build, in Greensboro Bend May 27, arrived to find bear tracks.

photo by Jenny Bayles

### West Danville-Joe’s Pond

Choose from either a sunny loft bedroom or a semi-private, two-room walkout level with rustic half bath overlooking Joe’s Pond. Hosts and their pup seeking companionship, some shared meals, small amounts of shoveling and cleaning. Zero rent plus small utility share. Compatible dog and outdoor smoking considered. (802) 863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](http://HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Civic Standard Celebrates Birthday, June 4

by The Hardwick Gazette

HARDWICK – The Civic Standard is celebrating the organization's third birthday, with a free Thanksgiving-in-June meal, Wednesday, June 4. The Civic will

supply turducken and sides and asks celebrants to bring pie. The Civic Standard is located at 42 S Main St., and is a non-profit organization dedicated to building community and collaborative good times centered in the town of Hardwick.

## The Wizard of Oz, June 4

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury Academy students in grades 2 to 12 will present "The Wizard of Oz," with two performances on Wednesday, June 4 at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro. This classic will be brought to life by a

cast and crew under the direction of Kate Locke.

This event is open to all students, staff, families and community members. Admission is by donation at the door; support will help to fund the arts at Craftsbury Academy.

## Queer Film Fest Kicks off Pride Month Events

by Erin Petenko

MONTPELIER – The Savoy Theater will kick off pride month with a screening of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show." The show is one of six cinematic events planned for the theater's Queer Film Festival, a three week celebration of LGBTQ+ films and shorts, both modern and classic. The cult classic features audience participation moments, including \$5 prop bags full of messy objects like handfuls of uncooked rice.

The festival, now in its fourth year, is one of Vermont's many events celebrating Pride Month. A portion of ticket sales will go to the Pride Center as well. Along with town-sponsored events, local venues have planned a wide variety of pride-themed entertainment. Barre LGBTQ+ bar Foxy's has an amateur drag night slated for June 7, while Babes Bar in Bethel has gay trivia planned on June 26.

For more information on upcoming area pride events, visit [pridecentervt.org](http://pridecentervt.org)

## NRLT Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 8

GREENSBORO – The Northern Rivers Land Trust (NRLT) annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 8, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Mountain View Country Club in Greensboro. The meeting will feature Josh Blouin, Wildlife Biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. He has a BS and MS in wildlife biology from the University of Vermont. His master's research focused on moose habitat use in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Blouin assists with managing Wildlife Management Areas in central Vermont, reviewing Act 250 applications to assess potential effects of proposed development projects on fish and wildlife habitat, and supporting the deer and moose

projects, including collecting and managing biological data and assisting with moose research.

Blouin will provide an overview of the status of Vermont's moose population, general moose ecology and the latest moose research in Vermont.

All are welcome. There will be light refreshments and learning about NRLT's conservation work in the area. Serving the towns of Hardwick, Woodbury, Walden, Wolcott, Albany, Greensboro, and Craftsbury, NRLT works with landowners to protect the natural, scenic and working landscapes in the headwaters of the Winooski, Lamoille, and Black rivers. Learn more and sign up for email updates at [northernriverslandtrust.org/](http://northernriverslandtrust.org/)

## Being a Friend in Grief Workshop, June 8

CRAFTSBURY – On June 8, at 2 p.m., the Northeast Kingdom Death Care Community will host Vermont doula and researcher Francesca Arnoldy at the Craftsbury Public Library for an interactive workshop. The workshop will cover the language of grief, including what to say, phrases to avoid and how to offer emotional care and practical

assistance to the bereaved with sensitivity, no matter the type of loss.

This is not a mental health training or grief support group, it is a community education event meant to help increase courage, confidence and connections. Register at [nekdeathcarecommunity.org](http://nekdeathcarecommunity.org). The event is limited to 40 participants.

## Layer Hens Workshop, June 8

EAST HARDWICK – The Caledonia Grange Second Sunday Agricultural Series continues on June 8 at 4 p.m., at the Grange Hall, 88 Church St, East Hardwick. Louis Pulver of Surfing Veggie Farm will present a workshop on backyard layer hens. Pulver will share the knowledge and

skills needed to successfully raise chickens in a backyard-small farm setting. Participants will learn the basics of poultry care, including proper nutrition, disease prevention and basic daily routines. The workshop will be followed by a potluck. Food contributions are welcome.

## Community Contra Dance June 13

CABOT – On Friday, June 13, the Cabot Community Contra Dance features the calling of Karen Mueller-Harder. The dance takes place in the Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St), from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The Cabot dance is held on the second Friday of each month, and is will now continue through the summer, on

July 11 and August 8. All ages and abilities are welcome. Genderless terminology is used. All dances are taught, and easy to learn, with no special footwork required. Admission is on a sliding scale, but nobody is turned away for lack of funds. Water is provided, or bring a water bottle. Masks are welcomed but not required.

## Barbecue Dinner, Lawn Games, Saturday, June 14

WALDEN – The Walden Community Library is holding a free barbecue dinner, lawn games, kids activities and live music by the Bald Mountain Boys, on June 14, from 5 to 7 p.m., behind the elementary school at 135 Cahoon Farm Road.

This event is free and open to all. Potluck side dishes or

desserts are welcome. Call Allison at (802) 522-3855 if interested in contributing.

