

THE Hardwick Gazette

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Wednesday, October 15, 2025

hardwickgazette.org

Volume 136 Number 42

Town forest discussions, updates on land purchase continue

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – Hannah Redmon from the Trust for Public Land and Rachel Kane with the Hardwick Conservation Commission joined the select board at its October 2 meeting to share an update on the purchase of land for a proposed Buffalo Mountain Town Forest.

Redmon and Kane were there to answer questions and concerns raised at the prior select board meeting about the purchase, the potential loss of tax revenue and the intended use of the property.

At the September 18 meeting, area business owners and residents expressed their hesitation about a plan to purchase property on the flank of Buffalo Mountain, citing an array of concerns.

The proposed Buffalo Mountain Town Forest expansion consists of two adjacent parcels: 179 acres with frontage on either side of the Lamoille River and on either side of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, and access from the Wright Farm Road, which runs south along the western edge of the parcel, owned by Ken and Chris Davis; 140 acres containing the summit of Buffalo Mountain, with access from three

roads in the village center, owned by Chris Davis.

At that meeting, Sue Rivard informed the board of a VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers) trail running through the proposed town forest area. She said the language used in the proposal prohibits non-pedestrian travel, posing a major concern for many area business owners, residents and users of the VAST trail system. She was also concerned about the speed of the process, expressing a desire for more community input.

Michelle Demers, owner of the House of Pizza, explained the trail

runs from the restaurant to Buffalo Mountain Powersports, interconnected with the VAST system, generating critical revenue for businesses like theirs during the slow winter months. She also expressed safety concerns about adding more trails to the proposed forest, citing prior trouble with drug users out back on the existing trail system.

After some discussion at that September 18 meeting, the board agreed to add an agenda item to the next meeting.

At the October 2 meeting, Kane and Redmon were joined by Paul

See FOREST, 6

Consideration of new public safety building brings out residents

by **Paul Fixx**

CABOT – Select board chair, Michael Hogan moved discussion of a petition asking the town to construct a new fire station to the top of the agenda, following public comments, at the Monday, Oct. 6 Cabot select board meeting.

He then read from a petition signed by over 100 Cabot voters, asking for construction of a new volunteer fire department building at 2466 Main St.

Hogan then laid out a timeline of how the town got to where it is now. The process began in February of 2018 when the town purchased a property at 2466 Main St. for \$95,000, he said.

The next month, the Cabot Public Safety Working Group was formed to look into addressing the most serious violations of the fire station. Public meetings were held and designs looked at.

In December 2022, the board awarded a

contract for demolition of 2466 Main St., and in June 2023, a working group got together to design a new public safety building.

Just a month later, on July 10, 2023, Cabot suffered substantial damage from flash flooding and 18 days later the State of Vermont condemned the existing fire station.

Planning began immediately on a temporary station and a new public safety building, with the understanding that FEMA was committed to help fund both buildings.

In December 2023, the select board approved a design concept for a new public safety

See BUILDING, 6

Local No Kings Day II events planned, Oct. 18

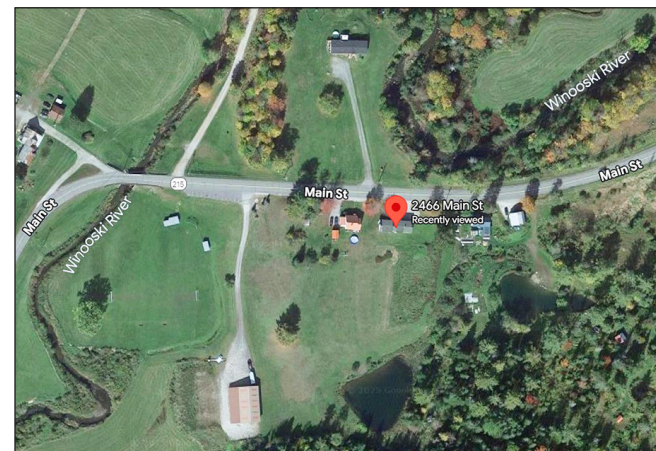
by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – A protest in Hardwick, a carpool caravan to Montpelier and a bus organized by a Greensboro church will join over 2,400 scheduled events nationwide, for No Kings Day II, which has the potential to be the largest organized nonviolent protest in U.S. history this Saturday.

No Kings Day events on June 15 saw an estimated turnout of five-million people nationwide, with around 260 in Hardwick. So far, over 30 events are planned in Vermont, October 18, supported by local Indivisible chapters, 50501 Vermont, VPIRG, the ACLU and others.

In Hardwick, a rally and send-off will begin at 10 a.m. for the local contingent traveling to the No Kings II rally in Montpelier, and others staying to protest in town, rain or shine.

See KINGS, 4



Property at the proposed site of a new Cabot Public Safety Building, marked by the pin at 2466 Main St., below Cabot Village, was purchased by the town for \$95,000 in 2018 and an existing building was demolished four years later. A petition to move forward with the new facility was discussed at the October 6 Cabot Select Board meeting.

image courtesy Google Maps



The demolition of the home of James and Jada Anair in Hardwick was done on October 8, the first FEMA buyout demolition in Vermont following the July 10, 2023, flood. Demolition day represented the conclusion of more than two years of discussion among the homeowners, the town of Hardwick, and state and federal partners. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Workers for Burlington Glass install window panes (right) as coworkers (left) move an aluminum frame into position in the Hardwick Elementary School gym lobby entrance October 10. The old windows and frames were removed due to PCB contamination. photo by Vanessa Fournier

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Outstanding warrants, unlawful trespass

HARDWICK – On October 6, at 6:28 p.m., Todd R. Luce of Hardwick was arrested for Unlawful Trespass. Luce had a Notice of Trespass for 1672 Vt. Route 15 West that had been issued to him by Hardwick Police Department on October 5. He was cited to appear in the Caledonia Unit of the Superior Court, Criminal Division, for Monday, Nov. 3, at 8:30 a.m.

On October 9, at approximately 7:18 a.m., Hardwick Police along with Hardwick Fire and Hardwick Rescue were dispatched to a one car motor vehicle crash on Vt. Route 15 East near the Walden town line. The operator, Logan Porter of Morrisville, denied any

injuries and stated that she fell asleep while driving. The vehicle, a 2022 Toyota RAV4, left the left side of the roadway and went up on the bank and back down to the road. The vehicle sustained damage to the undercarriage, front and rear, and the side airbags deployed.

On October 13, at 1:02 a.m., the Hardwick Police Department arrested Cassandra Rich of Hardwick for an outstanding warrant. Rich had been asked to leave a residence and was refusing to comply, so the Hardwick Police were called to the scene. The warrant had been issued for failing to show for a scheduled court appearance at the Caledonia Unit of the Vermont Superior Court, Criminal Division. She was lodged

at Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

The Hardwick Police Report is based on information provided by the police and is not a compre-

hensive list of police activity. Individuals named in the police report are presumed to be innocent until they plead or are found guilty in court.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Fifteen people used AWARE services between October 5 and October 12. 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.

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October 15 - October 21

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Prince Pasta 4/\$5 12-16 oz.	Annie's Mac & Cheese Dinners 2/\$4 6 oz.	Hamburger Helpers 2/\$4 5.9-6.9 oz.	
Go Go Squeez Applesauce \$2.99 12.8 oz.	Progresso Traditional Soups 2/\$4 18.5-19 oz.	Progresso Canned Beans 2/\$3 19 oz.	
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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – October 5: 911 Hangup, Craftsbury Road; Alarm, Blizzard Way; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 West; Juvenile Problem, Cottage Street; Transport, High St; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

October 6: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN verification, High St.; VIN verification, High St.; Sex Offender Registry Check, Hideaway St; Sex Offender Registry Check, Mini Mart Drive; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 16; Sex Offender Registry Check, Bunker Hill Road; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Sex Offender Registry Check, Wakefield St.; Found Property; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 15 East; Trespassing, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, Mill St; Assist-Agency, Cemetery Ridge.

October 7: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Suspicious event, Hazen Union Drive; Sex Offense, Vt. Route 15 West, Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 16; Sex Offender Registry Check, Montgomery Road; Sex Offender Registry Check, Craftsbury Road; Juvenile Problem, N. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, S. Main St.; Alarm, Depot St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.

October 8: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Assist - Agency, Winding Lane; School Event, S. Main St.; Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Traffic

Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Church St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

October 9: Noise Disturbance, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15 East; Citizen Dispute, Dutton Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16.

October 10: Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, West Hill Road; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Route 15 West; Sex Offender Registry Check, Vt. Route 15 West; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Suspicious Event, Buffalo Mountain Road; Directed Patrol, Granite St.; Accident - Property Damage Only, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; DLS, Vt. Route 16; Wanted Person, Vt. Route 16; Suspicious Event, Highland Ave.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.

October 11: Alarm, Blizzard Way; Assault, Mill St.; Littering, Glenside Ave; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15 West; Suspicious Event, Wolcott St.; Theft, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Suspicious Event, Charlevoix St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop.

October 12: Citizen Dispute, Dutton Road; Directed Patrol, Wolcott St.

October 13: Medical, Maple St.

Berlin Police Department

Trespassing, Suspended License

by Berlin Police Department

BERLIN – On October 10, at approximately 10:13 a.m., officers of the Berlin Police Department responded to the Hilltop Inn for the report of a female refusing to leave after being trespassed.

Tonja Cochran of Hardwick was taken into custody, transported to the Berlin Police Department for processing and was issued a citation to appear at the Washington County Court, Criminal Division, on the same day at 12:30 p.m. to answer the charge of Unlawful Trespass.

On October 12, officers of the

Berlin Police Department were monitoring traffic on Paine Turnpike North. Officers observed a motor vehicle and conducted a motor vehicle stop for a minor motor vehicle violation. During the stop, it was determined that the operator, James Capron of Plainfield, was operating with a criminally suspended license. Capron was taken into custody without incident. Capron was processed at the Berlin Police Department for a criminally suspended license. He was issued a citation into Vermont Superior Court, Washington County, on November 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Vermont State Police

Negligent Operation, DUI, Crash

NEWBURY – On October 8, troopers from the St. Johnsbury barracks issued Samuel Mattson of Marshfield, a criminal citation to appear in Orange County Criminal Court on November 5, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the charge of Criminal DLS (driving with a suspended license) and Negligent Operation.

On June 29, at approximately 6:10 p.m., troopers responded to a two-vehicle crash on Railroad Street in Newbury. Troopers arrived and determined Samuel Mattson of Marshfield was traveling west on Railroad Street while driving a 2009 Harley Davidson FXDL. Mattson failed to navigate a corner and crossed the center line, entering the eastward lane of travel. Cole King, 19, was traveling east in his 2019 Chevrolet Silverado when Mattson entered his lane, resulting in a collision. After a lengthy investigation, Mattson was charged with the above crimes.

CALAIS – On October 10 at 8:26 p.m., the Vermont State Police responded to a single vehicle crash on County Road. The operator was identified as Rory Woodard of Calais. Investigation determined that Woodard's vehicle drifted over the fog line before leaving the roadway and crashing. While speaking with troopers, Woodard displayed signs of impairment. She was taken into custody for suspicion of DUI and was transported to the Vermont State Police Berlin Barracks for processing. Woodard was issued a citation to appear in Washington Superior Court - Criminal Division to answer the above charge. Bail was denied.

CRAFTSBURY – On October 13, at 4:08 p.m., the Vermont State Police responded to



Rory Woodard

the report of a two-vehicle crash on Vt. Route 14 near Morrison Drive, Craftsbury. Investigation revealed Antonio Latona, of Eden, was operating a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado traveling north on Vt. Route 14 and Noah Bowser, of Barre City, was operating a 2017 Ford F550, traveling south on Vt. Route 14. Latona was distracted using a cell phone while operating his vehicle, crossed over the center line and crashed head on with Bowser. Neither party was injured. Further investigation revealed Latona is required to have an ignition interlock device, which was not installed in his car. Latona was issued a citation for Driving on a Criminally Suspended License and issued VCVC's for 23 VSA 1095b Using Portable Electronic Device and 23 VSA 1038 Driving on Roadway Laned for Traffic. The Vermont State Police were assisted by Craftsbury Fire Department and E&M Towing. Latona was cited to appear at Orleans County Superior Court on November 25 at 8:30 a.m.

Orleans County Sheriff

Suspended License, Grand Larceny

GREENSBORO – On October 6, officers of the Orleans Sheriff's Department responded to an incident in Greensboro. While investigating, Ashley Basset was found to have operated a motor vehicle

while her license was Criminally Suspended. Basset was cited to appear at Vermont Superior Court, Orleans Criminal Division on November 18, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the above charge.



Gazette
conversation
with Hardwick

October 26, 4-6 p.m.
Parker Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library
Learn the many ways to interact with the online paper and express ideas on
Hardwick Gazette coverage in Hardwick.

FREE Hardwick Gazette

This is the continuing series of community conversations The Hardwick Gazette will hold in its 11-town coverage area.

WEATHER WATCH



A raked pile of fallen leaves on Montgomery Road, East Hardwick, becomes play for Calum and Harry Edmonds and their Bernese Mountain dog, Oona, on Sunday. photo by Sarah Edmonds

More clouds, some sun, potent rainstorm

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – A few picture-perfect days highlighted the holiday weekend, with conditions on Saturday and Sunday largely incorporating sunny skies and mild temperatures. Highs in the mid-to-upper 60s were just above normal for this time of year, which is about 60 degrees.

Some measurable rain came from two systems at either end of the forecast period. Rain lasted through Wednesday, followed by the onset of more showers on Sunday night. Between the two systems, a total of 1.09 inches of rain fell. This is hardly a drought-buster, but it will hopefully mitigate some drought impacts. In the past week, much of Vermont’s drought status escalated to extreme drought, which often corresponds with the possibility of widespread water shortages or restrictions. The wildland fire danger has also remained on the high side.

As we move into post-foliage autumn, conditions are known for a general increase in cloud cover, rain, and stronger winds. All appear possible within this forecast period. We start under the influence of an upper-level system over northern Quebec today, with an associated cold front crossing our region throughout the day. No precipitation is expected with this system, but it will signal a change from the mild conditions

we’ve had to much chillier weather. Expect there to be some additional cloud cover. Winds look to pick up from the northwest behind the front as well.

As high pressure builds in, expect highs that are 10-15 degrees below normal through Friday. Overnight lows will be below freezing as a result of clearing skies, before the wind shifts to the south later Saturday and temperatures moderate to above-normal again. A large upper-level low closes off over the Great Lakes and swings a frontal system into the northeast later Sunday into Monday. The surface low looks like it might shift off the New England coast and pinwheel there for a bit. Either way, some showers look likely for the second half of Sunday with some lingering rain for Monday and Tuesday. Rainfall totals may near an inch and a half with this storm over the course of a couple of days. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. High: 47. Low: 30. Northwest wind 5-10 mph with gusts to 20 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny. High: 49. Low: 26. Northwest wind 5-10 mph with gusts to 20 mph.

Friday: Sunny. High: 53. Low: 29. Light and variable wind.

Saturday: Partly sunny. High: 60. Low: 40. Light and variable wind.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. Showers developing by afternoon. High: 65. Low: 47. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

Kings

Continued From Page One

After waving off a carpool caravan organized by Hardwick Indivisible at 10:30 a.m., and a bus from the Greensboro United Church of Christ, the rally in Hardwick will continue with a walk to the South Main Street Peace Park. The Hardwick rally will continue until noon.

The rally will be followed by a honk-and-wave event, Tuesday, Oct. 21, beginning at 10 a.m., at the Peace Park.

According to 50501 Vermont, the goal is to reach the 3.5% threshold, a political science concept formulated by Erica Chenoweth in 2013. According to Chenoweth, when 3.5% of a nation’s population protests nonviolently against a government, that government is more likely to fall from power.

“We understand the risk, but we are not backing down,” said Ezra Levin, co-founder of the progressive non-profit organization Indivisible.

“We exercise our First Amendment rights by exercising them.”

According to NoKings.org, all No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to nonviolent protest and community safety. Organizers are trained in de-escalation and

are working closely with local partners to ensure peaceful and powerful actions nationwide.

On October 10, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson blamed the upcoming event for the ongoing government shutdown, claiming Democratic leaders feared their “rabid base” and preferred to wait until the event had passed to reopen the government.

The NoKings Coalition issued the following statement in response, “Speaker Johnson is running out of excuses for keeping the government shut down. Instead of reopening the government, preserving affordable healthcare or lowering costs for working families, he’s attacking millions of Americans who are peacefully coming together to say that America belongs to its people, not to kings.”

Montpelier’s No Kings Day II rally will begin at noon on the state house lawn with a procession of Signs of Fascism, followed immediately by a procession of Signs of a Healthy Democracy. Speakers will follow a similar trajectory, with a special emphasis on the threats to the transgender community, before transitioning to themes of determination in building a better tomorrow for youth and for the state of Vermont.

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VLCT 2025 awards recognize outstanding service

by Paul Fixx

S. BURLINGTON – At its Town Fair last Wednesday, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) presented 2025 Municipal Service Awards to Linda Martin of Wolcott and Farley Brown of Craftsbury, with Hardwick’s Kristen Leahy recognized as a nominee.

Several hundred people were in attendance at VLCT’s Town Fair 2025 in South Burlington when Mary Ann Goulette, VLCT Board President and West Rutland Town Manager, announced this year’s winners of VLCT’s awards for outstanding service to Vermont local government, said a VLCT report.

The 2025 VLCT Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Bill Fraser, former Montpelier City Manager and past VLCT Board President.

The Municipal Service Award is given to a Vermont municipal official who has shown an active commitment to strong local government, both within their community and beyond its borders, or to a person outside of local government who works to improve the governance and support of or service to Vermont cities, towns and villages.

For the second year in a row, two 2025 Municipal Service Awards were presented.

“Linda Martin has served the community of Wolcott for almost 40 years in numerous positions. In 1986 she was elected as the Wolcott Town Clerk and Treasurer and served in that role until five years ago, when she was elected to the selectboard and became its chair,” noted the announcement.

“During her tenure she was instrumental in modernizing recordkeeping systems from paper to digital formats. She served in the state legislature for 12 years, advocating for municipal government on the House Committee for Government Operations. Linda is also an active board member of the Lamoille County Planning Commission and its brownfields and transportation advisory committees.

“Linda’s ability to constantly participate and engage in a cross section of topics important to her community has effectively advanced many goals of the Wolcott Town Plan and, in fact, the region’s goals. Whether it be wastewater, flood recovery, transportation, or recreation,



Craftsbury’s Farley Brown (center) receives a VLCT 2025 Municipal Service Award from Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland-Hanzas (left) and MaryAnn Goulette, VLCT Board President and West Rutland Town Manager (right). *courtesy photo*



Wolcott’s Linda Martin (center) receives a VLCT 2025 Municipal Service Award from Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland-Hanzas (left) and Mary Ann Goulette, VLCT Board President and West Rutland Town Manager (right). *courtesy photo*

Linda engages the community and meets people where they are.”

“Vermont’s small rural communities struggle to develop infrastructure. Linda’s leadership on the Wolcott wastewater system has provided a clear template for small communities. The model Linda has created for identifying and obtaining funds, project administration, and community buy-in provides a model for other communities to follow,” said Sara Haskins, town clerk and treasurer of Morristown. “For over two decades, Farley Brown has served the Town of Craftsbury as a member of both the planning commission and the conservation commission. She has worked with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association on multiple updates to the Craftsbury Town Plan, village center designations, energy planning, and master planning for the village,” said VLCT in presenting the award.

“Her work is always marked by extraordinary commitment to leadership, professionalism, respect, and willingness to engage with all members of the community, while doing her utmost to ensure that all voices are heard.

“As planning commission chair/co-chair, Farley has facilitated an ongoing dialog among diverse viewpoints, empowering each member to have a say in the difficult conversation of responding to growth and change – and to consider the role of land use regulations in Craftsbury’s future. The latter topic can be fraught

with emotion in Craftsbury, and Farley has always demonstrated patience and compassion in ensuring the dialog stays productive. Farley has served on multiple other committees, and she is a professor at Sterling College, which has allowed her to integrate the school’s programming to the benefit of the community.”

“We believe Farley embodies the spirit of outstanding municipal service this award seeks to recognize. Her long-standing dedicated and knowledgeable efforts have made a lasting positive impact on the Town of Craftsbury,” said Bruce Urie, Craftsbury Select Board.

Kristen Leahy, the Town of Hardwick Zoning and Floodplain Administrator, was nominated by Matt Hand, Hazard Mitigation Planner for the State of Vermont. He noted “her demonstrated ability to go above and beyond to assist her community by taking an active role in the application process for many buyouts under various Vermont and FEMA programs.

“Kristen has spearheaded the Town of Hardwick’s efforts to reduce future flooding and assist vulnerable residents with getting out of flood zones. She and the Town of Hardwick have taken a targeted yet compassionate approach to flood mitigation, by addressing the needs of those in the toughest situations first, while also having an overarching goal/plan to reduce future flooding in the community.”



Hardwick Town Manager David Upson (left), Zoning and Floodplain Administrator Kristen Leahy (center) and Justin Hammond (right) of Hammond Grinding and Recycling of New Hampshire stand at the site on Sawmill Lane of the first FEMA buyout demolition in Vermont following the July 2023 flood. Hammond Grinding and Recycling is completing the first five demolitions in Hardwick as part of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant program.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



An excavator operated by Mark St. Pierre of Hammond Grinding and Recycling begins the October 8 demolition of the former home of James and Jada Anair on Sawmill Lane in Hardwick. The contents and debris are to be hauled off for proper disposal and recycling. Safety protocols ensured that asbestos and other hazardous materials were handled separately. The project was carried out through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Forest

Continued From Page One

Cillo, with Northern Rivers Land Trust (NRLT), to help address a number of questions.

Kane said a letter of intent with the seller was initiated and the seller took the property off the market. An appraisal is the next step, but according to Kane it is challenging to find an appraiser right now. Redmon clarified use of the property would be determined through the management planning process, which has yet to begin. First, the appraisal must determine if the value makes it a viable project. After the appraisal, the Trust for Public Land and the landowners will review the appraisal to see if they agree on the value. At that point, the town can form a steering committee and create a management plan for the property.

Discussion continued, with attendees voicing a number of concerns. Renaud Demers wondered about the potential loss in tax revenue, as well as ongoing maintenance costs. He also questioned whether another trail system was necessary.

Ashton Allen asked if the board knew if there was an appetite for the project, or if there was a way to quantify use of the town hiking trails.

“To me, it’s the timing,” said Rivard. While she agreed it’s a unique opportunity, “when is enough, enough? When do we focus on maybe trying to attract a pharmacy to come back to town, or all the vacant buildings on Main Street? Why aren’t we focusing on that?” She also expressed her frustration at the board for proceeding with the project with little community input.

Chair Eric Remick responded, saying, while he hears and understands Rivard’s concerns, the town government is large enough and well equipped enough to balance more than one ongoing project.

Board member Tim Ricardello said he agrees that public input is necessary, and he would not be opposed to taking it to voters at town meeting day, to which Rivard responded, “Well that being said, you voted to proceed without any of that.”

Ricardello said his understanding is the town is not locked into a commitment.

Board member Danny Hale remarked that he voted no at the July 10 meeting, and now the board is locked into moving forward.

Cillo interjected to clarify that, if the town does not want to complete the purchase, they do not have to. All of the parties, including the

town and NRLT, have to agree on the management plan. If they cannot come to an agreement it will not happen.

“The reason we asked for that July 10 decision by the board, is essentially, intent. In other words, is there enough interest so that we should continue to do the work moving forward. We recognize that it may not be successful, and if the community doesn’t want it, it’s not going to happen, and it shouldn’t,” Cillo said.

Board member Ceilidh Galloway-Kane asked about the steering committee being formed sooner rather than later, given the amount of interest and perspectives about the project. Redmon explained the appraisal can take two to three months.

Discussions continued, with questions about the timeline taking the forefront. Rivard questioned whether it was fair to the seller. Redmon clarified the seller is aware of the potential for a longer sale process, as the management plan can take several months to complete as well.

Rivard questioned if the board takes the matter to town meeting day, whether voters can make an informed choice with an incomplete management plan.

Cillo said it varies from

community to community if a vote is taken. Three things that need to come together are a willing seller, funding and the management plan, as well as the town accepting the property. If all of these elements do not exist, then the transaction will not happen.

Redmon added, the public part of the process comes with creating the management plan. “In some town forests, they’re all about timber for the local paper mill. Some town forests are all about the elementary school and outdoor classrooms, some are about hiking, biking, whatever it is. Public, resident, individual input usually comes in the management planning process, and the governance input comes on the side. Is this something that makes sense for our budget?”

Galloway-Kane concluded the discussion, saying the board should wait until the appraisal is complete, and it would be helpful to consider the future steering committee process, asking anyone interested to provide contact information.

Remick said, “I think this is a great conversation, and I think it’s great everybody came out.”

The meeting can be viewed at hctv.us/hardwick-select-board-october-2-2025/

Building

Continued From Page One

building and demolition of the old fire station

On April 15, 2024, a new temporary station opened. “After going through a winter of parking vehicles in various places, the temporary station opened up,” said Hogan.

Oct 18, 2024, USDA awarded the town a \$5.1M grant to help fund a portion of the new building, and the town signed contracts for site planning and environmental review.

Cabot initiated an appeal process with FEMA, assisted by the State of Vermont, in June 2025, based on FEMA’s pushing back on its commitment to fund demolition of the fire station, the public service building and the temporary station. That appeal is still in process, with hope of having a decision shortly, he said.

Hogan said he’d heard from Sen. Bernie Sanders’ office the day before, saying they were ready and willing to help the town if FEMA rejects the appeal.

Hogan then asked Mike Tarrant, the town attorney, to speak on issues raised by the petition. Tarrant noted the petition was advisory and the board could choose to hold a special meeting for a binding or advisory vote, but the timeline for bringing the question to

voters at the November 4 election was likely closed.

Doug Cooke asked about a previous vote on a new public safety building and was advised there was a vote, with the outcome being no, against construction of a new public safety building building, in a close vote.

Board member R.D. Eno said rumors are going around about why the town can’t keep the fire department in the present, temporary location.

Fire Chief Dean Deasy explained that the temporary building would require a bigger water line to support a sprinkler system as required by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) specifications. An agreement to use the temporary building without a sprinkler system runs out April 26 and would require an extension.

Discussions included some about the process for warning various types of meetings and how to gather town input at the March Town Meeting, or earlier, and the potential costs of building a new facility versus upgrading the existing one.

Questions were raised about whether the cost of upgrading the temporary facility would be less than building a new public safety building and whether it could meet the fire department’s needs.

Questions about the suitability of the two sites were also raised.

Perhaps of most concern to many, was how the decision would be made to upgrade the current temporary facility, or to build a new facility. Many expressed concern that it was an important enough decision that voters should make the call, while others suggested the select board had the necessary financial, public infrastructure and fire safety expertise to be trusted with the decision.

There was not a resolution of that question, though at least one member of the select board suggested they would take an advisory vote as binding on their own decision about the options.

After considerable discussion, there was general consensus that the town’s fire department volunteers perform an important service that is valued by residents.

The board agreed to investigate legal questions regarding property use restrictions and to provide more information to the

public about the fire department building options.

After more than an hour of discussion, Hogan said he wasn’t sure what would happen next, then thanked members of the public for coming to the meeting.

In other business, the board heard from Joe Hebert, with a request to appropriate \$10,000 toward milfoil eradication work at Joe’s pond.

Work to replace a bridge on Lovely Road was approved, with bids to be opened at the November 4 meeting.

Moving the town’s accounting from Quickbooks to NEMERC was approved at a cost Amy Monahan estimated at around \$7,000.

Gary Gulka requested approval and was authorized to proceed with having the U.S. Geological Survey install a stream gauging station on town property to monitor river levels.

More than two and a half hours after it began, the meeting came to a close.



Parkhurst reminisces about Village Restaurant career

by Alana Dutcher-Hirsch

HARDWICK – Sharon Parkhurst, 60, has been a waitress at the Village restaurant, a Hardwick institution, since she was 16 years old. The local fixture talks about her 34 years at the diner, discussing the people she's met, the relationships she's formed and the changes she has witnessed.

Q: Do you enjoy working at the Village Restaurant?

A: I feel like it's one of those things that you can't learn to like. You have to like it. You can't learn it, it just kind of comes to you. Would it have been something I would have picked to do in life? Absolutely not. It picked me for some reason.

But I would have to say, I love it in all honesty. Some days I get frustrated, and other days, I'm just thinking, what would I do if I didn't have this?

Q: Have you worked anywhere else or have you stayed here?

A: I left this job for four years at one point and worked in St. Johnsbury at another restaurant. I left for another six-year stretch of time and went into the nursing field and became a nursing assistant.

Q: What brought you back?

A: The waitressing industry has always been there.

Q: What keeps bringing you back?

A: Working in such a small small town and really knowing the people you're working with; probably a lot of the same people and watching them grow up

or going through a life of events.

Q: Has that been something you've noticed?

A: I guess so. It's another family, you know what I mean? I just learned so much about so many different people being here for so long.

I care a lot about Hazen Union School because we employ a lot of the students, especially during the summer. For a lot of them, that's their first job.

I've seen people, myself included, from pre-pregnancy to having the baby, and then I've seen those babies drive, and now those babies have their own babies. I've seen a lot.

Q: That's what I kind of was trying to touch on because I think that the service industry is often overlooked, or it's kind of seen as just serving food, but I was saying there's so much more to it, especially in your case, I'm sure.

A: I once had someone say to me, how hard can it be to be a waitress? All you do is bring the food to the table. No. No. If they only knew.

Q: You're probably a lifeline for a lot of people there who might come in every day, I bet.

A: There are people that come in literally every day. Whether it be for coffee or to see your face or have a conversation.

We have our normal crew. The early morning [crowd], the guys that poke fun at everybody and talk about anything and nothing. What would our day be like if they weren't there? It would not be the same.

There are other kids that I can set my clock to. I know what



Hardwick's Village Restaurant, where Sharon Parkhurst has worked for 34 years of her 44 year working life, and through five owners.

photo by Alana Dutcher-Hirsch

time it is because of what time they walk through the door. It's routine, but it's not routine in the same way.

Q: How many restaurants are there in Hardwick? You're one of the only ones, correct?

A: There's five. As far as a breakfast-type place, you do have the coffee shop and you have Connie's Kitchen. They have little pastries and things there, but as far as a breakfast-breakfast, we are it.

Q: It sounds like the village has been through a lot of changes, but it's still the spotlight, like you said.

A: Well, I've been with five owners, so definitely. It's funny, there are days when people stop and say, do you know how many years we've driven by here and didn't know this was a restaurant? We're kind of a little hidden gem, so to speak.

Q: What was it like during Covid-19, being such a secluded restaurant?

A: It was the first time that I had been laid off from work. That was different for me. It's been really hard because of how

many places didn't make it. And we did, thanks to Lynn (the manager of the Village Restaurant). She strives to make sure that we all have a job every day.

But people have changed since Covid-19. I think I've changed. I feel like there's a lot less patience, in so many different ways. People are in such a hurry, and it's like they expect more.

Q: So definitely things have changed in the past five years, it seems?

A: It has, myself as well. I try to just keep it in my mind that I love what I do. I love what I do. I love what I do. I don't know what kind of day these people are having. So I just try to run with it.

Q: Would you say that it might also be the people that keep the restaurant open just because there are probably some people that just keep coming back?

A: Oh, yes, absolutely. The people that support us have stuck by us and always continue to do so.

Via Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship for the



New staff at Wolcott Elementary School are Grades five-six Math and Science Teacher Colin Netzley (left) and Instructional Assistant Kate Wolff (right).

photo by Vanessa Fournier

NEWS NOTES

Area residents appointed to fill state roles

by Paul Fixx

MONTPELIER – Earlier this month Governor Phil Scott's office announced 78 appointments made in the third quarter of 2025. Two of those positions went to area residents.

Claire Burns of Hardwick was appointed as Caledonia County State's Attorney.

Gail Falk of Plainfield will serve

on the Board of Medical Practice Boards and commissions serve a role in state government, giving Vermonters opportunities to serve their state and communities. The Governor's office is currently soliciting applications to fill vacancies and upcoming term expirations. Those interested in serving on a board or commission can apply at governor.vermont.gov/boards-commissions.

Petition forcing vote to cut upper grades at Danville School could create public high school desert

by Corey McDonald,
VTDigger

DANVILLE – Danville residents are poised to vote in December on whether to shutter the high school grades at the Danville School and instead pay tuition for students to attend other schools, following a petition submitted to the school board recently.

The petition has set the district on a collision course with a potential outcome public school faculty say would be devastating for the region's most vulnerable students. The school board proposed a December 6 special meeting for the vote, though the meeting won't be officially set until next month. If the vote is successful, Danville School's grades 9 through 12 would close by June 30.

The district would then pay tuition for those high school students to attend public or private schools, according to the language of the petition.

The potential closure of Danville's high school presents troubling implications for public school students in the area, and has underscored long-held contentions around whether the region's public and private schools share the same responsibility to serve students with disabilities or with other academic achievement barriers, a population on the rise in Vermont.

"They don't have to take your kids," David Warren, a Danville School social studies teacher, said Tuesday about two larger neighboring private schools. "And how do I know? Because we've been giving kids from those schools here in Danville a second chance."

Danville School Principal Natalie Conway wrote to the school



The Danville School, seen on Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

board in advance of its October 7 meeting that the high school closure would leave "our area of the (Northeast Kingdom) a public high school desert."

The closest high school would be St. Johnsbury Academy, followed by Lyndon Institute, both private institutions and designated by Vermont law as independent schools that are eligible to receive public dollars as tuition from school districts lacking public schools serving those grades.

Since 2022, Vermont State

Board of Education rules have required schools that accept public dollars to educate students eligible for special education services. However, Danville public school leaders and faculty have said they believe students with disabilities would go underserved by the closure, a claim that their counterparts at St. Johnsbury Academy refute.

"Students from all walks of life and all abilities who need a second chance, a smaller school or more individual attention and support find a home in Danville School," Conway said in her letter. "Students with disabilities find a home at Danville School."

The Danville school district, like many in the state, finds itself on shaky ground as Vermont works toward a major overhaul of its public education system.

Act 73, the sweeping education reform bill signed into law in July, calls for a vast consolidation of the state's 119 school districts and a reorganization of how the state funds education.

A redistricting task force, made up of legislators, former superintendents and other experts, is tasked with crafting new school district boundaries for Vermont's public education system in time for next year's legislative session, which begins in early January.

But many fear the law's implementation could mean the closure of small schools, pointing to required minimum average class sizes of at least 18 students for grades 9 through 12.

The petition, Danville board members wrote in a letter to the state's redistricting task force approved at the Tuesday meeting, "is a direct result of great uncertainty due to Act 73 and your task force's mission."

Danville School hosts about 344 students from kindergarten through high school from Danville and surrounding towns, with roughly 70 students in the high school grades, according to district board Chair Clayton Cargill.

For the past month, school board members have weighed whether to get ahead of changes envisioned by the new education law.

Their district is a member of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, which includes the Cabot and Twinfield school districts. Both of those districts also operate a K-12 school, with high school grades even smaller in size than Danville's.

The uncertainty around Danville School's future spurred a financial analysis, presented by board member Eric Hewitt during a September school board meeting.

See DANVILLE, next page



Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, left, and Sen. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, right, listen as Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, speak as House and Senate members of the education reform bill conference committee meet at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

Danville

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The analysis suggested that tuitioning out Danville's high school students may produce a lower tax rate than if it were to continue operating its high school grades.

But that analysis has since been questioned by other board members and community members.

Cargill said in an interview Wednesday that the analysis did not take into account high school-aged students in Danville whose families currently pay for private school and would take advantage of a tuition system.

There is also the expense of ensuring that the district's obligations to students with disabilities are being met, Danville high school's principal noted in her letter.

The next closest public high schools, Hazen Union and Lake Region Union, are each at least a 30-minute drive away from Danville School, Conway wrote.

"Imagine the costs associated with this transportation for general and special education students," she wrote. "Imagine the costs for us as a (Northeast Kingdom) community associated with students who struggle to attend school dropping out at higher rates than we already experience."

Nearby school boards have had similar discussions about potentially closing their high school grades. For Danville and Cabot, those discussions were prompted by a warning from Vermont Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, the chamber's minority leader, according to their school board chairs. Those warnings were first reported last week by Seven Days.

Beck, a faculty member at St. Johnsbury Academy, warned school district and community leaders that lawmakers would likely seek to limit a district's ability to offer its students the choice of attending a private school after a school closure in the next phase of educational reform.

Beck pointed to specific language that had been in an earlier version of the legislation requiring school districts that close a school to designate just three public schools to receive their students.

The Cabot School District had previously considered circulating a survey to residents about closing their schools and opting for school choice. But Cabot school board Chair Chris Tormey, said in an email this week that the board has decided to hold off on the survey "until we find out next year how Cabot School will be placed

within the new statewide map."

Audience members at the Danville board meeting were split on the urgency of making a decision about the high school. But several attendees zeroed in on accusations that Beck had unduly influenced the petitioners by spreading false information.

Warren, the high school social studies teacher, said the motivation behind the petition was "flat out wrong," that the Act 73 process would not necessarily lead to the high school's closure.

"Despite what you hear about small schools, we do offer a quality education. And about this decision, the politician that is behind it, in my opinion, is a coward, and worse, a bully," Warren said.

Cargill said at the meeting that he felt he had been misled by Beck.

"I paraded this information around town, and told people this information, and I feel lied to in the situation," he said. "I feel like I'm part of a problem here."

Beck refuted claims that he had a conflict of interest, and said in an interview Wednesday that he was merely offering his opinion to his constituents.

"People can certainly disagree with me, that's fine, but I was straightforward," he said. What he has been telling school district leaders like Cargill "is that I don't think that you have forever to have this conversation."

"I don't think I misled or lied to anybody," Beck continued. "It's the opinion I conveyed last summer and it's the opinion I still have today."

Danville School faculty argue their school plays an outsized role in serving students with intellectual disabilities and from poorer backgrounds.

And without Danville's high school grades, "there are going to be a fair number of students who will not be provided the opportunity for the free and appropriate education that they also deserve," Beth Nishball-Williams, a special educator at the Danville School, wrote in a letter to the school board.

"Where do our autistic, intellectually disabled, multiple handicapped students go?" Nishball-Williams wrote. "Where do our students with social anxiety, speech and concerns, depression, or trauma go?"

That claim is partly borne out in public data, released last month by the Agency of Education in response to requests from the redistricting task force about the concentration of students with individual education plans, or IEPs, in different schools and school districts.

Twenty-two percent of

Danville School students are on IEPs, while 49% are eligible for the federal free or reduced lunch program, indicating they live in households earning less than 185% the federal poverty level, according to data from the Agency of Education for the 2023-24 school year.

Twenty-five percent of students from other school districts who attend Danville School are on IEPs, while 62% are on a free or reduced lunch program, according to that data. Data from previous years was not available.

Meanwhile, only 8.7% of St. Johnsbury Academy's student body are on IEPs, according to that data, while just over 14% are on a free or reduced lunch program.

Lyndon Institute has higher percentages: 19.52% of the school's student body are on IEPs, while just under 22% are on a free or reduced lunch program.

The data suggests that St. Johnsbury academy is not enrolling students with disabilities. Academy officials contend that the opposite is true, that their low percentage of students with IEPs shows that they're making progress toward the mandates in Act 173, Vermont's 2022 special education law that sought to increase effectiveness of support services.

Academy Headmaster Sharon

Howell said it was "patently false" that they are not serving students with IEPs, and said "the fact that we have fewer students on IEPs is not an indicator of failure. It's actually a success story."

Mathew Foster, the director of student services at St. Johnsbury Academy, said the data discrepancy is due the fact that some students are designated as being on 504 plans versus IEPs. The 504 plan categorization is another federal designation for students who need special support for learning, and does not follow the same procedures and requirements that an IEP would.

Howell said the academy's philosophy is to shift their enrolled students with IEPs toward 504 plans or other in-house support services.

"Our philosophy is, we want students to be able to do as well as they can, to be able to move into general education classes when that's appropriate, so not just be stuck in individualized services classes in content areas, but to actually join some of the some of the gen-ed classes, if that's appropriate," she said.

Data provided by the academy for the 2023-24 school year shows a number of publicly funded

See DANVILLE, next page

High school students may lose Danville option

by Paul Fixx

WALDEN – Two full-time high school students from Walden are attending high school at the Danville School, with an additional student at 60% of full time because they are taking a class elsewhere, according to the Danville School.

Students living in Walden will lose the option of attending high school in Danville if voters decide to close grades 9-12 for the 2026-27 school year during a December 6 town meeting vote.

High school students in the Caledonia Cooperative School District (Cal Co-op), which includes Walden, Barnet and Waterford may choose any high school and have their tuition paid by the district.

Students finishing Walden middle school often choose one of the nearby schools: Danville, Hazen Union, Twinfield, Cabot or St. Johnsbury Academy.

High schools, except for Danville, would continue to be options for Walden, and other Cal Co-op high school students, if Danville votes to close its high school at the end of this academic year.

The school board has scheduled the vote on whether to close grades 9-12 at Danville School for a town meeting on December 6.

Informational meetings prior to that are scheduled before the regular October 22 and November 4 school board meetings, at 6 p.m.

A final informational meeting is scheduled for December 3, just two days after the December 1 date by which the state's Act 73 School Redistricting Task Force must submit up to three proposed school district configurations for the general assembly to consider, and three days before the December 6 vote.

Vermont's General Assembly will return January 6, and will not have had the opportunity to debate the merits of the various reconfigurations proposed by the task force before the Danville vote.

The vote will be limited to Danville residents. Cal Co-op district residents will not have the opportunity to vote on closing Danville School's grades 9-12.

Danville

Continued From Previous Page

students, about 24%, enrolled at the school are on IEPs, 504 plans, or “other support plans.”

Brian Bloomfield, the head of school at Lyndon Institute, likewise said that the claims his school enroll fewer students with IEPs were “factually inaccurate,” and said that “more than one in four students enrolled” at the school have active IEPs.

Administrators and teachers at the Danville School nonetheless say their school is the fallback serving those students in the region.

In her letter, Danville School special educator Nishball-Williams wrote that “the truth is not everyone will be successful” at the two nearby private schools. She said she works with students from most of the surrounding towns that tuition out their students.

“I know this first hand because in the past five years I’ve had students on my caseload from Barnet, Peacham, Walden, Cabot, Lyndon, St. Johnsbury, Concord and Sheffield, as well as Danville,” Nishball-Williams wrote.

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Superintendent Matt Foster said the nearby academies “don’t have to, nor (do) they, gear to try to meet the needs” of all students.

“There is flexibility at the academies where they are able to basically say, ‘We don’t do that’ with certain populations,” Foster said.

“Those aren’t my schools, so I can’t say what exactly they’re doing or not doing at this point in time,” he added, “but they definitely have a history of saying there are certain students that they don’t feel equipped to be able to take.”

The petition delivered at Tuesday’s meeting was organized by Peter Mantius, a faculty member at St. Johnsbury Academy.

“It’s my hope that every voting resident shows up at our special meeting fully informed and capable of voting on maybe the most important decision this town is going to make in a generation,” Mantius said during the meeting.

Mantius did not respond to a request for comment, but said during the September board meeting, and in an op-ed published in the Caledonia Record, that he and others had concerns similar to Beck’s: that the Legislature may soon block the district’s ability to adopt school choice.

Hewitt, the Danville School board member, was asked during Tuesday’s meeting for his position on potentially closing the school. He said he wanted more clarity on what comes of the redistricting task force.

The school board, in its letter to the task force, asked members for clarity.

“We are at risk of making a very reactionary decision that will change this town considerably in unforeseen ways,” the board’s letter reads. “With the lack of certainty or clarity around what will happen to a school like ours, which is in a remarkably unique situation in the state, we are forced to assume and plan for the worst case scenario, and do everything in our power to prevent it.”

Cargill expressed similar concerns before the meeting.

“We’ve been operating a pretty successful high school that we’re proud of throughout all these years,” Cargill said in an interview last week. “I think that’s the truth, but with what the state is forcing now, we’re sort of sitting in an existential crisis.”



A S. Main St. crosswalk in Hardwick leads to the new home of The Civic Standard, which sports a new coat of blue paint, last Wednesday. A New Home Fund to handle expenses of the move and paying a Vermont Community Loan Fund mortgage, is more than halfway to raising \$400,000. Learn more at thecivicstandard.org.

photo by Paul Fixx

Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

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

Rotating Slots

#1: Sun 10 am–12 pm
1st & 3rd Sun: Audio Ergo Sum
Darrien & Ruby McElwain
2nd & 4th Sun: The Immanent Grove
Connie 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 Lingenfelter
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...
Steve Pappas
2nd & 4th Thu: Into the Issues
3rd Thu: Radio RoundUp
CVCR hosts

#9: Sat 9–10 am
1st Sat: Gathering Peace
Joseph Gainza
2nd Sat: Civic Radio Project
Emily Lanxner
3rd Sat: Pollinator Report
Rebecca Beidler
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

Healthy Lamoille Valley addresses teen drug use

by **Raymonda Parchment**

AREA TOWNS – Vermont ranks in the top 10 states for illicit drug use by teens, with Caledonia, Orleans and Lamoille County high school students slightly more likely than the rest of the state to believe their parents don't see alcohol or cannabis use as wrong or very wrong and that regular marijuana use isn't harmful to them.

Most illicit or federally classified drug use is cannabis use. The two most used substances by high school students in Vermont are alcohol and cannabis. Healthy Lamoille Valley (HLV) Coalition Coordinator Jessica Bickford said, "I think sometimes we hear illicit and we think, all our kids are using opioids. . . There are some that are using the harder drugs, but that's actually a relatively small fraction. . . they start to use the things that are most accessible to them, the alcohol, the cannabis, the pack of mom's cigarettes."

"According to the latest data from the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, while teen drug use has declined, there are moderate differences by state. In Vermont, an estimated 9.4% of teens had used an illicit drug in the past month, making it the number-eight state for teen drug use."

Bickford said a foundational principle for the organization is working to embed prevention at many, many levels. "Then lots of people hold it and that impact is greater."

"Vermont is in the highest tier in the country of youth substance use, and our region sometimes is actually higher than the state. We've been doing a lot of work to build connections and capacity for many people." She continued, "When we think about youth substance prevention we know that connections matter. Spending

meaningful time with the children and youth makes a difference as do meaningful relationships. When we think of behavior change it also comes through meaningful connections. Loved ones and role models play a big part."

Bickford says when looking at the roots of substance abuse, it boils down to a lack of connection such as mental health struggles and isolation. "It can boil down to just that peer group is using. It can also boil down to what they see modeled in the community or the availability of substances."

She says youth need meaningful activities and places to release stress and emotions. This can look many different ways from arts such as theater, singing and writing or sports such as competitive and non-competitive. She also said there is a strong connection between physical activity and emotions.

Healthy Lamoille Valley works within the Morrisville Health District, which covers Lamoille County and the greater Hardwick area.

Recently HLV helped support two projects in Hardwick through the Northeast Vermont Prevention Consortium's subgranting process. These projects include the Center for an Agricultural Economy's prevention project, listening sessions and collaboration with Hazen Union as well as the creation of Hazen Union's Student Wellness Center last year. HLV is part of the Northeast Vermont Prevention Consortium, which includes Newport, St. Johnsbury and Morrisville Health Districts.

Bickford says legalization has its benefits and downsides. On one hand, 30% of the cannabis excise taxes go to prevention. "Because cannabis is in 21-plus stores, it does in some cases, decrease youth direct access. They're not walking into a store and taking products

like nicotine products and alcohol, there's some theft that goes on because youth are in those stores with those products."

However, Bickford says, considering Vermonters can grow their own supply and, with the overall increase of cannabis products, there is cause for concern about potential

access by youth in our communities.

HLV is hosting its annual Fall Kickoff Event Tuesday, October 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 at GMTCC. The interactive event for youth, will include legislators as special guests and is open to all community members. Learn more at [Healthylamoillevalley.org](http://healthylamoillevalley.org).



The last of Walden's flood recovery work is complete October 10 with the opening of the Orton Road bridge at its intersection with Stannard Mtn road where (from left) Walden Road Foreman Bob Bell, Austin Construction owner George Austin (bridge builder) and Walden Town Clerk Debbie Messier celebrate its opening. The bridge was destroyed in the July 10 2024 flood.

courtesy photo




AWARE recognizes area victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence during October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month with photos, flags and hope for those needing support. Visit awarevt.org for more information.

photo by Paul Fixx

BUTTONING UP THE GREENSBORO LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

(An Efficiency Vermont Button Up Event)

DON'T
HIBERNATE.
BUTTON UP.



When: October 18th
Time: 2-4PM
Where: Greensboro Free Library
53 Wilson St.
Greensboro, VT
Contact: bethanne241@gmail.com

- Tour the weatherization upgrades to the library
- Meet representatives from Efficiency VT, Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, Vermont Building and Grounds Services, NVDA, SolarHarvester and Ryan Kneeland Masonry
- Discuss your project with members of ECAC (Greensboro Energy and Climate Action Committee)
- Learn how to apply some of the weatherization techniques to your own home or Commercial project
- Find out what the new rebates and financing opportunities are to get your project going

Special art project for All Ages
"Envisioning our Energy Future" Through painting and collage
Led by Joanne George

Light Refreshments
Raffle Prizes

<https://greensborovt.gov/energy-committee/>

FREE EVENT

EDITORIAL

How to support your local news outlet

Whether by giving a detailed report about education standards, highlighting a local food festival or covering the bankruptcy of a prominent nursing home operator, local news outlets cover stories that affect daily life, stories that might otherwise go untold.

“Without local newsrooms, it’s almost impossible to follow everything that’s impacting you in your community,” said Anna Brown, executive director of Citizens Count, a nonprofit in New Hampshire dedicated to civic engagement.

Understanding local issues is intertwined with democracy and strong communities, said Loretta Chao, head of startup studio and local news innovation at the American Journalism Project, a national philanthropy effort established to strengthen local newsrooms.

“Supporting local news isn’t about saving journalism jobs or journalism brands,” she said. “It’s about investing in your community and the future of the people who live in it.”

News media are still in the midst of a shift from newspaper heydays to the digital landscape, according to Chao, which makes public support more important than ever.

“We need to treat [local news outlets], and give to them, the way we would give to other vital institutions that are part of the fabric of our communities,” she said.

Luckily, supporting local news doesn’t have to be complicated.

Start by reading your local newspaper and giving feedback.

“Picking up a paper and reading it is the top way people can support local news,” said Katelyn Mary Skaggs, co-owner of the Missouri-based Leader Publications, which operates four newspapers in the state.

The biggest priority for local news organizations is to increase audience engagement, according to a 2024 report by the Local Media Consortium. Eighty-three percent of local news organizations surveyed named that as their top goal.

As a local news consumer, this is how you can support local news, without opening your wallet. Liking and sharing local coverage on social media or even just mentioning an article in conversation can help your local news outlet increase its reach, while also keeping your social networks up-to-date with important news.

“That helps us so much because maybe [your] friend or neighbor didn’t know about the local paper and now you’ve introduced them to a reliable source of local news,” Skaggs said.

As a community member, you can also share tips and story ideas with your local outlet.

“Tell them what would make a bigger difference for you,” Chao said.

Another great way to engage is by signing up for your local outlet’s newsletter. About 77% of local news outlets generate revenue from their newsletters, according to Local Media Consortium, but signing up is often free.

To receive The Hardwick Gazette’s newsletter, go to HardwickGazette.org and click on Sign Up For A Weekly Edition Here, or go to hardwickgazette.org/subscribe.

For others, search for the local news organization and “newsletter” to sign up.



courtesy of the New England Newspaper and Press Association Press Freedom and Local News Committee and Granite State News Collaborative

Ads are still a primary source of revenue for many media outlets. As a reader, you can support those outlets by doing business with advertisers and mention that you saw their ad in your local news outlet.

“That has a huge impact on their decision to advertise again, which keeps [the outlet’s] doors open,” Skaggs said.

If you own a business, consider directing some of your ad spending to local outlets.

Most media outlets, including those that are for-profit businesses, accept donations. Even \$1 or \$5 donations are important for local news outlets, Skaggs said.

“Nothing is too small . . .” she said. “That is wholeheartedly appreciated.”

Unlike donations to businesses, those to nonprofit organizations like The Hardwick Gazette are tax-deductible.

Public policy changes can play a role in supporting local journalism. The Rebuild Local News Coalition is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization advocating for public policies that support local news, including tax credits for individuals who subscribe to local outlets and for businesses that advertise in local media. (Federal legislation outlining this was introduced in 2021, but did not move forward.)

State policies can also make a difference. Vermont is currently considering a bill that would require a portion of government ad spending go to local outlets.

In addition, the public can encourage school systems to emphasize the importance of local news and news literacy. The News Literacy Project is a national nonprofit dedicated to helping educators teach students about consuming news and spotting misinformation.

And remember to say thanks. Many local news organizations and the people who work at them are dedicated to their communities, so a little show of thanks can go a long way.

“Most of [our] small donations come with notes about what the paper means to them,” Skaggs said. “We hang those up all year round in the office so the whole team can read them and understand . . . our news has an impact.”

Paul Fixx, editor with Kelly Burch, Granite State News Collaborative

This editorial 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/.

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



LETTERS FROM READERS

History Repeats

To the editor:

It took Hitler 53 days to disable and dismantle Germany's constitutional republic after he became that country's Chancellor on January 30, 1933. Within two months he had completed the concentration camp, Dachau, and rounded up prisoners: first political opponents, then trade unionists, gypsies, artists and Jews. It is not dissimilar to Trump's roundup of both legal and illegal immigrants sent to Alligator Alcatraz, or sent off to countries where they don't speak the language, in violation of Due Process as set forth in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

Hitler's Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, is infamously quoted as saying: "Repeat a lie often enough, and it becomes the truth." Like Hitler, Trump is repeating the Big Lie: that undocumented immigrants (read Jews) are the cause of all of America's problems, and that they are "criminals, rapists and gang members."

Nazi ideology was based on the strategy that when people are made afraid, they will give up their rights and allow an authoritarian dictator to take control. The U.S. Congress, the media and universities have already caved to his revengeful retribution.

Hitler's Brown Shirts, and later the S.S. (Schutzstaffel), were the primary instrument of security and terror to eliminate rivalry to Hitler's authority. Under Trump's administration, [up to] \$50,000 bonuses are being paid from taxpayer's money to recruit up to 10,000 new ICE agents [over several years] to create his own army of goons

ready to do his bidding.

The middle-of-the-night ICE raid in a Chicago apartment building recently, where doors were illegally smashed open without search warrants (contrary to the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution), and women and children in pajamas were zip tied and driven away in U-Haul vans, is not dissimilar to the S.S. tactics used against Jews in Nazi Germany.

President Trump's federalizing the National Guard and illegally sending them and Marines into Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and now Chicago and Portland, is a first step in creating a police state to quell anything he considers an emergency, even if there is none. This can include peaceful protests or civil unrest, even though local and state law enforcement are tasked with that responsibility.

Is Trump's use of force red meat for his base? Or, is he creating a police state to deal with the increasing protests against his complete disregard for the law, our constitutional democracy, our rights outlined in the Bill of Rights and the separation of powers on which our democratic Republic has survived for 250 years? ICE already plans to increase its surveillance on social media by adding a new targeting center in Williston, here in Vermont, a tactic similar to Hitler's Gestapo.

Wake up, people! Protect our fragile democracy! Join the "No Kings Day" second protest rally on Saturday, October 18, and sign up to get active with Indivisible.org or Leanleftvt.org.

Bob Hawk
Walden

Capturing the administration's cruelty

To the editor:

A shout out to Julie Atwood for her timely cartoon in the October 8 issue of The Hardwick Gazette. With a subtle use of color, she captures the cruelty and absurdity of the administration's efforts to

intimidate and control the population. Kudos to her. Shame on President Trump and his minions as they march in goose step to end democracy.

Ross Connelly
Hardwick

People are the sovereign power

To the editor:

On this Saturday, Oct. 18, in communities throughout the U.S., we gather in mass, nonviolent protest to again say "No Kings in America." Mass nonviolent protest has been effectively used world-wide for generations to demonstrate resistance and refusal to those who would disallow the will of the average folks: the people to be the sovereign power. Prior to the birth of American democracy, majorities of people had been ruled by those with wealth and thus all the power. At that time, the rich and powerful were the sovereigns. The American experiment in democracy sought to flip that model; over centuries the resulting policies promoted by the people made life better for many. Do we still believe in the possibility of democracy of and by people that can deliver for the people? If you think "yes!" please show up.

In recent decades we could and should have used mass nonviolent protest to defy the many ways democracy in America was intentionally eroded by those seeking to displace the power of the people with the power of the wealthy few...today's billionaires, and now a would-be king. Few of us could see how trade deals and offshoring decimated our industrial base, the ability of workers to have a living wage, humane hours and bodily

protections. How one senator could torque the norms of governance to hand-pick a U.S. Supreme Court that would increasingly concentrate power around white supremacist ideals and a king figure. How it could come to be that today in America that wannabe king is commandeering our tax dollars away from necessities like Medicaid so he can deploy armed troops to patrol cities he doesn't like, normalizing in America a power play of dictatorships.

Local opportunities to join the No Kings Day protests on Saturday include: Morrisville (9:30 to 11 a.m.), Hardwick (10 a.m. to noon), St. Johnsbury (10 a.m. to noon), Waterbury (10 to 11 a.m.), Newport (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), Wolcott (11 a.m. to noon) and Montpelier (noon to 2 p.m.). These are among the thousands of locations nationwide where people will gather in peaceful, joyful solidarity, to express at the 3.5% level, our resolve that there are no kings in America. Political scientists' research shows that an authoritarian regime may be thwarted when 3.5% of a population are engaged in active, peaceful nonviolent protest. Visit nokings.org to register for a gathering nearby, bring a sense of humor, joy and three friends.

Anne Hanson
Craftsbury

Questions raised about Cabot select board process

To the editor:

There are a couple of take-aways from the Cabot Select Board (SB) meeting Monday night, October 6.

One: The SB chair is acting independently from the rest of the board by going to the town lawyer on his own without the knowledge or vote of the rest of the board, which according to statute is illegal. This was upsetting to many, including two members of the SB whose names were on said petition.

Second: A duly signed and filed petition was up for discussion, Chair Michael Hogan (again without board support) brought the town lawyer in so it could be effectively squashed. This denies the request to have the voters have a say in how our tax dollars are being spent. Remember the \$20,000

rule? Hiding behind, "The SB has authority over all town buildings erected or planned" does not authorize the expenditure of millions of dollars without voter consent.

Third: The other SB board members have not seen any of the paperwork involving FEMA or USDA grant information. Why is that? They should have access to all that.

Fourth: FEMA has "not paid a cent" (Mike Hogan) towards the temporary fire station building. Some was from insurance money from the old station, but the balance is covered by loans. They have appealed to FEMA, but with the current government shutdown and changes in how funds are distributed, who knows where that will end up? When asked what the plan B was if that falls

through, there wasn't much of an answer.

Fifth: The USDA grant is \$5.2 million, but the estimated cost of a new public safety building is much more. There is no explanation on how to raise money for the balance of a new fire safety building.

Chief Deasy stated a new building can be constructed in 14 months. Discussion about not having money in hand for said construction.

Sixth: The temporary fire department building would need extensive upgrades to be a permanent building, but the

deed covenants need to be further investigated.

There was more, including suggestions by Karen Larsen that we should have a town manager with the retirement of our current town clerk coming up in March. (I leave that to your own interpretation.)

It would be good to listen to the whole recording, available on the Town of Cabot website and form your own opinions.

Stay informed and be involved in your town government.

Ruth Goodrich
Cabot

The
Hardwick
Gazette

PEOPLE
SERVING
PEOPLE

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

So far, very little

by Willem Lange

Well, now, that was a weekend! Late on Monday afternoon, I'm still trying to collate all the details and events of the last three days and turn from them to face the coming week with some new ideas and insights. So far, very little.

My friend Bea had scored a pair of Friday evening mezzanine tickets to "Hamilton" in Boston. This meant an upgrade from my usual jeans and Moabs to chinos, sensible shoes and a blazer. Luckily, I keep a spare blazer at Bea's house for just such emergencies, so it wasn't a heavy packing job. We had to leave for dinner downtown by 5:30. Leaving Montpelier by noon gave me plenty of time to spare, and got me there before the heaviest of rush hour.

We'd have to leave Kiki for longer than she's ever been left, which was a bit of a burden on my mind. I left her a good supper and a Kong with peanut butter and we somehow managed to keep her inside while we left. Bea was driving (Boston traffic), so I could have had my usual tot of scotch, but I eschewed it; I needed my wits about me just to ride along, reflexively hitting an imaginary brake pedal.

We'd been unable to get reservations at Legal Seafood, directly across the street from the theater, but were told we were welcome to try to find a spot at the bar. The line waiting for reservations went out the door. We went in. I stopped; she walked down to the head of the line, and I could see her gesticulating as she talked with the hostess. "Watch this," I said to the man next to me. "If anyone can find a seat, she can." In about a minute she came back. "Come on! I've got two at the bar."

The theater was full, everybody excited. Our seats were 15 steps up with no railings, but a husky Minnesotan (I asked) helped me up. The seat was built for a man four feet, six inches tall, with double amputations at mid-thigh. The first act was an exercise in pain control, but after stretching at intermission I tried an extreme man-spread, which eased things a bit. I also decided to see the play again, but next time at home with captions. Everybody around us seemed to love it. I recalled Mark Twain's remark about Wagner's music being much better than it sounds.

Then, of course, the dreaded Boston traffic, loaded with cars disgorging from the parking garage. Siri and Bea somehow got us through it without hitting anything, and we were able to let Kiki out of the house for a run. Any creature but a dog would have given me a hairy eyeball and a guilt trip, but her joy at my return was pure.

Saturday morning, after breakfast alfresco and a light sunburn in Swampscott, it was time to tog up for the graduate school dean's annual garden party in Concord. Time also for a second Kong for my little left-behind companion and a regretful departure. The party was an hour's drive through traffic and a crowded chunk of I-95. But the party was lovely: moderate temperature, blue skies, international flavor, an almost seamless blending of students and faculty, and nobody not involved in a conversation. One of the professors in the graduate school used to ride the Hanover school bus with my kids when we lived in Etna. I also stumbled across Chris, a fellow car guy in a V-8-powered six-speed manual small pickup as a daily driver and a BMW motorcycle for recreation. So it wasn't all nutrition programs and protocols and economic determinants and endogeneity. Still, I mostly listened.

Another hour home dodging zooming automotive missiles, and then dinner out with a usual friend. Most weekends it's two friends, but one of them couldn't miss the Ohio State game. He might as well have; Minnesota did.

Sunday we were due at a New Hampshire Public Broadcasting fund-raising event at the Castle in the Clouds estate in Moultonborough. I was due at eleven, she around one, and she next morning early back near Boston, while all I had to do was find my way home to Montpelier early enough to spend some snuggle time with Kiki, maybe catch a nap, and get at my weekly column. Apparently, we both made it. The main roads were a bit clogged with leaf-peepers, so I snuck cross-lots on back roads, which the leaf-peepers should have been haunting.

I've a relatively quiet pair of weeks coming up (Bea's in Minnesota next weekend, Indigenous People's Day weekend, which we've learned to avoid for recreation). I've got at least one book to read, and a dog to warm my lap while I do.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"MONSTER MASH"

MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, October 15

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

Wolcott Town School Board, third Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Wolcott Elementary School.

Thursday, October 16

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

Tuesday, October 21

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

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

Hardwick Electric Department Board of Commissioners, third Tuesday of month, 6 p.m. unless otherwise warned.

Hazen Union School Board, third Tuesday, 6 - 8 p.m., Hazen

Union School Library.

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

Plainfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 7 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

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org

ads@hardwickgazette.org

ANOTHER OPINION

Outrage aimed at RFK Jr. unwarranted

by Joe Murphy

The outrage aimed at Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. regarding policy changes made under his leadership at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is unwarranted.

Our very own Senator Bernie Sanders has called for Kennedy's resignation. Democrats, prominent Democratic Party-supporting influencers, most of the mainstream media, and a notable cohort on the American Left, of which I consider myself a part, have been quite vocal about Kennedy's leadership. They've been especially critical of the agency's decision to stop recommending mRNA Covid-19 shots to healthy adults under age 65 and healthy children older than six months.

I've seen online influencers critical of Kennedy lying, saying HHS is banning the shot; it's not. Others say it's a de facto ban: not putting it on the vaccine schedule will make it more costly and more cumbersome to receive, because insurance plans won't cover it, or it will require a prescription.

First, the issue with insurance not covering care is a problem that goes way deeper than Kennedy, so if critics want to direct their anger, they need to point the finger at insurance companies and the American healthcare system.

Second, there'll be insurance plans that will cover the shots, especially for people for whom it is deemed necessary as preventative care. BlueCross BlueShield has already stated that it will.

Third, I find it bizarre that people are outraged that HHS is not recommending a shot for people who are not at high risk for severe illness from Covid-19. Ironically, this demand is coming from people who cyberbullied and broke longtime ties with people who didn't "follow the science."

Speaking of "the science," a front page piece critical of Kennedy and CDC in the Boston Sunday Globe on August 24, reported that northeastern public health officials met to discuss the possibility of, and a framework for, coordinating guidelines around a vaccine schedule to supplant HHS policies. This development is ironic considering these same people cited CDC and Dr. Anthony Fauci's public health guidance with cult-like reverence; Covid-19 shot enthusiasts literally called the shot the "Fauci ouchie."

The article cites one defensive comment from Kennedy about an issue not even directly responding to the policy change, but repeats,

in almost every paragraph, that northeastern health officials are calling for science and evidence based policies, without even having the dignity to explain at any length how HHS's policies aren't based on evidence or science.

At the heart of these criticisms is a much larger issue, which is how absolutely clueless most of the critics are about the total lack of science underlying the pandemic response.

First, take the six-foot-apart rule. There were no controlled studies done specifically for Covid-19 at the time the decision was made.

In an interview on Face the Nation September 19, 2021, former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) head Dr. Scott Gottlieb on admitted that the rule was arbitrary, and that, "nobody knows where it came from."

On June 3, 2024, regarding the agency's decision to adopt the rule, Fauci testified before Congress that "there was no trial that looked at" the amount of distance required to keep people from coming in contact with the virus.

I've seen it suggested that the decision was likely a compromise based on previous studies that show how far flu particles travel when airborne, but that's for the flu, not Covid-19: they're different viruses and need to be treated as such. Even if that's what the decision was based upon, that's an assumption based on older studies of a different type of virus. Assumptions aren't science.

Second, take the mRNA shots. We were all told by the federal government and mainstream media day after day, week after week, that if you received a Covid-19 shot, you wouldn't contract or spread the virus. Crucially, that claim was the basis of Covid-19 shot mandates: the public benefit of stopping the virus in its tracks outweighed the sacredness of bodily autonomy, because of the amount of lives that would be saved, the medical costs savings and keeping hospital capacity manageable. Follow the science, they said.

Okay, let's look at the science, specifically a comment made by a Pfizer executive on October 11, 2022. When asked by a representative in the European Union Parliament whether Pfizer tested to see if its shot stopped transmission of the virus before the shot entered the market, she said, "no," because they had to work at the speed of science.

