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Volume 136 Number 45

## Town vote to decide fire truck purchase, local option tax

by **Raymonda Parchment**

GREENSBORO – The purchase of a \$495,000 fire truck, abating taxes for the Caspian Lake beach and enacting a local option tax are the subject of a special Australian ballot vote next Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Greensboro Town Office.

If approved, the new fire truck would replace two vehicles, a pumper and a rescue vehicle.

As Chief Brochu explained to the board at previous meetings, the Greensboro Fire Department (GFD) needs the new truck sooner than next year's planned upgrade.

In the proposal, available on the town website, Brochu said, "Your fire department has been concerned for some time about the reliability of our fire trucks. Our main truck is nearly 25 years old, and the backup is 40 years old. I have recommended to the select board that we replace the pumper as soon as possible."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises that fire trucks be moved to reserve status after 15 years and retired after 25 years, making Brochu's request more than timely. Greensboro's primary pumper, purchased in 2006, has developed recurring electrical and pumping problems, resulting in costly repairs

and three failures during active fires. The department's backup truck, dating from 1985, is well beyond its recommended service life. Within the town's capital budget, payments for a new fire truck are not scheduled to begin until FY28. This is because the GFD had planned on the town ordering a custom truck with a three-year build time. Through a broker, however, Brochu located a new pumper immediately available, for \$495,000. Two members of the department traveled to the broker in Alabama to inspect the vehicle, reporting it was in excellent shape and would fit the town's needs.

See **VOTE, 7**

## More questions than answers raised at Act 73 Forum

by **Paul Fixx**

HARDWICK – Area school board members and legislators were well-represented at a forum led by members of the three Hardwick school boards that was billed as a community conversation about Vermont's Act 73 school redistricting legislation, last Wednesday in the Jeudevine Memorial Library.

Board members shared what they know about the Act 73 process, its possible effects in Hardwick. They hoped to elicit information, comments and questions from the audience and legislators to help in their work surrounding the issue.

See **QUESTIONS, 6**

### Hazen students attend, comment on school redistricting forum

by **Will Helms**

HARDWICK – At 8:02 p.m., Wednesday, October 29 in the Jeudevine Library, Hazen Union Student Council President Sadie Gann discussed impacts of the state's redistricting bill after a community meeting organized by Hardwick's school district representatives. The bill would see a major shift in school administration, and many

See **STUDENTS, 3**



Terri Vest moderates a community discussion at the Jeudevine Memorial Library, Tuesday, October 29, during a forum about possible impacts in Hardwick from the redistricting envisioned by Vermont's Act 73 legislation. photo by Paul Fixx

## SNAP chaos leads HAFP, state, others to step up

by **Paul Fixx**

HARDWICK – As the result of the federal government shutdown, the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP), the Buffalo Mountain Market, Front Seat Coffee, the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) and others, have been

scrambling to prepare for an anticipated November 1 end to food stamp (SNAP) benefits that support the Three Squares Vermont program.

While state and federal officials work through whatever funding they can put in place, The Buffalo Mountain Market's Emily Hershberger "is putting together a donation account that will help people with SNAP benefits receive a \$50 gift card through Buffalo Mountain," according to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry's (HAFP) Stella James.

Locally it is hoped those gift cards might help carry food stamp recipients through this period without benefits.

Emily Hershberger, general manager of the Buffalo Mountain Market said recently that three to four percent of the market's revenue comes from Three Squares Vermont payments.

Slightly over 10% of Vermonters receive those benefits, though they rarely cover a family's entire monthly food budget.

Front Seat Coffee is donating 10% of its

See **CHAOS, 4**



Washshington, and Sen. Andrew Perchlik, D/P-Washington prepare to discuss a temporary state-funded food assistance plan at a meeting of the state's Emergency Board.

photo by Theo Wells-Spackman, VTDigger

### Officials approve state-funded food stamps through Nov. 15

by **Theo Wells-Spackman**

VERMONT – Vermont officials voted to fund food assistance for the first half of November on Wednesday in the absence of federal funding while the shutdown continues

See **FOOD, 5**



Tom Guare (left) and Jeff Pierpont (right) flipped 250 grilled cheese sandwiches for trick- or treaters visiting Fellowship Hall during the Greensboro Halloween Trick or Treat Trail organized by the United Church of Christ. photo by Vanessa Fournier

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# POLICE REPORT

## Berlin Police Department Arrest on warrant

BERLIN – On November 2, officers from the Berlin Police Department were called to a minor single vehicle crash on Fisher Road. During the course of the crash investigation, it was determined that the passenger, Dannika Dobrowski of Plainfield, had an active arrest warrant.