This event is supported by a Vermont Department of Libraries Summer Programming Grant. For current hours and to browse the catalog visit [walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/](http://walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/)

## Bulky Waste Disposal, Recycling, June 14 by Town of Craftsbury

CRAFTSBURY – Bulky waste too large to fit in a household trash bag, scrap metal, appliances, mattresses and electronics can be disposed of or recycled, Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Craftsbury Town Garage, entering from Calderwood Hill Road. Acceptable items include: box springs and mattresses, household furniture, construction and building materials (limited to one pickup truck load), large plastic items made from nonrecyclable mate-

rials, metal appliances not using freon and passenger and light truck tires. Acceptable electronics include computers, monitors, televisions, printers and computer peripherals. Items not accepted include clothing, bedding, any textiles, household hazardous waste (paint, aerosols and pesticides), batteries and clean, untreated wood.

This event is for Craftsbury residents only, some charges apply. See details at [townofcraftsbury.com/craftsbury-calendar/2023/6/17/bulky-day-6ff26-93aae](http://townofcraftsbury.com/craftsbury-calendar/2023/6/17/bulky-day-6ff26-93aae)

## Summer Activities, Craftsbury Public Library

CRAFTSBURY – Every Tuesday and Friday morning, the Craftsbury Public Library will host story time, beginning at 10 a.m.

Mending Mondays are set for every first and third Monday, from 3 to 6 p.m.

On second Thursdays, starting 6 p.m., a new Movie Night (for the grownups) will take place, and Talk

of the Hearth will be returning on select Mondays at 7 p.m. More special events for kids and families will take place Tuesdays and Fridays at 3:30 p.m., starting June 24.

For more information, pick up a summer calendar at the library, or check the website for the full schedule.



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# EDUCATION

## Isabell Named to President's List

BURLINGTON – Nina Isabell of Wolcott, was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Isabell is majoring in Finance.

## Alex Stanger Receives Fulbright Fellowship

by Paul Fixx

EAST CALAIS – Alex Stanger, a Lawrence University senior and Hazen Union School alumnus from East Calais, is going abroad as the recipient of a 2025 U.S. Fulbright Program fellowship. Stanger will accept the award and spend the coming academic year teaching in Germany, said a Lawrence University press release.

“Stanger said a wide range of experiences as an undergraduate, including studying abroad and taking part in summer internships, led to the Fulbright,” according to the press release. “I pursued the Fulbright to further develop my skills as an educator and improve my ability to be a community member who can make a positive impact in my local community.”

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program. Since 1946, it has provided more than 400,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and professionals with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research abroad. The latest awards bring to 69 the number of Lawrence recipients since the program was first introduced.

“Stanger said it was Lawrence alumna Anja Pfeffer '02, an eighth-grade teacher for a world languages course [at Hazen Union School] in Vermont, who first piqued my interest in the German language. She also told Stanger about Lawrence,” as quoted by the University in Appleton, Wi. “In this class, we learned about a few different languages and how important languages are to how we interact with each other,” Stanger said. “I got my first taste of German in that class, and along the way learned so much more. Ms. Pfeffer was that teacher for me who made all the difference in the world, and her classrooms are where I was able to start blooming into the person that I would become.”

The seeds of Stanger's Fulbright application included a summer internship experience last year in Bemidji, Minnesota, with the Concordia Language Village's Waldsee, an immersive language camp, said Lawrence



Alex Stanger ('21), Hazen Union School alumnus and Lawrence University senior, has received a 2025 Fulbright fellowship. He will spend the 2025-2026 academic year teaching in Germany.

University of him. “While creating an immersive language learning environment, I got to co-run a two-week film-making program for a group of participants to learn some film-making skills and create a short film,” Stanger said. “I got to combine both my German and film studies skills there, and it was a blast.”

“In addition to being awarded the Fulbright fellowship, Stanger recently received recognition at Lawrence University for producing the best German senior capstone project of the academic year. This acknowledgment further underscores Stanger's academic excellence and dedication to the study of German language and culture,” said a Hazen Union School press release.

The award letter Stanger received from the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board stated, “Your grant is a reflection of your leadership and contributions to society. As a Fulbright participant and a representative of your country, you will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with international partners in educational, political, cultural, economic and scientific fields,” noted the Hazen release.

“Hazen Union School extends its heartfelt congratulations to Alex Stanger on this incredible achievement,” they added.

For more information about the Fulbright Program, visit us.fulbrightonline.org/

## Local Students Named to Dean's List

BURLINGTON – The following local students have been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the Spring 2025 semester. Those students are Casee Fowler and Caleb Fowler, Plainfield; Skyler O'Riordan, East Calais; Ewan Putvain, Wolcott; and Connor Trevits, Craftsbury Common.

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Bank Names Jaret-Rossi Commercial Lender

HARDWICK – Jill Jaret-Rossi has been named a commercial lender by Community Bank.

She brings more than 26 years of experience in the financial services industry, having spent her career at M&T Bank in a variety of leadership roles. She began her journey in banking as a teller and advanced to positions including retail branch manager, regional market manager and business banking relationship manager.

Jaret-Rossi serves as a board officer for Central Vermont Adult Education and sits on the board of the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation, where she contributes to initiatives



Jill Jaret-Rossi

that promote regional economic vitality. She lives in Wolcott with her husband Scott, their children Kenzie and Carter, and their chocolate Lab, Hank.

