

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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## Investigation Opened into 13.24% HED Rate Increase

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – As Hardwick Electric Department (HED) ratepayers received a notice with their June bills telling them the department has filed an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), the state’s Public Utility Commission (PUC) has opened an investigation into the utility’s proposed 13.24% rate increase.

Public Utility Commission ordered an investigation to determine whether the 13.24% rate change proposed by HED on April 16 is just and reasonable. The order came in response to a May 16 recommendation by the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) that an investigation be opened. The DPS represents ratepayers in cases before the state’s Public Utility Commission (PUC), which is responsible

See INVESTIGATION, 4

On May 29, the Vermont

Table 1: HED’s Retail Customer Counts

Data Element	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Residential	3,842	3,930	4,377	3,918	3,951
Small C&I (under 30 kW)	346	364	444	440	444
Large C&I (30 kW or more)	22	23	39	37	39
Street Lighting	9	10	10	10	9
Total	4,219	4,327	4,870	4,405	4,443

A chart of Hardwick Electric Department customers for the last five years shows a modest average annual increase with a transient peak in 2022. (C&I stands for Commercial and Industrial customers.)

source: HED 2025 IRP

## Select Board Holds Special Meeting, Denies Alleged Open Meeting Violation

by Raymonda Parchment

CRAFTSBURY – On Friday, May 30, the Craftsbury Select Board held a special meeting in response to an alleged open meeting violation. Present was attorney James Barlow to review the complaint and the board’s written response, which denied any deliberate violations of open meeting law.

According to James Larock of Craftsbury, the board violated open meeting law on May 20. Larock was present that evening via zoom in order to discuss an agenda item regarding the sand and gravel pit with Kurtis Mellet.

Larock says he observed a conversation between the select board and Mellet, prior to the meeting’s official 7 p.m. start time, with neither minutes nor a recording taken. Available video of the May 20 meeting begins with Larock addressing the board with this concern,

stating “So to be clear that conversation that happened about a substantive item that was on the agenda was not recorded.” Town Clerk Michelle Warren responded, “I just logged in.” to which Larock said, “Sorry, I know that might sound like some of the badgering that Mr. Mellet was complaining about, but I just wanted to mention that. That was the only item I was gonna be on here for today, so I’ll let you guys get to work.”

It was after Larock concluded that board member Jim Jones called the meeting to order. The select board’s response also provided a timeline of the evening in question. According to the board, “At approximately 6:50 p.m. Kurtis Mellet entered the Craftsbury Town Hall and informed the select board members that he would not be able to attend the meeting that evening. Mr. Mellet is your neighbor and the

See VIOLATION, 4



Wolcott voters have their third opportunity to vote on a school budget, June 11 at the town offices, to answer the question, “Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$6,104,496.99, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?” photo by Vanessa Fournier

## No Kings Rallies Planned for Flag Day, June 14

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Organizations around the country and in the local area are making plans for events on what is being called No Kings Day, a nationwide day of defiance, this Saturday, June 14. They will occur on the nation’s Flag Day. Though not a federal holiday, Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

While noting June 14 as Flag Day, President Trump announced a military parade for the 250th

anniversary of the U.S. military and said, “we’re going to be celebrating our army and our military,” in a YouTube video inviting the nation to the event.

Several events are planned in Hardwick. In a May letter to the editor, Bob Hawk invited area neighbors to an event at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 14, at 101 S. Main St. (Front Seat Coffee) “to protest the illegal suspension of due process, the destruction of our social safety net to provide a tax cut for the billionaires, and the Congressional Republicans who have abandoned

See RALLIES, 5



Over 1,500 No Kings Day events are scheduled nationwide on Flag Day, June 14 in a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption from Trump and his allies.

source: nokings.org

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**WEATHER WATCH**



Rain and mist covered Caspian Lake on Tuesday looking from North Shore Road. photo by David Mitchell.

**Showers Interspersed Among Sun, Seasonal Temperatures**

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – It was a little warmer and a little sunnier this past week as clouds were noted to break a little both Saturday and Sunday, although we still had to contend with some showers. The persistence of precipitation seems to be waning as we enter into June and the beginning of meteorological summer. About a third of an inch of rain fell in the seven days ending on Monday, with another three-day stretch without a drop in the gauge mid-week. The million-dollar question is: what will this weekend hold?

We'll get back to that in a minute. It's worth noting a couple of things about our dry stretch first. It was warm enough that high temperatures did reach the upper 80s in some parts of our region. One of our nearest long-term recording stations in Montpelier noted a record high of 87 on Wednesday, which broke the previous record of 85 set in 1967. The concentration of smoke from Canadian wildfires was most noteworthy in the atmosphere from Tuesday evening through Thursday morning. Some afternoon and evening showers scoured out the polluted air, although it did return again to wrap up the weekend, with morning smog and lingering smoke into each afternoon.

We start out the forecast period having recently been refreshed by some persistent rain, thanks to a low-pressure system exiting into the Canadian Maritimes. In its place, a lingering trough will bring some

scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms the next couple of afternoons, with more of a chance on Thursday. Skies will otherwise remain partly sunny with highs generally in the 70s, which is around normal for this time of year. Friday looks a little cooler, with some clearing as ridging builds north of New England.

Some uncertainty exists regarding the upcoming weekend as the previously mentioned high-pressure system is in a tight squeeze with a low-pressure wave approaching from the south. There might be enough northward motion for some light and scattered rain to arrive on Saturday, before disappearing with fairer conditions for Sunday. This isn't much different from weekends of recent history, so it seems like a good place to hedge some bets. Here are those forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny. Scattered afternoon and evening showers. High: 76. Low: 52. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny. Scattered afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms. High: 73. Low: 47. West wind 10-15 mph. Gusts to 25 mph possible late.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, becoming partly cloudy by afternoon. High: 66. Low: 43. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers. High: 67. Low: 50. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny. High: 70. Low: 52. South wind around 5 mph.



June 11 - June 17

**Father's Day Sale**  
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<b>Kellogg's Mini Wheat or Raisin Bran Cereals</b> \$3.49 13.3-16.1 oz.	<b>Ragu Pasta Sauce</b> 2/\$4 16-24 oz.	<b>Betty Crocker Mashed Potatoes</b> 99¢ 4 oz.
<b>Near East Side Dishes</b> 2/\$3 5.25-10 oz.	<b>Kraft Mac &amp; Cheese Dinner</b> 4/\$5 7.25 oz.	<b>Green Mt. Salsa</b> \$4.49 16 oz.
<b>Mott's 6 Pk. Applesauce</b> 2/\$5 24 oz.	<b>Food Club Salad Dressing</b> 2/\$4 16 oz.	<b>Heinz Ketchup</b> \$4.99 38 oz.
<b>Jif Peanut Butter</b> \$2.79 15.5-16 oz.	<b>Ghirardelli Brownie Mix</b> \$3.79 18-18.75 oz.	<b>Betty Crocker Cookie Mixes</b> 2/\$5 17.5-17.9 oz.
<b>Cheez-It Snack Crackers</b> \$3.49 11.5-12.4 oz.	<b>Bear Naked Granola</b> \$3.99 11-12 oz.	<b>Wyman's Frozen Berries</b> \$3.49 15 oz.
<b>Red Grapes</b> \$2.99 lb.	<b>Mini Watermelons</b> \$5.99 ea.	<b>Blueberries</b> \$3.49 pt.

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Active Warrant, Crash

On June 3, just before 2 p.m., a Hardwick officer on the way to work observed a vehicle behind them known to be operated by a suspended operator with a warrant for their arrest. The officer called in to the department and on-duty officers responded to the Hardwick Fire Department, where the vehicle had pulled off Wolcott Street. The operator of the vehicle was identified as Travis Ray Dagle of Woodbury. He had an active warrant out for his arrest for failing to appear for a court proceeding. He was issued a citation to appear in court for the following day and released from the scene.

On June 6 at 10:45 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department

arrested Casandra Rich on an outstanding warrant. Rich had been walking north on Vt. Rte. 14 near the M&M Beverage when the officer recognized her and knew there was a warrant out for her arrest. The warrant had been issued for failing to show for a scheduled court appearance at the Caledonia unit of the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division. She was lodged at the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

On Sunday, June 8 at approximately 8:10 a.m., Hardwick Police responded to a report of a single vehicle crash at the Rte. 16 and Rte. 15 intersection in Hardwick. The investigation determined that Kody Grout, of Hardwick, was

operating his 2024 Subaru Impreza south on Rte. 16. Grout failed to stop at the intersection and attempted to make a right turn on to Rte. 15 at a high rate of speed. Grout's vehicle traveled across both lanes of travel and went off the roadway into the eastbound ditch of Rte. 15. There were no reported injuries. Grout was issued a ticket for failing to stop at the intersection.

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

## Hardwick Police Media Log

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.

June 2: Assist – Agency, Church St.-Hardwick St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 16; Assist – Public, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Granite St.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15; Suspicious Event, Cherry St.; Vandalism, Cottage St.; TRO-FRO Violation, Bunker Hill Road.

June 3: Citizen Dispute, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Hardwick St.; Traffic Stop,

Hardwick St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Welfare Check, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Fingerprints, High St.; Wanted Person, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Information: Church St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Mill St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Rte. 14 S.

June 4: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; 911 Hangup, Mackville Road; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Information, S. Main St.

June 5: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Craftsbury Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15.

June 6: Fingerprints, High St.; Property Damage, Hudson Ave.; Trespassing, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Center

Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 14; Wanted Person, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Trespassing, Hazen Union Drive.

June 7: Transport, High St.; Assist – Public, E. Hardwick; Foot Patrol, Granite St.; Assist – Motorist; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Vt. Rte. 15; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Center Road; Assist – Agency, Granite St.; Medical, Mill St.

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

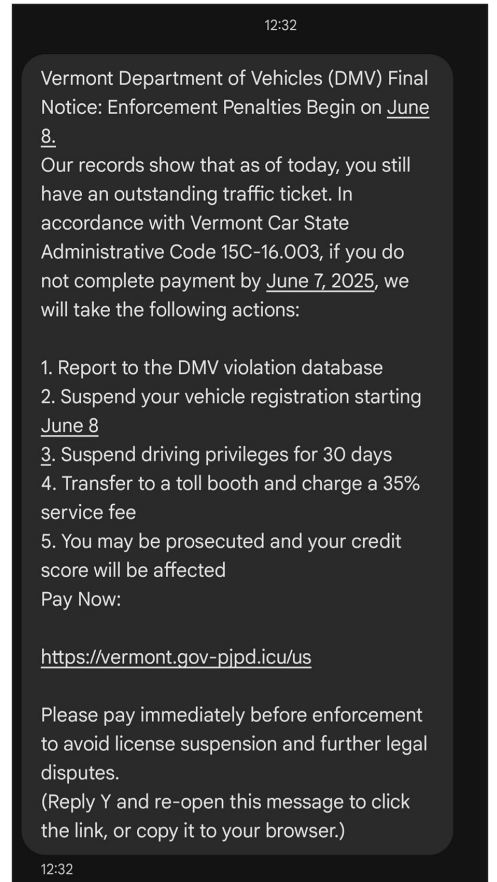
## Vermont State Police Single Vehicle Crash

On June 5, at approximately 12:55 p.m., Troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a report of a single vehicle crash on US Rte. 2 in Marshfield. Troopers responded to the scene and determined Barbara Colf, of Marshfield, was operating east when she failed to maintain her lane, striking an electrical pole. Colf was transported to Central Vermont Medical Center for the treatment of suspected minor

injuries. Troopers were assisted by the Marshfield Fire Department, Vermont Agency of Transportation and East Montpelier Ambulance.

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

## Lamoille County Sheriff DMV Scam Alert Issued



The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department shared a text purported to be a scam, advising area citizens not to respond as the DMV will not text drivers about tickets.

*courtesy screen capture*

**HYDE PARK** – In a Saturday social media post, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department issued a Scam Alert, saying "We've received several calls from people who got texts "from the DMV" stating that they have an outstanding ticket. It can look pretty official but lucky it is not. DMV won't text you about tickets and send you odd links you need to click. Do not click the link in the text. You can flag the number as spam and then delete the message.

## AWARE Report

**HARDWICK** – Fourteen people used AWARE services between June 1 and June 8. 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.

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## Investigation

Continued From Page One

for regulating electric utilities.

June 10 was set as the date of a scheduling conference.

HED and the DPS jointly submitted a proposed schedule, which, if accepted by the PUC, will have a public hearing being held on the case the week of July 21. After that, various rounds of discovery, testimony and responses will lead to a hearing on the evidence the week of February 9, 2026. The timeline after that is less well-defined with the date of a final decision by the PUC unknown.

Customers will begin to see the new rates with their July bills since HED will be allowed to apply the new rates “provided that the utility ‘refund revenues collected in excess of those which are finally determined to be just and reasonable.’” Given the proposed timeline, it could be close to a year before a decision is made. Excess charges would then be refunded if less than the full increase is approved.

The IRP, of which ratepayers received notice this month, must be filed at least every three years, but HED received an extension in August 2024, giving it until May 1, 2025,

almost a year beyond the July 6, 2024 date it was first due.

The extension was granted because the HED general manager had recently resigned and Vermont Public Power Supply staff were filing a number of other rate cases in that same timeframe. The DPS supported the request, with the PUC finding there was good cause for the extension.

HED says its IRP identifies strategies and tactics to meet current and future energy services needs; that it takes into account environmental and economic costs outlining its approach to strategic investments in energy resources while improving transmission and distribution capacity, through grid system efficiencies and demand-side efficiency programs.

The IRP indicates HED continues to observe and forecast flat demand increases with perhaps modest long-term growth. The reduction of demand through solar net metering will likely be offset as funding programs expand to further incentivize the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner electricity, and increase the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and cold climate heat pumps (CCHPs) among other electrification technologies.

The IRP suggests the Pottersville Dam aka Wolcott hydroelectric generating station, is likely to be offline until 2026 or 2027 due to repairs

needed as a result of 2023 and 2024 flood damage. It notes that 6% of HEDs annual needs is now being met by the H11 solar project on Billings Road in Hardwick.

Also of note in the IRP is that HED is working with VPPSA and its sister utilities to design, develop and implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by developing a technology road map to guide technology requirements and implementation planning to achieve broader system visibility and asset monitoring. HED says it sees potential value to its customers from utilizing rate design along with other incentives or load control programs as tools to manage both system and customer peak loads.

Ratepayers have until July 21 to request a hearing, or otherwise intervene on the 197 page IRP, which can be viewed at the PUC’s electronic filing and case management system, “ePUC,” at <https://epuc.vermont.gov/>. Search by Case Number 25-0853-PET.

Comments may be made at any time through ePUC to the case number above, by email to [puc.clerk@vermont.gov](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov), or by mail to: 112 State Street, 4th Floor, Montpelier, VT 056202701. Referencing the case number.

## BOOKSHELF

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Old Schoolhouse Common, Marshfield, (802) 426-3581), [jaquith-publiclibrary.org](http://jaquith-publiclibrary.org), Tues. - Fri., 9 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. to noon, closed Sundays. Winter Storytime and Playgroup, Friday 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for the weather.

**WOODBURY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Woodbury School (802) 472-5710, [woodburyvermontlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:woodburyvermontlibrary@gmail.com), Wed. 1 to 5 p.m.; Thurs., 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**BROWN LIBRARY**, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-7711), [sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library](http://sterlingcollege.edu/academics/brown-library), Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

**CRAFTSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 149 Common Loop, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-9683, [craftsburypubliclibrary.org](http://craftsburypubliclibrary.org), Mon. and Thurs. 2 to 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., storytime: Fri. 10 a.m.

