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Wednesday, June 25, 2025

hardwickgazette.org

Volume 136 Number 26

## Investigation Continues Into Suspicious Death

by Raymonda Parchment

WOLCOTT – Vermont State Police (VSP) confirmed area mother and grandmother Tina Daigle was found deceased the afternoon of Thursday, June 19.

According to the initial VSP news release, the investigation began around 3:30 p.m., Thursday, when police received a report that a body had been discovered at a roadside pull-off along Route 14 in Woodbury. Prior to her public identification, the early report ruled Daigle's passing as suspicious. By Friday afternoon, the area was cordoned off with yellow investigators tape, with a VSP cruiser parked nearby.

After much speculation overnight via social media, the victim was confirmed to be 38 year old Daigle on Friday, June 20 after an autopsy was completed at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington.

A determination from the medical examiner on the cause and manner of Daigle's death remains pending further investigation, according to the updated VSP news release,

Anyone with information that could assist investigators in this case should call the Vermont State Police in Berlin at (802) 229-9191 or submit an anonymous tip online at <https://vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit>.



The site along Vt. Rte. 14 in Woodbury where the lifeless body of Tina Daigle was found under suspicious circumstances last Thursday is marked only by blooming wildflowers, puddles and a bucket of flowers, Tuesday morning.

photo by Paul Fixx



The interior of the new Gazebo on the Green across from Willey's store was planned by the Caspian Critters 4-H Club. It is finished with benches that fold up to make room for performers.

photo by Paul Fixx

## East Village Advisory Committee Announces Potential Grant

by Raymonda Parchment

PLAINFIELD – The town of Plainfield continues to seek funding sources for the East Village Expansion Project.

In the wake of the catastrophic flooding of July 10, 2024, multiple homes in Plainfield Village were damaged or destroyed. Willing landowners and interested residents have since voted to build a new neighborhood on higher ground, just east of the lower village, to replace what was lost during the flood.

At the Thursday, June 12, meeting, East Village Expansion Advisory Committee

members discussed potential funding sources and design ideas, as well as addressing concerns about scale and density.

According to the committee, they are currently seeking major funding for infrastructure, actively pursuing significant grants, including a potential \$5 million from the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, to fund essential infrastructure like roads and utilities. The committee says this is crucial for keeping costs down for future homeowners. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) is also providing

See GRANT, 6

## Copley Hospital Decides to Close Birthing Center

by Kristen Fountain, VTDigger

MORRISVILLE – Copley Hospital will close its birthing center, the hospital announced in a press release late Friday afternoon, though no specific closure date was given.

Copley's Women's Center will remain open, and pre- and postpartum care will continue to be offered at the Morrisville hospital. More details will be provided to staff and patients of the birthing center in the coming weeks, the press release said.

"We will share detailed information about our partner labor and delivery hospitals to help facilitate birthing family decision making," the statement read. "Current staff will be given

See CLOSE, 5



A sign in support of the Copley Birthing Center in Morrisville on Wednesday, May 28.

photo by Kristen Fountain, VTDigger

## Staff Rejects Copley Claims

by Raymonda Parchment

MORRISVILLE – Announced in a press release late Friday afternoon, Copley Hospital will close its Birthing Center. Birthing Center staff and union president Sarah Chouinard confirmed the board of trustees decision; "There was a meeting at 3 p.m. this afternoon with the Birthing Center Staff. They will announce a closing date by the end of June and meet with us individually in July."

See BIRTHING, 5

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**Contents**

Police Report .....3-4  
 HED Students Become Weather Forecasters, June 13.....5  
 Farmers Market, Food Pantry Address Food Insecurity.....6  
 Area Graduations (photos) .....7, 10  
 Twinfield Graduation (photos).....8-9  
 Alumni Association Annual Reunion Well Attended.....11  
 2025 Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Reunion (photos).....12-13  
 Local 4-Hers Judge Dairy Cattle at State Competition.....14  
 Covid-19 Hospitalizations Hit New Low.....14  
 Gray Receives Appreciation Award.....14  
 Maya's Maples, Creemees and Collaboration.....15  
 School Budget Passes on Third Vote.....15  
 Families, Organizers Seek to Transform Schoolhouse.....16  
 Climate Catalysts Leadership Program Cohort Gathers.....16  
 Editorial: High School Graduates are on my Mind.....17  
 Letters from Readers: Hawk, Young, Connelly .....17-18  
 Legislative Report: Burt, Harple, Beck.....18-19  
 Cartoon: Home Fries.....19  
 Yankee Notebook: Still, We Persist.....20  
 Cartoon, Woodsmoke.....20  
 In the Garden: Rail Trail Signs Ask for Identification Help, Strawberry Season.....21-22  
 Cartoon: In My Nature.....21  
 The Outside Story: Helping House Bats, Life in a Shell, Montane Birds.....23-24  
 Our Communities.....25  
 Business Briefs: Erickson Named Trustee.....25, 26, 27  
 Education.....27  
 Obituaries: Hutchins, Campbell, White.....27-28  
 Review: Classic Shakespeare on Stage.....29  
 Film About 1970s Commune Screened June 28, 29.....29  
 Review: East Coast Inspirational Singers.....30  
 Events.....31-32  
 Births: Birch.....32  
 Skatepark Collective Builds, Opens Half-pipe.....33  
 Tight Contest at Tournament Fundraiser.....33  
 McNaughten Earns First Team Capital League Honors.....34  
 Ken Brown's Softball Roundup.....34  
 Ken Brown's Hoop News.....35  
 Power, Fisher Dominate; Wheatley Duels Trophy Dash.....35

**WEATHER WATCH**



Students at Hardwick Elementary School help give the morning NBC5 weather forecast, Friday, June 13 (from left) Jake and McCoy join Meteorologist Marissa Vigevani and fellow students Ainsley and Lucy. Vigevani said, "It was truly amazing to return to Hardwick and be recognized by the students, who shared how much fun they had last year and wanted to support Weather at Your School again." photo courtesy NBC5

**Heat Departing; Another Split Weekend for Precipitation**

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Much of Vermont is in the wake of a short burst of extreme heat, which saw temperatures reaching the 90s for two days in a row. Although temperatures stopped short of qualifying this event as a heat wave (three days of 90 degree-plus highs), humidity during the peak intensity made conditions feel much hotter.

Monday's high in Hardwick was 94 degrees, with Craftsbury Common reaching 92 degrees. Conversely, heat indices that factor in the effect of humidity peaked at 107 and 101 degrees in these locations, respectively. Montpelier's high of 93 on Monday broke its previous record of 90 set in 1975. These conditions had significant potential to impact the health of anyone exposed to these conditions, regardless of the duration. Volunteers stood up a cooling center at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro for both Monday and Tuesday. Public safety officials also encouraged those needing relief from the heat to seek out local libraries and lakes to cool down.

The strong influence of the heat dome comes courtesy of a high-pressure area at the surface and aloft, migrating a hot a humid airmass north over the past several days and bringing generally sunny conditions. A brief burst of rain from some nocturnal thunderstorms brought a third of an inch of rain to the East Hardwick rain gauge by Sunday morning with the heat surge.

Showers Tuesday afternoon and evening ahead of a cold front were expected to scour out the most oppressive heat and humidity. This leaves the stage set for more seasonable, even cool, conditions to start the forecast period.

Mostly dry conditions return for Wednesday and Thursday with high pressure just to our north, deflecting moisture south and west of our area, although waves of low pressure riding along the boundary migrate north by the time we reach Friday, with some scattered showers during the day and the possibility of more overnight thunderstorms for Friday night into Saturday morning. That wave begins to exit for the second half of Saturday with the warmer airmass once again attempting to nose north for Sunday. While it will be warmer and more humid, records should not be shattered in the same way as earlier this week. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny. High: 81. Low: 52. Wind northwest around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny. High: 76. Low: 53. Light and variable wind.

**Friday:** Increasing clouds with showers developing by afternoon. High: 72. Low: 54. Southeast wind 5-10 mph.

**Saturday:** Showers and thunderstorms in the morning, then scattered showers in the afternoon. Mostly cloudy. High: 70. Low: 57. South wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny. High: 81. Low: 62. Light and variable wind.



June 25 - July 1

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log

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

June 16: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist – Public, Vermont Ave.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Accident – TCNR, Mill St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Center Road; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Citizen Dispute, Junction Road; VIN Verification, Bayley Hazen Road; Medical, Maple St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Belfry Road.

June 17: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Union St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, South Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Winter St.; Suspicious Event, Park St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Recover Stolen Vehicle, Mackville Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16; TRO/FRO Service, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Cottage St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Upper Cherry St.

June 17: Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.-Cottage St.

June 18: Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15; Directed Patrol, S.

Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, W. Hill Road; Found Property, Lamoille Rail Trail; VIN Verification, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Fingerprints, High St.; Medical, Elm St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Assist – Agency, High St.; Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15; Assist – Agency, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14; Traffic Stop, Cottage St.

June 19: Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 14; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Evergreen Manor Drive; Theft – Automobile, Dutton Road; Assist – Agency, Hillside St.; Medical, Maple St.; Mental Health Incident, Riverside Terrace.

June 20: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 14/Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Rte. 15-McAllister Farm Road; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Carey Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

June 21: Vandalism, Richardson Road; Found Property, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15 W; Citizen Dispute, Mini Mart Drive; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Accident – TCNR, Mackville Road; Juvenile Problem, Houston Hill Road.

June 22: Suspicious Event, Cherry St.; Mental Health Incident, S. Main St.; Assist – Public, Caspian Ave.; Medical, Maple St.; Medical, Riverside Terrace; Citizen Dispute, Woodbury St.

## Hardwick Police

## Accidents, Stolen Vehicle, Theft

On June 14, at approximately 9:46 a.m., Hardwick Police were dispatched to a one vehicle accident into a power pole. Upon arriving on scene, the driver, Maya Bakowski, reported no injuries. Bakowski advised that she had swerved to avoid hitting a deer and her 2011 Toyota Camry went off the road hitting the pole and breaking it. There was significant damage to the front of the vehicle. Hardwick Electric was called for the broken pole. Caledonia Wrecker towed the vehicle.

Hardwick Police responded to Vt. Rte. 16 in East Hardwick for a report of a truck vs. motorcycle accident. Upon investigation it was learned that Tatum Silver, of East Hardwick, was operating a Toyota Tacoma headed north when she made a right hand turn to enter a driveway. Arthur Hynes, of Glover, was operating a Honda motorcycle following Silver. When Silver was making the right hand turn Hynes at the same time went to serve around her and struck the passenger side of the truck. Hynes was taken to Copley Hospital for injuries. Hardwick Fire and EMS

assisted.

On Tuesday, June 17, at 5:40 p.m., Hardwick Police recovered a stolen vehicle on Mackville Road in Hardwick. Jeremy Somerset reported to the Vermont State Police that his white VW Tiguan was stolen from his Eden residence on June 12. Pamela Putvain, of Lake Elmore, was found in possession of the stolen vehicle. Putvain was issued a citation to appear in Lamoille County Court on July 23 for the charge of Operating Without Owner Consent..

On June 19, at approximately 2:34 p.m., Hardwick Police were notified of a theft of a Gehl skid steer model 4625SX from Dutton Road. It was taken from a barn within the last couple of days. The lock to the door had been cut off. It appears to have been driven away. If anyone has any information, please call the Hardwick Police Department.

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



Corbin LaPierre (left) hands roofing shingles to his father Mike LaPierre as they finish the roof of the new Greensboro gazebo planned by the Caspian Critters 4H Club and paid for by town ARPA funds. Plans are to build foldable benches inside once the roof is finished.

photo by Paul Fixx

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*Vermont State Police*  
**Theft from Storage Facility, Victim Identified**



MARSHFIELD - On June 18, at approximately 11:50 a.m., the Vermont State Police received a report that multiple items had been stolen from a storage facility located at 8053 U.S. Rte. 2 in the town of Marshfield.

A list of stolen items includes a toolbox containing Milwaukee power tools, a radiator and other engine parts, extension cords, portable jump starter, car battery charger, battery powered air compressor, two to three sets of winter tires, four 37.5 inch BFGoodrich Tires, a trolling motor and two depth finders.

A red 2021 Kawasaki Ninja, with a "LevoVince" aftermarket exhaust was also taken from the facility.

Anyone who has information related to this incident is encouraged to contact Trooper Morrow and the Berlin Barracks at (802) 229-9191. Anonymous tips may be provided online at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit).

WOODBURY – Update No. 1: VSP Identifies Victim in Woodbury Death Investigation

An autopsy was completed Friday, June 20, at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington. The Vermont State Police is able to identify the victim as Tina Daigle, of Hardwick.

A determination from the medical examiner on the cause and manner of her death remains pending further investigation.

State Police continue to treat this death as suspicious and encourage anyone with information to call the Berlin Barracks at (802) 229-9191, or submit an anonymous tip online at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit).

No other details are available. VSP will continue to provide updates as the case unfolds.

The Vermont State Police is investigating a suspicious death in the Washington County town of Woodbury.

The investigation began at about 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, when police received a report that a body had been found at a roadside pull-off along Rte. 14. First responders arrived and confirmed the individual, a woman, was deceased. Investigators are treating the death as suspicious. No one is currently in custody.

This investigation is in its preliminary phase and involves members of the Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene Search Team, Field Force Division and Victim Services Unit.

Once CSST completes its work processing the scene, the victim's body will be taken to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington for an autopsy to confirm identity and determine the cause and manner of death. The name of the victim is being withheld pending notification of relatives.

Anyone with information that could assist investigators in this case should call the Vermont State Police in Berlin at (802) 229-9191 or submit an anonymous tip online at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit).

No further information is currently available. The state police will provide updates as the investigation progresses.

*Woodbury Fire Department*  
**Tree and Power Line Fire**

WOODBURY – On June 20, at 12:43 p.m., the Woodbury Fire responded to to 491 W. Woodbury Road for a tree and power line on fire.

**AWARE Report**

HARDWICK—Twenty-Six people used AWARE services between June 8 and June 15. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463. A non-profit established in 1984, AWARE serves Hardwick and the greater Hardwick area in preventing and healing the trauma of domestic and sexual violence. AWARE provides help during immediate crises, as well as advocating for on-going emotional and legal support for people of all ages and gender.

*Cabot Fire Department*  
**Simulation Training**



Cabot firefighters (from left) River Thibault and Shane Smith behind him are clearing out glass from the driver's side window, after breaking it, while ensuring the driver is unharmed by placing a tarp over the driver, a fake crash test dummy. Kerri Moll, acting as Incident Command is taking a brief moment to review important key aspects of the scenario with Chief Dean Deasy Eammon Carleton, Captain Nate Smith, Rory Thibault and Susie Socks.

*social media photo*



Cabot firefighters training, the evening of June 18 with (from left) Eammon Carleton has just checked the battery of the simulated car accident, Susie Socks is using the spreaders to try and open the car door and Shane Smith is supporting Susie by using a halligan to help pry the door open.

*social media photo*

**Fire Department Runs Simulation Training**

CABOT – On June 18, the Cabot Fire Department ran a simulated training of a double car crash, with a fire and entrapped victim. The simulation included a non-officer being first on scene and taking on the role of incident command. The Engine was first on scene and two firefighters put the fire out. Immediately behind them was a team in the rescue truck. They stabilized the vehicle and worked to free the victim.

This training allowed the firefighters to focus on incident command duties, unexpected situations, car fires and victim entrapment. It gave the department team the opportunity to practice on nozzle work, using extrication tools (jaws of life and spreaders) and hand tools (halligan, glass saw, ax, knife and window punch.) Inside cars there are many hidden dangers such as airbag deployment canisters.

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COOPERATIVELY OWNED

# HES Students Became Weather Forecasters, June 13

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – NBC5 First Warning Meteorologist Marissa Vigevani came to Hardwick Friday morning, June 13, for the Weather at Your School program, allowing Hardwick Elementary School (HES) students to give the morning's weather forecasts.

From the first forecast at 4:32 a.m., through the last, ending after 7:30 a.m., students joined Vigevani to share the live temperatures, dew points, elevation, relative humidity and air pressure readings from the screen in the back of her vehicle.

Vigevani joined the NBC5 First Warning Weather Team in June 2023. She was raised in Canton, Mass., and says she has always been passionate about the weather and giving back to the local community. A New England native, she experienced the "Snow Blitz of 2015" in Boston, where 119.7



Hardwick Elementary School students (from left) Easton and Dylan share the weather forecast with NBC5 Meteorologist Marissa Vigevani, the morning of June 13, along with students Dawson and Adam. Vigevani said, "After visiting Hardwick Elementary School twice now, I've built rewarding relationships with the students, parents and faculty. . . We felt so warmly welcomed at HES and are already looking forward to returning next academic year!"

photo courtesy NBC5

inches fell in just three weeks.

"When I started Weather at Your School, I envisioned it as a simple way to connect with

students outdoors on Fridays. However, it is so much more meaningful than that!" She said, "After visiting Hardwick Elementary School

twice now, I've built rewarding relationships with the students, parents and faculty. It was truly amazing to return to Hardwick and be recognized by the students, who shared how much fun they had last year and wanted to support Weather at Your School again."

As the coordinator of the Weather at Your School program, Vigevani travels to different schools across Vermont and Northern New York every Friday during the school year. She brings students into live TV by having them help deliver the morning weather forecast.

"We felt so warmly welcomed at HES and are already looking forward to returning next academic year," she said.

When Marissa isn't looking at the weather models or the sky, she says she enjoys hiking, skiing, playing soccer and cooking delicious Italian meals.

## Birthing

Continued From Page One

No specific closure date was given in the press release, which stated pre- and postpartum care will continue to be offered at the Morrisville hospital.

The hospital has been considering closing the birthing center since March, when the board of trustees announced a consultant was hired to review several options. According to internal sources, however, the board initially concealed this information from center staff and employees. Since then, former patients, community members, area residents, fathers and business owners have rallied to support center staff in a highly publicized campaign.

According to the press release, the Copley Board of Trustees voted

for the closure of the birthing center on Tuesday.