Jaret-Rossi will be working with business owners across Caledonia, Lamoille, Washington and Orange counties.

## 2025 Graduation Schedule

- June 5 - Walden 8th Grade Graduation, 6 p.m.
- June 10 - Hazen Union 8th Grade Celebration, 5 p.m.
- June 12 - Woodbury 6th Grade Graduation, 5 p.m.
- June 12 - Cabot 8th Grade Passage, 5 p.m.
- June 13 - Cabot High School Graduation, 5 p.m.
- June 13 - Craftsbury Academy High School Graduation, 6 p.m.
- June 14 - Hazen Union High School, 10 a.m.
- 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.



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## SPENT

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# OBITUARIES

## Walter Bothfeld Sr.

CABOT – The family of Walter Bothfeld Sr. of Cabot, who passed away on Dec. 20, 2024, invite friends and loved ones for a memorial service to be held on Saturday, June 21, at 11 a.m., at the Cabot United Church followed by a lunch reception. Walter’s complete obituary may be viewed at dgfunerals.com.

## Martha H. Niemi

GREENSBORO – Martha H. Niemi, 81, of Greensboro, passed away peacefully on May 24. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Martha brought joy and laughter into the lives of all who knew her.

Born on March 9, 1944, in Hartford, Conn., to Merrill and Winnie Hobart. Martha grew up riding bikes and eating five-cent Friendly’s hot fudge sundaes as the oldest sister to her three brothers, Peter, Bruce “Hobart” and Alan.

Martha married her love, Bill Niemi, on September 5, 1964, in Longmeadow, Mass., and together they raised a family, started a successful manufacturing business, and found their forever home on a farm in Greensboro.

She is survived by her husband, Bill, her children, Brian (Wanda) Niemi and Kristyna (Tom) Meyer, and her six grandchildren, Jack and Colton Niemi, Sara, Sophia, Ella, and Zoey Meyer, and her beloved dog Oden, who will all remember her laughter, kindness, and unwavering affection.

She worked closely with Bill to help run the family business and was known in the community for her involvement with the Greensboro Historical Society, Greensboro Nursing Home and Mountain View Country Club.

Throughout her life, Martha enjoyed volunteering at local hospitals in Vermont and Florida, including her time as a NICU aid, and her dedication to the Hardwick Rescue Squad.

She loved baking, gardening,



Martha H. Niemi

golfing, sewing and going to the post office. She brought joy to others through her homemade hot fudge, remembering birthdays and her bright smile. Her grandchildren would barter to sit next to her at the dinner table to hear her many stories and share in her laughter.

She was predeceased by her parents, her mother-in-law, Dorothy, and her brother Alan Hobart.

A celebration of life will be held on July 18, at 2 p.m., in Lincoln-Noyes Cemetery, Greensboro.

Martha’s sunshine will be deeply missed by those who knew her. As she would say, “LOL”, Lots of Love.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Hardwick Rescue Squad, PO Box 837, Hardwick, VT 05843.

Condolences and memories of Martha may be shared with her family at dgfunerals.com.



Corbin LaPierre stands on a ladder to add drip edging to the new Greensboro Gazebo’s roof in the park across from Willey’s Store, the afternoon of June 2, while his father Mike cuts the next piece to size. photo by Paul Fixx



Nine volunteer gardeners finish spring planting in the Greensboro Community Garden, June 2. They are, (from left) Miriam Rogers, Cathy Hansen, Jenny Bayles, Heidi DeBrino, Joan Feffer and Beth Meachem. Not pictured are Carol Calcagni and Liz Steel. photo by Liz Steel

### OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org  
ads@hardwickgazette.org



Vermont State Court #97 Catholic Daughters of the Americas installed new officers by Court Chaplain Reverend Patrick Forman at a Mass following the May 3 state convention. Officers included (from left) Vermont State First Vice Regent Annette Gann, Vermont State Regent Jeannine A. Young, Chaplain Reverend Patrick Forman, Bishop of the Diocese of Burlington John McDermott, Vermont State Secretary Rachel Kuban, Vermont State Treasurer Nancy Fuller, National Director Brenda West. Gann and Young are members of CDA Court St. Veronica #1273 in Hardwick. photo by Robin Gauthier



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# Group Show Illustrates Remarkable Talent

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

HARDWICK – An ongoing spring exhibition of art by over two dozen contributors at the Hardwick Inn has been extended into June. The show illustrates the remarkable talent and diversity of creative artists in this area. Pieces range from imaginative collages to photographs, landscape paintings, fabric constructions, folk wooden sculptures, abstract works, prints, watercolors, drawings and portraits.

On the ground floor by the west staircase are Winter Collages by the first-, second- and third-grade students at Hardwick Elementary School. Snowy landscapes tell the stories of the kids' experiences of winter, bright red cardinals and depict the aurora borealis in a night sky and cardboard masks from 3-D sculptures, all colorful, well composed and delightful.

Ceilidh Kane has eight watercolors of landscapes as seen from a plane, showing fields, roads and waterways in what become almost abstract patterns. The muted colors are harmonious and the compositions carefully balanced, showing the human impact on the earth.

Adam Molleur presents eight paintings on cardboard and 11 on canvas in a series called "Science Fiction Landscapes," some more abstract than others, with free use of color and a sense of surging energy.