**JEDEVINE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**, Hardwick (802) 472-5948, [jeudevinememorallibrary.org](http://jeudevinememorallibrary.org), Mon. and Wed. 1 to 6 p.m., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**CUTLER MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Rte. 2, Plainfield (802) 454-8504, [cutlerlibrary.org](http://cutlerlibrary.org), Tues., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wed. 3 to 6 p.m., Thurs., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY**, (802) 563-2721, [cabotlibrary.com](http://cabotlibrary.com), Mon., 3 to 6 p.m.; Tues., noon to 6 p.m., Wed., 2 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m. to

6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon.

**MORRISTOWN CENTENNIAL LIBRARY** (802) 888-3853), [centenniallibrary.org](http://centenniallibrary.org), Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY**, Main Street, Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, [greensborofreelibrary.org](http://greensborofreelibrary.org), Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thur., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**JOHN W. SIMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**, East Craftsbury (802) 586-9692, [jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://jwsimpsonmemorial.org). Wed. and Sat., 9 a.m. to noon; Thurs. 9 a.m. - noon and 2 - 6 p.m.; Sun., noon to 1 p.m.

**WALDEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Walden Elementary School (802) 563-2195, [walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/bin/home](http://walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/bin/home), Tues., 6 to 8 p.m.

**GLEE MERRITT KELLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, Wolcott, (802) 472-6551, Mon. to Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**HAZEN UNION SCHOOL LIBRARY**, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. while school is in session. Open to the public. (802) 472-6511.

## Violation

Continued From Page One

owner of the gravel pit from which the town sources materials for road maintenance under an agreement between him and the Town. You have been involved in litigation with Mr. Mellet regarding the gravel pit.”

The letter states that when Mellet arrived before the scheduled start time to indicate his unavailability, the board members informed him that discussion with him would be removed from the agenda and that the gravel pit would be discussed again in a future meeting when he was available.

Continuing, the board asserts they indicated their intention to revisit the gravel payment structure in a future meeting, noting that future payments would likely be based on an inventory of the gravel rather than the current quarterly payments, and that Mellet also informed the board of the status of the gravel pit litigation.

“Although the select board believes that the conversation with Mr. Mellet was not a

meeting, no Open Meeting Law violation occurred, and therefore no cure is required, to the extent that the conversation with Mr. Mellet may have constituted a meeting, the failure to record the exchange and take minutes of the conversation was entirely inadvertent and unintentional. The conversation will be addressed through a supplement to the May 20, 2025 meeting minutes describing the exchange with Mr. Mellet.”

Larock’s complaint indicated there was substantive conversation about the gravel pit and not simply discussion of rescheduling the meeting, which would have been acceptable under open meeting laws.

At press time, neither Larock nor the select board were available to respond to further questions.



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## Rallies

Continued From Page One

their sworn duty to uphold the Constitution in order to avoid the wrath of their king [sic] Trump.”

More recently, a No Kings Day Rally has been announced for 11:30 a.m. on June 14. It will begin at the Peace Park, 42 N. Main St., next door to the Civic Standard. Carlotta Hayes, an organizer of the event, sponsored by Indivisible Hardwick, said it's being coordinated with Hawk's longtime grassroots group.

A short rally at the Peace Park will begin with a recognition of Flag Day by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a short speech by State Representative Leanne Harple and some rousing songs led by Grace Hurley, said Hayes. The event coincides with the end of the Hazen Union School graduation, and those gathered will celebrate seniors and their families as they drive or walk past, she said.

That group will then march with signs to join others at Front Seat Coffee and raise awareness with passersby until about 1:30 p.m.

Hayes said rally-goers expect to send an important message “declaring that authoritarianism, fascism and kings have no place in America.” She asks that people join to “Rise up for support of a government ‘of the people, by the people, and for the people’, not one hijacked by billionaires, technocrats and racist nationalists.”

Long-time Hardwick activist Mary Gagnon was careful to say she spoke for no one but herself, when she expressed support for the

June 14 events, saying, “I believe the idea for ‘No Kings Day’ sprang from the hearts and minds of compassionate, thinking people across the country who are frustrated and angry to hear about the current administration’s decision to spend an outrageous amount of money on a totally unnecessary military parade . . . on June 14th, America’s Flag Day.

“We, The People, are finally coming together and deciding to stop being divided,” she said. We are “Committing ourselves to saving our 250 year-old federated representative democracy from the tyranny of oligarchs, much as our founding fathers did, we declare ‘No Kings’ for ALL to hear!”

Hayes said, “This National Day of Defiance is sponsored by the national groups, Indivisible Action and Women’s March, as well as the newly formed Indivisible Hardwick.” For more information contact: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me

No Kings events similar to those in Hardwick are being scheduled for towns around Vermont, with the largest likely to be at Waterfront Park in Burlington and the Statehouse in Montpelier.

NEK Indivisible has scheduled a No Kings event for Barton from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 14 at the Barton Village Square. Anne Hanson, who lives in Craftsbury, plans to attend the Barton event because she’s been involved with NEK Indivisible and thinks there’s a lot of positive energy in Barton now.

Hanson went to Newport earlier this month where she was

inspired to hear U.S. Rep. Becca Balint speak of putting Vermonters first, over political parties. She commented that Balint embodies what leadership is about, making note of a comment she heard Balint make in saying, “Courage is contagious.”

Hanson pointed to research she’s learned about that indicates resistance from 3.5% of a nation’s population has historically changed the course of events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall and the breakup of the Soviet Union. Though she noted, that’s not been true in all cases where 3.5% of a nation’s population has made a difference, she intends to add her voice in a non-violent, peaceful way to undermine the lying she hears coming from the federal administration.

We’re seeing the rise of a political figure who’s acting more like a king than a president,” said Hanson. The military parade to celebrate his own birthday and the cost involved, “looks more like what we’d see in an autocracy in Russia or North Korea.”

For almost 250 years we’ve lived under a democracy that rejects a king, said Hanson, who is concerned about the cuts proposed in the Big Beautiful Bill being considered in Congress “in an economy that hasn’t delivered equally in more than a generation.” She made a point to say, “We don’t do kings here.”

A No Kings rally in Burlington, organized by 50501 Vermont, from noon to 4 p.m., will feature five marches converging at the

city’s Waterfront Park. The event’s featured speakers will include Vermont U.S. Representative Becca Balint, activist and recent Columbia University graduate Mohsen Mahdawi, Vermont Treasurer Mike Pieciak, and cartoonist and author Alison Bechdel. The No Kings Day events are being planned in cities and towns throughout the country, except Washington D.C. “We want to create contrast, not conflict,” said Leah Greenberg, co-executive director of Indivisible, one of the partner groups. “The choice to hold No Kings events in every city but D.C. is a deliberate choice to keep the focus on contrast, and not give the Trump administration an opportunity to stoke and then put the focus on conflict.”

In Montpelier, a No Kings rally is scheduled at the statehouse for 10 to 11 a.m.

Flag Day, June 14, is Donald Trump’s birthday. “The U.S. Army said on June 4, it has no plans to recognize President Donald Trump’s birthday on June 14 when he presides over part of the Army’s celebrations of its 250th anniversary,” reported Reuters. And official White House information about the June 14 event does not make note of the President’s birthday either.

Notes at all the No Kings events scheduled at the mobilize.us website indicate, “A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.”

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### Hardwick

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

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

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

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

**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,** Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, Saturday, Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m. children’s story; 10 a.m. children’s service, 10:30 a.m. The Act of Consecration of the Human Being. Information: thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

### East Hardwick

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,** (NACCC). Worship led by Jim Casavant, Interim Pastor, 11:00 a.m.

**TOUCH OF GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** corner of Rts. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick; Sunday a.m. worship, 10 a.m.; 9 a.m. adult Sunday School and

Prayer. Thursday Prayer at 5:30 p.m. Information: touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

### Greensboro

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

### Greensboro Bend

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

### Craftsbury

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CRAFTSBURY;** an Open and Affirming Congregation; Affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome. Church Phone: 802-586-8028. Information: www.unitedchurchofcraftsbury.com. Find us on Facebook, or e-mail unitedchurchcraftsbury@gmail.com.

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,** 21 Creek Road, Craftsbury. No scheduled Masses. Our Lady of Fatima is part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish in Hardwick. Please call 802-472-5544. mqasvt.org. email: mqas@vermontcatholic.org.

**EAST CRAFTSBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.** 1773 East Craftsbury Rd., Craftsbury, VT 05856. Sunday Service, 11 a.m. (Handicapped accessible.) Bible Study at 10 a.m. Masks op-

tional. Worship led by Rev. Joe Welker, Pastor. Tel. 802-586-7707. Email: epcvt@gmail.com. Website: www.eastcraftsburypresbyterianchurch.org.

### Albany

**ALBANY METHODIST CHURCH.** Route 14, Albany, Vt. “Join us in getting to know Jesus and the life He gives.” Sunday services: 10 a.m. Worship and Sunday School.

### Calais-Woodbury

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

### Wolcott

**WOLCOTT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Route 15, will have worship Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

**THE HEALING STREAM CHURCH OF GOD,** Pastor Peter LaBonneville, Wolcott Town Hall. Fellowship Service, Sunday 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

**THE WOLCOTT MENNONITE CHURCH,** Rt. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott. Services every Sunday morning. Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Evening services held on the second Sunday of each month, 7:30 p.m. Call for more information about other special services. Pastors: Marlin Wadel - 802-888-5277. Stephen Groff - 802-888-9113.

### Marshfield

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

### Cabot

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

### Walden

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

### Danville/West Danville

**WEST DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Rt. 15. (across from Joe’s Pond). Pastor Pam Smith. Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.

**DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,** Danville Green. Rev. Henry Cheney, 802-684-3389. Sunday Service 9:00 a.m.

**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH.** Danville. Our service book is the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. For information on worship service day and time, please call 802-755-6341 or 802-472-3324.

### St. Johnsbury

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

# East Hardwick Children's Parade Saturday, June 7



Tobin Purdy, Forest (dog), Deborah Hartt, Walker Hartt, Bianca Caputo and her son Henry Rymarski, wait to walk in the East Hardwick Children's Parade, June 7.



Ceilidh Galloway-Kane (right) helps to carry the East Hardwick Children's Parade banner, June 7, as participants walk or drove to the Caledonia Grange No. 9 where the parade ended.



Sarah Warren guides Bread & Puppet's Pinky the elephant in the East Hardwick Children's Parade held on June 7.



Walkers in the East Hardwick Children's Parade, held June 7, included (from left) Elizabeth Rossano, Griffin Lussier and their daughter Susie, Loui Pulver, Josie Watson and daughter Joy.



Left: After the East Hardwick Children's Parade on June 7, 38 people participate in a rock-paper-scissors contest run by Justin Lander (left) in the Grange hall. Walker Hartt (left) and Charlie Lander (right) compete.

**Photos  
by  
Vanessa Fournier**



The Streamwise team of (from left) Bill Berman, Zach Hoppe, JoAnn Hanowski, Liza Kiesler, Jed Feffer and Liz Hatch plant trees last Friday at the property of Zack and Bridget Hoppe at 123 East Church Street, East Hardwick.

photo by Chris Steel



A wagon with another load of trees is ready to be planted at the Hoppe property in East Hardwick by the streamwise team of (from left) Liza Kiesler, Zack Hoppe, Bill Berman, Liz Hatch and Jed Feffer. Trees being planted to help protect the Lamoille River buffer are Silky Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Cottonwood, Elderberry, Winterberry, Chokecherry, Speckled Alder and Willow.

photo by Chris Steel

## Over 500 Trees Planted to Protect Lamoille River

by Chris Steel

EAST HARDWICK – The Upper Lamoille Streamwise team led by Jed Feffer has planted over 500 trees along the Lamoille River in East Hardwick for the last two weeks at the properties of David and Gail O'Brian, Lanny and Mary Jane Hill and Zack and Bridget Hoppe.

The Greensboro Association funded the purchase of the trees, which are an assortment of Silky Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Cottonwood, Elderberry, Winterberry, Chokecherry, Speckled Alder and Willow. All are good options for protecting river buffers.

Property owner Zack Hoppe

said “It was great to be able to bring local community members together to help protect our land from future flood events and at the same time improve the water quality of the Lamoille River for the benefit of all.”

Planting volunteers included Lucy Zendzian, Liz Baum, Bill Berman, Jed Feffer, Dede Stabler, Stew Arnold, JoAnn Hanowski, Liz Hatch, Lucy Mitchell, Dave Kelley, Sawyer Waite, Gavin Waite and Chris Steel.

Contact Liza Kiesler at liza.kiesler@gmail.com to inquire about the Streamwise team planting trees at other properties in a similar way.



Streamwise volunteers (from left) Jed Feffer, Liza Kiesler, Dave Kelley, Dede Stabler, Lucy Mitchell, Liz Hatch, JoAnn Hanowski, Sawyer Waite and Gavin Waite plant trees last Saturday in East Hardwick at the property of Zack and Bridget Hoppe.

photo by Chris Steel



Work on a new culvert under Menard Road had been completed last week, except for the addition of guardrails.

social media photo

## Menard Road Culvert Replacement Completed

by Paul Fixx

CABOT - In a Saturday, June 7, social media update, Cabot Road Foreman Sid Griggs said the Menard Road project is complete with the exception of guard rails which were supposed to be installed Friday afternoon or Saturday. The Fenoff Construction crew only ended up closing the road for three days to remove the old bridge.

Lovely Road was to be closed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, to replace a collapsed culvert, said Griggs, who apologized that Lovely Road hadn't been

graded yet as he was waiting to replace the culvert to do the job.

Jug Brook is now closed, with a bypass in place to pump water around the site where footers and walls will be placed, so it can dry out. He expected to provide an update via Facebook Tuesday afternoon.

Griggs added that lines will be painted in front of the businesses in the village, the road crew will be painting stop bars and crosswalks, finishing up spring grading, and roadside mowing on the blacktop before July 4, along with some ditching projects.



Walden School held its eighth grade commencement on June 5. Front row (left to right): Kaiden Willey, Ivy Scott and William Andrews. Back row: Camden Goguen, Brycen Devenger and Krystian Maxfield.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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## Food Hub Collaborative Members Testify at Statehouse

MONTPELIER – Six member organizations of the Vermont Food Hub Collaborative that operate food hubs in Vermont, provided testimony to the Vermont Legislature’s House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, April 15. Appearing jointly with three farmers, the organizations testified on the importance of local food and how their efforts are sustaining the working landscape and strengthening Vermont communities. In their testimony, the organization’s leaders highlighted how goals from the strategic plan are being accomplished by the work they are undertaking every day.

For over a decade, organizations that operate food hubs have been working to strengthen Vermont’s local food systems. They take different approaches to the work but share common goals of increasing the accessibility of local food, distributing local products to strengthen market access and farm vitality for farmers, and strengthening local communities. Since the pandemic these organizations have also responded to emergent crises. That included multiple pandemic response efforts and support to communities and farms after the 2023 and 2024 floods.

Located across Vermont, these organizations have formed a network to further this work in a collaborative manner. The network is known as the Vermont Food Hub Collaborative. It includes the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE), Green Mountain Farm to School (GMFTS), Intervale Center (IC), Food Connects (FC), Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) and Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN).

The collaborative utilizes infrastructure across the food hubs; many farmers work with multiple

food hubs, and food is moved between the hubs.

In 2019, the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) was reauthorized by the Vermont state legislature to create the Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan 2021-2030. The legislature tasked the VSJF with creating an implementation plan with stated goals for the future of agriculture. This spring, representatives from VSJF and the collaborative embarked on two efforts to increase awareness of the work happening to grow local food systems in Vermont.