I'm not sure what the speed of science is, but if I had to guess, it's slow, methodical and thorough, the

opposite of the shot rollouts.

So, again, where was the science?

Either the Trump and Biden administrations and the officials in HHS, FDA and CDC didn't read the data Pfizer made available to them, or someone lied, either the administrations or Pfizer.

Either possibility is, to me, equally disturbing. It's almost like this explains all those breakthrough cases, a term they stopped using when CDC quietly admitted that yes, anyone who gets the shot can still contract and spread the virus, including the Moderna shot.

Women and men in our military were literally threatened with court-martial if they didn't comply with the mandates and thousands were involuntarily discharged.

Tens of thousands of people around the country lost their jobs over the mandates.

Encouragingly, New York City lost a major legal battle in the state supreme court over firing public employees for not complying with the mandate, which the court found arbitrary and capricious.

Third, healthy adults and children are not at risk of hospitalization or death from Covid-19.

That's just a fact. I know that triggers and offends people when you say that, but it's true.

For most people, even in a country as unhealthy as ours, Covid-19 is not a death sentence.

Sure, healthy people can get a bad case of Covid-19; I've been parallel to the floor for three solid days from it.

But that's not the same as being at risk of hospitalization or death; that distinction is paramount.

Any healthy person can get a bad case of the flu or a bad cold, yet no one runs around screaming about fatalities and prophylactics.

No one calls you an anti-science conspiracy theorist for skipping your flu shot.

I don't think people remember how bad it was. There was a perverse, nation-wide schadenfreude against those who didn't comply with pandemic policies and who became severely ill and, in some cases, died.

Jimmy Kimmel literally said that hospitals shouldn't treat non-vaccinated people; they should be left to die—and people cheered him on.

Speaking to the issue of healthy children specifically, the New York Times reported early on in the pandemic about children and Covid-19, noting that the risk of severe illness in most children is so low that it is difficult to quantify.

Indeed, as recently as 2023, an article from Stanford Medicine acknowledged that "although kids under 5 represent about 6% of the U.S. population, they account for fewer than 0.1% of Covid-19 deaths in this country."

Yet, many states took the advice to vaccinate and mask healthy children, and to keep them out of school.

The masking was especially pernicious, because it stunted the development of young children who were learning to speak and understand facial expressions.

There's a double-standard most of the follow the science people have regarding vaccines, medicine and big pharma. I can talk with any of them about big pharma's greed or the negative side effects of certain medications such as the infamous Vioxx. But vaccines are deemed sacrosanct, even though they're made by the same companies that they criticize for a million other misdeeds.

Many of the people who think this way are the same upper middle class totebag pseudo-liberals who will tell you to suck on some plant they found in the woods instead of taking Advil.

Yet it doesn't seem to bother them that pharmaceutical companies have legal immunity from the federal government over adverse vaccine-induced side effects and deaths. They're the same people who still wear a mask in a crowded cafe yet somehow perform the mental gymnastics to convince themselves that taking their mask off to sip their \$8 latte doesn't expose them to the same air everyone else is breathing.

One thing that has been made crystal clear to me since 2020 is that a great many people and institutions for whom and for which I had the utmost respect don't stand on principle.

They don't care about science. Period.

They don't want people to think critically or to even ask questions.

They'd rather silence and verbally abuse anyone with whom they disagree.

They cling to their beliefs with a force akin to religious dogma.

Those same people publicly crucified medical experts such as Dr. Pierre Kory, a renowned pulmonary specialist, and Dr. Robert Malone, one of the early mRNA medical scientists, for publicly expressing legitimate concerns about Covid-19 pandemic policies.

Moreover, as revealed in the

See OUTRAGE, 2

ANOTHER OPINION



Ocean Eyes,” by Amelia Van Driesche, 19, Burlington

Truth telling

by Ursa Goldenrose

HARDWICK - We manifest our fear in our hands, as a physical thing. Sometimes it pricks at our skin and leaves marks; sometimes it results in stiff fingers, cracking from a stiffened clench. The keyboard invites an unbeknownst realization to form, almost as if the clacking of the keys, spelling out the words of some reality, is the only thing to make the phenomenon itself real. When focus is placed on the fingertips, they jump and skip, and while they rearrange the saddest words, they also often confide a confidence that allows them to be free.

What we write pulls our fear out from underneath our hearts. Steady hands solidify each sound so that when the words are

read aloud, they ring with truth and vitality. Sometimes these scribbles seem to be the only proof of our surviving those smaller mortalities.

The Young Writers Project entry is “Truth telling” by Ursa Goldenrose, 16, of Hardwick. Artwork is “Ocean Eyes,” by Amelia Van Driesche, 19, of Burlington. Young Writers Project is a creative, online community of teen writers and visual artists that started in Burlington in 2006. Each week, VT Digger publishes the writing and art of young Vermonters who post their work on youngwritersproject.org, a free, interactive website for youth, ages 13-19. To find out more, please go to youngwritersproject.org or contact Executive Director Susan Reid at sreid@youngwritersproject.org; (802) 324-9538.

Outrage

Continued From Previous Page

“Twitter Files,” government actors secretly called on social media companies to censor malinformation about the virus and the shots, meaning information that was true but that would discourage people from wearing masks or getting vaccinated.

They were, in a very direct way, violating the principle of informed consent.

I know vaccines save lives.

Based on the evidence, however, I don’t think pandemic measures worked, they weren’t science- or evidence-based, and the

Covid-19 vaccine is not the medical miracle it was said to be.

The whole country was B.S.’d into complying with a handful of policies that were reckless and made no sense.

So, my point is, I don’t want to hear another word from the critics about the science, because they clearly don’t care about it or practice it in their own lives.

And the medical professionals and health officials who are still clinging to, and propagating, the Fauci-era dogma have earned every bit of skepticism and scorn they receive.

Joe Murphy lives in Morristown.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Good riddance, I say

To the editor:

The fascist Trump regime is being widely resisted. People all over the country are standing strong against it: against his ICE Gestapo snatching immigrant workers off the streets and disappearing them into concentration camps, against the dispatching of armed soldiers to cause turmoil in our blue cities to justify further repression, against the McCarthyite attacks on critics and dissenters, against the open threats to take over other countries like our once-friendly neighbor to the North.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans will turn out and demonstrate against the Trump regime at this coming weekend’s No Kings rallies. At the same time, many good folks believe that somehow the Democratic Party is going to save us from this terrible situation and restore normality if only things can turn out differently in the 2026 midterm and 2028 presidential elections (if they are even allowed to happen).

This is a false hope. It is time to face the fact, now that the veils have been stripped away under Trump, that the United States is a failed state.

In truth, the American Republic was heavily flawed from its very beginnings, based on the theft of land and cultural genocide against the indigenous populations and built upon the labor of enslaved Africans and of immigrants who came from all over the world seeking a better life often only to encounter racism and find class exploitation instead.

Then there are all the imperialist foreign wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Central America, for which Democrats and Republicans equally share the responsibility. And let’s not forget that the Biden administration, just like the Trump administration, was an enabler of Israel’s unconscionable genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.

Why should we want to save this collapsing system and its dying empire? Good riddance, I say. So what’s the alternative? While building mass resistance, we need to seize this historical opportunity to replace it with something much better for all of us: a cooperative, egalitarian, ecological and genuinely democratic society.

Jay Moore
Marshfield

Stand up and say, “no!”

To the editor:

I am thrilled that both the Jewish hostages and the Palestinian prisoners were released today, October 13. President Trump deserves credit for achieving this first major step. However, there is much work to be done before there is actually peace in the Middle East. The actual plan has 20 steps.

Meanwhile, here in the United States, the duly elected president has been expanding the power of the executive branch for the last 10 months. At this point, neither the Congress nor the U.S. Supreme Court seems to be acting independently. Speaker Johnson has given the legislature six weeks off since the end of July. The court has been rubber stamping the president’s actions. It seems that President Trump feels he has immunity regarding any decisions he makes while he is in office. I wish I believed his intentions were to help the people who voted for him. Alas, I do not.

Yet, President Trump is not actually my main concern. It is truly unfortunate that he has chosen to surround himself with people whose only qualification is that

they have pledged loyalty to him. I wish he had a cabinet of people who possessed expertise in their fields. Instead, during his campaign, he denied any knowledge of Project 2025, but he chose Stephen Miller (one of its main architects) to be his deputy chief of staff. I urge citizens to read this document. It outlines what is actually happening in the government of our country today.

Are We The People just going to watch our democracy become an autocracy? Trade tariffs and a diminished role in NATO have already pulled the United States back from its major leadership role in the world. Although some world leaders humor Trump by flattering him to get what they need, other world leaders just ignore what he says. Do I need to mention Vladimir Putin’s name? It is time for the citizens of the United States to stand up and say, “no!” The United States is the oldest democracy. That means the citizens need to act to ensure it endures.

Stefanie Ayers Cravedi
Greensboro

Stefanie Cravedi is on the board of Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, publisher of The Hardwick Gazette.

WEEKS GONE BY

100 years ago, The Hardwick Gazette, October 15, 1925

Unusual Storm Does Heavy Damage

A big snow and windstorm of extraordinary proportions and velocity for this time of year swept over this section last Saturday, snow beginning to fall late Friday night and continuing throughout the day Saturday, accompanied by a high wind which caused untold damage in many ways.

It is most unusual at this season of the year to see so many leaves on trees, both green and with autumnal tints, and with the heavy fall of six inches of snow it weighted down trees, telephone, telegraph and electric wires, so that linemen were kept busy for several days repairing the damage caused on the lines. Drifts on state roads and hill roads caused autoists to shovel

themselves out in order to get through to their destinations, and many of them failed to get through and were obliged to turn about.

Sunday morning the village snowplows were out clearing the walks and the landscape had a regular mid-January appearance.

One inhabitant tells us that in 1883 there was a similar storm, with more snow, but not so much wind. It is safe to say that not in the history of the oldest inhabitant has any such storm been witnessed in half a century.

Dumb animals that were out to pasture, both horses and cattle, suffered severely Saturday and Sunday.

Many farmers were just digging their potatoes and getting in other vegetables and

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this snowfall and cold snap that caused much damage.

20 years ago, The Hardwick Gazette, October 19, 2005 Caspian Brook Bridge Slipping; Needs Repairs

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO – Breezy Avenue runs between the Millers Thumb and Willey's Store; it shows up as a dotted line, "Route to Memphremagog Country" on a 1794 hand-drawn manuscript of the town. The Greensboro Brook (also referenced as Caspian Brook) flows beneath the Miller's Thumb, where an old grist mill once stood, flows under the road, through Willey's Store continues on its way from Caspian Lake to the Lamoille River.

Breezy Avenue is a main artery through Greensboro; the stream flow through the bridge is substantial; and two major business enterprises in Greensboro would be seriously impacted if there was a problem with the brook or the bridge. There is a problem.

Both Ann Brigham, owner of the Millers Thumb, and Tom Hurst, owner of Willey's Store, were told recently the road would be closed to traffic from May through August 2006. They were told that is the only time work can be done to repair the bridge.

Hurst noted, a couple of days ago, Road Commissioner Ed

Keene, told him while standing at the gas pumps at Willey's store, that the bridge is settling.

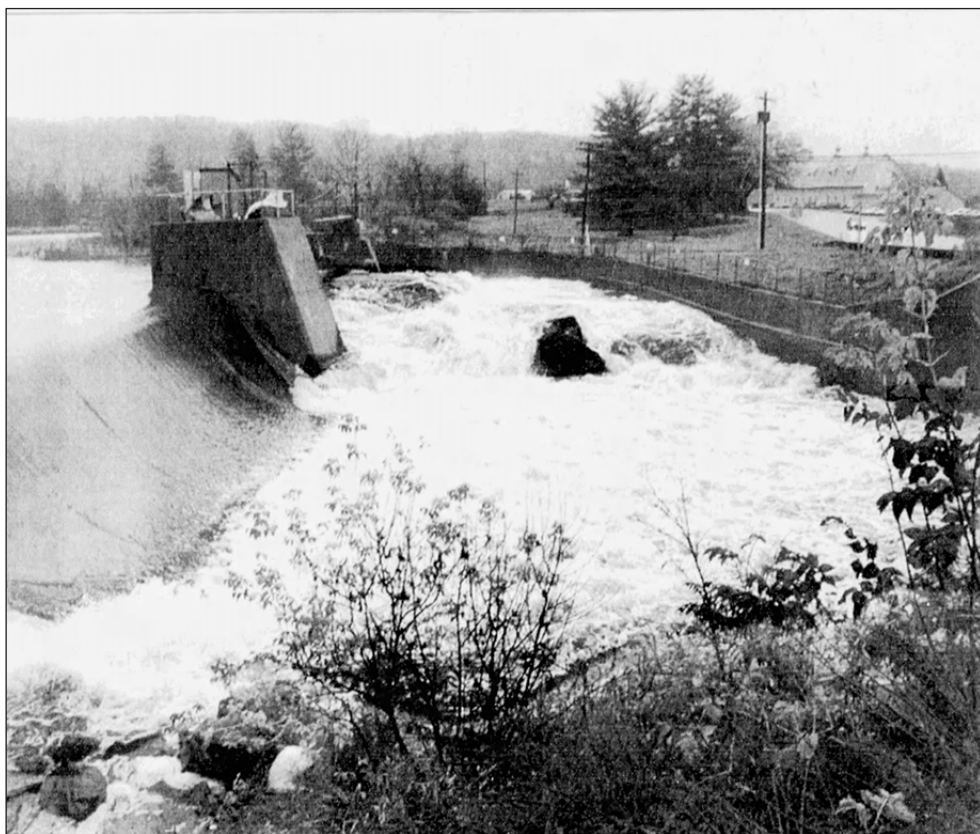
45 Years ago The Hardwick Gazette, October 21, 1980

Wolcott gets windfall on energy project

The students and staff at Wolcott School are in for a cozy winter this year despite what mother nature may have in store.

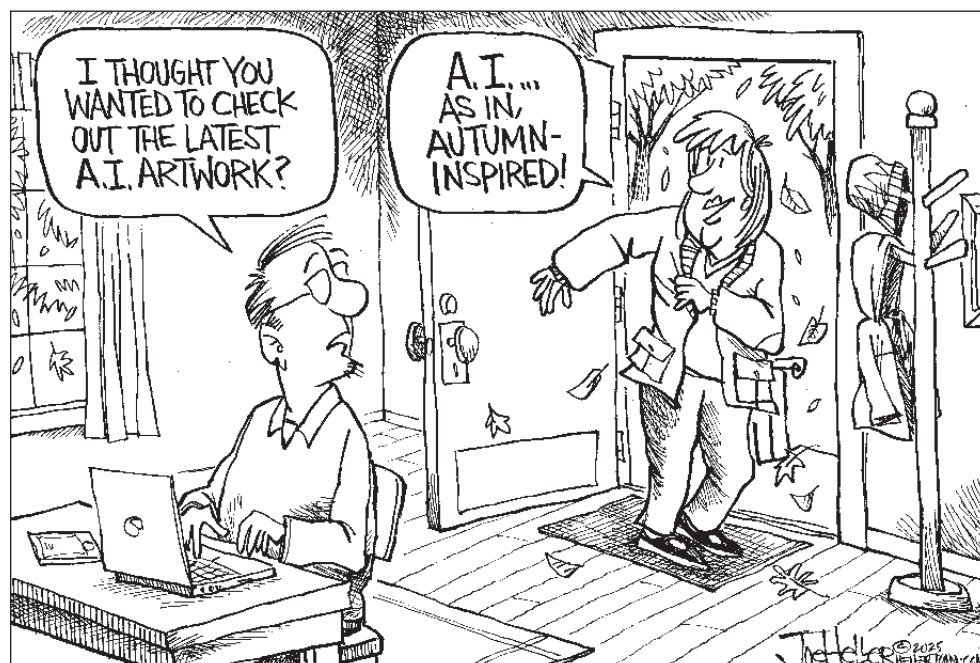
The Federal Energy Office has granted the school 90 percent of its request for a \$20,000 winterization plan. The plan which was drawn up by Greg Paas of a Hyde Park firm, calls for insulating parts of the old building and replacing the heating and ventilation system.

The school had expected to get 50 percent of its request, but the federal energy office granted 90 percent or \$18,000 because of the energy needs of the school and the community needs, according to Supt. of Schools Bruce Richardson.



The Lamoille River rushes over Jackson Dam in Hardwick, swollen from a week and one-half of rain. Despite the lack of sun and steady rain of more days than people want to remember, the area has not seen the crippling floods that devastated southwestern New Hampshire and southern Vermont.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



Hardwick Area Chamber of Commerce presents

Save Energy Week Discussion Groups

Tues. - Thurs., Oct. 21 - 23
Hazen Union Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.

Tues., Oct. 21
Information on Coal including a slide show on mining of coal, and information about its use for residential and commercial heating.

Wed., Oct. 22 -- Home Energy Conservation
Bill Christiansen, Extension Service energy outreach worker will lead discussion on how homeowners can save energy.