Stephanie Garguilo's acrylic, Foxy Locks, combines a fox with a woman's face with swirling hair in dynamic curves, all fitting nicely together.

In the stairwell and second floor are eight sophisticated works by Alexandra Bottinelli. As she describes them, "The works presented here, collage-paintings with oil, are mysterious and layered, the process is slow, involving the building of images, space, color, removal and rebuilding."

Ross Connelly's nine photographs capture the endless beauty of the natural world, from a pelican in flight to a winter moon, a spectacular sunset and trees covered with new snow, as well as the Hardwick railway station and scenes of Ireland where he has ancestral roots, all sensitively structured fleeting moments.

Ken Leslie has very original conceptions in his fine paintings, starting with a large circular acrylic of a goose flying over a

city, surrounded by stars to guide her, very poetic. "Home" is another round piece, centered on an attractive house with a porch, amid grassy lawns and a curving road, with smoke coming out of the chimney; quite an idyllic vision.

Jo-Ann Dimick's six paintings celebrate local landscapes such as the Brown farm in Hardwick, antique cars in front of the Hardwick Inn, a horse and sleigh at a covered bridge in Stowe, the round barn at the Shelburne Museum and tall blooming lupine in the foreground with hills in the distance, all well constructed.

Philip Robertson's excellent prints show a nice combination of realism and abstraction, making skillful use of the medium, some repeating the subject with variations in color. Two scenes of Hardwick, the "Little River" and "Meyer's Field" are local.

Charles Emery clearly has fun making his paintings of birds and humorous sculptures of fish and caterpillars. They are colorful and have a certain quality of folk art whimsical spontaneity.

Nancy Schade has a whole room full of two dozen works on the third floor, with vibrant landscapes, intriguing charcoal drawings of active human figures and two finely sculpted bronzes. Some of the images have symbolic power.

Mary E. Young contributes some dozen paintings in varying sizes, with different degrees of recognizable objects or more abstraction.

Susan Calza has a black box with glass entitled "Walk It Home," holding a cut out figure and face with a curious element of strangeness.

Howard McKenzie's black and white prints are highly professional, large in scale and with interesting details such as a gumball machine and skulls amid figures and disembodied faces. Angela V. Grace submitted two paintings and a print: a carefully crafted "Asparagus and Friends," an abstract landscape "Over the Moon and Life," a mono print of a bird on the stem of a planet.

Lori Leff's prints and watercolors of people are quite striking, with varied settings, in rooms and even a bath tub, all of which suggest aspects of their individual personalities.

Valeria Angelo's pieces utilize the mediums of watercolor, oil and pencil, from "Happiness on the Run" with a boy and girl playing with pigs to a sympathetic and very exact profile of a young girl, and a study of her husband Rip

Keller playing the piano.

Marie LaPre Grabon's portraits are particularly well done, some having collage elements, beautiful in color balances, a fine scene of proportion and strong compositions, with background context that further conveys each person's uniqueness.

Michele Sulham's textile pieces have a woman's face, landscapes with prominent flowers, a flooding stream and a wise old woman, all carefully constructed of yarn.

Kathryn Lovinsky's 16 works explore many different mediums and subject matter, from animals to birds, flowers,

landscapes and people.

Some artists wished to remain anonymous. In the eastern stairway between the second and third floors are nine abstract paintings, which have a feeling of movement, perhaps of water, growing plants, or of the sky. On the third floor a series of geometric designs are carefully thought out.

As the exhibition continues, some pieces have been removed and replaced by others.

We should be grateful to Olive Ylin, who runs the Third Floor Gallery in the Hardwick Inn, for conceiving and organizing this wonderful exhibition of local artists.



Selections from three series of Kathy Stark's abstract art being shown through July 13 at the White Water Gallery in East Hardwick. *courtesy photo*

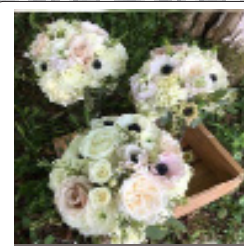
## Works by Stark Exhibited through July 13

EAST HARDWICK – Selections from three series by Kathy Stark will be on exhibit at the White Water Gallery through July 13. Stark is an abstract artist who has been using a repeat motif in her paintings since the 1980s. The focus has been on using a repeating

mark to create images with movement, depth and light. The works shown are from three series titled Memories, Light and Dreams. White Water Gallery is at 5 River Street, open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. For more information call (802) 563-2037.

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### Wedding Policy

The Hardwick Gazette provides space for engagements and wedding news as a free service.

Wedding announcements and photos should be received by our office within two months of the ceremony.

Photographs supplied will be returned when accompanied by a SASE.

Use of engagement and wedding information, as well as accompanying photographs, is at the discretion of the editors.

For information about advertising in the  
Wedding & Party Planner  
call The Hardwick Gazette at 472-6521!

# EVENTS

## Wednesday, June 4

**CIVIC STANDARD CELEBRATES** third birthday, with a free Thanksgiving-in-June meal, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Turducken and sides. Celebrants are asked to bring pie. 42 S. Main St., Hardwick.

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** performed by Craftsbury Academy students in grades 2 to 12. 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Highland Center for the arts, Greensboro. Open to everyone.

## Thursday, June 5

**"THE REVOLUTIONISTS"** by Lauren Gunderson, presented Thursdays through Sundays, June 5 to June 15, Lost Nation Theater, Montpelier, 7:30 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays and 2 p.m. Saturday, June 14. Information: (802) 229-0492 or info@lostonationtheater.org.