Additionally, with support from the UVM Leahy Center for Rural Partnerships, the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund has secured funding to work with the UVM Spatial Analysis Lab to create a mapping tool that analyzes the locations of the hubs, the producers working with all of the hubs, and the movement of food within the network. This project will take nearly a year to complete, but it will provide valuable information and help streamline the movement of food from farms to hubs to markets.

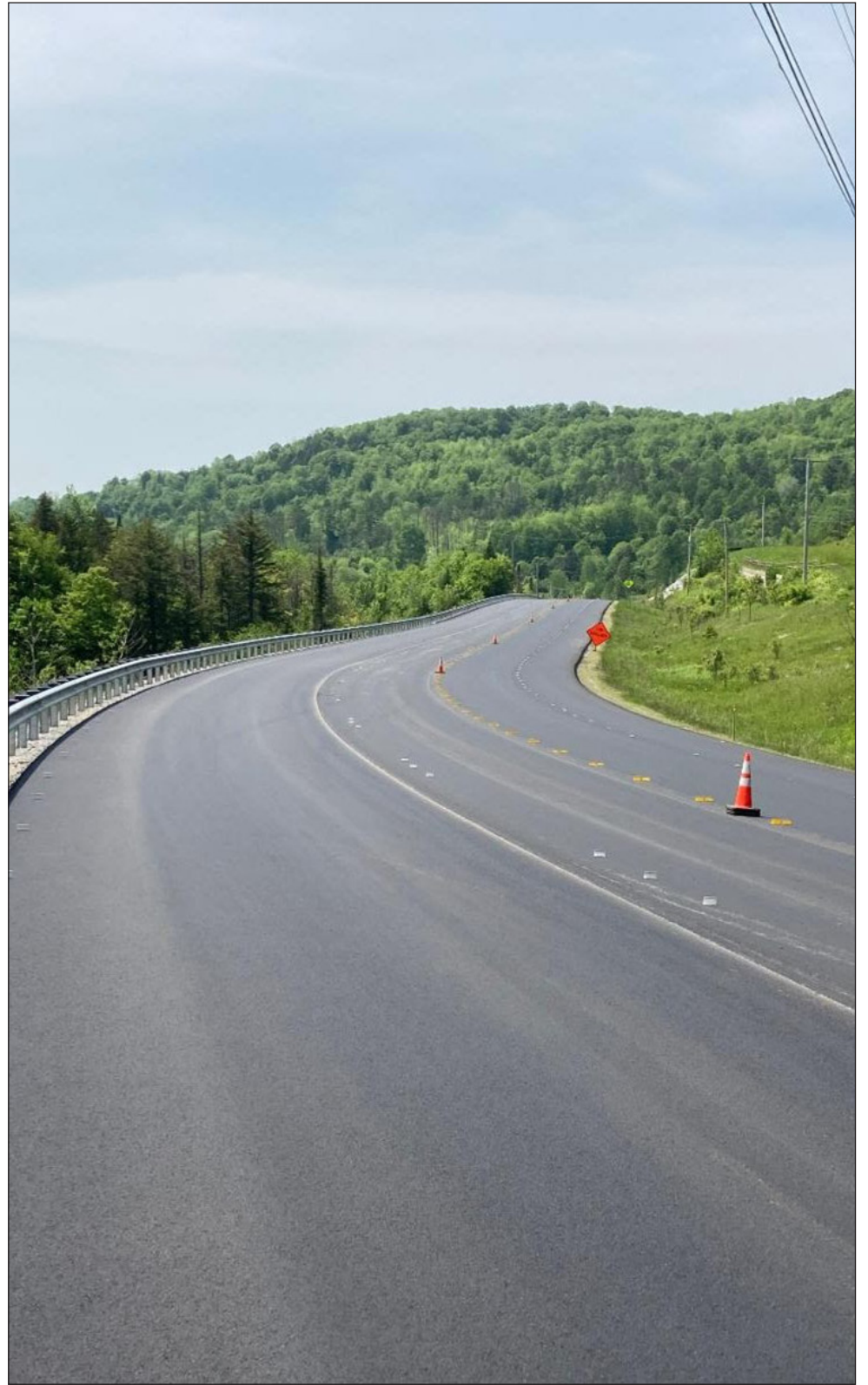
“This spring, I reached out to the other five organizations and visited three of them to strengthen the relationships CAE holds with them,” said the CAE’s Ramsay. “It was inspiring to see the hard work happening across Vermont that our farms and communities will benefit from as each of the hubs are investing in the future of agriculture. . . It is clear Vermont would be a very different place without the work CAE and all the food hubs are doing by taking action and working collaboratively every day.”

The Center for an Agricultural Economy supports rural communities and working landscapes by building a more interconnected local food system.



CAE Executive Director, Jon Ramsay (left), and Vermont Farmers Food Center Executive Director, Heidi Lynch, presenting closing statements to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

photo by Kelly Bogle Stokes



A completed section of U.S. Rte. 2 with a truck lane, in Cabot, near the Marshfield Dam. courtesy photo

## U.S. Rte. 2 Resurfacing Project on Schedule for June Completion

by Paul Fixx

WEST DANVILLE, CABOT, MARSHFIELD – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) planned to continue work on U.S. Rte. 2 from the intersection with Vt. Rte. 15 in West Danville, west through Cabot to the Marshfield town line, Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13.

Between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., motorists should anticipate minor delays and alternating one-way traffic on Rte. 2. Flaggers and Uniformed Traffic Officers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone.

Crews will begin paving the side road approaches and driveway aprons beginning at the intersection of Rte. 2 and Rte. 15 in West Danville and continue west through Cabot toward the Marshfield town line.

On Wednesday, June 11, crews will be grinding the center-line rumble strips in Cabot.

On Wednesday, June 11, and

Thursday, June 12, crews will be installing asphaltic plug joints at the bridge near the outlet of Joe’s Pond in West Danville near the intersection of Rte. 15 with Rte. 2.

On Friday, June 13, crews will be installing permanent line markings at the park and ride in West Danville.

A VTrans update on the project status said crews predominantly conducted reclaiming work, milling and filling activities, excavation, and paving in 2024.

The remaining work consists of paving activities, installing markings, placing signage and site restoration and vegetation. The paving activities specifically include paving side road approaches and driveway aprons, grinding the center-line rumble strips, placing pavement markings and placing aggregate shoulders to back up the new pavement.

The project is on schedule to be completed at the end of June 2025, said VTrans.

# EDITORIAL

## Prepare for the Worst, Hope for the Best

I write this one month before the July 10 anniversary of 2023 and 2024 flooding as I wonder if Vermont towns, their residents, second home owners and visitors are prepared for another summer flood.

Despite frustrations and delays in working with FEMA and state agencies, most towns and road crews in the Hardwick area seem to have made good progress in repairing roads, upgrading culverts, adding rip-rap and planting trees along rivers and streams to reduce erosion.

Much work remains to be done, some of which has been further delayed by this year's federal funding cuts. In Hardwick, that work includes a study of the Lamoille River corridor through the downtown that's been delayed indefinitely. On the plus side, we've learned work to replace the swinging bridge and a main street retaining wall between it and the Village Restaurant is on track to begin soon.

A huge, new culvert, hardened with stone walls at both ends, has recently been installed on Menard Road in Cabot for a Winooski River tributary. Work there to rebuild Harry's Hardware and reinforce the drainage into the Winooski has been completed, though a potential buyout of the Cabot Garage is still pending.

With towns doing their part, how can area residents best prepare?

Signing up for the VT-ALERT system might be a good first step. The service will update Vermonters about extreme weather, road closures, infrastructure alerts, culvert overflowing, and boil water notices. It's available as an app or on the state's website. Residents can tailor the alerts to specific locations, types of alerts and on which devices they will be notified.

Users can download, and receive alerts via the mobile app or continue to get them via SMS/Text, e-mail, mobile phone, work or home phone, and TTY/TDD devices. Users can prioritize notifications by specifying the order of communication type and method. Up to five (5) additional locations in Vermont can be specified for which to receive alerts. They could include, for example, towns where other family members live, or where children attend school.

In the last several years, many local groups have sprung up to provide assistance in emergencies, with flooding being the biggest recent examples. Get to know what resources exist in your town before an emergency arises. In Hardwick, the new TextMyGov alert system will provide local updates. Sign up at [hardwickvt.gov/hardwick-textmygov/](http://hardwickvt.gov/hardwick-textmygov/)

Hardwick Area Neighbor-to-Neighbor is a grassroots group committed to providing community assistance in almost any situation. Information is available on its Facebook page at [facebook.com/hardwickneighbors](https://facebook.com/hardwickneighbors)

A call to the town clerk in other towns will help find appropriate resources.

A Vermont Edition story in May on Vermont Public shared information from a listener named Peg who lost her home to flooding years ago. "She called in to share some flood-proofing suggestions for property owners, including investing in flood shields, bulkhead protection doors, and flood insurance," it said.

Other recommendations are to have a go-bag ready with the most essential items needed if one has to leave home quickly for an unknown length of time, suggested Vermont Edition. It ended, with Megan Mathers

of Northeast Kingdom Organizing and the Kingdom United Resilience and Recovery Effort saying, "taking care of your mental health is an important aspect of remaining resilient during and after an impactful weather event. KURRVE provides services to help people stay mentally stable during an unstable time."

And, after all that, let's prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

**Paul Fixx**

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### No Kings in America

To the editor:

Please join us for a peaceful, patriotic Flag Day event on Saturday, June 14, declaring that authoritarianism, fascism and kings have no place in America. Rise up for support of a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people", not one highjacked by billionaires, technocrats and racist nationalists.

The event starts at 11:30 a.m. in the Peace Park next to the Civic Standard building at 42 S. Main Street, Hardwick. After a Pledge of Allegiance, a short speech by State Representative Leanne Harple and some rousing songs led by Grace Hurley, the group will march across Main Street to Front Seat Coffee at 101 S. Main St with signs to raise awareness of passersby until about

1:30 p.m.

This nationwide protest in hundreds of cities across the country is to raise awareness that the rule of law and our Constitution is sacred; that spending \$25 to 45 million dollars (estimates range up to \$100 million!) of taxpayer money for a military parade birthday party for one man, while cutting Food Stamps (SNAP benefits) is unacceptable; that deporting anyone without due process is illegal.

This National Day of Defiance is sponsored by the national groups, Indivisible Action and Women's March, as well as the newly formed Indivisible Hardwick. For more information contact: [Indivisible-Hardwick@pm.me](mailto:Indivisible-Hardwick@pm.me)

**Carlotta Hayes  
Hardwick**

### For the record

The tree and photos referred to in last week's story, "Blooming Crabapple Tree Brightens View," were on Hudson Avenue, not Hudson Street.

The final paragraph of last week's article, "CAE Receives Food Systems Infrastructure Award," was truncated. It should have read, "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 two new markets established, said the state press release."

# THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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

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**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.

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Missing the Mark on Education Reform

by Jack Hoffman

FRANCE – If and when the governor and Legislature agree on something they call “transformational educational reform,” it’s unlikely to be what most people expected or wanted.

Vermonters won’t see the property tax relief they were hoping for because changes to the funding system will be a few years off. Instead, the first signs of reform will be reorganization of their school districts, which they didn’t ask for. On top of that, democratic decision-making on school budgets will be a thing of the past.

People may be wondering whatever happened to the Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont, the body created after local voters saw a big jump in school budgets and school taxes last summer. The commission was given 18 months to study Vermont’s education system and get public input on how to improve education for their kids and make it more “efficient and sustainable.”

After the 2024 elections, however, the commission was pushed aside before it could finish its work or hear from Vermonters. Eleven months before their time was up, Gov. Phil Scott presented his own education reform plan, which took advantage of voters’ frustration to push for his priorities of the past decade: school funding cuts, widespread, top-down consolidation and the sidelining of local voters in decision-making. Scott also threw in an expansion of vouchers, public money for private schools and the elimination of income sensitivity by leaning into property taxes.

Despite their early criticism of the governor’s proposal to consolidate Vermont’s 119 school districts into five mega-districts, the Legislature appears ready to give the governor most of what he asked for, especially control of education

funding. They are supporting a foundation funding system, which would have the Agency of Education and the Legislature, not local voters, determine how much districts should spend on each student.

They want more school consolidation, though not as much as the governor. And like him, they want to return to school taxes for resident homeowners based on the value of their property rather than household income, which is the better measure of ability to pay. In essence, policymakers seem set on protecting the highest-income taxpayers from paying the same share of their income in school taxes as everyone else.

Because the commission was dis-empowered, the current reform plans were cobbled together without analyses of the failures of recent attempts to reduce spending and improve student outcomes. We’re still waiting for an Agency of Education report on what was accomplished by Act 46, the last major consolidation effort, which many believe saved no money.

Nevertheless, Montpelier is counting on large districts and school closures to shrink the cost of education, even while the cost of health insurance balloons and kids’ mental health needs grow. The current version of the bill would create a task force to design large consolidated school districts by the end of 2025.

Switching to a foundation funding system will take a few years, but we’re already getting a glimpse of future education spending battles. We’re told that the foundation amount provided to all students will be “evidence-based,” the result of careful analyses to determine the cost of an adequate education for all kids. We know the governor will have one number and the Legislature will have another. Both sides say they want to spend less on education going forward.

But neither is revealing what their number provides for students or how they’ll rein in costs that are out of schools’ control.

So once foundation funding is in place, local voters will be left on the sidelines while policymakers negotiate over how much to allocate for education.

Outside of the Statehouse, there has been an outcry against the current education reform efforts from teachers, parents, kids, administrators and community members. Inside the building, there is plenty of doubt from lawmakers who admit that they’re uncomfortable with the process. Two weeks ago, senators acknowledged that they had a half-baked bill based on incomplete or unreal data from the administration that pushed a lot of important decisions down the road. Even the chair of the Senate Finance Committee said she had never felt so bad about voting for a bill.

Education reform may still end in a standoff this year. While legislative leadership and the governor agree on a lot of the big changes, many members are appropriately raising the concerns they’re hearing from Vermonters.

So lawmakers should not feel pressure to pass a bill many don’t like. If they do, Vermonters are going to wonder why they’re getting what they didn’t ask for, getting reorganized school districts and less say in their schools, and not getting what they want and deserve: fairer school taxes, a plan to address the real cost drivers in school budgets and a clear commitment to delivering the resources all Vermont kids need to succeed.

*Jack Hoffman is senior analyst at Public Assets Institute, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Montpelier. He is a resident of Marshfield currently living in France.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Might Ask for More Transparency

To the editor:

A response to the Guest Perspective (News and Citizen; 6/5/2025), by Joseph Woodin. His request for “patience and civility” in the title, is followed up with a statement later: “. . . a planned protest raised safety concerns . . .”. Previously, peaceful demonstrations of support for the Birthing Center have been held, without anyone getting harmed. (unless perhaps a paper cut from a sign?). For Copley to suggest that another demonstration might be different is very sad. Maybe their real fear was that the fundraiser attendees might ask for more transparency, instead of the murkiness around the actual annual dollar loss the Birthing Center has. The Birthing Center loses “\$3-\$5 million a year.” According to the hospital’s 2022 990 form the top three administrators earned over \$1.1 million dollars combined. It seems like one of these three people should be able to provide the community with a figure to within \$200,000 dollars.

The Birthing Center at Copley, like all birthing units in Vermont, participates in data collection and receives an in-depth report and review of their statistics from the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program.

Years of data show that the Birthing Center provides high quality care. One part of the great

quality that can get overlooked at Copley, is the appropriate and timely referral of patients who develop complications requiring them (or their care) to be transferred to a facility with Maternal or Neonatal specialist availability. This lowers the birth volume at Copley but also improves overall Maternal and Neonatal outcomes.

Collaborative nursing and provider education, simulation drills, standardized terminology and case reviews all assist in maintaining and enhancing skills. What exactly are the quality concerns that continuing these existing Birthing Center practices won’t address? The staff in the Birthing Center has adapted its’ skillset to enhance their ability to care for a variety of patients. When the unit census allows, appropriate OB/GYN and Medical-Surgical patients are admitted into the Birthing Center. The Medical-Surgical patients include a variety of Orthopedic patients, which receive the same excellent care as is provided on the Acute Care Nursing Unit. The Birthing Center staff also float to other nursing areas if the unit census allows for it and there is a need for it. These practices bring in revenue and shift costs out of the Birthing Center, enhancing its’ bottom line.

**Annette M. Jones, MSN  
Craftsbury**

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## OSSU Stays Strong

by Dr. David Baker

HARDWICK—In his last newsletter of the school year, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Superintendent Dr. David Baker wrote, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are under strong attack right now. Earlier this spring, the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to state officials stating that

Title I funding, which is targeted to schools with a high proportion of low-income students, would be threatened if schools failed to follow its interpretation of civil rights laws, including diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

I recently read a letter from a superintendent who countered this demand far better than I could ever say it. I encourage you to read this

superintendent’s response here. [See below.]

OSSU stays strong in our protection of the historically marginalized and the most vulnerable of our population. We will remain vigilant and ensure that all our students have access to the opportunities that they deserve. If life is a race to the finish, we do not all start at the same starting line. We live in a state where

I think our AOE and the attorney general will fight the good fight. Vermont is part of several lawsuits that challenge the federal assault on our DEI and equity programs. With or without the state we will stay strong in our efforts until the words tell me differently. This may be the most important crossroad that we have faced in our history. We carry on.

## Still Not Signing: A Superintendent’s Response

by Anonymous

The federal government gave us ten days to sign away our values. Here’s our answer.

April 8, 2025

To Whom It May (Unfortunately) Concern at the U.S. Department of Education:

Thank you for your April 3 memorandum, which I read several times — not because it was legally persuasive, but because I kept checking to see if it was satire. Alas, it appears you are serious.

You’ve asked me, as superintendent of a public school district, to sign a “certification” declaring that we are not violating federal civil rights law — by, apparently, acknowledging that civil rights issues still exist. You cite Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, then proceed to argue that offering targeted support to historically marginalized students is somehow discriminatory.

That’s not just legally incoherent — it’s a philosophical Möbius strip of bad faith.

Let me see if I understand your logic: If we acknowledge racial disparities, that’s racism. If we help English learners catch

up, that’s favoritism. If we give a disabled child a reading aide, we’re denying someone else the chance to struggle equally. And if we train teachers to understand bias, we’re indoctrinating them. But, if we train them to ignore it, we’re “restoring neutrality”?

How convenient that your sudden concern for “equal treatment” seems to apply only when it’s used to silence conversations about race, identity, or inequality.

Let’s talk about our English learners. Would you like us to stop offering translation services during parent-teacher conferences? Should we cancel bilingual support staff to avoid the appearance of “special treatment?” Or, would you prefer we just teach all content in English and hope for the best, since acknowledging linguistic barriers now counts as discrimination?

And, while we’re at it, what’s your official stance on IEPs? Because last I checked, individualized education plans intentionally give students with disabilities extra support. Should we start removing accommodations to avoid offending the able-bodied majority? Maybe cancel occupational therapy altogether so

no one feels left out? If a student with a learning disability receives extended time on a test, should we now give everyone extended time, even if they don’t need it? Just to keep the playing field sufficiently flat and unthinking?

Your letter paints equity as a threat. But equity is not the threat. It’s the antidote to decades of failure. Equity is what ensures all students have a fair shot. Equity is what makes it possible for a child with a speech impediment to present at the science fair. It’s what helps the nonverbal kindergartner use an AAC device. It’s what gets the newcomer from Ukraine the ESL support she needs without being left behind.

And let’s not skip past the most insulting part of your directive — the ten-day deadline. A national directive sent to thousands of districts with the subtlety of a ransom note, demanding signatures within a week and a half or else you’ll cut funding that supports... wait for it... low-income students, disabled students, and English learners.

Brilliant. Just brilliant. A moral victory for bullies and bureaucrats everywhere.

So no, we will not be signing your “certification.”

We are not interested in joining your theater of compliance.

We are not interested in gutting equity programs that serve actual children in exchange for your political approval.

We are not interested in abandoning our legal, ethical, and educational responsibilities to satisfy your fear of facts.

We are interested in teaching the truth.

We are interested in honoring our students’ identities.

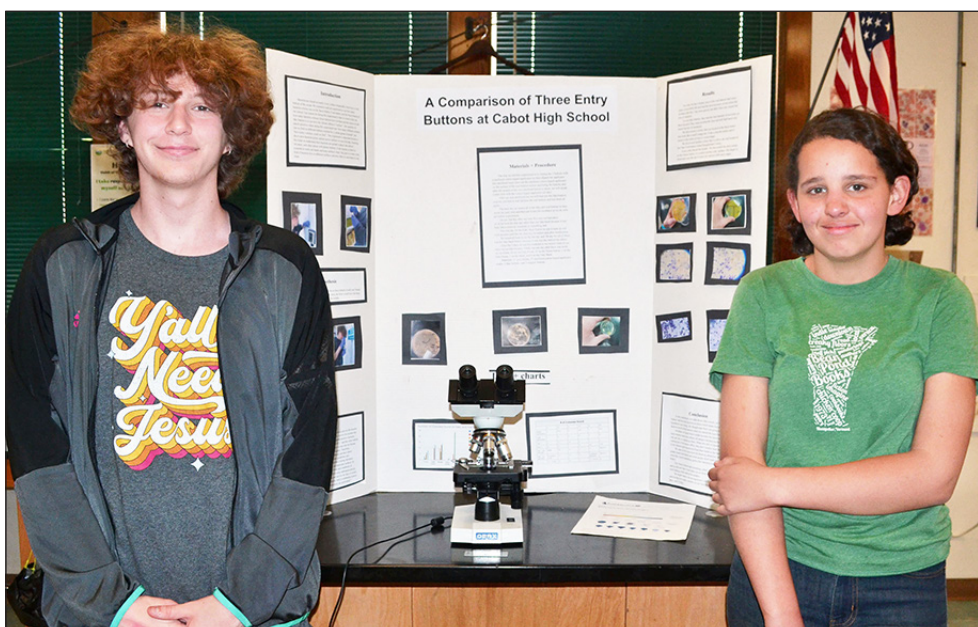
We are interested in building a school system where no child is invisible, and no teacher is punished for caring too much.

And yes, we are prepared to fight this. In the courts. In the press. In the community. In Congress, if need be.

Because this district will not be remembered as the one that folded under pressure.

We will be remembered as the one that stood its ground — not for politics, but for kids.

Sincerely,  
District Superintendent  
Still Teaching. Still Caring.  
Still Not Signing.



Cabot students Matthew Licata (left) and Leilah Thompson (right) show the presentation board they made studying common germs they found on the three entry buttons to get into the school. Their project was done in their micro biology class with Thomas Dunbar. The Exhibition of Learning was a day-long event which included many displays and projects in action from grades PreK through twelfth grade. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Entertainment was provided by the Miller family (Jeanne Miller, with her sons JD and Will) on the porch of the Caledonia Grange #9 after the East Hardwick parade, June 7. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# ANOTHER OPINION

## Health Care Failure, Crisis: What Can we do Now?

by Patrick Flood

WOODBURY – Because of failed leadership and misguided waste of Vermonters’ money, our health care system is on the verge of collapse. This did not need to happen.

Once again, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBSVT) is requesting unaffordable rate increases. This is largely because the high cost of care has drained the carrier’s reserves to the point that the organization is on the brink of bankruptcy. If BCBSVT goes bankrupt, our health care system will collapse, since its customers will be unable to obtain care and providers will be unable to receive payments.

We know why this is happening and how it could have been avoided. The people in charge of Vermont’s health care system, and many public advocates who pay close attention, have known for years what the problem is: most of our health care dollars have gone to hospitals to pay for unnecessarily high administrative costs and avoidable care. Two studies commissioned by the Green Mountain Care Board and research by the Vermont Healthcare 911 coalition have demonstrated this conclusively.

Meanwhile, primary care, mental health, home health and other providers of care have been starved for funding. The result is that costs have soared while access to care has worsened and many physician practices have closed or are facing closure.

It is shameful that our leaders have let this train wreck develop over the past decade when we all knew what the real solution was: strengthen primary care so every Vermonter has ready access to a doctor;

strengthen mental health services to keep people with mental health issues stable and out of emergency rooms; strengthen services like home health to keep people out of the hospital and get them home sooner when they do go; and ensure there is a network of long-term care services, including quality nursing homes, to meet the needs of an aging population.

Had we taken those steps, Vermonters would be healthier and overall costs would have been lower, especially hospital spending resulting in lower premium increases.

Instead, over the past decade we got woefully misguided initiatives like OneCare Vermont and the “all payer model,” which failed

miserably to contain costs and wasted huge amounts of money. Administrative costs for OneCare alone were approximately \$100 million.

Until recently, hospitals pretty much got what they asked for in budget increases. The one bright spot recently has been the oversight of the current Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to constrain hospital budgets. Sadly, without further bold actions, the board’s efforts may turn out to be too little too late.

So, what can we do now? Half-steps are not going to cut it. The solution, as I see it, has three integrated parts.

First, GMCB needs to significantly reduce what hospitals can charge. The board can approve different rates for each hospital so that those most responsible for the crisis, primarily UVM Medical Center (UVMHC), can be assigned the greatest reductions.

Such reductions can stabilize BCBSVT while broader reforms are put in place. UVM Health Network has huge reserves that will allow it to weather such a change for a year or two. A crisis like this current one is why reserves exist; now is the time to use them.

Second, lower the rates the Medicaid program pays to UVMHC and use the savings to raise the rates Medicaid pays to primary care, mental health, home health and nursing homes. This is possible because the state of Vermont sets the rates in our Medicaid program. Raising rates for community providers would allow those providers to immediately begin to hire more staff and provide more prevention services, thus keeping people out of hospitals and reducing hospital spending.

A study commissioned by the GMCB showed that up to 30% of hospital spending is “avoidable”, meaning it could have been prevented if alternative services were in place. Even 10% of our total hospital spending would amount to over \$300 million, enough to fully cover the costs of what needs to be done for primary care and other key services.

Third, begin working immediately on a comprehensive statewide health plan to determine what services we need in each part of the state to have the most efficient and effective health care system. This plan should be in our hands no later than Jan. 1, 2026.

Yes, this means our hospitals will have to make major changes. But it is far better for Vermonters to take a clear-eyed, data driven, thoughtful,

systemic approach to planning than to have each hospital making decisions in their own financial interest.

Rest assured that there is more than enough money in our health care system to provide basic health care services to every Vermonter at an affordable cost. But we are wasting it in avoidable ways in hospitals, primarily at UVMHC. This can be changed quickly to save our system.

Or we can wait and let the bankruptcies start and watch more

and more Vermonters drop their insurance coverage because they can no longer afford it.

*This commentary is by Patrick Flood of Woodbury. He is former commissioner of the Vermont Department of Mental Health and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, former deputy secretary of the Agency of Human Services and former CEO of Northern Counties Health Care. This commentary first appeared in VTDigger.*



Craftsbury senior Savanah Boyce (left) Scarecrow) joins the fourth- and second-graders (from left): Hyla Thompson, Elise LeBeau, Charlie Sweet and Winter Pelland during the jitterbug scene in their production of “The Wizard of Oz,” held June 4, at the Highland Center for the Arts.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Craftsbury theater club students Gwen Mehegan, as the Lion, Savanah Boyce (Scarecrow), Lilly Cookson (Dorothy) and Kosmos Gletsos (Tin Man) perform during a scene from “The Wizard of Oz” held at the Highland Center for the Arts, June 4. Twenty-eight Craftsbury students from grades two through 12 were part of the production directed by Kate Locke.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

## Joyful June

SHELBURNE – Looking out the window sitting at my meditation altar on June 1, I saw birds, bees and a baby bunny. Bunny picked a dandelion and munched contentedly on it from stem to going-to-seed flower. The season's first hummingbird flew overhead to bless the meal. Grace whispered, "It's going to be a joyful June."

I smiled to myself and thought, "Birds, Bees and Baby Bunnies" would make a good beginning for a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood. I laughed out loud when I saw bunny sniffing the stone rabbit sculpture on my deck later in the morning.

Across cultural traditions, the many spiritual attributes of rabbits include fertility, creativity, gentleness, kindness, gratitude, rebirth, transformation, the divine feminine, intuition, abundance and

the blessings of paradox. I wonder if rabbits are mystics.

I just happened to be reading the fifth anniversary edition of "Joyfully Shattered: A Physician's Awakening at the Crossroads of Science and Spirituality" by Rick Sheff, M.D. Fascinating. Thank you, Rick, for so gracefully naming how I feel this June, joyfully shattered.

When the deluge of demagoguery from DOGE and others who threaten democracy leaves me feeling shattered and downright depressed, I dose myself on some good news and donate to my favorite charities.

Then I stumbled upon WholeHeart Inc. on last year's giving list. June this year is the culminating month of the nonprofit I co-founded and poured my heart into 12 years ago. We designed WholeHeart's

Wellness Model using a chambered shell of a nautilus. A heart was the love center, which flowed into the first chamber: Grace. We defined Grace as "Joy, Spirit, Creativity, Vision, Purpose, and Meaning."

Last fall, Wake Robin's weed warriors pulled out the milkweed from the flower bed along the side of my cottage. It attracted Monarchs and hummingbirds all summer. I expressed my ardent disapproval of the removal. WholeHeart often uses milkweed as a metaphor for the way we sow seeds that germinate in the endangered, precious parts of ourselves and our communities, including democracy. There were no signs of sprouting seeds in May. A bee knocked on my window screen on June 4. When I answered her call, I saw the milkweed reaching for my windowsill in protest. I inwardly jumped for joy.

Grace told me in my meditation recently that our democracy is not totally broken. It's in our communities for repairs. I am joyfully watching WholeHeart's seeds take root around the globe, quietly and persistently reminding us of what we hold closest in our hearts.

Trish Passmore Alley holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. A published author and poet, her career has included teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses in manufacturing, engineering, and retail, and founding and operating three social profits in Greensboro. A published author and poet, she posts brief, monthly blogs at [gracefulmischief.com](http://gracefulmischief.com). When her column refers to Grace, it is a presence in her life, and it is capitalized. She now lives in Shelburne.

# FAUX GNUS

DAVID K. RODGERS

## Executive Orders To Expect Soon

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

CRAFTSBURY – #51,037. Build a wall along the U.S.-Canadian border to prevent white Americans from escaping from this country.

#2,691. Require all school children to say 2,000 "Heil Trumps" at the beginning and end of each day.

"Heil Trump, Full of (expletive deleted), Blessed is the fruit of thy Goons."

#9,257. Annex Panama and blow up the isthmus with nuclear bombs so that ships can go directly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific.

#35,609. Change the National Anthem to "Trump Uber Alles" (sung in German).

#102,473. Build a Trump National Monument on the Mall taller than the Washington Monument.

#59,728. Establish an old age home for criminally insane politicians.

#3,196. Make January 6 National Attack the Police Day.

#5,709. Any use of lie detectors is forbidden.

#115,721. All blue haired/blonde eyed boys between the ages of 3 and 21 will join Trump Youth.

#3,845. All Republicans in the

Senate and House of Representatives will be required to undergo a simple operation, called M.E. (Moral Eunuchification), with the exception of those who never had any morality.

#91,503. There will be no tariffs on anything imported that is marked MAGA or TRUMP.

#7,326. The American flag will be redesigned with a circle of stars (51) around a large T in the blue area.

#20,480. The Presidential Seal will be changed to a fan of playing cards indicating a trump hand.

#5,174. Everyone will be required to take a test to determine who are the winners or losers and all the losers will be deported.

#1,359. Donald Musk's birthday will become a national holiday.

#23,051. All golf courses will become the property of Trump Turf.

#9,375. The children of liberals will be separated from their parents and sent to re-education camps.

#271,360. The official motto of King Donald The Last will be, "After Me, the \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) will hit the fan!"

#32,763. The Supreme Corpse will issue a decision that the Executive branch of government does not have to obey the Judicial branch, including the Supreme Corpse itself.

#19,308. All funds in the

Social Security System will be invested in the stock market in Trump and Musk companies.

#276,509. The Seven Deadly Sins will be repealed; Morality is for losers.

#90,138. The Ten Commandments will be suspended for President-for-Life Trump, because he is above any laws.

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

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



The first wave of the visitors pose for a photo at the birthday party to celebrate Central Vermont Community Radio (CVCR) turning 4, WGDH turning 15, and WGDR turning 52, Saturday, June 7 at the WGDR/WGDH station in Plainfield.

courtesy photo

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## You Can't Make This Stuff Up

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – On Sunday mornings of the weekends that Bea drives up from Nahant, if the weather is warm and pleasant, we put the top down on the roadster, assure Kiki we won't be gone long, and tool leisurely downstream along the Winooski River to Middlesex for coffee and a pastry at the Red Hen Bakery. It's a clean, well-lighted place, usually pretty busy on Sunday mornings with a mixture of locals, tourists and transplants like me. The signs on the chalkboards and over the doors and windows, as well as the posted instructions for proper disposal of cups, dishes and trash, signal clearly that if the bakery were larger and better known, it would be a prime target for the Trump administration. It pretty much defines "woke."

If I'm sitting facing the entrance, I can see the road. I like to imagine the scene if the chatty serenity of the place were suddenly interrupted by the arrival out front of a line of black SUVs, the debarking of a face familiar from newscasts, say JD Vance, recklessly reprising his last visit to the Green Mountain State, and the entrance of the somber entourage. What would be the reaction of the patrons of the bakery? Pregnant silence? Undertones of disapproval? A cheerful greeting? All kinds of fantasies run through my mind at the prospect of such a scenario.

Even though I realize that the personal security of important citizens is paramount in the minds of those charged with ensuring their safety, I get a bit cheesed off at the entourage of black, gas-guzzling SUVs deployed redundantly to accompany them. The implication is obvious: We don't trust you, and will react swiftly and severely to any threat we perceive you to be. Lately, this has come to mean you're likely to wake up tomorrow in El Salvador without a return ticket. So in a way, the protection itself creates at least an edgy, grumpy atmosphere. At least one Vermonter went so far as to suggest, during Mr. Vance's last foray into the state, that the vice-president stoops so low as to wash his cast-iron frying pan in the dishwasher. The threat of all those men in suits and sunglasses edging alertly into the Red Hen would, if I may venture a guess, play hell with a lovely Sunday morning.

We tend, both individually and in groups, to respond as we are treated. This was conveyed most clearly to me by an experience we had during the early days of the former Outward Bound program

at Dartmouth. In order to give the students an idea of life without freedom, we arranged to spend a day and night in a jail in Haddam, Conn., that was used for training corrections officers. We arrived there after days of winter camping, and were locked up. We marched to supper.

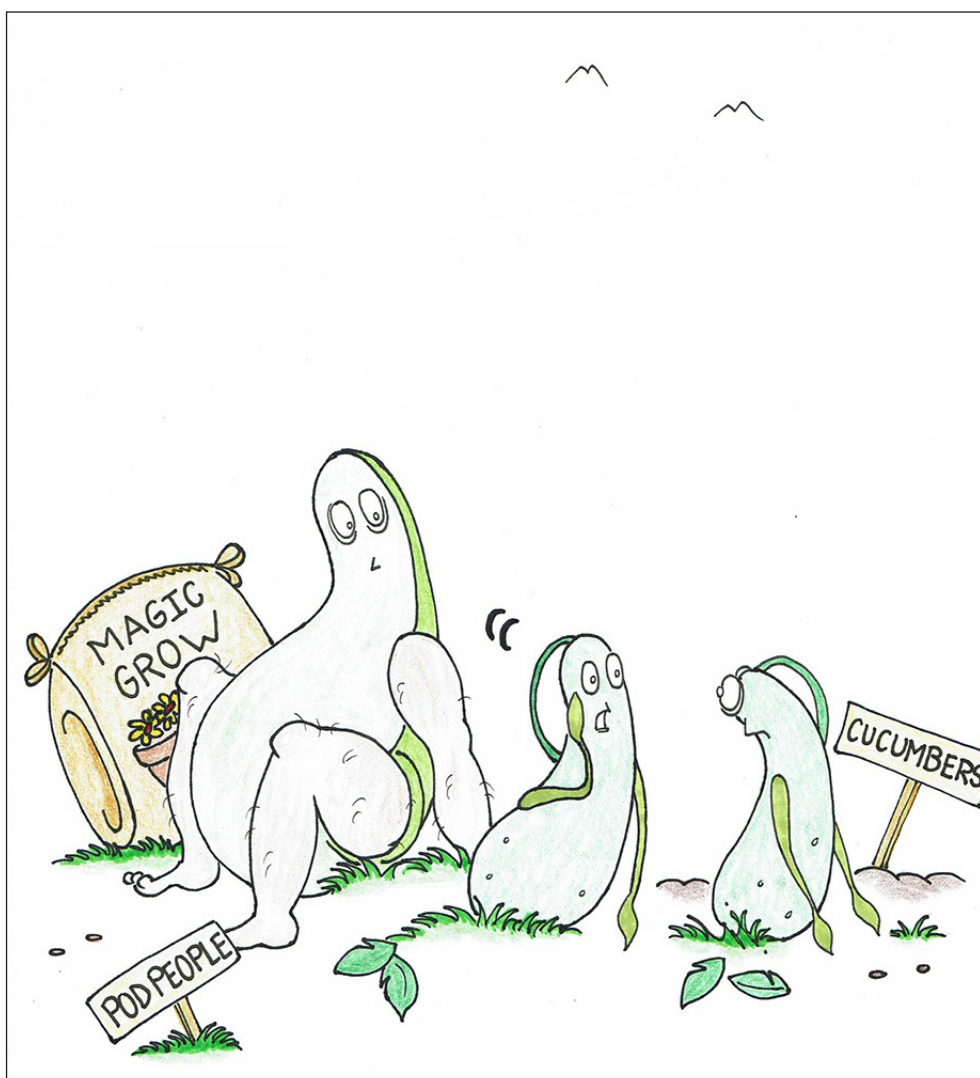
After supper we were put back into our cells, and the lights went out. It was very quiet. Then somebody on the block started making pig noises. Somebody else responded with cow sounds. After the whole barnyard had joined in, the guard on duty started hollering about turning off the heat or spraying us with the hose. I'll give you a guess how much good that did. The more he threatened, the worse it got. Eventually, like children, the way we were treated we got sick of it ourselves, and went off to sleep.

Donald Trump apparently has a long list of people and places he despises, and is doing all he can with whatever power he can muster to satisfy his need to put them in their places. So far, Harvard has resisted quite admirably. I suspect the university has better (and more zealous) lawyers than the President can muster anymore. For some reason, he and his erstwhile sidekick, Elon Musk, consider foreign aid programs hotbeds of fraud, deceit and corruption. (remember my constant refrain in interpreting everything he says and does: Accusation is Confession.) So thousands of children in Africa are now being born without medicine to eliminate their AIDS, and thousands more are starving, while medicine and food lie spoiling in warehouses. My friend Bea's research programs through USAID are suddenly extinct, her decades of trying to alleviate human suffering trashed by the stroke of a pen.

When I first heard him speak, years ago, I pegged him for a phony. I was a contractor, and over time developed a pretty good nose for character. He's an open book. At the moment he's making a case for domestic insurrection (the irony of it!) so that he can declare a national emergency and suspend other powers of government. California is one of his administration's favorite targets: liberal, elitist and crawling with illegal immigrants. He's sent the National Guard to restore order, in spite of being told none too subtly it's not wanted. But there's hope. He forgot to send the cots, or food. Vehicles, too; they're reserved for his birthday parade.

You can't make this stuff up.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“ HE'S ONE OF THOSE WEIRD CRYPTIDS!”

## MEETING MEMO

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Wednesday, June 11</b><br/>Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, June 17</b><br/>Marshfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.<br/>Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners, third Tuesday of month, 6 p.m. unless otherwise warned.<br/>Cabot Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.<br/>Craftsbury Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.<br/>Plainfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, June 18</b><br/>Wolcott Select Board, third Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.</p> | <p><b>Thursday, June 19</b><br/>Hardwick Select Board, third Thursday of month, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Town Clerks<br/>Cabot: <a href="http://cabotvt.us">cabotvt.us</a><br/>Calais: <a href="http://calaisvermont.gov">calaisvermont.gov</a><br/>Craftsbury: <a href="http://townofcraftsbury.com">townofcraftsbury.com</a><br/>Greensboro: <a href="http://greensborovt.gov">greensborovt.gov</a><br/>Hardwick: <a href="http://hardwickvt.org">hardwickvt.org</a><br/>Marshfield: <a href="http://town.marshfield.vt.us">town.marshfield.vt.us</a><br/>Plainfield: <a href="http://plainfieldvt.us">plainfieldvt.us</a><br/>Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, <a href="mailto:townofstannard@myfairpoint.net">townofstannard@myfairpoint.net</a><br/>Walden: <a href="http://waldenvt.gov">waldenvt.gov</a><br/>Wolcott: <a href="http://wolcottvt.org">wolcottvt.org</a><br/>Woodbury: <a href="http://woodburyvt.org">woodburyvt.org</a></p> |
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## THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Spiritual Awareness Deepens Loving-Kindness

by Anthony Acheson

GREENSBORO – In her book, “The Gnostic Gospels,” Elaine Pagels describes a bounty of early Christian writings rediscovered in Egypt in 1945. They had been banned by authoritarian church leaders in the fourth century. But some faithful monks defied that dictate and carefully buried those texts for posterity.

One major feature of those writings is their advocacy for direct spiritual experience. They called it gnosis (Greek for “inner knowing”). Such knowing goes beyond mere intellectual knowledge and points instead to a direct sensing of the spiritual realm. And that, in turn, involves developing a sustained spiritual practice.

This experiential strand of early Christianity de-emphasized organized church structure. Spiritual community, though valued, was seen as an important resource more than a binding authority. And although gnostic Christians revered Jesus, they didn’t view him

as granting salvation from the outside in, but as a spiritual force offering awakening and healing from the inside out. This view of religion was minimally hierarchical and located the transformative divine power much more in changing the inner consciousness of the seeker than in accepting the outer requirements of the church.

The predominant church hierarchy increasingly demanded assent to creeds and doctrines, and obedience to the male clergy. After Christianity won majority status and became the official faith of Rome by the end of the fourth century, its bishops and priests used their newfound political power to try to establish their beliefs by force. This included an attempt to expunge the gnostic texts from history.

For those seeking spiritual renewal today, however, this experiential emphasis is a valuable resource. It highlights the priority of spirituality over religion and helps us see that the essential goal of the spiritual life is not, per se, to affiliate with any specific religion. The deeper goal is

to develop a repertoire of tools for directly accessing the spiritual dimension of reality, a process that can utilize resources from any number of religious and/or spiritual traditions.

Although there is no single superior religion with all the answers, specific religions can continue to play a major role in fostering such spiritual awareness. Existing religious groups and meeting-places can, and must, continue to be vital centers of community and connection.

Consider this analogy. Just as the first 13 American colonies had to yield their individual primacy to constitute a new nation, so too can our historic faiths move beyond the limitation of belonging to, and believing in, only their own religious grouping. In this process, they must learn to shift away from competition against other traditions and toward greater cooperation with them. For only by so doing can they come to create (as those 13 colonies did) a new congress of spiritual seekers and finders. When each new American state had to yield primacy to the emerging nation of united states, that did

not require Vermont, for example (or Virginia, etc.) to fold its tent. Rather, each state continued to be a vital entity with an ongoing role in serving our land.

Likewise with our religions, yielding their primacy does not mean losing their significance. In my view, the real job of religion has never been to claim primacy, power or superiority. The deeper role of all religions is, first, to enable direct spiritual awareness; and, second, to embody the way of faith and loving-kindness that most of them teach their own adherents to practice. The real role of our religions is to become servants, and not masters, of new and continually evolving manifestations of spiritual experience, connection, compassion and community.

Is that not a big part of what we humans greatly need right now?

*Anthony Acheson is a retired minister ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC). He was Pastor of the Greensboro UCC from 1999 to 2015. Some of this material has been adapted from his 2021 book of essays, “Beyond Denial.”*

## IN THE GARDEN

### Growing Watermelon Needs Rich Soil

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – There are few things as refreshing on a hot summer day as a slice of watermelon (*Citrullus Lanatus*). At over 90 percent water, watermelons are a tasty way to keep hydrated with an added bonus of vitamins and minerals.

For those who would like to try a hand at growing watermelon, they’ll need a location with rich, well-draining soil that receives at least six hours of direct sun daily. A soil test can provide recommendations for fertilizing. There should be sufficient space for the chosen variety. Smaller watermelons could be grown vertically, training the vines to climb a sturdy trellis with support such as slings for the fruit.

The biggest decision will be choosing which variety to grow: heirloom or hybrid variety? Full-size melons or one just big enough for a person or two? There are seeded and seedless varieties. Choices include the familiar, red-fleshed watermelon as well as orange, pink, yellow or white varieties.

Before a final decision, check the days to harvest for the variety considered. Be sure there are enough days in the growing season for the

watermelon to mature and be ready to harvest.

To do so, determine the anticipated last and first frost dates. The number of days between those dates is the length of the growing season. To find the average last and first frost dates for a location, go to [garden.org/apps/frost-dates](http://garden.org/apps/frost-dates).

Since watermelons require warm temperatures, sowing seeds or transplanting seedlings two weeks after the last frost date is recommended. The variety chosen should be ready to harvest within that number of days or a killing frost in the fall could put an end to the plants before harvest.

Prepare the watermelon bed by removing weeds and adding any needed soil amendments. A layer of mulch can help prevent weeds and keep moisture levels in the soil more consistent.

To direct sow watermelon seeds, plant several seeds, each an inch deep, in groups four to five feet apart. Once seedlings have emerged, choose the strongest, healthiest plant and thin seedlings to one per group. See the seed packet for variety-specific information.

If starting seeds indoors or planning to purchase starter plants, be sure to harden them off before



*Ideal growing conditions for watermelons are nutrient-rich, well-draining soil and a location that receives at least six hours of direct sun daily.*

*courtesy photo*

transplanting. Once the soil temperature is above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, move plants to the garden. For best results, try to disturb the roots as little as possible.

The soil should receive a deep soaking of water, one to two inches a week, either from rain or supplemental watering. When watering, avoid getting the foliage wet as this could lead to disease issues. Overwatering close to harvest could result in the fruit splitting.

There are several ways to determine when a watermelon is

ready to harvest. The skin color becomes dull. Tendrils near the watermelon dry out and become brown. The area on the bottom of the watermelon where it touches the soil yellows.

Watermelons are related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash, so keep an eye out for pests such as cucumber beetles and squash vine borers.

*Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.*

# IN THE GARDEN



Peastone pathway in primrose garden.

courtesy photo



Flat stones enhance this walkway

courtesy photo

## June: Gardening in Difficult Conditions

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – The very last day of May this year surprised me: we got three inches of rain in a little over 12 hours. Although not unheard of, it came after a month when we often got an inch or two of rain over a two or three day period. The ground is soggy, our brook is overflowing and we have no way of knowing if the summer will continue wet or turn hot and dry. As gardeners in uncertain times, it helps to plan for the worst and celebrate when we have the best. Let's look at what you can do to help your plants survive.

First, if you have a big rain, the best thing you can do is stay out of the garden. Wet soil compacts when you walk on it, making it less hospitable for plants because they get nutrients, water and oxygen through their roots. You already know better than to walk in your growing beds, both in the vegetable and flower gardens. But your lawn will suffer, too, if you walk on it while wet, and your footprints may make it lumpy.

We have lots of wide flower beds, wide enough that we cannot weed some of them while standing on the lawn. So we place flat

stepping stones in the beds, strategically placed so we can step on them to weed or pick flowers for vases in the house. This being New Hampshire, we seem to have a good supply of relatively flat stones to use. If we dig one up, we save it for future use. If you don't have stones, you can buy them from garden centers. Look for stones that are larger than your shoe, but get some bigger ones, too.

We also make pathways through large beds. We have a bed of candelabra primroses (*Primula japonica*) that is approximately 25 feet by 30 feet in size that contains hundreds of these beauties. We designed and built three pathways through and around it. And although we cannot access it all, it helps.

First we picked a route. Then we dug up and moved primroses and weeds to create a pathway about 18 inches wide. I find the CobraHead Weeder (cobrahead.com) can get under even mature plants and lift them, undamaged, for moving. This works best if the soil is moist— not a problem this summer. We got a nice rootball with each if we inserted the CobraHead in three or four places and loosened the soil a little before lifting the plant.

For our walkways we put down landscape fabric and pin it in place with landscape staples. We avoid woven landscape fabric, as weeds tend to grow through it. We use an almost see-through spun fabric, which does well by us. We cover the fabric with a two-inch layer of quarter-inch washed pea stone that I buy at a gravel company and bring it home in my trusty, rusty 2004 Toyota pickup truck. Lastly,

we spread some finely ground bark mulch along the edges of the path to help keep weeds and soil from migrating into the walkway. Steel edging would be good, but it's expensive.

Bark mulch is good in both wet times and dry times. Persistent weeds can grow through it, even a layer an inch-and-a-half thick. But it reduces weeding considerably. It helps to minimize evaporation in hot, dry weather, too. In wet times some weeds will grow in it— but they can't hold on as well as in soil, so they pull easily.

Raised beds are great in wet times. I have a wooden one I built using rough sawn pine that is 16-inches tall. I filled it with a mixture of garden soil and compost I buy loose in bulk. You can buy both at good garden centers, and a 50-50-mix works well, though I sometimes add peat moss and perlite if the mix is too heavy. In these recent rains my raised bed stood happily above the water-filled walkway around it.

Mostly in the vegetable garden I make 30- to 36-inch wide raised beds without wood sides. I just hoe up soil from the walkways into a bed that stands up six inches above the walkway. Our dog, Rowan, seems to instinctively

know not to run through the beds. I work in lots of compost to keep the soil light and fluffy.

The walkways I mulch with a layer of newspaper (three or four pages thick) covered with straw. I can use the same technique round big plants like tomatoes or Brussels sprouts. Onions and carrots? I just fit some straw in between the rows.

Peonies are a problem in wet times. Double peonies, those that have a blossom packed with petals, get heavy when wet. They flop over and sometimes the stems break. Metal peony rings are sold. They are like tomato cages but wider and lower. It is best to install them in April, before they get tall and bushy. Even so, I find they often don't work: they are too short to protect tall stems.

What I prefer for peonies and other tall plants is to install three stakes around them, and then encircle the clump about two-thirds the way up with green garden string. For plants like peonies, I use bamboo stakes. For taller, heavier plants like New York ironweed or "Henry Eiler" Rudbeckia, I use four-foot long one-inch hardwood grade stakes that I paint green to disguise them. I drive them into the ground with a three-pound sledge.

The bottom line is this: despite all we do to prevent damage by storm or drought, not every plant is going to look its best all summer. So I focus on the beauty of the successful plants, and dream of sunny days punctuated with an occasional shower.

Homeyer's column appears each month. Reach him by e-mail at [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net) or by mail at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.



Rowan seems to understand he needs to stay out of raised beds.

courtesy photo



This homemade raised bed drains well in rainy times.

courtesy photo

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Now in Limbo Waiting for Conferees

by Sen. Richard Westman

MONTPELIER – Last week as I left Montpelier on Friday night, the Senate had adjourned till 2 p.m., Saturday. Then, an hour later, The House of Representatives adjourned until June 17. We all got told then that both the House and Senate wouldn't be coming back until then. Now we're in limbo waiting for the conferees on the Education funding bill (H. 454) to bring us a compromise to consider. It speaks to the lack of clarity in the Legislature and among the six House and Senate negotiators that are working to make changes to the Education Funding system. Education Funding is now the only thing holding the Legislature from adjournment.

The Governor proposed moving toward a foundation formula funding system for Education early in the session. A majority of all states in the country fund Education using some form of a foundation funding system. Under a foundation formula, districts would receive a standard amount per pupil adjusted for factors like, for example, non-English learners, poverty level, or having a high school.

The problem, as Lola Dufort at Vermont Public pointed out in a story

a couple of weeks ago, is that this may mean that current high-spending districts may see lower taxes, but less money, while lower spending districts may see higher taxes but more money for their schools. The shift toward a standard funding amount with weights or factors would be an abrupt change from our present education funding formula.

Locally the Morristown-Elmore school district is a clear example of a lower spending district with good student performance. They presently spend significantly less than the state average and could potentially see a significant increase in taxes. In some versions of H. 454 it has been estimated that the Elmore-Morristown District could see as much as a 19% increase in their taxes. Under the present version being considered, while they would see more money for their schools, they wouldn't be able to lower tax rates. This is a problem and I raised that issue on the Senate Floor during debate on H. 454. In the negotiations being held on the Bill, I know this very issue is being discussed. If something came back with a solution to this problem it would be a major improvement for districts like the Morristown-Elmore District.

Another issue that hasn't

received as much attention as I believe it should is the changes being considered to income sensitivity. It's the system designed to recognize a household's ability to pay their taxes. In my view, the problem with the present system is that it only considers household income. A household's ability to pay shouldn't be based on just income but should also consider a household's total net worth. Income alone doesn't produce a true picture of the ability to pay. For example, a family with a trust fund may have the ability to pay but because their income might appear to be low we reduce their taxes. On the other hand, a young family with college debt, car loans, a mortgage and children may have incomes above the limits and have less ability to pay. So far none of the versions of H. 454 have done anything to correct this problem. Income alone isn't a true measure of ability to pay.

School governance is another major issue being considered in H. 454. The bill sets up a process by which we would reduce the number of school districts and supervisory unions. The present 52 supervisory districts and around 120 school districts, when compared with other places in the country, is out of step.

I wish, in this process, that we knew what the district lines might look like ahead of the funding changes but so far that hasn't been considered. The hope is that larger districts would allow us to even out disparities in the different districts' ability to pay. How that might play out may be problematic. In numerous proposals thus far Lamoille County

has been grouped with Washington County in school district proposals. Lamoille is the third smallest county in the state. My concern is that, by folding us into a district with the much larger Washington County, our issues might not receive the attention they need. Knowing governance districts ahead of these changes would ease lots of concern for many of us.

Needless to say, it's good that the Legislature took a break. The bill under consideration has lots of areas that needed to be addressed from those mentioned above to what to do about small schools.

With that all said, the present funding system isn't working. It's not working for students or our communities. As the Superintendent in Lamoille South said in an interview with WCAX in May of 2024, well before any consideration of H.454: "Our system is built around an assumption that if you give people a tax incentive, that they will support their schools. Unfortunately, a lot of the decisions that people are making are not based on a tax incentive. The question is, who is winning here? Because it doesn't feel like anybody is winning with the current system."

We need change because the present system isn't producing better results for our communities or our students. The question is: Will the conference committee make smart changes to address the many concerns people in areas like ours are having?

*Richard Westman is a state senator from the Lamoille District.*



*Cabot Fire Department members at May training (from left) Ryan Dolbier, Silas Robbins, Chief Dean Deasy, Shane Smith, Susie Socks and (on truck) Eammon Carleton, Wednesday evening, May 28 at Covenant Hills Camp, Cabot. Dolbier, who recently completed the Vermont Fire Academy Firefighter I course, and Carleton, who recently completed the Lamoille 45-hour course, led training for the department.*

*photo by Will Amedon*



*Cabot Fire Department members (front, from left) Silas Robbins, Shane Smith, Susie Socks and (rear) Eammon Carleton at the department's training with the dry hydrant at Covenant Hills Camp, Wednesday evening, May 28. Training included driver training, establishing water supply, pump operations and hose/stream management on scene.*

*photo by Will Amedon*

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Monday Community Meals Through Aug. 11

HARDWICK – Monday Community Meals return to Atkins Field, June 9, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at 140 Granite St. Each Monday through August 11, the Center for an Agricultural Economy will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Friends and neighbors may bring a potluck side dish, salad or dessert item to share.

Leave dogs at home. Email [Bethany@CAEVT.org](mailto:Bethany@CAEVT.org) with questions.

## Wild Edibles Walk with Lucian Avery, June 14

HARDWICK – On Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m., to noon on the Hardwick Trails, Lucian Avery will share his expertise about what’s for supper that can be found in the woodlands. “Join us for a morning enjoying the wild flavors of spring. We will walk and talk about our plant neighbors, snacking on some and enjoying others from a distance. The ethics of wild harvesting and basic plant ID for eating will be covered as well as ways to engage our senses and enjoy the world around us,” said Avery. Meet at the trails kiosk behind Hazen Union parking lot.

This free event is sponsored by the Hardwick Trails Committee. For questions, call Norma Wiesen at (802) 472-6517.

## Migrant Justice Rapid Response Training, June 19

MARSHFIELD – On Thursday, June 19, 6:30 p.m., the Jaquith Public library will host a discussion about immigration enforcement and about Migrant Justice’s work, in partnership with Jewish voice for Peace VT/NH and Cooperation Vermont. Attendees will have the opportunity join the Rapid Response Network.

Information at 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org)

## Chicken Barbecue, June 28

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Fire Department chicken barbecue is June 28, from 4 to 6 p.m., with drive-through pickup at the fire station, 46 Town Garage Road. A full dinner includes a half chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, a roll and butter, with strawberry shortcake. Quarter- and half-chickens are also available.

The fundraiser supports the Craftsbury Fire Department.

## Marshfield Monarchs Summer Fun Night, June 25

MARSHFIELD – some current projects. Visit with Wednesday, June 25, at 6:30 pm, the Jaquith Public Library will host Marshfield’s 4H Club. 4H children will share what the organization is all about and present live goats, sheep, chickens and rabbits.

More information at (802) 426-3581 or [www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org)

## Teens May Apply for 4-H Science Ambassador

BURLINGTON – Teens interested in science and technology may consider applying to be a 4-H Science Ambassador. The opportunity is open to anyone who is entering Grades 9 to 12 in the fall. Although sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H, enrollment in 4-H is not required. Applications are due by June 30.

Ambassadors will be expected to attend monthly online planning meetings, contribute ideas and help with planning, set up and promotion for events. Participants will have opportunities to interact closely with scientists, researchers, engineers and other industry professionals to explore different career paths. In addition, the program will help build resumes for employment, college and scholarship opportunities as well as hone leadership, public speaking and problem-solving skills.

4-H Science Ambassadors are responsible for developing science programming including taking the lead on planning and implementing VTeen Science Cafés throughout the school year. These are informal, interactive programs for teens on a diverse range of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) topics.

Ambassadors also receive training to organize and run events such as Science Fun Days,

To learn more about being an ambassador, contact the UVM Extension 4-H office at (802) 656-7630 or (800) 571-0668 (toll-free in Vermont). To apply, visit [uvm.edu/science-ambassador](http://uvm.edu/science-ambassador).



The start of “Possum and the Peeper” on the Storywalk trail begins behind Hazen Union School in Hardwick. photo by Norma Spaulding

## “Possum and the Peeper” Storywalk® on Trails

by The Judevine Library

HARDWICK – The library’s new Storywalk®, “Possum and the Peeper: by Anne Hunter, is up at the Hardwick Trails, Hazen Union Drive. It begins behind the school, to the left of the trails kiosk and

past the cabin, but before the greenhouse. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, Vermont. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

# EDUCATION

## 2025 Graduation Schedule

- 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.

## Students Named to President’s List

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Local students named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Spring 2025 semester include Grace Cloutier, Art and Design major of Hardwick, Vt., and Keenan Wallace, English major of Plainfield, Vt.

To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2025 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.



# EDUCATION

## Exhibition of Learning Shows Student Projects

by Chris Tormey

CABOT – Community members visited Cabot School’s preK-12 campus to check out what they’ve been working on and learning this semester.

Throughout the day, preschool students used toy animals and posters to show and tell visitors about the importance of farms and farm animals. Next door, kindergarteners hosted their families for breakfast before guiding them through their indoor forest: an assemblage of leaves, bark and photographs chronicling how each student’s chosen tree outside had changed through the school year.

First- and second-graders showed off the pea and carrot plants they’d started. Their observations of the seedlings’ growth this spring have helped them learn about what plants need to thrive.

After lunch in the library, third- and fourth-grade students presented their research on a range of natural disasters, from blizzards to floods to tornadoes to a large audience. Each student group used their learning to produce a brochure as well as a short newscast video outlining how disasters develop, the damage they cause and how to stay safe when one occurs.

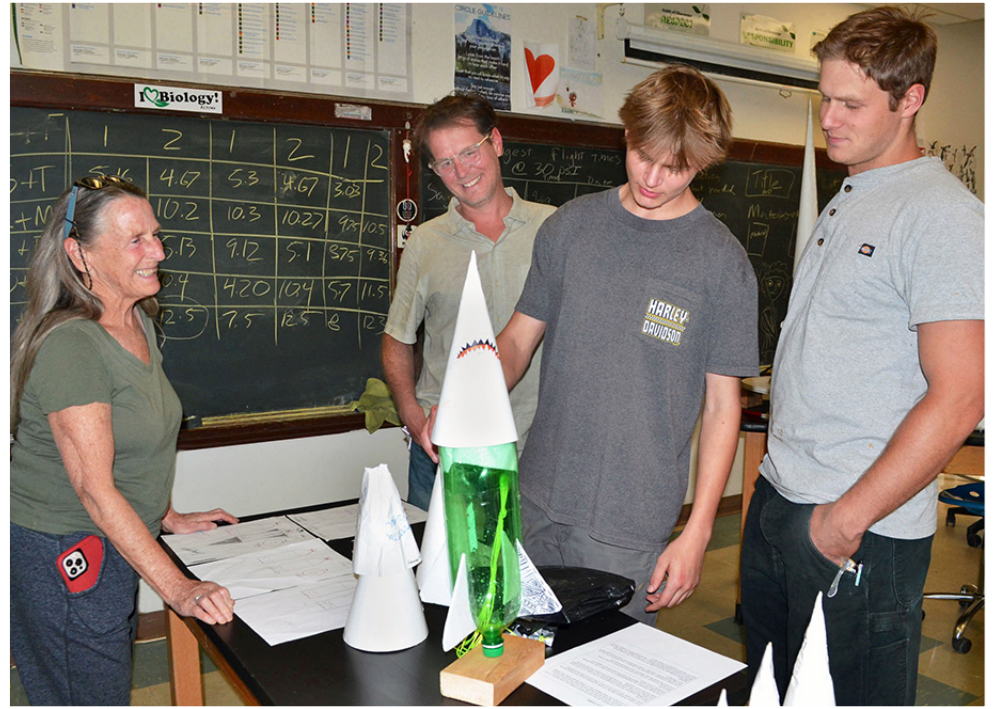
Having just returned from a field trip to Boston’s Freedom Trail, fifth- and sixth-graders dressed up as fictional Patriots and Loyalists (farmers, printers and tailors) and used artifacts and letters to their King to show how pivotal events like the Stamp Act had impacted their lives before the start of the Revolutionary War.

