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## Sen. Douglass resigns after release of private group chat

by Paul Fixx

ORLEANS COUNTY – Vermont Senator Samuel Douglass, who served on the Senate Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel, last week faced calls to resign following a Politico report Tuesday afternoon that revealed young GOP leaders on a private Telegram group chat joking about gas chambers, slavery and rape. Tuesday, the Governor's office confirmed Douglass had resigned.

Douglass, who works as a mental health professional, had declined to resign immediately, claiming ignorance of the Telegram chat's contents, saying in his first public statement

**See DOUGLASS, 5**

### Douglass Senate seat in limbo by Ethan Weinstein, VTDigger

MONTPELIER – Sen. Sam Douglass, R-Orleans, said last week he would resign effective noon on Monday after comments he and his wife made in a Young Republicans group chat rife with hateful messages leaked, making national headlines.

However, as of 3 p.m. on Monday, the office of Gov. Phil Scott had not received official notice of the first-term lawmaker's resignation. And as of Monday late

**See LIMBO, 4**



Sen. Sam Douglass, R-Orleans, listens to discussion on the Senate floor at the Statehouse in Montpelier on February 25.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

## No King Day 2 events question administration, break records

HARDWICK, MONTPELIER – This past Saturday, Oct. 18, Vermont saw a record-breaking number of over 42,000 people, or 6.5% of the population, participating in No Kings events across the state, according to Indivisible Vermont. National media reported nearly seven million people participated in the second round of No Kings protests, organized in response to what some see as the current administration's drift toward authoritarian rule.

No Kings Day events on June 15 saw an estimated turnout of five million people nationwide, with around 260 in Hardwick.

Katherine Sims and the Greensboro United Church of Christ, a local contingent traveled by bus to the Montpelier event.

The bus departed from the Hardwick Fire Station, with carpool attendees following behind, after music and brief remarks by Sims and event organizer Carlotta Hayes of Indivisible Hardwick.

Sims said, "Friends, thank you for showing up. Today we travel together in love and courage, to stand for what's right, to witness to the power of community, and to remind Vermont that our hope is stronger than fear. Let's carry that spirit with us, on the bus, in the crowd, and when we come home."

The Montpelier event saw a large turnout, with U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and U.S. Representative Becca Balint (D-Vt.) among the speakers of the day.

The rally centered in part on trans rights and healthcare with its lineup of speakers. Protest songs, performed by the Solidarity Singers of Central Vermont, served as a backtrack to the events.

Senator Welch's remarks initially centered on the ongoing government shutdown, to resounding applause. "So the president, and his henchmen, they're accusing us of being against



Hayden Sims waves a LGBTQ+ unity flag outside of the Hardwick Fire Station, October 18, for the second No Kings Day 2 protest occurring nationwide this year. photo by Raymonda Parchment

America. But you know what? They got it wrong. We love democracy, and we love America. And by God we are going to save America from Kings and authoritarians. That is what we are here to do," said Welch.

Representative Balint began her remarks with an emphatic shout, "No kings! No dictators! No kings ever!"

"Senator Welch said, they're trying to re-frame this. And that's 'cause they're scared. They know that we understand that we have the power. That it's in our hands. So, they say we're not patriots. They say that we hate America.

"We don't hate America, Donald Trump. We

**See RECORDS, 2**

### Record number rally, demonstrate

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – At least 286 people rallied and protested in downtown Hardwick Saturday, on No Kings Day 2. Some were waving signs challenging actions of the federal government and the President. Others

**See RALLY, 6**

### SUV leaves Wolcott Street, crashing into Lamoille River

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – An SUV traveling east on Wolcott Street Friday afternoon, crossed the lane of oncoming traffic, went over the embankment, narrowly missing trees, and ended up in the middle of the Lamoille River.

At 1 p.m., Friday, the Hardwick Police and Fire Departments were called to Wolcott Street

**See CRASH, 4**



A 2007 Nissan Murano driven by Hardwick resident Karen Putvain was heading east on Wolcott Street, Friday, Oct. 17, when it crossed the lane of oncoming traffic, drove up the embankment, missing trees and down the riverbank, ending up in the middle of the Lamoille River. photo by Paul Fixx



**Gazette**  
conversation  
with Hardwick

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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.

**Records**

Continued From Page One

just can't stand what you have done to our country. We are disgusted that you're acting like a dictator. We're heartsick that you have pitted Americans against each other. We're angry that you are terrorizing our cities and our neighborhoods. And we reject your fear mongering, and your hatred, and your grift.

And we know we deserve so much better. So much better. So no, Mr. President, we don't hate our country. We love it with a deep, abiding passion. We believe in the ideals of equality before the law. We believe that in this nation, you can embody your full potential, because we embrace freedom. And we embrace freedom of speech. And we embrace freedom of assembly. That's why we're out here today, Mr. President. To support our core ideals, abide by the people,

for the people, of the people."

Balint used the mythic hero's journey as a metaphor in the second half of her remarks, drawing parallels that successfully energized the crowd. The first step of the hero's journey is answering the call, she said, "That is what you have done today, you are answering the call."

VT 50501's Geri Peterson pointed out ongoing attacks to the transgender community, with 50501 associates handing out full size transgender flags at the conclusion of her remarks.

"Trans people in America are living under siege. Our names are debated on the house floor. Our medical care is bartered away in spending bills. Our flags are treated like contraband. Our existence, our basic biology, is turned into a political talking point. Behind every headline is another person, trying to survive another day" said Peterson.

In a recent VT Digger article, she estimated the crowd in Montpelier could have been in excess of 10,000 people.

Among the Montpelier crowd were several local faces, including Orleans District 4 Representative Leanne Harple, with her husband and two children.

Area attendees cited similar reasons for being there. "I was concerned that these are crimes against humanity, not just a few, but all. Against everything we stand for in our Constitution, our Declaration of Independence," Shelley Jungwirth said. "You can't even name them all in the time we have."

Riding on the bus were Don and Mabel Houghton of Craftsbury. "This whole thing

makes me angry every day," began Don. "I'm absolutely angry every day. This is a way of dealing with it, and it really does feel good to be with other people, the fact that they said, you are not alone, alright? We're not alone." His wife, Mabel, agreed, "It does provide some relief, of all the things you're thinking about every day."

"And hope," she added.

50501 Vermont, which serves as an umbrella organization for Vermont activism, listed information for 54 Vermont events across the state on its website.

Seven events were held in Burlington, with three being marches that converged at noon in City Hall Park and three more were held in South Burlington.

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**October 22 - October 28**

<b>Sea Best 26-30 Raw EZ Peel Shrimp</b>		<b>Men's Toad &amp; Co. has arrived. See what's new for the winter.</b>	
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<b>Post Honey Bunches of Oats</b> \$2.99 11-12 oz.	<b>Quaker Instant Oatmeal</b> 2/\$6 9.8-12.6 oz.	<b>Kraft Mac &amp; Cheese Dinner</b> 4/\$5 7.25 oz.	
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<b>Wishbone Salad Dressing</b> 2/\$5 15 oz.	<b>Skippy Peanut Butter</b> 2/\$5 15-16.3 oz.	<b>Betty Crocker Cookie Mixes</b> 2/\$5 17.5 oz.	
<b>Nestles Baking Morsels</b> \$3.99 10-12 oz.	<b>Nabisco Belvita Breakfast Biscuits</b> \$3.99 8.8 oz.	<b>Orville Redenbacher Microwave Popcorn</b> \$2.99 8.7 oz.	
<b>Cabot Cheese Bars or Shredded</b> 2/\$6 6-8 oz.	<b>Chobani Greek Yogurt</b> 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	<b>Klondike 6 Pk. Ice Cream Bars</b> \$3.99 27 oz.	
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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Department

### Arrest on Warrant, Suspended License, DUI, Fleeing the Scene

HARDWICK – On October 10 at 6:43 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department conducted a traffic stop on Vt. Route 16 in the town of Hardwick for a motor vehicle violation. The operator, identified as Alex L. Maldonado of Greensboro Bend was operating with a criminally suspended license. Maldonado has been cited into the Caledonia Unit of Vermont Superior Court, Criminal Division.

On October 10 at 7:13 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department arrested Travis Daigle of Hardwick on an outstanding warrant. Daigle was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped for another violation. The warrant had been issued for failing to show for a scheduled court appearance at the Caledonia Unit of Vermont Superior Court, Criminal Division. He was lodged at the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

HARDWICK – On September 11, at 4:10 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on West Church Street. Upon arrival the vehicle owned by Deborah Aschenbach of Hardwick had been damaged and the other vehicle had left the scene. The other vehicle owned by Ian Strong of Morrisville was located later on Renaud Road in Hardwick. Strong was charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident. He is due to appear before Caledonia Superior Court, Criminal Division in St. Johnsbury on October 20 at 8:30 a.m.

On October 17, at 1 p.m., the Hardwick Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Police Department responded to a single vehicle crash into the river along Wolcott Street in Hardwick. The operator and sole occupant of the vehicle was identified as Karen Putvain of Hardwick.

## Cabot Fire Department

### Hazardous Material Training

CABOT – The weekend of October 12 and 13, Cabot Firefighters and mutual aid partners from Marshfield Fire joined the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team (VHMRT) at Cabot Creamery for training. The training focused on response to a hazardous materials (hazmat) response at the Cabot Creamery. It included a practical exercise where Cabot firefighters assumed incident command and simulated rescue of a downed employee. Cabot firefighters then

Putvain advised she was driving east on Wolcott Street and was hit from behind, which caused her vehicle to veer across the westbound lane into the river. There was no damage to the rear bumper of her vehicle. Putvain displayed signs of intoxication on scene. She was transported to Copley Hospital by Hardwick Rescue Squad for minor injuries. Putvain was processed for DUI at Copley Hospital. The investigation is still pending. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Hardwick Police Department.

On October 17, the Hardwick Police Department conducted a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation on South Main Street. After having the operator, Danielle Lowe's information run through Lamoille County Dispatch, Lowe was found to be criminally suspended. Lowe was taken into custody without incident and processed at the Hardwick Police Department. Lowe received a citation to appear in Caledonia Superior Court, Criminal Division on November 24 at 8:30 a.m., and was lodged at Chittenden County Correctional Center by probation and parole.

On October 17, at 5:21 p.m., Hardwick Police took a call about a two-car motor vehicle crash in the parking lot of Tops Market located on Vt. Route 15 West in Hardwick. Both operators had already exchanged information and left the scene. Kathleen Menard was operating a 2025 Dodge Durango and pulled out of a parking spot on the south side of the parking lot and crashed into the rear driver's side of Judtih McGowans 2017 VW Passat. There was damage to both vehicles and there were no reported injuries.

supported decontamination and scene stabilization efforts to VHMRT. VHMRT brought its specialized tools, protective suits and drone units to the exercise, simulating a comprehensive incident response.

The department wrote, "It was an excellent opportunity to work with the incredible Cabot Creamery staff and VHMRT. The scenario is one we hope never occurs, but preparation like this ensures an effective response if and when necessary."

## Hardwick Police Department

### Media Log

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

October 13: Medical, Maple St.; Wanted Person, Mackville Road; Assist - Agency, Walden Heights; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.

October 14: Assist - Agency, Lamoille Ave; Assist - Agency, Mini Mart Drive; Parking Problem, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, E. Hardwick; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Rail Trail; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Parking Problem, S. Main St.

October 15: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Information, Craftsbury Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Trespassing, Glenside Ave.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

October 16: School Event, Hazen Union Drive; Medical, Evergreen Manor Dr.; Welfare Check, Vt. Route 15 West; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Assist - Motorist, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Vt.

Route 14; Traffic Stop, Cedar St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16 E.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Animal Problem, Dale St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15. Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Lower Cherry St.; Assist - Agency, Quarry Road.

October 17: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Road; Accident - Injury Persons, Wolcott St.; Property Damage, Vt. Route 15 West; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

October 18: Assist - Other, Wolcott St.; Accident - property damage only, Craftsbury Road; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.

October 19: VIN verification, High St.; Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Riverside Terrace; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

### AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Sixteen people used AWARE services between October 12 and October 19. 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](http://awarevt.org).



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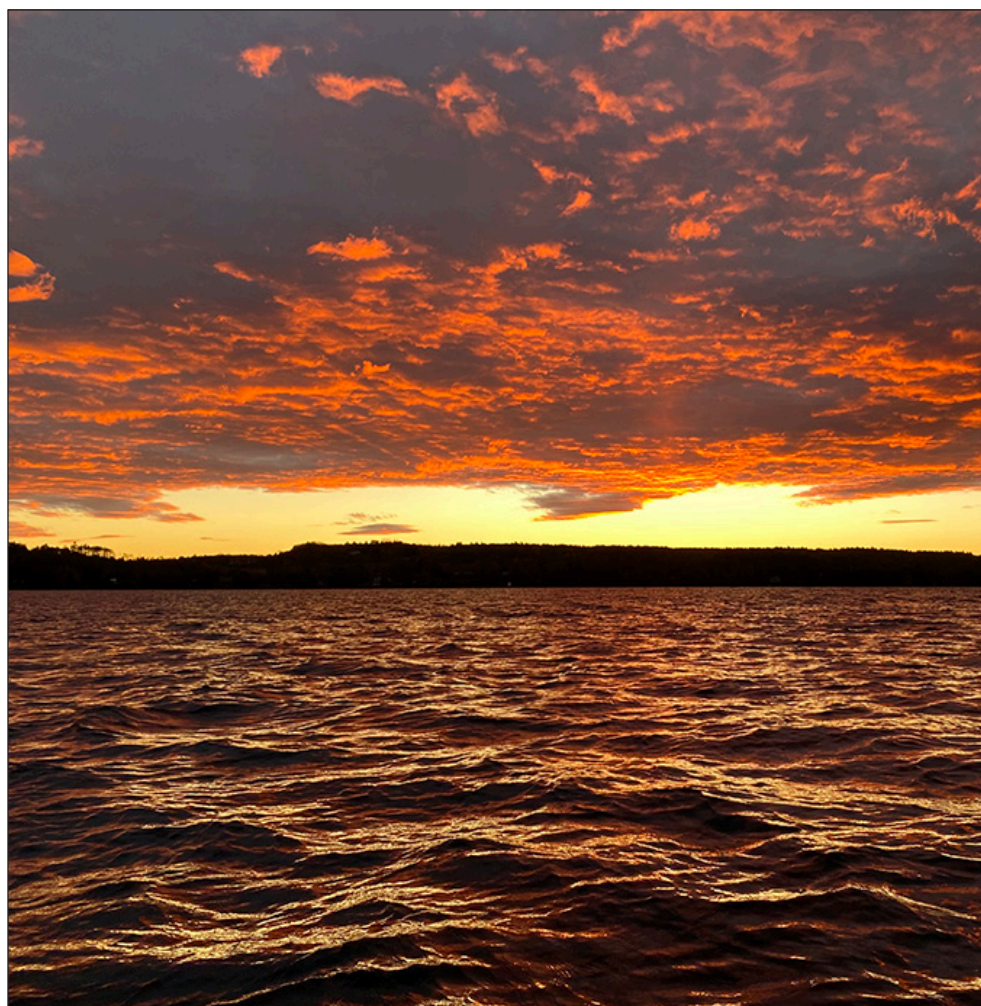


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# WEATHER WATCH



The days are getting shorter in Northern Vermont as shown by this sunset over Caspian Lake from a boat near Black's Point Thursday, Oct. 16, at 6:06 p.m.

photo by Colleen Jenkins

## On-and-off showers expected through weekend, gradually cooling

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Our latest weather-maker comes after a period of-rain free days that left frost-covered and starlit nights through Friday. Temperatures moderated after that under fair skies and the wind picked up ahead of a strengthening low closing off over New England on Monday. Many areas of Vermont saw periods of torrential rain and thunderstorms throughout the day and into the evening, with rainfall amounts by Tuesday morning totaling around an inch locally. Some parts of the spine of the Green Mountains saw totals upwards of three and a half inches in the heaviest precipitation.