## Saturday, June 7

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

**CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO** birthday party for WGDR and WGDH, noon to 3 p.m., Pratt library building, at former Goddard College, Plainfield. Food and tours.

## Sunday, June 8

**BEING A FRIEND IN GRIEF** Workshop, 2 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library. Hosted by the Northeast Kingdom Death Care Community with Vermont doula and researcher Francesca Arnoldy. Register at nekdeathcarecommunity.org.

**NORTHERN RIVERS LAND TRUST** annual meeting, 4 to 6 p.m., Mountain View Country Club, Greensboro. Featuring Josh Blouin, Wildlife Biologist with the Vt. Fish and Wildlife Dept.

**LAYER HENS WORKSHOP** with Louis Pulver of Surfing Veggie Farm, 4 p.m., Grange Hall, 88 Church St., East Hardwick. Part of the Caledonia Grange second Sunday agricultural series. Potluck follows and food contributions are welcome.

## Wednesday, June 11

**DEATH CAFE**, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Facilitated by Kelsey Crelin. Refreshments provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

## Friday, June 13

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Willey Building, Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. All dances taught. No partner needed. Information: karen@praxisworks.org.

## Saturday, June 14

**SUMMER KICKOFF BBQ**, hosted by the Walden Community Library, 5 to 7 p.m., behind the elementary school, 135 Cahoon Farm Road. Free and open to all. Lawn games, kids activities, live music. Potluck side dishes or desserts welcome. Call Allison at (802) 522-3855.

## Wednesday, June 18

**CRAFTSBURY ACADEMY FRIENDS LUNCHEON**, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Charlmont Restaurant, Morrisville. Information and **See EVENTS, Next Page**

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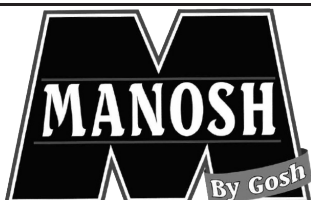


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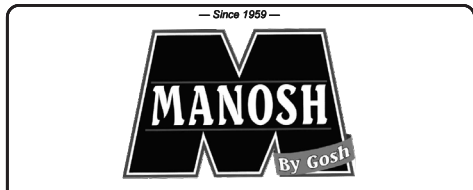
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# EVENTS

to sign up: Stella Slicer at (301) 222-6924.

## 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.

**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.

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

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

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

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

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 begin 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

**ORAH MOORE AND MARIE LAPRE GRABON** on Exhibit, River Arts, 74 Pleasant St, Morrisville, through June 17. Galleries are open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information; (802) 888-1261 or [info@riverartsvt.org](mailto:info@riverartsvt.org).

**PHILLIP ROBERTSON EXHIBIT**, Meditations On The Landscape, T.W. Wood Gallery, Montpelier. Exhibit runs through June 20 with a closing reception 5 - 6 p.m.

**GERRY TREVITS**: New landscape paintings of Shadow Lake and surroundings, through June 17, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, Glover.

**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE** exhibit on display June 2 to June 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Johnsbury History and Heritage Center, 421 Summer St. Hosted by St. John de Crevecoeur of the Daughters of the American Revolution in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust. Information: (802) 424-1090 or email [stjohnsburyhhc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsburyhhc@gmail.com)

**WORKS BY KATHY STARK** exhibited at the White Water Gallery, 5 River St., East Hardwick, through July 13. Hours: Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: (802) 563-2037.

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

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SCAN TO APPLY!



Hazen Union assistant coach TJ Davison (second from left) high-fives Jon Sicard (No. 20) as he comes off the field Wednesday in a game against Lamoille. At left is head coach Shaun Allen and at right is catcher Owen Skorstad. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union players (from left) Jon Sicard, Evan LaMare, Jake Hayden and Avery Loomis cheer on their teammates on Hudson Field. Hazen beat Lamoille 13-10. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Wildcats Clip Lancers to Stop Season Skid

by Ken Brown

DUXBURY – After going ice cold the last couple of weeks, the Hazen Union baseball team’s bats came to life in the final week of the regular season, showing a ton of fight in out of division match-ups, including a win against Lamoille to put an end to a nine-game losing streak.

Nick Casey fired five innings of one hit baseball to help Harwood hold off Hazen at home last Tuesday 8-5. Casey struck out eight and walked three to lead the Highlanders to their fourth straight win heading into the Division II tournament. Junior Justin Montgomery took the loss for the Wildcats, striking out four and walking a pair in what was a complete game effort.

“Justin did a fantastic job; we just didn’t get him the run support. He pitched to contact which is key,

Harwood just managed to find some gaps early on. Our defensive errors have been decreasing throughout the season, which is a huge plus,” said head coach Shaun Allen.

The Wildcats sent Craftsbury Academy (CA) senior Evan LaMare out in style on Wednesday, hanging on to down Lamoille at home 13-10. Hazen took advantage of six free passes by the Lancers in the first inning giving winning pitcher Grayson McNaughten a double-digit cushion early. The junior right-hander struck out eight and walked four to earn the win. Jon Sicard and Will Halperin combined to earn the save.

“It was Senior Day for our lone senior Evan. Lamoille was a must-win for us heading into the playoffs, and the team wanted to get this one bad for him. Our bats were hot in the early innings but went cold and we did a good job

adding a couple insurance runs late,” said Allen.