Dobrowski was wanted out of Washington County for a failure-to-appear warrant. Dobrowski's warrant was for Petit Larceny. Bail

on this warrant was set at \$100. Dobrowski was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Berlin Police Department for processing. Dobrowski was issued a citation into Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division, on November 2, at 12:30 p.m., to answer the above charges. Dobrowski was able to make bail and was released to a family member.

## Cabot Fire Department Mutual aid support



About 3 a.m., Monday, Nov. 3, Cabot firefighters provided mutual aid support to Marshfield Fire Department for a tractor trailer unit off the road on VT-215. There were no injuries. Cabot provided scene lighting, deployed traffic control measures, and assisted with other incident response tasks in support of the Marshfield Fire Department. *courtesy photo*



**November 5 - November 11**

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<b>Quaker Granola Bars</b> 2/\$5 <small>6.5-6.7 oz.</small>	<b>Loacker Quadratini Wafer Cookies</b> 3.49 <small>7.76-8.82 oz.</small>	<b>Brawny 4 DR Paper Towels</b> \$9.99 <small>180.28 s.f.</small>
<b>Angel Soft 4 MR Bathroom Tissue</b> \$4.99 <small>135.1 s.f.</small>	<b>Lactaid Milk</b> \$3.99 <small>64 oz.</small>	<b>Almond Breeze Milk Alternative</b> \$2.99 <small>64 oz.</small>
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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Department

### Leaving scene of accident, failure to comply with registry

HARDWICK – On October 6 the Hardwick Police Department conducted a Sex Offender Registry (SOR) check on Jacob M. Williams, of Hardwick, who was listed as being non-compliant. Investigation revealed that Williams had numerous violations for not sending in required registration paperwork, failing to contact the SOR daily, and for not reporting his location.

Williams was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Criminal

Division, Caledonia Unit, to answer the charge.

On October 28, at approximately 12:38 p.m., Barbara Jacobs, of Morrisville, called to report her vehicle had been hit in the Tops Market parking lot. The accident happened while she was in the store and no one notified her. Jacob's vehicle was hit on the passenger side front bumper and received moderate damage. If anyone has any information, please contact the Hardwick Police Department.

## Students

Continued From Page One predict it would cause multiple closures, including, as some assume, Hazen Union.

As the bustle died down, Gann talked about what she thinks this bill would cause in Hardwick. "I think this will destroy the foundation on which Hardwick is built." In more concrete terms, she said it would mean, "fewer families moving into Hardwick. Fewer people staying. If this passes, Hardwick will be deserted."

During the meeting, Gann raised the question "Are students being asked about this?" State Representative Leanne Harple said the House Education Committee heard testimony from the Vermont State Youth Council.

"We had a whole afternoon dedicated to asking students. It's a good idea, and it's happening." After the meeting, Gann responded to Harple's comment, saying, "I feel like the answers about student voices were true, but I think it's not enough. I think all students should have a permanent place to share their voice, though I don't know what that would look like."

"Honestly, I think showing up to things like these is so important" for students to stay informed and make their voices heard about school redistricting right now, said Gann.

Student Council Vice-President Daniel Pougner, said, "I think the most important part to consider would be the shift in how kids are socialized. A change in how many kids grow up together will have a definite impact on the immediate culture. I wouldn't want to label it as a good or bad thing, though."

"I also think that if this bill is passed, we may see a more drastic accumulation of districts, maybe eventually moving towards a completely assimilated system."

Pougner said students don't know as much about the redistricting process as they would like to. "I'd like to know more about why this bill is being proposed in the first place, what was wrong with the current system, and how this bill would fix them without introducing new problems."

*Will Helms is a Hazen Union School student interning with The Hardwick Gazette.*

## AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Twenty-two people used AWARE services between October 19 and November 2. 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).