Middle-school students used a variety of ways to demonstrate what they’d learned this semester in a unit called “A Journey through Adversity

and Resilience”. Having researched the challenges faced by the crew of the ice-bound ship Endurance over a century ago, students created a digital, illustrated timeline and composed journal entries of individual crew members who survived the ordeal. After reading “Refugee” about the adversity faced by three different young people during the past century, each student made a detailed drawing of an island and its landforms to represent the intense challenges and goals of each young person’s journey. Finally, students researched the challenges presented by natural disasters around the globe and developed a Google Earth product to locate and detail them.

In the high school, students produced posters and illustrated booklets to showcase their learning about how the English language works, from words to phrases to genres of literature, and painted a wall-sized tree to show the spreading branches of language over time. In the same classroom, students studying different revolutions created posters, essays, news broadcasts and artifacts to present their learning about how those upheavals have led to dramatic change in societies.

The sound of Chuck Berry’s electric guitar coming from the history classroom drew visitors to watch a student video made to illustrate the connection between different music genres. In the science classroom, students and parents squinted into microscopes and Petri dishes to view the growth of different strains of bacteria collected from aquaria and entryways around the school. Next door, geometry students showed off their 2-D and 3-D house designs, while algebra students displayed the research they’d done on the costs of starting a small business and how to use a program to figure



Cabot sophomore Sawyer Dunham (second from right) shows his grandmother Joanne Vecchiola (left), his dad Ben Dunham (center) and his brother Damon Dunham (right) the soda bottle rocket he helped build during Thomas Dunbar’s science class. This was one of the many displays that were on exhibit during the day-long Cabot School Exhibition of Learning held on June 3.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

out how quickly the start-up loans could be paid off.

A wide variety of student artwork was on display throughout the day in the Art Room, and in the performing arts building (CSPAC) elementary students presented both an original play and a concert project they’d created. Students in the expanding middle school band showcased their growth in both technical skill and artistic voice this year with an hour-long set that included their

versions of tunes ranging from the Beatles to Nirvana.

When introducing the original musical developed by third- and fourth-graders, “Time Travel Trouble,” Performing Arts teacher Shani Stoddard touched on a theme in evidence across the Cabot School campus that day when he reflected, “Yes, I admire what these students produced in this project, but I admire even more how they grew in the process.”



Cabot students (from left) Losada Stoddard, Lukas Ladieu and Kenzie Ladieu stand in front of symbol drawings of Inside Daniels Mind from the book “Bones on Black Spruce Mountain” by David Budbill. The assignment was from Peter Stratman’s literacy class. The exhibit was one of many on display during the day-long Cabot School Exhibition of Learning, June 3, which showcased students’ work from preK to twelfth grade. photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Craftsbury Academy Class of 1965 members who recently gather for a reunion included (from left) seated, Kaye (Chaffee) Burnham; standing Linda (Brown) Willey, Priscilla (Bailey) Eckl; Ida (Chaffee) Burdick, Jane (Paterson) Marlin, Harriet (Rowell) Grenier, Kendall Lawrence, Glenn Butler, Richard Rivers, Joe Young, Marvin Ryan, Pete Reil and Paul Urie. Missing from the photo is Therese (Menard) Ferguson. Deceased members are Tom Johnson, Leo Lamare, Doug Field and Elaine Chase. photo by Jeannine Young

## Craftsbury Academy Class of 1965 Celebrates 60 Years

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy Class of 1965 gathered at the home of their classmate Jane (Paterson) Marlin on June 7 to celebrate 60 years since their graduation.

Of the 18 graduates in their class, 13 attended. One was unable to travel from Florida and four are deceased. The afternoon was devoted to food, fun and stories.

# OBITUARIES

## David L. Renaud



David L. Renaud

many great memories created over their 52 years together.

For 10 years David drove a school bus for the town of Stan-nard, where he was known for his reliability, gentle manner and the way he cared for the kids on his route. He then stepped into the role of groundskeeper at Mountain View Country Club, taking over from his father-in-law, Penny. He cared for the course with pride and dedication until 1997, when health challenges led him to step away. He later helped his sister-in-law at the Flower Basket, always happy to lend a hand and be part of something beautiful.

Above all else, David was a devoted father to Oneal and Amanda, father-in-law to Amy and Brandon, and a loving Pappy to Jayden, Ella, Ben and Addy. His grandchildren were the joy of his later years, a time during which some of his happiest memories were made. He lit up in their presence, playing games, sliding, making them laugh, and cherishing every moment with them.

David will be remembered for his unwavering love he gave to his family and friends; for his kindness, playfulness; and for the family story-telling gene he inherited.

His absence leaves a hole in our hearts, but we find comfort in the countless memories he gifted us, and in knowing he is at peace.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his honor to either Caledonia Home Health & Hospice (161 Sherman Dr., St Johnsbury, VT 05819) or Crafts-bury Community Care Center (1784 E. Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05826). Online condolences and memories of David may be shared with his family at dgfunerals.com.

**HARDWICK** – With deep sadness and enduring love, we share the passing of David L. Renaud on June 3, at the age of 74. Known for his kind soul and big heart, David lived a life grounded in love, family and quiet strength.

Born in Hardwick at the Hardwick Hospital to L. Philip and Helen Renaud, David spent his childhood playing baseball and football with neighborhood friends and delivering the Burlington Free Press by foot and bicycle.

In his rebel days, David traveled to Alaska and spent time in California, drawn by the beauty of nature and a spirit of exploration. Oh, the stories he had to tell about this time.

Some of his fond memories were made hunting, fishing, and camping with his parents, brothers and uncles, especially during cherished days at Palais Royal in the Northern Woods of Maine.

He married his beloved partner in life, Gail, and became a proud member of the Tousant family. Together, they built a life rooted in love, laughter and family, with

## “The 39 Steps” Auditions June 14, 15

**HYDE PARK** – Lamoille County Players will be holding auditions for John Buchan’s “The 39 Steps” directed by Heather Mandigo. The audition dates will be June 14 & 15 at 1:00 p.m. at the Hyde Park Opera House. Performance dates will be October 3-5 & 10-12. If interested in auditioning, please visit lcplayers.com for any updates

in advance of auditions.

The show synopsis is a man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she’s a spy. When he takes her home, she is murdered. Soon, a mysterious organization called “The 39 Steps” is hot on the man’s trail in a nationwide manhunt that climaxes in a death-defying finale.

## Lee to Perform Acoustic Set in Cabot

**CABOT**–Touring singer-song-writer Matthew Lee will bring his acoustic sound to The Den at Harry’s Hardware on Friday, June 28 at 7 p.m.

Based out of New York, Lee received international attention with his single “Falling Apart”

that blends storytelling with instrumentation. The performance is part of Lees solo regional tour through the Northeast in anticipation of his upcoming album, “Black Book,” set for release this fall.

Harry’s Hardware is located at 3087 Main St.



Craftsbury students Linden Fox, Sylvan Van Gulden and Jayden Maclay perform as the Lollipop Guild in “The Wizard of Oz” as Iris Jacobs (The Good Witch) and Lilly Cookson (Dorothy) watch. The theater club performance was held June 4, at the Highland Center for the Arts.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



The Craftsbury theater club presented “The Wizard of Oz” at the Highland Center for the Arts on June 4. Dorothy, played by Lilly Cookson, sings “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.”

photo by Vanessa Fournier

### NOTICE TO WALDEN TAXPAYERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Listers of the Town of Walden  
Dia Michaud, Victoria Atwood

# Circus Smirkus Kicks off Annual Tour of New England

GREENSBORO – The 38th annual Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour kicks off on Saturday, June 28, at The Circus Barn in Greensboro. The opening weekend performances are Saturday at 6 p.m., and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.. These first three performances launch a 65-show tour across four states and 15 towns over 50 days this summer.

Upcoming area shows include four shows at Farr’s Field in Waterbury July 2 and July 3; four shows at Mary Hogan Elementary Field in Middlebury, July 5 and July 6; four shows at Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park in Manchester, July 8 and July; four shows at Bombardier Park West in Milton, August 14 and August 15; then back in Greensboro for two final shows on August 17. Tickets

and show information are available at [smirkus.org](http://smirkus.org).

This year’s troupe features 29 budding circus stars, ages 12 to 18, that bring their circus skills to the Big Top. They hail from 13 states across the United States: California (6), Colorado (1), Florida (1), Kentucky (1), Maine (2), Maryland (1), Massachusetts (3), New Hampshire (1), Pennsylvania (4), Rhode Island (2), Vermont (1), Washington (2) and Wisconsin (4).

The 2025 Big Top Tour takes to the road and travels through mid-August with a tour caravan that requires some 23-support vehicles and 80 people including performers, coaches, cooks, tech and tent crew. The circus company performs across New England to approximately 35,000 patrons each summer.



Career pianist Rachel Aucoin (left) joined Eloise and Co. duo Rachel Bell (middle) Becky Tracy (right) for their upcoming album, “Avec Elodie,” blending their respective styles and cultures, as well as old and new compositions. *courtesy photo*



Munchkins Sophia Daniels, Maleigha Sargent and Hyla Thompson perform as the Lullaby League in “The Wizard of Oz” as they welcome Dorothy to Munchkin Land. In the back are Iris Jacobs (Glinda – the Good Witch), Lilly Cookson (Dorothy) and Edie Wells (Mayor of Munchkin Land.)

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

# Cabot Arts Presents Eloise and Co., Friday, June 20

CABOT – Friday, June 20th, at 7 p.m., Rachel Bell, Becky Tracy, and Rachel Aucoin will celebrate a new recording by performing a range of Quebec, Bal Folk and Celtic tunes and songs at the Willey Building Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with music starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$17, \$20 at the door.

Bell and Aucoin found themselves in a spontaneous jam session with Quebecois career pianist Rachel Aucoin at a music camp in 2017. The trio recently recorded their new album, “Avec Elodie,” scheduled for release in the fall of

2025. The trio are excited to share a variety of music ranging from old traditional tunes to their own new compositions, infused with the magnetism that drew them together in the first place.

With Becky Tracy on fiddle, octave fiddle, and vocals and Rachel Bell on accordion and vocals, Eloise & Co. plays a range of music including gritty French bal folk groove tunes, energetic Celtic reels, soulful waltzes, and lively Quebecois tunes. For information call 802-793-3016 or email: [director@cabotarts.org](mailto:director@cabotarts.org). For advance tickets, visit [cabotarts.org](http://cabotarts.org).



Members of the VT Food Hub Collaborative providing in-person testimony at the Statehouse on April 15 are (from left) Farm to Plate Director, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund Jake Claro, Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) Executive Director Jon Ramsay, Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) Executive Director Lindsey Berk, Vermont Farmers Food Center Executive Director Heidi Lynch, and Green Mountain Farm to School Executive Director Catherine Cusack. *photo by Kelly Bogle Stokes*



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# EVENTS

## 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.

**PATRIOTIC FLAG DAY EVENT**, 11 a.m., Peace Park, Main St., Hardwick. Next to the Civic Standard. Speech by Rep. Leanne Harple, songs, and a march up the street to protest during this National Day of Defiance.

**WILD EDIBLES WALK** with Lucian Avery, 9 a.m. to noon, Hardwick Trails. Sponsored by the Hardwick Trails Committee. Information: Norma at (802) 472-6517. **"THE 39 STEPS" AUDITIONS**, June 14 and 15, 1 p.m., Hyde Park Opera House. Information: lcplayers.com.

## Wednesday, June 18

**CRAFTSBURY ACADEMY FRIENDS LUNCHEON**, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Charlmont Restau-

rant, Morrisville. Information and to sign up: Stella Slicer at (301) 222-6924.

## Thursday, June 19

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

## Saturday, June 21

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

## Wednesday, June 25

**MARSHFIELD 4H CLUB** event,

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

## Ongoing Events

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

**HARDWICK PEACE (& Cease-fire) VIGIL**, Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park,

See EVENTS, Next Page

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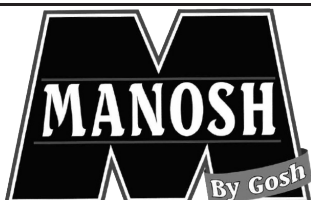


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# EVENTS

S. Main St., Hardwick. (beside the river).

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, Atkins Field, Granite St., Hardwick, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, [nspauld@gmail.com](mailto:nspauld@gmail.com).

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, [nspauld@gmail.com](mailto:nspauld@gmail.com) and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, [pfixx@pfixx.net](mailto:pfixx@pfixx.net).

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

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

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

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

**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., Front Seat Coffee, 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.

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

# Stelma-Leonard Podiums for Chargers at States

by Ken Brown

BURLINGTON – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) track and field team posted several personal bests for their young squad and the Peoples Academy (PA) girls team captured the Division III state title last week at Burlington High School.

Soren Stelma-Leonard led the Chargers last Thursday with a personal best time and a fifth-place podium finish in the 1500m event. The CA junior also ran his best time of the season in the 800m finishing eighth, with Thetford Academy's Brady Sloop sweeping both events to claim the titles. Freshman Nora Van-Gulden posted a strong ninth place finish in the 800m for the Chargers behind state champion Ava Hayden of Thetford.

Owen McKibbin finished just outside the top 10 in the 400m with a personal record, breaking the one-minute barrier for the first time in his young Charger career. McKibbin qualified for the state finals in both the 200m and 800m events. Sophomore teammate Theo Alexander ran his best time of the season in the 400m and qualified for the 800m final. Thetford's Luke Miller took home the state title in the 400m.

Sophomore Natalie Hill wrapped up a stellar season for the upstart Chargers, qualifying for the discus event and finishing fourteenth. Hill claimed her first regular season title earlier this spring for CA. Laura Kamel of Bellows Falls bested the field to



Craftsbury Academy's Soren Stella-Leonard placed fifth in the 1500m event at the state meet held in Burlington. Also placing were Magnus Hayden (Peoples Academy), Brady Sloop (Thetford Academy), Gage Magnuson (BFA-Fairfax), Connor Fliskov (Mill River) and Grey Fearon (Vergennes). *courtesy photo*

win the state title. First year head coach Kyle Anderson loved the improvements he saw in his young team throughout the course of the season. "Moving up to Division III for the first time this season, the qualifying standards were much tighter, but our athletes stepped up and showed they were ready to compete at this level. This team worked tirelessly all season to seek out an opportunity to compete at DIII States. Arwen Alexander, Kosmos Gletsos, Raz Mille and Kilie Burnor also

improved every week for us this season and were close to qualifying for states. Overall, we had a great season, and the team is already looking ahead to next year. We're all looking forward to growing our team and being strong competitors next season," said Anderson.

Thetford Academy dominated the field to claim the boys team state championship 164.5 - 65.5 over White River Valley. On the girls side, Peoples Academy outlasted Bellows Falls 104-99 to capture the team state title.