Lake Region snapped a long losing streak of their own on Thursday, outlasting the Wildcats 9-5 on the road to earn their first win of the season. Sicard took the loss on the mound for Hazen, walking seven in the first two innings, before Owen Skorstad finished up strong. The Rangers snapped a 14-game losing streak.

“Jon’s just a freshman and it’s hard to watch a young pitcher struggle early on, I probably should have pulled him earlier and that’s on me, but you want to give them time and experience to work through it to make them

a better pitcher down the road. Owen came in and did a great job, we came back to make it a game but left too many men on base. As a team, we have had to make some adjustments midseason that we weren’t planning on, but it seems to be working out. Attitudes overall have improved drastically this week with a newfound desire to dig deep and show everyone what this team is made of. This team gets stronger every day, and we are very much looking forward to the playoffs,” said Allen.

The Wildcats will hit the road on Wednesday for a match-up with sixth seeded Green Mountain in Chester.

## Summer Free Fishing Day, Saturday, June 14

VERMONT - Vermont’s annual, statewide Summer Free Fishing Day is Saturday, June 14. The day offers a free family fishing festival in Grand Isle and opening day of the state’s regular bass season.

“Free Fishing Day is a great opportunity for an experienced angler to be a mentor to friends who have not gone fishing before. A day on the water could lead to a lifetime of great experiences and healthy local food,” said Fish and Wildlife Interim Commissioner Andrea Shortsleeve.

Free Fishing Day will be celebrated at the Grand Isle Family Fishing Festival, at the Ed Weed Fish Culture Station, 14 Bell Hill Road in Grand Isle. The festival will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Designed for young or novice anglers and families, this event offers basic fishing instruction, fish biology and ID info, crafts and lure making. It includes a chance for participants to catch big trout in

a hatchery pond. No prior fishing experience is needed. Vermont Fish and Wildlife will be supplying fishing rods, reels and bait for use by participants. For more information call (802) 372-3171 or visit [vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-events-and-programs/fishing-clinics-and-events/free-fishing-day-and-grand-isle-fishing-festival](http://vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-events-and-programs/fishing-clinics-and-events/free-fishing-day-and-grand-isle-fishing-festival)

Vermont’s regular bass season also opens on June 14. The season opens each year on the second Saturday in June and extends through the last day of November.

Vermont fish biologists have compiled a list of family-friendly fishing opportunities where children and parents can fish together and have an excellent chance of catching fish using simple techniques at [vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/family-friendly-fishing](http://vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/family-friendly-fishing)

To learn more about fishing in Vermont or to purchase a fishing license, visit [vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com)



Hazen Union’s Chayse Newell safely slides and tags the base as Lamoille’s Matt Brosseau waits for the ball. The Wildcats won 13-10. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Craftsbury Charger Grace Crown makes contact with the ball during May 30 play against Caledonia United with Caledonia United assistant coaches Jacquelyn White and Theresa Rouelle watching. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Craftsbury Academy's Grace Crown (No. 23) makes the play before Ida Astick (No. 3) of Caledonia United reaches first base during Craftsbury action May 30. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## KEN BROWN'S SOFTBALL ROUNDUP



Caledonia United's Phoebe Crocker pitches to a Blue Mountain batter during play in Danville Tuesday, May 27. photo by Vanessa Fournier

### Craftsbury and Cal United Split Home and Home Series for First Wins

DANVILLE – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) and Caledonia United softball teams have struggled mightily this season, but both teams sent their seniors out in style last week by splitting their home and home series to earn their first victories of the season.

On Thursday, Myah Morgan belted a double, a triple and earned the win in the circle to power Cal United to a 15-10 home win over CA. Peyton Winn blasted a home run and a triple on her way to a three hit performance and Phoebe Crocker and Austin Roos combined for four more hits in the win. Winn closed things out to earn the save and combined with Morgan to strike out seven on the day. Seniors Ida Astick, Sophi Mancini, Selena Lamery and Kayley Goodsell were honored along with Hess for their outstanding high school careers.

The Lady Chargers found payback at Dustan Field over the weekend with their biggest offensive output of the season, finding their first win 28-6. Senior Savannah Boyce earned the win in

the circle and scored three times on Senior Day. Fellow Hazen Union senior Libby Bowley was honored before the game. Adelina Augsberger scored four times. Gracie Crown and Lynsey Allen combined for six more runs in the win.

“The girls have really been standing out with their defensive effort the last couple of weeks. After coming up a little short on Thursday, the girls showed up and showed out in our regular season finale. Communication was good all game, the girls worked hard, and we had so much fun. We’ll use Monday to keep progressing offensively as we get ready for the playoffs,” said CA head coach Ashley Gravel.

The Lady Chargers made the long trip to ninth seeded Twin Valley to open the Division IV tournament on Tuesday in a play-in game. Cal United will travel to second seeded Proctor on Thursday for a quarterfinal matchup.

### Rice Rolls into Postseason Behind Strong Pitching

VERGENNES – The Green Knights earned the fourth seed in the upcoming Division II playoffs, **See SOFTBALL, next page**

# KEN BROWN'S TRACK & FIELD ROUNDUP

## Local Middle Schoolers Wrap up Season at UVM

BURLINGTON – Local athletes put a punctuation on their seasons last week in the Vermont Middle School Track and Field Championships at the University of Vermont.