Thurs., Oct. 23 -- Woodstove Safety
Henry Swan of the Vermont Mutual Insurance Co. will discuss woodstove safety, along with Gazette energy columnist Jerry Hall, and members of the Hardwick Fire Dept.

Sponsored by The Hardwick Area Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Commission on Energy Independence, as a part of Vermont Save Energy Week Oct. 20-26

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VOICES OF SPIRIT

It's time to reclaim the practice of the presence of God

by Rev. Rona Kinsley

EAST MONTPELIER – On a recent week-long visit to the Island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland, I was reminded of the rich traditions of Celtic Christianity. Brought to Iona from Ireland by St. Columba, Christianity, spread throughout the British Isles and flourished there through the 12th century.

One of the primary characteristics of Celtic Christianity is a profound sense of the sacredness of all creation. Edward Sellner notes in *Wisdom of the Celtic Saints*, Their daily life was lived in close proximity to nature and the spirituality reflected . . . a sense of wonder and awe at the divine residing in everything.”

Abelief in the divine indwelling in every created thing informed their practice of worshipping outdoors, a practice scorned as pagan by the Roman church, and their deep love and respect for the environment, expressed in quiet

care for all living things.

The sense of the sacred in all things extended to all persons. Rather than seeing humankind as mired in original sin, they saw the basic goodness of each person, created as we are in the image of God.

The Celtic tradition provided inspiration and encouragement for a daily practice of the presence of God.

In *The Elements of Celtic Christianity*, Anthony Duncan notes that “Celtic Christianity is essentially an embracing of life in its totality. There is no false division between the sacred and the secular, all is blessed. The whole of life, the whole of creation, is brim-full of the divine presence and there is nowhere where God is not.”

In the Celtic way, there are prayers for rising in the morning and for going to bed at night, and for just about every activity in between. God's blessing was sought not only before meals, but

for bathing and for kindling a fire, for placing a warp on a loom, for consecrating seed and for reaping the harvest and even for milking the cows. There is a wonderful down-to-earthness in these prayers, but even as I use the term down-to-earth, I want to emphasize that earth is not down while God is somewhere rarified, distant and up. There was nothing which was considered to be beneath God's interest, no creature or activity so humble that God would not be concerned with it.

Iona is an achingly beautiful place, with its white sand beaches, green pastures and craggy hills, its views of the ocean and of the mountains of Mull. It's easy to be moved to awe and to see God in creation when surrounded by such beauty.

I can't help but wonder how might we be changed, both as individuals, and as a society, if, like the Celtic Christians, we saw and honored the sacred in every iota of creation;

If we saw and honored the sacred in each other and ourselves; If we practiced the presence of God, or the holy, by whatever name we relate to it, in our day-to-day living?

Celtic Christianity was eventually largely suppressed by the church of Rome. To me, this feels like a great loss, because, as we look at the state of our world today, it seems very clear that we have lost the sense of the sacredness of all creation, we've lost our ability to see and honor the sacredness of every human person and we've lost the practice of the presence of God in our day-to-day lives. Perhaps it's time to start searching for what these early Christians knew and practiced, reclaiming the wisdom of this ancient tradition for the pressing needs of the present day.

Rev. Rona Kinsley is Pastor Emerita at The Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center. Previously she was the interim pastor at the Greensboro United Church of Christ.

For the record:

Following last week's publication of, “Sterling names Brown to ecology faculty,”

Sterling College Director of Communications & Marketing Julia Vallera told us, “Farley has been a Faculty in Ecology for many years so we're confused why this article is announcing her appointment as something that happened recently.”

We received a note from a reader in response to the story “Vermont lawmakers plan to consider balcony solar,” in the September 24 edition. The writer noted “it was unfortunate that you chose to republish Austyn Gaffney's VT Digger article on balcony solar replete with its clearly problematic arithmetic: What's wrong with this calculation: ‘Walsh estimated it could power about a fifth of a typical household, or save about \$20 on a \$100 electric bill?’

“Possibly nothing, if you assume that Walsh was referring only to the power usage portion of the bill. I'd opine that the proportion of electric rate-payers who would be aware of that distinction is vanishingly small.

“Even assuming, for the sake of discussion, the plausibility of that estimate, you'd be looking at an annual savings of \$240 (\$20/mo. x 12 mo.) What responsible journalist would quote the following innumerate

contention without challenge?: ‘One unit could cost Vermonters \$1,500 to \$2,000, Walsh estimated, which could be paid back in about three years. . . ’

“Thanks for your consideration.”

Trying to match apples-to-apples with electric utility rates that differ from household to household, is a difficult game to play.

The first issue with the story and the comment is that a \$100 electric bill is not a typical electric bill. The average Vermont electric bill is \$132.23 per month, so maybe the average savings is a third again higher, or \$26 per month, and \$312 per year.

If that savings is accurate (and rates differ from utility to utility), at the low end of \$1,500 to install balcony solar, the payback would be just under four years and 10 months. At the high end of \$2,000, it's almost six and a half years.

In actuality, those calculations are probably more complicated because balcony solar is most likely to be used by those in rental housing, which might be expected to use less electricity on average than your average single-family home.

It remains to be seen whether balcony solar becomes mainstream, or a DIYers hobby.

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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

EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins,
Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONIST - Julie Atwood

WEATHER - Tyler Molleur

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

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ADVERTISING

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

CONTRIBUTORS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Fixx, John Walters,
Stefanie Cravedi, Anita Engel, Betty Jones

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

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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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THE OUTSIDE STORY

Nematode nemesis: hidden world of carnivorous fungi

by Kenrick Vezina

LOWELL, Mass. – In darkness, a wormlike creature squirms. A tiny nematode weaves its way between grains of rock and particles of organic matter, through inverted forests of tree roots. It follows what it thinks is a pheromone trail, pausing to inspect a droplet poised on the tip of a pale, nondescript strand of fungus.

A moment later, its body begins to seize up. The chemical signals that control its muscles have been hijacked, and within seconds it is completely paralyzed. Soon, new strands begin to grow from the nearby fungal hyphae. They snake toward the nematode. Slowly, inexorably, filaments pierce its flesh and begin to dissolve the worm from the inside out, feeding the nutrients back into a network of fungal tissue.

Some time later, a ladder of ivory-colored mushrooms erupts from the side of a nearby stump. These are oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), a familiar fungus often found on beech trees, and one of about 700 known fungi with a penchant for

carnivory. A few are well-known mushrooms, like oysters and the lawn-loving shaggy ink cap (*Coprinus comatus*), but most remain hidden away in dirt, leaf litter, or rotting wood, known only to mycologists.

Yet every major lineage of fungus has produced some species capable of consuming the minuscule animals that occupy nearly the entire surface of the earth. Nematodes make up the majority of this micro-zoo; the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative estimates there are 60 billion soil nematodes for every single human. Carnivorous fungi have amassed a ghoulish bag of tricks to enrapture, entrap and impale these creatures.

Many produce sticky tissues, in configurations ranging from nets to rings to knobs. Nematodes that make contact are glued in place long enough to be consumed. These fungi often improve their odds with chemical lures that mimic the signals nematodes use to communicate.

Other species produce tiny nooses that are not sticky, but sensitive. When something touches the inside of the loop, they triple in volume in a tenth



of a second, squeezing shut like a deadly inflatable doughnut. Still others, like the oyster mushroom, use poisons.

The contentious relationship between fungi and nematodes has deep roots. A 2021 study in the “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences” by researchers from Academia Sinica in Taiwan tested oyster mushrooms and found that their toxin was effective against 11 different genera of nematode, including some separated by at least 280 million years of evolution. Over millions of years, the ability to consume nematodes has evolved multiple times independently, implying a strong adaptive advantage to having this ability. The reason for carnivory in fungi is the same as for plants: limited soil nutrients. In the Northeast, carnivorous pitcher plants and sundews are found in the acidic and nitrogen-poor soil of bogs. What bogs lack in nutrients, they make up for in bugs. Likewise, nematode-eating fungi tend to be found in low-nutrient environments. But unlike plants, these fungi won’t deploy their traps unless they’re lacking essential nutrients or detect nematodes in their environment – preferably both.

Experiments conducted in 1964 by David Pramer at Rutgers

University showed that adding “nematode extract” to cultivated fungi of the saprophytic (decomposing) species *Arthrobotrys conoides* could induce the formation of traps, demonstrating fungi’s ability to chemically sense the presence of nearby nematodes and respond accordingly.

The nematode-busting abilities of fungi have caught the attention of farmers and foresters. One widely cited estimate predicts more than \$150 billion in lost crop productivity worldwide due to nematode activity. In our woodlands, beech leaf disease is associated with an introduced nematode species, and our native pinewood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) causes pine wilt when it infects cultivated foreign plants like Scots pine, and could be potentially disastrous if brought overseas. Using fungi as alternatives to environmentally fraught chemical nematocides is an area of active research.

In the meantime, the next time you sauté up some freshly foraged oyster mushrooms, spare a thought for the nematodes that may have given their lives.

Kenrick Vezina is a freelance writer, naturalist, and raconteur based in the Greater Boston area. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

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2342 Andersonville Road
West Glover VT 05875

General Contractor Invitation to Bid:

The Leach Library is seeking Construction Bids from qualified General Contractors for a 16'x32' addition, system upgrades, and basement level renovations. Work includes a new elevator, new archive vault, new ADA restrooms, new electrical service, new mechanical system, basement level renovation/finishes, and civil work to accommodate the new ADA entry and utility connections.

Dates:	Bid Documents Available:	October 9th, 2025
	Pre-Bid Site Meeting:	October 23rd – 4:00 pm
	(Mandatory- Alternate dates available upon request)	Leach Library
		130 Park Ave. Irasburg, VT 05845
	Bids Due:	November 13th, 2025 – 4:00 pm
	Start of Construction:	Flexible
	Completed Construction:	December 2026

Bid Proposals received after the indicated date and time will not be considered. Bid Proposals will be opened via Zoom to submitting bidders, stakeholders, and the interested public at 5:00 pm on the receiving date.

The **Construction Contract** will be awarded to the lowest, responsive, and qualified bidder. The Owner retains the right to reject any, and all bids, or to waive informalities and irregularities in the Owner’s best interest.

Bid Documents include [Invitation to Bid](#), [Bid Instructions](#), [Bid Form](#), [Construction Documents \(drawings, project manual, sample contracts\)](#), and [Amendments](#).

Bid Documents are available as follows:

Electronically:	Email request:	james@coeandcoearchitecture.com
Purchase:	Email request	james@coeandcoearchitecture.com indicate preferred reprographics company

No partial sets or incomplete information will be distributed. Bidding Contractors shall ensure coordination of all parts.

Bid Requirements:

- Registration by email to receive Bid Documents and any subsequent Addenda:
james@coeandcoearchitecture.com
- Bid bond security equaling 5% of the bid total.

IN THE GARDEN

Saving tender perennials

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – When considering plants for our gardens, we usually think in terms of annuals or perennials. Annuals complete their life cycle in one year and must be replaced each spring. Perennials grow for many years.

It might be surprising that some plants sold as annuals are actually perennials. A perennial grown in a region that's too cold will die when freezing temperatures arrive in the fall. These plants are referred to as "tender perennials" and are sold as annuals in colder climates like Vermont.

Because they're perennials, keeping summertime favorites, such as coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*) and fuchsia (*Fuchsia magellanica*) beyond the current growing season, is possible. The trick is to bring them indoors before the first frost.

By overwintering tender perennials indoors, safe from freezing temperatures, gardeners can keep favorite plants for the next growing season and save the expense of purchasing replacements in the spring.

The simplest way to do so is to save the entire plant. Hanging baskets and other pots are easy to carry indoors. Before bringing them inside, give them a good spray with a hose and check under leaves for any pests that might try to hitch a ride.

Plants growing in the ground can be dug up. Potted plants in contact with garden soil should be repotted. To prevent overwintering soil borne pests, remove soil from the roots, check for pests, and repot in fresh potting soil. Check

foliage for signs of damage, pests or disease. Up to a third of the foliage can be cut back.

Keep in mind that conditions indoors will be very different from outdoors. Available light will be less intense even with the use of grow lights, and the air may be dry.

To make the transition less stressful, do a reverse of the garden acclimation process you used to harden off seedlings in the spring. Bring plants indoors gradually, moving them from their current growing location to a porch or other sheltered area for several days before bringing them indoors.

Rooting cuttings is a good option if there is limited space to overwinter plants. This is also a good way to save plants that have grown leggy or have been damaged over the course of the growing season. Cuttings can be rooted either in water or in potting soil.

Select healthy stems and cut in sections of four to six inches in length from the tips. Be sure to include several nodes (where a leaf meets the stem). Trim leaves from the lower half of the cuttings. Place cuttings in a container of room temperature water, being sure no foliage is beneath the water's surface. Place the container in indirect sunlight.

Roots will grow from the underwater nodes. Once roots are over an inch long, the cutting can be potted up in a container of potting soil. Or start cuttings in moist potting mix.

Whatever method chosen to overwinter plants from the garden, keep them in a sunny window or provide supplemental light with a grow light. In addition, keep plants



Coleus cuttings root well in water.

photo by Deborah Benoit

away from hot or cold drafts such as wood stoves and exterior doors.

Don't panic if overwintering plants drop leaves. This may be a result of stress related to the move indoors. Continue to water as needed and watch for new growth.

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.



Coleus cutting, with lower leaves removed, are being rooted in water.

photo by Deborah Benoit



The crew for Burlington Glass were hard at work, October 10, installing frames and windows in the Hardwick Elementary school gym lobby entrance. After four months of abatement and reconstruction work by Energy Efficient Investments, classrooms have reopened with just a few minor details left to be completed.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org

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IN THE GARDEN

Getting ready for winter, and more

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT., N.H. – After a hot, dry summer, we had a very early frost this year, September 20. Not enough to kill our late potato vines, but enough to kill squash and dahlias. I was caught off guard. I am now getting ready for winter.

It is important to clean up the vegetable garden well to avoid overwintering diseases. Pull your squash, cucumber and tomato vines and compost them well away from the vegetable garden. I have a compost pile for noxious weeds and grasses, and for plants that harbor fungi. That compost never gets hot enough to kill weed seeds or diseases, but it disposes most of the organic material at home, rather than sending it to the landfill.

After pulling the plants in the vegetable garden, I weed carefully and then hoe up the mounded beds with soil from the walkways and add a layer of good compost. Finally, I mulch planting areas well to keep weeds from starting in early spring, before I plant. Fall leaves are fabulous mulch: they inhibit germination of weeds, prevent soil erosion, and add good organic matter and minerals to the soil.

Although many gardeners chop up their fall leaves with a bagging lawnmower, I usually don't. I just rake them onto to tarp and spread them over the vegetable beds. Will the leaves blow away? A few might, but after the first good rain they compact and settle in for a good winter's nap. If I have more than I need for the vegetable garden, I run them through my chipper-shredder to reduce their volume and store dry in big barrels. This stuff I use in flower beds in

the spring. Plants love it.

We have an exorbitant number of flower beds so it's a lot of work to cut back perennials and get out any late-season weeds. Here are a few tips:

Use a serrated knife or folding pruning saw to slice off multi-stemmed plants like daylilies. Grab a handful of foliage and with one swipe, they are all ready for the wheelbarrow. If that method is not for you, how about using hedge shears or even a weed whacker to cut down big expanses of flower stalks?

I have my pollinator or "Darwin" bed which gets no weeding. It has filled up with tall plants that fight it out for space: phlox, fall asters, goldenrod, Joe Pye weed and obedient plant. I leave it until spring to clean up, as it provides good places for beneficial insects to overwinter.



Garlic grows through the mulch, shown here in May. *courtesy photo*

We have a lot of hostas, and I wait to clean up until hard frost has killed the tops. Then I can either just grab the mushy leaves and pull them off, or use a rake to do the work.

As for weeds, we don't have many. The flower beds are weeded early in summer, and then well mulched. But I use my favorite tool, the CobraHead weeder, to remove



Tulips used as annuals and protected with chicken wire to keep deer out. *courtesy photo*

any late season invaders. It is able to get under weeds, loosen the root, and get them all out.

Now is the time for planting bulbs. To save time and energy, don't plant them one at a time. For 25 daffodils I excavate an oval 30 to 36 inches long and 18 inches wide and 8 inches deep. I put good soil in a wheelbarrow or a tarp, and rocks and heavy clay or poor soil in another. I put about two inches of good soil in the bottom and mix it up with some bagged organic fertilizer or bulb booster. I nestle the bulbs into that mix, and cover with good soil or soil and compost mix. Bulbs need good drainage and reasonably good soil.

Daffodils last many years, tulips less so. I plant 100 tulips just three or four inches apart in rows eight inches apart in my vegetable garden once it is cleaned up, and use them for cutting and putting in vases and for giving away. I generally pull the bulbs after cutting in the spring, but one year I kept 50 or so and replanted in the fall. The following spring they bloomed, but were shorter and smaller. Since deer love tulips I can use chicken wire vertically along the sides of the bed to keep them away, come spring.