The press release cited a decline in births as a contributing factor to the board's choice. CEO Joseph Woodin previously made similar statements in an open letter; "Over the past decade, we have consistently seen fewer than 200 births annually and this year, we are anticipating only about 110 to 115 deliveries. National standards suggest we need between 200-240 births annually for safe, high-quality care. Additionally, not even half of Lamoille County births occurred at Copley in 2023, meaning over half of the county's expectant mothers chose to deliver elsewhere. Low volume results not just in quality concerns but in financial pressures as well. The Birthing Center is operating at a loss of \$3 to \$5 million a year."

Birthing Center employees

have consistently rejected Woodin's claims. Chouinard's response to Woodin included data going back four years; "In 2024 We did 177 births, 2023 was 156 births, 2022 was 197 births, 2021 178 births. I can go back further if we need. . . There is no magic number of births that can account for our quality driven care. The years of experience that the nurses and midwives here have is huge. . . As far as the number of people that go elsewhere.... There are patients that risk out of care here. We do not have a NICU and some higher risk pregnancies have their care transferred to UVM. Our providers do such a good job of appropriately designating which pregnancies are appropriate for Copley or safe if you will, that our good outcomes (reported via statistics and compiled and compared with other

similar hospitals), reflect their care and dedication to our patient population. That \$3 to 5 million dollar loss a year makes no sense and there is zero proof of it anywhere that anyone has been able to find."

The Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement Network (NNEPQIN), a Dartmouth Health program, also provided a letter of support detailing the value of maintaining Copley's OB services. Nonetheless, the board of trustees have stated that a comprehensive plan is being developed to transition care of birthing families to a regional model. Families will have many choices about where and how to access maternity care, said the board's press release, though access to the kind of patient-led and midwifery model of care offered at the Copley Hospital Birthing Center may no longer be available.

## Close

Continued From Page One

assistance to transition to new appointments and positions both at Copley and in the region."

Copley Hospital has been formally considering closing the midwife-led birthing center since March when its board of trustees announced that a consultant was being hired to review several options, though concerns about a potential closure had been raised months earlier.

Since then, community members, including current and former patients, have been organizing public showings of support to try to keep the birthing center open. The Copley Hospital Board of Trustees voted for the closure of the birthing center on Tuesday,

the press release said.

Board Chair Anne Bongiorno acknowledged the outpouring of testimonials board members and administrators had received.

"The Board is grateful to the community, Copley staff, and everyone who shared their personal stories, family connections or professional experiences with the birthing center. It has been a privilege to know how much our community cares for our hospital," Bongiorno said as quoted in the statement. "With the diligent work by everyone over many months, including the consultant's thorough research and report, we believe we have made the best decision possible in a challenging situation."

The press release announcing the closure noted Vermont has the

lowest birth rate in the nation and Copley has experienced a downward trend in births at the hospital. Currently less than half of all births in Lamoille County take place at the center, according to the release.

Copley Hospital, like other small community hospitals in the state, struggles with maintaining financial stability. The birthing center operates at a loss of between \$3 million and \$5 million annually, hospital administrators have said. In recent years, the number of births at the center had dropped to less than 200 per year, below the threshold necessary to maintain efficiencies of scale, according to a report by the consultancy Oliver Wyman that proposed ways to reduce overall health care costs.

Mary Lou Kopas, one of three

full-time nurse midwives at the birthing center, said Friday she was "just heartbroken" by the news, which staff had received earlier in the afternoon.

"I love this group of people," she said. "It's a really special practice."

The Copley birthing center's staff had just been celebrated recently for the quality of its care and its outcomes at the annual conference for the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, she said.

Kopas acknowledged the financial challenges faced by Copley and the state's broader health care system, but said there were strategies hospital leaders could have tried in recent years to boost the number of births if volume was a concern.

# Farmers Market, Food Pantry Address Food Insecurity

by Paul Fixx

**HARDWICK** – As food insecurity has increased in the Hardwick Area before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hardwick Farmers Market has developed programs to multiply benefits and the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) has expanded to open satellite locations in Craftsbury and Albany.

The U.S. Senate is now considering the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), a budget reconciliation bill passed by the House of Representatives on May 22. A budget reconciliation bill allows for expedited passage of certain budget-related legislation, often by circumventing the filibuster rules in the Senate. OBBBA, proposed by President Trump, makes sweeping cuts to SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, the nation's largest food assistance program. The cuts would transfer 5% of the benefit costs, and 75% of the costs of administering it, to the states, making it their responsibility, while establishing stricter eligibility requirements.

Hayley Williams works with the Center for an Agricultural Economy as the local food coordinator and Hardwick Farmers Market Manager. She said the use of EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) cards at the market (that are used for SNAP benefits), "varies

significantly from Friday to Friday, but the market and its vendors really benefit from EBT recipients shopping with us, and we triple their food budget through our Crop Cash and Hardwick Farmers Market (HFM) Bucks programs."

Williams said cuts to SNAP benefits "would hurt the market." Market shoppers have been anxious hearing benefits might be cut, she said. "Eight EBT transactions were used at the market on Friday June 6."

Stella James, HAFP director and coordinator of the Hardwick site said SNAP benefits for an individual can be close to \$300, but many receive as little as \$20 each month. Plenty of HAFP visitors don't receive any SNAP benefits, she said, but have a need for the food they are able to get at the HAFP.

There are no special criteria to receive food, or other necessary supplies, which can include pet food, paper goods and other essential needs, said James. "It's based on trust." People can visit as often as they want for fresh produce and twice each month to receive roughly a week's worth of food.

James said she's not thinking now about what HAFP might do if SNAP benefits are cut. Even without those cuts, inflation causes food to cost more and increases need.

Her priority is to give people



The Hardwick Area Food Pantry at 39 W. Church St. in Hardwick is open Monday from noon to 2:00 pm, then Thursday and Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. All are welcome. Fresh produce visits are unlimited. Two visits per month are allowed for everything else. HAFP courtesy photo

visiting the pantry the feeling of abundance. She wants people to feel that what they need, within the guidelines established by the pantry, is always available; she doesn't want anyone to feel the food they are getting will cause others to go without what they need.

HAFP works with a food budget of just \$9,000 for the Hardwick site and the same amount for the Craftsbury and Albany sites combined. The Hardwick site uses most of that to buy from the Vermont Food Bank, while the other sites purchase locally, from the Genny in Craftsbury, which provides food to those sites at cost.

HAFP operates with 75 volunteers, one full-time and five

part-time employees, said James, helping about 300 families each month in Hardwick, with between 16,000 and 20,000 pounds of food.

She says she doesn't want to live in a state of urgency, worrying about what might happen. It's important to her that HAFP visitors feel safe and come for what they need without having any feeling they are being judged. HAFP is apolitical because everyone needs food regardless of their politics, said James. "HAFP provides a safety net for anyone in need."

HAFP accepts donations of money, food and time. Learn more about HAFP at [nourish-hardwick.org](http://nourish-hardwick.org)

## Grant

Continued From Page One

specialized assistance, such as small grants for technical expertise, to help navigate complex federal grant applications. A \$150,000 low-interest loan from the Vermont Community Foundation is currently under review by the Plainfield town lawyer. Its purpose is to fund the next phase of engineering and crucial archaeological work required for the large grants.

The committee is also exploring the idea of a bank or town-managed revolving loan fund to help finance home construction for future buyers. This could offer more flexible and compassionate terms than traditional bank loans.

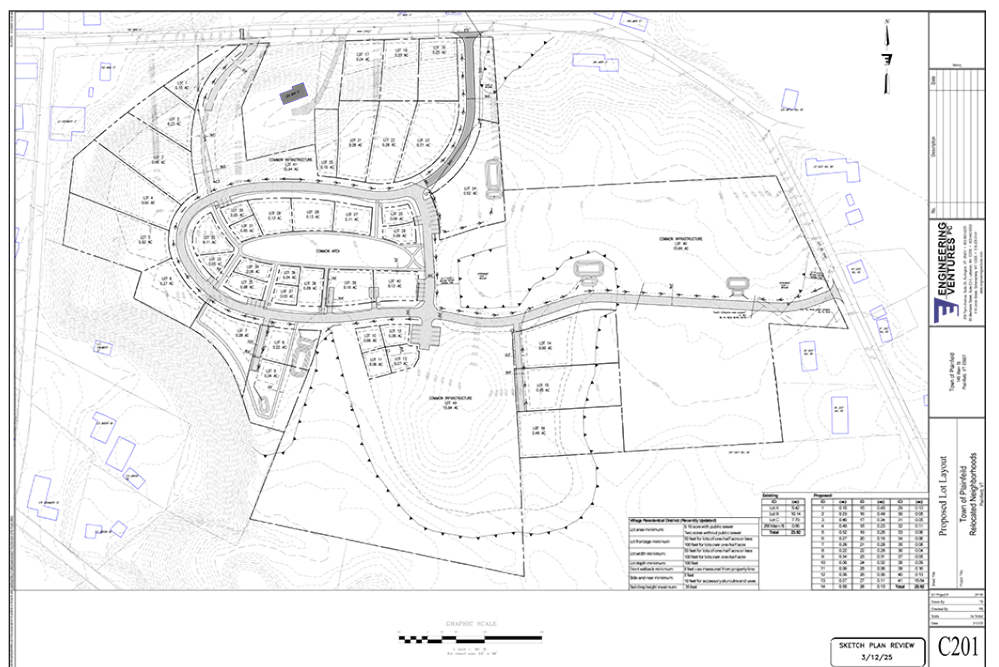
Moving on to design and scale, a test design shows a maximum of 57 possible lots, including some for tiny homes. This committee says high density would be a scenario if external funding isn't secured. Concerns were raised about increased density's impact on construction, population and aesthetics. Public feedback from a prior community design process

indicated a desire to keep the adjacent hillside undeveloped to preserve privacy and open space. The committee noted that buyer preferences are key. They plan to reach out to previously interested buyers to understand their preferences on lot size, housing type such as single-family, condo, tiny homes, as well as affordability, ideal scenarios and interest in self-builds versus working with contractors.

A study by engineering firm DuBois and King concluded the new neighborhood is expected to add less than 75 car trips during busiest hours (36 in the morning, 52 in the afternoon). These numbers are less than the typical Vermont threshold, 75 busy-hour trips, that would require a more detailed traffic study or intervention to increase road capacity.

In other business, the committee noted that the project has been featured in recent media, including Seven Days. An article in the Wall Street Journal is also anticipated.

The committee is investigating if an area near East Hill



Road is no longer classified as federal wetlands. If so, it could allow them to acquire more land and potentially move the access road further north, creating more space between new and existing homes.

The committee clarified that Plainfield zoning rules currently do not allow year-round living in yurts or tents due to plumbing requirements, and new zoning requires off-street parking for every car.



# Area Graduations

Right: The Hazen Union eighth grade celebration, on June 10, recognized those graduating middle school and ready to begin high school, front row (from left) Jaden Lee, Andrew Churchill, Ellie Abbott, Shilo Allen, Chloe Moodie, Kennidee Gouin, Marina Smith and Trevor Smith; second row, Noah Foster, Shealee Hannigan-Keating, Hadley Michaud, Ella Luther, Maya Kittredge, Emma Slayton, Eloise Foster and Daylynd Newcombe; third row, Bryce Martin, Natalie Durfey, Sophia Busano, Addisyn Lamos-Rawson, Eliza Sanders, Kolten Lumsden, Savannah Zornow-Figueroa and Jeremy Gonyaw; fourth row, Atlee Metevier, Alden Pougner, Owen Welch, Dawson Michaud, Conner Smith-Lumsden, Samuel Razionale and Jordan Thompson; fifth row, Lucian Jurkiewicz, Scott Patoine, Maddox Robinson, Javin Perry, Christopher Tongolei, Nicholas Ferree. Missing: Amelia Canfield, Eli Piangerelli and Garrett Sisk.



Woodbury sixth grade held its graduation ceremony June 12, for (from left) Olivia Phelps, Izabella Grant, Marshall Clemons, Ysabel DiMarco and Amelia Crank.



The Cabot High School Class of 2025 Commencement June 13, recognized graduates (from left) front row, Garan Ward, Petra Lalomia, Sarah Thompson and Liam Pratt; back row, Dominic Fontaine, Eryne Searles and Jacob Tidd.



Craftsbury Assistant Principal Melinda Mascolino (left) presents Savannah Boyce with the Outstanding Student Cup award during the presentation of scholarships and awards at graduation, June 13.



Elizabeth Bowley (left) and Chase Benway (right) join the rest of the Hazen Union select chorus one last time during graduation ceremonies Saturday. At right is pianist Andrew Koehler.

**Photos by Vanessa Fournier**

# Twinfield Graduation, June 21



The Twinfield Union Class of 2025 graduation was held on June 21. Graduates are front, (from left) Jordan Metcalf, Caroline Mancini, Harlee Carroll, Olivia Leibold, Alex Yahm-Halberg and Isabelle Farnham; second row, Jorja Washburn, Hazel O'Brien, Rusty Vorce, Hunter Wheeler, Solena Rovetto and Ida Astick; third row, Darshan Eddleman, Selena Lamery, Kendall Fowler, Sophia Mancini, Emma Lamery, Haylee North and Marianna Cleary.



Twinfield Union junior class marshals Tegan Trader (left) and Elsha van Apeldoorn (right) lead the class of 2025 into their graduation.



Twinfield Union Valedictorian Caroline Mancini (left), the daughter of Carrie and Thomas Mancini of Plainfield, is going to Norwich University in Northfield to major in Civil Engineering. The co-Valedictorian, Marianna Cleary (center), the daughter of Lauren and John Cleary of Plainfield will be attending the University of Vermont in Burlington to will major in public health. The Salutatorian Haylee North (right), the daughter of Jessica and Cameron North of Cabot is going to the University of Vermont in Burlington and will major in nursing.



Left, Twinfield grad Sophia Mancini heads into graduation Saturday with her 18 classmates.



Left, Twinfield Union Commencement speaker Mark Mooney was the principal at Twinfield Union for 12 years and has worked in education for 43 years.



Twinfield Union student Hazel O'Brien speaks at the 2025 graduation, June 21.

**Photos by  
Vanessa Fournier**

# Twinfield Graduation, June 21



Twinfield Union School graduates turn their tassels as the crowd applauds, Saturday, June 21. On stage (from left) are Matt Foster, superintendent, Rachel Hartman, elementary principal, Melissa Gosselin, school counselor, Stephanie Ainslie, secondary principal and Mark Mooney, commencement speaker.



A musical performance of "You're Gonna Go Far" by Noah Kahan was sung by Twinfield grads Ida Astick (left) and Solena Rovetto (right) Twinfield Union School's 2025 Commencement, Saturday.



Twinfield graduate Alex Yahm-Halberg is joined by mom Rebecca Yahm (left), dad Gabe Halberg (second from right) and Eryne Searles (right) after graduation Saturday.

**Photo by Vanessa Fournier**



Alex Yahm-Halberg (left), Hunter Wheeler (center) and Jorja Washburn (right) wait to receive their diplomas from Twinfield Union School, June 21.



Twinfield secondary Principal Stephanie Ainslie (left) list awards received as graduate Darshan Eddleman (right) holds his diploma, Saturday.



Left, Twinfield graduate Isabel Farnham (right) is congratulated by Paul Coates of Cabot after graduation ceremonies, June 21.



The Wolcott Elementary sixth grade graduation was held June 18. Receiving certificates are front row, (from left) Madison Jablonskis, Alice LaChance, Bailey Tallman, Suri Izor, Chase Davey, Sawyer Vize, Beckham English and Conner Spencer; back row, LeighAnn Judd, Haileigh Mason, Alyssa Robinson, Adaline Cochran, Marina Lyon, Peri McEdward, Harrison Grant and Bryson Thomas.

The Hardwick Elementary School sixth grade celebration and reception was held, June 16. Celebrating the event are front row, (from left) Ryan Holbrook, Atticus Metevier, Raylynn Shatney, Kylie Smith, Nevaeh Bolio, Jaelyn Severcool, Maleigha Boyd, Kingsley Canfield; second row, Alivia Hall, Gregory Crown, Lieland Touchette, Oscar Rationale, Kooper Dyer, Allie Ackermann, Elliana Drown, Emalee McTigue, (third row) Dominic Mitchell, Ethan Rowell, McKenzie DeMag, Savia Brochu, Avah Adams and Kenley LeBlanc; back row, Daniel Sherman, Deegan Michaud, Zoey Custeau, Kaylee Nelson and Sophia Mollieur.



Hazen Union graduates Taylor Cloutier (left) and Dorian Kassim (right) shake hands after their, June 14, graduation ceremony.



Hazen Union graduate Kylee Joy Fleming holds her diploma, Principal's Award plaque and flowers after graduation Saturday.



Left, Hazen Union guest speaker Lynn Patenaude gives the 2025 commencement address.

Right, family and friends gather inside and around the tent set up for Hazen Union's graduation ceremony June 14, on Hudson Field.



**Photos by  
Vanessa Fournier**

# Alumni Association Annual Reunion Well Attended

by Patrick Hussey

HARDWICK – This past Saturday, the summer solstice, a crowd of around 160 people converged on the Brochu Pavilion on West Hill in Hardwick to attend and celebrate the Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Alumni Association's class reunion gathering.

With a combination of high attendance, ideal weather and school spirit, the day was considered nothing less than a wonderful success by those who attended. Everything came together for the event, timely arrivals, spirited participation, a great meal and hours of stories and awards.

Once registration was complete and the meal had been served by the Village Diner, the day began with the association announcing three \$500 student award recipients. The Hardwick Academy Class of 1955 sponsored the Future Endeavors award, given to Taylor Cloutier, who was there to accept his gift. He is headed to lineman's school.

The second Spirit Award was presented in honor of Pat Gallant from the Hardwick Academy Class of 1968. Gallant, who recently passed due to ALS, never missed a reunion and was a stand-out class member. Her sister Cindy Gallant Cota spoke on her behalf. The recipient of that gift was Baylie Christiansen.

The Service Award, named in honor of 2007 graduate Tristan Southworth, was given to Emma Rowell.

The alumni of Hardwick Academy responded in droves as the Association celebrated the five-year classes ending in 0 and 5. The Hardwick Academy Class of 1965 led all classes by bringing back 19 graduates. They had a fully-decorated

canopy set up for their class. It was their 60th class reunion.

One of their classmates, Jane Richards, won a prize for being the very first alumni to sign up for the reunion. The crowd was entertained by Raymond Menard, who brought to the event a clock taken from old Hardwick Academy as it was being torn down in 1970.

Menard told how five members of the 1965 class went into the old Hardwick Academy building after the 1970 alumni reunion as it was being torn down. They took a clock from the building that night and have brought it to their five-year reunions ever since. The five classmates who took the clock called themselves the Royal Order of the Clock.

They had the clock mounted on a wooden plaque and attached some plates that documented its history. Menard said they now plan to turn the clock over to the Hardwick Historical Society.

This past year, the Hardwick Academy Class of 1955 presented the Alumni Association with a gift of over \$12,000. Their class has been very close for years, and always turned out for their reunions. They were aggressive in raising money for future students, and at one time had over \$35,000 to start giving away. One class member who couldn't attend Saturday, Lola Smith Foster, just recently donated another \$500 toward next year's Hazen Union student awards.

To thank them for their generous contribution, the association bought the 1955 group tee shirts, citing them as the most outstanding class in 2025. Nine class members attended their 70th reunion.

Rounding out Academy classes were six members of the class of 1960, celebrating 65 years, and 10 members of the last graduating



Six members of the Hardwick Academy Class of 1960 made it to Saturday's reunion. They were, front row (from left) Dianne Demeritt, Sybil Houston Messier and Edna Markers Anair; back row, Andre Renaud, Frank Pinette and Art Williams. *courtesy photo*

class of Hardwick Academy, the class of 1970.

The first Hazen Union class was the group from 1975, celebrating their golden anniversary, 50 years removed from high school. One of the largest classes to ever attend Hazen, they returned 15 people Saturday.

The class of 1980 also had a strong turnout, with eight members attending Saturday's reunion. Drex Wright was there to represent the class of 1985 and Sarah Churchill was the lone 1990 attendee.

Three Hazen alumni from 1995, Cindy Bolio Osgood, Jon Ramsay and Jack Gomes came as well as three from the class of 2005, including Dora Dernavich, Aliah Montgomery and Benjamin Brown.

The association this year honored Rick Norcross with its Distinguished Alumni Award. Norcross graduated from Hardwick Academy in 1963 and spent a lifetime writing and performing music with his Rick and The All-Star Ramblers Band. He started early, at the ripe age of 16 and just this year, after turning 80, retired from his life's pursuit. The association presented him with a certificate, gifts and a personalized shirt in Academy colors. The crowd was entertained by a few selections of his music and he donated a few of his compact discs as prizes.

Winning the award for the oldest alumni was Beverly Shepard, who graduated with the

Hardwick Academy class of 1948. Traveling the furthest was Ellen Pape Gilmore, estimated at around 1,550 miles. Doris Delaricheliere won a prize for having the longest last name and Carmeline Williams was the winner of the 50-50 raffle, taking home around \$330.00.

It was a busy week for the association. Prior to this weekend's events, association president Mike Clark and vice president Pat Hussey last Tuesday were in front of the Hazen Union School Board seeking final approval to bring the Academy bell to the Hazen grounds. That effort is being opposed by a small group from the Class of 1970. A vote last fall by the Hardwick Academy alumni favored the move, but ownership of the bell is being debated in this conversation with the board and the opposing group.

Clark also informed Saturday's crowd, the Association just recently went live with a still developing website, [hardwickhazenalumni.com](http://hardwickhazenalumni.com). He also thanked the Michael Brochu family for hosting the reunion on their property. Clark kept the crowd in good spirits as he emceed the many awards and prizes throughout the afternoon.

Clark said one of the remaining goals of the association is to recruit new members to its board, hoping for an influx of younger Hazen Union alumni volunteers. He left Saturday's event saying he was very upbeat and proud of the Association's recent accomplishments.



Members of the Class of 1970 attending the reunion were, front, (from left) Cindi Gallant Cota, Karen Hall, Michelyne Brochu LaRoche, Kathy Jerome Fair and Kirk Lilley; back, Dave Stratton, Roger LeBlanc, Linda Fontaine Rodriguez, Susan Poff Lamare and Nicole Michaud Duhamel. *courtesy photo*

## 2025 Hardwick Academy/ Hazen Union Reunion



Above: The Hardwick Academy Class of 1955, celebrating 70 years post graduation, were, front row (from left) Roger Goodrich, George Valentine, Leo LeCours, Sarah Houston, Stella Rich Gravel and John Robb; back, Orin Bracey Jr., Roger Lepine and Denise Lemay Hark.

courtesy photo



The Class with the best turnout at Saturday's reunion was the Hardwick Academy Class of 1965, including, front (from left) Sheila Fuller, Danny Lambert, Cheryl Michaels, Marsha Harvey and Everett Blaise; second row, Joe O'Brien, Keith Draper, Michele Campbell, Paul Garland, Michael Morin, Jane Richards, Eugene Campbell, Brenda Bolio, Dianna Williams, Raymond Menard, Norman Rodriguez, Louise O'Brien, Larry Mercier and Jack Strong. courtesy photo



The Hazen Union Class of 1975 celebrated their 50th class reunion, including, front (from left) Andrea Hussey, Monique Lussier Herzog, Melia Greene Fassett, Mary Brochu and Ellen Pape Gilmore; second row, Steve Shepard, Cindy Lilley Huntsman, Lisa Bovat, Paula Hodgdon Pecor, Pauline LaCasse Lang, Debbie Dickson LaCasse and Cindy Rathburn Wemette; back, Lorrie Brochu Curtis and Rick Renaud. Missing from the picture is Jean Dutton.

courtesy photo



The three members of the Class of 1995 are Jack Gomes, Cynthia Bolio Osgood and Jon Ramsay. courtesy photo

# 2025 Hardwick Academy/ Hazen Union Reunion



Saturday's reunion event for the Hazen Union Class of 1980 included, front (from left) Clarence Wheeler, Tom Brochu, Donna Hooker Blight, Patricia Brochu-Cox and Dave Gauthier; back, Brian LaCasse. Robert Blight and Dean Schoolcraft. *courtesy photo*



Three members of the Class of 2005 attended Saturday's reunion, including Aliah Montgomery, Dora Dernavich and Benjamin Brown. *courtesy photo*



Raymond Menard, Hardwick Academy Class of 1965, shows the crowd the Hardwick Academy clock that he and a few of his classmates removed from Hardwick Academy as it was being torn down in 1970. *courtesy photo*



Distinguished Alumni Award winner Rich Norcross, Hardwick Academy Class of 1963, who recently retired from his musical career. *courtesy photo*



Sarah Churchill was the lone attendee from the Class of 1990. *courtesy photo*



Ellen Pape Gilmore, Hazen Union Class of 1975, won an award for traveling the furthest to the alumni reunion, Saturday, from Association president Mike Clark (right) estimated at around 1,550 miles from Florida. *courtesy photo*



Beverly Shepard accepts her prize for being the oldest returning alumni. She graduated from Hardwick Academy in 1948. *courtesy photo*



Association member Karen Hall, right, presents Carmeline Willams with her 50-50 raffle winnings as husband Ken Willams looks on. *courtesy photo*

# Local 4-Hers Judge Dairy Cattle at State Competition

ROCHESTER – The 2025 State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest provided an opportunity for 4-H dairy members to demonstrate their ability to evaluate and rank dairy cattle based on breed standards.

Local placements included 14- to 18-year-olds, Morgan Michaud, East Hardwick (first); Dawson Michaud, East Hardwick (third); Talon Michaud, Greensboro (fourth); and Steven Werner, Stannard (fifth).

Other local places included 11- and 12-year-olds, Hadley Michaud, Hardwick (first).

Forty-four 4-Hers participated in this year's competition, which was held June 14 at Liberty Hill Farm and Inn in Rochester. The Kennett family, Bob and Beth and their son David and his wife Asia, hosted the competition, providing the venue as well as freshly made donuts, water, snacks and Monument Farms chocolate milk for the participants.

The 4-Hers judged five classes

of Holsteins: spring calves, winter calves, two-year-olds, four-year-olds and aged cows. The seniors (aged 14 to 18) also were required to provide oral reasons for their placements.

Scores for each class were combined to determine each individual's overall score and ranking. Up to 10 rosette ribbons were awarded in each age group.

The event was sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H and organized by Extension 4-H Livestock Educator Wendy Sorrell. Adult volunteers were Dawn Livingston, New Haven; UVM 4-H Educator Molly McFaun; Amber Perry, East Montpelier; Marissa Simoneau, Newport; and Jen Thygesen, Tunbridge.

Brailey Livingston, New Haven, assisted show official Joanna Lidback of Barton, the state 4-H dairy judging team coach, by leading and handling animals for judging. She is a 4-H dairy member and on the 2025 Vermont 4-H Dairy Judging Team A.



Health care workers wheel a Covid-19 patient through a hallway at the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, Dec. 13, 2021.

file photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

# Covid-19 Hospitalizations Hit a New Low

by Erin Petenko, VTDigger

VERMONT – The number of emergency room visits for Covid-19 in Vermont hit zero multiple times over the past week, “at or nearing” a historic low for that indicator, the Department of Health reported recently.

The health department first reported a drop in Covid-19 hospital visits in its weekly surveillance report. Epidemiologist John Davy confirmed via email there have been a few recent days with no emergency room visits, with the rolling average around one.

He wrote that overall hospitalizations for the disease, which includes Vermonters who have been in the hospital with Covid-19 for days or weeks, have not dropped to zero. But the number of current patients has been in the “low single digits” in recent weeks.

In past years, the period of late spring and early summer has been marked by low rates, followed by a rise in the late summer into early fall. Davy wrote it “remains to be seen” if that pattern will reappear in the coming months.

“There have been recent outbreaks in long-term care facilities, so there is clearly some amount of Covid circulating,” he wrote.

The state health department also reported it has detected the presence of a new Covid-19 variant, NB.1.8.1. The variant has made international headlines for causing severe sore throats nicknamed “razor blade throats.” But it has not been found in Vermont in large numbers, Davy wrote.

“There is no clear indication that NB.1.8.1 is associated with greater disease severity,” he wrote. “Preliminary lab studies suggest that vaccines will be effective against severe outcomes from this strain.”

The future of vaccines themselves are still uncertain, however. Covid-19 vaccines tailored to the dominant strains of the virus have typically become available in early fall, along with other seasonal vaccines like influenza. But U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has a long history of anti-vaccine activism.

Kennedy recently dropped the recommendation for pregnant people and healthy children to receive the vaccine and dismissed all 17 members of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's vaccine advisory panel, replacing them with eight of his own appointees, some of whom have previously objected to the Covid-19 shots. The panel is slated to hold its first meeting June 25.



Chris Steel presents Clive Gray an appreciation award for his 20 years of service to the Greensboro Conservation Commission. courtesy photo

# Gray Receives Appreciation Award

GREENSBORO – At an event on June 19, Chris Steel, chairman of the Greensboro Conservation Commission, presented Clive Gray a Simon Pearce blown glass tree in appreciation for his 20 years of working for conservation in Greensboro. When Gray retired to Greensboro, he helped reactivate the commission, which now has a schedule mapping Greensboro's

trails, working to manage invasive plants, providing educational events, offering bird walks, encouraging pollination activity with a new garden at the rail trailhead in Greensboro Bend, working with the Greensboro Land Trust to update a natural resource inventory and collaborating with the Greensboro Association on water quality issues.

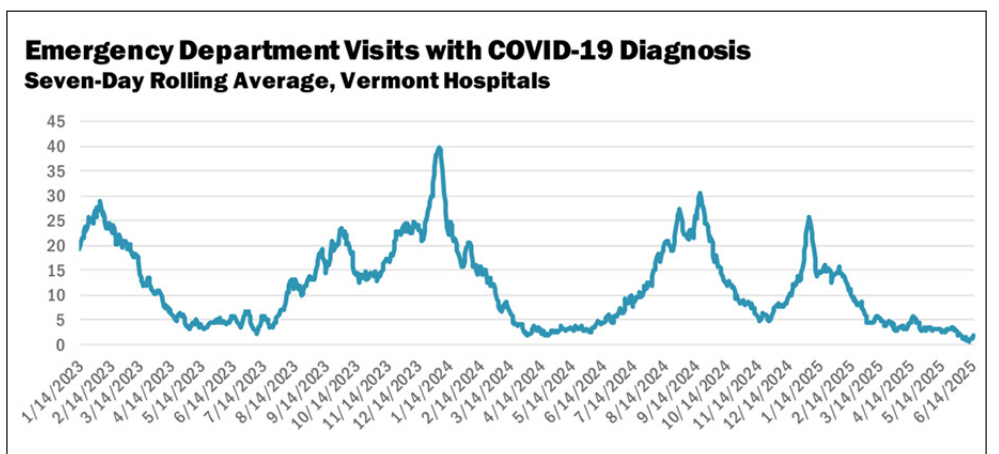


Chart via the Vermont Department of Health

# Maya's Maples, Creamees and Collaboration

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – Friday afternoons at the Hardwick Farmers Market can provide attendees with a variety of options to satiate their cravings. From fruits and vegetables to sweet treats, area residents can enjoy the offerings from local vendors like Maya's Maple Creamees.

College students Maya Remick and Lila Meyer are Hardwick locals, graduating from Hazen Union in 2022. Having grown up in the area, they recall a time where residents

had their choice of creamee spots around town. In recent years, Hardwick's options have dwindled down to the seasonal stand located within the House of Pizza.

"Last fall, we were thinking about how we're in a bit of a maple creamee desert around here," said Remick. To their knowledge, maple creamees hadn't been sold at the farmers market either. Remick and Meyer decided to address the issue at hand, thus creating Maya's Maple Creamees.

"Doesn't everyone want a maple



Lila Meyer (left) and Maya Remick (right) stand ready with smiles, waiting to serve customers their locally sourced maple creamees at the Hardwick Farmers Market.



Wolcott School

courtesy photo

## School Budget Passes in Third Vote

by **Raymonda Parchment**

WOLCOTT – The Wolcott School budget successfully passed 182 to 104, in the third round of voting, June 11, at the town offices. At and since town meeting day, residents had voted down the last two proposed budgets. The second school budget vote that took place Tuesday, April 28, failed in a close vote, with 150 voting no and 140 voting yes on that \$6.14 million budget proposal.

OSSU Superintendent Dr. David Baker said "I know that the board is relieved that the budget passed. It was important because the governor's appropriation for tax relief was dependent on all budgets passing. I think the board did a good job communicating and I think that Wolcott always returns to the tradition of supporting their public school. We learned a lot of lessons for the next budget cycle. Hopefully we can apply them next year."

Town Clerk Belinda Harris Clegg provided some insight as to why the budget reached a third vote.

Area residents had concerns in regards to their taxes, "People were worried about a 30-cent per hundred dollar asses value increase in taxes, which would've been \$300 per hundred thousand of value in a property in Wolcott." The current budget reduced the cost to \$240 per hundred thousand, with a decrease to 24-cents, Clegg explained. Moreover, if this

budget had not passed they would have had to borrow up to 87% of last year's budget to cover costs in the meantime. The current law dictates that if a district does not have an adopted budget by June 30, then the district has to borrow money while they continue to warn votes.

In a letter penned by school board chair Elliot Waring, secondary tuition costs were cited as a driving factor behind this year's budget. According to the News & Citizen, after the state increased the tuition cap for accepting schools last year, Wolcott's rate increased by more than \$400,000, or \$4,000 to \$5,000 per student. The board reduced the tuition line item by \$134,000 in the second version of the budget.

Waring further detailed the most recent version of the budget, expressing a level of discontent with the cuts. "The current budget drops taxes by another one cent by eliminating a part-time position as well as cutting the budget to buy new books for the school library by \$3,000. Our budget was already incredibly sparse but the taxpayers asked for a smaller budget and these are the only areas where there's even the slightest room to move. These cuts were not taken lightly by the board. We are at a point of diminishing returns with any cuts to the budget. Yes, taxes will go down, but we're also doing irreparable damage to the school and what we are able to offer to our learners."

creamee at a farmers market, really?," she said. "It was like, Lila, how fun would it be to sell creamees at the Farmer's Market, and she was like 'yeah that'd be awesome, I'd be so down to do it with you.'"

Later in the school year, Meyer recalls receiving a phone call from Remick; "Maya had called and said, I just bought a creamee machine, are you in?"

"So I think It was kind of a quick turnaround from when we kind of fully decided and the machine arrived, to when we first started selling creamees in June," Meyer said.

"It's been a whole trial and error process, and it's been really fun," added Remick.

Both Remick and Meyer must balance their business with school. Remick is a student at Bard College, while Meyer attends Tufts University.

"It was a lot of figuring things out from school. My semester went on longer than Lila's did, so she was helping out with a ton while I was still finishing up finals," said Remick.

Maya's Maple Creamees sources their ice cream base from Kingdom Creamery, a longtime local staple. The maple syrup is sourced from Remick's own family sugaring business, Sweetstone Maple Farm.

Their waffle cones are also homemade. Meyer spent considerable time refining their waffle cone recipe, "When Maya was at school, I spent probably about a week trying out different recipes. I think I tried about eight or nine with different ingredients, different ratios of dairy and egg. So I feel like we found a good mix of batter that produces a good crunch, a good sweet waffle cone," she said. "I got a lot of videos

courtesy photo from Lila," Remick recalled with a laugh.

Maya's Maple Creamees utilizes a 200 pound creamee machine, made mobile through the use of a pickup and trailer. They are listed as a part-time vendor at the Hardwick Farmers Market, which is open Fridays, 3 to 6 p.m., until October 10 at Atkins Field. They are also present at the Craftsbury Farmers Market on Saturdays. They plan to be at the Greensboro Farmers Market beginning in July.

Remick says they would like to do more events, but are currently restricted by their need for power. They are exploring purchasing a generator, volume dependent, in order to widen their possibilities.

As students, both women consider the experience a learning opportunity, "We wanted to explore entrepreneurship, a lot of people in my circle are small business owners, so just figuring out the logistics behind running a small business, keeping local sourcing, and reaching out into the community and getting community involvement was an interest," Meyer said.

"It's been a really cool, really enlightening process. I've learned so much. I was excited and proud to be doing something that is so inherently Vermont. This is such a big part of our culture here, and when I talk to people outside of the state, because I go to school outside of the state, they're like what's a maple creamee, which hurts my soul. It's something that everyone here grew up with, and everyone here is really attached to, and to be a part of it has been really special," concluded Remick.

*Ed note: While Maya spells Creamee in the name of her company with the letter "a," the mix she uses is spelled with two "e's."*

# Families, Organizers Seek to Transform School House



A Wolcott resident shares wishes for the town on a post-it, June 20.

photo by Alex Strand

by Alex Strand

WOLCOTT – Local families and organizers of the Village Trust Initiative (VTI) gathered by the Wolcott town hall June 20, to share dinner, a scavenger hunt and plans for the future of their town.

The ultimate goal of the group is to transform the schoolhouse, which has been out of use, into a library, and their existing library into a cafe. The project began in 2008, with the School Revitalization Committee. Since then, more committees of residents have formed and fizzled.

“We got involved in wanting to revitalize that building [the schoolhouse] and it just didn’t happen for

a lot of reasons. You know, financially, it just didn’t happen. Every time we would get started on efforts, something would come along and knock us down,” said community member Monica Cross. Cross remembers attending kindergarten in the schoolhouse building.

Recently, the VTI selected Wolcott’s library revitalization as one of their seven projects to pursue for this year. Others are located in Lunenburg, Greensboro Bend, West Fairlee, Braintree and Reading. The initiative operates on funding from a congressional spending award, federal funds, and community donations.

“We are only going to fund something the community wants to

see,” said Kaziah Haviland of VTI.

“They liked how far we had come with our planning, because we had already gotten plans with the architects and we knew what we wanted to do with the building. That helped us to get the grant,” said Cross. “They’ve come in and restored hope.”

Linda Martin, chair of the community trust and a Wolcott resident since 1979, said community members are excited for the project. She looks forward to drawing travelers from the nearby rail-trail and park into a new cafe. She has worked with engineers and architects for years to get the

project going.

The event included boards that asked community members to share their thoughts on what they look forward to in Wolcott on post-it notes. Adults and children shared post-it-notes with ideas ranging from organized historical events to iced coffee.

“I think this shows that this community has hope, and this is for future generations,” said Cross.

Applications for the next round of the VTI programs open July 7, with an informational webinar July 9. For more information, visit [vtrural.org/village-trust](http://vtrural.org/village-trust).



Members of the newest Climate Catalysts Leadership Program meet at the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier, June 2, (from left) Danny Lang, Poultney; Jillian Turcola, Montpelier; Claire Bradley, Burlington; Bevin Barber-Campbell, Peacham; Ashley Farrington, North Pownal; Sultana Khan, Randolph; Liz Steel, Greensboro; Caroline Klosowski, Stowe and Laura Cavin-Bailey with the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD). Missing from the photo are Naomi Parekh, Bennington and Elizabeth Towle, Bradford.

VCRD courtesy photo

## Climate Catalysts Leadership Program Cohort Gathers

MONTPELIER – Members of the newest Climate Catalysts Leadership Program met at the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier to kick off the start of their six-month journey together on June 2. They introduced themselves and their project ideas, heard from guest speakers and Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) Executive Director Denise Smith, then shared a meal together.

“As we face ever more complicated impacts to our planet caused by a changing climate, we see people like you from all over the state taking action to make a difference,” said Smith. “VCRD is committed to supporting leaders who want to be part of the solution. For over 30 years, we have helped Vermonters build leadership skills as they tackle projects that make their communities more prosperous and resilient.

VCRD will provide these leaders with opportunities to build peer

connections, strengthen leadership skills, and receive project development. “The Climate Catalyst program continues to adapt to fit the needs that are present in local climate efforts. This year’s cohort will focus on finding common threads needed to develop equitable climate actions and building out their state wide networks,” said Climate Economy Program Manager Laura Cavin Bailey. “The range of projects, from climate storytelling to community meals, speaks to the multi-faceted ways we can solve our climate crisis and become more resilient.”

Since the program’s inception in 2020, nearly 75 Vermonters have participated in this program sparking innovative projects in their hometowns and beyond. To find out more about the new cohort members and their projects go to [vtrural.org/climate-economy/climate-catalysts-leadership-program](http://vtrural.org/climate-economy/climate-catalysts-leadership-program), or contact Laura at [laura@vtrural.org](mailto:laura@vtrural.org) and (802) 234-1646.



The East Coast Inspirational Singers give a performance fit for their name that had the crowd on their feet clapping along, Saturday at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro.

photo by Paul Fixx

We welcome VISA and MasterCard for donations and advertising.



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# EDITORIAL

## High School Graduates Are On My Mind

As we put together this and last week's issues of The Hardwick Gazette, with graduation photos from around the area, we found it curious that the number of young men graduating seems lower than the number of young women. Notwithstanding the issue of gender fluidity, it seems an interesting question to look into.

While Vermont overall has a high high school graduation rate, some data suggests that boys graduate at lower rates than girls. A study found 88 percent of girls graduated on time compared to 82 percent of boys, according to The Hechinger Report.

Beyond that, there's a significant difference in the percentage of male and female high school seniors planning to pursue higher education immediately after graduation, with more females expressing the intention. For instance, a 2018 study cited by the Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC) showed that 83% of female seniors aspired to college compared to 68% of males.

That VSAC study found other interesting facts. Over a decade before 2018, there was a significant decline in the aspiration rate among second-generation male high school seniors, widening the gender gap in plans to pursue post-secondary education and training.

Students report their parents' post-secondary aspirations for them are shifting away from education and the gender gap in post-secondary enrollment is wider in Vermont than in the U.S. as a whole.

There are significant differences in academic preparation by gender and parent education attainment; those are in turn related to aspiration and enrollment outcomes.

Lastly, there are continuing regional differences in post-secondary aspiration and enrollment throughout the state.

Enrollment rates also varied significantly by academic preparation. Only one in four students who did not complete Algebra II enrolled in the fall of 2018. Students who completed Algebra II and took additional math courses had the highest enrollment rate of 78 percent.

There's some indication that anti-intellectualism, a disposition that distrusts and devalues intellectual pursuits, intellectuals, and intellectualism, may have something to do with this trend. Anti-intellectualism often manifests as a skepticism or hostility towards education, scholarship, and expertise, particularly in fields like science, the arts and humanities. Anti-intellectualism can lead to a preference for common-sense approaches, a distrust of experts, and a resistance to engaging with complex ideas or evidence-based solutions.

And, it most certainly would steer students away from academic pursuits.

Hazen Union School data for the Class of 2024 show 30 percent attended college and 65 percent joined the workforce, while five percent attended a technical program of less than two years and no graduates joined the military. No data on the gender of graduates was available on short notice.

This will make a good future project for our reporters.

Paul Fixx, editor

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Trampled U.S. Constitution

To the editor:

The Trump's administration action to bomb the nuclear processing sites in Iran without Congressional authorization is in violation of the War Powers Act passed in 1973. Contrary to his dismissing it as a "one off" attack, it is a declaration of war. The power to attack a sovereign nation is a right granted solely to the U.S. Congress in Article 1, Section 8, which grants Congress the sole power to declare war, raise and support armies, provide and maintain a navy, make rules for the government of the armed forces and call forth the militia.

In sidelining the U.S. Congress, usurping its constitutional authority, Trump has trampled our Constitution, and emboldened his grab for power. It negates the power of all citizens to have a say in the actions of their government through their representatives. It trashes the power "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Please join us in stopping the power grab of a would-be King. For more information, contact: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me or indivisiblecalais@pm.me

Bob Hawk  
Walden

## Copley Birthing Center Closure Questioned

To the editor:

I have been reading the articles and letters regarding the Copley Birthing Center.

Aren't patients who use Copley's birthing center more likely to come back for other medical services? If they go to another hospital to give birth, aren't they more likely to go to that hospital for other medical services? I know I like to keep my medical care centered around one facility.

I read that currently, when Copley's birthing center is not busy, they are able to utilize the birthing center nursing staff with other patients in that area or in other areas of the hospital. Without the birthing center, would the hospital have that flexibility of staff?

If Copley's Birthing Center is losing \$3-5 million a year, how are

other birthing centers doing?

If birthing centers are losing money, then why did the legislature feel the need to pass legislation allowing freestanding birthing centers? [Act No. 19 (S.18). An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers, signed by the Governor on May 13, 2025.]

If Copley's birthing center closes, will someone establish a freestanding birthing center in Lamoille County? If so, how will they financially survive without the staffing flexibility that Copley has? Are there already plans in the works to establish a freestanding birthing center in Lamoille County? If so, is that having any impact on the deliberations as to whether or not to close Copley's birthing center?

Jeannine A. Young  
Craftsbury Common



# THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc., 82 Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841 Tel. (802) 472-6521. E-mail: News@HardwickGazette.org. Web: HardwickGazette.org The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 9, Hardwick, VT 05843

EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONIST - Julie Atwood

WEATHER - Tyler Mollere

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

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ADVERTISING

Sandy Atkins, Paul Fixx  
ads@hardwickgazette.org, sales@hardwickgazette.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Alley, Brendan Buckley  
Ken Brown, Elizabeth Dow, Hal Gray,  
Abrah Griggs, Henry Homeyer, Willem Lange,  
Cheryl Luther Michaels, David Rodgers,  
Kay Spaulding, Liz Steel, John Walters;  
Megan Cane, Olivia Saras, interns.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

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# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Session Ends Like Roller Coaster

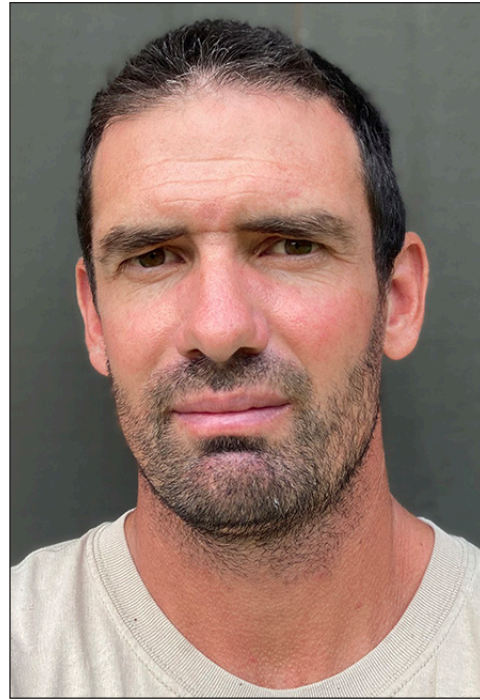
by Rep. Greg Burt

MONTPELIER – The legislative session came to an end a bit like a roller coaster. We wrapped up most of our work on Friday, May 30, working until 11 p.m., as votes passed back and forth between the House and Senate. I was pleased to see that Governor Scott signed S.45 into law. Now Act 61, S.45 was a bill that passed through the agriculture committee regarding nuisance lawsuits and farms. The bill made long-needed improvements to statute to allow farmers to continue the proper management of their agricultural activities; spreading manure, etc., with less fear of entering into lawsuits with neighbors. It was the most contentious bill in our committee as it dealt with the subject of farms and neighbors and nuisance. Thanks to good people who find understanding, nuisance lawsuits rarely occur. On rare occasions things can get messy, so it's good to have better statute in place to help resolve the situation and avoid court.

H.401 became Act 42 upon signing by Governor Scott. I reported this bill to the House back

in March, and after a few tweaks in the Senate the bill passed through the Senate and House on a voice vote. Act 42 is the highlight of the session for me. The new statute allows home kitchens to produce and sell up to \$30,000 of baked goods and \$10,000 worth of other manufactured foods; beef jerky, quiche, etc., without needing to upgrade to a commercial kitchen. Prior statute allowed only \$125 per week for baked goods. This is a huge gain for one of the backbones of our state; small home based businesses.

H.454, the education bill, was voted on and sent to the governor on Monday. The bill would create new school districts and voting wards, set class minimum sizes, create a construction fund, and set a base per pupil cost factor among other things. The changes outlined in the statute call for several working groups to be appointed to hash out the details. Additional work will be done by the legislature in the upcoming session as well. I will continue to work with members of the House and Senate education committees to ensure that small rural schools such as Cabot School are given ample opportunity and



Rep. Greg Burt

are frustrated with the process and prospects of H.454, my hope is that the working groups, public input and further legislative work will produce a framework that will improve quality and lower the cost trajectory of our schools.

In a bit of a celebration of the July Fourth, I'll highlight a bill that passed out of the House and Senate and I expect to be signed by the governor shortly. S.51 extends tax credits for military veterans as well as those receiving social security. It also enhances the Vermont child tax credit. I am a proponent of reduced taxes, especially for our military veterans, elderly, and young families.

Greg Burt is a Cabot resident representing the Caledonia-Washington District in the Vermont Legislature.

investment to remain open and successful. Although I know many

## Final 2025 Legislative Session Update

by Rep. Leanne Harple

MONTPELIER – This will be my final newsletter of the 2025 session, though I may be in touch throughout the summer and certainly again in fall as the new session shapes up. Please feel free to reach out to me as well if you have legislative questions. I have written a final 2025 Legislative Report for your review that can be found on my website.

It is four pages (we accomplished quite a bit this year), so please do not feel that you have to read all of it, and certainly not in one sitting. It includes all final updates, and my heartfelt appreciation for allowing me to do this

work on behalf of the Northeast Kingdom and all of Vermont.

I will also be offering a live in-person summary Saturday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro, where I will be joined by our Lieutenant Governor John Rodgers, who will also share his perspectives on our progress this year. This will be my final coffee hour until September. I hope that you all have a wonderful summer, and maybe I will see you around the community.

Leanne Harple is the Vt. State Rep. for Greensboro, Craftsbury, Albany and Glover. Harple's complete report on the 2025 legislative session can be found at [vtrepleanneharple.com](http://vtrepleanneharple.com)

## For the record

Last week's story, "Bechdel's Book Talk Draws Supportive Fans" neglected to note that the event was hosted by Hardwick's Galaxy Bookshop. Co-owner Andrea Jones said, "We knew it was going to be a big event and were thrilled Allison agreed to come to Hardwick and end her tour here."

Last week's story, "Local Option Tax Considered, Second Monthly Meeting Added," should have said, "Christine Armstrong said current room sales in Greensboro approach \$1 million per year. The additional 1% tax would roughly raise \$10k. The state would keep 25%, sending back \$7,500 to the town annually." The \$1 million figure she noted did not include meals or alcohol sales.

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Legals Being Arrested

To the editor:

Americans, citizens and those in the country legally, are being arrested for asking questions and speaking up.

One person taken into custody and handcuffed last week in Los Angeles was U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif. He did not remain silent. Below is a link to a speech he gave

on the floor of the U.S. Senate after he was released and went back to Washington, D.C.

He is a patriot and believes in Democracy. He offers words of warning and wisdom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-mKheWHHDw>

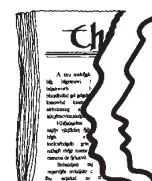
Ross Connelly  
Hardwick



An energetic Aaron Snowden performs with the East Coast Inspirational Singers, Saturday at the Highland Center for the Arts during a rousing performance of songs that crossed the genres of Gospel, R&B and Blues with a bit of Jazz flair. Behind him are (from left) Kennard Valentine, Terrance Talley and Javon Williams

photo by Paul Fixx

The  
Hardwick  
Gazette



PEOPLE  
SERVING  
PEOPLE

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Final Bill Passes Legislature

by Sen. Scott Beck

MONTPELIER – H.454 was the final bill that passed Vermont’s legislature this year after an unusual and difficult conference committee that had to rectify two versions of a bill, neither of which had majority support in the House or Senate. The Governor intends to sign H.454 and begin a long process to transform Vermont’s PreK-to-12 education system into one that provides increased opportunities for Vermont children at a price that Vermonters can afford.

In H.454 Vermont’s education commitment of \$2.3B (FY25 dollars) is maintained with future growth controlled by inflation and weighted student count. Under H.454, 225 towns would receive a property tax decrease and 26 would experience an increase. The 26 would receive considerably more school funding than they do now. All 12 towns in the Caledonia Senate District would receive a property tax decrease with a combined tax savings of \$17.5M over five years, assuming full implementation.

Districts are starting to unpack H.454 and determine what it means for their students, educators and school(s). The ironic conclusion is that this bill doesn’t mean anything for Vermont’s 119 existing school districts. In order for H.454 to be implemented, districts and supervisory unions, as much as practical, would have to be reorganized into much larger units between 4,000 and

8,000 students. For reference, Caledonia County has about 4,300 students. Champlain Valley Union is Vermont’s largest school district with 4,125 students. If district reorganization isn’t successful in 2026, then almost all of H.454 won’t be implemented, including the foundation funding formula.

Under H.454 new districts would be reorganized and begin operating in the 2028-2029 school year. A foundation funding formula would also begin in the same year and be fully implemented over five years. This foundation would pay districts a base student amount (\$15,033 in FY25 dollars) along with a weighted amount for each student based on their unique characteristics: poverty, English language learners and special education. Small schools with less than 100 students and/or sparse areas operating small schools would receive additional aid in the form of grants. The base, weights and grants would increase annually according to inflation and be regularly reviewed for accuracy. Districts would be able to spend 10 percent more than the foundation base with voter approval in 2028-2029, gradually becoming 5 percent in 2033.

Notably absent from H.454 are grade and career and technical (CTE) education weights. All CTE’s (public and independent) have historically been allowed to set their tuition in Vermont and secondary grades have always



Sen. Scott Beck

been weighted to reflect the increased costs of specialized instruction in grades 9 to 12. These factors are not important to districts that operate all grades and a CTE center, but they are terribly important to districts that do not operate a CTE and/or all grades. Without weights funding will not be available for additional costs associated with secondary grades or CTE instruction in much of Vermont, especially rural Vermont. It is worth pointing out that all public and independent secondary schools in our area receive students from other districts and would be negatively impacted by this omission. If this issue is not addressed, H.454 will not work in rural Vermont where public tuition and supervisory unions are prevalent.

Classroom sizes attracted a lot of interest in H.454. I am not a

proponent of this idea and instead would prefer that education professionals be given flexibility without empowering bean-counters. In the end, the idea of classroom sizes was watered down to 10 students for first grade increasing gradually to 18 for secondary grades. Many types of classes are excluded and enforcement is optional. In addition, all references to school size were dropped in H.454. I welcome the softening, but am wary of other legislators that do not understand rural Vermont and the importance of schools to rural communities.

Invariably, whenever transformational education change is proposed in Montpelier, people speculate which districts will win and which will lose. In the case of H.454 it is impossible to say because existing districts would no longer exist. H.454 will ensure that all Vermont children are equally supported with flexibility for districts choosing to spend up to 5 percent more.

H.454 is the opening move in what will be a long and important process to transform Vermont’s PreK-to-12 education system. There are many other issues to address, including cost factors with healthcare front and center. I will provide periodic updates, please reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas.

Sen. Scott Beck represents the Caledonia Senate District and is the Vermont Senate Minority Leader.

## Home Fries by Kay Spaulding



Jug Brook Road in Cabot is closed for construction at its intersection with W. Hill Pond Road in Cabot, Saturday, June 14. The upper and lower culverts are being upgraded and a bypass has been installed at the lower culvert excavation to dry out the area prior to installation of concrete footers, stem walls and box culverts.

photo by Paul Fixx

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Still, We Persist

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Donald Trump is a tough target for journalists and commentators to hit. Like a high-flying bomber that spews metallic chaff out its back end to confuse the radar of missiles, he so consistently floods the news cycles with outrages that by the time anyone has the chance to report, comment on, or fact-check each one, there's another one coming, and the current news is passé, yesterday, and seemingly irrelevant.

On the other hand, he's an irresistible target. Even though surrounded, concealed, and supported by the usual machinery of the chief executive's office (think Grover Cleveland's secret surgery for mouth cancer, Woodrow Wilson's stroke-induced incapacity covered by his wife or Ronald Reagan's increasingly obvious dementia), he can't resist the temptation to go toe-to-toe with inquiring reporters, and the resulting word salads of his unscripted responses are legendary.

Still, reporting them verbatim seems to do as much damage to the man as cannonballs bouncing off the hull of the USS Constitution.

You've got to go after the things that irritate or enrage him. You can spot them by the attention they command in his late-night litanies of injuries. The "failing New York Times" is a favorite target of his, which for us ought to be an indicator of its reliability. The social media sites of the internet, however, which may actually report more mis- and dis-information than facts, and at least one opinion per user, is his favorite wading pool.

So it's pretty clear why many of us snipers on the fringes of the opposition are constantly after Donald like a wolf pack of U-boats, each hoping for a lucky shot that it's becoming increasingly apparent none of us will ever get. Still, we persist.

The problem with that pursuit of what we fashion truth, clarity and justice in an ever-more repressive atmosphere, but which may in essence be little more than a need to express our opinions with some presumed authority, is that we lose sight of what we claim

to be after, a just and equitable society, and focus instead on confounding and convicting the president. Robert Frost describes it in "Mending Wall": "The work of hunters is another thing: I have come after them and made repair where they have left not one stone on a stone, but they would have the rabbit out of hiding, to please the yelping dogs."

It's a trap that many of us fall into without realizing it till too late. Any evidence will do to strengthen our case (we should face the fact that no evidence reinforcing an opinion ever will change a contrary mind). We forget the simple profundity usually attributed to the late Senator Danial Patrick Moynihan: "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts." Buoyed by the reported differences between the nationwide attendance at the No Kings! rallies and the dismal attendance and spirit of the Washington parade on Flag Day, I exuberantly referred to a photograph of the Golden Gate bridge so crammed with people that it had visibly sagged, and a photo of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem supposedly cosplaying in a fireman's helmet and a wetsuit. An alert editor, however, pointed out to me that the bridge photograph was from 1987 and the Noem photo from "The Onion." Whoops!

"Chagrin" barely expresses the feeling evoked by those corrections. Not only had I, in my enthusiasm to skewer the source of so much pain among my friends, been careless and fallen for those untruths, but I had passed them on, as well. As the old saying goes, a lie can run around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

It's a humbling thing to be so completely wrong, and deeply embarrassing to have propagated a lie in support of an opinion, or in this case a personal attack. Never mind that it's done routinely nearly everywhere; even the president has so utterly confused our perceptions that many of us hardly know what to believe anymore. The best current example is his claim that his recent bombing raid on Iran's uranium-enriching facilities was "completely successful." Maybe so. I doubt it. In any case, Josef Goebbel's ideal state is being realized, in which nobody knows for sure what's true, and as a result believes almost nothing. What a wonderful way to live!

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"LOOKS LIKE THE EPA JUST WENT RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW!"

## MEETING MEMO

### Tuesday, July 1

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

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

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

### Wednesday, July 2

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

### Thursday, July 3

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

### Tuesday, July 9

Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st Floor. Information: (802) 249-6004, Energy.Coordinator@

HardwickVT.org.

### Wednesday, July 9

Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m. Town Clerks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### OUR E-MAILS

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

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

# IN THE GARDEN

## Rail Trail Signs Ask for Identification Help

BURLINGTON – Visitors on Vermont’s rail trails this summer will notice new signs asking for their help identifying a fast-growing introduced invasive tree called tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This tree is the preferred host of the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an invasive sap-feeding insect that poses a serious threat to Vermont’s vineyards and recreation economy.

Tree-of-heaven grows rapidly in disturbed areas such as roadsides, railroad corridors and urban edges. It can be hard to tell apart from native lookalikes, such as sumac and black walnut, but learning to identify it is a key step in early detection of the spotted lanternfly, which has not yet become established in Vermont.

“We’re asking trail users to keep an eye out for tree-of-heaven and report any sightings to [vtinvasives.org](http://vtinvasives.org),” says Ginger Nickerson, forest pest education coordinator for University of Vermont Extension. “If we can find and map these trees, we can

better monitor for spotted lanternfly and take quick action to prevent it from spreading into Vermont.”

Report sightings by taking a picture and submitting it using the “ReportIT” link on the website.

If in an area with spotted lanternfly, check the vehicle before returning to Vermont. What appears to be a patch of mud may be an egg mass. Adults and nymphs also can hitchhike in cracks and crevices on vehicles.

“Together, we can protect Vermont’s landscapes and keep this invasive pest out,” Nickerson concludes. “Be alert, stay informed and enjoy Vermont’s wonderful rail trails!”

For help in identifying the tree-of-heaven, check out [go.uvm.edu/tree-of-heaven](http://go.uvm.edu/tree-of-heaven). For more information about the spotted lanternfly and its feeding behavior and management, go to [go.uvm.edu/lanternflies](http://go.uvm.edu/lanternflies).

To request copies of the trail sign, contact [ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu](mailto:ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu).



The spotted lanternfly, while not yet established in Vermont, has been found in neighboring states and may soon spread into the state.

photo by Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

## In My Nature by Abrah Griggs



### Help Find This Tree!

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is an introduced tree that can form dense clumps and crowd out other plants. It is also the favored plant of spotted lanternfly, an agricultural pest. If you see this plant, please report it to [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org).

**How to Identify Tree-of-Heaven**

Tree-of-heaven has compound or feather-like leaves, made up of smaller alternately arranged leaflets. Each leaf can be 1 to 4 feet long.

Tree-of-heaven leaflets have small glands at the base. When crushed they smell like burnt peanut butter.

**What You Can Do**

Your observations can help protect Vermont’s landscape. Take a photo and report it to [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org).

**Tree-of-heaven saplings look a lot like sumac. Here are some ways you can tell them apart:**

- Tree-of-heaven leaflets have smooth edges.
- Sumac leaflets have serrations or teeth on their edges.
- Female tree-of-heaven have winged seeds or samaras in the fall.
- Sumac have large, upright clusters of fruit or drupes in the fall.

Logos for University of Vermont, Extension College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, USDA, and VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION.

UVM is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. This ad was funded in part by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. It may not express APHIS’ views.

This educational poster has been posted on rail trails throughout Vermont to help trail users identify the tree-of-heaven so they can report sightings.



Outdoor recreationists are asked to report any sightings of the tree-of-heaven, which is one of the preferred hosts of the spotted lanternfly, an invasive pest.

photo by Richard Gardner

**Thanks**  
for saying  
you saw it in the  
*Hardwick Gazette*  
[hardwickgazette.org](http://hardwickgazette.org)

# IN THE GARDEN

## Strawberry Season is in Full Swing

by Dr. Vern Grubinger

BURLINGTON – There’s nothing like the taste of a fresh-picked strawberry. Sweet, juicy and flavorful, it’s the first fruit to ripen on our local farms, and this year’s crop is a good one.

The buds that produce strawberries were formed last fall. Growers then tucked the plants away under a layer of straw to protect them from winter damage. Flowers that opened this spring turned into berries in about a month.

Strawberries are grown on many diversified vegetable and berry farms. They’re an important crop because they provide early season income and have a high value per acre. However, the risks are also high. In addition to potential winter injury, early spring frosts, heat waves during harvest and a variety of pests can lead to crop losses.

The 2022 U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Census of Agriculture counted 125 farms with 168 acres of strawberries in Vermont. A typical yield is about 6,000 pounds an acre, so over a million pounds of Vermont strawberries must be picked, sold and eaten in a relatively short time. Almost all these berries are sold directly to customers or to local stores and distributors.

Nationally, about 1.4 million tons of strawberries are produced each year. The vast majority come from specialized farms in California, with Florida a distant second in production. These berries get shipped to stores and processors.

Most of the strawberries grown in Vermont are called June-bearers, for obvious reasons. There are also some strawberry varieties called ever-bearing, which

bloom and fruit all summer long. These are trickier to grow because they require ongoing attention and are more vulnerable to insect attack later in the summer.

Wild strawberries have been eaten since ancient times, but the development of modern varieties was a fairly recent process, involving a lot of plant breeding including the hybridization of different strawberry species.

“Hovey” was the name of the first American strawberry variety resulting from plant breeding. It was developed by Charles Hovey, a nurseryman in Cambridge, Mass., in 1834.

“Wilson” was bred in 1851 by James Wilson of Albany, N.Y., who crossed “Hovey” with other varieties. Wilson was productive, firm and hardy and could be grown in many types of soil. It also had perfect flowers, containing both male and female reproductive structures, so could be grown by itself without another variety for pollination.

Wilson changed the strawberry into a major crop that would be grown across the continent. The ease with which it could be grown, and the availability of railroads for transporting the crop, led to strawberry fever that dramatically increased production in the 1860s.

Arthur Howard learned to love strawberries as a young man while living with the Perfectionist community in Putney. He later developed “Howard 17” at his farm in Belchertown, Mass. That variety dominated strawberry production in the early 1900s. It had tolerance to leaf spot, leaf scorch and virus diseases, and it formed many crowns with early flower bud initiation. For decades it was important for commercial use and breeding.



Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen on local farms in Vermont with June-bearer varieties available to pick in June. photo by Vern Grubinger

Before 1920, strawberry breeding was done by growers, but since then most new varieties have been developed by scientists at federal and state experiment stations. One renowned strawberry breeder was Dr. George M. Darrow, a Vermonter who was chief horticulturist at the USDA. He improved the disease resistance of strawberries

and developed dozens of varieties that helped create the fruits that we eat today.

To find a farm where you can pick your own fresh, delicious local strawberries, visit [vermontpickyourown.org](http://vermontpickyourown.org).

Dr. Vern Grubinger is the University of Vermont Extension vegetable and berry specialist.



Several berry operations are open in Vermont in early summer for customers to pick their own strawberries. photo by Vern Grubinger



During spring frosts, growers apply irrigation to protect strawberry blossoms because as ice forms it gives off heat.

photo Vern Grubinger

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# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Helping House Bats Raise Pups

by Kent McFarland

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – Hear a new rustling up above? It could be mice. Or it could be another small, adorable, furry critter with wings.

Little Brown and Big Brown Bats, also referred to as house bats, are common visitors to residences from about mid-April to October (although the Big Brown Bat may overwinter in attics). These two species are frequently found in buildings, and sometimes in tree hollows or under peeling bark.

During the summer months,

females of both species form colonies, sometimes in large numbers, in attics, barns, sheds, or under shingles. This is where they give birth and raise their young. Males also frequent buildings, either alone or in small groups. The females give birth to a single pup in late June or July. At birth each weighs less than an ounce with flesh colored skin covered with fine silky hair. They open their eyes for the first time within 24 hours. The pups in the colony will sometimes huddle close together for warmth while their mothers go out to forage for insects during the night.



Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

They won't be able to fly for 21 to 28 days.

The Little Brown Bat used to be one of the most common tenants in some buildings and bat houses, but due to the devastating effects of a fungal disease known as

White-Nose Syndrome, this species has suffered a 95 percent population decline in recent years and are now protected in Vermont. By putting up a bat house, you can provide critical roosting sites for bats (that aren't in your own attic!) and benefit from their insect-eating abilities. Especially in the summer, many bats and their pups are short-term visitors, so no need to panic. But if you do have evidence of long-term residents, Vermont Fish & Wildlife has information on what to do.

*Kent McFarland is a member of the staff at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.*

## Life in a Shell: Eastern Box Turtle

by Loren Merrill

MILLBROOK, N.Y. – As a budding naturalist growing up in the concrete-heavy environs of Boston, I would regularly thumb through my family's collection of nature books and daydream about the creatures within. One species I was particularly drawn to was the eastern box turtle. These charismatic terrestrial turtles have high-domed shells festooned with colorful yellow or orange markings, and stout legs built for walking. Notwithstanding their similarities to tortoises, box turtles are part of the "water turtle" family Emydidae, which includes species like the eastern painted turtle and spotted turtle. Box turtles also have a hinged plastron (bottom shell) that allows them to close up shop in the front and rear, creating a box that protects their entire body from predators.

Formerly, the eastern box turtle's range extended from southern Maine and New Hampshire across to the upper Midwest and then down to Texas and North Florida. Today, their foothold in northern New England is tenuous, with no known populations remaining in Maine or Vermont, and only a handful of breeding groups in southern New Hampshire. Small pockets of turtles persist in Massachusetts and the Hudson Valley in New York.

In the southern part of their range, eastern box turtles can be active year-round, while up north that window narrows to the six or seven months from early spring until early autumn. During the cooler spring and fall months, box turtles are often active throughout the day, alternating between basking in the sun and foraging. In the warmer summer months, they may burrow under logs or into the

substrate during the middle part of the day to avoid overheating. Their activity peaks in May and June, when males are spurred into action by amorous thoughts, and mated females go searching for nest sites. When a female has found a nice sandy location, she digs a hole and deposits four to seven eggs, buries them, and leaves them to their fate.

Ten years ago on a cool late spring morning, I stumbled across a batch of recently emerged baby box turtles. Five of these tiny turtles, each about the size of a quarter and a perfect replica of an adult, were crawling around the dewy grass at the edge of an agricultural field. The babies had just dug their way to freedom after hatching the previous fall and overwintering within the nest. They now propelled themselves through the towering grass, struggling to make it to the relative safety of the shrubby forest edge. Survival prospects for baby box turtles are grim, less than 1 in 100 will survive to adulthood, and many become bite-sized snacks for local predators, including an array of birds, mammals, and snakes. It was no surprise that the baby box turtles were in a rush to get out of the open and under cover.

Eastern box turtles can be found in many habitats, including damp meadows, deciduous woodlands, pinelands, shrublands, and even suburban landscapes. Adults are opportunistic omnivores, dining on the food items du jour: plant matter, insects, worms, snails, amphibians, eggs, the odd bit of carrion, and mushrooms. There are claims that eastern box turtles can safely consume poisonous mushrooms and may be able to incorporate the toxins into their tissues, thereby making the turtles noxious to potential predators, but



Box Turtle

this anecdotal speculation needs more thorough research.

Despite their remarkable anti-predator traits and flexible diets, these turtles are declining across their range due to several factors. Habitat loss and fragmentation from development may be the biggest threat, but mortality from vehicle strikes, emerging infectious diseases like ranavirus, and elevated rates of nest-predation due to burgeoning raccoon populations all play a role. Box turtles also have to contend with illicit collecting from the wild for the pet trade and

black-market cuisine. Many states that are home to eastern box turtles have conferred some degree of protection upon them, and a number of state agencies and herpetological societies are interested in eastern box turtle sightings. If you happen to come across one while doing yard work, out on a hike, or along a road, check to see if your state has a form to report your observation.

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

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# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Up and Down Again: How Montane Birds Navigate Spring Weather

by Jason Hill

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION** – It's a sunny day in early June, and your plan is to beat the I-93 summer crowds with a hike up the Franconia Ridge in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. But as you ascend, you reach a point where the trail disappears under a monorail of packed snow. You stumble and post-hole every few steps, the microspikes you brought effectively worthless. You laugh out loud, throw in the towel, and retreat to the safety of the lower elevations and some dry socks.

If you notice a Bicknell's Thrush sitting quietly in the hardwood understory around the parking lot, you might think you've detected it on its spring migratory return up the mountain. But what if it's already been up and come back down?



*Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Empidonax flaviventris)*

Each May, long-distance migrants like Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Bicknell's Thrush, and Blackpoll Warbler return to New England to breed in the spruce-fir forests that cap our highest peaks after overwintering thousands of miles away in the Caribbean and Central or South America. You might have seen one in your backyard in May.

Now, there's growing evidence that montane birds sometimes do what we do on a weekend hike: move up and down the slopes.

While altitudinal migration is typically discussed in seasonal terms, birds heading uphill to breed and downhill to overwinter, short-term or daily elevational movements are less well known, but potentially just as important. In Hawaii, where I studied montane honeycreepers, we'd gather on a volcanic outcropping at the end of the day and watch birds flying above the canopy, heading to lower forest far below. The likely reason: warmer nighttime temperatures and richer foraging, improving energy conservation and early-morning food access. A 2017 study described this behavior as essential to their survival but not without tradeoffs. At lower elevations, honeycreepers are more exposed to avian malaria carried by mosquitoes.

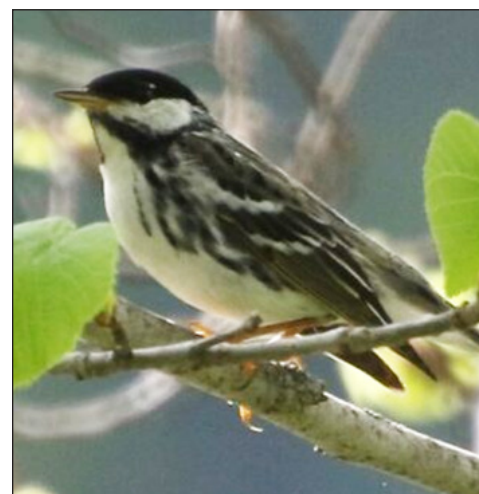
Here in Vermont, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies' (VCE) Kent McFarland observed radio-tagged Bicknell's Thrushes



*Bicknell's Thrush (Catharus bicknelli)*

abandoning their high-elevation habitat during late spring snowstorms, retreating downslope into hardwood forests where they do not breed, likely to wait out the conditions.

Other recent research in the Alps supports this pattern, finding that Northern Wheatears



*Blackpoll Warbler (Setophaga striata)*

equipped with pressure-sensitive tags regularly left their territories. One wheatear moved about 1,000 meters downslope from its breeding territory on multiple occasions in response to a snow storm, and all four birds in the study moved 50 to 200 meters upslope every night to roost outside of their territories, possibly to reduce predation risk or seek warmer microclimates. An earlier 2021 study, also in the Alps, found that birds adjusted elevation daily in response to snow cover, particularly early in the breeding season.

These evolutionarily adaptive movements: daily (or even just lasting hours at a time), flexible and weather-driven are likely more widespread than we realize. Yet they've only been formally documented in a handful of species. If montane birds rely on lower elevation refugia during poor weather or food scarcity, it could have important implications for how we conserve these species across the full elevational gradient.

So when you're out on a hike this June, keep a lookout for birds that are far below their expected breeding grounds. A Fox Sparrow at the trailhead isn't lost, and it's not a late bloomer. She may already have been up to the top and back again, flexing her evolutionary muscles in response to a dynamic mountain environment.

*Jason Hill is a member of the staff at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.*



Waterville Valley Recreation Department riders (from left) Dmitry Smelensky, Warren Wheelock and Parks and Adventure Manager Tyler Durham load nine bicycles into a trailer behind their bus after a ride on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Other riders visited Hardwick stores, including Riverside Cycles during this weekly trip of the Central New Hampshire group.

photo by Paul Fixx



Hardwick Road Crew members Barry McLaren (left) and Perley Allen set forms for new sidewalks in front of the Maple Street Apartments, Monday, June 16. They plan to continue down that side of Church Street and around the corner at the Memorial Building onto N. Main St. this summer.

photo by Paul Fixx

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Making Books Workshop, June 26

CRAFTSBURY — On Thursday, June 26, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., the Simpson Library will host a making books with kids workshop with Tule Fogg. The library is located at 1972 East Craftsbury Road. Admission is free. More info at [www.jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://www.jwsimpsonmemorial.org)

## Town-Wide Lawn Sale, June 28

CABOT — The annual town-wide lawn sale and strawberry social will be held in Cabot Saturday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A \$5 lunch featuring a local burger or McKenzie hot dog with a drink will be offered. Locally grown strawberries with homemade biscuits and whipped cream will be available at the Cabot Church on the Common. A map will be available for homes offering yard sales and tables will be set up on the Common. Rain or shine. The event is to benefit the United Church of Cabot.

## Mushrooms Walk with Joe Nudell, June 28

HARDWICK — Saturday, June 28, beginning at 9 a.m., Joe Nudell will lead a walk on the Hardwick Trails to find, identify and learn about fungi, abundant in the woods. Joe will answer questions like “What’s safe and what isn’t?” “Where and when are the best places to look?” “Why does it look like that?”

The Hardwick Trails Committee sponsors this free event and invites everyone. Call Norma Wiesen at 472-6517 with questions.

## GHS Opening Reception, June 29

GREENSBORO — Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Greensboro Historical Society (GHS) the Museum will reopen the GHS exhibit: Rails to Trails. This exhibit focuses on the arrival and departure of the St. Johnsbury & Lamoille County railroad in Greensboro Bend as well as the transition of the rail line to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The expanded displays include maps, timelines, photos, press clippings, personal anecdotes, and train-themed artwork, plus a kids’ corner and an array of railroad industry artifacts. Refreshments will be served.

The GHS Museum is located at 29 Breezy Avenue in Greensboro next to Willey’s Store. For more information, visit [www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org).

## The Magic of the Picture Book, June 29

CRAFTSBURY COMMON — The Craftsbury Public Library will host author Christine McDonnell on Sunday, June 29 at 4 p.m. McDonnell will lead a workshop exploring this form where words and pictures merge to create a world, often in just 32 pages and under 500 words. Workshop participants will examine the parts and structure of the picture book, its challenges and possibilities and view examples by the best contemporary authors and illustrators. Teachers, librarians, parents, writers, and artists are only some of the groups of people who may be interested in delving into this topic.

For more information, contact the library at (802) 586-9683.

## Drawing Games with Leif Goldberg, July 1

HARDWICK — On Tuesday, July 1, at 2 p.m., ages eight and up can participate in “Dada for Kids”, collaborative drawing games on big paper with lots of colors inspired by the parlor games of the Dada-Surrealist artists of the 1920s. For more information, contact [jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-5948.

## Writing Workshops for Those Affected by Flooding

HARDWICK — Writing workshops will be held in Hardwick at the Jeudevine Memorial Library on Thursday, July 10 and July 17, at 7 p.m., for people affected by the summer floods.

Whether directly affected by floods or witnessed town or neighborhood reeling from the outcomes of floods, these workshops provide a place to tell stories, process thoughts and put words down on paper. Bess O’Brien from Kingdom County Productions and Writers for Recovery will lead the workshops. The workshops will consist of seven-minute writing prompts. No writing experience is needed. The workshops are held in partnership between Writers for Flood Recovery, the Jeudevine Memorial Library and the Town of Hardwick.

For more information, contact the Jeudevine Memorial Library at (802) 472-5948. All library programs are free and open to the public. The library is located at 93 N. Main Street.

## Ballet Camp, Workshops Begin July 7

WOLCOTT — A ballet day camp for ages 6-10-plus will be held July 7 to July 11 by Ballet Wolcott at the Wolcott Town Hall. Ages 6-9 will meet at 9 a.m. to noon, and ages 10 and up will meet from 1 to 5 p.m. The camp is dance focused, with students to be immersed in movement, dance styles, arts and crafts and circus skills. Students will learn about the stories of the classic ballets and then explore how ballet uses technique, choreography and physical expression to tell the story.

Special workshops, open to ages 6 to adults, on dance and movement will be offered Tuesday and Thursday, from July 15 to July 31, Ballet Wolcott is offering

special workshops in various styles of dance and movement, including musical theater, tap, jazz, circus arts, and more. Many of these workshops are open to all ages (6 to adults), and taught by Ballet Wolcott’s Gabrielle Berger. Special guests include African dance and drumming with Jordan Mensa’s Shidaa Project. Ballet Wolcott co-founder, Helene Nilsen, will offer storytelling and movement for young movers ages 3-5. Sojourn Gudorf Johnston, Vermont native and dancer with Ballet Frontier of Texas, visits Ballet Wolcott as a guest instructor. For more information see [ballet-wolcott.com](http://ballet-wolcott.com) or call (802) 585-9176.

## Legislative Update at HCA, June 28

GREENSBORO — Lt. Governor and Representative Leanne Harple will present a legislative update for residents of Craftsbury, Greensboro, Albany and Glover, Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro.

Legislators will discuss the outcomes of the 2025 legislative session and what lies ahead.

There will be a time to ask questions and a hands-on activity led by former state representative Katherine Sims designed to help make attendees voices heard in Montpelier.

Refreshments will be provided at the event organized by the Greensboro Communications Working Group and the Craftsbury Freedom and Unity Committee.

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Erickson Named Trustee at Sterling College

CRAFTSBURY — Christina Erickson has been named to the board of trustees at Sterling College. As director of Local Motion, Vermont’s statewide bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization, she leads a team of 13 full-time, year-round staff and over 30 seasonal employees.

Before leading Local Motion, Erickson spent over 20 years advancing sustainability in higher education, with roles at the University of Vermont, Champlain College and Sterling College. She began her time at Sterling College in the Career Resource Center and went on to serve as a faculty member for more than six years. During that time, she taught courses and contributed to campus sustainability efforts through the Sustainable Sterling initiative, among many other contributions.

Erickson holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources with a focus on Sustainability Education from the University of Vermont, an M.S. from the Audubon Expedition



Christina Erickson

Institute at Lesley University’s Ecological Teaching & Learning Program and a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Sociology from St. Lawrence University.

She lives in the Old North End of Burlington with her husband, daughter, dog, bunny, and chickens, and has been a walk and bike commuter since 2006. Christina enjoys skiing, canoeing, growing and processing food, and generally spending time outdoors. In addition to serving on Sterling College’s Board of Trustees, she is a board member of the North Star Community Hall and a mentor with the King Street Center.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Plainfield Farmers Market, June 27

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Farmers Market will host a weekly market on Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. in the village featuring a variety of farm, food and craft vendors as well as live local music and a potluck community meal. The next market is Friday, June

27. Farmers market vendors offer fresh fruits and veggies, meats, baked goods, pantry and prepared foods, clothing and crafts, herbal products, and beverages.

The farmers market is located at 13 Mill Street.

## Anne Sexton Celebration, June 29

ST. JOHNSBURY – Sunday, June 29, beginning at 4 p.m., the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum will host an Anne Sexton celebration with authors Dawn Skorczewski and Rachel Hadas. Anne Sexton, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1967, is credited as an inventor of a new kind of “confessional” poetry. She died by suicide in 1974, after a

long battle with mental illness and addiction. After an introduction to Sexton’s life and work by scholar Dawn Skorczewski, members of the audience may read her work and bring an Anne Sexton poem to share. Wine and cheese reception will follow the event. This event is free, ADA accessible, and open to the public.

## Meal Kit Pick Up, July 2

### Free Summer Meals begins July 7

by OSSU

HARDWICK – OSSU will begin regular Monday through Friday summer grab-and-go breakfast and lunch pickups at meal sites on Monday, July 7, continuing through Friday, August 8. Registration is not required for these meals. These meal sites will not be open July 2 to 6, other than the Hardwick Elementary site for pre-ordered meal kit pickups at the designated times. Watch ([bit.ly/ossu-free-summer-meals](http://bit.ly/ossu-free-summer-meals)) for more information.

For those who ordered a five-day meal kit by the deadline of June 18, the pick-up date will

be Wednesday, July 2, from noon to 3 p.m., at Hardwick Elementary School at the kitchen access on the Holton Hill side of the building.

No walk-ins without a pre-order will be accommodated.

Each box will require immediate refrigeration and will contain five days of breakfast and lunch and milk, for the number of children ages 18 and under in the household specified on the pre-order form. Lunch items will be easy to assemble and prepare. There will be no deliveries and boxes will not be held before or after the pick-up window. Any boxes reserved but not picked up during the pick-up window will be donated.

## Greensboro Celebrates Freedom and Unity, July 5

by David Kelley

GREENSBORO – On Saturday, July 5, the Town of Greensboro will be celebrating its Funky Fourth once again. Tourists, friends and neighbors (and especially the best neighbors any state could have, Canadians) come to the party. Greensboro will be celebrating the Declaration of Independence and those fundamental Vermont values of Freedom and Unity, the state’s motto.

The festivities begin at 10 a.m., with the annual Independence Day parade down Breezy Avenue (dogs, horses and cows are welcome). At 11:30 a.m., there is a free picnic at the town hall. There will be sandwiches, hot dogs and ice cream for all. At the same time there will be a

silent dessert auction, a farmers market and at 11:45 a.m., there will be a dunk tank for friends, family and politicians.

In the afternoon there is a book sale at the Greensboro Free Library, an open house at the Historical Society, swimming at Caspian Lake Beach and biking on the Rail Trail in Greensboro Bend. Caspian Arts is having the opening day of their summer art show at the Greensboro Grange starting at 10 a.m., on Saturday, July 5.

The evening’s festivities start at 5:30 p.m, with outdoor games, a picnic (fee) and mini golf at the Highland Center for the Arts. At 6:30 p.m., the Highland Center will be presenting a concert with the Vermont Philharmonic. The concert is free and open to all.



Vaiva Velzis (left), Hazen Union Community Schools Coordinator presents the Community Impact Award to Reeve Basom (center), CAE Place-Based Education Coordinator. Jen Olson (right), is the Hazen Union Work Based Learning Coordinator. photo by Bethany M. Dunbar

## Basom Receives Community Impact Award

by OSSU

HARDWICK – Center for an Agricultural Economy’s (CAE) Place-Based Education Coordinator, Reeve Basom, was honored at Hazen Union High School’s awards ceremony on June 13 for her commitment to the students at Hazen. The award was presented by Work Based Learning Coordinator, Jen Olson, and Community Schools Coordinator Vaiva Velzis.

The statement of recognition says, “The Community Impact Award is presented to individuals and organizations whose partnerships and contributions have made a lasting, meaningful difference in the lives of our students and school. This award recognizes a community partner who has gone above and beyond to create educational opportunities, make meaningful connections with students, and strengthen connections between our school and our community.

“The individual we are recognizing this year works

quietly behind the scenes at Hazen supporting teachers, classes, projects, field trips and more. Whether bringing snacks to a meeting, coordinating repairs on the greenhouse, ordering new equipment for the home-ec room, making bouquets for teachers at the start of the new year, or serving as the backbone to Hazen’s most popular class, Recipe for Human Connection, this year’s recipient has served our community with a joyful spirit that has raised us up.

“This year, we proudly honor Reeve Basom for her unwavering commitment to our students and Hazen Union School. Through her generous support, collaborative spirit, and dedication to youth, she has opened doors to new experiences, provided valuable resources, and inspired our students. Her contributions have not only enriched students’ lives but have also strengthened the fabric of our school community.

“We are deeply grateful for Reeve and the Center for an Agricultural Economy’s partnership.”

## Magic the Gathering Tournament, Thursday, July 3

HARDWICK – From 11a.m., to 1 p.m., ages 12 and up can bring their own deck to compete in a Magic the Gathering tournament

on July 3. For more information, please contact [jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or call (802) 472-5948.

## Building a Comic Strip, July 8

HARDWICK – Tuesday, July 8, at 2 p.m., ages 7 and up can learn the basics of building a comic strip, from writing out a script, sketching thumbnails and putting

it all together. All levels of art experience are welcome. For more information, contact [jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-5948.

# EDUCATION

## CCV Announces Spring 2025 President's List

MONTPELIER — Chloe Vermont (CCV). Brelsford, of Wolcott, was named This honor recognizes to the spring 2025 President's full-time students with a 4.0 grade List at Community College of point average.

## CCV Announces Spring 2025 Student Honors List

MONTPELIER — The of Cabot. Jessica Mason, of following students at the East Calais and Grace Gouge of Community College of Vermont Marshfield. (CCV) were named to the spring This honor recognizes 2025 Student Honors List: Darci part-time students with a 4.0 Showalter and Hannah Wirth grade point average.

## CCV Announces Spring Dean's List

MONTPELIER — The tensen of Hardwick and Peyton following students at the Tilton of Wolcott. Community College of Vermont This honor recognizes full-time (CCV) were named to the spring students with a grade point average 2025 Dean's List: Baylie Chris- between 3.5 and 3.99.

## Vermont State University Announces Spring Graduates

AREA TOWNS – Vermont Ryan Blaney and Taylor Masse State University (VTSU) of Craftsbury, Hakon Hanson, announces the following students Jessica Rich and Simeon Schrum are part of the Class of 2025. of Marshfield, Charmone Lloyd of Wolcott, Angel Mason and Felicia Weeks of East Calais, Charlie Nestor, Macy Vogan and Jackson Aubuchon of Hardwick, L. Roen Prowe, Alana Hay and Letitia Hill of East Hardwick.

The class includes Heather Lumsden of Greensboro, Sydney Arczynski and Peggy Lipscomb of Greensbro Bend, Melissa Austin, Lauren Cleary, Sebastian Morland of Plainfield,

## Vermont State University Announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

AREA TOWNS – The Hakon Hanson of Marshfield; following students were named Nickels Thomas of Plainfield; to the Vermont State University Weslie Carlson, Mark Thompson, Dean's List for the Spring 2025 Harrison Frazee, Quinn Kalp, semester: Ryan Blaney and Fritz Charmone Lloyd and Eliot Fritz of Craftsbury Common; Rosendahl of Wolcott.

Logan Ingalls of Craftsbury; To qualify for this academic Abe Leveillee, Charlie Nestor, honor, students must maintain Lauren Thomas and Macy Vogan full-time status and achieve a 3.5 of Hardwick; Simeon Schrum and or greater semester average.

## Vermont State University Announces Spring 2025 President's List

AREA TOWNS – The Common, Kristen Lavine, Sadie following students were named Skorstad and Ashley Thompson of to the Vermont State University Hardwick.

President's List for the spring To qualify for this highest 2025 semester: Katalina Corp of academic honor, students must Wolcott, Levi Mulligan of Marsh- maintain full-time status and a field, Ida Eames of Craftsbury semester grade point average of 4.0



Students (from left) Sam Koschak, Isabel Sorensen and Hyla Thompson examine handcrafted ceramic bowls at the Craftsbury Academy Empty Bowls Soup Dinner, May 28. *courtesy photo*

## Empty Bowls Soup Dinner Contributes \$2,000 to HAFP

by Craftsbury Academy

CRAFTSBURY – At the Empty Bowls Soup Dinner at Craftsbury Academy, May 28, over 300 community members gathered to share a meal and support the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP), raising more than \$2,000 to support food security for residents in Hardwick, Craftsbury, Albany and surrounding towns.

Craftsbury students created over 100 handcrafted ceramic bowls, each symbolizing the spirit

of giving. Five local ceramic artists donated unique pottery pieces for a silent auction, adding to the event's success.

Twenty individuals and businesses contributed to the meal with approximately 15 crock pots of soup, bread, salads and cookies.

Craftsbury K-12 art teacher Alayne Tetor was instrumental in developing, planning, and seeing to the event's success.

For more information about the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and how to support its mission, visit [nourishhardwick.org](http://nourishhardwick.org)

# OBITUARIES

## Beverly A. Hutchins

MARION, S.C. – Beverly A. Hutchins, 82, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on June 7.

Bev spent the last two years living with her daughter, Christine, and her family, in Marion, S.C. She happily immersed herself into their daily lives, activities and chit chat, as well as her grandson's playful meal preparations. She was able to experience the innocence, joy and laughter of her young great-granddaughter, and the pitter patter of her little feet running around throughout the house. The eldest and the youngest member of the family created a precious bond.

Prior to a debilitating stroke in 2006, Bev was very involved with St. Norbert's Church as the organist and the choir and bell choir director for many years. Her love for music infiltrated the community as she

also played at countless weddings and funerals.

Bev most enjoyed time with her family, playing bingo, watching baseball and hanging out with her best friend, Gert Neill. Bev's playful spirit and sense of humor was cherished by those who were lucky enough to know her.

She is survived and forever missed by her children: Patrice Ellman (Brett) of Cardiff, Calif., Christine Isham (Louis) of Conway, S.C., and Earl Hutchins of North Carolina. She will be lovingly remembered by her seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her sister, Mistie Hurwitz and her best friend, Gert Neill.

A Celebration of Life will be scheduled for a later date in Hardwick and will be announced for those that would like to attend.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Seasonal Sing, June 28

CRAFTSBURY– On Saturday, June 28, from 3 to 5 p.m., the Simpson Library will host a seasonal sing with Heidi Wilson. All ages and voices welcome. Admission is free. More information at [jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://jwsimpsonmemorial.org)

# OBITUARIES

## Kenneth J. Campbell

MORRISVILLE – Kenneth James Campbell, 86, passed away peacefully in the comfort of family at the Central Vermont Medical Center on Thursday, June 19, following a brief illness.

Born in Morrisville on May 11, 1939, Ken was the son of the late James and Winona (Allen) Campbell. On May 10, 1957, Ken married the former Linda Kay Newton in Morrisville.

Ken grew up on the family farm on Randolph Road where he learned many skills and a strong work ethic working alongside his father.

A 1957 graduate of People's Academy, Ken was a proud member of the school's basketball team, winning the Northern Vermont Class B state tournament in 1955. Following graduation, Ken continued to work the family farm and was employed in delivery and sales by the former Eastern State's Farmers' Exchange, a farmer's cooperative, before merging with Grange League Federation, forming Agway. In 1969, Ken went to work for Oneal "Sonny" Demars at Demars Hardware and Rentals in Morrisville where he served as the store and rentals manager until his retirement in 2003.

Ken was most at home in the outdoors. His church was in the woods hunting, fishing the streams and lakes in central and northern Vermont, trapping in his earlier years, as well as cutting and splitting countless cords of wood for his family. A longtime snowmobile enthusiast, he and his wife Linda also enjoyed RV life traveling throughout the United States and splitting their time between Florida in the winter and Vermont in the summer. Ken was an enthusiastic country music fan and very much enjoyed attending shows at the Grand Old Opry as well as numerous country music jams.

In his leisure time, Ken was a voracious reader, and he enjoyed family genealogy and Morrisville and Lamoille County history. He served his community as a founding volunteer member and EMT of the Morrystown Ambulance Service and was a longtime member of the Morrystown Board of Civil Authority. Ken enjoyed a variety of card games, cribbage, was an avid fan of the Red Sox and was a longtime dowser. Ken also served as a justice of the peace and was delighted to have officiated weddings for a number of family members. Ken and Linda, along with family, enjoyed time at their camp on Butler Island.



*Kenneth J. Campbell*

A man with an incredible memory, he could spend hours telling countless stories about people, places and events that spanned the 86 years of his life. Ken was abundantly proud of his children's and grandchildren's sports participation, making it a point to attend events and being the loudest voice in the audience. As a longtime basketball referee, he made it known if the referee made a poor call.

Ken is loved and mourned by his wife of 68 years, Linda Campbell of Morrisville and Bushnell Fla.; their children, Terri-Lee C. Palermo (Chris) of Morrisville, Karen Hussey (Kevin) of South Hero, Lori Renaud (Paul) of Hardwick, Craig Campbell of Morrisville, Heather Campbell (Robert Rushford) of Richmond; 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; a sister, Mary Redmond of East Montpelier; two sisters-in-law, Sukay Campbell of Morrisville, Paula Campbell of Jericho; a son-in-law, Dr. Henry Southall of Morrisville; as well as nieces, nephews and extended family.

Ken is preceded in death by his daughter, Sarah Southall who passed away on February 8, 2023; three brothers, Allen Campbell, Malcom "Mac" Campbell, Ralph Campbell, and brother-in-law, Paul Redmond.

A service celebrating the life of Kenneth James Campbell will be held from the United Community Church of Morrisville on July 11, at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow in the church dining room. Inurnment will take place following the reception in Pleasant View Cemetery, Morrisville. For those who wish, memorial gifts in lieu of flowers would be appreciated to the United Community Church of Morrisville, PO Box 475, Morrisville, VT 05661. Funeral arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service in Hardwick. To send online condolences visit [northernvermontfuneralservice.com](http://northernvermontfuneralservice.com).

## Gloria Blanche White

GREENSBORO BEND – Gloria began the next chapter of life on June 3; after departing this realm peacefully in Greensboro Bend, in the loving care of her daughter and niece.

She was born on January 8, 1938, into the family of Ethel Olive (Paul) and Edson Basford, one of 10 brothers and sisters born during the heart of the Great Depression. It's safe to assume there were a slew of hand-me-downs and shared resources in the Basford household good thing hard times make strong people.

Gloria married the love of her life, Irwin (Sonny) Alton White Jr., on July 14, 1957, in Greensboro, and they resided at the Rocking Rock Farm in Greensboro for many years. They raised two children together in Orleans, with Sonny working at the mill and Gloria dealing Tupperware throughout the Northeast Kingdom. She even worked at Ethan Allen in Orleans alongside her husband for several years, creating a lasting, beautiful memory of them walking to work together each morning.

In 1998, Gloria and Sonny fulfilled a lifelong dream to own their own business, by purchasing Gram & Gramp's Snack Bar in Hardwick. It was the highlight of their retirement, and they ran the restaurant together until 2005.

Gloria was a diehard Celtics fan, an avid puzzler, yard sale attendee and a berry picker extraordinaire, regularly picking berries at her niece, Brenda's home, in Greensboro Bend. She was an avid collector of salt and pepper shakers and all things Tupperware, and she was possibly the best caretaker a cat ever had.

She never missed a holiday or a birthday, sending a card out to arrive just in time, year after year. She also made candy every Christmas and delivered it in person to area businesses, friends and family. She was a simple, yet tough little lady, with a will as



*Gloria Blanche White*

strong as a thousand hummingbirds. She will be deeply missed but forever treasured as a wonderful mother, beloved aunt and granny.

Gloria was predeceased by her husband, eight siblings and several nieces and nephews.

She leaves behind a sister Lorraine Gilfillan of Nashua, N.H.; her daughter Phyllis Crawford of Wilmington; son Michael White of Midland, Texas; four grandchildren: Baylee and Jayden Crawford of Wilmington, and Kevin and Michael White of Midland, Texas; her wonderful friend Mary Piper and beloved cat Callie, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Donations in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society, Healthwell Foundation, & Justice for Dogs.

Special thanks to niece Donna Rae, Caledonia Hospice, Doc Abby, Mary Piper, Frank and Ginette, and Frank and Brenda for watching over her and allowing her to remain at home. God bless you all. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, September 14, 1 p.m., at her home, 1452 The Bend Road, Greensboro Bend.

Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcomed at: [northernvermontfuneralservice.com](http://northernvermontfuneralservice.com)

### OUR E-MAILS

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# Classic Shakespeare on Stage with Strong Casting

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

PLAINFIELD – One of William Shakespeare's most popular plays, "Romeo and Juliet," is currently being performed on two successive weekends this month at the Haybarn Theatre on the Creative Campus of former Goddard College by the Plainfield Little Theater, imaginatively directed by Tom Blachly. It inaugurates the Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival, which will give several other productions this season.

This tragedy, in which five of the main figures die (six if one includes Romeo's mother, who expires from grief), has resonated over the centuries with so many people's experiences and feelings with its eternal themes of young romantic love and toxic communal conflict.

"Romeo and Juliet" was written around 1592, though no written records of its staging survive until 1597. Originally the basic story line was derived from Italian sources and a poem by Arthur Brooke published in 1562, but Shakespeare enriched it with his amazing ability to create vivid characters and

complex plots, all with many passages of poetic beauty.

Set in Verona, a northern Italian city-state, it has as a background the long term enmity between two powerful families, the Montagues and the Capulets, typical in these times of the Renaissance. The underlying hope of the love and marriage between Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet is that it might bridge this chronic polarization and bring lasting peace to the city.

Over the past 400 years there have been many interpretations of the play, revolving around fatal flaws in the different persons, leading to mistaken choices, or some transcendental fate that doomed any happy ending. But maybe it just comes down to the deeper issue of love versus hatred that so plagues our human species, which remains sadly relevant today.

Leonard Bernstein made a modern version of "Romeo and Juliet" in "West Side Story" in 1957, and it could be given contemporary meaning if set in Belfast, Ireland, Israel-Palestine or any of the other tragically divided places in the world.

The casting by Tom Blachly in this production is very strong, with Lila Stratton showing her

dramatic talents very convincingly as Juliet, a role with many intense emotional moments. Evan Lewis portrayed Romeo with impressive skill, keeping in character as one who tries repeatedly to avoid violence but inadvertently gets drawn into the passionate outbursts of others. His close friend Mercutio, well played by Jeff Maclay, representing the opposite tendencies to provoke conflicts which could have been avoided. Similarly Tybalt Caulet, acted with studied macho posturing by Wren Perchlick, is aggressively confrontational. Both meet untimely ends, worsening the family feud and undermining the possibility that Romeo and Juliet's love might heal these divisions.

Carl Etnier as Lord Capulet was excellent in a number of dramatic scenes where he tries to deal with Juliet's defiance to an arranged marriage to another suitor, believably conveying his paternal authority. His wife, Lady Capulet, was expressively acted by Jessica Bella Pepa Clayton, as a somewhat conflicted mother. Calvin Lane as Paris, to whom Juliet was promised by her parents, was very much in character as a highly attractive local aristocrat, but he becomes the third to die

in an unnecessary duel towards the end of the play. Friar Laurence, who does so much to help the lovers, was given a fine performance by Jesse Clayton. Susannah Blachly had great stage presence as Juliet's Nurse, whose confused and bumbling demeanor adds a note of humor to juxtapose with the unfolding tragedy. Another of Romeo's friends, Benvolio, was brought to life by Alex Yam-Halberg.

Other supporting actors and actresses were Robbie Harrold as Escalus, the ruling Prince of Verona, Bob Rosenfeld as Lord Montague, Olivia Gray as Lady Montague, Alexander Clayton as Peter and Ariabella Clayton as Angelica, two of the Capulet's servants, and Sarah Hooker as an Apothecary and Watch. Mention should also be made of the skillful sword fighting directed by Trevor Tait.

Further performances in this summer's Green Mountain Shakespeare Festival will be mainly in August, including two-woman scenes from Shakespeare, a one-man evening of Shakespeare, a new playwright's festival and the "Taming of the Shrew."

The next performances of "Romeo and Juliet" will be June 26 to June 28, 7 p.m.

## Award-Winning Film About 1970s Commune Screened June 28, 29

ST. JOHNSBURY – Catamount Arts will host weekend screenings of an independent film about the development of two communal farms in rural 1970s New England. "Far Out: Life On & After the Commune" will screen Saturday, June 28, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 29, at 3 p.m.

"Far Out" traces 50 years in the lives of a group of writers, activists, and artists who moved from New York City, in 1968, to create communal farms in Vermont and Massachusetts. Upon leaving the city and turning away from national politics, they spent the early years learning rudimentary agricultural skills as well as how to live and work together as a communal family. With help from their neighbors, the young city folk became pioneers in the back-to-the-land organic farming movement.

In 1973, when the local utility proposed a giant twin nuclear plant four miles from the Massachusetts commune, the new farmers, drawn back into politics, became active opponents. Resident Sam Lovejoy turned himself in to police after toppling a 500-foot weather tower in a dramatic act of civil disobedience. His trial, where

he represented himself, drew national attention. Lovejoy was acquitted.

Subsequently, the group became leaders in the burgeoning No Nukes movement, from the battles over Seabrook to California's Diablo Canyon and scores of reactor sites in between. In 1979, they teamed up with musicians including Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, John Hall, and Graham Nash to help produce five nights of sold-out concerts at Madison Square Garden, not to mention a 250,000-person rally in New York City.

Blending contemporary interviews and a trove of original archival footage, "Far Out" tells a history, exploring how individuals and communities grapple for entire lifetimes with the complexities of politics, relationships, morality, spirituality, civic engagement, and finding a place to call home.

The Catamount Arts screenings will include a discussion and Q&A with filmmaker Charles Light, poet and commune resident Verandah Porch, and the film score's composer and musician Patty Carpenter.

For tickets to screenings at Catamount Arts, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).

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# East Coast Inspirational Singers Over the Top

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The East Coast Inspirational Singers from Harlem came to the Highland Center for the Arts last Saturday evening and gave a highly energetic performance that was over the top in inspiration and audience participation. One could feel the deep roots in the characteristic call and response mode where music means physical movement and is a fundamental way of expressing spiritual beliefs.

The five men and five women of the group were all born entertainers with beautiful voices and they were individually featured in turn with leading the others, accompanied by an amazing pianist Jarreau Pitts, who played all 17 selections from memory without any sheet music before him, along with a skilled drummer, Caleb Brown.

The singers wore different t-shirts celebrating Juneteenth, the day (June 19th) in 1865 when the last slaves were liberated in Texas after the end of the Civil War. On the large screen behind them were projected images relevant to the songs.

They began with “Amazing

Grace,” a gospel tune with a fine melody and powerful lyrics, followed by “Oh Happy Day,” a joyous piece to which the singers got the audience clapping in sync. “Ride On King Jesus” proclaimed that “No man can hinder me,” and to never give up striving for the good of all. The audience was really revved up by “Give Him Glory” with its repetition of the word “praise.” “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen got much of the audience to their feet and waving their hands back and forth like in a revival meeting. “Come Go With Me,” popularized by the Staple Sisters, had a great driving beat that made dancing by the singers irresistible. “The Goodness of God” provided the opportunity for one of the performers, Keisha Whitney, to make a personal testimonial of her deliverance from an initial diagnosis of cancer, and she really belted out her gratitude to God. The Beatles classic tune, “With a Little Help from My Friends,” closed out the first half of the program, always an engaging piece.

After the intermission, the East Coast Inspirational Singers continued their concert with “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough. James Taylor’s “Shower the People You Love With Love” was another classic work whose melody and lyrics are perfect, to which the singers added another



The East Coast Inspirational Singers choir perform at the Highland Center for the Arts Saturday, June 21 to commemorate Juneteenth with (from right) Willana Mack, Ticia Smith, Terita Mack, Javon Williams, Terrance Talley, Kenard Valentine, Aaron Snowden, Barry Parker, Keisha Whitney, Sandra Huff photo by Paul Fixx

delightful element, which was for the members of the audience to wave their lighted cell phones along with the music.

“Satisfied Mind” had an inescapable thumping beat that was a real toe tapper, while James Cleveland’s “Lord Do It” was in a slower temp.

The five women of the group got together for “Black Woman,” a song by Nina Simone in praise of all the features of such a person. Similarly “Grateful” was a joyous appreciation from the heart for everything that the Lord does. “How Great is Our God” continued the theme, as did the last number, “Total Praise,”

with the words, “You are the source of my strength,” a moving finale to an inspirational journey. The audience then gave them a standing ovation and they repeated “Ain’t No Mountain to keep me from getting to you” as an encore.

The following Sunday morning the East Coast Inspirational Singers attended the United Church of Christ in Greensboro and sang several gospel songs. From the concert on Saturday night they helped raise almost \$2,000 for the Greensboro Nursing Home from audience contributions.

Let’s hope that this dynamic group returns to Greensboro regularly in the future.



Quinn Molleur (left) as Philurgus and Ursa Goldenrose (right) as Strymodorus sing they “can’t get no satisfaction” during the Hazen Union Drama Club performance of “Lysistrata,” at the Hardwick Town House, June 16 and 17. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Chloe Cloutier (left) as Myrrhine talks to Ethan Gann as Cinesias about trying to break her oath to Lysistrata in the Hazen Union Drama Club performance of “Lysistrata,” a musical adaptation, with Director Marc Considine, June 16 and 17 at the Hardwick Town House. photo by Vanessa Fournier



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# EVENTS

## 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.

## Thursday, June 26

**MAKING BOOKS WITH KIDS** Workshop with Tule Fogg, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., the Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

## Saturday, June 28

**ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE LAWN SALE** and strawberry social, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Cabot. Lunch available to buy, maps available for homes offering yard sales. Rain or Shine. To benefit the Unit-

ed Church of Cabot.

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

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

**MUSHROOMS WALK** with Joe Nudell, 9 a.m., Hardwick Trails. Information: (802) 472-6517.

**CATAMOUNT ARTS HOSTS** screening of film about 1970s commune, "Far Out: Life On & After the Commune", 7 p.m. Tickets: catamountarts.org.

**SEASONAL SING**, 3 to 5 p.m., the Simpson Library with Heidi Wilson. All ages and voices welcome. Information: jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

## Sunday, June 29

**CIRCUS SMIRKUS**, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., The Circus Barn, Greensboro. Tickets and information: smirkus.org.

**AUTHOR CHRISTINE MCDONNELL**, 4 p.m., at the Craftsbury Public Library, Craftsbury Common. She will offer a workshop that examines the parts and structure of the picture book. Information: (802) 586-9683.

**GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Opening Reception, 3 to 5 p.m., The Museum will reopen the GHS exhibit Rails to Trails. Refreshments. 29 Breezy Ave. Information: greensborohistoricalsociety.org.

**CATAMOUNT ARTS HOSTS** screening of film about 1970s commune, "Far Out: Life On & After the Commune", 3 p.m. Tickets: catamountarts.org.

## Tuesday, July 1

**DADA FOR KIDS**, with Leif Goldberg, collaborative drawing games on big paper for ages 8 and up, 2 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Thursday, July 3

**MAGIC THE GATHERING TOURNAMENT**, for ages 12 and up, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Ongoing Events

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES**, Craftsbury Public Library, every Tuesday and Friday morning, story

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

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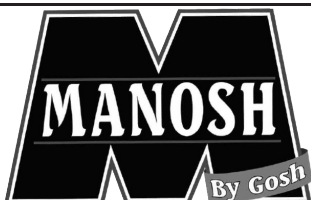


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# Skatepark Collective Builds, Opens Half-pipe



Skatepark Collective member Fred Daniels tries out the half-pipe.

photo by Alex Strand

by Alex Strand

HARDWICK – Members of the Hardwick Skatepark Collective, along with friends and community members, came together for The Civic Standard weekly community dinner on June 18. After the meal, they cut the ribbon on a temporary half-pipe structure behind the Hardwick Fire Department.

The collective, which was formed with the primary goal of constructing a Hardwick

skatepark, has a description on the Civic Standard website which reads: “It’s a small town but the spirit of skateboarding is strong! There are many younger kids (and adults) that skateboard as well as others that bike, roller skate and more. You may see that the only place people have to skateboard in the town of Hardwick are the streets, this is not only a nuisance to drivers on the road, but highly unsafe. Having a skatepark in Hardwick would keep the skate-



Skateboard Collective members and friends (from left) Rob Montgomery, carpenter; Emily Hershberger, mother; Sawyer Holmes; Stuart Quinn; Fred Daniels; Jasper Regan; Maria Amador, The Civic Standard and Cecilia Leibovitz, mother prepare to watch Quinn cut the half-pipe ribbon.

photo by Alex Strand

board community off the streets.”

Rose Friedman, an East Hardwick resident and founder of the Civic Standard, worked with the collective to get permits for the half-pipe, which she said was a struggle for everyone involved.

“This is a group of kids that was running into a lot of trouble and issues with drivers, and finding themselves at odds with the public a lot. Giving them a dedicated space to practice this thing that they were really trying to practice in the middle of Main Street was healthier for everybody,” she said.

Michael Parker, a skatepark builder, and Rob Montgomery, a carpenter, helped the collective

to build the half-pipe. Friedman said the collective, many of them middle and high schoolers, assisted in the building process, which began May 18.

Stuart Quinn, between tricks and bites of burger, says he comes to the ramp almost every day, and plans to come all summer. Many other members of the collective were doing tricks on the ramp seconds after its opening.

Two police officers attended the opening of the ramp. Joe Donna, a Hardwick resident said that the structure will be good for youngsters. The collective continues to work on opening a permanent skatepark in the future.

# Tight Contest at Tournament Fundraiser

by Patrick Hussey

GREENSBORO – In one of the most tightly contested finishes in Master’s Memorial golf tournament history, a card count that went three holes deep finally determined a winner in Friday’s golfing fundraiser at Mountain View Country Club, hosted by the Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Alumni Association.

Three teams finished tied for first place with rounds of five-under par 30, and they all came from the 3:30 p.m. tee time groups. The day was divided into two groups, one teeing off at 1 p.m. and the second at 3:30 p.m.

The day began inauspiciously, with cool temperatures, high winds, clouds and rain pounding the course up until just before the first groups were to tee off. The rains finally came to an end about 30 minutes prior to the tourney’s start, but the 1 p.m. foursomes had to deal with very heavy winds throughout their round.

By the time the second groups went off at 3:30 p.m., the weather improved and within a couple holes the skies cleared and they were graced with steady sunshine and reducing winds. It’s no wonder the second group managed to tame the course with more success.

Once the first 10 groups completed play, the foursome of Rick Renaud, Dave and Cindy

Wemette and Mike Bellavance led the tournament by posting a three-under 32. Three foursomes were tied for second place after shooting a two-under 33.

They included the foursome of Rowdy Doyon, Mike Nixon, Dan Mencucci and Rich Ahern, as well as Dan Judkins, Landon Thompson, Jake Drown and Dave Pudvah, and finally, June Bascom, Michael Hoffman, Lynn Stegner and Tom Woodward.

The second 3:30 p.m. grouping, however, was loaded with past champions. With much improved weather, reduced winds and sunny conditions, those previous winners put on a push for another championship.

The foursome of Joe Mulligan, Patrick Mulligan, Neal Mulligan and Dan Miko posted their round, but were actually the first of the three groups who tied for the lead to get eliminated first. In the card count, they lost out on the first hole, the fourth, by producing a four, while the other two groups birdied the hole. However, Joe Mulligan would end up winning closest to the hole on the third hole and Neal Mulligan captured closest on five.

That left two foursomes still in the hunt. The foursome of Dan Hudson, Sue Hudson, Darwin Thompson and Bob Fair had parred the second toughest hole, the sixth, as did the foursome of Arron Molleur, Nate Brown, Brian

Niemi and Ted Benoit.

The championship count had to go to a third hole to determine a winner, and the latter group birdied the first hole while the other group parred, and that was the difference in securing the 2025 Master’s Memorial title for Molleur, Brown, Benoit and Niemi.

In the earlier group, it was Dave Bellavance who won closest on the third hole while Landon Thompson won closest on five. The 50/50 winners were Dan Gauthier for the 1 p.m. group and Brad Romeo won the draw later in the afternoon.

A total of 23 foursomes participated in the 2025 Masters, 10 playing in the morning and 13 in the afternoon.

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# McNaughten Earns First Team Capital League Honors

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Hazen Union's Grayson McNaughten was a bright spot for a struggling Wildcat baseball team this past spring, landing himself First Team Capital League honors with a breakout junior season.

McNaughten was promising prospect at Craftsbury Academy (CA) before diving into Hazen athletics full-time as a sophomore. He will be a senior anchor for the both the Wildcat soccer and baseball programs next season. His First Team selection in the vaunted Capital doesn't come easy, in a league that produces perennial state champions and contenders. Just this past spring, Thetford Academy represented the Capital League with their second Division III state title in three seasons, with Lyndon Institute (15-1) and U-32 (12-6) making it to the Division II Final Four. Montpelier beat up on league opponents all season with a 9-4 record and division I North Country's only loss in the Capital was to Thetford. McNaughten anchored the Wildcat infield and batted .380 at the plate, belting



Grayson McNaughten of Hazen Union fires a pitch earlier this spring for the Wildcats.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

4 doubles, swiped 12 bases, and drove in a team-high nine runs on the season. He also anchored a young Hazen pitching staff with a team-high 35 innings pitched, striking out 42 batters.

"Grayson is the kind of athlete that showed up to work every

day, giving 150% in both practice and games. There were multiple coaches in the Capital that commented throughout the season on his hustle and positive attitude. He works on himself on and off the field and his love for the game shows through in his approach to

every play. His approach and style elevated his teammates and going into next season, our coaching staff will be looking to him as a leader. We have a lot of players on our young team that bring the same desire, they just haven't unlocked their full potential yet. Grayson leads by example, not by criticism, and I think he's the man for the job to continue to elevate this team next season," said head coach Shaun Allen.

Junior teammate Owen Skorstad earned Honorable Mention after leading the Wildcats with a .420 batting average and a team-high 29 stolen bases. Joining McNaughten with First Team honors were Lyndon Institute's Wyatt Mason, Ethan Lussier, and Logan Wheeler, Thetford's JD Farrell and Xander Oshoniyi, North Country's Kaden Jones and Ben West, Maddox Heise (U-32), Ryan Germaine (Lamoille), Griffin Pike (Oxbow), Nick Casey (Harwood), and Montpelier's Clayton Foster.

Mason captured Capital League Player of the Year honors and Viking head coach Jeremy Wheeler was tabbed Coach of the Year after leading Lyndon to a 13-0 regular season record.

## KEN BROWN'S SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

### Mountain League Selections

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Several area athletes received secondary Mountain League honors for their strong seasons for the Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) and Craftsbury Academy (CA) varsity softball teams.

Leading the way for Mountain League Second Team selections were Caledonia United's Austin Roos (Catcher), Sophi Mancini (First Base), Phoebe Crocker (Shortstop) and Peyton Winn (Utility). Mancini is the only senior amongst the honorees and first year head coach Jennie Moore should return a talented group to continue the rebuild at CU next spring. Winn, Roos and Crocker led the offense for CU this past season, with Winn belting a home run and a triple in their regular season finale to secure CU's lone win of the season. Craftsbury's Gracie Crown and Adelina Augsberger also received Second Team honors at the utility designation. Augsberger pulled double duty for the Lady Chargers this past spring for both the varsity softball and track and field program.

LadyChargers senior Savannah Boyce led the way for Mountain League Honorable Mentions after being the workhorse in the circle for CA for a second consecutive season. Ada Allen (Second Base), Alex Bingham (Third Base), Eva Small (Shortstop) and Lana Stacey (Outfield) rounded out Honorable Mentions for CA as head coach Ashley Gravel will return a solid young core from both Hazen Union and CA next spring.

First Team selections included Blue Mountain's Kaylee Hamlett, Ava Kingsbury, Tori Florentine, Madalyn Houghton, Gabby Snider, Addison Murray and Maya Christy, BFA-Fairfax's Halle Rocheleau, Tatum Gaudette, Keira Mannings, Anna Villeneuve, Summer Boutin, Jaiden Thweatt, and Peyton Niles, and Richford's Mikayla Chagnon, Adi Chagnon, Vanessa Tessier and Erin Raymond.

BFA-Fairfax dominated the league with a 13-3 record, making it all the way to the division III state title game. Blue Mountain looked like the team to beat all season long in Division IV before seeing their quest for a state title come to an end in the Final Four.



Seniors on the Caledonia United softball team this year were (from left) Twinfield students Selena Lamery, Sophia Mancini and Ida Astick, and Danville students Kayley Goodsell and Olivia Hess.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

Richford's Division IV state championship defense ended with a quarterfinal loss to Blue Mountain.

### Strong Leads Lake Division Honors

BURLINGTON – Rice Memorial senior Finley Strong, granddaughter of Hazen Union coaching great Jack Strong, earned Lake Division First Team honors last week after leading the Green Knights to a league best 15-3 record.

Rice was clipped 3-2 in the division II Final Four by top-seeded Lyndon Institute, who went on to capture the state title at Castleton. It was the second consecutive First Team selection for Strong at first base, who graduated last week as one of the top high school softball and ice hockey players in the state. Strong is set to lace up her skates one more time this week in the 2025 Make-A-Wish All-Star Classic against New Hampshire's top seniors at Gutterston Fieldhouse on Saturday.

# KEN BROWN'S HOOP NEWS

## Successful AAU Weekend for Area Lady Hoopers

ALBANY, N.Y. – Several current and future Hazen Union Lady Cats took to the hardwood with success last weekend for Lone Wolf Athletics out of Colchester.

Lone Wolf is the premier girls' AAU program in the state of Vermont, created by the late Peoples Academy great Wayne Lafley, who passed away in 2022 after a two-year battle with cancer. Former Lady Cat champion and all-time great Caitlyn Davison honed her skills at Lone Wolf, finishing her outstanding Hazen Union career with nearly 1,200 career points, including a school record 34 points in 2023 state title game at the Barre Auditorium. Kelsie Rivard, Mya Lumsden, Taylor Thompson, and Autumn Dailey just finished up their sophomore year at Hazen and played for the eleventh-grade Lone Wolf team over the weekend, winning two out of three games. This quartet of talent teamed up with Davison as just freshman to help

bring home the first Lady Cat state championship in over three decades. Incoming freshman Chloe Moodie joined her soon to be Lady Cat teammates in Albany, along with incoming Hazen seventh-graders Ellie Drown and Emalee McTigue. Hazen varsity girls' head coach Randy Lumsden was also in Albany over the weekend and likes the maturity he's seeing out of his young group as his program prepares to make a fourth consecutive march to the Aud next winter.

"The growth in the girls throughout the spring has been amazing. You can see them maturing right in front of you and their focus is very noticeable. We're excited to keep working this summer and excited for the upcoming season," said Lumsden.

Lumsden's squad will play in the Lamoille Summer League for second straight year, starting June 30. Competition will not be a problem as they will test their skills out of division against the likes of North Country, St. Albans, MMU, and Enosburg. Lumsden will also be taking multiple grade levels to the Norwich University, VTSU-Castleton, and VTSU-

Johnson hoop camps throughout the summer.

## Wildcats Ramp up for Summer League and Annual Camp

HARDWICK – Hazen varsity boys head coach Aaron Hill is set to run the 24th edition of his statewide renowned Hazen Hoop Camp next month as his 17th Annual Hazen Summer League tipped off earlier this week.

Hill has hung six state championship banners in his quarter century plus on the sidelines at Hazen. At just 50 years old, he lays claim to over 400 career victories. He guided his Wildcat program to their fourth consecutive Division III state title game this past March, while cutting down the nets in 2022. His co-ed camp is for grade levels 3 to 9 and will offer some of the highest basketball tutelage from himself, his coaching staff, and current and former Wildcat players. The camp will be held at the Hazen Union gymnasium and runs from July 14-18. Limited spots are still available. For more information, contact Hill at ahill@ossu.org or visit the Hazen Union

Wildcat Sports Fan page on Facebook.

Hazen Summer League tipped off on Monday night and once again Hazen Union will have two teams representing the Wildcat logo, made up of both high schoolers and middle schoolers, as well as Hazen alumni. Hill, along with junior varsity coach Adam Gann, will coach the varsity and middle school squad. The Hazen alumni lost a nail-biter to the Spaulding Alumni in the championship game last summer. The league will also feature teams from the Danville area and Peoples Academy. The league schedule will run through August 7, every Monday and Wednesday night at the Cat Den. Hill will also have his program attend hoop camps in Profile, N.H., and VTSU-Castleton next month.

"It's been amazing that we've been able to keep both of these going this long and all the credit goes to the support from the community and dedication of the kids. Summer league teams have upgraded their rosters this season, we're looking forward to it, and it should be highly competitive once again," said Hill.

## Powers, Fisher Dominate; Rookie Wheatley Duels Trophy Dash

BARRE – Even with a bleak forecast hovering over Quarry Hill on Thursday, one-hundred cars flowed into the Thunder Road pit area for Nolato Vermont Night. Highlighted by the return of the Triple Crown, the Flying Tigers started off the night's action.

With a plus-3 in Plus-Minus handicap, Logan Powers and Kevin Streeter led off the Flying Tiger field for their first extra-distance event of the season at Thunder Road. Powers took off like a rocket sled on rails with the only mix-up of the night coming with a flat right front on the Robin Wood No. 24NY followed by mechanical woes for Logan Farrell and Matt Ballard as well. Again, it was Logan Powers who never looked back to dominate his way to Nolato Vermont victory lane and the quick lead in the Triple Crown. Brendan Moodie and Cameron Ouellette followed for a great start in mini-series action.

Like the Tigers, the Street Stocks were only slowed for one caution that saw rookie Hayden Bushey and Mike Gay sliding through the turn two grass. It was the only blip in an otherwise stellar side-by-side shootout between rookie Tyler Wheatley on the outside lane and Travis Gay. Wheatley eventually got the best of the match, keeping pace ahead of another hard-nosed battle between Tommy Smith and Kyler Davis to take his first career Street Stock win.

Cody Blake got the early jump in the Late Models away from polesitter Scott Coburn with Kaiden Fisher in close contact from behind. Fisher eventually rounded Blake before their



Logan Powers opened up the Triple Crown with a win on Nolato Vermont night, flanked in victory lane by Cameron Ouellette (left) and Brendan Moodie (right).  
photo by Alan Ward

one scuffle on lap 20 that saw Cooper Bouchard, Darrell Morin, Brooks Clark and Bryan Wall Jr. collect across the start/finish line. Again, Fisher took off with the lead and never looked back to his first win in a rough start to the season with Blake and Tanner Woodard joining in the Nolato Vermont podium.

The Road Warriors rounded out the Nolato Vermont program with an opening lap twist-around ending the night for Eddie Thompson and Derrick Mann, among others. While Brendan Premont led the way early, Mike Slingerland used his patent-pending slingshot move around the outside lane to claim the win over Kevin Wheatley and Taylor Sayers.

Thunder Road International Speedbowl is back in action Thursday, June 26, for Double Features Night. Twin features are on tap for

the Late Models, Flying Tigers, Street Stocks and Road Warriors with a special 6:30 p.m., post time.

### UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

#### Flying Tigers – Triple Crown Round #1 (75 Laps)

2. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott
15. 01VT, Michael Martin, Craftsbury Common
20. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

#### Late Models – 50 Laps

5. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
14. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common

#### Street Stocks – 25 Laps

11. 34, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield
- DNS 18x, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

#### Road Warriors – 19 Laps

6. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield



After dueling it out with Travis Gay, rookie Tyler Wheatley took down his first rk Miles Street Stock win on Nolato Vermont Night, here with second place finisher Tommy 'Thunder' Smith (right) and third-place runner Kyler Davis (left).  
photo by Alan Ward