Craftsbury Academy (CA) seventh grader Hollis Allen led the Chargers on Friday afternoon with an eighth-place finish and personal best in the 1500m event. Garret Soter of BFA-Fairfax bested the field to take home the title. Allen also finished just outside the top 10 in the 800m, with eighth grade teammate Oakley Crawford posting his best time of the season. Orion Stapleton of Essex was the first to cross the line to claim the title. Seventh grader Poppy Glestos capped off a stellar season for the Chargers with a solid sixth place finish and personal best in the shot put. Liliana Stabach of All Saints took home the title. Eighth grade teammate Aemilia Terrone just missed out on a top 10 in the 800m with a personal record time and posted her best time of the season in the 1500m. Shel-

burne's Skye Tyler and Fiona Repp of Camel's Hump claimed titles in each event.

Eighth grader Colin Gray led the Danville team with a third-place finish and personal best in the 110m hurdle event, won by Sherrard Coleman Jr. of Middlebury. Gray finished seventh in the long jump with his best effort of the season. Teammate Mirek Siebenbrunner had a strong day for the Pride, finishing third in the javelin and posting a personal record in the 800m. Montpelier's Abdul Wahab-Majboor bested the field to claim the title in the javelin. Eighth grader Landon Garrand wrapped up an impressive day on the boys side for Danville with a fifth-place finish in the 100m with a personal record and his best time of the season in the 1500m. On the girls side, seventh grader Althaea Irwin finished third with a personal record in the long jump, won by Leigha Kretzer of Fair Haven. Kretzer also won the 200m, with Danville's Riley Barrett posting a personal record. Barrett accomplished the same feat in the long jump event. Sixth Grader Taryn

Barrett had her best throw of the season in the javelin event, finishing just outside of the top five. Seventh grade teammates Hailey Duprey and Willa Mantius wrapped up a stellar day for Danville with personal bests in the 400m, 800m and 1500m events.

## Locals Ready for States

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – With the regular season wrapped for Craftsbury and Hazen Union's high school track and field teams, area athletes will make final preparations this week for the upcoming Division III state championships at Burlington High School on Thursday.

At St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA), the Hill-toppers look primed to defend for a fifth consecutive Division I boys title. Former Craftsbury Academy state champion Charlie Kehler hopes to end his sensational high school career on a high note in the distance events, along with former Hazen Union sophomore Manny Fliegelman.

SJA's title defense officially starts on Saturday at Burlington High School.



Caledonia United's Ida Astick waits for the ball as Maya Christy safely reaches the base during action, May 27, on Paul Remick Field in Danville. The Blue Mountain Bucks won.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Lana Stacey of the Craftsbury Chargers misses the catch as Caledonia United's Aaliyah Keyes plows into second base during May 30 action on Dustan Field in Craftsbury. Caledonia United took the win.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Softball

Continued from previous page sweeping Vergennes, Milton and Enosburg last week to end the regular season at 13-2.

Alayna Havreluk struck out 12 to earn the win as Rice took care of business on the road against Vergennes last Tuesday 15-3. Finley Strong had an RBI and scored three runs in the win. Strong is the daughter of former Hazen Union and Lyndon State baseball standout Jeff Strong. Bella Messineo matched her teammate in the circle on

Wednesday, twirling a one hit gem to lead the Green Knights over Milton at home 15-1. She helped her own cause with a two-run triple and Strong collected two more hits and an RBI in the win. Havreluk continued her dominance on Friday, striking out 15 in a 7-3 one hit gem over Enosburg.

Rice is scheduled to host No. 13 Lamoille on Wednesday and will likely host the winner of Enosburg-Spaulding on Saturday as they look to get back to the Division II Final Four for a second consecutive season.



Peyton Winn, Olivia Hess, Kayley Goodsell and Ida Astick of Caledonia United run off Paul Remick Field after an inning against Blue Mountain, May 27.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Youth Baseball Lives on Through Southworth Classic



Three fathers prepare to throw a first pitch to their sons on the Hardwick Little League team at the 10th Annual Tristan Southworth Memorial Day Baseball Classic. From left, Kevin Moore throws to his son Silas, Colten Daigneault will receive a pitch from his father Jared and Carter Hess will receive one from his father Trevor. *courtesy photo*

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Fifteen years after his tragic and heroic death, former Hazen Union multi-sport star Tristan Southworth and the strength of his character and name continues to bring area athletes to the baseball field with the playing of the 10th Annual Tristan Southworth Memorial Day Baseball Classic.

Crowds filled the Hardwick Elementary Ballfield on Memorial Day Weekend to watch Hardwick and Danville Little Leaguers compete and honor the late Walden native Sergeant Tristan Southworth and his memory.

The Hardwick American Legion honored the special day with the color guard and three area dads threw out the first pitch to their player sons before the start of the game. In a back-and-forth affair, Danville ultimately prevailed 8-6 on a seventh inning homer and RBI single after Hardwick rallied to take the lead with six run sixth inning. Both teams wore special tenth anniversary shirts commemorating Southworth's iconic #42.

Southworth was a Vermont Dream Dozen

selection for the Wildcats on the hardwood and was a member of the 2006 state title team. He was also the ace on the hill in Hazen's march to the championship game at Centennial Field in 2007, pitching the final 18 plus innings of their playoff run.