I plant garlic in mid-to

late-October each year, mainly using garlic I grew the year before, but sometimes buying new varieties to try. I plant once the soil has chilled as they may start growing this fall if planted in warm soil. That's not awful, but I prefer to avoid it. I plant garlic three inches deep, four inches apart in the rows, and rows eight inches apart. I give them a little organic fertilizer at planting time, and cover with a six- to 10-inch layer of mulch hay or straw. They'll grow through it next spring, but most weeds will not.

I prune some trees and shrubs in October, too. You really can prune any month, but once leaves are down it is easier to see their stems and look for crowded areas, crossing or rubbing branches, and dead branches to remove. To identify dead branches, just rub the bark with your thumbnail. If it shows green, it's alive, if not, it's dead. Prune so sunshine can hit every leaf and there is good air circulation.

So don't walk away from the garden now and say, "I'll get it next spring." Get those weeds now. The more you do, the easier it will be next spring.

Homeyer can be reached by e-mail at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.



Daffodil bulbs planted in a 36-inch oval hole, ready to cover with soil. *courtesy photo*



This folding saw will easily cut down tough stalks of big perennials. *courtesy photo*

OUR COMMUNITIES

Forest conservation talk, Oct, 16

CRAFTSBURY – Thursday, October 16, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Craftsbury Outdoor Center will host author Dr. Caitlin Littlefield, to discuss the report entitled “Beyond the Illusion of Preservation.” Developed by a team of New England-based forest researchers, the report explores how the region’s forests can be managed to meet a full

range of societal values and needs, from wild-lands to wood products.

The event is sponsored by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Headwaters Community Trust. For more information, visit headwatersnek.org or contact Rick Morrill, treasurer, Headwaters Community Trust at treasurer@headwatersnek.org.

Housing conversation series, Oct. 20, 22, 24 and 25

CRAFTSBURY – Beginning October 20, Headwaters Community Trust will host a four-part series of community conversations about affordable housing. Attendees will discuss the future of housing in Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, Greensboro, and points beyond. The series will begin October 20 at East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, followed by October 22 at the Glover Town Hall, October 24 at the Albany Genny and October 25 at Greensboro United Church. More details about times and

locations can be found on the Headwaters Community Trust website.

Each community conversation will feature a meal and open conversation on the topic of housing challenges and potential solutions specific to Headwaters’s four-town service area. The meals are made possible by a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, and stipends for child care and attendance will be offered through a grant from the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Fair Housing Project.

Star gazing, Oct. 22

MARSHFIELD – Wednesday, Oct. 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library will host

a stargazing session with George Springston. Rain date is Saturday, Oct. 25.

Butterfly conservation talk, Oct. 23

AREATOWNS – On Thursday, Oct. 23, from 7 to 8 p.m., Dana Williams of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies will lead a discussion via zoom on butterfly conservation

in Vermont. This event is a collaboration of Farm and Wilderness Conservation and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. Register at vtcoverts.us.



New staff at Craftsbury Schools includes (from left) Floating Support Staff Chad Fox; grades 4-5 Long-Term Substitute Teacher Adriana Avila-Medrano; K-2 Math Interventionist Jonathan Greenia. Missing from the photo are K-4 Music Teacher Jonathan Chatfield; Grades 3-8 Math Interventionist, Daniel Demaine; High School Math Teacher Benjamin Luce; High School Spanish Teacher Lissette Parkin; grades 5-12 Music Teacher Jeffery Reinhardt; High School Instructional Assistant John Lukens. photo by Vanessa Fournier

French-Canadian dinner, Oct. 26

HARDWICK – Sunday, Oct. 26, Mary Queen of All Saints Parish will host a French-Canadian benefit dinner, at St. Norberts Church. Serving from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., with meat pies, green and yellow pea soup, baked beans, coleslaw, pickled beets, sugar pies,

fruit pies and more on the menu. There will be a sing-along with Bernie Lussier and friends. St. Norbert Church is located at 193 S. Main St. The event is sponsored by the parish council and co-sponsored by Catholic Financial Life Chapter N443 St. Jean.

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Notificación Anual de No Discriminación GMTCC

De conformidad con los Títulos VI y VII de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, El Título 1F de la Ley de Educación Superior de 1972, Sección 504 y la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, el Green Mountain Technology and Career Center no discrimina por motivos de raza, credo, color, origen nacional, sexo, identidad de género, edad, condición de discapacidad y/o discapacidad, estado civil u orientación sexual en la admisión, acceso, tratamiento o empleo en sus programas y actividades. E.O.E.

La información sobre cómo aplicar a un programa GMTCC se puede encontrar en la siguiente dirección web: <https://gmtcc.info/admissions/>

Las ofertas de programas actuales de GMTCC incluyen:

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- Construcción
- Redes informáticas y ciberseguridad
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- Artes Culinarias
- Automotriz
- Salud aliada
- Forestal
- Agricultura Sostenible y Sistemas Alimentarios
- Administración de Empresas
- Ingeniería

Título IX & 504 Contactos:

Erik Remmers - Director Coordinador de Título IX
Green Mountain Technology & Career Center
738 VT Ruta 15 Oeste
Hyde Park, VT 05655
(802) 851-1570
eremmers@gmtcc.net

James Chartrand- Apoyos Estudiantiles & Coordinador 504
Green Mountain Technology & Career Center
738 VT Ruta 15 Oeste
Hyde Park, VT 05655
(802) 851-1570
jchartrand@gmtcc.net

GMTCC Annual Nondiscrimination Notification

In accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title 1F of the Higher Education Act of 1972, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, handicapping condition and/or disability, marital status, or sexual orientation in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. E.O.E.

Information regarding how to apply to a GMTCC program can be found at the following web address: <https://gmtcc.info/admissions/>

GMTCC's current program offerings include:

- | | |
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| Creative Media Art & Design | Construction |
| Computer Networking & Cyber Security | HVAC |
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| Culinary Arts | Automotive |
| Allied Health | Forestry |
| Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems | Business Administration |
| Engineering | |

Title IX & 504 Contacts:

Erik Remmers - Director & Title IX Coordinator
Green Mountain Technology & Career Center
738 VT Route 15 West
Hyde Park, VT 05655
(802) 851-1570
eremmers@gmtcc.net

James Chartrand- Student Supports & 504 Coordinator
Green Mountain Technology & Career Center
738 VT Route 15 West
Hyde Park, VT 05655
(802) 851-1570
jchartrand@gmtcc.net

OUR COMMUNITIES

Free movie, Oct. 18

by **Touch of Grace**

EAST HARDWICK – Touch of Grace will host a free movie night

Saturday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m., with the feature film “Unsung Heroes” and popcorn. Touch of Grace is located at 104 Vt. Rte 16.

Historic site unveiling, Oct. 25

by **East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization**

EAST HARDWICK – The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) will hold a celebration for the unveiling of a new Vermont roadside Historic Site marker at Overlook Park, Saturday, Oct. 25, at 2:30 p.m. The new marker honors the historic village of East Hardwick and joins over 300 green cast-aluminum markers placed throughout

Vermont. The roadside marker program of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development commemorates Vermont’s people, events, and places of regional, statewide or national significance. Attendees should park at 88 East Church Street. A reception will follow at the Grange Hall, with hot apple cider, donuts and door prizes. The annual meeting of the EHNO will be held after the reception, starting at 4 p.m.

Pumpkin walk, trunk or treat Oct. 24

by **Friends of Woodbury Elementary School**

WOODBURY –The annual pumpkin walk will take place Friday, Oct. 24, at Woodbury Elementary School, from 6 to 8 p.m., with carved

and lit pumpkins along the school’s nature trail. Children can trunk or treat. Food will be served and costumes are encouraged.

The event is free and open to all and sponsored by Friends of Woodbury Elementary School.

“The Wedding Tale” opens Oct. 25

by **The Civic Standard**

HARDWICK — The Civic Standard, in partnership with the American Legion Post No. 7, will present “The Wedding Tale,” an immersive soap opera by, for and about Hardwick will open October 25 at 5:30 p.m., The show features

a local cast of 30 amateur and professional actors and will run for two weekends at the American Legion in Hardwick, October 25 and October 26, then November 1 and November 2. For more details, visit thecivicstandard.org. The American Legion Post No. 7 is located at 51 N. Main St.

Act 250 Tier 3 public engagement sessions begin in Morrisville, Oct. 21

by **Vermont Land Use Review Board**

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Land Use Review Board (LURB) is holding four public engagement sessions across the state to get input on draft Tier 3 area rules and mapping for critical natural resource areas. All four meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., with both in-person and remote participation. Remote connection information is available on the meeting agenda, available online at act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report

Meetings are October 21 in Morrisville at the Tegu Building Meeting Room, 43 Portland Street; October 22 in Rutland at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Office, 16 Evelyn Street (2nd floor); October 28 in Newport at the Newport City Gateway Center Meeting Room, 84 Fyfe Drive and October 29 in Windsor at the Windsor Select-board Meeting Room, 29 Union Street.

Vermont’s Act 250 development review system is undergoing changes following the passage of Act 181 of 2024. The Legislature

has tasked the LURB with developing rules and reviewing regional plans and maps to implement a new tiered framework of jurisdiction. While Act 250 jurisdiction is shrinking in downtown and village centers (Tier 1 areas), it is expanding in natural resource areas (Tier 3 areas). The Tier 3 rules and mapping will determine what sorts of development requires an Act 250 permit in these critical natural resource areas.

The goal of these meetings is to get public input before the LURB finalizes the Tier 3 rules. The LURB is also getting suggestions from a working group of stakeholders. An overview presentation, draft rules, map viewer, overall schedule and various other details are available on the Tier 3 project webpage at act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report

Engagement will continue throughout the process, leading to proposed rules and a formal public hearing in May 2026. Act 250 jurisdiction in Tier 3 areas, pursuant to the adopted rules, will begin on December 31, 2026. Questions and comments can be submitted via email at any time to act250.rulemaking@vermont.gov.

Pitch competition, Oct. 23

ST. JOHNSBURY – The annual Rumble in the Kingdom Pitch Competition will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, at Catoamount Arts and hosted by Northern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) and Do North Coworking. There will be updates from past winners, including the Caledonia County Co-op and Capnesity. Then twelve startups will pitch their ideas. Go to the NVDA website for more information or to register to attend.

Forest to homes, Oct. 29

CRAFTSBURY – Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 8 p.m., the Craftsbury Outdoor Center will host Maura Adams of the Northern Forest Center to discuss how wood products and building reuse can be part of the housing solution. The event is sponsored by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Headwaters Community Trust.

For more information, visit headwatersnek.org or contact Rick Morrill, Treasurer, via treasurer@headwatersnek.org.

Business Briefs



Heidi Krantz has been appointed as administrative coordinator for the Hardwick Downtown Partnership, according to Shari Cornish, president of the organization. Krantz has worked as a certified business advisor with the Vermont Small Business Administration. *courtesy photo*

Copley Hospital will be conducting an Emergency Response, Active Shooter Drill with local law enforcement Saturday, October 25 from 8am – 12pm.

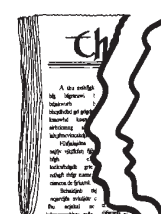
Community members are asked to stay away during the hours of the drill unless there is an emergency.

The Emergency Department will remain open during the drill.

If you have questions related to the Drill, please call 802-888-8383.



The Hardwick Gazette



PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE



Joy Factor, including (from left) Henry Yashimoto on guitar, Gianna Marzilli Ericson and Rebecca Weiss on fiddles present traditional music on October 19 at the Adamant Community Club. *courtesy photo*



The traditional music ensemble, Larks in the Attic, including (from left) Susan Reid, fiddle; Linda Young, harp; and Pam Bockes, guitar; will perform at the Adamant Community Club on October 19. *courtesy photo*

Traditional music performance, Oct. 19

ADAMANT – Two traditional music ensembles, Larks in the Attic and Joy Factor, will perform at the Adamant Community Club on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m.

Larks in the Attic is based in central Vermont, with Pam Bockes on guitar, Susan Reid on fiddle, and Linda Young on harp.

The three musicians met through the traditional and dance music community of Central Vermont. One evening as a music session was breaking up in Susan’s attic, the three found themselves the last still playing, and discovered the sound their three instruments make when played

together. Their songs are renderings of tunes from Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Quebec and New England.

Joy Factor is a Massachusetts-based band that play original tunes alongside traditional Quebecois, Irish and Appalachian repertoire with a New England accent.

The band features the two fiddles of Rebecca Rose Weiss and Gianna Marzilli Ericson, with Henry Yoshimura on guitar.

Admission is by donation. The Adamant Community Club is at the intersection of Haggett and Martin Roads. For more information, call (802) 454-7103.



A tribute to Tom Petty by The Breakers will be performed October 18 at the Barre Opera House. *courtesy photo*

The Breakers, authentic Petty tribute on Oct. 18

BARRE – Boston’s “The Breakers: A Tribute to Tom Petty” make an appearance at the Barre Opera House on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Breakers keyboardist Tom Smith says, “We wanted to approach the tribute genre as a true live band, and in (lead vocalist) Chris Chartier we have what no one else has: the most genuine

sounding Petty experience in the country.” Chartier agreed to join as long as the band wasn’t planning to dress up and wear wigs.

Tickets may be ordered online at barreoperahouse.org or call the Barre Opera House at (802) 476-8188. The Opera House, at 6 North Main St., is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.org
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October 26, 4-6 p.m.

Parker Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library
Learn the many ways to interact with the online paper and express ideas on Hardwick Gazette coverage in Hardwick.

Hardwick Gazette

This is the continuing series of community conversations The Hardwick Gazette will hold in its 11-town coverage area.

EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 15

FALL OPEN HOUSE, Lakeview Early Education Center, 4 to 5 p.m. Meet teachers and staff and tour the classrooms. Scavenger hunt, raffle, light snacks available.

Thursday, Oct. 16

PLAINFIELD FORWARD planning meeting, 5 to 7:30 p.m., Haybarn Theater, Creative Campus, Goddard College. Everyone welcome. Information: bit.ly/PlainfieldForward.

ADVANCED DIRECTIVE WORKSHOP, 10 to 11 a.m., St. Norbert Church, Hardwick, with Fr. Gregory Caldwell. Sponsored by Catholic Financial Life Chapter N443 St. Jean.

NO KINGS II-SIGN-MAKING PARTY, sponsored by Indivisible Hardwick, at G.R.A.C.E. Arts, 59 Mill St., Hardwick. IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me.

FOREST CONSERVATION TALK, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center, with Dr. Caitlin Littlefield. Information: headwatersnek.org or treasurer@headwatersnek.org.

Saturday, Oct. 18

A TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY by The Breakers, 7:30 p.m., Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St.. Tickets at barreoperahouse.org or call (802) 476-8188.

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

FREE MOVIE NIGHT, hosted by Touch of Grace Church, 6 p.m., 104 Vt. Rte. 16. The film is "Unsung Heroes" and popcorn will be served.

Monday, Oct. 20

HOUSING CONVERSATION SERIES, hosted by Headwaters Community Trust, East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. Attendees will discuss the future of housing in Craftsbury. Information: go to the Headwaters Community Trust website.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

HOUSING CONVERSATION SERIES, hosted by Headwaters Community Trust, Glover Town Hall. Attendees will discuss the future of housing in Glover. Information: go to the Headwaters Community Trust website.

Thursday, Oct. 23

MINI PUMPKIN DECORATING, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. For all ages. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION TALK, 7 to 8 p.m., via zoom, with Dana Williams of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. Register at vtcoverts.us.

Friday, Oct. 24

PUMPKIN WALK, TRUNK OR TREAT, 6 to 8 p.m., Woodbury Elementary School. Sponsored by Friends of Woodbury Elementary School.

HOUSING CONVERSATION SE-

RIES, hosted by Headwaters Community Trust, Albany Genny. Attendees will discuss the future of housing in Albany. Information: go to the Headwaters Community Trust website.

Saturday, Oct. 25

HOUSING CONVERSATION SERIES, hosted by Headwaters Community Trust, Greensboro United Church. Attendees will discuss the future of housing in Greensboro. Information: go to the Headwaters Community Trust website.

Ongoing Events

KIDS' CHORUS, Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

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. In-

formation: (802) 586-9692, jw-simpsonmemorial.org.

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

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

COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Denise Carr at (802) 472-3134 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

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

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, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@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

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.

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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Hazen Union's Sully Laflam, No. 11, gets to the ball ahead of Hunter Gross of U-32 on Hudson Field October 11. Players in the back are Camden Leno (left) of the Raiders and Levi Higgins (right) of the Wildcats. U-32 prevailed 2-0.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Wildcat Seville Murphy goes for the ball against U-32's Duncan Schrader on Hudson Field in Hardwick Saturday. In back following the play is Sully Laflam (left) of Hazen and Eneko Farr (center) of U32. The Raiders took the victory 2-0.
photo by Vanessa Fournier

Montpelier teams blank Hazen Wildcats

by Ken Brown

MONTPELIER – Head coach Harry Besett's young Hazen Union soccer team showed grit in a pair of losses to Division II Montpelier and U-32 last week, falling to 6-5-1 on the season.

Django Matchstick set up Will Curtis for the only goal of the contest as Montpelier withstood a game effort from the Wildcats to escape with a 1-0 home win last Wednesday. Curtis banged home his 16th goal of the season for the game winner early in the second

half and Montpelier withstood several scares late from the Hazen to post their eighth straight win. Julian Leendertse turned away a pair of shots, including a low diving save late to his near post to preserve the fifth shutout of the season for the Solon defense. McNaughten continued his rock-solid season for the Wildcats, posting 10 saves in the loss. Montpelier remains near the top of the Division II standings with a 10-1 record.

"Montpelier is a strong Division II team, and their coach was complimentary about how far our program has come after the match. We did well in the middle of the field and in the back but need to transition better into the final third! That's what we'll continue to work on as we hopefully get back to scoring some goals," said Besett.

The offensive woes continued for the Wildcats on Saturday as U-32 blanked the Wildcats on the road 2-0. Brandon O'Donnell converted a second half penalty kick for the eventual game-winner and Carlie Pickel added an insurance goal late as the Raiders reeled off their fourth win in five matches. Riley Cadorette earned his second shutout of the season with six

saves and McNaughten stopped five shots in the loss. It was a reunion of sorts for Besett coaching against current U-32 head coach Mike Noyes as he played his high school soccer career for the Wildcats under Noyes.

"There were some glory days memories for sure but after halftime honors they pressured us with their frontline, leading to the penalty in the box. It's concerning losing four in a row without being able to find the back of the net and we just looked exhausted at times, unable to create quality chances. We knew going into the season that our schedule would be challenging in October. We're prioritizing playoff preparation in our last two matches as we hope to remind ourselves how to find the back of the net and react positively on the field when things don't go our way," said Besett.

Hazen hosted Peoples Academy Tuesday on Senior Night and travel to Lyndon Institute on Friday in a regular season finale matchup that could determine whether or not the Wildcats will host a home playoff match. All home games can be streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Hazen junior Lincoln Hill heads the ball followed by Camden Leno of U32 during play in Hardwick October 11. At left is Levi Higgins of Hazen. U-32 won 2-0.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United's Jaidyn Carson, No. 17, of Danville steps in front of Norah Bissonnette, No. 7, of Paine Mountain to control the ball back up the field in Danville Friday. In back at left is Desirae Crocker, No. 5, of Caledonia United and Paine Mountains Anna Wheeler, No. 12, and Mariela Swiech, No. 16.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United's Finley Washburn, No. 7, of Twinfield uses her body to trap the ball as Ava Peloquin, No. 8, of Paine Mountain follows the play during action in Danville, October 10. Paine Mountain won 3-2.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Cal United girls struggle down the stretch

by Ken Brown

BRADFORD – The Caledonia United girls soccer team continues to look for its first win in nearly six weeks after battling through a litany of injuries in a pair of losses to Oxbow and Paine Mountain last week.

Natalie Speer and Ainsley Smith each scored a pair of goals to power a red-hot Oxbow team to a 4-0 home win over Cal United last Tuesday. Speer wasted little time, breaking free two minutes into the match to give the home team an early 1-0 advantage. Eliska Siebenbrunner (14 saves) and the Cal United defense held strong the

rest of the first half before Smith made it 2-0 fifteen minutes after the break. The junior goalkeeper has been a bright spot all season for head coach Spencer Morse's club and once again showed her toughness, finishing the final 78 minutes of the match with a broken finger. Speer and Smith each added an insurance goal in the final minutes of the match, and Bri Marsh made 6 stops to preserve the shutout. The Lady Olympians (7-3-2) have vaulted up the Division III standings, losing just one time in their last seven matches.

Mariela Swiech scored the game winner late in the second half

and assisted on another score to lead Paine Mountain to a 3-2 road win over Cal United on Friday. Jaidyn Carson fed Sarah Austin fourteen minutes into the match for her first goal of the season and a 1-0 lead for the home team. Leighton Kennedy buried a pass from Swiech for the equalizer just over ten minutes later and the two teams went into the break knotted at 1-1. Hannah Spencer broke free thirteen minutes into the second half to give Paine Mountain a one goal advantage before Cora Abetti made it 2-2 with an unassisted score in the 65-minute mark. It only took sixty seconds for Swiech to answer with the game-winner

and Makenzie Walko (eight saves) was solid for the defense down the stretch. Phoebe Crocker made 15 saves in the loss for Cal United, who fell to 3-8-1. After suffering a trio of one score losses in their last five matches, Paine Mountain earned their first victory of the season.

"I was really proud of our team tonight. They are facing a lot of adversity right now with so many injuries piling up. They showed a lot of fight tonight," said Morse.

Cal United travels to Hazen Union on Wednesday before wrapping up the regular season on Senior Night at home against Blue Mountain on Friday.

Enosburg Hornets stop Lady Cat streak

by Ken Brown

ENOSBURG – The Hazen Union girls soccer team ran into a determined Enosburg team on their Senior Night last week, allowing a goal for the first time in five matches to fall to 9-3 on the season.

Vienna Wilde scored the only goal of the match to lead Enosburg to a spirited 1-0 home win over the Lady Cats last Friday. Wilde beat multiple Hazen defenders to score the game-winner midway through the second half, and the Lady Hornet defense made it stand up to pull the upset.

It was just the third win of the season for a Division II

Enosburg team that has played the top teams in the current Division III standings tough all season long.

"The seniors really showed up for Enosburg and handed us our first shutout loss of the season. Wilde was able to dribble by our defense and score from the corner. We weren't able to capitalize on several dead ball opportunities from fouls in the closing minutes," said head coach Megan Mercier.

Ella Renaud recorded eight saves in the loss and Jorja Kinney turned away seven shots to preserve the third shutout of the season for the Enosburg defense.

Mercier's club had

outscored their opponents 15-0 over their past five matches. Enosburg became the first team to solve the Lady Cat offense, led by senior Isabelle Gouin who failed to find the back of the net in a match for the first time this season. The 2023 Vermont All-State selection has four hat-tricks already this fall and became Hazen's all-time leading goal scorer last week with the 56th of her career.

Hazen remains in a dogfight to nail down one of the top five seeds in a top-heavy Division III bracket led by an 11-0 Vergennes team. The Lady Cats remain one of the few clubs to take Vergennes to the wire this fall, dropping a hard-

fought 2-1 decision on the road last month. Mercier's talented squad will have to finish off the regular season strong this week to have a chance of breaking into a top five rounded out by Stowe (9-2), Windsor (13-0), Fair Haven (9-3), and Bellows Falls (9-2).

The Lady Cats will look to get back on track with a home match against Caledonia United on Wednesday before welcoming BFA-Fairfax to town on Saturday, in what should be a very special Senior Day at Hudson Fields with an 11 a.m. start. All home games can be live streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Caledonia United's Evan Whitehead, No. 1, shields the ball from Oxbow defender John Bohan (center) during play, October 7, in Danville. In the back is Hunter Eastman of Danville. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Twinfield student Kaiden Rogers (right) of Caledonia United beats Aden Moore (left) of Oxbow to the ball during October 7 action in Danville. Caledonia United won 6-0. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Caledonia United boys soccer aim for perfection

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – The Caledonia United boys soccer team is a week away from a perfect regular season after racing past Oxbow and gutting out a tough overtime road win against Enosburg last week.

Eli Russell and Sam McLane each scored a hat-trick last Tuesday to power Cal United to a decisive 6-0 home win over Oxbow. Kaiden Rogers, Alijah Andrews, Sean Lehoe, Connor Winn and Russell each recorded an assist in the win. Landon Welch had seven saves in the loss as the Olympians fell to 4-8. Josh Petersen turned away six shots to preserve the fifth straight shutout for the Cal United defense. McLane (22) and Russell (21) both went over the 20-goal benchmark for the season.

“Our goal is to work hard and improve every match and we’re pleased with the result today,” said head coach Peter Stratman. “The boys brought more energy in the second half after a slow start, generating 14 shots.”

Stratman’s veteran club survived a barn-burner on Thursday, relinquishing a two-goal lead twice before Judah Klarich’s burst down the sideline

to produce the game-winner in overtime at Enosburg 4-3. Kaiden Rogers gave the visitors a 1-0 first half lead, finishing off with a perfect pass from Oliver Searles. Russell made it 2-0 early in the second half before Blake Teague caught Petersen off his line with a long-range free kick from nearly midfield to make it 2-1. Russell pushed Cal United’s lead back to a two-goal cushion on a penalty kick and Enosburg’s Owen Bissonette made it 3-2, beating Petersen to a loose ball at the top of the box. Sawyer Bentley would knot the match at 3-3 seconds later, setting up Klarich’s overtime heroics off a beautiful back head feed from McLane. Enosburg came into the match winning six of seven and remain in the mix at 8-4 in the current Division III standings.

“Enosburg was coming off a dramatic come from behind win over Vergennes and we knew at the outset that this match would be tough. Any lead is tenuous when you match up against them, and they capitalized when we weren’t organized in the back. It wasn’t always pretty, but I was proud of how the boys rallied. It was a good win,” said Stratman.

Twin Valley and Cal United remain atop of the Division IV



Coach Peter Stratman (right) advises Danville Player Connor Winn. photo by Vanessa Fournier

standings with identical 12-0 records. The Wildcats have posted seven shutouts on the season, outscoring its opponents 74-7.

Cal United has also shutout its opponents seven times this season, outscoring them 72-8. A soccer enthusiast’s dream would have the two powerhouse programs meet on the first day of November at Rutland High School in what would be Stratman’s first trip to a state championship match. Stratman has

recorded north of 165 career coaching wins, including a pair of Division IV Final Four appearances at both Cabot and Twinfield. Wins against Blue Mountain and BFA-Fairfax this week would set a program record and give Stratman and his Cal United club its first ever undefeated regular season.

Cal United traveled to Blue Mountain on Tuesday and will wrap up the regular season on Senior Night at home against the Bullets on Friday.

Enchanted Kingdom Mini Golf brings creative magic to Greensboro summers

by Elise Coyle

GREENSBORO – A ball rolls down the back of a slithering serpent, under the tangled webs of a lurking spider and into a lake guarded by a frog king.

These are not scenes from a fairytale. They are part of an outdoor mini golf course in Greensboro. Behind the Highland Center for the Arts, the course winds through a hilly lawn speckled with tiny wood or wicker houses and sculptures.

Enchanted Kingdom Mini Golf, the official name for the course, runs from July to the end of August. The course was designed and created by a host of local artists. It began last year after organizers noticed the popularity of outdoor events at the center.

“We actually had more visitorship during Covid-19 than this place has had before,” said Keisha Luce, executive director. “And some of those things, I think it actually really allowed us to understand how to use the outside space, which probably led to mini golf.”

After considering their options for summer activities, the group landed on mini golf. That was in the spring. So if the center wanted to open in time for summer festivities, the artists needed to work together, fast.

“We were like, ‘Yes, we’re doing this. We have a very limited time and no one’s ever done it,’” said Luce. “And we just sort of all came together and figured it out.”

The activity has been a hit for the center, she said, bringing in about 1,500 guests in its first year. Many have returned this year to play again.

The magical theme is a nod to the center’s annual Fairy Festival and Northeast Kingdom location.

“Our chef at the time actually is the one that came up with that name and one of the holes is named for her,” Luce said.

The hole, named Charlotte, features a large paper-mache spider that sits atop a web made of rope. Players must maneuver the ball under the web to shoot.

Musician Roy MacNeil designed the mechanics of the course itself, while the artists created decorations and



The Highland Center for the Arts held a grand opening for their nine hole mini golf course July 6, 2024. Pictured at the end of their game are Taylor Abbott of Cabot (seated in front) and (standing in back from left) are Joe Nudell of Glover, Sam Schiavone of Greensboro and Harry Besett of Craftsbury. photo by Vanessa Fournier

obstacles out of materials they had on hand: a frog tongue made out of a kids’ slide, paper-mache mushrooms, lily pads sewn by Luce’s mother.

“We just thought, Well, it’s going to have to be whimsical,” said Luce. “It’s going to have to be made with things that we have and are inexpensive and around.”

The process was full of experimentation.

“So we made a prototype, built the first platform, put the turf on and then I would just set down temporary little obstacles and things and just sort of start playing with it and imagin(ing) how I could make a ramp or other interesting, distinct things,” MacNeil said.

MacNeil returned to the course recently to play. Though he said his own experience was marred by “the curse” of

perfectionism, he was happy to see others having a fun time.

“I saw a family coming through, and they all had smiles on their faces,” said MacNeil.

For artist Kate Den Herder,

who interned at the Highland Center during the construction process last year, the golf course served as practice in teamwork.

“Usually I work alone, so

See MINI-GOLF, next page



Highland Center for the Arts mini-golf course.

courtesy photo

KEN BROWN'S RUNNERS ROUNDUP

Young chargers ready themselves for states

CRAFTSBURY – Local runners from Craftsbury Academy (CA), Hazen Union, and Danville posted strong finishes last week in the NVAC Championships at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center as they ready for the high school cross-country state championships later this month.

In what has been a theme all season long, underclassmen led the way again over the weekend starting with the boys' 5,000m and Danville freshman Landon Garrand's (18:29.20) sixth overall finish in Craftsbury. Freshman Oakley Crawford paced the Chargers with a top ten overall finish and seventh in the division in a personal best time of 18:50.40. Hazen sophomore Kaiah Cloutier continued his strong season with a time of 20:37.10, good enough for twelfth in Division III. CA freshman James Reynolds posted

a fourteenth place finish in the division with a time of 21:03.20. Stowe dominated, with junior Nico Delena besting the entire field in a blazing time of 17:07.50, followed by freshman teammate Paul Slesar, 41 seconds behind.

On the girl's side, Craftsbury freshman Aemilia Terrone continued to impress with a top ten overall finish (5th in division), crossing the finish line at 23:13.20. Freshman teammate Eliza Bunten ran her best time of the season (26:27.70), good enough for a twelfth-place finish in the division. Hazen sophomore Ersa Goldenrose posted a sixteenth-place finish in the division with a time of 27:09.10. Peoples Academy multi-sport star Daisy Berg dusted the entire field with a time 20:37.70. Junior Hailey Porter earned a runner-up finish for Lamoille with a time of 21:26.30.

Charger head coach Maxfield

English continues to make significant strides in rebuilding the program in his second year of taking the reins from four-time Division III state champion coach Mike LeVangie.

"I was really impressed with the team's performance Saturday. Having Aemilia and Oakley earn top ten spots as 9th graders was a feat. We also had five other runners post personal records, which means most everyone is getting faster. I feel the collective strength of the team and their hard work is peaking at the right time and I'm looking forward to seeing them shine at Thetford," said English.

Teams will get an extra week of recovery and prep before traveling to Thetford Academy on October 25 for the State Championships.

Locals shine at Leaf Peepers

WATERBURY – Mack Gardner-Morse of Calais led the way earlier this month at the Leaf Peepers half marathon and 5K as several local runners posted finishes.

Gardner-Morse not only

won his 60-69 male age group by over three seconds, but also posted an impressive 16th overall finish in the 5K with a time of 22:59.9. Underhill's Ken Bruce earned runner-up honors. Waterbury's Neal Graves was the overall 5K winner with a time of 17:40.8, followed by runner-up Jeremy Huckins of Waterbury Center.

The half marathon in Waterbury was tackled by 281 runners from all over the country with top local finishes led by Plainfield's Sarah Knutson and Greensboro's Xin Yang. Danville's Clayton Cargill, Hardwick's Elizabeth McCarthy and Hardwick's Lila Meyer were also among the local runners who finished the latest installment of the Central Vermont Runners (CVR) circuit. Montpelier's Dave Sinclair was the overall winner with a time of 1:07:27.8, besting runner-up George Aitken of Morrisville by nearly 17 minutes.

Next up on the CVR circuit is the Fallen Leaves 5K Series, starting on November 1, at Montpelier High School.

Mini-Golf

Continued from previous page

it was definitely a learning experience in that I was able to collaborate with so many people and, I guess, figure out what we needed to do to make it look the way everyone was satisfied with," Den Herder said.

They worked alongside one other intern, stapling down turf, painting and constructing the large mushrooms seen on the course's second hole.

"Everyone was working on everything. So when I think of making something it's like I made it with everyone," Den Herder said.

While most of the pieces survived the take-down and rebuild after winter, some holes required patching up. Luce

hopes that next year the team can add even more.

"We've had people who've played the course so many times, they want to make a hole. And we're like, Great. We'll help you do that," said Luce.

Over the winter the team hopes to begin the process of designing new holes that will fit with the pre-existing theme.

Though time for the golf course this year is up, the center will continue programming throughout the coming months including several music and dance events.

Elise Coyle writes for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship



Charlotte, the paper-mache spider tries to entrap players at Enchanted Kingdom Mini Golf. photo by Elise Coyle



Caledonia United's Cora Abetti heads for the ball during action against a Richford player in Danville October 3. At (back left) is time keeper Barb Hawley and (back center) official Steve Levesque. Richford got by Caledonia United 3-2. photo by Vanessa Fournier