As it stands right now, our observation station is still about three quarters of an inch below normal for rainfall this month, having received 0.97 inches of rain with the last storm. This gap is much narrower than in previous months. Extreme drought conditions persist, although the recent bursts of rain do provide some hope that the drought intensity may ease slightly.

On the weather map, the upper-level pattern favors low-pressure influence over the northeast, leading to cooler and more unsettled conditions. The storm system responsible for Monday's rainfall has lifted north and been replaced

by another frontal boundary approaching from the west. This will bring a subsequent round of rain and thunderstorms today, with scattered showers persisting through Friday as multiple shortwaves pass through. The timing of the precipitation ending on Friday night is still up for debate. It is possible a few snow showers may mix in above 2,000 feet if precipitation is still falling overnight into Saturday morning.

High pressure builds in for the second half of Saturday, leading to clearing skies and much cooler temperatures which persist through the weekend. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain in the morning, then showers with a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. High: 58. Low: 39. Wind southwest 10-15 mph, with isolated gusts to 30 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers. High: 53. Low: 37. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers, with isolated higher elevation snow showers overnight. High: 50. Low: 33. West wind around 5 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy in the morning, becoming partly cloudy. High: 45. Low: 29. Calm wind.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. High: 46. Low: 26. Calm wind.

## Limbo

Continued From Page One

Douglass also remained chair of the Orleans County Republican Committee, the body expected to help identify his replacement.

Gov. Phil Scott has the power to appoint people to vacant legislative seats in a process laid out in state law. Normally, the governor would request a list of recommended replacements from the party committee from the district represented.

The Orleans County Senate district encompasses 20 towns, including Montgomery in Franklin County, and Burke, Newark, Sheffield and Sutton in Caledonia County. Any of the district's towns with an active GOP caucus can have a say in Douglass' replacement, according to Chet Greenwood, Orleans County Republican Committee treasurer and a former longtime chair.

Greenwood said that as of Monday morning, Douglass had not resigned as chair of the county party, adding that he was "not sure what his plans are."

"It's going to be hard for him to keep his position," he added.

Douglass did not immediately respond to a request for comment about whether he intended to remain chair of the county committee.

Anya Tynio, who previously ran for Vermont's U.S. House seat as a Republican, currently serves as the Orleans County Republican Committee's vice chair. She did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday.

The county committee has not formally begun the process of replacing Douglass, Greenwood said.

## Crash

Continued From Page One

where it intersects with Granite Street, for a white SUV in the Lamoille River.

First responder, Hardwick Fire Chief Perley Allen, arrived at the scene before other emergency services personnel and entered the river. He waded to the vehicle where he found Karen Putvain of Hardwick standing next to it.

Perley escorted Putvain to shore and up the bank where she was met by Hardwick Rescue Squad staff who took her into the ambulance to look at her injuries.

Allen said Putvain seemed to have no serious injuries

The fire department report on social media said they arrived at the scene where they "found an SUV that had been traveling east on Wolcott Street had gone up and over the embankment into the river."

In his incident report, Hardwick Police Officer Gagnon said, the vehicle, a 2007 Nissan Murano, received major damage and was in the

A meeting requires a warning at least three days ahead of time, and the committee has not yet warned a meeting. He was unsure when the process will begin for compiling potential replacements for Douglass.

The governor "can take as long as he wants" once he has the list of names, Greenwood said.

Douglass has faced intense pressure to resign from leaders across the political spectrum in Vermont since a Politico report last Tuesday revealed bigoted remarks Young Republican leaders across the country made, including Douglass and his wife, Brianna Douglass, in a Telegram group chat.

Following [Politico's story](#), Vermont elected officials across the political spectrum quickly called for Douglass to resign.

The exposé revealed members of the Young Republicans Telegram chat referring to rape as "epic" and expressing "love" for Hitler, in addition to a slew of other racist and homophobic comments.

It's unclear who might top the list of recommendations to replace Douglass. In the 2024 Republican primary, he defeated Aime Conrad Bellavance. The seat was previously held by Vermont Senate stalwart Bobby Starr, a moderate Democrat.

In an early bid for legislative office more than a year in advance, Gaston Bathalon, a Democrat from Troy, announced Monday he'd run for the Orleans County Senate seat Douglass is vacating. The election isn't until November 2026.

Bathalon, an Army veteran, has served on the Troy Select Board and local school boards.

middle of the river. He said Putvain was the lone occupant. He reported she advised him she has been hit from behind while driving east on Wolcott Street, which caused her vehicle to veer across the westbound lane into the river,

Officer Gagnon noted there was no damage to the rear of the vehicle and "Putvain displayed signs of intoxication on scene."

The SUV left no evidence on the road or embankment that its brakes had been engaged.

In the Lamoille River an airbag in the vehicle had deployed and the rear window was broken, with glass appearing to fall inward.

Putvain was transported to Copley Hospital for minor injuries, according to the police report, and processed there for DUI

The Hardwick Fire Department report said they "stayed on scene while the vehicle was recovered from the river."

"The investigation is still pending," said Officer Gagnon in his report.

## Douglass

Continued From Page One

following the Politico report, “I was unfortunately unaware of those comments,” last Wednesday afternoon.

“I should’ve been more vigilant, more careful and less naive about who I associate with and my digital environments.”

Douglass appears to have been the only elected official on the chat thread, with members of the Young Republican National Federation.

The Politico report identified only one comment made directly by Douglass in which he seemed to mock the bathing habits of a person from India.

It is unclear whether Douglass had any familiarity with the woman in question.

Douglass’ wife was a member of the Young Republicans and the group chat, where she wrote of “expecting the Jew to be honest.”

“The hateful statements made in this group chat are disgusting and unacceptable,” Governor Phil Scott said in a written statement Tuesday.

“The vile, racist, bigoted and antisemitic dialogue that has been reported is deeply disturbing. There is simply no excuse for it. Those involved should resign from their roles immediately and leave the Republican party, including Vermont State Senator Sam Douglass.

“We are in agreement with Gov. Phil Scott. Sen. Sam Douglass’ statements as reported by Politico are unacceptable and deeply disturbing,” wrote Vermont Senate and House Republicans in a joint response Tuesday afternoon.

“They cannot be excused and are inconsistent with Vermont values and what Vermont Republicans stand for. It is time for Sen. Douglass to step away from his position as a Vermont Senator and resign.”

Later in the week, citing threats to his family, Douglass said he would resign Monday, October 20. “But for all concerned, me, my wife, my family, I must resign (effective Monday at noon).”

Despite his initial reluctance to heed the Governor’s call for his resignation, Douglass then said, “And if my Governor asks me to do something, I will act, because I believe in what he’s trying to do for the state of Vermont.”

The Monday before the Politico story broke, Douglass was endorsed by the Vermont Republican Party in his planned bid for reelection in November 2026. Douglass, in turn endorsed GOP Party Chair Paul Dame in his bid to remain chair of the Vermont Republican party.

Dame’s statement Wednesday said Douglass’ alleged statements in the chat were not “bigoted or racist,”

saying Douglass’ participation in the chat and the statement he made in it “reflected poorly on himself, our party and Young Republicans everywhere.”

Douglass was removed from his duties with the state party “until the matter is resolved,” explained Dame.

Later that day, the executive committee of the Vermont Republican Party issued a statement, retracting Dame’s statement and calling upon Douglass to resign immediately.

Wednesday, Northeast Kingdom Republican Sen. Russ Ingalls was joined by Reps. Marcotte, Higley, Page, Labor, Nelson and Wells in calling for Douglass to resign as chair of the Orleans County Republican Party, in addition to his Senate seat.

Douglass, now 27 years old, was elected to the Senate last November, helping the GOP to pick up six Senate seats.

Former Rep. Katherine Sims, who ran against Douglass in that election and lost, said in a social media post last week, “In light of the revelations about Senator Sam Douglass and the deeply troubling text exchanges, I’m feeling a complex mix of emotions. There’s sadness and frustration that we ended up with a representative whose extreme views many of us had flagged early on. It’s a painful reminder that concerns about his readiness and maturity were raised — and yet, here we are.”

In response to a question on Vermont Public’s “Vermont Edition” Monday, Dame said the party vets candidates it endorses and can review social media posts, though he stopped short of saying it had done so when it endorsed Douglass in his 2024 run for Senate.

Dame pointed to Douglass’ losing bid in the 2022 election cycle and the contested 2024 Republican primary as having given the public a chance to vet his candidacy.

Sims expressed concern at the divisive tone of current political dialogue. “My hope is that we can remember our shared humanity. . . Let’s hold each other accountable, yes — and also hold each other with grace and compassion. That might be the only way we begin to bridge the deep divides between us.”

In the run-up to the November 2024 Senate contest, Sims outspent Douglass almost 3 to 1 in the campaign, where a combined total of over \$110,000 was raised.

Douglass was backed by some well-known Vermont Republicans according to campaign finance reports, and by the Phil Scott for Vermont organization, which contributed \$700 in September 2024, with another \$500 that October.

The Newport Daily Express reported “Sims said her original campaign budget was \$30,000, but she

felt compelled to raise more when Douglass allegedly sent out ‘attack mailers.’”

The Politico report made national and international news, with Westmore Democratic party member Joanna Burgess saying, “Lookie! Vermont and Sam Douglass made international news in The Guardian, pointing to a story titled, ‘Vance Brushes Off Racist Remarks.’” In that story, it was reported that “Vance, speaking on a new episode of the Charlie Kirk Show, the podcast run by colleagues of the late conservative activist, suggested that the participants in the leaked chats were much younger than they in fact are. Some of the participants are

barely younger than the 41-year-old vice-president.”

“The reality is that kids do stupid things, especially young boys,” Vance said.

“U.S. Army veteran Gaston Bathalon from Troy, announced on Monday that he will run for the Orleans County Senate seat left vacant by Douglass’ resignation in the November 2026 election, regardless of who Gov. Scott appoints,” according to WPTZ.

Bathalon is Troy’s town health officer, in addition to serving on the Troy select board and school boards.

WPTZ reported “He does not believe he will be appointed to the vacant role by Scott.”



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# Rally

Continued From Page One

draped themselves in rainbow colors, with one wearing a unicorn costume to call out divisive rhetoric, suggesting radical acceptance instead.

Almost 200 residents and out-of-town visitors gathered at Hardwick's Fire Station last October 18, at 10 a.m., for the day's events. The half-hour rally served as a send-off for about 75 people who left on a bus, and in carpools, to join a noon gathering at Vermont's Montpelier Statehouse.

Hardwick's John Helms counted 117 people who then marched toward S. Main Street, where they joined others who lined both sides of the street, from Front Seat Coffee to the Hardwick Inn.

A downtown rally at Hardwick's Peace Park was kicked off by Jan Mueller, who said, "It's about showing up."

After the two groups joined up, others continued to arrive, bringing the total to at least 286, as counted by Helms.

At the Peace Park, remarks by Carlotta Hayes, a driving force behind Hardwick's Indivisible group, introduced former state Rep. Chip Troiano.

Troiano shared a story about being sent into Washington D.C. with a squad of other soldiers, recently returned from Vietnam. Armed with loaded military rifles, they were ordered into the city's streets to quell rioters who were responding to Martin Luther King's recent assassination. His group decided it was not appropriate to turn their weapons on fellow citizens.

Instead, they patrolled the streets, warning rioters it wasn't safe on the streets, directing and escorting them home; to relative safety.

Troiano said, by offering respect to the city's citizens, they were given respect.

A good percentage of cars and trucks traveling through town honked mostly in support, though a few squealed tires and revved engines, in apparent opposition to the gathering. The occupant of one truck exclaimed, "We need king Trump," and another, "All hail king Trump."

Walden's Jeff Pierpont was introduced, saying, "I'm here today because I believe in democracy, not autocracy."

"This country was never meant to be ruled by an autocrat. It was founded on the radical idea that 'we the people' hold the power. That leadership is service, not entitlement."

Saying, "What we're watching unfold isn't politics as usual, it's a full-scale attempt to replace democracy with authoritarianism," Pierpont then listed recent reversals of U.S. Government policy: bills that

seem written by billionaires and border agents, healthcare stripped from millions, funding slashed for schools and SNAP programs.

"This isn't just about one man with a gold-plated office," he said.

"It's about a system rigged to benefit the wealthy, the connected, and the cruel."

"And it's about a dangerous lie; that some lives matter more than others: that some voices should be silenced, that some families can be discarded," Pierpont continued.

"But we're not here because we are afraid. We're here to raise our voices. To live in truth."

"We cannot accept the lies," he said.

"We can name them, challenge them, and even better, disrupt them. We can be bold and nonviolent. We can confront falsehood with art, with absurdity, with dignity and defiance."

In conclusion, Pierpont said, "We believe in a future where power is shared, not seized. Where justice is real. Where democracy is more than a word: it's the work all of us do together."

The gathering continued for another hour, with Allison Belisle of Brookfield, who stood in the no parking zone on the street near Front Seat Coffee, saying she and her partner came to Hardwick for No Kings Day 2, and the first No Kings Day, June 14, because they felt their presence would make more difference here than in Montpelier.

"There's more exposure at the intersection of Vt. Rtes. 14 and 15 than almost anywhere else in rural Vermont."

A pair of costumed relatives from Albany, who asked not to be identified because of the work one of them is involved with, dressed as a unicorn and some sort of four-legged blue creature and said they wanted to add their voices to the event.

"A president steeped in constitutional lore might have been offended by claims he's acting as a king," reported CNN on Sunday.



Over 285 people were counted carrying signs, singing and listening to speeches along both sides of Hardwick's S. Main St. Saturday during the No Kings Day 2 event, joining 2700 other events in Vermont

photo by Paul Fixx

"But Donald Trump and his entourage responded with mockery to weekend 'No Kings' protests by millions of Americans, embracing the narrative in a way that explains his growing hubris and belief that he has unchecked power."

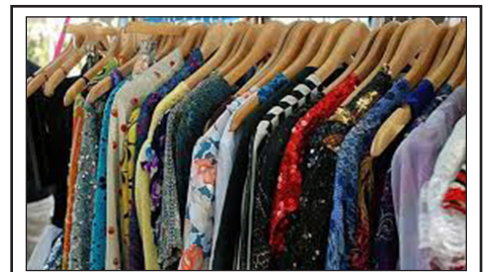
The Atlantic said Monday, "Say what you will about Donald Trump's effect on American civic life as a whole, but he's done wonders for public participation. Voter turnout in the past few elections has reached record highs, for example. And after Saturday's 'No Kings' marches, three of the largest one-day demonstrations in American history have taken place during Trump's two presidencies."

After the downtown Hardwick rally, a small group gathered in the Hardwick Peace Park to review the day's activities, recruit future

organizers and make plans for future events.

They noted the day's visitors included those from Cabot, Eden, Walden, Albany, Brookfield, East Hardwick and a large Woodbury contingent. Nearby events had been held in Morrisville, Newport, Wolcott, Montpelier and St. Johnsbury, where it was estimated that 700 people showed up.

Regular honk and wave events are scheduled at 10 a.m., Tuesday, at Hardwick's Peace Park to highlight Indivisible's big-tent, pro-democracy, non-partisan movement, said organizers. Another gathering, 7 p.m., Thursday, at GRACE, is geared more toward Indivisible Hardwick's movement organizing, with anyone interested in learning more welcome to attend.



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 <b>\$3.39/lb</b> Crushed Red Peppers <small>Frontier Natural, per lb</small>	 <b>\$11.99/lb</b> Ground Cardamom <small>Frontier Natural, per lb</small>	 <b>\$10.99</b> SEVENTH GENERATION 100% BATH TISSUE Toilet Paper 12 Pack <small>7th Generation, per each</small>	 <b>from \$9.99</b> Carving Pumpkins <small>Medium and Large sizes</small>

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# No Kings Day 2, Hardwick



Organizers with the Indivisible Hardwick group, and others, who gathered at GRACE on Mill St. Thursday evening, to make signs for the upcoming No Kings Day 2 march and rally, include (from left) Jan Mueller, setting up a musical playlist for the Saturday event and making signs: Cheryl Williams, Rachel Cole, Charlotte Benoit, Carlotta Hayes and Carol Burrey, who said she planned to attend the Montpelier rally.



Saturday at Hardwick's Peace Park, Indivisible Hardwick organizer Carlotta Hayes (from left) joins speaker Jeff Pierpont (holding microphone), his wife Christine and Hazen Union School student Will Helms, holding a No Kings sign painted by Grace Hurley. Pierpont said, "Václav Havel — the Czech playwright who became president after leading his country out of a dictatorship — every dictatorship begins to crumble — not with armies or elections, but - when ordinary people refuse to live the lie."



Cabot's Lassie Rathbone (from left) joins speaker Chip Troiano from Walden and Greensboro's Erika Karp during a No Kings Day rally at Hardwick's Peace Park Saturday morning." Troiano told the crowd that he and others, recently returned from Vietnam, who were assigned to patrol the streets of Washington D.C. arresting rioters following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, warned those on the streets of the danger and escorted them home, offering and gaining respect in the process.



About 120 protesters in Hardwick march to the downtown business district Saturday, following a rally at the fire station, from which about 75 people left on a school bus and in carpools to join a rally at Vermont's Montpelier Statehouse. National organizers estimated over 7 million people joined over 2,700 events across the United States of America.



Ken Leslie (left) and his wife Robin hold the ends of a sign reading, "Ain't free speech sweet," in front of Positive Pie on Hardwick's S. Man St. during the No Kings Day 2 demonstration Saturday.



Standing on S. Main St., the Belisle family (left) from Brookfield decided to come to Hardwick for No Kings Day 2, as they did for the first No Kings Day, June 14, because they felt they wouldn't make as much difference in Montpelier, and the intersection of Routes 14 and 15 seemed as busy a place as any other in rural Vermont. To the far right is Hardwick's Jerry Schneider, inventor of The Butterfly Game.



A line of marchers reaches as far as the eye can see down Wolcott Street in Hardwick, where a rally at the fire station kicked off local No Kings Day 2 events Saturday. The roughly 120 marchers joined another 165 lining S. Main St. Another 75 or so who left for Montpelier from the fire station, making the 360 people who turned out that day the largest Hardwick street protest in recent memory.

photos by  
Paul Fixx

# No Kings Day 2, Montpelier



Organized by Katherine Sims and the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC), around 41 individuals rode the bus to attend the Montpelier No Kings 2 rally this past Saturday, Oct. 18.



Orleans District 4 Representative Leanne Harple stands with her children Scarlet (left) and Atticus (right) on the front of the Vermont Statehouse steps at the Montpelier No Kings Day 2 event, Saturday, Oct. 18.



A notable inflatable contingent was present at the Montpelier No Kings Day 2 event this past Saturday, Oct. 18.



The crowd in Montpelier is estimated to have exceeded 10,000 people this past Saturday, Oct. 18, for the No Kings Day 2 event that occurred nationwide.



U.S. Representative Becca Balint addresses the crowd Saturday afternoon, Oct. 18, for the No Kings Day 2 event at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier

Photos  
by  
Raymonda Parchment

# NEWS NOTES

## Boil water notice in effect until further notice

by Paul Fixx

MARSHFIELD – A notice issued by Vermont’s Department of Public Safety, through the VT-Alert system on October 14 said, “The Village of Marshfield will experience a water shutoff and be placed under a boil water notice tomorrow, October

15. Water will officially be shut off that day from 8 a.m. to 4.m. The boil water notice will begin at the same time, but last until further notice. While water is fully shut off tomorrow, “necessary maintenance” work will be done on the water system.” Sign up to receive alerts at [vem.vermont.gov/vtalert](http://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert).

## Another FEMA demolition scheduled this week

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The house and separate garage at 41 Brush Street in Hardwick, first damaged by fire in May 2023, followed by the June floods that year and again in 2024, is scheduled to be demolished this week according to Hardwick’s Zoning and Floodplain Administrator Kristen Leahy

“The Demolition Team will be mobilizing on Monday, Oct. 20, and will start the demolition on either October 21 (Tuesday) or October 22 (Wednesday).

Work will happen during daytime working hours and Brush St.

is expected to remain open, said Leahy.

“The work is being carried out as part of the FEMA Buyout Program.”

The Lamoille River’s bank has been eroded under the house and between the house and garage, moving closer to the road with each subsequent high water event. Reclamation will happen to the property, now owned by the Town of Hardwick, following the demolition

Call Leahy with questions or concerns at (802) 472-1686 or by email at [zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov).

## Board signs plans for new bridges

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD – Select board members signed off on plans for new bridges over Great Brook at Mill Street and Brook Road at their October 14 meeting. The Mill Street bridge washed out in 2024 and the Brook Road bridge trapped debris, flooding the village.

Plans for replacement bridges presented by Brian Breslin with the Dubois & King engineering firm, show much larger bridges, which will be raised by several feet and have longer spans to allow greater volumes of water and debris to pass under them. They are recommending concrete bridges in both places.

The Brook Road bridge is proposed to increase from a length of

24 feet to 55 feet, with the road to be raised by two or three feet.

Details of the bridge replacements still need to be worked out, with easements needed from nearby property owners and decisions about whether to replace the bridges one at a time, or together, with detours or temporary bridges, left to be made.

Costs are estimated at \$2 to \$4 million for each bridge, with the federal government covering 80% of the cost, the state covering 10%, leaving 10% for the town to pick up.

Joshua Pitts, town treasurer, said Plainfield received \$200,000 in recent reimbursements for flood response work. More is on the way, which will make the matching funds available when they are needed.

## Gov. Scott announces development block grant funds for Marshfield

MONTPELIER – Governor Phil Scott and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) today announced \$2,783,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and \$770,760 in Recovery Housing Program (RHP) funding to benefit projects in 11 different communities, including Marshfield.

**The Town of Marshfield received a \$60,000 grant to develop**

engineering plans and cost estimates to remediate flooding and determine the source of groundwater infiltration at the Town of Marshfield Town Hall.

CDBG is funded by U.S. Housing and Urban Development and administered by the Vermont Community Development Program at DHCD. Seventy percent of CDBG funds must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income households.

## Vermont Public premieres 1975 film about Peter and Jane Flint

by Paul Fixx

WOLCOTT – A “Made Here” episode titled, “Peter and Jane Flint,” premiered on Vermont Public’s PBS station at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, and is available now on demand at [vermontpublic.org/show/made-here/2025-10-16/peter-and-jane](http://vermontpublic.org/show/made-here/2025-10-16/peter-and-jane)

The film, by Herb Di Gioia and David Hancock, follows a young couple in Wolcott in 1975 during

their first year running a small dairy farm.

“Di Gioia and Hancock were key figures in the tradition of observational cinema,” said a note on the show. “In the early 1970s, the pair completed a series of films in this style called “Vermont People,” which documented life in rural Vermont and explored aspects of working class rural America.” The “Made Here” episode is one of those films.

## MacLeod featured in Vermont Public story

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK – Rob MacLeod and his small East Hardwick Farm were featured in a Vermont Public story by Erica Heilman last week titled, “Twenty-nine cows, eight pigs and no water,” whose well ran dry for the first time ever.

MacLeod said, “. . . the

experience of having no water when it’s just a person is inconvenient and frustrating, but you can bring in enough to get by. But when you have a farm with no water, that becomes, you know, within two or three days, you’re in crisis.”

Read and listen to the story at [vermontpublic.org/local-news/2025-10-16/twenty-nine-cows-eight-pigs-and-no-water](http://vermontpublic.org/local-news/2025-10-16/twenty-nine-cows-eight-pigs-and-no-water)

## Vt. Rte. 15 one-way during bridge replacement

by Paul Fixx

WOLCOTT – A project to replace the temporary bridge over School Street in Wolcott, just yards from its intersection with Vt. Rte. 15, continues this week with the start of work to build an access road beside Vt. Rte. 15 and ongoing tree work will continue, said Michelle Gudorf, Wolcott

Administrative Assistant, Selectboard in the weekly update, October 18.

From Monday, Oct. 20, through Friday, Oct. 24, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., she said motorists should expect alternating one-way traffic on Route 15 near School Street. Flaggers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone during working hours.

## Local organizations, artists, receive arts grants

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Council of the Arts has awarded grants to local artists and organizations. Grants include artist development grants to Genese Grill, Plainfield, \$2,000 to support the purchase of image licenses for use in the first English-language biography of Austrian Modernist Robert Musil for Yale University Press and to Edward Lemery, Hardwick, \$1,000 to support the purchase of a dust collection system.

Artists in schools grants were awarded to Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union, Hardwick, \$4,000 to support a series of artist residencies during the spring session of WonderKids Afterschool program that will culminate in a community-wide festival bringing students and families across the district together.

One-year operating grants were awarded to Central Vermont Community Radio Corporation, Plainfield, \$5,000 to support operating and administrative costs and The Civic Standard, Hardwick, \$5,000 to support operating and administrative costs.

Three-year operating grants were awarded to Circus Barn, Inc., Greensboro, \$10,000 to support operating and administrative costs; Rural Arts Collaborative, Greensboro, \$11,000 to support operating and administrative costs and Scrag Mountain Music Inc., Marshfield, \$11,000 to support operating and administrative costs.

An art project grant was awarded to Cabot Arts Inc., Cabot, \$4,000 to support the 6th annual Cabot Village 12th Night Celebration.

## School board chair files ethics complaint against Vermont senator

by **Corey McDonald,**  
**VT Digger**

DANVILLE – Clayton Cargill, the Danville School District's board chair, filed an ethics complaint last week against Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, alleging he "used his position and legislative influence to advance a narrative and push" the district to try and close high school grades, a move that would benefit the nearby private school where he works.

Cargill wrote that Beck texted him several more times after the September 2 meeting, first asking about undecided board members' votes on school closure, and later texting Cargill that the board "should let the voters have their say. Takes all the pressure off the board."

According to the complaint, Cargill replied that did not "have the board votes for that just yet but that's what I'm working on." Beck replied that it was "difficult to deny democracy."

In the complaint, Cargill wrote it was "notable" that Beck only reached out to the Danville and Cabot school districts and not Twinfield, which also operates high school grades nearby.

"He contacted only two, and one, Cabot, is not even in his district," Cargill wrote. "The only clear link between the schools he approached is their proximity to his employer."

Cargill wrote in his complaint that Beck had warned Cargill and Cabot School District board chair Chris Tormey that the Vermont Legislature was likely to pass legislation to restrict school choice for districts that close their schools.

Beck advised that the two chairs should encourage their boards to move forward with school

closure votes before the new year "if we wanted to preserve the option of tuitioning students to independent schools," Cargill wrote in his complaint. Beck's warning was first reported by Seven Days.

Neither town was actively considering closing their schools prior to Beck's advice, Cargill wrote in an email to lawmakers on the Senate Ethics Committee. Beck is an employee of St. Johnsbury Academy, a nearby private school where he works as a social studies teacher.

"Although Senator Beck provided no evidence for his claims, I took them seriously and raised the issue at the Danville School Board meeting on September 2," Cargill wrote in the complaint.

Cargill, in his email to lawmakers, said the private school "stands to benefit financially if these schools close" and that it was "a clear conflict of interest."

The Caledonia County senator has refuted claims that he had a conflict of interest, and said he was merely offering his opinion to his constituents.

Beck, in an interview last week, said that his "job is to represent and to let people know what the facts are and what my opinions are and what I think their possible courses of action are, and that's what I've done here."

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

"Would it have been responsible of me to not tell anybody that someone just made a serious attempt to take away your local control?" he said. "Should I not tell them that, and just ignore it like it never



Rep. Scott Beck, R-St. Johnsbury, the incoming Senate minority leader, converses at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Dec. 4, 2024.

file photo by Natalie Williams, VTDigger

happened? What happens down the road if it actually does happen? . . . In some ways I feel like I'm caught in the middle here, I'm the messenger, so people aren't happy about that."

Regardless, Beck's advice to the board chairs in Danville and Cabot has created "urgency and confusion in both communities," Cargill wrote to lawmakers.

The Cabot School District had previously considered circulating a survey to residents about closing their schools and opting for school choice. But Tormey said that the board decided to hold off on the survey "until we find out next year how Cabot School will be placed within the new statewide map."

Danville, however, is set to hold a vote on December 6 on whether to shutter its high school grades at the Danville School and instead pay tuition for students to attend other schools, following a petition submitted to the board. Public school faculty said closure would have an immense impact on public high school students in the region.

"Both towns have been thrust

into the media spotlight and residents in both communities are worried," he wrote. "We are in danger of closing based on something Scott Beck told people might happen."

In his email to lawmakers, Cargill said he was told by lawmakers and other public education officials that Beck's behavior may have violated legislative ethical guidelines.

"I have sought guidance in all the places I know to seek guidance. I've beseeched people I treat as mentors . . . I was told by many of your colleagues 'this isn't right,'" Cargill wrote to lawmakers. "Many of them encouraged me to be steadfast enough to submit this, and as such, I am."

Beck was previously the focus of a separate ethics complaint filed in June that accused him and Sen. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, of using their positions on a critical committee negotiating the final form of a wide-ranging education bill to advance provisions that benefited the private schools with which they are or have been associated.

Bongartz and Beck have forcefully denied that accusation.

## Forum explores practical ways to grow municipal capacity

by **Paul Fixx**

CRAFTSBURY – The Freedom and Unity Commission gathered a panel with experience in town management from Coventry, Glover, Burke, Cambridge and Wolcott on Tuesday, Oct. 9, in the Craftsbury Town Hall to look at the pros and cons of two important issues for managing a Vermont town's business.

"Practical Ways to Grow Municipal Capacity" was the subject at the community forum, offering a facilitated, conversational panel to look first at town's experience after expanding a select board from three to five members, and second, at the benefits of hiring a town administrator or select board assistant.

Moderating the panel and the discussion was Daniel Solomon, "We

don't need to reinvent the wheel. He said, let's see what's worked throughout our region and what lessons we can apply to Craftsbury," he said.

"It was her [Linda Ramsdell's] comment to a few members of our Freedom and Unity group about how well a select board meeting in Glover operated that inspired us to organize tonight's event."

Panelists, introduced by Solomon as the Dream Team, included Glover's Brian Carol, a retired school administrator, who served as the town's administrator for the first six months after Glover moved to that form of town management.

Linda Martin, Wolcott Select Board Chair since 2021, and a board member since 2020, served as town clerk and treasurer from 1986 to 2000 and in the Vermont legislature

from 2005 to 2016. After the Wolcott select board increased from three to five, in 2018 she told the board there was a real need for them to hire their own assistant, saying they "needed to get weaned off of seeing the town clerk as their secretary."

Former Coventry Town Manager Matthew Maxwell, served as that town's administrator from 2022 to 2025, working directly for the select board.

Former Cambridge Select Board member George Putnam retired in 2016, then served from 2017 to 2023 on the town's select board. During that time a town administrator was added in 2018 and the select board expanded from three to five in 2019.

Burke's Jim Sullivan retired from a banking career in 2021, becoming town administrator

the next year.

Also joining the panel was Kathleen Ramsey, from Addison County's town of Lester, a municipal support specialist with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Following the event, Liz Steel, who attended from Greensboro, said, "So helpful to hear how neighboring towns in the NEK are addressing the increasing demands on the responsibilities of the town clerk. With the need for technology skills, grant writing and administration, emergency management and state reporting, to name a few, the town administrator role was seen as a critical asset to the effective operation of the towns represented on the panel."

A recording of the event can be found at [youtube.com/watch?v=Fo7bMh6hamI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo7bMh6hamI).

# EDITORIAL

## Conversation with Hardwick this Sunday, Oct. 26

This Sunday afternoon in the Jeudevine Memorial Library's new Parker Ladd Community Room, The Hardwick Gazette will be holding the second in our series of community conversations with each of the towns we cover.

During this conversation we hope to share some of what you may not already know about The Gazette, but, most importantly, we want to hear from readers about the things you'd like to see more of, or less of.

Like the conversation in Greensboro this past May, we'll begin with a brief history of Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism's work since it became The Gazette's publisher, almost 20 months ago.

I'll share some of how we go about collecting information for the content that appears each week and how we structure our stories, followed by a tour of The Gazette's online presence, with at least a few new tricks for even the most web-savvy among you.

We'll include a quick overview of the Gazette's finances, though this gathering is most decidedly not intended to be a fundraiser.

We hope we'll see residents, business owners, school teachers and officials, church members and members of civic and government organizations.

And, because we know what matters most, there will be beverages and snacks.

Not unlike many nonprofits, we have lots more we could do than our funding allows at any given moment. We hope these gatherings build a relationship with the communities we serve and thus begin to set us on a more sustainable foundation as our board and organization matures.

**Paul Fixx, editor**

### For the record:

Last week's story, "Consideration of new public safety building brings out residents," should have indicated the petition

asked for a yes or no vote on the question of building a new Cabot Public Safety Building and not for construction of the building.

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Few young adults at No Kings Day 2

To the editor:

I was one of four people from my high school who lined South Main Street in Hardwick this past Saturday to participate in the No King Day 2 protest against the Trump administration.

It was easy to forget the dreary weather with all of the music and signs waving. What might have been a very damp day was kept fresh by guitars, violins, a very small banjo at one point and most importantly, voices.

My companion held a large papier-mache Mother Earth puppet, which looked out at the cars passing by. Our friend who met us near The Civic Standard found a Green Mountain Boys flag, which he wore around his neck like a cape when he wasn't waving it at passing cars. Another friend

showed up wearing a yellow T-shirt with William Shakespeare's face on the front and the words "Alas, poor country!" on the back.

Adults ranging widely in age were in good attendance, and even a good handful of children showed up with their parents to protest, but we teenagers were sparse. I found myself wondering: Where are the rest of us?

We are the ones coming swiftly into adulthood, the ones who have the whole of our grown-up lives ahead of us to make the changes our country so desperately needs and the ones who the actions of this administration will affect for the longest.

If the civic duty of protest falls heaviest on the shoulders of one generation, it falls on ours.

**Will Helms  
Hardwick**

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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.

**FREE** Hardwick Gazette

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

# THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Pooh-pooing the winter's inconveniences

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Well, it's happened. We could feel it coming on for a few weeks: long shadows across the forest paths by four o'clock, nippy air flooding in through the door when I let Kiki out early, fog in the river valleys, the night light in the hall turning on earlier every couple of days, and the realization during the middle hours of the night that I need to get up and put on a sweatshirt, turn up the thermostat or breathe under the covers for a few minutes to warm things up in there. A single fleece blanket does the job most nights, but the bedspread in the closet will be out shortly.

Because I will not turn up the thermostat until the first of November. Or until company comes; then I might, in the interest of polite conversation, grumpily inch it into life. It's immoral and unrighteous to be comfortable all the time, you know. Besides, it costs money. I can't say I miss the days when I heated my upstairs apartment with a gallon of kerosene a day in the living room space heater, and the bathroom was cold enough that the mist from the tub froze on the single-glazed window. Without knowing it, I was working on my sisu.

Sisu is originally a Finnish virtue. You can look it up. Naturally, it's popular in Scandinavia and northern Russia, where the cold and darkness dominate a large part of the year. It's also popular, coincidentally, in northern New England, where pooh-pooing the winter's inconveniences is a regional sport.

I was due for breakfast Sunday morning in Lebanon. The day broke cold, sunny and frosty. Only a churl would make the hour's drive down and back in a heated closed car. I decided to take the roadster, with the top down, of course. So I clad Kiki in her orange hunting vest, donned two layers of fleece myself, with a wool cap (what they call in Ireland a Great Gatsby cap) and fleece gloves, and off we went. The dashboard heater vents blasted us with warm air, and the outdoors with 37 degrees. With the windows up, it wasn't all that bad, but the wind kept us doing isometrics for body heat, and I sang lustily Stan Rogers' ballad with the refrain, "Thirty-eight miles up the Canol Road, in the Salmon Range at 48 below." Kiki did not seem to find the song comforting. We had

a lovely breakfast and good company, and returned home in the same duds, but much more comfortably. The roadster's 28 years old now, so I don't ask her to do what she no doubt used to do; I just set the cruise control on 70 (3200 rpm), sit back, and let the tourists' SUVs roar by. The Vermont mountains in the morning sun in autumn are just lovely.

But the subject was cold and darkness, wasn't it? If you read the novel "The Last Vikings," describing the harrowing turn-of-the-twentieth-century tradition of Norwegian cod fishermen in sailing smacks on the Arctic Circle in the Norwegian Sea at Christmastime, you get a feel for operating in almost unremitting cold, storms and darkness with no alternatives. But it was income-necessary to augment whatever money their farms brought in during the summer. And it made extreme hardship seem like everyday discomfort, the source of the reticence of the northern soul.

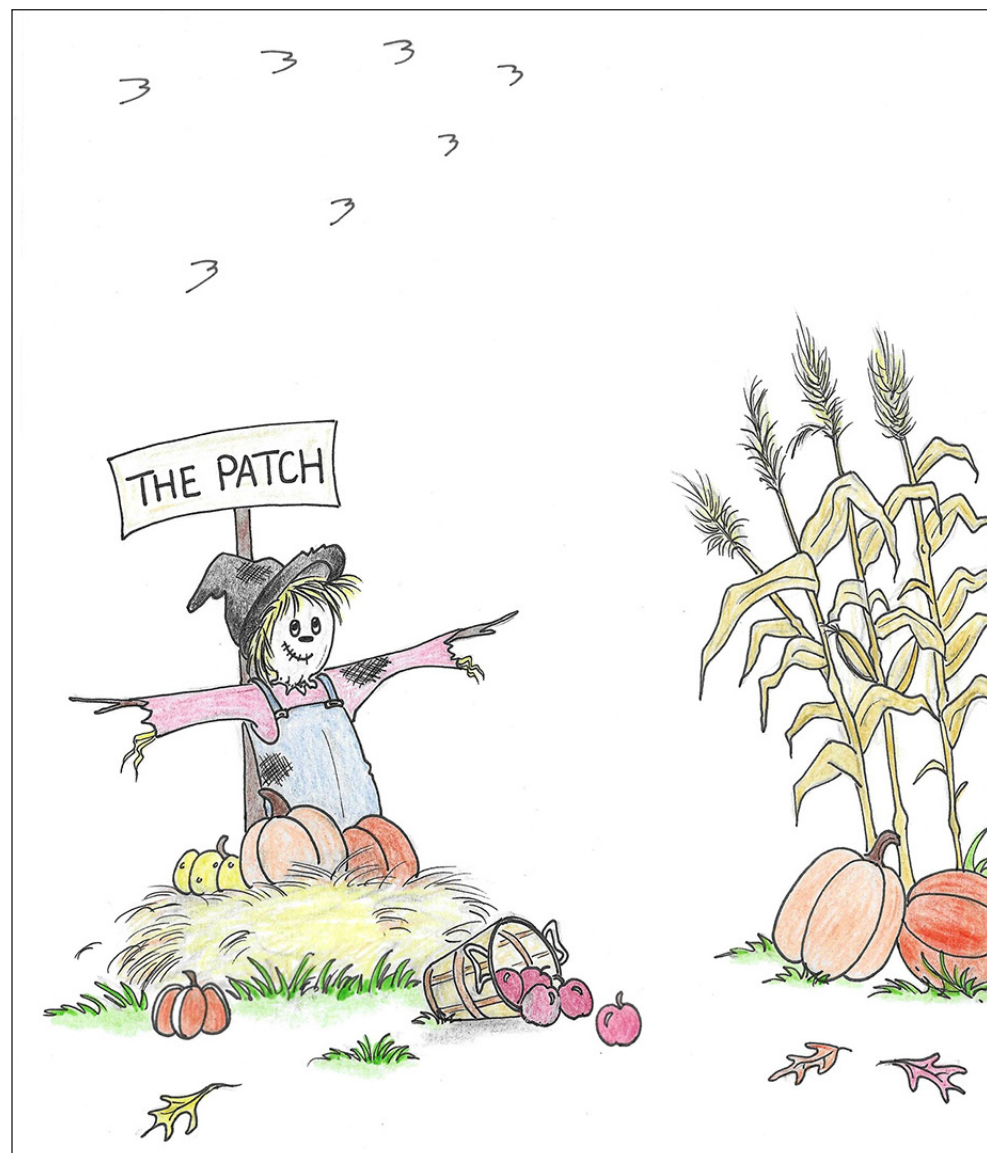
Who of us scratching for a living back in the '50s could forget loosening, in the dark with freezing fingers and an ice-cold wrench, his car's battery terminals so he could carry the precious source of power indoors for the night? Or kneeling in the snow to put on the tire chains? I had a deer carcass hanging in my woodshed all winter. I remember my wife saying, "Go saw off enough hind quarter for the two of us tonight." Never forget what the good old days of winter were like for millions of us.

Most of us (except for the folks in tents down behind our church) can nowadays romanticize the deepening cold and darkness of the next two months.

Robert Frost, as usual, describes best the realities of life here in late fall. I don't have any idea how often during the aftermath of leaf-peeping season, these words have come to me: "Not yesterday I learned to know the love of bare November days before the coming of the snow." They usually come to me during an afternoon walk with Kiki, especially after Halloween when the clocks fall back and we have to be out of the woods by four-thirty.

"After Apple-Picking" says it best: the rush of work to get everything sorted and in the barn before winter; the drudgery of thousands of apples to be cared for one by one; the impending darkness; the sleepiness induced and deepened by a sense of the year's dark ending, and the return of life not yet suggested by lengthening days.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"AUTUMN THERAPY!"

## MEETING MEMO

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Wednesday, October 22</b><br>Greensboro Select Board,<br>fourth Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.   | Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.   |
| <b>Tuesday, November 4</b><br>Cabot Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.<br>Craftsbury Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.<br>Marshfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.<br>OSSU Board, first Tuesday of the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU Central Office, Hardwick. | <b>Thursday, November 6</b><br>Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.  |
| <b>Wednesday, November 5</b><br>Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.<br>Wolcott Select Board, first  | <b>Town Clerks</b><br>Cabot: <a href="http://cabotvt.us">cabotvt.us</a><br>Calais: <a href="http://calaisvermont.gov">calaisvermont.gov</a><br>Craftsbury: <a href="http://townofcraftsbury.com">townofcraftsbury.com</a><br>Greensboro: <a href="http://greensborovt.gov">greensborovt.gov</a><br>Hardwick: <a href="http://hardwickvt.org">hardwickvt.org</a><br>Marshfield: <a href="http://town.marshfield.vt.us">town.marshfield.vt.us</a><br>Plainfield: <a href="http://plainfieldvt.us">plainfieldvt.us</a><br>Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net<br>Walden: <a href="http://waldenvt.gov">waldenvt.gov</a><br>Wolcott: <a href="http://wolcottvt.org">wolcottvt.org</a><br>Woodbury: <a href="http://woodburyvt.org">woodburyvt.org</a> |

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# WEEKS GONE BY

20 years ago in the Hardwick Gazette, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005

## Railtrail hike offers stunning vistas and misuse by Nathan Mercier

HARDWICK – Exhausted after hiking from St. Johnsbury for two days on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Kevin Russel stopped in Hardwick Tuesday night, drained but enthusiastic. His mission was to hike from St. Johnsbury to Swanton along the entire length of the 96-mile long corridor in support of plans to turn it into a four season recreational trail.

Russel, 50, of Waitsfield, completed the task Saturday in five days, 3 hours and 9 minutes. During the trip he lost 9 pounds of body weight.

He was accompanied by photo-journalist and friend Francis Moran during portions of the trek. The two left St. Johnsbury at 10:39 a.m. on Oct. 17 with a warm sendoff from town officials and local residents. On the second night out they ended up at the Kimball House Bed and Breakfast on Glenside Avenue.

“It was great fun to have them,” said Kimball House owner Sue Holmes. “They seemed to be really on a quest to learn everything they can about what people want and what their desires are for the trail. It was really nice to meet someone with that kind of dedication.”

Holmes said Moran injured his foot and opted to act as travel support for Russel in lieu of making the entire trip on foot himself. She later took them to the Hardwick Historical Society depot and said they were very interested in Hardwick and the history of communities along the trail route.

Aside from being an avid hiker, Russell is the chair of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council and was appointed project manager for the St. Johnsbury Three Rivers Transportation Path, which is being planned. He had to obtain permission from the Vermont Agency of Transportation and Engineers Construction, the contractor working on the line, to conduct his hiking adventure. He also had to sign a release from liability form while construction is ongoing.

In a telephone interview Monday, Russell said he averaged 20 miles a day and the trip went

as well as he expected it would. Despite the rough condition of the rail bed, he said, the hike was all worth the effort.

“It was stunningly beautiful in so many places,” he said. “At every turn, we saw a new vista, which took our breath away.

“We were blessed with fantastic weather. It rained Monday and Tuesday but it was delightful hiking in the rain.”

Russell said he approves of having the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers as the primary agency managing the trail system, but he feels the support of the many communities along the trail is required to truly make the project successful. He said VAST’s primary interest in the four-season trail is for motorized winter recreation.

“It will really require community effort at every turn to make it (work),” he said. “It’s going to take more than VAST and more than the state to make this thing a reality.”

Currently, the project to remove the rail ties is still underway and due to liability concerns the general public is asked to stay clear of the path for the time being. Russell said roughly 99 percent of the entire distance is very passable on foot, but there are some washouts and debris, making it unsafe for most people.

Part of the incentive behind the trip was to speak with people along the way and gather opinions about the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail project. Russell first got the idea for the trek after attending a recent public meeting on the matter in Morrisville where over 50 people from the surrounding area attended for a presentation and discussion on the project. He spoke with a sampling of locals along the trail route.

“I got a good earful on ATVs and the concerns people have for their use on the trail,” he said. “I learned many of the landowners are not afraid that the ATVs will ruin the trail. They are concerned it provides access for all kinds of open lands that these people are worried will be used (for ATV use).”

A few other people he spoke to hoped the corridor would have been used once again as a railway system, he said, but they preferred the planned use instead of it being

used for nothing.

Russell said his trip was curiously quiet the whole way; he met only five people on the trail itself, there were only three stores within a short walking distance and he came across only two ATVs. One of the ATVs was used by an inspector for the construction project and another was a man out looking for a good hunting spot who claimed he didn’t know the track was there, he said. ATV use is prohibited on the LVRT as well as state owned land.

Along the way, Russell said he also stopped and hiked several other connecting paths in various areas. On the other end of the state, in the town of Highgate, he said he hiked the River Walk Trail and was appalled to find it had been “absolutely trashed” by ATVs. He said he’s been fairly open-minded about ATV use but after witnessing the damage they caused he lost his patience.

Portions of the trail were all torn up and muddy from the tires and he doesn’t understand how the community and ATV users allowed the damage to occur.

“I photographed evidence of terrible environmental degradation caused by ATVs,” he said, adding he was considering writing to the Agency of Natural Resources to report a water quality violation. “ATVs are terrific tools for when work needs to be done but as a recreational activity I think it’s unsportman-like and unnecessary.

## 45 years ago in the Hardwick Gazette, Tuesday Oct. 21, 1980

### Good crowd turns out for clinical dedication

U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy and well over 100 people came out on Saturday morning to participate in the formal dedication of the new Hardwick Health Center.

The renovation of the old brick hospital building cost \$93,000 and was completed about a month ago. The project was financed with a loan from the Farmers Home Administration after the Hardwick Hospital Association gave a long-term lease on the building to Northern Counties Health Care Inc. which runs four other health centers in the Northeast Kingdom.

The health center had been

located in the wooden building next to the brick hospital building for roughly six years. That building has now been moved down to the other end of the hospital property on High Street, and is for sale.

The main floor of the brick building has been renovated for the office and emergency room of the health center. The basement level is being used for offices of the Northeast Kingdom Mental Health Service, the Caledonia Home Health Agency and the Vermont Children’s Aid Society.

John des Groseillers, president of the Northern Counties Health Centers Inc., welcomed the gathering to the ceremonies, which took place on the front steps of the health center shortly before it began to rain.

Larry Urie, president of the Hardwick Hospital Association, spoke briefly and said the association is pleased with the landlord-tenant relationship it has worked out with Northern Counties.

David Reynolds, executive director of Northern Counties Health Centers Inc., introduced Sen. Leahy and praised him for the leadership role he has raked in the area of rural health care. Leahy was the author of federal legislation which provides Medicare and Medicaid funds for the services of nurse practitioners and physicians assistants in rural health clinics, which has helped create more federal support for Northern Counties clinics in Hardwick, Greensboro, Danville, Concord and Island Pond.

## 100 years ago in the Hardwick Gazette, Oct. 22, 1925

### Local Lumps

The selectmen have a gang of men in charge of R.S. Hooper, engaged in cutting out the brush and trees along the north side of the river bank from Mrs. Blanche Kent’s property, just below the Cottage Street iron bridge, along down the river to a point just below the granite manufacturing plants. This will be a great preventative to causing the ice blockades of the past, by giving the ice and water a more direct and wider channel. It will not only do that, but it makes the property on that side of the river look a great deal better.



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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Will Vermont grads be left behind in financial literacy?

by John Pelletier

BURLINGTON – In six short years, 73% of high school graduates from 30 states will have to take a semester-long personal finance course that covers the subject thoroughly to graduate.

After high school, these financially literate young people will use their personal finance education every day of their lives. They will have the tools and knowledge to manage their money: how to earn it, spend it and save it.

Without regulatory or legislative action, Vermont students won't be among these fortunate 11 million high school students, because, unlike them, they will NOT be required to take this course. And that will be a shame.

To thrive in this increasingly complex financial world, young people will need to budget and manage their income carefully. They must understand compound interest, and how not to misuse credit.

They must be knowledgeable about rents, mortgages, savings, investments, and insurance. They will have to deal with new financial products like crypto, online investing, peer-to-peer payment methods, buy-now-pay-later programs, and other new financial technology products.

They also will face attempts at identity theft and other fraud schemes from numerous online sources, including social media, texts, email, and websites. A July 2025 Pew Research Center survey indicates that about one-quarter of 18 to 29 year olds say they've lost money in this way, compared with 15% of those 65 and older.

Without such a critical high school course, will Vermont's high school graduates be unprepared to handle financial independence? Will they be left behind by their peers in other states?

Vermont students are supposed to be getting this education, as their high schools are required to provide personal finance instruction consistent with national standards adopted by the Vermont State Board of Education in 2018.

But a March 2025 report issued by Next Gen Personal Finance indicates that only one out of five high school students in our state graduate from a high school that requires students to take a personal finance course prior to graduation.

This report and other studies show that if personal finance education is left to local control, the wealthiest and least diverse school districts are much more

likely to require a standalone course than districts educating those students who need personal finance education the most.

Vermont's 52 supervisory unions currently decide what their graduation standards should be, but this balkanized approach to what a Vermont high school diploma means is about to change.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2031, the recently passed education reform bill, Act 73, requires the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education to create statewide graduation standards for Vermont.

This is a golden opportunity for Vermont to include a guarantee that every one of the 6,000 students who graduate from public high schools annually will take a substantive standalone course in personal finance.

Numerous studies show that this education improves students financial capability by reducing credit defaults, increasing credit scores and improved management of college student loans. Studies also show that a full-semester course works much better than embedding these topics into other high school courses.

Contrast what's not happening in Vermont with how Utah handles this high school subject.

Utah has long led the nation in personal finance instruction. In 2003, the legislature passed the nation's first bill requiring high school students to complete a standalone financial literacy course. The Class of 2008 was the first to graduate under that mandate.

Two decades later, teachers, administrators and community partners continue to strengthen and improve financial education in Utah schools, preparing students with the knowledge and skills to budget, invest and manage credit with confidence. The state even established a Financial Education Hall of Fame in 2024 to spotlight leaders whose work transforms student lives, giving them life-changing skills.

Looking back at my own education growing up in Massachusetts, I can't say that I often used algebra or pre-calculus concepts. But had I been able to study personal finance, I know I would have been using that knowledge every day. I was fortunate to learn what I needed to know about money after high school, but not everyone has access to these opportunities.

Moreover, this 2024 Tyton Partners study shows that the national average lifetime benefit of taking a personal finance course in

high school is \$100,000 and is estimated to be \$94,000 in Vermont.

In response, the Champlain College Center for Financial Literacy has Created a free online, on-demand personal finance training program that is open to all Vermonters, despite being geared toward educators. This program, the Vermont Financial Literacy Virtual Academy is available from October 1 to January 31, 2026. We also completed a film, "Will Vermont Students be Left Behind?," that anyone can access. The film reviews the state of personal finance education today and we hope it can

change minds and spur regulatory action.

Next spring, the Center for Financial Literacy will issue its sixth nation report card on the states, in terms of how each state performs in personal finance education. You can read the Center's 2023 Report Card and 2025 Interim Report Card on our website. It is my fervent hope that in a future report Vermont will be moving up from its C grade in previous report cards to the A grade our young people need and deserve.

*John Pelletier is director of the Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College.*



Katherine (left) and Jeff Sims (right) stand on the Vermont Statehouse lawn with their sons Wyatt (bottom left) and Hayden (bottom right) in Montpelier this past Saturday, Oct. 18, for the No Kings Day 2 event that occurred nationwide.

photo by Raymonda Parchment

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# OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## Bailey Shepard's firefighting dream comes true

by VSAC Staff

HARDWICK – Bailey Shepard vividly remembers the sense of belonging he felt the first time he put on a firefighter's helmet. It was a weekend day, and his family was at the Berlin Mall. Out in the parking lot, the fire department had brought trucks and tankers for kids to see up close. Shepard eagerly slipped on a firefighter's coat and helmet. "It felt amazing," he recalled. "I still have a picture of that. I instantly knew that's where I belonged."

Many departments allow recruits as young as 16. "I joined the minute I could," he said.

Shepard showed up at the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department, ready to work as a junior firefighter. "Junior means you're the gofer, getting things from the truck," he explained.

Shepard spent those first two years hauling equipment and learning the ropes before earning his spot as a senior firefighter. "Senior Firefighters are more involved in the scene. It could be anything from a smoke detector going off with nothing happening to an emergency response for a flood."

A few years before he was able to join the fire department, Shepard attended a Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) leadership retreat at Vermont State University Lyndon. Offered by Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC), the SEED Training Leadership Program focuses on building skills like teamwork and resilience. It was through SEED that Shepard was motivated to keep building his abilities and his confidence.

"SEED training inspired me quite a bit," Shepard said. "A lot of leadership is needed in firefighting and EMS work. In EMS you're the

one in charge of a patient. That program helped me build more leadership skills."

Shepard's VSAC outreach program counselors, Michelle Legere and Lindsay Carpenter, worked with him through high school, helping him plan for a possible pathway to college. For a while Shepard thought he might go into music education. He played trombone and several other instruments, but eventually his passion for emergency response took over.

While in high school, he also completed construction technology training at Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, earning certifications and credits that gave him options after graduation.

"He is such a helper," noted Michelle. "He's been a devoted volunteer and community member from day one. I remember these business cards he made, advertising Shepard's Helping Service. It really speaks to who he is, this great person who is always there and always helping others."

In July 2023, as with many of his fellow first responders, Shepard found himself swimming through floodwater, checking on stranded vehicles. The night started with a call about a tree on a powerline and escalated as the storms overwhelmed local rivers. "You never know what's coming," Shepard said. "The whole night, we must have had 12 or more calls. . . That's a lot for a volunteer department."

In one case, a propane tank floated downriver, propelled near a home by the raging waters. Shepard suited up in full gear with a self-contained breathing apparatus to make sure the scene was safe.

That December, there was another flood in Wolcott. Shepard and another firefighter swam through the Lamoille River to reach a car stuck on Elmore Pond Road. "Someone came to the fire station saying there was a car flagging people down for help. We responded. I went in with someone else. We had to swim through the water to go rescue them."

The floods were a landmark moment for Shepard and stand out to this day as his "why": it's the response work that resonates most with him and fuels his passion. Each call brings a different challenge; "You never know if it's a stubbed toe or a house fully on fire," he says.

Three-and-a-half years into firefighting, Shepard earned his EMT license and added ambulance calls to his schedule. "I knew I wanted that," he says. After a free EMT class, he joined Hardwick Rescue, where he's now volunteered for almost two years. He also serves with Woodbury Fire & Rescue, which covers both fire and EMS.

All of this work is carried out by volunteers. "Radios and pagers are always on me. Phone too. For Hardwick Rescue I have shifts. Woodbury I'm always on call," Shepard said.



At the Wolcott Fire Department, Hardwick's Bailey Shepard holds the letter of commendation to him from Vermont Governor Phil Scott for his work during flood response. *courtesy photo*

"But we're volunteers, and some days we don't have coverage, and the call goes to a different department, further away. We're always recruiting more people. We need them."

On top of his two volunteer roles, Shepard works full-time as crew at Smugglers' Notch Resort, doing maintenance and a variety of support tasks.

Today, Shepard's goal is clear: he hopes to turn his volunteer service into a full-time career as a firefighter and EMT. "I'd love to do it full time. I'm just waiting for one to open up somewhere," he says.

Through it all, he credits the support and leadership development he received from his VSAC Outreach Counselors and the SEEDS program. "A big part of the job is taking charge in emergency response situations. I use those leadership skills I built with VSAC almost every day," he shared.

And even after long nights and unpredictable calls, Shepard still finds his greatest joy in sharing the excitement with kids. "It's the best feeling in the world," he said. "Showing a kid around a fire truck, in the back of an ambulance, putting the helmet on them. Their smiles are so big. If you have tough days, that's what you have to go do." It's a full-circle moment for Shepard, whose own path began with that same early encounter.

The Vermont Student Assistance Corp. was created by the Vermont Legislature in 1965 as a public nonprofit agency. It advocates for Vermont students and their families to ensure they have the tools they need to achieve their education and training goals. VSAC grant, scholarship and workforce development programs create opportunity, help students re-skill or learn new skills and grow the economy. VSAC's loan and loan forgiveness programs provide competitive education financing to students and families. Visit [vsac.org](http://vsac.org) for visit more information



Bailey Shepard responds to help the occupant of a flooded vehicle in July 2023. *courtesy photo*



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# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Regift grace every day

by The Rev. Joe Welker

EAST CRAFTSBURY – In the Gospel of Luke, some Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus, “Why do you eat with sinners?” To which Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:30-32)

It is no coincidence that Jesus, then, ate with the Pharisees, calling them to repentance. “Why do I eat with sinners? Well, don’t you want me to eat with you?” The elites of their society, Jesus was the spiritual doctor to those deeply infected by the status game.

When I lived in Los Angeles in my early twenties, I was chasing the entertainment industry ladder. In the comedy world, you were supposed to be selective about where you were seen and by who. Book the right people on your show and be booked by the right people, help those who can help you. You didn’t want to be really friendly with anyone unless you knew they were funny or cool. Of course, the tragedy from my perspective was that I wasn’t that cool or talented myself, and so many of the in-crowd didn’t want to be friends with me either.

It was, by all accounts, exactly that way in the ancient world. In Jesus’ time, the air they breathed and water they swam in were hierarchical relationships. One thing that always prevented genuine relationships between the poor and the rich was that gifts were always understood not as gifts, but as covert agreements. Strings were always attached for a reciprocal benefit. And so not only would the poor never be invited to the nice banquets, but the high-status would also never accept things from

someone of lesser status because you knew you would be obligated to them. It wouldn’t put you on their level, it would put you under the bottom, indebted to them. For an elite, that could be catastrophic for your social life.

I’m afraid we all still do this to some extent; we want social events with people we think will be of our class or status or higher, not with people who aren’t like us. Usually, we like to put a veneer of a higher purpose behind our social hierarchical decisions.

For Rome, it might have been to help sustain the empire, stability, nobility, virtue. In the Ivy League and at hedge funds, it’s about class, an intellectual bar, an elite aura that needs to be maintained. In our churches, it might be to protect our idea of what godly people are supposed to be like, act like, speak like, think like and vote like.

And then comes Jesus. And he says no, no, no, especially to the godly people. No, take all your supposed higher value reasons and excuses as to why you maintain your social hierarchies and throw them all out the window. Take the idea that you only help people who help you, only befriend people who are cool and socially suave, tell the good jokes at the party, donate the most to the fundraisers and forget all that. In fact, because that is such a natural instinct for all of us, what we really need to do is the opposite.

Because the will of God wants the exact opposite of all our fake reasons. Does God value the stability of the empire over uplifting the poor? No.

Does God value elitism, nobility, building a successful business or career, over the values of loving your neighbor as if they were worth the exact same as you to yourself? Of course not.

Is the way of God like our human ways, only giving people things they can give back to him? That is a bigger joke than any that I ever told. We give each other things for repayment, with no such thing as a free lunch.

For God, it’s always and only a free lunch, beginning with literally a meal, bread and wine.

Jesus is telling us that to get a mere taste of the kingdom, we have to give like God gives: with absolutely no expectation or hope that we will get it back. Why? Because that is what God has done for us. With every single thing in our lives, our health (to the extent that we have it), our wealth (to the extent that we have it), our family, our very breath, our so-called right beliefs about politics and religion, it was all given to us.

God gave it to us knowing we could never pay it back. But we can do as Jesus did, in the words of scholar Joel Green, and “collapse the distance between rich and poor, insider and outsider,” treating outsiders as family, lifting up the poor, giving with no strings or calculations.

This isn’t just all about our ego and our internal life. Nothing in the Christian life is. This isn’t just about being humble, nice or how we internally see ourselves or our personal journey.

The imperative is that we take that internal posture and go outward and do something to help our neighbor.

We are called to go to the places and people that society says are least honorable, just as God took a place of least honor. God, appearing as a mere man, with a fragile human body, who could be hurt, humiliated and ultimately crucified. God himself took

the lowest seat in his universe: a construction worker from Galilee.

Jesus is telling us that to be pleasing in God’s eye, and to delight in the things he delights in, to love what God loves and reject what God rejects, begins by humbling and lowering ourselves just as he humbled and lowered himself, giving in the same spirit as the grace he gives us: to those who need it the most, to those who can do nothing to repay us and in a way that means something to us.

Ah, yeah, that’s one last challenging ingredient here: we are called to give real sacrifices. A true sacrifice costs something, whether that’s your pride, your wallet, your time or something else.

Plus, Jesus tells us it’s not a true sacrifice if you give so you can be paid back. It’s a true sacrifice if you do things for people who can’t repay you. That is exactly what Christ did on the cross. He gave where it hurts, with no strings attached, knowing there is no way we could pay him back.

The devout Baptist and legendary University of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith would not only write plays on his chalkboard for his national champion teams, but a reminder: “Do something every day for someone who can’t repay you.”

We could do a lot worse as Christians than that.

Do something every day for someone who can’t repay you. It can’t be enough to repay God, but it’s the regifting he loves; it’s regifting grace.

The Rev. Joe Welker serves the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. More of his writing can be found on [indwelling.net](http://indwelling.net).

## Heller’s World by Joe Heller



**HOLISTIC WELLNESS and PSYCHIC EXPO**  
**Saturday, November 1**  
**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**Raffle to benefit**  
**Lamoille Area Cancer Network**  
**Reiki • Massage • Bodywork**  
**Sound Healing • Essential Oils**  
**Aura Photos • Tarot or Angel Card Readings**  
**Astrology • Individual Medium Sessions**  
**and more!**  
**HAZEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL**  
**HARDWICK**  
**Vendors contact Monica at**  
**[monicalmorrisey@gmail.com](mailto:monicalmorrisey@gmail.com)**

# ANOTHER OPINION

## Douglass deeply disappointing, caused harm

by Rep. Leanne Harple

GLOVER – It has been deeply disappointing to witness Senator Sam Douglass' lack of accountability, for the role he played in the racist and hateful text thread shared among members of the Young Republicans that was exposed last week. I stood with Governor Phil Scott, Senate Minority Leader Scott Beck and the delegation of Orleans County Republican legislators in unequivocally calling for his immediate resignation, which he has thankfully now submitted.

I am glad that, in the end, he did the right thing.

However, even in his apology and statement of resignation, he seems to show very little understanding or acknowledgment for the serious harm that he has caused. There is no place for racism in our state or in our State House. As elected leaders, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards of respect for all people. When we engage in, or even tacitly tolerate acts of racism,

hate speech or intolerance, even in jest, we erode public trust and undermine the dignity of all those we serve. I hold this belief to be true regardless of party affiliation.

I can say that I know and have worked with Senator Douglass professionally and will freely admit that I consider his commitment to public service to be genuine and sincere. Taking the time to recognize the humanity of someone and their mistakes, especially someone you know as a human being and fellow community member, can make holding people accountable less comfortable.

While I firmly do not believe that Senator Douglas has demonstrated the maturity required for public office, I can acknowledge his past dedication to his work, and have empathy for the difficult circumstances he and his family now face.

Additionally, as someone who also shares his love for this work, I have sympathy for everything that he now stands to lose because of his own poor choices.

He and his wife should not be made to feel threatened or unsafe. Now that Senator Douglass has resigned, we should allow him the dignity to exit quickly and quietly.

I believe it is worth bringing up, however, that what Senator Douglass is now facing is, in many ways, a reflection of a broader reckoning that we all must face as a country. It should not surprise any of us that, when we uplift public figures who villainize foreigners and mock minorities, people with disabilities and anyone deemed other, when we celebrate podcasters and influencers who pass off sexist or racist commentary as free speech, or when we tolerate such messages on T-shirts displayed openly in community spaces, public events and in front of children, we cultivate an America where that kind of behavior becomes normalized.

I find it disingenuous to act surprised now that new generations of leaders are trying to emulate that which so many in our country idolize.

We all share responsibility for

calling out racism and intolerance wherever it appears and at all levels of government.

Much has been said in the last few weeks about turning down the temperature. It's time for us to come together, bridge divides and truly turn it down by collectively saying no more.

Finally, as a teacher, I do not believe anyone is beyond growth. I do not wish to see Senator Douglass's life or future destroyed by his poor choices. If he truly loves the Northeast Kingdom as much as he says he does, I hope this becomes a time of deep reflection and personal growth, so that someday he may serve his community again, perhaps in another capacity, with greater understanding and humility.

In this moment, I hope we can all move forward toward a more respectful, inclusive and positive future for the Northeast Kingdom.

*Leanne Harple represents Orleans District 4 with Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro in the Vermont House.*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Frightening fungi

by Meg Madden

VERMONT – October and fall mushroom season is upon us, and plenty of Vermont fungi are adding to the spooky Halloween vibes.

While carved jack o'lanterns are lighting porches and front steps, their mushroom counterparts illuminate the forests with an eerie glow. The bright pumpkin orange *Omphalotus illudens*, or Eastern Jack O' Lantern Mushroom, is bioluminescent. Amazingly, the gills of this species emits a faint green light that can be seen on the darkest of nights. The light



*Shaggy Mane*

is produced by an enzyme called luciferase, the same type of chemical responsible for bioluminescence in fireflies. You can find these large, showy mushrooms growing in dense clusters on hardwood stumps and buried, decaying tree roots. Foragers hunting for edibles such as Chicken of the Woods and Chanterelles should be careful not to confuse them with the poisonous jack o' lantern mushroom. Though not deadly, consumption can cause severe gastrointestinal symptoms that can last several days.

This month, the ghostly white forms of Shaggy Mane Ink Caps

(*Coprinus comatus*) may be haunting a lawn near you. Particularly abundant after rain, these cylindrical mushrooms can seemingly appear out of nowhere and disappear just as quickly. Ink cap mushrooms undergo a self-digestion process called deliquescence, whereby they turn themselves into inky, black goo. The spores of shaggy manes, otherwise trapped deep inside the bell-shaped caps, are exposed to air currents as the mushrooms melt themselves from the bottom up. This species can go from pristine white to a black puddle on the grass in as little as 24 hours. Ink cap mushroom ink can actually be used for writing and drawing. The illustrations in the book *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake were created using the ink from shaggy mane mushrooms.

It's not difficult to see how Dead Man's Fingers (*Xylaria polymorpha*) got its name. The slender, crusty, charcoal gray to black mushrooms of this macabre-looking fungus resemble creepy corpse fingers in a spine-chilling movie. Though often found growing singly or in small groups on decaying logs, sticks, and wood mulch, they occasionally appear in larger numbers, zombie apocalypse-style, as though the hands of the undead are clawing



*Dead Man's Fingers*

their way out of the forest floor. As frightening as that may sound, Dead Man's Finger fungus is actually quite beneficial, happily going about its important job as a decomposer. As critical members of nature's recycling crew, fungi such as *Xylaria polymorpha* play an essential role in forest ecology. Without them, wood would never decay, we would be buried deep in piles of dead trees, and valuable nutrients would be locked up and unavailable to other organisms. Now that's scary.

*Meg Madden is a staff member at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.*



*Eastern American Jack o' Lantern*

# IN THE GARDEN

## Dan Urban was influential landscape architect

by Nadie VanZandt

PANTON – Dan Urban Kiley (1912–2004), who lived and worked in Charlotte, is recognized as one of the most influential figures in modern landscape architecture. He was best known for his disciplined, formalist designs that combined classical order with modernist clarity.

Kiley was born in Boston in 1912. He began his career as an apprentice to Warren H. Manning, an associate of Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture. From 1936 to 1938 he studied at Harvard’s landscape architecture program but left before completing his degree, rejecting the Beaux-Arts curriculum in favor of a modernist approach that emphasized clarity, geometry, and contemporary design.

During World War II, Kiley served in the U.S. Army in Europe. His design skills led him to the presentation branch of the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA, where he eventually



One of Kiley’s iconic modern landscape designs, this garden is part of the Miller House, now a part of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

courtesy of Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

became director of the design staff. Following the war, he was commissioned to design the courtroom for the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

Time in Europe left a deep impression on him, particularly the formal gardens of the Palace

of Versailles in France created by André Le Nôtre. Le Nôtre’s use of geometric grids, axial alignments, tree-lined allées, and expansive tapis verts inspired Kiley to reinterpret these classical principles for modern landscapes.

After the war, Kiley established his practice, first in New Hampshire and then in Vermont. At his East Farm home-studio in Charlotte, he produced more than a thousand projects worldwide, often in collaboration with renowned architects such as I. M. Pei, Louis Kahn, and Eero Saarinen.

Some of his most celebrated works include the grounds of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Lincoln Center in New York City, and the South Garden at the Art Institute of Chicago. Each illustrates his hallmark style of simple, geometric landscapes shaped with a restrained palette of grass, gravel, concrete and carefully massed plantings. Kiley also used water as a design element with fountains and reflecting pools to integrate seamlessly with architecture.

In Vermont, Kiley consulted for Middlebury College and the University of Vermont. He designed the landscapes of the Currier Farm in Danby, the Twin Farms Resort in Barnard and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

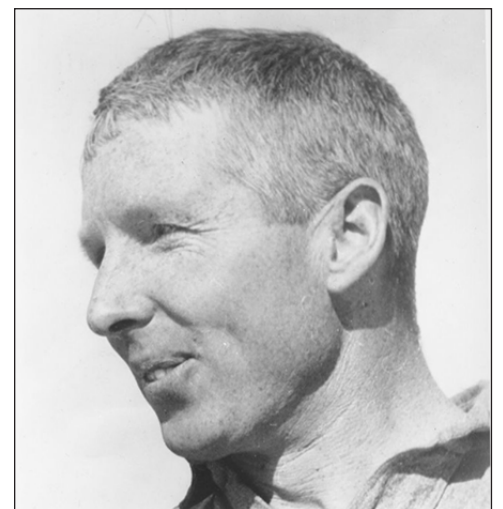
in Burlington. The cathedral complex, with its distinctive grid of trees and contemplative outdoor space, stood as one of Vermont’s most important modernist landscapes until its demolition in 2025, an event that underscored the fragility of living landscapes when neglected.

A devastating fire at Kiley’s East Farm home destroyed many of his original drawings and slides, creating a significant gap in the record of his design process. Fortunately, a substantial archive of plans and drawings survives at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.

Kiley’s contributions earned him widespread recognition. He was elected to the National Academy of Design in 1963, received the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture in 1987, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1996, and was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1997. In 2002, he received the National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Kiley died at East Farm in 2004. His legacy endures in both Vermont’s landscapes and in civic spaces around the world. At its core, his philosophy was simple yet profound: geometry should clarify, not dominate, and plant masses, water and light should define a place. His landscapes remain an inspiration for designers and a source of quiet, enduring beauty for all who experience them.

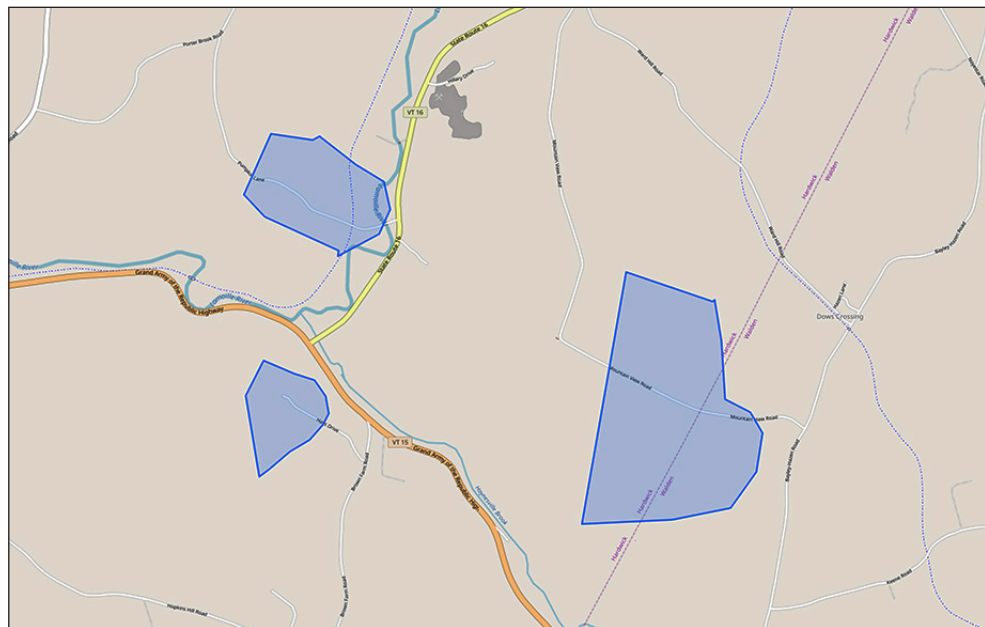
Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from Pantton.



An early photo of landscape architect Dan Urban Kiley, ca. 1947.

courtesy of the National Park Service

## BUSINESS BRIEFS



New NEK Broadband service areas in Hardwick near Vt. Rtes. 15 and 16, and a small part of Walden are marked by blue polygons on this map..

NEK Broadband courtesy map

### NEK Broadband opens up new service areas

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Residents on the end of Pumpkin Lane nearest to Vt. Rte. 16, a section of Mountainview Road on the border with Walden and the far end of Hays Drive, now have high speed, fiber-optic broadband internet service available through NEK Broadband, the nonprofit, public internet utility.

NEK Broadband said those

who’ve already ordered a service package will be contacted soon to schedule their installation. Others in those areas, or elsewhere, can check for service and sign up to be notified when it’s available at [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org).

“If you have had underground conduit placed on your property please call customer service at (877)-635-3423 and let us know so we can schedule you for installation,” the company’s notice said.

### OUR E-MAILS

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

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Town seeks public input, Nov. 5

**HARDWICK** – The Town of Hardwick will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m., on the third floor of Memorial Building to share draft concepts for improving safety and accessibility along Mill Street and Main Street. The study examines ways to enhance pedestrian safety,

traffic flow and downtown access. The November 5 presentation will highlight proposed options and invite community feedback to help determine which solutions move forward into design and funding. Meeting links will be posted at [hardwickvt.gov](http://hardwickvt.gov) or phone (802) 472-1686 for more information.



The Mill Street sidewalk in Hardwick, with uneven footing and limited accessibility, next to the public parking area across from the Buffalo Mountain Market, is one of several locations identified as needing safety improvements. photo by Shari Cornish



Don Houghton (from left) presents Seth Bond's building-scape of the east side of Craftsbury Common to Hyla and Emily Thompson, who had their winning ticket drawn in a Craftsbury Historical Society raffle. Bond donated the painting for the fund-raising campaign. courtesy photo

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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:

- Arte y Diseño de Medios Creativos
- Construcción
- Redes informáticas y ciberseguridad
- Calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado
- Pre-Tecnología
- Tecnología Eléctrica
- 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](mailto:eremmers@gmtcc.net)

James Chartrand- Apoyos Estudiantiles & Coordinador 504  
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 Hyde Park, VT 05655  
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[jchartrand@gmtcc.net](mailto: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:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Creative Media Art & Design            | Construction            |
| Computer Networking & Cyber Security   | HVAC                    |
| Pre-Technology                         | Electrical Technology   |
| 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  
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 Hyde Park, VT 05655  
 (802) 851-1570  
[eremmers@gmtcc.net](mailto: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](mailto:jchartrand@gmtcc.net)

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Fire extinguisher training, Oct. 25

CRAFTSBURY – October 25, at 11 a.m., the Craftsbury Fire Department and the Craftsbury Public Library will be holding training on fire extinguisher usage. Assistant Fire Chief Steve Perkins will explain different types of fires and fire extinguishers to the group. This

program will be held at the Craftsbury Public Library. There will be a hands-on component to the training, where participants will get the opportunity to use a fire extinguisher and experience how it works. For more information, contact the library at (802) 586-9683.

## Early literacy workshop, Oct. 25

CRAFTSBURY – Saturday, Oct. 25, beginning at 9 a.m., librarians Susan O’Connell and Paula Davidson will host a free one-hour workshop on early literacy for parents and caregivers of babies and toddlers at the Craftsbury Public Library.

Free childcare will be provided in the children’s room. Participants will learn how to support young

children in developing the six foundational skills for future reading success: print motivation, vocabulary, print awareness, narrative skills, phonological awareness and letter knowledge.

The librarians will talk about simple ways to promote learning of each skill, showcase library books related to each and offer free books to share with a child at home.

Pre-registration is necessary for childcare during the workshop and can be done in person at the Library or by phone at (802) 586-9683.

# EDUCATION



New staff at the Lakeview Early Education Center for preschool area children ages 3-5 are (from left) front row, Instructional Assistant Isabel Duran Villarroel; Classroom Teacher Jen Keppel; HeadStart Co-Teacher Amber Stowell; Instructional Assistant Dawn Parker; Classroom Teacher Juliana Greene; Food Service Alison Donna; back row, Instructional Assistant Renee Holbrook; NEKCA Inclusion Coordinator Jen Bradley; Instructional Assistant Natalie Potter; UVM Social Work Intern Indira Dzano; Instructional Assistant Jessica Boyd. Missing from the photo are Special Educator Ishanna Smith and Head Start Site Manager Lee Ann Lee. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Peaceful ICE demonstration

ST. ALBANS – A peaceful demonstration in support of human rights will be held on Monday, Oct. 27, from noon to 2 p.m., with a procession from Taylor Park to ICE headquarters, 1.3 miles each way. There will be peacekeepers and local police presence to ensure that this will be a peaceful event.

The protest is being organized by Justice For All, which is part of Indivisible Brattleboro. Indivisible members from all corners of Vermont as well as other supporters of human rights for migrants have been invited to attend.

Justice for All also supports impending Vermont legislation to ban the masking of ICE agents, their use of unmarked vehicles, and require ICE and Homeland Security employees to wear identifying badges.



New staff at Woodbury Elementary School (from left) are UVM social work intern Indira Dzano, Behavior Specialist Harry Besett and Guidance Counselor Janet Sluzenski. Missing from the photo is grade-four and -five teacher Lisa Forbes.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

**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.**



# OBITUARIES

## Bronwyn H. Masse

GREENSBORO – Bronwyn H. Masse, 79, of Greensboro died peacefully, on Saturday, October 18, at the Union House Nursing Home in Glover, with family at her side.

She was born October 22, 1945, in Greensboro; the daughter of the late Herbert S. and Bronwyn

(Bevan) Potter.

A complete obituary will follow in a later edition of the newspaper.

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

## Julie Ellen Ackermann

CABOT – Julie Ellen Ackermann, 65, of Cabot, died at her home on Monday, October 13.

The oldest of six children, Julie was born on August 30, 1960, in Middletown, Conn., to Calvert and Patricia (Cronin) Foster, who later decided to settle in Vermont.

Julie graduated from Hazen Union High School in 1978 and, in 1979, married her high school sweetheart, Walt Ackermann of Cabot, where they raised their four children. Together, they worked at Foster Industries Inc. in Wolcott, a machine shop founded by Julie's father, and for several years owned and operated Harry's Hardware in Cabot, a store once owned and named after her Uncle Harry.

Julie found joy in her work and valued the friendship and community that came with it. Intrigued by small-town history, she was always eager to hear your story, make connections, and learn what brought you here. She appreciated the simple, meaningful things, loved a good yard sale and enjoyed giving antiques a new home.

Modest in her ways and generous in spirit, Julie lived to love, always greeting others with a warm hug. She will be remembered for her kindness, for providing a safe place to land, comfort food, a hot cup of coffee and honest conversation. She made the world a better place. Her greatest love was her family, who will hold tight to traditions and carry forward her gentle heart, unconditional love and joy for the holiday seasons.

She is survived by her husband, Walt; their four children, Kate (Tyler) Demas of Northfield,

Julie Ellen Ackermann

Ben Ackermann of Cabot, Scott (Angie) Ackermann of North Danville and Jill (Steven) Vilbrin of Cabot; six grandchildren, Abby, Ethan, Owen, Juniper, Shae and baby Weston Walter; her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Ackermann of Cabot; three siblings, Jayne Fradette of Morrisville, Scott (Ruth) Foster of Hardwick and Amy (Kevin) Smith of Woodbury; her sister-in-law, Sue Ackermann of Cabot; as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents and two brothers, Eugene Foster and Calvert Foster Jr.

Interment will be private at the Cabot Plains Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Cabot Historical Society or the Hardwick Historical Society. Arrangements are in care of des Grosseilliers Funeral Home. Condolences and memories of Julie may be shared with her family at [dgunerals.com](http://dgunerals.com).



# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Letters of interest sought for preserving building

HARDWICK – The Civic Standard is asking for letters of interest for the use of the building at 42 South Main St. Built circa 1860, the building is the oldest in Hardwick's downtown. It initially served as a hardware store, before becoming the headquarters of The Hardwick Gazette in 1908 and remaining so for more than a century. It is currently owned by The Civic Standard, which will be relocating by the end of the year.

Individuals, collectives and organizations interested in taking on the work required to save this building are encouraged

to submit a one- to two-page letter of interest by December 1. The review committee welcomes thoughtful, creative proposals for temporary and/or permanent building use that will benefit the Hardwick community. Applicants will be notified with a decision once all letters have been reviewed.

To learn more about the building and the letter of interest submission and review process, visit [thecivicstandard.org/about-7](http://thecivicstandard.org/about-7). Questions should be directed to Helen Sher at [helen@thecivicstandard.org](mailto:helen@thecivicstandard.org).

## Bennett talks about bats at library, Oct. 28

HARDWICK – Tuesday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m., the Jeudevine Memorial Library will present small mammals biologist Alyssa Bennett from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to talk about the varieties of bats in Vermont. Vermont is home to nine species of bats, each with their own unique habitat needs and threats. Bennett will talk about the research being conducted to battle disease and help populations rebound, and how Vermont is a national leader in bat conservation. Attendees will learn how to help bats in their own backyard, from putting up bat houses and keeping cavity trees to safely getting bats out of the home.

This event is free and open to the public in the Parker Ladd



Biologist Alyssa Bennett talks about bats during a Bat Week event at the Jeudevine Memorial Library, Tuesday, Oct. 26. *courtesy photo*

Community Room, 93 N. Main St. Call the library at (802) 472-5948 or visit our website for more information.



The Jeudevine Memorial Library and Galaxy Bookshop collaborated to bring authors of "The Vermont Farm to Table Cookbook," to Hardwick last Thursday for an author talk and recipe tasting. Chef Nora Rice, left, and her farmer sister Jenna Rice, collaborated on the book with more than 50 recipes that can be made entirely with Vermont ingredients, except for a little salt and oil.

*photo by Paul Fixx*

## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843

802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb  
Funeral Director

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Silverware Bouquet No. 9, 14"x18", Acrylic on Panel, 2025, Brent McCoy

## McCoy exhibit opens Nov. 15

GREENSBORO – Brent McCoy will have a solo exhibition, “Tricks of the Light” at the Highland Center for the Arts beginning Saturday, Nov. 15. An opening reception will be held on that day from 5 to 7 p.m., with refreshments and an artist talk. The exhibit runs through January 11, and features still life and landscape paintings from 2025, as well as a few earlier pieces.

## Next generation of ballet stars perform Nov. 3

LYNDON – The American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Studio Company will perform at the Lyndon Institute, Monday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. The Studio Company introduces audiences to young dancers and choreographers. As ambassadors for the American Ballet Theatre, the Studio Company tours international venues and has performed in London, Athens, Manila, Hong Kong, St. Petersburg and a wide variety of US performing arts centers, colleges and festivals.

ABT Studio Company programs feature a dynamic blend of favorites from the classical and neoclassical canons alongside contemporary and newly commissioned works, seeking to captivate audiences who are new to ballet and exhilarate longtime fans.

The company performs excerpts from the classical and neoclassical canons alongside contemporary pieces and commissions choreographers to create new ballets each season. Performances feature a wide variety of styles.

Tickets are on sale now. Student admission is free to St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute shows. To buy tickets or learn more, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org) or [kcppresents.org](http://kcppresents.org). Alternatively, call (802) 748-2600 or visit the Catamount Arts box office at 115 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury.

# Canada’s Hanson performs Nov. 16

PLAINFIELD – Lynne Hanson, “Canada’s Queen of Americana,” will be in concert, Sunday, Nov. 16, at 4 p.m., at the Plainfield Opera House.

Hanson’s brand of “porch music with a little red dirt” moves effortlessly from ballads to Americana. Hanson has released ten studio albums along with two books of poetry over her 19 year solo career. Along the way she’s won two Canadian Folk Music Awards, as well as the Colleen Peterson songwriting award. She’s toured extensively across North America, Europe and the UK, and appeared at leading international festivals. Her latest album, “Just A Poet,” was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award for



Lynne Hanson performs Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Plainfield Opera House. *courtesy photo*

Contemporary Album of the Year. Tickets are by donation, available in advance online at [plainfieldartsvt.org](http://plainfieldartsvt.org) and at the door. The opera house is located at 18 High St.

## 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		Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine			Adagio		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	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see below)	10 AM
11 AM		Sprouts	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 Townner		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	Adiogo		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 & Deiningner	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**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Audio Ergo Sum  
Darren & Ruby McElwain  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Groove  
Conni Mags

**#2: Sun 4–5 pm**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Afrosonic Taxi  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: Discoverances  
DJ Savannah

**#3: Sun 9–11 pm**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Walkin' Will: Show of Live  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: All Mixed Up

**#4: Mon 11 am–12 pm**  
1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Blluminations  
Stefanie Lingenfelter  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Cuneiform Radio  
Kyle Schlesinger  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Project Censored

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

**#6: Tue 9–10 am**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue: Alternative Radio  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**  
1<sup>st</sup> Thu: The Broken Boils  
Collective Presents...  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu: Into the Issues  
Steve Pappas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thu: Radio RoundUp  
CVCR hosts

**#9: Sat 9–10 am**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Gathering Peace  
Joseph Gainza  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Civic Radio Project  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Pollinator Report  
Emily Lanxner  
4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Kitchen Permaculture  
Rebecca Beidler

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

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# Celestial sounds from the Vermont Philharmonic

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Vermont Philharmonic came to the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro last Saturday afternoon and featured two masterpieces of classical music in their program: Mozart's "41st Symphony" and Holst's "The Planets."

Of all the arts, music seems to have reached levels of perfection most frequently, with beautiful melodies, rich harmonies, imaginative orchestration drawing on all the potentialities of the different instruments (including the human voice), intriguing rhythms, genuine emotion and drama, which then combine into a unified creation resonating in the deepest levels of our minds.

Many of Mozart's late works, from sonatas to string quartets, concertos, symphonies, and operas certainly fit this description. But also lesser-known composers as Holst in "The Planets," Elgar in "The Enigma Variations," Glazunov in "The Seasons" and Kodály in his "Peacock Variations", wrote memorable works where every

element seems exactly right.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791) finished his "Symphonie No. 41 in C Major, K.551", later named "The Jupiter," in the summer of 1788, and sadly it was his last contribution in that genre. It begins with an Allegro vivace movement in which he played with two delightful themes in a medium tempo, carried musically by all the strings but supported by the added textures of the woodwinds, brass and kettledrums. Conductor Lou Kosma's sensitive direction brought out the subtleties of the score very skillfully. The Andante cantabile that followed was slower and true to its indications (cantabile means singing) for in much of Mozart's music one often hears the human voice in the instrumentation. It had a particularly exquisite melody, though the second theme was somewhat darker in mood. The third section, a Menuetto Allegretto Trio, was another fine tune that soared upward with a stately dance rhythm, thoroughly engaging. The Finale: Molto allegro, built to a triumphant climax in which the power of the whole orchestra was involved, bringing in five intertwining themes in a monumental fugue worthy of Bach. Mozart was undoubtedly having fun pulling this one off.

The English composer Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934) wrote "The Planets, Op. 32" starting in 1914 and finishing in 1917, in the midst of the slaughter of World War I. For this piece, the Vermont Philharmonic increased its size from the 18th century scale orchestra for the Mozart symphony to some 73 musicians, adding many additional players to the brass and woodwind sections as well as more percussion, keyboards and a harp, in order to give the full volume of sound to the piece. The first of the seven planets that he wrote, just months before the break of World War I, in August of 1914, was for "Mars, The Bringer of War." Right from the first bars it had an appropriate military marching rhythm with an insistent loud beat that was totally dominant, reinforced by outbursts from the woodwinds and brass. This initial maelstrom built to a dramatic finish that clearly embodied death.

In complete juxtaposition the next planet was "Venus, The Bringer of Peace." Starting with a French horn then joined by flutes, horns and cello, the calm celestial melody took on another world of overwhelming beauty and love. Kosma conducted the orchestra at just the right tempo to express as much feeling as possible. "Mercury, the Winged Messenger," had different skipping rhythms at a faster speed that evoked a sense of flying, a much lighter ambience, sharing the elegant theme among all the instruments of the orchestra. "Jupiter, The Bringer of Jollity," brought forth the full strength of a wall of sound worthy of the subject,

with an upbeat theme and bold rhythm. Then in the middle of this section, Holst introduced a glorious melody that is quintessentially English, which some have found inconsistent with the rest of the work, but being so outstandingly memorable could be forgiven as entirely suitable for the highest god in the Greek and Roman pantheon.

"Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age" started off very slowly and quietly, with a muted rhythm which then metamorphosed into a louder and more ponderous beat, with fine first and second melodies having a number of lovely moments as it built to an apotheosis and wound down to the end. "Uranus, The Magician," began with a crash of brasses and kettle drums, a jumpy rhythm, accelerating to include all the instruments in masterful scoring. It is supposed to suggest the arc of human life from birth to youth and mortality.

The final planet to be given a musical description was the furthest away, "Neptune, The Mystic." Here Holst reached truly transcendental realms, with carefully paced momentum that takes us beyond the Earth to the infinite shelters of the universe. It was particularly powerful with the addition of a woman's chorus off stage, singing without words in an ethereal manner combined with the floating quality of the orchestra, creating a memorable ending to this work. The audience responded with a heartfelt standing ovation for this marvelous performance by the Vermont Philharmonic and its inspiring conductor, Lou Kosma.

## Cabot family dance, Nov. 2

CABOT – On Saturday, Nov. 2, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., the Cabot Community Dance will host a special dance for families. While all its events are family-friendly, this one will feature dances especially well-suited to the youngest members of the community. The teacher will be Erin Smith. Everyone is

welcome, and all dances are taught.

Admission is on a sliding scale. Water is provided, or bring a water bottle. Bring clean, dry shoes to change into if it's wet out that day. Email cabotdance@aroundvt.org with any questions. The dance will held in the Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St.



Rob Alcusky installs Ken Leslie's framed "Jeudevine Cycle — A Year in Hardwick" in the Jeudevine Memorial Library's lobby last week. It is a sister piece to "The Gold Dome Cycle" in Montpelier's State House collection. Alcusky's toroidal frames display the paintings as circular rings, which fold into wedge-shaped books. *courtesy photo*



Artist Ken Leslie (left) and frame maker Rob Alcusky, stand with Leslie's circular, accordion-folded artwork titled, "Jeudevine Cycle — A Year in Hardwick," following installation last week. Leslie's painting depicts an entire year as seen from a spot in Leslie's garden, with a new section painted every two weeks. It is displayed in Alcusky's frame as a circular ring. *courtesy photo*

*courtesy photo*

# EVENTS

## 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 SERIES**, 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 Fellowship Hall. Attendees will discuss the future of housing in Greensboro. Information: go to the

Headwaters Community Trust website.