After enlisting in the Vermont National Guard, Southworth was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, where he was killed in the line of duty. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his bravery in service to his country. Close friend and former teammate Spencer Howard went on those championship runs with Southworth. Howard guided the Wildcat baseball program to Centennial as both a player and a coach (2022). He helped return Hazen baseball back to prominence with 46 wins in five seasons at the helm, including back-to-back Division III Final Fours. With four of his own children getting ready to play youth sports, Howard stepped away from the program two years ago and is now the president of the Hardwick Area Little League Board. He is pleased with the growth he has seen in youth baseball in the area the last couple of years and is more than grateful for the people in the community who continue to put forth their time and energy to keep Tristan's name and memory alive.

"Honoring Tristan's memory through area kids playing a game that we both loved is very special to me. I'm going to forget some names I'm sure but people like Jamon and Gretchen Renaud, Joey and Sue Rivard, Mike Baker, Robby Montgomery, Ivan Menard and more are the reason why this baseball classic in his memory started and why we were able to continue it ten years later. It was great to see the crowds come out and support the kids and they gave us a great game to watch. I can't thank everyone enough," said Howard.

The Hardwick Little League has existed for decades, but with the current board's kids aging out of youth sports, Howard felt



The Hardwick Little League team, dressed in 10th Annual Tristan Southworth Memorial Day Baseball Classic shirts for the game to cap off Springfest, May 24, are (from left) coaches Derrick Tatro and David Upson, players Carter Hess, Henry Upson, Murray Meyer, Daniel Barton, Colt Cleveland, Colten Daigneault, Quenten McTigue, Easton Tatro, Adam Stratton, Silas Moore, Ryan Holbrook, Gavin Hay and bat boy Charlie Upson. *courtesy photo*

the need to get involved and try to give back as a parent the way his parents and friend's parents did.

"With my kids getting older and starting to get interested in youth sports, I wanted to get more involved and take on a bigger role of keeping youth baseball going in the area. Tristan, myself, and our friends were lucky enough to have parents who made a huge commitment to youth sports, and I want to try and do the same. Successful baseball programs at Hazen have all seemed to have that common thread and I want to do everything I can to make sure my kids and their friends have that same opportunity. We have great numbers for our area teams this season and we'll continue to keep raising interest to add teams in the coming years," said Howard.

Hardwick is fielding one major, one minor, and one youth softball team this summer. Tristan Southworth's memory and the future of Hardwick baseball appear to be in very good hands.

## Fisher Takes Career-First American-Canadian Tour Win

BARRE – Central Vermont race fans and teams made the trip to Thunder Road International Speedbowl Sunday for the rain-delayed Community Bank 150 invasion from the Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour. Thirty-two teams made the return trip with a legendary name standing tall in victory lane.

After two rounds of qualifying action it was St-Joseph, Quebec's Raphael Lessard who took a plus-5 handicap to claim the pole position in Sunday's Community Bank 150. The outstanding Quebec driver quickly came under pressure from defending Thunder Road King of the Road Kaiden Fisher in the opening laps before gaining more and more ground in the lead position. Several early yellow-flag scuffles finally sorted themselves out with Fisher eventually taking the lead after the lap 95 caution for D.J. Shaw's spin cycle in turn-two.

Young Fisher, the latest generation of the racing Fisher Family from Northwestern Vermont, grabbed the restart lead and never faltered through lap traffic, even with Lessard and defending Community Bank 150 winner Chris Pelkey breathing down his neck. Kaiden Fisher claimed his first career Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour win in just his second

season on the international touring circuit. Chris Pelkey sat within striking distance but settled for second with Raphael Lessard holding onto third. West Burke's Jesse Switser took a respectable fourth place run with 2024 Vermont Milk Bowl champion Marcel Gravel rounding out the top five.

Both the Flying Tiger 40-lap feature and the Street Stock 25-lap feature went wire-to-wire, green to checkered without incident. It was a sophomore front row for the Street Stocks with former Rookie of the Year rivals Walker Fitch and Kylee Potter bringing the field to green. It didn't take too long for the kids to go to school as defending four-cylinder champion Dean Switser sliced his way through the pack from ninth on the grid but it was Fred Fleury who stole the show. The Graniteville driver took down the win over Switser and Ryan Foster across the line.

Not so similar was the Flying Tigers who saw longtime veterans Travis Patnoe and Robert Gordon lead the pack under the initial green flag. Gordon's familiar Monte Carlo quickly took the point and faced only Jason Pelkey in the second half of the event. Pelkey edged ever closer all the time, getting within inches of Gordon's back bumper in the final five

laps but after years of making the trip down from Milton, the longtime Renegade star finally took his first feature win.

Just one caution for a slam-bang rolling calamity in turn one slowed the Road Warriors at the end of Sunday's racing card. In the end, Neal Foster took the Sunday special win over Taylor Sayers and Zach Garvey for a popular end to Sunday's showcase.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

#### (Local competitors)

#### Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour

5. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott  
26. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick

#### Flying Tigers – 40 Laps

7. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott  
20. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott  
21. 5VT, Tyler Austin, East Calais  
29. 01VT, Michael Martin, Craftsbury Common

#### Street Stocks – 25 Laps

5. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield  
10. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield  
19. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield

#### Road Warriors – 20 Laps

6. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield