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Stannard Church awarded \$75,000 restoration grant

by Preservation Trust of Vermont

STANNARD – The Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) announced recently a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant of \$75,000 to the Town of Stannard for the preservation of the Stannard Church. “The Stannard Church, built in 1886, is the most iconic and architecturally significant of the Town’s three public buildings. The Town of Stannard acquired the Church from the Methodist Conference in 1985 and has been carefully maintaining and preserving it since. The Bruhn Grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont will be very important in helping the Town of barely 200 residents accomplish this work,” said Jan Lewandoski, Stannard Select Board

member. “This Gothic Revival, polychrome structure in its rural setting, has been featured in numerous books and articles, such as the Fall 1983 issue of Smithsonian Magazine. It has neither electricity, plumbing, nor heat other than a wood stove, and is one of the few buildings in unaltered original condition. The Stannard Church, in a typical year will be the site of two or three weddings, a memorial service, a music concert and a Christmas-Solstice celebration,”

“Investing in Vermont’s historic buildings is just as much about investing in people, the volunteers from places like West Fairlee or Sudbury who understand that preserving a historic library or meeting house also means preserving a community’s future,” said Ben Doyle,

See CHURCH, 3



The Town of Stannard has received a \$75,000 grant to preserve the Stannard Church.

courtesy photo

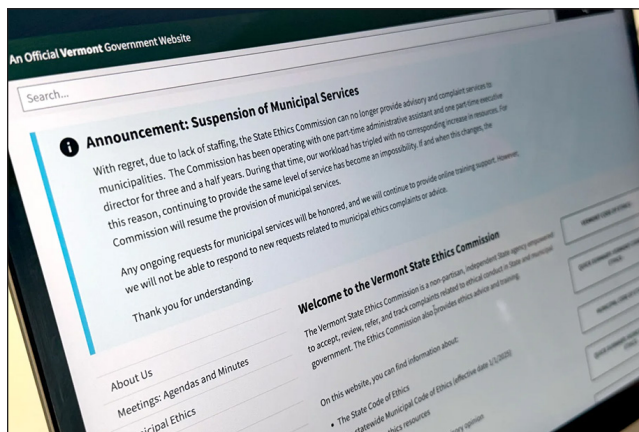
Under-funded ethics commission not taking new municipal cases

by Auditi Guha, VTDigger

VERMONT – Last year, Christina Sivret was invited to speak at a national conference by the Campaign Legal Center in Washington, DC., a nonpartisan government watchdog. Director of the State Ethics Commission since 2021, Sivret said she was proud to represent Vermont as a beacon among states where ethics is at the forefront.

This year she was asked to participate again by the same organization for the opposite reason, because of recent rollbacks to ethics reforms in Vermont and elsewhere across the country, she said, but decided not to attend.

The Vermont State Ethics Commission was established by the Legislature in 2018 as an independent, non-partisan agency to promote standards of ethical conduct in state government. A 2024 law gave it more purview over ethical standards for local governments, but the commission stopped offering services to municipalities in May, according to an announcement on the website, “due to lack of staffing.”



The Vermont State Ethics Commission website as seen on Tuesday, Sept. 16.

photo by Natalie Williams, VTDigger

It is continuing to accept complaints related to state government.

For three and a half years, the office has had one part-time administrative assistant and one part-time executive director. “During that time, our workload has tripled with no corresponding increase in resources. For this reason, continuing to provide the same level of service

See ETHICS, 6

Town ethics policies vary greatly

by Paul Fixx

AREA TOWNS – Published ethics policies in the 11 town Hardwick Gazette coverage vary from being in alignment with state mandated policies to nonexistent.

Only Plainfield’s website in the 11 town Hardwick Gazette coverage area, indicates the town has formally adopted a Municipal Code of Ethics. That policy, adopted by the select board on Jan 27, 2025, is a copy of the state’s code, from the Vermont statutes.

Hardwick’s personnel guidelines include conduct and conflict of interest sections, but no recommendations about reporting unethical behavior, or an anonymous way to report it.

Hardwick Town Manager David Upson

See TOWN, 4

Beaver dams, analogs, important for wildlife, humans

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Beavers and their place in the environment, along with man-made ways of imitating their beneficial work, was the subject of the second Ripple Effects - Watershed Forum, at the Jeudevine Memorial Library, the evening



Man-made structures can be used in stream restoration projects to provide some of the benefits of beaver dams, which are porous enough that fish can pass through them. courtesy photo

of September 10

The evening’s panel discussion, “Beavers and Natural Infrastructure,” was moderated by

Alison Spasyk, a resilience educator with Lake Champlain Sea Grants. She introduced Hardwick Zoning Administrator Kristin Leahy, who had the idea for the gatherings and worked with Emily Finnegan, Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District General Manager, and others to develop the series of four forums involving what Spasyk called “hot topics around water and water resources.”

Spasyk introduced Kyle Dwyer, a Northeastern Vermont Development Association Regional Planner, who said he was representing Senior Planner Alison Low, who had helped organize the forum; and Alexis Nevins, who said she is the new floodplain manager for the Northeast region of Vermont, working with the

Department of Environmental Conservation.

Each of the panelists introduced themselves, explaining their expertise: Meg Carter, Northwood Stewardship Center Conservation Science Director, specializes in the implementation of projects with positive water quality and wildlife habitat benefits. They’ve installed quite a few beaver dam analogs, worked with Trout Unlimited to do strategic woody additions and recently installed a beaver deceiver on Mount Pisgah, she said.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Wildlife Specialist Tyler Brown, said he’s been with the Department since 2012, where he worked in the fisheries division with trout and Sturgeon. He transitioned to the wildlife division in 2016 to work with the beaver wetlands conservation project. That project, established in

See BEAVER, 5

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Vehicle struck at Tops

HARDWICK - On September 8 Christina Gifford reported her red GMC truck was struck by another vehicle while it was parked in the Tops Friendly Market parking lot. This occurred between 9 a.m. and 9:20 a.m., on the same date. Anyone with any information about this incident is asked to contact the Hardwick Police Department.

On September 14 at 3:01 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department was dispatched to Vermont Rte. 15 near the intersection with Rte. 16 for the report of a truck and trailer off the road.

Upon arrival this was deter-

mined to have been a motor vehicle crash with no injuries. The operator, identified as Jared Bashaw of Eden, had gone off the paved portion of the highway in the bend of Vermont 15 just west of the Rte. 16 intersection. He lost control of the truck and trailer and ran into the end of the guardrail. Bashaw was not injured in the crash.

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

East Montpelier Volunteer Fire Department Recent calls

EAST MONTPELIER - Cabot. Recent calls by the East Montpelier Volunteer Fire Department include on September 9 at 12:20 p.m., medical, Plainfield; September 11 at 8:58 a.m., medical, Plainfield; 10:05 a.m., medical, Cabot; 1:46 p.m., medical, Marshfield; medical, 2:55 p.m., Plainfield; 5:28 p.m., medical, Cabot; 7:58 p.m., medical,

On September 12 at 2:27 p.m., medical, Plainfield; 6:40 a.m., medical, Plainfield; 11:27 a.m., medical, Calais; medical, 3:27 p.m., Plainfield; 3:36 p.m., medical, Calais; on September 13 at 1:55 p.m., medical, Plainfield; September 14 at 11:50 a.m., medical, Calais.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK - Fifteen people used AWARE services between September 7 and September 14. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

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

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

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.



September 24 - September 30

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Kraft Salad Dressing 2/\$4 8 oz.	Filippo Berio Olive Oil \$8.99 16.9 oz.	Betty Crocker Frosting or Cake Mix 2/\$3 12-16 oz.	
Sugar in the Raw Box \$3.99 32 oz.	Nestles Baking Morsels \$3.99 10-12 oz.	Sunsweet Prunes \$6.99 16 oz.	
Blue Diamond Nut Thins \$2.99 4.25 oz.	Bear Naked Granola \$3.99 11-12 oz.	Scott 6 Pk. Double Roll Paper Towels \$7.49 291.6 s.f.	
Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese \$2.79 6-8 oz.	Chobani Greek Yogurt 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	Scott Single Roll Bathroom Tissue 99¢ 104.8 s.f.	
Planet Oat Milk \$2.99 52 oz.	Hood Sour Cream \$1.99 16 oz.	TGIF Appetizers \$4.49 8-11 oz.	

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"If we don't have it, then you probably don't need it."

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POLICE REPORT



Cabot Volunteer Fire Department Mutual Aid

PLAINFIELD – Thursday, September 17, Cabot Firefighters provided mutual aid support to the Marshfield Fire Department for a structure fire on U.S. Route 2.

Cabot firefighters participated in the initial interior attack, subsequent exterior attack and overhaul of the structure and outbuilding where the fire was believed to have started.

The incident resulted in the closure of Rte. 2 for several hours.

Many agencies responded to assist the Marshfield Fire Department, including Plainfield, Walden, Woodbury, East Montpelier, Montpelier, Danville, Barre Town and Waterbury.

Additionally, colleagues at Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service responded as part of the EMS response, which included East Montpelier and Northfield Ambulance. EMS providers offered rehabilitation checks and support to the responding firefighters.

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – September 14: Assist - Agency, Breezy Ave.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Suspicious Event, West Hill Road.

September 15: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Welfare Check, Vt. Route 15 East.

September 16: Mental Health Incident, Maple St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; DLS, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, Wolcott.

September 17: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN verification, High St.; Found Property, Mill St.; Assist - Public, Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Fraud, Elm St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Fingerprints, High St.; Welfare Check, S. Main St.

September 18: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Dr; Medical,

Vt. Route 15 West; Vandalism, Vt. Route 16; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Bike Patrol, Rail Trail; Accident - Property Damage Only, Mill St.; Directed Patrol, Main St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 West.

September 19: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Lamoille Rail Trail; Theft, Vt. Route 15 East; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Foot Patrol, Granite St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 14 South; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist - Agency, N. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Dale St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

September 21: Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; 911 Hangup, Vt. Route 14 S; Medical, Vt. Route 15 West; Medical, Hudson Ave.; Medical, Pumpkin Lane; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Citizen Dispute, High St.; Assist - Public, Granite St.

Vermont State Police Citizen Dispute

PLAINFIELD – On September 19, at approximately 4:17 p.m., troopers from the Vermont State Police Royalton barracks were notified of a citizen dispute at a residence on Bindrum Lane, in the town of Rochester. Investigation determined that Jeremiah Bindrum became engaged in a dispute with

Jon Buske of Plainfield, and Jon Bindrum. During the altercation, Jeremiah Bindrum recklessly discharged a firearm. Jeremiah Bindrum was issued a criminal citation to appear in Windsor County Superior Court – Criminal Division at a later date and time to answer the above charge.

Berlin Police Department

Local woman trespasses at Walmart

BERLIN - On September 21, officers from the Berlin Police Department were conducting a foot patrol at the Berlin Mall, when Walmart employees approached them about a female, Tonja Cochran of Hardwick, who was sitting in the entrance way. Officers were advised that the female had been there for over four hours, and they would like her trespasses.

During the course of the interaction, Cochran refused to leave Walmart after being advised by officers that her continued presence would constitute trespassing. After multiple warnings for Cochran to

leave the property and her refusal, she was taken into custody for trespassing. Cochran was processed at the Berlin Police Department for unlawful trespass. She was issued a citation in Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division, on November 6, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the above charge.



Vermont State Firefighters Association

VERMONT – The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has issued a statewide ban on all open burning and the issuance of burn permits, effective September 22, at noon.

Church

Continued From Page One president. “PTV congratulates the people behind these exceptional preservation projects, and we thank our congressional delegation for their strong support of the National Park Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant program.”

The Stannard Church Restoration project and the Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant program is supported by the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior. The program supports the preservation and restoration of buildings and community gathering spaces of economic and social significance in rural communities with fewer than 7,500 residents.

Additional recipients of this year’s Bruhn Historic Revitalization subgrants include the Granger House in Castleton, Highgate Manor, Northfield Brown Public Library, 24 Main in Saxtons River,

the U.S. Customs House in St. Albans, the Sudbury Meetinghouse and Bean Hall in West Fairlee. The grants range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and will be used toward structural repairs, roof replacement, window restoration, masonry repairs, exterior work, restoration of significant interior finishes, as well as code and energy efficiency improvements.

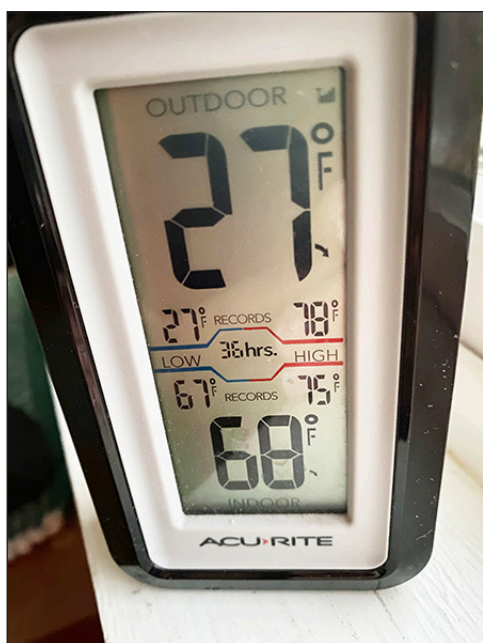
“We are pleased to see NPS funding supporting rural preservation and community revitalization projects across Vermont. Each project preserves our state’s history and addresses the challenges facing our smallest communities. PTV Bruhn recipients are adding housing units in downtowns, revitalizing community gathering spaces and investing in beloved cultural institutions,” said Sen. Sanders, Sen. Welch, and Rep. Balint. “Thanks to the good work of PTV and the recipients, these historic buildings will play a central role in community life for generations to come.”

WEATHER WATCH

Some rain in the forecast; weekend looks mostly dry

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Temperatures plummeted Friday night and Saturday night under strong radiational cooling, with low temperatures at this station reaching 28 degrees Saturday morning and 25 degrees Sunday morning. Effectively, this was a killing freeze in this local hollow. Hardwick came in with 32 degrees and Craftsbury Common reported a 31-degree low on Sunday morning. Some of the frost was patchier in nature and a few places may be able to still squeeze some growing



The temperature was below freezing on Saturday evening on The Bend Road, Greensboro.

photo by Jane Johns

time out where plants were protected by coverings and warmer temperatures.

Now on to the drought situation. We remain in a severe drought with a hundredth of an inch of rain falling since Tuesday of last week. East Hardwick is currently over an inch and a half behind on rainfall for the month, or 42 percent of normal. The radar Tuesday morning shows an area of steady rain approaching from the west in association with an approaching frontal boundary.

Indeed, there are some chances of rainfall in the forecast that will likely not get us to break even on our deficits, but it will stop us from further drying up. That boundary is south of us by Wednesday, having dropped a couple of tenths of an inch of rain, with another low strengthening over the Ohio River Valley and moving north over the Saint Lawrence River. Thursday looks to be the day with the most substantial rain, where up to half an inch may fall.

That system lingers into Friday morning, before some gradual clearing occurs as the pattern yields to a high-pressure system building over the east. A disturbance may briefly interrupt the fair weather Saturday night with a passing shower, but compared to the other two precipitation events



The Lamoille River downriver from the Village Restaurant parking lot on September 19, is at an extremely low level. The river, which usually allows for swimming through the summer is low enough in some places to cross without getting sneakers wet. At the first monitoring station on the river, downstream at Johnson, the river level is at 30 percent of its usual September 17 level.

photo by Paul Fixx

of the week, this will be inconsequential. Temperatures will largely be close to normal or slightly above. We look to avoid frosty conditions during this forecast period entirely. Here are the details of the forecast:

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers. High: 70. Low: 52. South wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Cloudy. Rain. High: 65. Low: 56. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with clearing by late afternoon. A slight chance of showers in the morning. High: 72. Low: 48. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Increasing clouds by evening with a slight chance of a shower overnight. High: 73. Low: 53. Calm wind.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High: 68. Low: 42. West wind around 5 mph.

Town

Continued From Page One

said the town has had no issues or reason to contact the Vermont Ethics Commission since the Vermont Code of Ethics for State Public Servants became effective on July 1, 2022.

Upson said Hardwick needs “to adopt the state’s approved ethics policy ASAP.”

The Walden website contains a link identified as being for an Ethics & Conflict of Interest Policy, though the document linked there is conflict of interest policy, adopted in September, 2017, a year before the Vermont legislature created the Ethics Commission.

The Calais website offers a statement that the town “takes very seriously our obligation to promote transparency and inclusion when it comes to the work of our public official,” which continues, “State legislation from 2024 made it so that town-approved conflict of interest policies are no longer in effect; all towns are now

required to follow the Vermont Municipal Code of Ethics.”

There are links there to the Vermont Municipal Code of Ethics, the Vermont Ethics Commission website, and a Calais Conflict of Interest Policy, which it says serves as supplement to the Municipal Code of Ethics.

Woodbury’s ethics policy also refers to the Vermont Municipal Code of Ethics and provides information about filing an ethics complaint with a form to do so. The town’s policy is that an ethics “complaint be directed to the town’s liaison to the state Ethics Commission, who shall investigate the complaint, and report the findings to the Select Board and Auditors.”

Last month Christina Sivret, the Vermont State Ethics Commission Executive Director said, “we don’t have oversight duties. We primarily provide training, complaint referral and advisory services.”

Her comments clarified that the state ethics commission is not

established to investigate complaints. “Vermonters who have an ethics complaint under Act 171 can still file a complaint directly with their municipality, which is ultimately where any complaint filed with our office would be referred.”

Wolcott posts conflict of interest and conduct policies, while Marshfield offers only a conflict of interest policy. Cabot, Craftsbury and Greensboro offer no online policies related to ethics and

the Town of Stannard does not maintain a website.

“At the municipal level, we have had 22 complaints filed with our office this year, and 40 complaint inquiries, mainly prior to May. We have also had 54 requests for ethics advice from municipal officers, also mainly prior to May. These mostly relate to conflicts of interest and preferential treatment,” Sivret said. “Retaliation is another issue we hear about frequently.”

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Streamside trees can be cut and dropped into a stream to mimic the effects of beavers, slowing the water, allowing it to drop sediments and reconnecting it to its floodplain. *courtesy photo*

Beaver

Continued From Page One
in 2000 assists landowners with resolving conflicts with beavers.

Erin Rogers, a Trout Unlimited Program Manager with the national organization, works as a restoration scientist, primarily in Vermont and Massachusetts. Her work involves trout that require cold, clean and connected water to survive. Healthier, more resilient rivers for fish, means healthier

rivers for humans and for flood resilience, she said. Her work involves in-stream habitat restoration, replacing culverts, taking out dams, flood plain restoration and erosion control; essentially anything that involves trout habitat.

During the wide-ranging presentation and subsequent discussion, Brown talked about the importance of beavers in creating wetlands to support biodiversity and plants for wildlife. Beaver dams



Drain pipes placed through beaver dams, with inlets a distance away, can be used to lower the level of water behind the dam, while allowing beavers to coexist there. *courtesy photo*

slow the flow of water, catching sediment, and reconnect streams to their floodplains, she said.

Rodgers noted that beaver dams restore sinuosity to streams, which is important in upstream areas. Carter commented that inefficiencies are good, with intact woody areas being important. Duff on the forest floor absorbs water, releasing it later, providing flood attenuation. "Making spaces for beavers is good," she said.

A lot of questions were about beavers and their interactions with humans. In answer to a question about beavers coexisting with humans vs. managing them, Brown said he gets about 400 calls a year about conflicts, but the real challenges come when beavers affect infrastructure.

Running water triggers beavers to build dams, but beavers were absent from Vermont when much of the state's infrastructure was built. They were reintroduced in the 1920s and '30s and a regulated trapping season was introduced in 1950, he said. He also noted that relocating beavers is not permitted in Vermont. They will return if they aren't moved far enough and are likely to have difficulty with other beavers because they are territorial and very common in the state.

Brown said the number of beavers in Vermont is unknown. Management involves monitoring trends through reports by trappers. Complaints have increased since 2016, he said.

Strategies to reduce the impact of beavers on infrastructure can involve placing drains through beaver dams with inlets well away from the dam, which can reduce the water level without impacting the beavers.

Beaver deceivers, porous barriers placed before culverts, make it hard for beavers and plug to dam the culverts.

Using beaver dam analogs is a strategy to restore habitat, with Rodgers talking about the benefits of strategically placing wood in streams during restoration projects. Beaver dams are leaky enough that fish can pass through and several options can mimic that. One option is dropping trees across streams. Placing brush in them and driving a row of stakes into the stream bottom, then weaving brush between them, are others.

Beavers live about 10 years and eventually use up the available plants in an area, which they use both for food, by eating the cambium, and for their dams. They then move on to other habitat, leaving behind nutrient rich sediment, which creates a rich habitat for new plants to grow. That process may take anywhere from two to 10 years. Eventually the abandoned habitat will support beavers again, and the cycle continues.

The forum can be watched in its entirety on Hardwick Community TV (HCTV) at hctv.us/ripple-effects-watershed-forum-september-3-2025/

The September 3 forum, "Dredging Rivers," can be seen on HCTV at [hctv.us/ripple-effects-watershed-forum-september-3-2025.](http://hctv.us/ripple-effects-watershed-forum-september-3-2025/)

The next forum in the series, "Dam Removal and Rivers," happens at the library Wednesday, September 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m., followed by "Climatology and the Future of Vermont's Watersheds," at the same time and place, October 1.



Hardwick Academy (HA) Class of 1970 Alumni who rang the HA bell in Hardwick's Memorial Park for one minute at 4 p.m., September 17, for the Daughters of the American Revolution's Bells Across America project, to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution include (front, all from left) Annette Gann, David Manning, Carolyn Ryan and Ruth Hay; (back) Linda Mae Clow who represented her sister Sharon Marchetti, Jeannine Young, Nicole Duhamel and Mark Duhamel (who is not a class member). For information about the Saint John de Crevecoeur NSDAR chapter, see stjdecdar.org

photo by Jayce Gann



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Ethics

Continued From Page One

has become an impossibility,” the announcement reads.

The stall comes just months after the commission began to issue guidance to municipal officials on handling local ethics complaints. The 2024 law that created a municipal code of ethics made the requirements effective this year, which led to a flood of queries and complaints since January, Sivret said.

Now municipalities in Vermont have nowhere to turn for ethics violations and complaints but can continue to access online training.

That’s a problem, according to William Stuono, a planning commission member in Charlotte who has previously advocated for the commission to have more funding and power.

“The biggest problem with lack of funding of the Ethics Commission is that it now leaves investigation entirely up to the communities themselves, and has no ‘independent’ way to review complaints,” he wrote in an email. “This creates a ‘fox guarding the henhouse’ scenario, and therefore trust in the process of filing complaints is entirely eliminated.”

Sivret said the commission has been understaffed since Gov. Phil Scott signed Vermont’s first-ever statewide code of ethics for public officials in 2022. Other states with comparable responsibilities have multiple full-time staff members, she said, such as Rhode Island, which has 12 staffers listed online, including multiple attorneys.

“We have repeatedly and aggressively advocated for additional staffing from the Legislature during the past two legislative sessions,” said Sivret, who is a lawyer.

For fiscal year 2026, Sivret once again requested funding for two additional staff members: a legal counsel to primarily provide state government services, and a staff attorney to primarily provide advice and training to municipal officials.

“These positions are necessary so that the Ethics Commission can meet the increasing demand for its services associated with the passage of the State Code of Ethics in 2022, and Act 171 in 2024,” she wrote in a March 13 letter to the Vermont Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The letter outlined the commission being “severely under-resourced” while the need for its statutory responsibilities and services statewide continues to grow, not unlike the situation faced by the Human Rights Commission last year.

From January through early May, the commission received 55 written complaints and 61

complaint inquiries, compared to 23 written complaints and 47 inquiries for all of 2024, according to Sivret. The majority this year came from municipalities.

Last year the state passed an ethics bill in an effort to create uniform ethical standards in local government. Advocates pointed out then that Vermont ranks poorly nationwide for the strength of its government ethics laws and is last among its New England neighbors.

The bill expanded the commission’s reach by allowing it to investigate complaints but without any enforcement powers beyond issuing warnings and recommendations. It also required municipalities to enact their own ethics procedures to field local complaints.

All in all, it was “a ‘baby step’ to address the well-documented ethical issues in Vermont,” said Stuono.

“Since then the legislature enacted a new bill to exempt the legislature itself from investigation by the Ethics Commission. They also have refused to fund the Ethics Commission, which is understaffed and overwhelmed with complaints,” he wrote in an email.

The path to ethics reform in Vermont has been murky and riddled with delays, according to advocates for reform. After years of discussion and a F grade from the Center for Public Integrity on ethics enforcement, Vermont was one of the last states to establish an ethics commission in 2017. Set up as a five-member commission with a part-time executive director to handle complaints related to the ethical conduct of public officials, it had no powers to investigate or levy punishment.

Paul Burns, executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, said on Tuesday that he doesn’t think the commission was designed to succeed.

After pushing for ethics reform in Vermont for years, Burns was disillusioned about the way it played out. The commission was “worthless,” he said in 2020, providing lawmakers “a fig leaf of protection.”

In 2019, the year after it was established, the commission decided to withdraw its own “advisory opinion” critical of Gov. Phil Scott. The commission’s first executive director, Brian Leven, quit because he believed the commission had gone too far and exceeded its authority in issuing that opinion.

Notwithstanding the bumpy start, many in the state continue to advocate for the need to bolster the commission and its work. Some, like Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky,

P/D-Chittenden Central, fear that political will and money needed for a high-functioning state ethics commission is not likely to materialize in a year that could see a budget deficit.

“It’s incredibly problematic that we’re not prioritizing funding to our ethics commission,” said Vyhovsky. “That’s not because I think there’s a widespread problem with ethical violations but I think that

the transparency and support of a robust ethics commission helps to build trust in government.”

The rollbacks are not a good look for Vermont, said Sivret.

“We’re heading down a very negative path that’s following a very negative national trend at a time when, I would be comfortable saying, the vast majority of Vermonters do not want to see this,” she said.

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Anniversary of signing U.S. Constitution celebrated at GUCC

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – Community members pulled the rope hanging from the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) bell tower to ring the church bell, much as the church bells of Philadelphia rang out when the U.S. Constitution was first signed 238 years ago, at 4 p.m. on September 17, 1787. They joined participants gathered across the country for the Bells Across America annual celebration last Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Bells Across America participants ring bells for one minute at the start of Constitution Week, which is celebrated annually September 17 to 23, to commemorate its history, importance and bring attention to how it still serves today.

This celebration of the U.S. Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American

Revolution (DAR). In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17 to 23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The aims of the Constitution Week celebration are to emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life and encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

Bells Across America participants gather to ring bells, much as the church bells of Philadelphia rang out when the U.S. Constitution was first signed at 4 p.m. on September 17, 1787.



Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters helps ring the church bell for one minute to commemorate the 238-year anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, during the Bells Across America celebration, at Greensboro United Church of Christ, at 4 p.m. last Wednesday, September 17. *courtesy photo*



Paula Harmon rings the Greensboro United Church bell with her dog Elliot at 4 p.m., September 17, 238 years after church bells rang in Philadelphia to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution. *courtesy photo*



Tom Guare (left) pulls the rope leading to Greensboro's United Church of Christ bell as he gathered with others to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution last Wednesday, while Sherral Lumsden waits her turn. *courtesy photo*

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NEWS NOTES

Food shelf to remain open

by Paul Fixx

HOLLAND – The Holland Food Shelf is set to remain open for at least six more months after an anonymous

donor came forward with funding, according to Don Stevens, executive director of the nonprofit that runs the pantry, as reported in a VTDigger story, September 18.

Vermont lawmakers plan to consider balcony solar

by Austyn Gaffney, VTDigger

VERMONT – While Vermonters look for ways to lower their energy costs, access to plug-in and portable solar panels could lower bills and carbon emissions, according to a new campaign launched in Montpelier on Wednesday.

Balcony solar, or miniature panels that can be set up on a patio or lawn, have gained popularity across Europe, and now Vermont is angling to become the second state to duplicate such a program. Sen. Anne Watson, D/P-Washington, chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, plans to introduce a bill during the 2026 legislative session to make plug-in solar panels available to Vermonters who can't install a traditional net metering system, she said at a press conference.

“My goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to purchase and plug in one of these devices and start saving money, while also getting the electric utilities the information that they need to meet their own requirements,” Watson said.

The bill would propose removing current requirements like interconnection agreements with utilities and registration as is currently required with solar installations, 10 times as large, Watson said. Residents would only need to notify their electric companies that they had such a system under her bill, Watson said.

“Seeing Utah pass a bill like this unanimously, and in a bipartisan way, that support underscored how doable I think this bill is going to be,” Watson said. “It’s time for us to get out of the way, cut that red tape, and make it easy for Vermonters to access affordable solar.”

Such a project could make renewable energy more available to all Vermonters, according to Ben Edgerly Walsh, a lobbyist for the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, a state-based environmental advocacy group. While 20,000 Vermont families have benefited from household solar through the state’s net metering program, Walsh said, hundreds of thousands have been left out, including those who rent or live in condos or mobile homes.

“One part of the solar market hardest to open up is renters, and people who can’t afford to have solar on their property,” Walsh said Monday.

But these smaller units, capped at 1.2 kilowatts under the proposed legislation, can be plugged into a normal wall outlet where electrons can start flowing into the house, helping to power

appliances and energize light switches. They can also be connected to a battery that can save the energy for when it’s needed. Walsh estimated it could power about a fifth of a typical household, or save about \$20 on a \$100 electric bill.

The small systems are also more affordable because they don’t require the same installation costs and the logistics of connecting to the grid. One unit could cost Vermonters \$1,500 to \$2,000, Walsh estimated, which could be paid back in about three years before adding free power to a household for the life of the system.

In Germany, these systems now help power at least 1 million households, but those estimates could be three times as high, according to reporting by The New York Times. Rupert Mayer, a co-founder of Bright Saver, a California-based nonprofit partner that helps states and individuals set up plug-in solar systems, indicated at Wednesday’s press conference that there are four-million portable solar units.

The portable solar panels also enabled freedom and independence in one’s backyard without government interference, Mayer said. He said Bright Saver was talking to lawmakers across blue and red states to advance portable solar and help consumers experience its benefits.

“It should be fairly non-controversial,” Walsh said of the initiative. “It just requires cutting a little red tape in a few places to make it possible.”

While such a move isn’t as precedent-setting as Vermont’s Climate Superfund Act or its attempt at a Clean Heat Standard, the state could be among the first to support balcony solar.

In Utah, a bipartisan bill passed unanimously this year to reduce restrictions and expand



Mayer discusses possibility of bringing European program to U.S. on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

photo by Austyn Gaffney, VTDigger



A sample balcony solar panel that could be plugged into a household outlet on display at a Montpelier press conference hosted by VPIRG.

photo by Austyn Gaffney, VTDigger

access to this small-scale, affordable solar option. Utah Republican Gov. Spencer J. Cox signed the bill into law in March. In August, Pennsylvania legislators also began considering such a bill to facilitate widespread deployment of balcony solar.

But while Utah’s bill became a success story, Vermont could see pushback.

“The Trump administration, they’ve doubled down on fossil fuels and they’re really doing all they can to upend the clean energy job sector,” said Johanna Miller, the energy and climate program director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council. But Miller said the 2020 Global Warming Solutions Act says the state has an obligation and an opportunity to help Vermonters move away from the burning of fossil fuels, the largest contributor to climate change.

“The sad truth is that climate and energy policy is one of the most

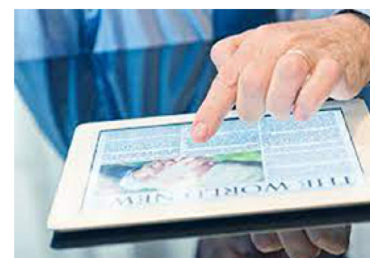
polarized areas in a very polarized political environment,” Walsh said. But he added there are no subsidies for this program. The legislation only asked to make it easier to install these systems without requiring net metering or grid connection.

“For all the climate policies you can imagine us working on, this one is certainly the best set up for bipartisan support,” Walsh said.

Vermont recently lost a major solar investment when the federal government slashed \$62.5 million the state was promised by the Solar For All program, following President Donald Trump signing his One Big Beautiful Bill in July.

While such a small-scale program can’t replace the massive funding package, Walsh said it’s another good way for Vermonters who have had trouble accessing solar to get a piece of the clean energy transition for themselves.

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As drought persists, scientists expect a spectrum of foliage conditions

by **Charlotte Oliver, VTDigger**

VERMONT – As days get shorter and nights get colder across Vermont, green valleys and hillsides will soon be flush with splotches of yellow, orange and red. Because of the state's drought, scientists suspect that some trees may drop their leaves earlier, but not without providing humans a spectacle.

"Every year is different, and that's the cool thing about fall foliage," said Ali Kosiba, who studies the impacts of climate change on trees and forest ecology for the University of Vermont Extension. While we enjoy the beautiful colorscape, trees are responding to events from this summer and past years, she said.

During fall, trees gear up for winter by recycling nutrients from their leaves, pulling them into their trunks to store for the winter, she said. Canopies change color as they break down those nutrients drawing on-lookers who swarm the state in the annual ritual of leaf-peeping.

Trees in bogs usually produce a bright red color, Kosiba said. That's because in very wet conditions it's difficult for trees to access nitrogen in the soil. That makes it more important to retain nitrogen from their leaves, Kosiba said.

While the color in their leaves is a sight to behold, it really acts as a sunscreen for the tree, she said. The color helps prevent sunlight from hitting the leaf, giving the tree more time to recycle its nutrients, she said.

As of Sept. 15, the national drought monitor reports that more than half of Vermont is experiencing severe drought, spanning the northeast and central parts of the state, while southern and northwest Vermont are in moderate droughts, according to the monitor. The short-term drought has been going on for about the past month, Kosiba said.

And while experts aren't quite sure how dry conditions will affect foliage, they encourage leaf peepers to be flexible and explore different parts of the state.

In the Champlain Valley and the Connecticut River Valley, scientists are seeing some leaves either going through the fall color

progression rapidly, or just turning from green to brown, said Josh Halman, forest health program manager for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

At a site he monitors in Underhill, Halman usually sees peak foliage the first week of October. But that peak can happen a little earlier up north or at higher elevations, he said. The drought this year may mean that foliage peaks in mid-September, he said.

While trees in dry conditions may have muted colors, trees on another side of the mountain or a few miles away may be vibrant and bright. Halman's already seen some impacts of drought on fall foliage, but "it's not uniform at all across the state," he said.

Some trees are suffering due to dry conditions coupled with hot temperatures. Those two factors together tend to have "a really pronounced effect on plants," Kosiba said.

That's because hot air can hold more water, which means it's evaporating from surfaces more quickly, Kosiba said. "(Leaves) have these little openings that allow them to bring in carbon dioxide, but water also evaporates from those little pores," she said.

During a drought, leaves will close up those pores, called stomata, to protect themselves from any water loss, Kosiba said. But that prevents them from taking in carbon dioxide and photosynthesizing, she said. "They basically kind of shut down for a little bit," she said.

If water in the soil is also evaporating, the edges of leaves will start to brown, which signals that their cells are dying. The leaves become a liability to the tree's health, so rather than trying to store their energy, trees might drop them early, Kosiba said.

Trees tend to feel the most pronounced effects of drought in shallow soils or in rocky landscapes, according to Kosiba. South-facing slopes also tend to dry out faster because they face the sun, she said.

Vermont's diverse landscape leaves lots of room for variation in color development. You might see tons of green, then turn a corner and see tons of fall colors, Halman said.



Fall foliage at Mad River Glen in Waitsfield on Oct. 5, 2024.

file photo by Taylor Haynes, VTDigger

Kosiba encouraged leaf peepers to look not only at the crowns of trees, but also at the plants in the understory and in

their backyard.

"The hayscented fern turns a beautiful golden color, which is really spectacular," she said

Mosquitoes test positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus

by Vermont Department of Health

WATERBURY – Even as the weather cools, health officials are urging people to take steps to prevent mosquito bites after Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, a serious and potentially deadly mosquito-transmitted virus, has been detected for the first time this year in Franklin, Addison and Orleans counties.

Mosquitoes from Swanton and Vergennes have tested positive for the virus, and a horse in Brownington is also suspected to have had the virus.

There have not been any cases of EEE reported in people in Vermont this year, but the risk for infection increases into late summer and early fall. The virus caused serious illness in two people in Vermont last year, one of whom died.

"Detection of dangerous viruses carried by mosquitoes in Vermont underscores that it's important for all of us to prevent bites and protect our health, especially in communities where these mosquitoes have been found," said Interim Health Commissioner Julie Arel.

Most people who are infected with mosquito-borne viruses including EEE may not feel sick, but infection can lead to serious illness including inflammation of the brain, called encephalitis. Symptoms can include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or a rash. Anyone who feels symptoms like these should contact their health care provider.

The best protection is to prevent mosquito bites include limit time outside at dawn and dusk

when mosquitoes are more likely to bite, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants outdoors, use insect repellent labeled as effective against mosquitoes, get rid of standing water and cover strollers and outdoor playpens with mosquito netting and fix holes in screens and make sure they are tightly attached to doors and windows.

As part of the state's annual surveillance efforts, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets collects mosquitoes throughout Vermont, which are tested by the Health Department at the State Public Health Laboratory.

Mosquitoes are tested for three viruses that are spread through the bite of an infected mosquito: West Nile virus, EEE virus, and new this year, Jamestown Canyon virus. Vermont confirmed its first human case of Jamestown Canyon virus on September 9. Mosquitoes first tested positive for West Nile and Jamestown Canyon viruses in July.

Horse owners should consult their veterinarians and make sure their animals are up to date on vaccinations for West Nile virus, EEE and other diseases spread by infected insects or ticks. Horses cannot spread these viruses to humans or other horses, but the infections can cause neurologic disease and death in unvaccinated animals. Two horses were confirmed to have died from EEE in 2024, in addition to the suspected case this year in Brownington.

Learn more about mosquitoes, the diseases they spread, and how to prevent bites visit HealthVermont.gov/Mosquito.

EDITORIAL

Know your News project supports press freedom, media literacy

by Paul Fixx

In a country where the federal government increasingly seems to be putting its finger on the scale of truth and freedom, the Know your News project of the New England Newspaper & Press Association (NENPA) comes at an appropriate time.

Beginning with Constitution Day, last Wednesday, the project that will help us bring you information about your right to know what the government is doing, through Freedom of Information and Open Meeting law, explore the differences between news, opinion and “sponsored content,” distinctions made all the fuzzier by the torrent of online data and information that now pours into our homes.

In an Another Opinion column this week, Gene Policinski introduces the project, which The Hardwick Gazette will be participating in for the next four weeks. He writes, “do not miss the good news as news initiatives of all kinds rescue news operations facing financial death across New England and other areas of the U.S., staving off new news deserts. Print and digital news startups, both traditional and nonprofit, are restoring or replacing some local news starved areas.”

The Hardwick Gazette is one of those news operations that faced almost certain closure following years of decline beginning with the Covid-19 pandemic. In December 2024 it had a paid sports reporter and photographer, but no news reporter (except its owner and a few community journalists) and almost no advertising.

Rescued by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism (NEKJPJ) in January 2024, The Gazette has now survived for 21 months as a nonprofit, offering each weekly issue free to all.

Last year two large gifts covered 25% of The Gazette’s \$10,000 monthly operating costs. Late last year and into this year, smaller gifts from many hundreds of supporters and a growing number of monthly supporters, has kept it going as advertising has increased somewhat, though not yet enough.

The Gazette’s news and human interest content has thrived during this time with help from interns at Hazen Union High School, People’s Academy, Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, the University of Vermont, Vermont State University students at its Castleton and Johnsons campuses, and more community journalists bringing you news of their towns.

In January we hired one of those interns as a half-time reporter, who earned her keep.

News coverage has benefited immeasurably with content shared by other news outlets: VTDigger, the UVM Community News Service, The Bridge, Cabot Chronicle, News & Citizen, and others less local.

We’ve worked hard to make The Gazette’s community section, with its meeting and events calendars, your go-to place for local activities in 11 towns that otherwise appear separately in town calendars, library calendars, calendars for community organizations, Front Porch Forum, social media and elsewhere.

Having demonstrated that’s possible, the responsibility now lies with each organization to keep The Gazette updated with new events

and schedule changes.

We’ve streamlined and cut technology costs in half, while improving our weekly newsletter and online presentation.

Every week 1,700 people receive our email newsletter, 1,200 people open it to see the front page and headlines and about 700 click to read an article or download the full PDF edition.

On average, 2,000 people come to our website each week, with thousands more when we’ve offered special coverage of local events. Roughly 6,000 people see our Facebook posts each week, with 12,000 visiting during our live coverage of a shooting last April, and almost as many seeing our flood coverage in July 2024.

We print a few copies that can be seen at area libraries in Hardwick, Cabot, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Walden, Wolcott and Woodbury. Copies are available to read in Hardwick at Front Seat Coffee, Buffalo Mountain Market, the Village Restaurant, Nikki the Barber at The Clip Joint, The Civic Standard and the town manager’s office and in Cabot at The Den at Harry’s Hardware.

We’ve discovered many people are not aware that The Gazette continues as a digital publication and ask each of you to share that news. Anyone can subscribe for free at hardwickgazette.org/subscribe/ to receive each week’s issue via email. While you’re signing up there, you can make an optional donation to help keep this area from becoming a news desert.

Paul Fixx, editor

LETTERS FROM READERS

It’s not enough

To the editor:

It’s not enough to complain to a neighbor about the erosion of our constitutional rights and the dismantling of our social safety net, environmental laws and government agencies protecting our health. It is not enough to protest in the streets, even though it is a start and builds a stronger coalition of engaged activists.

To meet the moment of this Constitutional Crisis and America’s slide into authoritarianism and fascism, true patriots need to defeat the politicians who are not following their constitutional duty to defend the Constitution,

and replace them with people who will represent We the People, not the billionaire, libertarian elite.

Engage now with Lean Left VT (leanleftvt.org) and local chapters of Indivisible (indivisible.org) to learn the tools needed to elect democratic and progressive candidates in the critical Swing States. Even one hour a week activism that can be done at home can make the difference to protect our constitutional Republic.

For more information, contact: bob.hawk350@gmail.com

Bob Hawk
Walden

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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Letters to the Editor, Opinions and Editorials: We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to discuss and debate issues of the day and welcome letters from all political points of view as the free expression of reader’s opinions. Letters with claims of fact that are false or potentially damaging may be rejected.

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 community event information, announcements, opinions, press releases, paid ads 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. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week’s edition. Photos capturing news and community events are welcome with details with the full name of each identifiable person, what is happening, when and where the photo was taken and why it is newsworthy. When sending photos, 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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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Probably think I'm losing it upstairs

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The back lot outside my office window is waist-high in a sea of goldenrod with little sprigs of purple asters peeping out here and there, a last feast for the bumbling bumblebees. Little flocklets of tiny birds, warblers, I'm guessing; they flit too fast for me, flow in a moving carpet across the gravel turnaround, getting ready to face south and disappear for the cold winter months. When I open the door to let Kiki out, she charges to get at them like a bald-faced hornet on a mission. They seem to evaporate, leaving her running in a circle.

It was too good a day today to sit at my desk and just look at it, so at four o'clock Kiki and I went for one of our walks up in Hubbard Park. I say "walk," but it's over the years degenerated into a sort of elderly shuffle, protected and supported by a pair of hiking poles (a cane, I've found, is inadequate in a pinch. If you stumble, it helps, but too often you simply rotate around it and end up on the ground). The poles make it harder to reach into my pocket for dog treats, but nobody seems to mind but me. The dogs know me, and sit patiently while I fumble and apologize.

The smells of the autumn woods evoke hundreds of ancient memories. For years in my youth they were accompanied by the distinctive thuds of footballs being kicked, padded bodies clashing, coaches' whistles, and marching bands rehearsing.

As I shuffled down the first hill today (in what Mark Twain would call an "animated trance"), Kiki scouted ahead of me with her nose, and I heard another old familiar sound of autumn: the rustle of dead leaves around my feet. It was the only sound of cross-country running. It was a warning that there might be hidden rocks and roots underfoot, though I never came close to spraining an ankle, or knew any teammates who had. A cross-country coach with whom I briefly discussed the phenomenon this afternoon, responded, "Of course we had rubber ankles in those days." He was right.

The local high school team was practicing in the park while Kiki and I sedately made our way around a short loop through the woods. It was lovely to see how lightly they sprang over the trails, and heart-breaking to remember how long ago it was that

I was one of them.

I went away to school the year I was fifteen. The afternoon sports program was open to experimentation; I could try different sports. Naturally, as an all-American boy, I tried football. There were five levels: varsity, open to boys 16 or older; B-squad or junior varsity; the C-squad "Pussycats"; Junior League, for boys under sixteen; and the Ivy League, for hopeless cases under sixteen.

I was the skinny, 160-pound fullback for Cornell. Our quarterback, who later became the United States ambassador to Singapore and China, had a strange, English-sounding accent and called each play in clear anticipation of being flattened. His favorite play was "31 on three," which meant the three-back (me) would plunge through the number one hole if there was one. I usually got through because nobody tackled; they just grabbed. We had the most cast-off of uniforms. I finished many plays running down the field with Harvard or Princeton players grabbing at the ragged remnants of my jersey, and my exposed shoulder pads flapping like noisy little wings. It was not an auspicious beginning to a career in professional football.

Then a friend, an older boy from my home town, introduced me to running. I still have the little black-and-white photo of me trotting around the cinder track on the athletic field. It was an instant romance. The hills and woods all around the school were laced with running trails, and the cross-country team rarely lost a dual meet. The coach was low-key and unflappable, just my type: no pep talks, no unrealistic expectations, no hands-in-a-circle huddle before a meet to get hyped up. I can't imagine being more hyped than each of us was before tackling Choate or Deerfield.

It was the beginning of about 30 years of running, roads, trails, tracks, and mountains, until the orthopedist finally told me to knock it off. But I was able to keep hiking, as long as I limited the weight of my pack, and managed a few pretty good mountains. Slowly, though, age crept up on my capacity, in the form of shaky balance and diminishing strength, and now, in what I presume is the last chapter, neuropathy. Those kids I watch bounding past me in the park probably think I'm losing it upstairs, as well. But no; I'm just remembering, and loving the memories.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"SORRY WALT, WE SCREWED UP!"

MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, October 1

Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.

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

Thursday, October 2

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

Tuesday, October 7

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

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

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

OSSU Board, first Tuesday of the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU Central Office, Hardwick.

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

Wednesday, October 8

Craftsbury Town School Board, second Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Commons Room, Craftsbury Academy.

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

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us
 Calais: calaisvermont.gov
 Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
 Greensboro: greensborovt.gov
 Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
 Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
 Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
 Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
 Walden: waldenvt.gov
 Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
 Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

ANOTHER OPINION

Tactical retreat for a local paper

by John Walters

EAST MONTPELIER – Following rapidly on the heels of The Brandon Reporter’s suspension of activity comes word from The Hinesburg Record of a move designed to save it from extinction. The Record has announced it will discontinue its monthly print edition and pursue a digital-only strategy as a weekly.

The nonprofit’s board cited multiple reasons, some familiar and some perhaps less so. Printing papers consumed three-quarters of its budget; more and more people are getting their news online; and delivery had become increasingly problematic due to the decline of the U.S. Postal Service: “Many residents get The Record 10 days to two weeks after it is supposed to arrive,” the board wrote.

This decision illustrates one of the many unanswered questions facing local news outlets: To print . . . or not to print?

There’s the cost, obviously. Printing a newspaper isn’t cheap. And distribution is a headache if you’re not depending on USPS; it’s pretty much a DIY operation, which is a substantial burden on short-staffed newsrooms.

But even in our digital age, being in print has inarguable advantages. A print paper is a much more attractive proposition

to advertisers than a digital product. In a real newspaper, the ads are interspersed with the content. And newspapers tend to stick around the house, increasing the chances that an advertisement will be noticed.

A print edition also heightens the paper’s presence in community life. If it’s on a rack at libraries, stores, restaurants, and coffee shops, people will see it and be reminded that it’s a thing that exists. At the digital-only Hardwick Gazette, we’re painfully aware that many potential readers simply don’t know we’re still around. We’d like to return to print someday, but we’d have to be absolutely sure that the cost would be more than covered by increased ad sales.

And we’d have to have a distribution model that isn’t centered on the trunk of our publisher’s car.

There’s also an emotional element to the question. They *are* called “newspapers,” after all. I’m sure there’s a sense of loss among The Record’s merry band of folks at leaving the world of print.

On the other hand, what are the economics of a digital-only product? How do you generate enough revenue from ad sales, reader support and grant funding to keep the lights on and your staffers paid? The digital realm has its drawbacks for advertisers, but it also creates new opportunities.

For example, if you send a weekly rundown to any reader who’s on your email list, why not sell a sponsorship for the rundown? If you provide audio versions of your stories for people who like to listen rather than read, can you begin each audio story with a brief sponsorship message?

You know what would be nice? If there was an academic institution with the capability of doing research into questions like these. Maybe an academic institution that’s home to a “center for community news,” devoted to fostering journalism in a digital world. Such a center could do the work of identifying best practices for media outlets and providing badly-needed roadmaps to sustainability. What’s the real cost-benefit situation? How have some newspapers managed to make print succeed or make a go of it as a purely digital operation? How do different markets and missions influence your revenue strategies? What are the steps you should take, and what pitfalls must be avoided?

Oh wait, I’m being told that the University of Vermont *is*, in fact, the home of something called, what do you know, the Center for Community News!

If only CCN had any interest in such things. But they’re all about journalism and nothing but,

and they’re supposedly training future journalists *who are going to need business, financial, and fund-raising skills in order to succeed professionally*. CCN, and UVM’s journalism offerings as a whole, are doing their students a disservice. And they’re doing little to address the fundamental economic challenges facing journalism in the 21st Century.

Meanwhile, down here in the trenches, the future is full of promise but the present is dire. After my recent post about *The Brandon Reporter*, the editor of another Vermont weekly sent me an email that included this passage: “I’ve never been more burned out in my whole life . . . I feel overwhelmed by what I can’t seem to get to and the obligation to keep reporting and the expectations of my community to stick with this.”

There’s a lot of that going around these days. We’d best get going on the project of inventing sustainable models for journalism, because time is a luxury our editors and reporters cannot afford. This entry was posted in The media and tagged Center for Community News, The Brandon Reporter, The Hardwick Gazette, The Hinesbury Record on September 11, 2025.

John Walters is a board member of NEK Public Journalism, publisher of The Hardwick Gazette.

Vermont must step up, safeguard Green River Reservoir

by Scott Johnstone

MORRISVILLE – For generations, Vermonters and visitors alike have paddled the quiet waters of the Green River Reservoir, camped under its dark skies and relied on its steady flow to protect downstream communities. It is one of the jewels of our state, an irreplaceable resource that provides not only a safe and reliable dam, but also clean, renewable power potential and an outdoor recreation economy that brings tens of thousands of people and well over a million dollars to the region every year.

The State of Vermont recently released the Green River Reservoir Dam and Dike Study, prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation with support from independent engineering and economic experts. The findings should be a wake-up call. The report confirms that the dam is structurally sound, that its maintenance and capital needs are clearly defined and reasonable, and that the economic benefits of the reservoir far outweigh the costs of stewardship. Visitor

spending tied to the state park is expected to generate between \$22.7 million and \$32.7 million over the next two decades, easily covering the costs of maintaining the facility. In short: this dam is safe, affordable to manage and vital to Vermont’s economy and quality of life.

Yet despite this, the future of the Green River Reservoir remains uncertain. That is because, although the dam has long produced renewable energy, state licensing conditions have effectively regulated it out of the market. The irony is hard to ignore. Vermont has set ambitious climate goals and we talk often about our commitment to clean, local energy. Here we have a proven carbon-free resource sitting in our backyard, and state policy has made it economically impossible to continue operating it.

Right now, the responsibility for the dam falls on the 4,000 customers of Morrisville Water & Light. That is a tiny community to carry the weight of a statewide treasure. This is not a local playground; it is a reservoir and state park that belongs in the hearts of Vermonters from every corner.

People from all over Vermont, and beyond, benefit from its waters, its trails, and its campsites. To expect a small group of ratepayers, and ultimately taxpayers, to foot the bill for its upkeep is simply unfair.

The state now has a clear choice. It can allow a critical piece of infrastructure, one that meets modern safety standards and supports our shared economy, to languish because a small utility cannot reasonably bear the burden alone. Or it can step forward and take ownership, ensuring that the Green River Reservoir and its dam are maintained for the benefit of all Vermonters.

The report commissioned by the Agency of Natural Resources has done its job. It has given us the facts and removed the uncertainty. What remains is the question of responsibility. The state’s own policies have made it impossible for MWL to operate this renewable resource as

originally intended. Now, the state must acknowledge that reality and assume stewardship.

At Morrisville Water & Light, we are ready to work with the administration and legislature to make that transition smooth and successful. Our shared goal should be clear: to protect downstream communities, preserve public access to a beloved park, safeguard a proven source of clean energy, and ensure that the costs of maintaining this resource are fairly distributed across all who benefit.

The Green River Reservoir is safe. Its value is undeniable. Its future, however, depends on Vermont’s willingness to act. It’s time for the state to step up and ensure this landmark continues to serve Vermont for generations to come.

Scott Johnstone is the general manager of Morrisville Water & Light.

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ANOTHER OPINION

Defending democracy starts at home: protecting local news, press freedom

by Gene Policinski

Local journalism is more than headlines; it's your right to know, your voice in action and your protection against secrecy.

When your town, city or county has a local news outlet, the benefit ripples through the entire community.

You have a defender who cares about where you live and work, from reports about the content of school lunches to the latest proposal to raise taxes or increase your monthly water bill.

There's a reliable friend who stands ready to help when a natural disaster hits, a dependable neighbor from whom you can learn and with whom you can chat about the events of the day.

Moreover, you have a place to distribute your letter, to amplify your online comment or to just join a group conversation.

In short, whether you like the news media or not, and yes, there is chatter both ways, there is no challenging the value to you of having all of those things with a local focus.

Starting September 17, Constitution Day, the "Know Your News" initiative invites you to explore the local free press you have, or in a few places, is missing.

A 2024 report by the Medill Local News Initiative at Northwestern University said 204 counties across the U.S. are now "new deserts," with not a single local news source. Overall, there were "nearly 55 million people with limited or no access to local news," the report said. Only one New England area was named in that report, Somerset.

About a year ago, after years of calling for the reinvigoration of

local news media, I got an opportunity to put that call to the test. Some 56 years after my first newspaper reporting job, in Indiana, I am now a civics issue writer for The Reston Letter, the local news source for my current hometown, Reston, Va.

As The Letter proclaims each issue, it "seeks to inform the Reston community of local events, highlight local group and individual accomplishments, and secondarily, to provide a platform for residents to weigh in on local topics relevant to the majority of readers."

Those are goals most local news operations and journalists strive for each day, even as they are painfully aware that both supporting economic models and public trust have eroded in many places over the last 30 years.

Take the time to read in the Know Your News campaign about your right through Freedom of Information and Open Meeting laws to know what the government is doing. Participate when your local news outlets invite you to talk about your concerns about bias, misinformation or lack of news coverage on something you see as important.

In the Know Your News initiative, explore the differences between news, opinion and sponsored content, distinctions made all the fuzzier by the torrent of online data and information that now pours into our homes.

And do not miss the good news as news initiatives of all kinds rescue news operations facing financial death across New England and other areas of the U.S., staving off new news deserts. Print and digital news start-ups, both traditional and nonprofit, are restoring or replacing some local

news starved areas.

Admittedly, most news operations have a way to go to restore the staffing, reach and trust that the free press had just a few decades ago. The 2024 "State of Local News," a project at Northwestern University, showed that since 2005, newsroom positions (editors and reporters) saw a loss of more than 45,000 jobs, a decline of more than 60%.

"Absence may make the heart grow fonder," but the lack of a regular, reliable reminder of the value of a local news outlet can result in indifference and distrust.

Still, multiple surveys show strong public support for a free press as a watchdog on government. Most journalists are on a mission to ask the questions you would ask if you had time, to attend the long civic meeting that family or work obligations prevent you from attending and, at times, pry loose the information you need from a less-than-transparent government or private entity.

Yes, a free press makes mistakes; or even, in your view or mine, sometimes just has the wrong perspective. Look for items in the Know Your News campaign discussing "why some local communities don't trust the media, and what local news outlets are doing about it" and other articles on how news decisions are made, how to correct mistakes and how to spot trustworthy news.

New England has a long and historic tradition of civic engagement and self-governance, from town gatherings to protest movements to what is still one of the nation's most vigorous local news media areas.

The nation's founders believed that government alone would not give us the full measure of infor-

mation we need when entering the voting booth, or just surveying the events of the day. So, they made a free press the only occupation protected by name in the Constitution, via the Bill of Rights.

Consider that endorsement and legacy during the next four weeks as Know your News explores your news media, how it works, what it does and why it is worth using and defending.

Gene Policinski began his journalism career in 1969 at the Greenfield, Ind., Daily Reporter and was among the founding editors of USA TODAY. He is Senior Fellow for the First Amendment at the nonpartisan education foundation Freedom Forum, and author of "The First Amendment in the 21st Century: From the Village Green to the Village Screen" available at no charge as an e-book, PDF, audiobook or in paperback, at <https://www.freedomforum.org/the-first-amendment-in-the-21st-century/>.

The Freedom Forum is a nonpartisan 501 foundation dedicated to fostering First Amendment freedoms for all.

This story is part of Know Your News, a NENPA Press Freedom Committee and Granite State News Collaborative initiative on why the First Amendment, press freedom and local news matter. Don't just read this. Share it with one person who doesn't usually follow local news — that's how we make an impact. Learn more at <https://www.nenpa.com/press-freedom-and-local-news-collaborative/>.

These stories are being shared by members of the New England Newspaper and Press Association Press Freedom and Local News Collaborative. For more information, visit nenpa.com.

HARDWICK

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EHO

Heller's World by Joe Heller



ANOTHER OPINION

For open meeting laws to work, we need to show up

by Justin Silverman, New England First Amendment Coalition and Paul Fixx

VERMONT – In a 2023 case involving a contested speech restriction during government meetings, the highest court in Massachusetts reminded us about our protected right to assemble in town halls throughout the region.

Quoting John Adams, the court wrote in *Barron v. Kolenda* that the right to assembly is “a most important principle and institute of self-government.” It allows everyone the opportunity to speak their “sentiments of public affairs.” Or, as the court pulled from Alexis de Tocqueville’s “Democracy in America”: “town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people’s reach, they teach men how to use and to how to enjoy it.”

Yet a study by the Pew Research Center in 2018 found that less than a third of Americans are attending local government meetings. It seems many of us are unwilling or unable to participate in what the court, citing Adams in *Barron v. Kolenda*, called “the critical role of the right of assembly in the towns” to cultivate “the spirit and practice of self-government.”

This right we inherited may resonate more if you consider our role in determining how tax dollars are spent where we live, who our schools employ to teach our children, what tools we provide our law enforcement and how local businesses are regulated among many other topics that are listed on meeting agendas in towns across New England.

We all have a profound stake in local governance. But maybe you are one of the two-thirds of Americans who sit out this process and now you want to make your voice heard. Where to start?

While each New England state has its own open meeting law, many requirements regarding the posting of agenda items, public access and commentary, and meeting minutes are similar. Vermont has the Open Meeting Law (1 V.S.A. § 310-314). Here’s a cheat sheet for those in the state who may be new to local government meeting.

First, remember that not all meetings of government officials, and not every part of an otherwise public meeting, is open to you. There must be a quorum of public

body members present for it to be an official meeting, and discussions on certain topics such as legal matters can be conducted in secret. When there is a meeting, the law requires a physical location. Remote access is not guaranteed.

The time and place of regular meetings must be designated and available upon request.

Notice of any meeting open to the public must be posted at least 48 hours in advance of a regular meeting and 24 hours in advance of a special meeting, along with an agenda.

Notice and the agenda must be posted to a website that the public body maintains or designates as the official website of the body, if one exists, and posted in or near the municipal office, and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality. The agenda must be made available to a person prior to the meeting upon specific request.

Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body.

Upon arriving at a public meeting, you should first request an agenda from the chairperson of the government body in case any revisions have been made since first posted. While state law permits you to record the meeting by video or audio, there may be reasonable recording policies imposed to prevent disruption of the meeting. Consider speaking with a representative of the government body to make sure no restrictions are in place, though you are not required to do so.

It’s important to review the agenda ahead of the meeting. There may not be an opportunity provided to speak on topics other than those listed. If there is an open forum during a meeting, know that the First Amendment prevents any restriction that is unreasonable or based on your opinion alone.

Minutes for each meeting must be available within five business days and can often be found on your respective town’s website. They must include, among other things, the names of

officials attending the meeting and a description of all final decisions and objections.

Each meeting must be recorded and must be available online for at least 30 days following posting of the official minutes.

Know that just because you have these rights does not mean those rights will always be recognized. If you believe that the open meeting law has been violated, you can submit written notice of the specific violation and request a specific cure. The public body then has 10 days to respond publicly, agreeing to the requested cure, or responding that no violation has occurred and no cure is necessary. If the response is not acceptable, a complaint may be filed in Superior Court. In lieu of these options, you may want to contact advocacy organizations, such as the New England First Amendment Coalition or your local American Civil Liberties Union.

The open meeting law is not perfect and can be abused by those in government. Secrecy often seeps into meetings where sunlight should shine. Even well-intended officials don’t always convene meetings in ways accommodating the challenges faced by the elderly, working parents or those lacking transportation. But these meetings are still one of the best ways we have to engage with government, to express ourselves on timely political issues and to hold our representatives accountable.

The right for Vermonters to attend meetings of a public body and know what decisions are made is enshrined in Vermont law, which states, “All meetings of a public body are declared to be open to the public at all times,” and “No resolution, rule, regulation, appointment, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such open meeting,” though specific exceptions are made to both. Those open doors, however, are only useful if we decide to go through them.

Justin Silverman is executive director of the New England First Amendment Coalition, the region’s leading advocate for First Amendment freedoms and open government. Learn more about the coalition at nefac.org. Paul Fixx localized the original New Hampshire article to Vermont. This story is part of Know Your News, a NENPA Press Freedom Committee and Granite State News Collaborative initiative on why the First Amendment, press freedom, and local news matter. Don’t just read this. Share it with one person who doesn’t usually follow local news: that’s how we make an impact. Learn more at nenpa.com/press-freedom-and-local-news-collaborative/.

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ANOTHER OPINION

With a broken heart

by Jerry Greenfield

To the Ben & Jerry's Community:

It's with a broken heart that I've decided I can no longer, in good conscience, and after 47 years, remain an employee of Ben & Jerry's. I am resigning from the company Ben and I started back in 1978. This is one of the hardest and most painful decisions I've ever made.

This isn't because I've lost my love for the people at Ben & Jerry's. Quite the opposite.

The folks who show up every day in our factories, scoop shops and offices are some of the most passionate, caring, and values-driven people you'll ever meet. They are the soul of Ben & Jerry's.

What has made their work so important to me, and what allowed the company to be more than just an ice cream company, was the independence to pursue our values, which was guaranteed when Unilever bought the company. For more than twenty years under their ownership, Ben & Jerry's stood up and spoke out in support of peace, justice and human rights, not as abstract concepts, but in relation to real events happening in our world.

That independence existed in no small part because of the unique merger agreement Ben and I negotiated with Unilever, one that enshrined our social mission and values in the company's governance structure in perpetuity. It's profoundly disappointing to come to the conclusion that that inde-

pendence, the very basis of our sale to Unilever, is gone.

And it's happening at a time when our country's current administration is attacking civil rights, voting rights, the rights of immigrants, women and the LGBTQ community.

Standing up for the values of justice, equity and our shared humanity has never been more important, and yet Ben & Jerry's has been silenced, sidelined for fear of upsetting those in power. It's easy to stand up and speak out when there's nothing at risk. The real test of values is when times are challenging and you have something to lose.

Love, equity, justice" they're part of who Ben and I are, and they've always been the true foun-

dation of Ben & Jerry's. From the very beginning, Ben and I believed that our values and the pursuit of justice were more important than the company itself. If the company couldn't stand up for the things we believed, then it wasn't worth being a company at all.

It was always about more than just ice cream; it was a way to spread love and invite others into the fight for equity, justice and a better world. Coming to the conclusion that this is no longer possible at Ben & Jerry's means I can no longer remain part of Ben & Jerry's. If I can't carry those values forward inside the company today, then I will carry them forward outside, with all the love and conviction I can.

With love, Jerry

Judicial system fails victims of sexual abuse

by Stacie Barber

CALEDONIA COUNTY – To the Elected Officials of Caledonia County, Residents and lawmakers:

I am writing to you with a heavy heart and deep outrage over the recent actions of the Caledonia County State's Attorney Claire Burns, who was appointed by Governor Scott. The handling of recent cases involving known pedophiles and predators like Carl Sanborn, has been nothing short of devastating, not only to the victims directly involved, but to all who expect their leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us.

State's Attorney Claire

Burns has made a plea deal with Carl Sanborn that has minimized his horrific crimes, silencing victims yet again through erroneous agreements that value convenience over justice. In this case, Carl Sanborn, who sexually abused five children for years, received a sentence so light that it amounted to little more than one year per child. This is not justice. This is a betrayal.

Elected officials are meant to stand for the people who cannot stand for themselves. Children who have been sexually abused deserve to have their voices heard, their trauma validated and their abusers held fully accountable.

Instead, these children, now silenced adults, have been left

with the crushing realization that their courage in speaking out has been disregarded. The wealth of evidence that could have kept Carl Sanborn behind bars for life was dismissed in favor of reducing caseloads. This is deplorable, disheartening and utterly unacceptable.

As a family member of four of Carl Sanborn's victims, I am outraged. My family does not understand, and will never understand, how such a grave miscarriage of justice could be allowed to stand. It feels like a slap in the face, a punch in the gut and a clear message to predators everywhere that Vermont will let them off with light sentences so they will continue to molest, assault and rape.

This cannot continue. I urge you to take immediate action: Reconsider the appointment of State's Attorney Claire Burns

and hold accountable any official who prioritizes convenience over justice.

Review and reform plea deal practices for crimes of sexual abuse and exploitation, a mandatory sentence should begin at 25 years.

Make it clear through policy and action that Vermont stands with victims, not with their abusers.

Victims deserve to know that the state they live in will protect them and fight for them, not re-traumatize them through lenient deals and silenced voices.

I beg of all of you in Vermont to file petitions, raise your voices and take swift measures to ensure this never happens again.

I will not sit by and be silenced. Vermont as every other state in this country should be a place where justice for children is never compromised.

Public Notice:

NOTIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION OF EDUCATION RECORDS

FOR: All graduates, former students and parents/guardians of students with disabilities and adult students with disabilities who have attended schools in the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU), including Craftsbury Schools, Hardwick Elementary, Hazen Union, Lakeview Elementary (Greensboro and Stannard), Wolcott Elementary and Woodbury Elementary.

The educational records of all students who have graduated, dropped out, transferred or become ineligible for services prior to and including **June 30, 2018**, will be purged after **October 31, 2025**. This means that any educational records which are no longer needed to provide educational services, including psychological, medical, disciplinary, court, special education, 504 records and recommendations will be destroyed. This information may be needed to establish eligibility for certain adult benefits, e.g. social security.

If you **do not want** this information destroyed, please contact the OSSU Central Office before October 31, 2025. You may request this by calling **Wanda Webster at 802-472-2908** or Christine Gifford at **802-472-2909**. The district will maintain without time limitation directory information including student's name, academic record, date of birth, degrees and awards received, date separated, attendance record and pupil progress record.



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VOICES OF SPIRIT

Despair does not have the final word

by the Reverend
Ed-Sunday-Winters

GREENSBORO – Danish priest Henry Nouwen once said, “the resurrection is God’s way of saying that despair is never the final word.” That is a comforting, even empowering thought, if you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians profess to believe in it. Their worship on Easter Sunday is the pinnacle of the church year. For them, it is the highest of holy days.

In the first year of Covid-19, my celebration of Easter met with a bit of despair. We were not many days away from the big day when word came that all public gatherings must cease. We were going to isolate until such time as it was safe to breathe shared air. For the

first time in my life, I was telling people not to come to church while preparing to preach to empty pews and a camera lens on the holiest day of the year. Nothing felt good about that. The whole situation landed like a sledgehammer through a windshield.

Meanwhile, our town got to work learning how to live in a time of Covid-19. The town emergency response committee met frequently in those early weeks. There were all sorts of mutual aid efforts organized. People were volunteering to pick up groceries, deliver medicine or do whatever needed to be done to keep neighbors safe and healthy. Without any fanfare, neighbors were taking care of neighbors. They were doing exactly the kinds of things that Jesus called his followers to do. Gradually, without

realizing it was happening, I came to see the risen Christ in every act of kindness, every demonstration of mercy, and in every heart beating with compassion. The risen Christ seemed to be everywhere. By the time Easter arrived, my experience of it was deeper and richer than it had ever been. Resurrection had happened and was happening. The tomb was empty. Christ was risen. Despair was on the run or at least held at bay.

Now, we are living in a time that brings its own kind of despair. It is not life threatening like Covid-19, unless you are on Medicaid, undocumented, trans, a person of color, or poor. If we just ignore it, it might remedy itself, unless we are a university professor, a late-night comedian, the director of the Center for Disease Control or most

anyone else who has an opinion not approved by the current administration. Our schoolchildren now do active shooter drills like we did fire drills. No, this despair will not remedy itself. It will not go away if we just ignore it. Something more is needed.

So here I am holding on to the resurrection like a drowning man in the middle of Caspian Lake clinging to a personal flotation device. Grateful God said on that first Easter Sunday that despair will not have the last word. And so incredibly grateful for all the ways my neighbors, those who identify as Christ followers and those who do not, remind me that despair will not be the final word.

Ed Sunday-Winters is the pastor of the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

I HEARD IT THROUGH THE JEDEVINE

Ladd estate is library angel

by Brendan Buckley

HARDWICK – Lisa Sammet, Jeudevine’s librarian from 1993 through 2022, recalls that day in January 2018 as “one of the best days of my life.” Her spirits were at a low ebb, as a bond vote to approve her long-hoped-for expansion project had been voted down. The Jeudevine board chair had resigned and little private money had been raised. She wondered if the collective energy existed to breathe life back into the project. Then the phone rang.

A man’s voice greeted her with “I want to start by noting that this is not a crank call.” He introduced himself as the attorney for the estate of Parker Ladd, a man Sammet had never known. The estate had directed almost half a million dollars to the Jeudevine Library. That one remarkable gift re-energized the board and provided a solid financial footing on which to grow funding. The process began again.

But the question remained. Who was Parker Ladd?

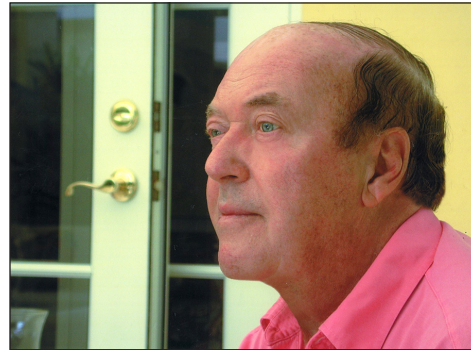
Parker Ladd was born in Hardwick in 1929. He lived on West Church Street, just down from the library. The library became a refuge for him. He read voraciously and went on to major in English at the University of Vermont. Joyce Slayton Mitchell, four years his junior, lived across the street from his home. “I adored Parker Ladd,” she recalled. She marveled at his intellect and at his knowledge of books and plays. He often recommended reading for her. Their

friendship continued across the decades. She was a regular visitor to his home in New York City. He left a key under the mat for her and often provided her with tickets to Broadway shows.

Following his graduation from UVM, he served in the United States military and spent time in Sweden as a bookseller before returning to the United States. Mitchell visited him in Stockholm and sat in on rehearsals for a play he was producing. He returned to the United States and began his career in publishing in Los Angeles. Soon thereafter he relocated to New York where he achieved great success at Scribners. He then moved to the American Association of Publishers and rose to its presidency. His career in publishing spanned 35 years.

His partner for more than 50 years was Arnold Scaasi, a New York fashion designer who designed dresses for Hollywood stars (Sophia Loren, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbra Streisand) and first ladies (Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton). Together, Scaasi and Ladd were regular attendees at the city’s most exclusive social events.

Along with gossip-columnist Liz Smith, the two men were instrumental in growing Literacy Partners, a nonprofit program to promote literacy among underprivileged parents, caregivers and children. In 1986 they organized the first Literary Partners Evening of Readings, a grand annual gala at which well-known authors are invited to read, and students of the program share their successes. One article quoted



Parker Ladd

Ladd as believing that reading was the definition of civilization. Over the years the foundation raised more than thirty-seven million dollars.

Within that high society world Scaasi and Smith were the celebrities, but Ladd “was the glue that held them together” said Jane Friedman, one-time CEO of Harper-Collins. It fell to him to attract top authors to the gala. Following his death in 2017, the CEO of Literacy Partners, Anthony Tassi, remembered him as “charming, elegant and uncommonly generous of spirit . . . a walking adver-

tisement for the literary lifestyle. A lifelong bookworm from Vermont, he read nonstop.”

Ladd and Scaasi married in 2011. They shared homes in Manhattan, Palm Beach and Quogue (on Long Island). Ladd’s niece, Karen Baker, recalls that in each of those homes “the bookshelves were full and there were piles of books on the floor”.

Ladd died in 2017 at age 89. He never forgot the town where he grew up. Had he followed the news from Hardwick about the struggles to expand the first library he had loved? Did he understand that his gift would help bring a Jeudevine dream to reality? Thanks to his generosity we now enjoy an expanded library that sits at the center of our community, fully capable of meeting 21st-century needs, but, at heart, there to serve as a sanctuary for patrons and to encourage us all to share in his lifelong appreciation of books and devotion to reading.

For the record

John Schweizer’s name was incorrectly spelled, adding a ‘t’ prior to the ‘z’ in two recent pieces and last week’s photo essay, “Swamped Boat in Caspian Lake.” Before that, the misspelled reference to Schweizer appeared in the September 2 story, “Drought conditions affect Caspian Lake” and Dede Stabler’s August 27 op-ed piece, “A call to action for Caspian Lake.” Corrections have been made and noted in the online stories at HardwickGazette.org.

The gallery in last week’s story, “Exhibition of painting, drawings, sculpture feature Hellers’ works, to Sept. 30,” should have been called The Front Four Gallery. It also should not have referred to a concentration camp because Heller was in a forced labor camp only and Tiepolo’s name was misspelled. In that same paragraph “some positions” should have been “compositions.”

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Sumac galls have ancient association

by Loren Merrill

MILLBROOK, N.Y. – The staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is a ubiquitous shrub of human-impacted northeastern habitats. Sumac stands occur along most highways and county roads, as well as in disturbed areas and abandoned fields transitioning to shrubland. With the onset of late summer’s cooler nighttime temperatures and shorter days, staghorn sumacs are among the first leafy plants to lose chlorophyll from their cells. The breakdown of this pigment triggers the transition from green foliage to yellow, orange, and red, often starting as early as mid-August. After a striking autumnal display, their rich red to burgundy-colored fruit clusters remain all winter.

But in addition to their distinct leaves and fruits, some sumac plants have another feature that turns vibrant colors: a bladderlike protrusion hanging from the underside of a leaflet. This incongruous growth is a gall, triggered by the tiny sumac gall aphid (classically presented as *Melaphis rhois*, but recent molecular work suggests it may be two or more species) hijacking the sumac’s defenses as part of a complex life cycle.

The sumac’s role in this story starts in the early spring when winged, asexual female aphids land on the sumac branches, deposit sexual (male and female) larvae along the stem, and promptly die. The larvae have no mouth-parts and thus do not

feed, but they mature in four to five days and mate. The female carries a single developing egg inside her for two to three weeks until it is ready to hatch. Then she deposits the membranous egg on a sumac twig, where the larva emerges almost immediately. This larval aphid crawls to the end of a newly unfolded leaflet and begins eating. (Eventually the aphid will develop into a wingless, asexually reproducing female called the “fundatrix” or “stem mother,” terms referring to her role as the founding member of a new colony.)

Feeding activity by the fundatrix stimulates the formation of a gall which encloses the female. The gall itself is made entirely by the plant; chemicals in the aphid’s saliva trigger a process called metaplasia, during which the plant cells around the aphid feeding site begin changing from typical leaflet cells into gall cells. The gall grows different tissues on the exterior and interior; the exterior wall is usually light but tough, and the interior wall may be composed of a highly nutritious layer of cells that the developing aphids feed on.

This strategy of eliciting a gall response in the host plant is far from unique. There are thousands of species of insects, arachnids, nematodes, bacteria, and fungi that induce galls, but the aphid’s life cycle is perhaps a bit more unusual than many of the other gall-makers.

Following the formation of the gall (which starts off light



Sumac galls

green in color), the female completes development inside the gall and undergoes asexual reproduction, laying clonal eggs that develop into wingless females within the gall. At least three generations of aphids develop inside the gall, and sometimes several more; some galls contain thousands of aphids. Typically, in mid- to late August, the aphids in the gall (which has often turned red or pink by this time) begin producing winged females, and when a slit opens in the gall in early fall, the winged generation emerges and takes flight. They generally don’t fly far; their destination is a bed of moss underneath or close to the sumac, where they again start a colony of wingless, asexually reproducing aphids that live on the moss. Subsequent generations live on the moss as well,

where they can persist for a year or more. The following spring, the moss-inhabiting aphid colonies may produce a generation of winged migrants that ascend to sumac branches, starting the cycle anew.

The association between the aphid, the sumac, and the moss appears to be quite old, dating back at least 48 million years. Despite the parasitic nature of the relationship, the aphid’s impact on the sumac is thought to be negligible. So, as you admire the autumn colors, keep an eye out for sumacs harboring these tiny gall-makers, and take a moment to consider this fascinating and ancient phenomenon.

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



The Lamoille River upriver from the Village Restaurant parking lot on September 19, is at an extremely low level. At the first monitoring station on the river, downstream at Johnson, the river level is at just 30% of its normal September 17 level. photo by Paul Fixx



Craftsbury Community Care Center
We Center on Caring

Accounting/Payroll Clerk
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Contact Kim at (802) 586-2415 or email your resume to kroberge@craftsburycarecenter.org.

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Finding the Pink Star Caterpillar

by Rachel Sargent Mirus

DUXBURY – When I imagine scientists discovering new animals, I picture them traveling to far-off jungles or remote mountaintops, not investigating local roadsides, utility cuts or other edge spaces of human habitation. Yet late last summer, naturalists with The Caterpillar Lab in Swanzey, N.H., found an unknown caterpillar on an unlikely host plant in an unassuming location.

During the summer of 2024, Logan Dieck, a high school senior and caterpillar enthusiast, was visiting from California to volunteer with The Caterpillar Lab. At the end of his trip, Sam Jaffe, the founder and director of the lab, took him out to look for caterpillars along the fringes of the local airport. Jaffe hoped to find a few perennial favorites, perhaps a decorator emerald on daisy fleabane or a silver-spotted skipper on groundnut.

Jaffe described the area as sandy and full of tall, weedy plants. His eyes moved from one familiar caterpillar food plant to another, efficiently searching for the caterpillar favorites he wanted to show Dieck.

Dieck began an open-ended search, looking for anything that might be interesting. “I noticed a tiny brownish-red caterpillar on the ground,” he told me. It had brilliant white chevrons that stood out against the backdrop of plant life. He picked it up and showed it to Jaffe, who later said, “I lost my mind. I know all the larger caterpillars you can expect to find here, and this didn’t

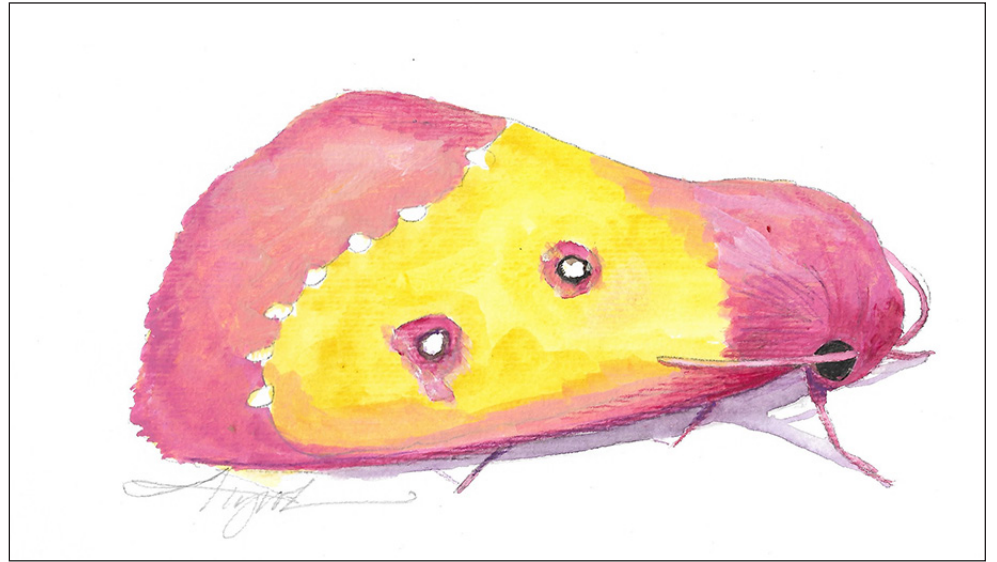
fit in any of those boxes.”

Looking closer, they realized that the caterpillar had been sitting on a fallen, dead, and dry pinweed plant with distinctive feeding damage. The plant’s tiny round seeds had a neat, circular hole cut out of their tops and were completely hollowed out. Pinweed is rarely a food plant for any caterpillars, making Dieck’s find doubly fascinating.

Based on the caterpillar’s tough skin and striped coloration, Jaffe was confident it had to be one of the sun moths. He quickly worked up a short list of possible suspects, with the pink star moth (*Derrima stellata*) at the top. Although small, just an inch long, the pink star moth is an eye-catching combination of bright pink and yellow colors with metallic white eyespots. It’s considered to be widespread but uncommon across the East Coast. The adult moth has been documented since 1858, but its caterpillar stage and host plants had remained a mystery.

Once naturalists and collaborators knew what to look for and where, they found an additional 40 to 50 caterpillars. To confirm Jaffe’s suspicion about the identity of these unknown caterpillars, they kept them after they pupated in the fall of 2024 and overwintered them at The Caterpillar Lab. Sure enough, by late May of 2025, out came the first gorgeous adult pink star moths.

There are many details about the lives of these moths that are still unclear, although Jaffe has some early ideas. He said the adult moths are likely out in June and July to mate and lay eggs



Pink Star moth

on pinweed, with the caterpillars hatching in July and feeding into September. They then leave their food plants to overwinter as pupae underground, emerging as adult moths again in June. He suspects they have a single generation each year. He also thinks it’s possible that these moths are more common than their reputation suggests but just aren’t very attracted to the light traps that naturalists typically use to catch moths.

This discovery provides a big piece of the puzzle toward understanding the pink star moth’s complete life history and ecological connections. Knowledge of their caterpillar appearance and host plant preference is already helping entomologists understand their distribution and relationships to similar species. It led to new evidence that spring-flying star moths in Florida are a distinct and currently unnamed species.

This discovery is a reminder that there is always something new to find, even in our own backyards. Jaffe said, “This is what we’re trying to do with the lab: go out and find cool things and bring them to people.” He’s currently working on a book to do just that: share these stories and fill in some of the mysteries of East Coast moths.

The work to understand the life of the pink star moth will continue. Before returning to California, Dieck assisted caterpillar expert David Wagner at the University of Connecticut with mapping the caterpillars’ setae (bristles). Already, they’ve found microstructures on their skin that are unique. Dieck said, “Each caterpillar has a unique story to tell; each is worth learning about and appreciating.”

Rachel Sargent Mirus is a teaching artist and writer living in Duxbury. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.



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Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the Greensboro Town Office and via ZOOM. The Board will consider a conditional use request from Will Lyman to construct a new boathouse at 168 Aspenhurst. This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Use, and 8.7 New Uses and Encroachments Within the Shoreland Buffer Resource Zone (B) 3. An in-person site visit for this proposal will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. Both the hybrid hearing and the site visit are open to the public.

The Board will also consider a conditional use request from Brad and Cathy Irwin for a shoreline restoration project at 127 Aspenhurst. This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Use, and 8.7 New Uses and Encroachments Within the Shoreland Buffer Resource Zone (B) 1. An in-person site visit for this proposal will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. Both the hybrid hearing and the site visit are open to the public.

The meeting number is 824 558 6005. There is no password. You may phone into the ZOOM meeting at: 646 931 3860.

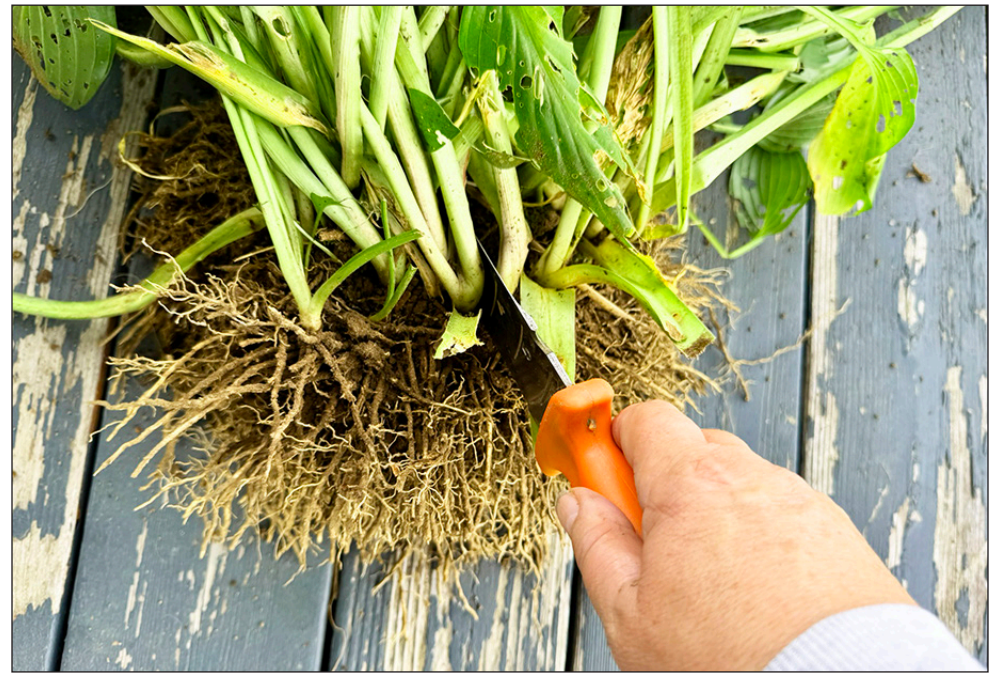
The written request is available for review at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, www.greensborovt.gov. Participation in the proceeding, either in person or in writing, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. Interested persons may join the ZOOM hearing or send a letter or email (zoning@greensborovt.gov) to the Development Review Board at the Greensboro Town Clerk’s office to comment on the proposed plan.

Greensboro Development Review Board

IN THE GARDEN



Hosta is one of the perennials that can be divided in the fall. This clump of hosta is ready for division.
photo by Debra Heleba



Use a soil knife or other sharp gardening tool to divide perennials.
photo by Debra Heleba

Fall is time to divide perennials

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Perennial plants return to our gardens each growing season, but after several years, they may outgrow their original space. Dividing perennials in the fall or early spring can help keep these plants healthy while building an ornamental beds over time.

Overcrowding may cause a lack of flowers, increased disease pressure and decreased vigor or die-back. Consider root division to rejuvenate a tired, overgrown plant, give plants around it more room to grow, and provide you with more plants. Who doesn't love a free plant?

Perennials to consider for root division include hosta (*Hosta*), speedwell (*Veronica*), coral bells (*Heuchera*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia*), daylily (*Hemerocallis*), Shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*), coneflower (*Echinacea*) and moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*),

among others.

Some plants, such as hardy mums (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*) bloom in the fall, so they should be divided in the spring when their energy is focused on growth rather than on producing flowers.

Other plants don't like their roots disturbed and are best left to other forms of propagation since the success rate using division is likely to be poor. For example, lupine (*Lupinus*) has a long taproot and doesn't do well if moved or divided. Alternate methods of propagation such as growing from seed or taking basal cuttings are likely to produce more successful results.

When in doubt, research the plant to be propagated to determine the best method.

When dividing a perennial, choosing a mild, overcast day can help reduce stress on the plant. Water well shortly before proceeding.

Gather needed tools, including

a spade, garden fork, garden knife and loppers or hand pruners. Make sure they're clean and disinfected to prevent spread of possible plant diseases or pests. A tarp or wheelbarrow is needed to hold the root ball once it's removed from the ground.

Remove dead or damaged leaves and those that have begun to die back as the end of the growing season draws near. Cut back excess leaves (up to one-third of the plant's foliage) to make for easier handling during removal.

Dig around the root ball, preserving as much of it as possible. If the plant is particularly stubborn, use a sharp blade to aid in its removal. When loosened, lift the root ball using a spade or garden fork.

Place the root ball on a tarp on the ground or in a wheel barrel. Shake or otherwise gently remove enough soil to get a good view of the roots. Remove any that are dead or damaged. This is also a good time to inspect for jumping worms, especially in the fall, so they won't

spread them to other parts of your garden. Work quickly to minimize the time roots are exposed to air.

Select where to make divisions in the root ball. In general, be sure each segment includes a good clump of roots and some above-ground growth. Divide the root ball into segments by hand or with a garden tool.

If segments can't be planted immediately, pot them up and keep in a sheltered location.

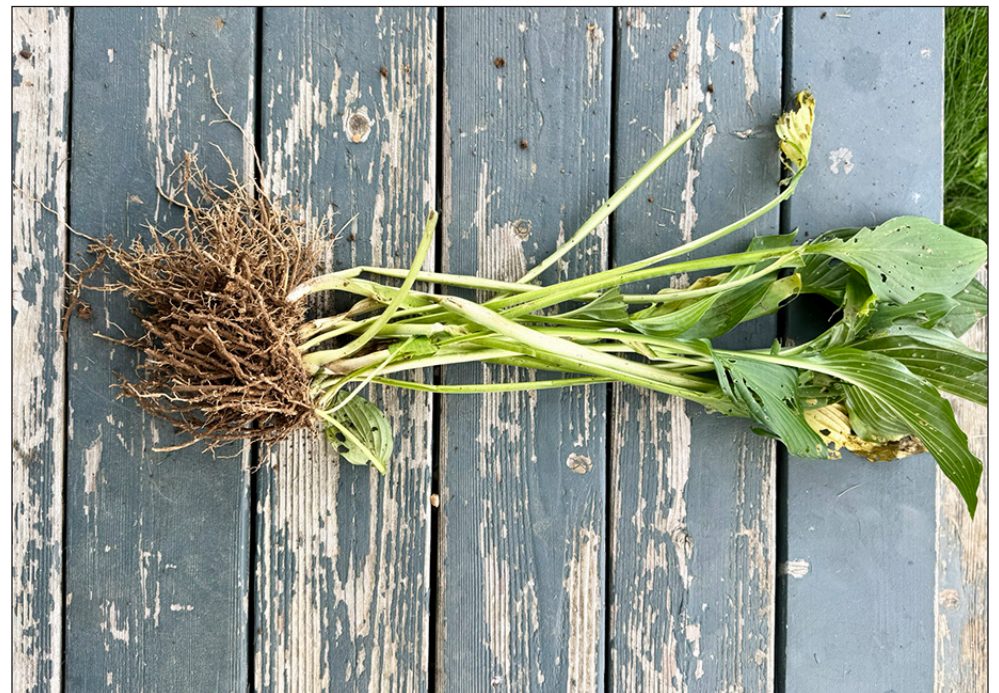
If planting in ground, plant at the same depth as the original plant. Fill in the hole, tamping the soil down lightly. Water well. Do not fertilize until spring.

With a little work this fall, there will be happy, healthy plants to enjoy come spring.

Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener living in North Adams, Mass., who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.



To avoid the spread of jumping worms and other pests, remove as much soil as possible from the perennial and leave in original planting site or discard.
photo by Debra Heleba



While these newly planted hosta divisions look floppy, it is important to keep some leaves on the plants so that they can establish before winter. Be sure to keep these new plants watered but avoid fertilizing until the spring.
photo by Debra Heleba

EDUCATION

McKibben named Green and Gold Scholar

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury Academy senior Owen McKibben has been awarded the Green and Gold Scholars Award from The University of Vermont (UVM).

Although still considering majors, Owen plans to apply to UVM with the ultimate goal of attending medical school.

This merit scholarship awards full in-state tuition for up to four years to those who apply, are accepted, and attend UVM. It also includes an invitation to UVM's prestigious Honors College. To receive the Green and Gold Scholars Award, the selected student must be a competitive applicant, meet or exceed minimum entrance requirements



Owen McKibben

to the university and for the selected academic program, apply for admission by January 15 of the senior year, and must choose to attend UVM by May 1 of the semester prior to enrollment.



New staff at Cabot School include (left) Lisa Olson, librarian; (center) Dan Parrella, high school history teacher; and (right) Sharon Caroli, K-1 teacher. Missing from the photo is Jeremy Vorce, maintenance.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Members of the Hardwick Academy/Hazen Union Alumni Association gather to count up the final results of their coin drop on Wolcott Street in Hardwick on Saturday, including, (from left) Lorrie Curtis, Mike Clark, Dave Shepard, Dave LeCours, Gail O'Brien, Greg Custis and Brenda Eastman.

courtesy photo

OUR COMMUNITIES

Turkey Dinner, Sept. 27

CABOT – The Cabot United Church will hold its annual fall foliage turkey dinner on Cabot's Fall Foliage Day, Saturday, Sept. 27. The meal includes roast turkey, squash, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and desert. Diners can eat at tables on the Common where there will be live music

until 6 p.m., performed by the Bent Nails Band. Attendees may eat in the church or ask for the meals to be take-out.

The 175-year-old church will be open to visitors from noon to 4 p.m. on that day. Funds from the turkey dinner will be used for the church fuel fund.

Proposals to Amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont

The Vermont General Assembly is proposing voters amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont. Proposal 3 has passed two successive legislative sessions and will appear on the November 2026 ballot for voter approval. Proposal 4 is pending legislative approval in the second year of the biennium. If approved, Proposal 4 will also appear on the November 2026 ballot.

See proposals below:

Proposal 3: This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to collectively bargain.

Article 2* of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 2*. [Right to collectively bargain]

That employees have a right to organize or join a labor organization for the purpose of collectively bargaining with their employer through an exclusive representative of their choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety in the workplace. Therefore, no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, or that prohibits the application or execution of an agreement between an employer and a labor organization representing the employer's employees that requires membership in the labor organization as a condition of employment.

Proposal 4: This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment and respect under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin.

Article 2* of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 2*. [Equality of rights]

That the people are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The State shall not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the adoption or implementation of measures intended to provide equality of treatment and opportunity for members of groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org
ads@hardwickgazette.org

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Graduates of the inaugural Tools of the Trade program were (from left) Bill Chidsey (Solar Harvester of Hardwick), Eric Solsaa (Solsaa Building and Energy Solutions of Rutland), Hannah Bush (Han Hewn of Duxbury), Sarah Gilbert (Lode Stone of Pittsfield), Thomas Halpin (VT Exergy of Bristol), David Bailey (Black Cat Builders of Plainfield) and Joe Maheux (Maheux Heating and Refrigeration Inc. of Jericho).
photo by Kelly Nottermann

Vermont energy professionals graduate from business coaching program

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF), in collaboration with Efficiency Vermont and Vermont Gas Systems, recently graduated the inaugural cohort of Tools of the Trade– Business Fundamentals for Energy Pros, a business coaching program designed to support weatherization and clean energy contractors across the state.

The inaugural cohort included seven businesses from across Vermont, including Black Cat Builders of Plainfield and Solar Harvester of Hardwick.

The program offered participants practical training in business fundamentals tailored to weatherization contractors, energy audit businesses, electrician firms and builders who specialize in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Monthly in-person sessions, one-on-one coaching, and peer learning helped

contractors strengthen skills in workforce recruitment and retention, financial management, operations, customer engagement and leadership.

“This program was a fantastic jump forward for me as a business owner,” said David Bailey, of Black Cat Builders, a Tools of the Trade Participant. “I wish it had existed ten years ago!”

“Watching these business owners grow over the course of the program has been incredibly inspiring,” said Kurt Ericksen, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund’s Tools of the Trade Program Manager. “They showed up with curiosity, a willingness to learn, and a deep commitment to their craft and communities. Their progress is a testament to what’s possible when we invest in workforce and business development as much as investing in technology and infrastructure.”

Back Stairs at Harry’s Hardware opens

by Johanna Thibault

CABOT – Harry’s Hardware has opened an upstairs space, called The Back Stairs, for community use.

The Back Stairs is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The space has high-speed internet with Ethernet and Wi-Fi.

Guests enter through Harry’s Hardware, where food and drinks can be ordered.

An upstairs porch is expected to open soon and a conference room is planned.

Community members can use the space during the next two months and provide feedback. Premium

memberships will be offered after the holidays.

The Back Stairs is available for event bookings. Information is available at info@harryshardwarevt.com.

This story first appeared in The Cabot Chronicle, September 2025.

BIRTHS

Damion Lucas Johnson Jr.

WOLCOTT - A son, Damion Lucas Johnson Jr., was born to Damion and Kassidy (Limlaw) Johnson, of Wolcott, on September 15 at Copley Hospital.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Caspian beach community forum, Sept. 25

by Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District

GREENSBORO – Thursday, September 25, 6:30 to 8 p.m., the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) is holding a community forum on a Caspian Public Beach Clean Water Project, at Highland Center for the Arts.

In May, OCNRCD was awarded a Vermont State grant to continue work on a Clean Water Project for the Caspian Lake Public Beach. Since then, OCNRCD has contracted with FluidState Consulting to produce the designs. FluidState and OCNRCD have extensive experience within the Caspian watershed, which was largely gained through creating the Caspian Lake Watershed Action Plan (vacd.org/lake-caspian/) in 2023. This project was prioritized through that planning process.

The project is being designed by Dana Allen, FluidState’s Principal, and managed by Will Marlier, a Greensboro resident and OCNRCD’s

Lake Watershed Program Specialist.

The project aims to improve the beach’s water quality, shoreland habitat and public enjoyment through practices that may include rain gardens, shoreland buffers and stormwater management. It will not address the dam.

Marlier and Allen will present the project’s status, objectives and limitations, followed by a Q&A. The focus will be on water quality and wildlife habitat, with recreation and public access considered through an ecological lens.

Any practices that are eventually designed and implemented will first be considered through a robust stakeholder engagement process. Anyone, regardless of residency, is encouraged to participate and share their voice. Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting and/or complete an electronic survey.

The Highland Center for the Arts is located at 2875 Hardwick St, Greensboro. Contact Will Marlier at will.marlier@orleanscountynrcd.org or (802) 624-7023 with questions.

EDUCATION



New staff at Twinfield Union School are (from left, front row) Maze Laverty, sixth-grade humanities; Ajla Kapo, elementary counselor; Heather Grate, student assistant professional; and Delana Cheney, fourth grade teacher; (back row) Annie Boudreau, seventh-eighth humanities; Caleb Corliss, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); and Eric Gold, high school math teacher. Missing from the photo are Tatese Crown, pre-K teacher; Nikki Matheson, French teacher; Mel Donahue, band and performing arts; Tammy Hicks, sixth grade STEM; and Saige Vorce, paraeducator.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

TOWN OF GREENSBORO ROAD CLOSURE SHADOW LAKE ROAD

Shadow Lake Road in Greensboro will be closed September 2, for approximately six weeks for bridge replacement. Please follow detour signs. As progress is made, updates will be available.

OUR COMMUNITIES



Protesters (from left) Ellie Hayes, Woodbury; Ginny Sassaman, Calais; Rachel Cole, Hardwick; Rosanne Hickey, Greensboro; Carlotta Hayes and Mary Gagnon, both Hardwick, in front of the Hardwick Peace Park, engage with passersby, displaying signs expressing concern on a wide range of issues, Tuesday, Sept. 15. photo by Paul Fixx

Poetry reading, Sept. 28

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Public Library welcomes author Renee Rossi to the library on Sunday, September 28 at 4 p.m., to share a reading from her most recent book of poetry, “I Want to Be the Largest Animal That Was Never Missed Once She Became Extinct.”

Renée Rossi is a poet, physician, artist and mother. She is the author of “Triage” (Lost Horse Press,

2016) and three poetry chapbooks including “Motherboard” and “Still Life,” winner of the Gertrude Press Poetry Award. She grows gardens and teaches integrative medicine, combining western and holistic medicines, and lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. For more information, contact the library at (802) 586-9683 or director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org.

Justice For Dogs annual fall flea market, begins Oct. 3

WOLCOTT – Justice For Dogs annual fall flea market will take place Friday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Wolcott Town Hall. House plants will be featured at the flea market, as well as a lantern auction and “Home For The Holidays” 50/50 raffle. On Friday, Street Treats ice cream truck will be at the sale from noon to 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 2, Justice For Dogs will be seeking donations for the fall flea market. Drop off day for donated items will be at the Wolcott Town Hall on Vt. Route 15 between 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are looking for quality household items for the

flea market. Good, clean clothing items are also accepted.

Do not donate children’s car seats, TVs, computers, cribs, helmets, pressure cookers, knives, dehumidifiers, books (only children’s books will be accepted), shoes, fluorescent bulbs, things with filters, construction supplies and huge furniture that can’t easily be moved. Justice For Dogs reserves the right to decline any donations that are not suitable for our sale.

Justice For Dogs (and cats too) is a volunteer-operated local animal rescue based out of Wolcott. For more information visit justicefordogsvt.org

EDUCATION

CCV Announces Summer Student Honors List

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) were named to the summer 2025 Student Honors List: Jessica Mason of East Calais, Alexis Christensen of Hardwick, Grace Gouge of Marshfield and Joann Marckres of Woodbury. This honor recognizes part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average.

CCV is Vermont’s second-largest college, serving more than 10,000 students each year. With 12 locations and extensive online learning options, our students don’t have to travel far from their communities to access our degree and certificate programs, workforce, secondary and continuing education opportunities, and academic and veterans support services.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Village store remains in now local hands

by **Raymonda Parchment**

CABOT – Michael DeLacy was nine years old when his parents, Donald and Mary Lou DeLacy, bought land on Urban Road in Cabot in 1978 when it was still a wooded lot. In his own words, “I’ve been coming up here ever since,” said DeLacy.

In a recent interview with the Cabot Chronicle, Michael talked about closing on the Cabot Village Store July 27, and shared how his current ownership came to be.

“... the first thing I should make clear is that this is a family venture. It’s me and my brother Stephen and my brother’s wife, Holly, who are all involved with the ownership and operation of the store.”

DeLacy’s parents both grew up in Boston, purchasing the Urban Road lot with the desire to build a little cabin, “And we did just that. And then, when they retired, around 1996 or 1997, they built a home and started living there for longer stretches.”

Eventually, his parents were year-round Vermonters. A couple of years ago, DeLacy moved up from Massachusetts to Cabot permanently, selling his landscaping business in order to help his parents age in place. “My brother and I wanted to be there for them, much like they were for us. It wasn’t an obligation so much as it was something that was natural for he and I [sic] to do for them. Plus, they live here. I mean, how bad is it? It’s a wonderful place to be and live.”

DeLacy was first interested in acquiring the store several years ago. Having a casual conversation with former owner Bobby Searles, Michael was factoring in his goal to permanently move to Vermont. “So I said, ‘Hey, if you’re ever interested in selling the store, let me know.’ And so, when the time came and I knew I was moving up here, I reached out again. We had our ups and downs, but we made it happen,” he recalled.

While he has no previous background in running a general store, he spent some time managing a few small restaurants as well as running his own landscaping business, “... there were no career choices that prepared me

for owning this store, and it’s been an incredible experience for me.”

He talked about how grateful he is for the community support he and his family have received thus far. “People have been so sweet about the whole thing. And I think a lot of it is cachet from folks knowing and loving my parents. And I also think people are pleased that the store is run by someone who has been somewhat a part of the community and now fully part of the community, somebody who knows a little Cabot history.”

Running the store well is no easy feat, DeLacy admits. “I’ve come to understand that the people of Cabot love bananas. They love them! ... Last week I didn’t order enough, and so we didn’t have bananas for a while.”

He emphasized how grateful he was to the Searles throughout the transition, “Bobby and Stephanie, of course, have been extremely helpful and incredibly generous with their time and expertise.”

Michael further commended the store’s former owners, reflecting on the critical role the village store has played for the community, “We are just another family in a long line of families

that have owned the village store. And there will be families after us, and what’s important is the store and its place in the community, and not who runs it. But, I think again it should be acknowledged the fact that the Searles kept it open despite all the difficulties with the floods and Covid-19 and whatever else came along in their own lives and in the town. They kept that store open 365 days a year for twenty years. And that’s an amazing feat. And if I could achieve that goal, I would be very happy. Whatever else I can add would be gravy, but keeping the store open like they did would be a great accomplishment.”

The Cabot Village Store at 3109 Main Street is open seven days a week, opening at 7 a.m. every day except 8 a.m. Sunday, and closing at 7 p.m., except 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 5 p.m. Sunday.

Significant portions of this story first appeared in a September 2025 Cabot Chronicle story by Jeanne Johnson.

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

Kent exhibit illuminates mementos, memories, shared humanity

REVIEW



Jennifer Koch's "Specimen #43, After Theodore Chasseriau 1843."

Image courtesy of artist Jennifer Koch and photographer Dok Wright.

by Tom McKone, The Bridge

CALAIS – Almost two dozen terra cotta and stoneware clay faces emerge from the surface, top to bottom, starting small and gradually increasing to full heads, creating the illusion they are coming into the room from the past. These are the faces of struggling people. Life's hard for so many around the world today, as it was for all ancestors, I think, as I look at Burlington artist Susan Wilson's "Becoming I," at the opening of "Holding: Mementos Kept, Memories Kindled," this year's Art at the Kent exhibit at Kents' Corner in Calais.

"As I work clay over, my simplified head forms, the faces of those who inspire me, emerge," she writes. "I travel with those who are searching, yearning, asking questions, and struggling to move forward in their lives."

Wilson's works evoke the past, our shared and personal memories and our shared humanity, themes developed by the 22 Vermont artists in the Kent exhibit.

As visitors start their journey in the rambling, nearly



Middlesex artist August Burns's "Elvira." photo by Tom McKone

two-century-old building, they walk through a hallway with 39 portraits.

Jennifer Koch's "Specimen #43, After Theodore Chasseriau 1843." Image courtesy of artist Jennifer Koch and photographer Dok Wright.

"We wanted to show the breadth of humanity on this wall," says Cornelia "Nel" Emlen, one of three curators. "We all have our own stories that we're holding."

Curator Allyson Evans calls the wall a "human container . . . emblematic of every person."

Twelve of those works are exquisite portraits by Middlesex artist August Burns, who has two additional portraits in other parts of the exhibit. Burns, who painted

the official portrait of Gov. Peter Shumlin, is one of two artists in this show who have painted official portraits of former Vermont governors. Middlebury artist Kate Gridley painted Gov. Jim Douglas's portrait.

David Schutz, the third curator, says when they met with artists and developed the theme for this year's exhibit, talking with Gridley convinced them to focus on memory. They gave her a room for 58 small paintings, in which she painted objects from her earliest memories, more or less chronologically, through her life.

In a brochure accompanying her installation, Gridley writes that years ago, when her very smart, aging father

began experiencing dementia, he "amassed an enormous library of neurology books," and the brain and memory became a regular part of their conversations.

"As daughter, I was losing him. As artist, I wanted to find a way to embody the explorations about memory that we had been sharing," Gridley writes.

Burlington artist Jennifer Koch's installation, "Specimens," is distributed through the show and includes plenty of found objects. In an extraordinary series of shadow boxes, Koch starts with classic European paintings, then constructs an outrageous, three-dimensional headdress out of incongruous objects, from musical instruments

See KENT, next page

WGDR 91.1 FM
WGDH 91.7 FM
CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO

Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

🗨️ Talk/Interview 🎵 Music

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	12 AM
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond		Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine			Adagio		2 AM
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix <small>Music Directors</small>							3 AM
4 AM								4 AM
5 AM	Counterspin Grassroots	Thom Hartmann Program					What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	5 AM
6 AM	Big Picture Science Show	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Prison Pipeline Food Sleuth	6 AM
7 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip <small>Alan LePage & Steven Farnham</small>	Maggie in the Morning <small>Delia Gillen</small>	Eastern Dawn <small>Luke Lampugnale</small>	First Voices Radio	Writer's Voice	Economic Update Rumble Strip	The Children's Hour	7 AM
8 AM	Democracy Now!						Bike Talk	8 AM
9 AM	Trance-Formational Listening <small>Dennis Darrah</small>	Eggs on Toast <small>Kelly</small>	ROTATING SLOT #6 <small>(see below)</small>	The Quilting Hour <small>Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer</small>	Relocalizing Vermont <small>Carl Etnier</small>	The Magical Mystery Tour <small>Tonio Epstein</small>	ROTATING SLOT #9 <small>(see below)</small>	9 AM
10 AM	ROTATING SLOT #1 <small>(see below)</small>	Peace Talk Radio Sprouts	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see below)	10 AM
11 AM		ROTATING SLOT #4 <small>(see below)</small>	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones <small>Ben Bashore</small>	Night Train Cocktail	¿Where Do We Go From Here? <small>Caleb</small>	The Metal Edge <small>Willis Pratt</small>	11 AM
12 PM	Thought Pasture <small>Maura Quinn</small>	Personal and Political <small>Stephanie Fraser</small>	That Driving Beat		Unshelved <small>J Kramer</small>	Techtonic		12 PM
1 PM				The Rubber Room <small>Dan Towner</small>				1 PM
2 PM	Spanning the Chasm <small>Peter Goreau</small>	The Monday Drive at 2 <small>Corey Flynn</small>	Straight Up Soul		UpFront Soul	Modern Jet Set	Boxful of Blues <small>John Foster</small>	2 PM
3 PM				Adiagio		Hittin' the Note <small>Bill Hahn</small>		3 PM
4 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 <small>(see below)</small>	Trailing Edge <small>David Ferland</small>	Listen Up! <small>Bill Nowlan</small>	Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music <small>Barry Matthews</small>	Law and Disorder		Acoustic Harmony <small>Mark Michaelis</small>	4 PM
5 PM	Bon Mot <small>Rick Agran</small>	Letters and Politics				Geezer Rock <small>Jeff Lindholm</small>		5 PM
6 PM	Good Ways Reggae <small>Kind</small>	Democracy Now! (rerun)		Stranger & Deinger	ROTATING SLOT #8 <small>(see below)</small>			6 PM
7 PM	The Revel Level <small>DJ EhMmAhh</small>	ROTATING SLOT #5 <small>(see below)</small>	ROTATING SLOT #7 <small>(see below)</small>	Woodwarbler's JazzGrass <small>Brian Aust</small>	Xav Wax <small>Xav Jimenez</small>	Spiral Galaxy <small>Tom McMurdo</small>	Jagler Katz Worm Hole <small>Jason Hagler</small>	7 PM
8 PM								8 PM
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #3 <small>(see below)</small>	Deep Blues <small>Les Mawson</small>	Swivel Radio <small>DJ Effery</small>	Music as Art <small>Uku Meri</small>	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic <small>DJ Eben Flow</small>	The Meltdown <small>KingTone</small>	First Wave	9 PM
10 PM		Blues Edge <small>Les Mawson</small>					The Beatdown <small>Z-Point</small>	10 PM
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio <small>DJ Eben Flow</small>	And You Don't Stop		11 PM

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Audio Ergo Sum
Darien & Ruby McElwain
2nd & 4th Sun:
The Immanent Grove
Conni Mags

#2: Sun 4-5 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Afrosonic Taxi
2nd & 4th Sun: Discoverances
DJ Savannah

#3: Sun 9-11 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Walkin' Will: Show
of Live
2nd & 4th Sun: All Mixed Up

#4: Mon 11 am-12 pm
1st Mon: Blluminations
Stefanie Lingenfelder
2nd & 4th Mon: Cuneiform Radio
Kyle Schlesinger
3rd Mon: Project Censored

#5: Mon 7-9 pm
1st Mon: Future Reflections
DJ Syd
2nd Mon: In Common Sounds
Brother B
3rd Mon: Gilded Splinters
Kevin Titterton
4th Mon: Borderlands
DJ Tenderman

#6: Tue 9-10 am
1st & 3rd Tue: Alternative Radio
2nd & 4th Tue:
Structurally Unsound
Yardain Amron

#7: Tue 7-9 pm
Biweekly rotation:
Still Life with Club Soda
Serena Matt
Still Life with Orange Peel
Ada Bowman

#8: Thu 6-7 pm
1st Thu: The Broken Bois
Collective Presents. . .
2nd & 4th Thu: Into the Issues
Steve Pappas
3rd Thu: Radio RoundUp
CVCR hosts

#9: Sat 9-10 am
1st Sat: Gathering Peace
Joseph Gainza
2nd Sat: Civic Radio Project
Still Life with Orange Peel
Ada Bowman
3rd Sat: Pollinator Report
Emily Lanxner
4th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture
Rebecca Beidler

#10: Sat 10-11 am
1st Sat: Sex Fly Bengé
2nd Sat: Pitter Patter Radio
Pat Kantner
3rd Sat: Under the Covers
DJ Rhizosphere
4th Sat: Indigenous Music

Support, stream live or listen to archives at WGDR.org

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Kent

Continued From Previous Page

and kitchen utensils to paint brushes, trophies, and parts of toys. At first, the shadow boxes are just interesting, then they become addictive.

“Gratitude in a Time of Loss,” East Montpelier artist Daryl Burtnett’s installation about COVID-19, which was shown in the Vermont Supreme Court Gallery last fall, is the first art to ever be given a room on the museum’s third floor. The hundreds of small pieces, each acknowledging a Vermont life lost to the epidemic, are now in a different configuration from the previous show.

Juliana Jennings, co-owner of J. Langdon’s antique shop in



Curators Allyson Evans and Nel Emlen stand by the wall of 39 portraits that greet visitors when they start their tour of “Holding: Mementos Kept, Memories Kindled,” this year’s Art at the Kent exhibit. Not shown, curator David Schutz.

photo by Tom McKone



Jon Roberts’s “Field Ensemble 1.”

photo by Tom McKone

Vermont Philharmonic opens season with “Jupiter,” “Planets”

GREENSBORO – The Vermont Philharmonic opens their season with a concert that includes Mozart’s “Jupiter Symphony” and Gustav Holst’s “The Planets.” Concerts are Saturday, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m., at the Highland Center for the Arts and Sunday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m., at the Barre Opera House. Music Director Lou Kosma has been the orchestra’s conductor since May 1999.

“The Planets,” a seven-movement orchestral suite, was composed between 1914 and 1917. Each movement of the suite is named after a planet of the solar system and its supposed astrological character: Mars, the Bringer of War; Venus, the Bringer of Peace; Mercury, the Winged Messenger;

Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity; Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age; Uranus, the Magician; and Neptune, the Mystic. As the titles suggest, the movements offer a variety of moods.

Mozart composed his last symphony, appropriately nicknamed “Jupiter,” in 1788. It is regarded as one of the greatest symphonies in classical music, celebrated for its grandeur, formal complexity and contrapuntal mastery.

The Vermont Philharmonic is celebrating its sixty-seventh year of bringing classical music to Central and Northern Vermont. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door. More information about the Vermont Philharmonic is at vermontphilharmonic.com.

is featured in the self-contained Spotlight Gallery. With crayon, pen, pencil, and oil paints, Aiken created paintings, drawings, and cardboard cut-outs. Her works are in the permanent collections of several large museums, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

The monthlong exhibit opened September 12 and runs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., through October 12. In addition to Words Out Loud, there are several special events during the month, all described at kentscorner.org.

With beautiful weather, live music, and catered food, the opening celebration on September 13 attracted several hundred visitors. The closing celebration will be held on October 12, from 3 to 5 p.m.

This review first appeared in *The Bridge, Montpelier*, thebrid-gevt.org

Montpelier, has filled a space the size of a walk-in closet with hundreds of old items from her home, not from the store.

Self-trained Barre folk artist Gayleen Aiken (1934–2005)

GRG Trio performs electric piano jazz, Oct. 5

PLAINFIELD – On Sunday, Oct. 5, at 4 p.m., Plainfield Arts presents GRG Trio, a Vermont-based electric piano jazz trio, at the Plainfield Opera House. The trio features three veteran Central Vermont musicians: Jeff Guerin (electric piano), John Ryan (electric bass) and Keith Gibson (drums). Together, they create a sound centered around the iconic Fender

Rhodes electric piano. Their repertoire includes bossas, straight-up jazz and funk, weaving together classics by Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock and Freddie Hubbard, along with their own original compositions.

Admission is by suggested donation. Tickets are available online at plainfieldartsvt.org and at the door. The opera house is located at 18 High St.



Jeff Guerin, John Ryan and Keith Gibson perform electric piano jazz, Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Plainfield Opera House. courtesy photo

EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 24

RIPPLE EFFECTS: Watershed Forum, Dam Removal & Rivers, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All welcome. Information: (802) 472-1686 or zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov.

Saturday, Sept. 27

LEAN LEFT VERMONT teach-in, 3 - 4:30 p.m., Jeudevine Library community room, Hardwick. Information and RSVP contact bob.hawk350@gmail.com.

SEASONAL SING, 3 p.m., J.W. Simpson Memorial Library, East Craftsbury.

Sunday, Sept. 28

WORDS OUT LOUD, 3 p.m., Old West Church, Calais. Readings by Harmony Belle Devoe and Carlene Kucharczyk. Bring layer for warmth, leave pets at home.

MARSHFIELD HARVEST FESTIVAL, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., free family friendly activities, food tent, music, Vt. Steam & Gas Engine Assoc. exhibit and more, Old Schoolhouse Common. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Monday, Sept. 29

BENEFIT BINGO, 7 p.m., Hardwick American Legion No. 7, donations of school supplies for Hardwick area schools, 25% of monthly bingo profits to to a nonprofit organization.

Tuesday, Sept. 30

HOW TO LOVE A FOREST: The

Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World, with author Ethan Tapper. Part of the Living Systems series. Plainfield Town Hall and Opera House. Information: Cutler Memorial Library at (802) 454-8504 or email: angela.m.ogle@cutlerlibrary.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 1

RIPPLE EFFECTS: Watershed Forum, Climatology & the Future of Vermont's Watersheds, with Dr. Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux (UVM, Vt. State Climatologist), 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: (802) 472-1686 or zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov

Thursday, Oct. 2

WHY WE MARCH, film and discussion, 6 p.m., Parker-Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Sponsored by Indivisible Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

Saturday, Oct. 4

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

Sunday, Oct. 5

ANNUAL ORLEANS COUNTY "LIFE CHAIN", 2 to 3 p.m., 100 Main St., next to Emory Hebard

State Office Building, Newport. Information: lifechain4Newport@gmt-mom.com, (802) 586-2899, www.LifeChain.org.

MEMORIAL FOR MEREDITH HOLCH, Caledonia Grange No. 9, East Hardwick, 3 p.m. Community members invited to watch some of her films, hear music and share stories.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

DEATH CAFE, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., Albany. Refreshments provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, albanypubliibraryvt.org.

Ongoing Events

PLAINFIELD FARMERS MARKET, 4 to 7 p.m., Fridays, 13 Mill St. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.

HARDWICK PEACE (& Cease-fire) VIGIL, Thursdays, 2 - 3 p.m., Hardwick Peace Park, S. Main St., Hardwick. (beside the river).

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

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, jw-simpsonmemorial.org.

FRIENDS OF THE JEUDIVINE LIBRARY, meets the third Tuesday of every month, 5:15 p.m., at

the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.

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

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

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

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

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

See EVENTS, Next Page

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EVENTS

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

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

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

CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE, second Fridays, Sept. through June, 7 - 9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. All dances taught, no partner needed, families and beginners welcome. Live music by local musicians. Information: cabotdance@aroundvt.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALL HANDS TOGETHER, Community Crafting Group, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information:

jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581, or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

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

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

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

OUTDOOR STORY & ACTIVITY TIME, with the Cabot Public Library, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30, Cabot Rec Field Pavilion. Join Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

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

PILATES, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common. Mondays (level 1), 9 a.m., Wednesdays (Mat Level 2), 9 a.m.; Fridays (level 3), 9 a.m.

MENDING MONDAYS, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

DANCE, Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

COMMFIT, 6 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

QIGONG, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m., at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

CRAFTFIT, Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

ALL LEVELS TAIJI, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Fridays, Intermediate Taiji, 10:15 a.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

CHAIR YOGA, Wednesdays, 9 a.m., Traditional Yoga, 5 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, open 10 a.m. - noon.

FOOD SHARE, noon to 2 p.m., United Church of Craftsbury.

CRAFTSBURY FARMERS MARKET, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m, on the Common.

LEGOS & LISTENING, 3:30 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

TAMING KNOTWEED, Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Offered by the Craftsbury Conservation Commission. Bring water, bug spray, gloves and assorted clippers and shovels.

STORY TIME, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under, Judevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St. Information: judevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-

5948.

CHAPTERS IN HISTORY BOOK GROUP, second Saturday of the month, 2 p.m., Sept. 13 through Dec. 13, Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581 or visit jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

ADAPTIVE BIKING MONDAYS on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Rd. in Hardwick. Sponsored by Adaptive Sports Partners. Reservations or information: kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org or call (802) 427-4116.

Exhibits

BEN BARNES, NEK landscape artist, at the Hardwick Inn, 4 S. Main St.

on the third floor, through September.

VASILIOS GLETSOS: New Work. Using common materials: cardboard, paper, staples and wire, the art of Vasilios Gletsos references objects of rural culture and playful expressions, Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover, through October 7.

RANDEE LEIGHTCAP EXHIBITION, Athenaeum Hall Gallery, 1171 Main St. Through September. Information: (802) 748-8291.

ART AT THE KENT 2025, Holding, Mementos Kept, Memories Kindled, through October 12, Calais. Information: kentscorner.org.

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

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Wildcats bounce back from first loss of season

by Ken Brown

STOWE – After being battered by a powerhouse Stowe team three days earlier, the Hazen Union boys soccer team's defense responded in a big way against Division I Spaulding last week, improving to 4-1-1 on the season.

Stowe reminded an upstart Hazen team of their championship dominance over the last two decades on Tuesday, cruising to a 9-0 home win behind a hat-trick from Graeme Jostrand. Ben Sherman, Luca Rovetto, Nick Mazur, David McLaughlin, Hugo Vanovac and Cooper Marshall all found the back of the net for a balanced Raiders scoring attack. Declan Coggins added a pair of assists in the win and Caku Brown and Tomas Hynes combined to make four stops to

secure the shutout. Stowe lost to Green Mountain in penalty kicks last fall in the Division III state title match after claiming their eleventh state championship over a seventeen-year span in 2023.

A second half penalty kick by Seville Murphy proved to be the difference between two evenly-matched clubs on Friday as the Wildcats blanked Spaulding at home 1-0. Murphy was pushed from behind inside the box by a Crimson Tide defender midway through the second half, and smashed the game-winner just under the crossbar. Grayson McNaughten and Chayse Newell combined to make eight saves to secure the fourth shutout of the season for the Wildcat defense. Trent Loftus turned away eight shots for Spaulding, who fell to 1-5

on the season.

"It was an open, competitive, physical match against a young and athletic Spaulding team. All of our players played well all match. I felt like we were the dominant team through the first half and leading up to Seville's penalty kick after the break. Spaulding's keeper did a great job in the first half keeping out multiple breakaways that our offense created, but perseverance paid off for us," said head coach Harry Besett.

In his second year rebuilding the Wildcat program, Besett's young team has already matched their win total from last fall. After a tough stretch through Capital League perennial powers last season, his team played its best ball last October, nearly pulling the upset over No. 4 Caledonia United

in the Division III playoffs. His team has carried that momentum into 2025 with a stingy defense and an impressive early season win over North Country.

"We took a big step forward in our long-term goal of securing a home playoff game after our second win of the season over a Division I program. We have to keep working to improve with two more competitive matchups in front of us against Lake Region and Lamoille this week," said Besett.

Hazen traveled to Lake Region on Monday and will host Lamoille on Thursday at Hudson Fields. They're scheduled to welcome a tough Thetford Academy team to town next Tuesday. All games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Sophomore Wildcat Dawson Michaud (right) clears the ball ahead of Mason Carter (left) of Spaulding during action, September 19, at Hazen Union. Hazen prevailed 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen junior Wildcat Jeter Demers (center) runs the ball up the wing past Spaulding's Aiden Meredith (right) in Hardwick September 19. At left is referee Tom Stames. The Wildcats got by Spaulding 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Caledonia United boys soccer team stays perfect

by Ken Brown

EAST BURKE – The Caledonia United boys soccer team struggled to put away a talented Burke Mountain Academy (BMA) squad last week before pummeling Blue Mountain to improve to 5-0 on the season.

After being stuck in the mud for most of the match last Tuesday, Sean Lehoe found the equalizer in the waning minutes of regulation before Sam McLane scored the game-winner off an Olympico corner-kick to salvage a 2-1 overtime win for Cal United over BMA on the road.

With seven minutes left in regulation, Lehoe powered his way into the box and hammered home the equalizer for Cal United.

McLane's perfect corner in overtime went untouched and proved to be the difference against a feisty BMA team that fell to Cal United 6-1 earlier in the season. Josh Petersen was outstanding in net for the visitors, making 11 stops on the day. Charles Lemerond scored the lone goal for the Bears as they fell to 0-4.

"We were missing three of our regular starters and it wasn't our best showing. We didn't take care of the ball well enough in the middle of the pitch and felt lucky to escape with the win. It was a gritty game, BMA is always tough, and they did a good job disrupting our rhythm. Josh made several world class saves to keep us in the match and fortunately, our defense stepped up when it mattered most," said head

coach Peter Stratman.

The offense shook off the rust with five goals from senior Vermont All-State selection Eli Russell on Friday as Cal United drubbed Blue Mountain at home 12-0. Sam McLane kept his hot streak going with three more scores and Judah Klarich was equally as impressive with his first career hat-trick. Jola Otten rounded out the Cal United scoring barrage with a goal and Petersen and the defense secured their second shutout of the season. Brody Scott made 12 stops for the Bucks as they fell to 0-6 on the season.

"Blue Mountain, with a younger squad, played hard but struggled to keep up with the pace of the match. We scored two minutes in and never looked back.

The boys played with precision and composure, focusing on maintaining possession and controlling tempo. With lots of seasonal illness and players out for various reasons, we've had little to no bench the last couple matches, and it's been hard to maintain a consistent rhythm. I feel like we are making slow progress, but we're still making too many simple mistakes. With six senior starters on this team, we're fortunate to have experience across the pitch," said Stratman.

Stratman's club was back on the road for a match-up against Oxbow on Monday before returning home for a Mountain League match-up against Richford on Friday. They'll look to be closer to full strength for a tough match-up against Vergennes next Tuesday in Danville.



Hazen Union senior Isabelle Gouin (No. 1) rips a shot past Alexandria De-Forge (No. 3) of Blue Mountain during action in Hardwick on Hudson Field, September 17. Gouin scored three goals. Following the play (in back) for Spaulding is Kobie Moulton. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Lady Cat Mya Lumsden (left) runs the ball up the field ahead of Addison Murray (right) of Blue Mountain, September 17, on Hudson Field. Hazen beat Blue Mountain 5-0. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lady Cats impressive despite tough loss

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – After a dominant win last week over Blue Mountain for their fourth straight win, the Hazen Union girls soccer team gave a powerhouse Vergennes team all they could handle in suffering just their second loss of the season.

Senior Isabelle Gouin completed her latest hat-trick last Wednesday to power the Lady Cats to a 5-0 home win over Blue Mountain. Mya Lumsden fed Kennidee Gouin six minutes into the match for her first ever varsity goal to give the home team an early 1-0 lead. Isabelle Gouin gave a Hazen a three-goal cushion off a pair of feeds from Ella Renaud and Julia des Groseilliers before Renaud made

it 4-0 heading into the break with a shot of her own from long range. Gouin ended the scoring on the day with the only goal of the second half and des Groseilliers finished the match with three assists. Kelsie Rivard and Renaud combined for 5 saves to secure the shutout. Ava Kingsbury made 12 stops for the Lady Bucks as they fell to 1-6.

“It was a complete and decisive win, but the Blue Mountain defense stayed tight and strong, keeping us to just one score in the second half. We continue to put team goals at the forefront as we get ready to face one of our toughest matchups of the season in Vergennes,” said head coach Megan Mercier.

Ava Francis scored a pair of second half goals to keep her Vergennes team perfect on the

season as they escaped with a 2-1 home win over the Lady Cats on Saturday. Isabelle Gouin gave Hazen a 1-0 lead with five minutes left in the first half, hammering home a perfect through ball from Ella Luther. Francis found the equalizer twelve minutes into the second half for Vergennes, gathering a rebound off a direct kick. Francis scored the game-winner with just seven minutes left in regulation. Rivard made 7 stops in the loss for Hazen. Addie Smith turned away 3 shots for Vergennes, who improved to 5-0. Coming into this matchup, the Lady Commodores had outscored their first four opponents of the season 20-2. Gouin has now amassed 12 goals in Hazen’s first 6 matches after a junior campaign that saw her

find the back of the net 20 times, earning her a Vermont All-State selection.

“I feel like we dominated the first half and gave them their biggest challenge of the season. We went into the matchup against a talented team like that with some goals to accomplish and we did that! I’m very happy with the effort from the whole team as we contend with nagging injuries heading into a very busy week,” said Mercier.

The Lady Cats traveled to Danville to face Caledonia United on Monday and return to Hudson Fields to make up a match with Missisquoi that was canceled on Homecoming Weekend. They welcome Richford to town on Friday before traveling to Northfield to face Paine Mountain next Tuesday.

Cal United girls stumble against tough schedule

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – After a hot start to the season, a young Caledonia United girls soccer team experienced some growing pains against a tough Burke Mountain Academy and Winooski team last week before salvaging a draw against Missisquoi Valley Union.

Ellen Azfelius scored all three goals to power her Burke Mountain Academy (BMA) team to a 3-1 road win over Cal United last Monday. After Azfelius gave the Lady Bears a 1-0 advantage just four minutes into the match, Cora Abetti buried a penalty kick midway through the half for the equalizer. Azfelius put the match away midway through the second half with a pair of unassisted goals

just three minutes apart. Eliska Siebenbrunner made 11 saves in the loss for Cal United. Sophie Podvinski made six stops for BMA as they improved to 3-1.

“Eliska made all of the saves that she was supposed to make, some very difficult. The hat-trick by Azfelius was very impressive long-range shots that were placed extremely well. We were working our possession game pretty well early on, but we got away from it and BMA going after 50/50 balls harder than us cost us dearly,” said head coach Spencer Morse.

Lillianna Fournier scored unassisted with three minutes left in regulation to help Missisquoi escape with a 1-1 draw on the road against a stingy Cal United defense on Wednesday. Sarah

Austin buried a header cross from Chloe North after a perfect throw-in down the line that Cora Abetti corralled ten minutes into the second half to give the home team a 1-0 lead. Siebenbrunner (22 saves) was spectacular once again for Cal United, but Fournier’s blast from 23 yards out found the upper left corner for the improbable equalizer. Leah Thompson turned away 12 shots for the Lady Thunderbirds as they improved to 2-3-1.

“I was extremely happy with our effort throughout the lineup and the times we broke down defensively, Eliska really picked us up with a handful of fantastic saves. The score that Cora and Chloe created that Sarah finished with a great crash to the goal was

just beautiful,” said Morse.

Winooski used a balanced attack to stay red hot on Friday, blanking Cal United 4-0 at home. Jenny Paw, Mapeni Selemani, Prisca Niyogushmna, and Djoyce Mampuya scored a goal in each half as the Lady Spartans improved to 6-1. It was the fourth shutout of the season for the Winooski defense. Winooski has outscored their opponents 24-5 on the season, with their only loss coming at the hands of Hazen two weeks ago.

Cal United evened their record at 3-3-1 and welcomed Hazen to town on Monday. They’ll stay between the Hedges at Danville on Thursday for a Mountain League match-up against Blue Mountain before traveling to Vergennes next Monday.

Marshfield's Green takes Road Warrior win

BARRE – The final Thursday night of the Thunder Road racing season came with plenty of drama in the finale for the championship chase on the night. In a twist of events, the Road Warriors started off Thursday's racing action with Cayden Green taking the hard fought win just ahead of Mike Slingerland and Derrick Mann at the line in their 20 lap main event.

While Kyler Davis clinched the 2025 Street Stock title in heat race action, a smash-up affair at the end of his heat almost meant he'd collect his championship honors on foot. A fast-working crew got him back out for a 22nd-place starting spot as rookies T.J. Haggett and Jason Kirby brought the field to green. Haggett quickly took over the lead, looking like a veteran leading the pack before a huge lap-nine pile-up in turn two claimed eight cars with a lengthy clean-up. Back under green, Haggett kept his foot to the firewall to become a first time winner on the Barre highbanks with Street Stock driver Tommy Smith and Derek Farnham rounding out the podium. Kyler Davis would finish 11th en-route

to his championship celebrations with family, crew and sponsors in victory lane.

Following Sam Caron's gains by winning heat two, it was a two point spread for the Flying Tiger championship between Caron and Cameron Ouellette. Whoever finished ahead of the other would be crowned the 2025 track champion. With that in mind, they went to war. Caron launched off from an 8th-place starting spot to steal the lead by the halfway point as Ouellette was stuck, mired deep in the pack but maintained a level head to chase opportunities when the right doors opened. Caron kept his spot up front with Ouellette managing to get to fifth with fifteen laps remaining but too much real-estate laid ahead. Sam Caron took down the 75 point win to Ouellette's 62 feature points earned for a second Flying Tiger track championship. Barre's Chris LaForest and Wolcott's Brendan Moodie rounding out the podium in second and third respectively.

Following heat race qualifying, Barre's Jason Corliss had clinched his fourth King of the Road track championship but wanted to match Caron and go



Berlin's Kyler Davis celebrates with family, friends and crew for his first Street Stock championship earned on Thursday at Thunder Road.

photo by Alan Ward

for the final Thursday night win of the season as well. Rookie Trevor Jaques and Phil Scott got the field underway with Jaques eventually shaking the Vermont Governor to take sole control of the lead. Tough luck with a busted rear-end for Scott Coburn was the lone caution as Jaques eventually fell under Christopher Pelkey with just fifteen laps remaining. Pelkey ran away to take his second win of the season and second in overall points, unofficially. Jaques earned his first career podium appearance with a hard-earned second place run with 2025 Rookie of the Year Brandon Gray taking third.

Corliss, ever patient, spent most of the 66 lap event caught towards the end of the pack but methodically made his way up through the field to take home fourth at the line. The Kinney

Drugs team celebrated a record-breaking fourth Late Model King of the Road track championship in the modern era and already has their sights set on a fourth Vermont Milk Bowl in just over two weeks time.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS (local competitors)

- Late Models – (66 Laps)**
 6. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common
 9. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
- Flying Tigers – (50 Laps)**
 3. 15NH, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott
- Street Stocks – (30 Laps)**
 5. 32, Kylee Potter, Marshfield
- Road Warriors – (20 Laps)**
 1. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield



It would have come down to just one position and Milton's Sam Caron made sure Cameron Ouellette wouldn't get around him by taking the 50-lap win and the Flying Tiger championship.

photo by Alan Ward



Jason Corliss broke the record with the Kinney Drugs team on Thursday, taking their fourth track championship at Thunder Road on Thursday.

photo by Alan Ward



Plainfield's Will Hull (center), winner of the Sprint Cars of New England (SCoNE) All-Star Showdown, at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS), Friday, September, 19, is flanked by 2nd place finisher Tunk Berry (right) and 3rd place finisher Jake Williams (right), both from Center Tuftonboro, N.H. Hull, a two-time SCoNE champion (2018, 2019) is now a three-time NHMS Dirt Duels champ and third on the all-time SCoNE win list.

courtesy photo

Brown Goes Back-to-Back in Platinum Series

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – Mark Lundblad Jr. and Spencer Vaughan brought the PASS Modified field to green for their 50-lapper to kick off Saturday’s feature racing. Vaughan quickly led the single-file line as everyone settled in for the ride ahead before the lap 21 caution for Zach Bowie’s spin in turn two. Spencer Morse entered the top three picture and catapulted to a side-by-side battle with Vaughan and Kyle Hewins for the remainder of the caution-filled event. In the end, Morse would earn the win over Cody Macomber and Hewins.

Dillon Moltz and defending Oxford 250 champion Austin Teras brought the PASS Super Late Models to the slow-rolling green flag start with Moltz showing the way until a lap 60 tangle-up with lap car Jeremy Davis. After repeatedly being asked to return to the rear of the line-up, Moltz was sent pitside for the remainder of the event with Davis issued a two lap penalty. Back under green, Johnny Clark muscled his way into the lead ahead of a back-sliding Teras, with D.J. Shaw and Joey Doiron in tow. Trevor Sanborn and Gabe Brown also slid under Teras

to set up a spirited battle for fourth between the two former Oxford Plains Speedway champions.

With Gabe Brown breathing down his neck, something let go in the right front corner of the D.J. Shaw machine with the PASS point leader coming to a stop in turn two to bring out the caution on lap 88. Back under green it was Clark, Doiron and Brown nose-to-tail leading the pack just inches apart with Brown duking out to lead lap 115 over Clark.

The final restart on lap 139 set up a last-chance dogfight between Brown and Clark with Johnny Clark prevailing to steal the win over Gabe Brown with Austin Teras climbing back up to third.

What was shaping up to be a great start for the Supermodified feature between Ben Seitz and Jim Storage quickly turned sour with lap one contact against the front-stretch concrete, ending both their nights and giving the lead to Mike Mayberry. Mayberry didn’t let the pressure get to him, even with Dan Bowes and Jeffrey Battle running him down. After finally making his way out of a three-way pack fighting for third, Battle set



It was another PASS Super Late Model feature at White Mountain Motorsports Park Saturday night with Gabe Brown (right) and Johnny Clark (left) battling it out for the win. photo by Nick Mumley

his sights on the lead with ten laps remaining. Motoring around Mayberry, Jeffrey Battle took down win number six on the season with Mayberry taking a career-best second place and Bowes rounding out the top three.

Ryan McCarthy and Kam Weir went to war ahead of the Mad Bombers 30 lap feature event with cars present from Oxford Plains Speedway, Lee USA Speedway and Star Speedway converging at White Mountain. Kam Weir took full control by the halfway point of the green-to-checkers feature to take the win at the line before being disqualified in post-race technical inspection with a locked rear-end. The checkers went to Ryan McCarthy over Josh Hodgdon and Stone Slattery to round out the podium.

The Late Models wrapped up the Platinum Series with the rain-delayed Leaf Peepers 100 Saturday night with Thomas Smithers VI and Justin Prescott earning the high plus/minus handicaps to lead the field. The two battled side-by-side during the opening laps before Prescott snuck

away with the full lead ahead of the pack. Gabe Brown, digging deep for a second consecutive series championship, jumped into the lead following the lap forty restart and survived several late race restarts to boot.

Officials anxiously kept tabs on both the Platinum points and the track championship points with Quinny Welch and Kasey Beattie well into the top five mix as Brown crossed the line first followed by Prescott and Beattie at the line.

The finish left Brown and Prescott tied in the standings but by virtue of Brown’s two wins to Prescott’s one decided the tiebreaker for the series. By finishing two spots ahead of Welch in the final tally, Beattie still remains in the track championship chase set to close next Sunday afternoon.

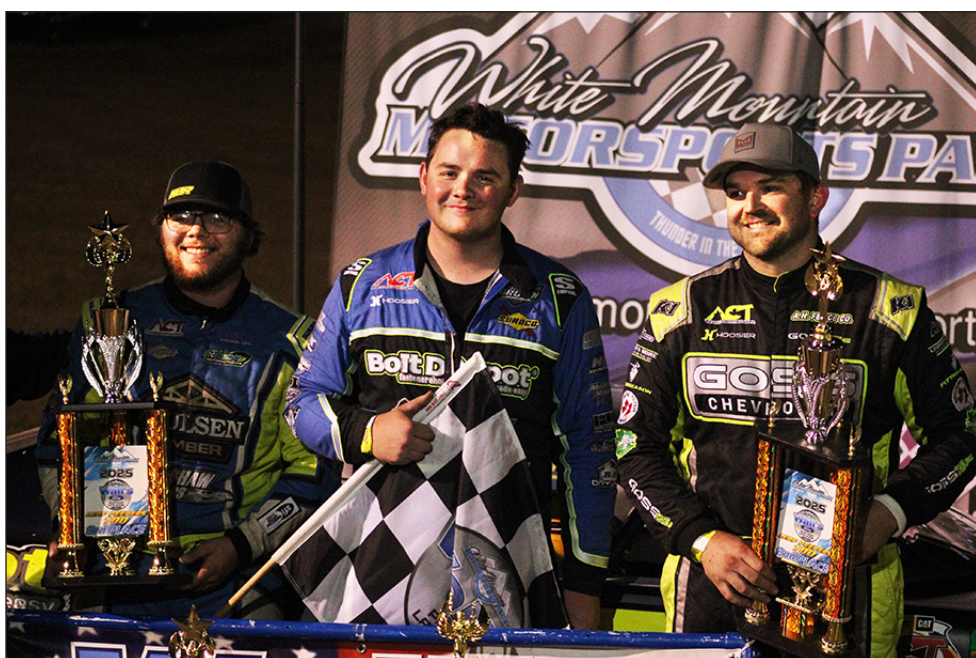
UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

Late Models – Leaf Peepers 100 10. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick 19. 9x, Jamon Perry, Hardwick



In PASS Super Late Model Victory Lane were (from left) Austin Teras (3rd), winner Johnny Clark, Gabe Brown (2nd). photo by Nick Mumley



In Late Model victory lane for the Platinum Series championship Leaf Peepers 100 were (from left) Kasey Beattie (3rd), winner and series champion Gabe Brown, Justin Prescott (2nd). photo by Nick Mumley



Different car, same situation for Gabe Brown (47NH) this time battling for the Late Model Leaf Peepers 100 win with Vermont’s Justin Prescott (04VT). photo by Nick Mumley

KEN BROWN'S CROSS-COUNTRY ROUNDUP

Chargers take first at North Country

NEWPORT – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) cross-country team made a splash in just their second meet of the season last week, taking top boys team honors at North Country Union High School.

The Chargers placed four runners in the top ten last Tuesday in Newport to win their first boys cross-country meet of the season and first under second year head coach Maxfield English. The freshmen dynamic duo of Oakley Crawford (3rd overall) and James Reynolds (5th) led the way for CA. Crawford posted a time of 19:55 and Reynolds posted a personal best time of 21:25 in the boys 5,000m.

Charger senior Owen McKibben finished 9th with a time of 22:26 and fellow senior Anson Magoon crossed the line one spot behind with a time of 22:46.

English is rebuilding CA's storied cross-country program quickly after taking over the reins from coach Mike LeVangie last fall. The legendary coach led the CA boys team to four consecutive Division III state titles from 2020-2023. Lake Region sophomore Noah Blanco took home individual honors with a time of 18:32m, edging Danville's Landon Gerrano, who was runner-up with a time of 18:49. Hazen Union sophomore Kiah Cloutier had a strong opening showing for the Wildcats, finishing 7th with a time of 21:45

and fellow junior teammate Daniel Pougner finished eighth a second later.

In the girls 5000m, Charger freshman Aemilia Terrone posted an impressive third place finish with a time of 23:17. Danville sophomore Peyton Winn posted a fifth-place finish with a time of 25:16 and Hazen sophomore Ursa Goldenrose had a top ten finish with a time of 26:52. North Country took home top team honors led by Dylan Carr, who bested the field with a time of 22:19.

Against the largest field of the season at the Danville Run Invitational on Saturday, Terrone was the top Charger to cross the line in the girls 5000m with a personal best time of 22:37.20. St. Johnsbury Academy's (SJA) Stella

Van der linde bested the field with a time of 21:05.20.

Crawford led CA once again in the boys 5000m in Danville, finishing tenth with a personal best time of 19:31.10. Danville freshman Landon Garrand posted an impressive fifth place finish with a time of 18:27.30 and Hazen's Kiah Cloutier capped off a strong week with a top twenty finish. Lyndon Institute senior Zachary Taylor took home first place honors with a time of 18:14.70. The Charger boys team finished fourth overall on Saturday, with SJA taking home top honors in both the boys and girls team results.

Local high school cross-country teams will be back in action on Saturday at the U-32 Run Invitational.



Hazen Union senior Morgan Michaud (left) controls the ball around Isaac Lake of Spaulding during play on Hudson Field, September 19. Wildcat Chayse Newell (back center) looks on. Hazen edged by their opponent 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union senior Morgan Michaud heads for the ball in front of the goal followed by Jac Piluso of Lyndon Institute in Hardwick, Sept. 10. Hazen Union won in overtime, 1-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

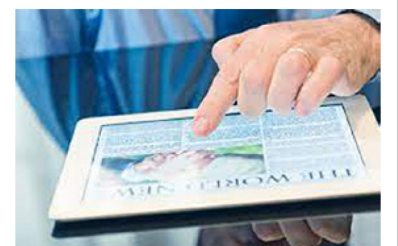


Hazen Union's Kelsie Rivard (No. 15) races to get the ball before Blue Mountain's Lillian Roy (No. 9) during play in Hardwick, September 17. Hazen topped their opponents 5-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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