**HISTORIC SITE UNVEILING**, at Overlook Park, corner of E. Main and Brick House Road, East Hardwick, 2:30 p.m. Reception following at the Grange Hall. The annual meeting of the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization will be held starting at 4 p.m.

**BLUEGRASS GOSPEL PROJECT**, 7:30 p.m., Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. Tickets at barreoperahouse.org or call (802) 476-8188.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER USEAGE TRAINING**, 11 a.m., Craftsbury Public Library. Information: (802) 586-9683.

**EARLY LITERACY WORKSHOP**, 9 a.m., Craftsbury Public Library. Free childcare provided. Pre-register for childcare at the Library or call (802) 586-9683.

## Sunday, Oct. 26

**FRENCH-CANADIAN DINNER**, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., hosted by Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, at St. Norberts Church, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick. Sing-along with Bernie Lussier and friends. Sponsored by the parish council and Catholic Financial Life Chapter N443 St. Jean.

## Wednesday, Oct. 29

**CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER** hosts Maura Adams of the Northern Forest Center to discuss how wood products and building reuse can be part of the housing solution, 7 to 8 p.m. Information: headwatersnek.org or treasurer@headwatersnek.org.

**ACT 73**, school redistricting community conversation, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Parker-Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., with Hazen Union and Mountain View school board members, Rep. Mike Southworth and Sen. Scott Beck.

## 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: jeudevine youthlibrarian@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. Information: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

**FRIENDS OF THE JEUDEVINE 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, Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, 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.

**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

See EVENTS, Next Page

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# EVENTS

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, 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, S. Main St., Hardwick.

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

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

**HARDWICK HAIKU CLUB,** every first Thursday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, 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, 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 & ACTIV-**

**ITY 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

**ANN YOUNG: PEOPLE AND TRAINS.** Oil paintings of people on and off trains. Parker Pie Art Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover, through November 25.

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



Equipment arrives at 36 Brush St. in preparation for demolition of the house and garage scheduled for Wednesday this week as a FEMA buyout following erosion of the bank of the Lamoille River on 2023 and 2024 flooding.

photo by Norma Spaulding



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Jola Otten (No. 5) of Caledonia United advances the ball up the field followed by Tanner Williams (No. 23) of BFA Fairfax during play in Danville October 17. Caledonia United won 6-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United's Eli Russell (No. 3) shields the ball from BFA Fairfax defenders Sean Fletcher (center) and Tanner Williams (right) during action, October 17, in Danville. Caledonia United beat BFA Fairfax 6-0 and end their regular season undefeated at 14-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Cal United boys finish off perfect regular season

by Ken Brown

WELLS RIVER – The Caledonia United boys soccer team secured the program's first ever undefeated regular season (14-0) under head coach Peter Stratman last week with lopsided victories over Blue Mountain and BFA-Fairfax.

Sam McLane scored a hat-trick, and fellow senior teammate Eli Russell added two more scores to lead Cal United to a decisive 8-0 road win over the Bucks last Tuesday. Jola Otten and Judah Klarich added a goal apiece for Cal United, who swept the season series, outscoring Blue Mountain 20-0 in their two matches combined. McLane finished off a triumphant return from a devastating season-ending injury late last fall, finding the back of the net 25 times in what has been a sensational senior campaign. Josh Petersen recorded three saves to earn the shutout. Brody Scott turned away eight shots in the loss for the Bucks.

"We have eight talented seniors on this team. We're fortunate to have an experienced team that plays with chemistry, and that's tough to beat. Blue Mountain is young, and they played with effort, never giving up. Our younger guys got some valuable

minutes in the match. One of my favorite parts of coaching is watching players grow over time and start to apply the style of play we focus on in training," said Stratman.

Stratman's club celebrated Senior Night in style on Friday, dispatching BFA-Fairfax at home 6-0 to put the cherry on top of a perfect regular season. Russell led the way for Cal United with three more goals, giving the 2024 Vermont All-State selection 28 on the season. Jola Otten scored two more goals, giving him a career-high 13 this season. Ben Monaco finished off the scoring on the day with a goal of his own. Mason Sanders made 13 saves in the loss for the Bullets. Senior Josh Petersen recorded one save to earn a program record ninth shutout of the season. Russell, McLane, Petersen, Otten and Monaco joined fellow seniors Alijah Andrews, Sean Lehoe and Samson Kitonga in being honored after the match for their outstanding high school careers on the pitch.

"BFA started the match in a low block to try and limit our ability to attack. It was a good strategy, but it takes significant coordination to be able to pull it off. They relaxed it a bit in the second half but didn't mount many serious attacks. In the end, it was a solid result

and a great tune-up for the playoffs," said Stratman.

Cal United has been truly dominant this season, outscoring their opponents 86-8 along the way. What's even more unbelievable is that they will not be the top seed heading into the Division IV state tournament this week. That honor will go to 14-0 Twin Valley by mere percentage points. This will be the third straight year the Wildcats have secured the #1 seed, losing to Winooski in the championship match in back-to-back seasons. A trip to the championship match is

one of the last things missing on Stratman's distinguished coaching resume, and if the stars align, the two Division IV heavy weights will meet in Rutland early next month to decide the title.

Cal United will receive a bye through the first round and play the winner of the Proctor/Richford matchup on Saturday in the quarterfinal round in Danville. If they advance, Cal United would also be at home for the semifinals next Wednesday, with a trip to the division IV state championship on the line.



Sam McLane (center) of Caledonia United lines up a kick on Danville's field surrounded by BFA Fairfax players including Navin Sharp (at left). The home team outscored their opponents 6-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union junior Wildcat Kobe Smith readies to pressure the ball around Noah Brown of Peoples during play in Hardwick, October 14. In the back center is official Marvin Pritchard. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Jeter Demers (left) of Hazen Union closes down on the ball defensively against Peoples' Jackson Cleary (right) while playing on Hudson Field, October 14, in Hardwick. PA prevailed 2-1. photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Wildcats secure home playoff berth with road win

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union boys soccer team took the top team in the Capital League to the absolute wire last week before finishing off their regular season in style, clinching a home playoff berth with a road win

over Lyndon Institute.

Charlie Isselhardt headed home the game-winner in the waning minutes to help Peoples Academy (PA) escape the upset last Tuesday with a 2-1 road win over a spirited Wildcat squad on Senior Night. Rupeni Mara opened the scoring in the

first half from long distance for the Wolves before Sully Laflam smashed home the equalizer off a feed from Morgan Michaud to end the scoring heading into the break. Both teams stiffened defensively the rest of the way until a free kick was awarded to PA just outside the box with under four minutes remaining in regulation. Jackson Cleary's initial kick was easily saved by Hazen's Grayson McNaughten, but was deemed a no-play by officials without the prompting of a second whistle. Cleary's second chance found the mark and Isselhardt did the rest for the game-winner. McNaughten turned away 10 shots in the loss for Hazen. Jack Peterson made six saves for the Wolves, who will enter the Division III post-season as the top team with a 13-0-1 record. Michaud returned from injury to give a much-needed boost to the Wildcat offense and was honored before the match along with fellow seniors McNaughten, Laflam, Seville Murphy, Justin Montgomery, Ethan Gann and Ari Jurkiewicz for their outstanding high school careers.

lineup gave us a much more dynamic offense." said head coach Harry Besett.

Sully Laflam and Jeter Demers scored two goals apiece to power the Wildcats to a 6-2 road win over the Vikings on Friday, clinching a home playoff seed in the upcoming Division III playoffs. Jurkiewicz and Kobe Smith each found the back of the net in the win, with Laflam, Murphy and Montgomery adding two assists apiece. McNaughten and Chayse Newell combined to make 14 saves for the Wildcats. Guillermo Zavala and Tyler Schade scored for Lyndon and Cameron Bacon stopped 11 shots in the loss.

The victory clinched the first regular season winning record for Hazen (7-6-1) since 2019.

"With a home playoff match hanging in the balance, it felt great to find good run of form early in the second half and effectively kill the game. More importantly than the excitement of meeting our preseason goal of securing a home playoff match was Lyndon's A.D. complimenting our players for their sportsmanship and integrity throughout a competitive and emotional match," said Besett.

Besett's battle-tested club will be put to the fire with the No. 7 seed in the upcoming Division III state tournament. Defending Division IV champion Winooski earned the tenth seed and traveled to Hudson Fields for a first round match-up against the Wildcats on Tuesday. The winner will likely travel to second seeded Stowe on Friday in the quarterfinal round.



Wildcat Justin Montgomery (No. 12) turns the ball as teammates Ethan Gann (left) and Hunter Martin (center) hold the defensive line behind him Tuesday against the Wolves. Peoples Academy defeated Hazen Union 2-1. photo by Vanessa Fournier

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union junior Mya Lumsden (No. 11) moves the ball as Caledonia United's Alaina Robbins (No. 15) looks to steal during play in Hardwick, October 15. The Lady Cats took the victory over Caledonia United 3-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Ireland James of Caledonia United (right) attempts to beat Hazen Union's Eloise Foster (left) to the ball in Hardwick, October 15, during action on Hudson field. Hazen topped Caledonia United 3-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Hazen girls roll into post-season with shutout wins

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls soccer team put a punctuation on an impressive regular season with a pair of shutout wins last week that included the celebration of a special group of seniors that came through the Lady Cat program.

Taylor Thompson broke out with the first hat-trick of her career last Wednesday to lead the Lady Cats to a 3-0 home win over Caledonia United. Thompson literally took it coast-to-coast on her first goal, beating several Cal United defenders along the way to make it 1-0 with five minutes left in the first half. Thompson's perfectly placed direct kick from 25 yards out made it 2-0 five minutes into the second half and added an insurance goal off a Cal United defender with fifteen minutes left in regulation. Cal United's defense did a good job marking Lady Cat scoring leader Isabelle Gouin, but Thompson stepped up and showed why she was a Vermont All-State selection as just a sophomore. Kelsie Rivard made six saves to preserve the shutout.

"It took a while for both teams to literally warm up in the match, and Taylor capped off a phenomenal night scoring in three different ways. Cal United's Phoebe Crocker kept them in the match with a great night in goal," said head coach Megan Mercier.

Kelsie Rivard and Mya Lumsden provided the offense on Saturday, powering Hazen to a

*"That special group of seniors will be tough to replace. It was great to see them end their final regular season game on a high note."*

2-0 home win over BFA-Fairfax on Senior Night. Rivard gave the home team a 1-0 advantage on an unassisted goal nine minutes into the match. Lumsden finished a pass from Gouin with sixty seconds left to play in the half in what would be the final score of the match. Gouin nearly made it 3-0 in the second half when she rocketed a penalty kick off the post, and fellow Craftsbury Academy senior Adelina Augsberger just missed the far post on the rebound. Ella Renaud made eight stops and Rivard, one, to record the ninth shutout of the season for the Lady Cat defense. Emily Dearborn made five saves for Fairfax, who finished up the regular season at 5-10. Julia des Groseillers, Brianna Holbrook, Gouin, Augsberger, Renaud, team manager Danica Patridge, and Hazen cross-country runner Chloe Dyer were all honored before the match for their outstanding high school careers. Gouin posted her

second straight season with 20 plus goals scored for the Lady Cats and will finish her career with the school record. The 2024 Vermont All-State selection was honored earlier in the week with a game ball by Kaitlyn (Forant) Jacobs, who had held the previous school record for 16 years.

"That special group of seniors will be tough to replace. It was great to see them end their final regular season game on a high note," said Mercier.

Mercier has led the Lady Cat program to 11 wins in her first season at the helm, earning the No. 5 seed in the upcoming Division III state tournament. Hazen will match up with Fairfax for a third time this season on Wednesday in the opening round at Hudson Fields. If they advance, they will likely travel to fourth seeded Fair Haven on Saturday in the quarterfinal round. All home matches can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).



Kaitlyn (Forant) Jacobs (left) of Irasburg presents a soccer ball to Hazen Union senior Isabelle Gouin (right) of Hardwick, October 15, for becoming the school's new all time leading scorer with 56 goals. Jacobs held the record for 17 years with 54 goals. Isabelle's teammates lined up for the presentation with Ella Renaud applauding in the center. photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Cal United girls snap streak with first win

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – After a short-handed loss to Hazen Union to start the week, the Caledonia United girls soccer team ended the regular season with their first win in nearly two months to improve to 4-9-1.

Junior Taylor Thompson provided all the offense last Wednesday with a hat-trick as Hazen Union powered their way to a 3-0 home win over Cal United. Head coach Spencer Morse and his hobbled club played the Lady Cats tough defensively, heading into the break down 1-0. Thompson struck again fifteen minutes into the second half before being credited with a score off an own goal to put the match away ten minutes later. Kelsie Rivard made 6 stops to record the shutout for the Lady Cats. Phoebe Crocker was stellar filling in for injured starting keeper Eliska Siebenbrunner, turning away 20 shots in the loss for Cal United.

“Cora Abetti and Lauren Pecor did an amazing job shutting down their top scorer Isabelle Gouin. We were depleted by injuries going up against a superior Hazen team and the girls played a gutsy match,” said Morse.

Peyton Winn’s second goal of the game came with two minutes left in regulation to lead Cal United to a thrilling 3-2 home win over Blue Mountain on Saturday. Junior captain Siebenbrunner returned from a broken finger to spark the Cal



Chloe North (No. 6) of Caledonia United looks to trap the ball as Hazen Union’s Ella Renaud (No. 12) defends and Lady Cat Autumn Dailey (left) comes into the play, October 15, on Hudson Field. The Lady Cats won 3-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

United offense, feeding Winn with twelve minutes left in the first half to make it 1-1 heading into the break. Anna Clough put Blue Mountain back on top 2-1 nineteen minutes into the second half before Siebenbrunner found the equalizer with her first goal of the season with eight minutes left in regulation. Winn buried a perfect feed from Alaina Robbins six minutes later to snap Cal United’s ten-match winless streak. Crocker made eight saves

in the win, and Ava Kingsbury recorded 18 saves in the loss for the Lady Bucks, who fell to 3-10.

“BMU is a much-improved

*“BMU is a much-improved squad and came ready to play. I was extremely happy with our possession play tonight in a back-and-forth match that was thrilling to watch.”*

squad and came ready to play. I was extremely happy with our possession play tonight in a back-and-forth match that was thrilling to watch. Eliska’s return from injury made an impact for us right away, and Peyton showed some real poise with the ball in her finishes,” said Morse.

Cal United’s regular season finale heroics proved to be pivotal as it earned them a home playoff match this week in the Division IV state tournament. Morse’s young club hosted ninth-seeded Leland and Gray on Tuesday and if they advance, will travel to top seeded West Rutland on Friday in the quarter-final round.



The Hazen Union high school and middle school cross country team are (from left) front row, Losada Stoddard, Juniper Book, Chloe Dyer, Kiah Cloutier, Scarlett Podolin and Madeline Crank; back row, Garrett Sisk, Kolten Lumsden, Alden Pougner, Atlee Metevier, Daniel Pougner and coach Netdahe Stoddard. Missing from the photo are Ursa Goldenrose, Manny Caroli, Kooper Dyer, Autumn Hopkins and Phoebe Buntin.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



As the Vermont drought continues, Colleen Jenkins drives the truck as her husband Zack Fuller, works to get it off the trailer, Wednesday morning, Oct. 15, at the Caspian Lake public beach boat launch. Colleen said, “We knew the lake was low but we didn’t realize how rough it would be getting the boat in. We’re able to moor it at the dock for the week we’re here so we don’t need to do this every morning!”

photo by Carol Jenkins

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