Multi-sport star Sophie Beck led the way with individual titles in the 110m hurdles and 300m hurdles. She also joined teammates Anabelle McClain, Adele Marcoux, and Peyton Bliss to capture the 4x400m relay event. Karra Pike, Ellia Speers, Sadie Baranyay, and Gianna Mickels took home the title in the 4x100m relay and Baranyay also captured the title in the long jump. Sage Norsworthy capped off a sensational day for the Lady Wolves with a state title in the triple jump event.

## KEN BROWN'S BASEBALL ROUNDUP

### Hazen Bounced by Green Mountain in First Round

CHESTER – The Hazen Union baseball team's season came to an abrupt end last week against a superior Green Mountain team last week in the first round of the Division III playoffs.

Mason Parker and Tanner Swisher combined for a no-hitter and the Green Mountain offense showed little mercy last Wednesday as they breezed past the Wildcats at home 22-2. Swisher (1-2, 4 runs) and Parker (2-3, 2 RBI) helped their own cause at the plate, answering Hazen's run in the top of the first with 9 runs in the inning's bottom half. Chris Rogers added a pair of hits, including a three-run double as Green Mountain tacked on 11 runs in the fourth to leave little doubt about the outcome. Justin Montgomery and Zeke Guebarra each drove in a run for Hazen with sac-fly's, plating Owen Skorstad and Grayson

McNaughten. Craftsbury Academy's Evan LaMare will be the only graduating senior leaving head coach Shaun Allen's young squad. Hazen finishes at 3-14 and many of the miscues that plagued them early in the season (errors, hit batsmen, walks) reared their ugly again on Wednesday. It was the fourth time the Wildcats were no-hit this spring.

Sixth seeded Green Mountain upset #3 Bellows Falls on Sunday to advance to the division III Final Four. They matched up against second seeded Thetford Academy on Tuesday.

### Brown's Bullets Advance to the Final Four

FAIRFAX – Hazen Union alum and BFA-Fairfax head coach Mike Brown and his Bullet varsity baseball team began their division III title defense last week with impressive wins

over Springfield and Woodstock.

Ryan Sheehan (four innings) and Reagan Baumeister (1) combined to no-hit No. 13 Springfield last Wednesday 13-0. Sheehan struck out 9 and helped his own cause, driving in four runs on a pair of doubles. Baumeister countered his teammate with a 2-4 performance at the plate, driving in two.

Sheehan kept it rolling over the weekend, scattering 5 hits and striking out 11 in a 7-3 win over fifth seeded Woodstock. The smooth lefty racked up two more hits at the plate, Baumeister went 2-3. Bryant Matton-Wright drove in a run and was on base four times.

The Bullets improved to 10-5 on the season and advanced to the division III Final Four, where they traveled to top seeded White River Valley (14-0) on Tuesday. The winner advances to the state title game on Saturday at Centennial Field. Fairfax is gunning for their sixth state championship under Brown.

## KEN BROWN'S SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

### Proctor Handles Cal United in Quarters

PROCTOR – Second-seeded Proctor flexed its muscles last week in a quarterfinal match-up against Caledonia United, ending their season at 1-12.

Olivia Graham shrugged off a rough start to strike out 11 in earning the win, powering Proctor to a 31-4 home win over Cal United last Wednesday. Alaina Robbins stunned the Proctor crowd in the top of the first with grand slam over the left field fence to give the visitors a 4-0 lead. Singles by Peyton Winn and Austin Roos set the table for Robbins' blast. Proctor answered with five runs in the bottom half of the inning and put the game away with a 17 run second. Lauren Palmer and Madi Baker combined for four hits and four RBIs. Graham added an RBI single in the win. Cal United will lose Ida Astick, Sophi Mancini, Selena Lamery, Kayley Goodsell and Olivia Hess to graduation later this spring.

Proctor squared off against third-seeded Leland & Gray on Tuesday in the Division IV Final Four, their fourth in the last five seasons.

### Lady Chargers Fall Short in Playdown

TWIN VALLEY – Eighth-seeded Twin Valley held off the Craftsbury Academy (CA) softball team in a Division IV playdown slugfest last week.

Sara Dix belted a double, triple and earned the win in the circle to help Twin Valley survive at home last Tuesday 13-11. The Lady Chargers knocked around Dix for 16 hits and three free passes but couldn't hold down the Lady Cat offense. Elizabeth Barber was a perfect 4-4 at the plate with a pair of doubles for Twin Valley. Her teammate Aliyah Walker added a pair of doubles of her own, scoring four times. Senior Savannah Boyce led CA's offense with three hits, including an RBI double, while taking the loss in the circle, walking seven and striking out 13. Serenity Leach added an RBI double, and Linsey Allen went 2-4 on the day with a pair of RBIs in the loss. Hazen Union's Libby Bowley joins Boyce as losses to graduation for the 1-13 Lady Chargers later this spring.

Twin Valley fell to top seeded West Rutland in the quarterfinals 34-2.

### Rice Advances to Semifinal Round

BURLINGTON – The Rice Memorial softball team advanced to their second consecutive Division II Final Four last week with wins over Lamoille and Enosburg.

Alana Havreluk fired a complete game one hitter, striking out 11 and walking none to lead Rice to a 12-0 first round win over Lamoille last Wednesday. Havreluk also starred at the plate with a 3-3 performance that included a double and home run. Finley Strong added a pair of hits and an RBI in the win. Strong is the granddaughter of Hazen Union head coaching great Jack Strong.

Havreluk was equally as impressive on Saturday, striking out 13 while scattering 2 hits to silence defending Division II champion Enosburg 5-2.

Havreluk recorded her 100th strikeout of the season and the 300th of her stellar career for the Green Knights.

Havreluk, Strong, and their Rice teammates traveled to top seeded Lyndon Institute on Tuesday, with the winner advancing to the Division II state title game at Castleton.

## Lessard Takes Kancamagus 150; O'Donnell, Roy Split Strictly Minis

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – Racing finally got underway for the first time in two weeks at White Mountain Motorsports Park. In the end, four winners stood in Milton CAT victory lane.

Saturday's short track racing action started off with the rain-delayed feature event for the Strictly Stock Minis. The rain delay helped sophomore competitor Landyn O'Donnell who fired off from the front row and never looked back, even after the spinning rookie Hayden Morris brought out the lone caution on lap 17. O'Donnell would nail down his second career win in the Strictly Mini class with Vermont invader Kyler Davis and Tyler Thompson rounding out the podium.

The Strictly Minis returned later on for their regularly scheduled program. This time it was J.J. Goodbout leading the way with O'Donnell to his outside. Goodbout set the pace

until an ill-handling car fought back, sending him to the infield and allowing Jacob Roy to take over the lead. Roy held his own taking his first win of the season.

A pair of early cautions opened the Flying Tiger feature event with Nate Hamblett showing the way before Owen Cheney took over the lead on lap seven. The two fought neck and neck with Hamblett coming back on the outside lane to steal the lead back. A pair of melee launches into the infield on lap 30 rerecked the field but it was Nathan Hamblett who took down his first career Flying Tiger win over Luke Peters and Tyler Pepin at the line.

The American-Canadian Tour made its first of three visits to White Mountain Motorsports Park on Saturday. The field was paced by former White Mountain track champions

Kasey Beattie and D.J. Shaw under the initial green flag. The Larue Motorsports team cars of Raphael Lessard and William Larue kept Shaw and Beattie honest out front, stalking in a two-by-two blanket at the front of the pack.

One of the closest, hardest racing in recent memory saw Shaw take the lead ahead in a cat and mouse game. The final caution flag flew to set up a four lap shoot-out with Raphael Lessard walking away with his first American-Canadian Tour win of the season. Kasey Beattie kept his nose clean to finish second, his best on the touring circuit this season and William Larue rounding out the top three.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

#### Flying Tigers – 35 Laps

8. 23VT, Matt Potter, Marshfield, Vt.

## Johnson Makes it Back-to-Back Monaco Wins

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – With the sun shining down on the Sunday special program at White Mountain Motorsports Park, it was time to kick off the King of the Mountain track championship chase for the Late Models as well as the second annual visit from the Monaco Modifieds.

The Kids Division started Sunday's show. It was no contest with Lucas Sidney taking off under the green flag to capture his first career win with Owen Dupuis and Gracen Gorham rounding out the top three. The Kids returned later for their regularly scheduled event as Clayton Houghton held steadfast until just after the halfway marker with Lucas Sidney going two for two in Kids Division wins, this

time over Gorham and Kiptyn Aldrich.

The Late Models pulled double duty on Sunday that saw Kaiden Fisher lead from the point and dominate the rain-delayed feature event with Richie Brown and Kasey Beattie following him under the checkered flags.

Feature two saw Mike Jurkowski and Jaden Perry set the pace out front with a battle between Perry and Kyle Goodbout. It all went south on lap 34 as the driveshaft in both the Richie Brown No. 20 and Goodbout's No. 17 ended their day. On the restart, Kasey Beattie got the better of a loosely-handling Perry with Fisher following the former champion on the inside groove. Beattie earned the win over Fisher and Perry

holding on to round out the podium.

Brett Meservey got the launch on the initial green to lead the Monaco Modified to green. Meservey would hold his own until lap 44 as he suddenly came to a stop in turn two to end his day, gifting the lead to defending race winner Jake Johnson.

The Rehoboth, Mass., teamster was well underway to nabbing another \$10,000 win at White Mountain Motorsports Park before the lap 66 caution for Luke Baldwin's spin in turn one with Austin Beers and Matt Hirschman staring down his rearview mirror.

A pair of late race cautions re-racked the opposition again and again, with Jon McKennedy and Ron Silk staring down the barrel at Johnson, who took off on the

bottom again and again to prevail as the two-time White Mountain 100 champion in the Monaco Modifieds. Silk and McKennedy held on for second and third.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

#### Late Models – 50 Laps

3. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick, Vt.  
11. 36VT, Joel Hodgdon, Craftsbury Common, Vt.

#### HK Powersports 50 Lap

#### Make-Up Feature from 5/17

7. 36VT, Joel Hodgdon, Craftsbury Common, Vt.

13. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick, Vt.

#### Kids Division – 15 Laps

9. 23, Madison Potter, Marshfield, Vt.

#### HK Powersports Feature – 15 Laps (Continuation from 5/17)

10. 23, Madison Potter, Marshfield, Vt.

## KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS

### Essex Deny Hilltoppers Fifth Straight Title

BURLINGTON – For the first time in five years, a boys team other than the St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA) track and field team was standing at the top of the podium as Essex knocked off the Hilltoppers last week to lay claim to the Division I state title.

There was little drama as Essex brought an end to SJA's four-peat with a decisive 137-100 team win at Burlington High School on Saturday. Reigning Vermont Gatorade Player of the Year Andrew Thornton-Sherman put a bow on one of the best high school track and field careers the state has ever seen with individual titles in the 800m and 1500m, as well as anchoring teammates Emmett Johnson, William Carter, and James Hatch to claim the 4x400m relay title. Former Craftsbury Academy (CA) Division IV champion Charlie Kehler wrapped up his stellar high school career with his first Division I title in the

4X800m relay, running the lead leg with teammates Evan Windrow, Bryan Stocker and Johnson. Kehler also posted a pair of top ten finishes in both the 800m and 1500m. Former Hazen Union sophomore Manny Fliegelman qualified for his first Division I state competition and posted a respectable 15th place finish in the 800m for the Hilltoppers. Thornton-Sherman, a High School All-American and holder of multiple Vermont state records, will attend Harvard this coming fall.

Multi-sport North Country superstar Sabine Brueck also put a bow on one of the best careers the state has ever seen over the weekend. Brueck won individual titles in the 300m hurdles and long jump events, giving her 19 state titles in her indoor and outdoor career. She also became North Country's all-time scoring leader for the varsity girls program this past winter, breaking Hazen Union Lady Cat coach Sue (Micknak) Rivard (1996) and Kylie Wright's (2018) previous mark. Brueck will defend her decathlon title this coming week and plans to attend Montana State in the fall.

### Richards Comes up Short at U.S. Open Qualifying

SUMMIT, N.J. – Former U-32 and University of Rhode Island (URI) golf phenom Bryson Richards' dream of playing at Oakmont this coming week came up short at qualifying finals for the U.S. Open.

Richards shot four over par (72-74) at Canoe Brook Country Club earlier this month to miss the qualifying target score by 9 shots. Richards was one of 78 golfers competing for four spots to be at Oakmont this week after beating out 85 competitors in Rhode Island to make it to the finals.

The smooth lefty was a decorated golfer at URI, setting a school record with six collegiate wins for the Rams. He also has a pair of VT-Amateur titles on his resume, as well as Vermont Open. He advanced to final qualifying at PGA Q-School last fall. The Plainfield native is the son of former Craftsbury Academy great Pete Richards.

## McKennedy Brings it Back to Victory Lane

BARRE – Thunder Road got the ball rolling on Thursday Night Racing with five divisions and over a hundred cars putting on a show for the fans in the stands and those watching live around the world on FloRacing.

The Late Models got Thursday's festivities started and it was a generational battle of the sophomores out front between Taylor Hoar and Jesse Laquerre. Everything went topsy-turvy with Bryan Wall Jr. riding up onto Cody Blake's rear quarter on lap 15 to call out the lone caution. On the restart, Laquerre took off from Hoar and never looked back to become the third generation of Laquerre's to win on the Barre highbanks with Chip Grenier and Brandon Lanphear rounding out the top three.

The Road Warriors went even wilder. Derrick Mann nabbed the early lead past Taylor Sayers, John Gay and Mike Slingerland in an opening lap melee. Mann led the

way until the lap 12 caution for the spinning Sierra Wilds and amazingly pitted for a flat tire. Sayers took over the lead all the way to victory lane with Cayden Green and Kevin Wheatley flanking him on the podium.

With the New England Supermodified Series (NESS) returning to Thunder Road, it could only be former champion Dan Bowes to lead the pack. Bowes began rapidly lapping the field before settling down and running his race, a half-track ahead of Ben Seitz and Jim Storace before calamity struck with Russ Wood. The return to green saw Jon McKennedy take over the lead and fly away with the win with Battle and Rob Summers coming from almost getting lapped to third in the final run.

For the third straight event, the Street Stocks went flag to flag without a single caution as Paul Rocheleau took away with the lead and the win. Unfortunately, victory didn't last long with the discovery



New England Supermodified Series (NESS) Victory Lane included (from left) Jeffrey Battle (2nd), winner Jon McKennedy and Rob Summers (3rd).

photo by Alan Ward

of unapproved suspension parts in post-race technical inspection, giving Nate Brien his first Street Stock win followed by Ryan Foster and Dean Switser.

The Flying Tigers rounded out the evening with side-by-side racing at the front of the pack. North America's No. 1 Support Division put on a clinic with one caution to slow the field and stack up a hard battle between Logan Powers and Brendan Moodie. The two swapped the lead again and again in the closing laps with Moodie just getting the edge for his twenty-first career Flying Tiger win followed by Powers and Sam Caron across the line.

For more information, contact the Thunder Road offices at (802) 244-6963, [media@thunderroadvt.com](mailto:media@thunderroadvt.com), or visit [\[roadvt.com\]\(http://roadvt.com\), follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @ThunderRoadVT.](http://www.thunder-</a></p>
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### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

#### Late Models – 50 Laps

5. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott  
6. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common

#### Flying Tigers – 40 Laps

1. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott  
21. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott  
23. 5VT, Tyler Austin, East Calais

#### Street Stocks – 25 Laps

10. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield  
18. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield  
20. 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

#### Road Warriors – 20 Laps

2. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield



In the Late Model Victory Lane were (from left) Brandon Lanphear (3rd) winner Jesse Laquerre and Chip Grenier (9VT).

photo by Alan Ward