## Hardwick Rescue

### Monthly Statistics

HARDWICK – From 6 a.m. on September 1 to 6 a.m. on November 1, Hardwick Rescue received 145 requests for service. The primary dispatch reasons included falls and lift assists, general illness, and breathing difficulties, in that order.

As of November 1, the organization is on incident number 862 for the year. Pacing continues to have us nearing 1,000 requests for service for the year, which far surpasses the volume in previous years. The years of 2023 and 2024 incidents ended around 830 calls for the entire year.

The town-by-town breakdown is: Hardwick-94, Craftsbury-14, Greensboro-12, Wolcott-9, Woodbury-7, Walden-6, Stannard-2. 69 percent of the patients contacted were transported to the hospital.

During this stretch of time, Hardwick Rescue relied on neighboring agencies for coverage three times, with mutual aid taking an

additional five incidents when a second call came in when the first ambulance was already out on an incident. The organization was able to staff a second ambulance on six occasions when our primary crew was already out.

Both ambulances were out the evening of Halloween and present for trick-or-treating in downtown Hardwick.

Hardwick Rescue is a private, non-profit EMS agency that provides primary ambulance coverage for parts of eight towns. Rotating crews are covered by three full-time EMS members, four per diem employees, and a contingent of 20 regularly-scheduled volunteers. Additional volunteer members support crew needs and first response in outlying communities. More information on the agency and how to volunteer can be found at [hardwickrescue.org](http://hardwickrescue.org).

## Hardwick Police Department

### Media Log

HARDWICK – October 26: Suspicious Event, Elm St.; Trespassing, Vt. Route 14 S.; Accident - TCNR, Vt. Route 14; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 15; Suspicious Event, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Wolcott St.; Citizen Dispute, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15.

October 27: Information, High St.; Medical, Elm St.; Trespassing, Cottage St.; Assist - Public, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Brook St.; Theft, Main St.; Trespassing, Mill St.

October 28: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Elm St.; Juvenile Problem, Richardson Rd.; Fingerprints, High St.; Accident - LSA, Vt. Route 15 W.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Threats/Harassment, Elm St.; Suspicious Event, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Granite St.

October 29: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Accident - LSA, S. Main St.; Trespassing, Mill St.;

Medical, Main St.; 911 Hangup, Mackville Road; Citizen Dispute, Prospect St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 E.

October 30: Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Medical, Benway Drive; Animal Problem, Highland Ave.; Medical, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Hardwick Farms Road.

October 31: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Overdose, Mackville Road; 911 Hangup, Cottage St.; Directed Patrol, Cottage St.; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.; Property Damage, Vt. Route 16; Citizen Dispute, Lower Cherry St.

November 1: Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 16; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.; Noise Disturbance, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Elm St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.

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# WEATHER WATCH



FEMA funded demolition of 41 Brush Street is complete in this view of the Main Street bridge to the left of the Hardwick Inn, showing vulnerability of the river bank to future Lamoille River high water events as the river enters Hardwick's downtown. photo by Paul Fixx

## Wet and windy; more snow by weekend

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – As expected, very light accumulations of snow fell at the higher elevations by Saturday morning, with cars coming from Coles Pond displaying a thin layer of snow on their roofs. A North Greensboro observation station reported three-tenths of an inch of snow Saturday morning, with an additional trace in the 24-hour period that followed.

The rest of us experienced multiple days of rain during the forecast period, with our backyard rainfall total reaching 1.08 inches for the week. A couple of days with sunshine provided some relief to the unsettled conditions, with Wednesday featuring more sun than clouds during the daylight hours. Conditions cleared by sunset on Sunday, before the next rain-maker moved in Monday afternoon.

Multiple clipper-like systems are sequenced to pass from the Great Lakes into New England every 36-48 hours or so, starting with a system approaching mid-day Wednesday. Enough cold air may exist above 2,000 feet for precipitation to start as snow, before turning to a period of rain by evening. Snow levels will drop again as the cold front passes overnight Wednesday with everyone seeing a chance of some snow showers as the front exits Thursday morning. Perhaps an inch is possible above 2,000 feet, with a dusting elsewhere. It will also be quite windy as this system passes through.

After some brief clearing, the second system arrives for Friday afternoon and lingers through

Saturday morning. Conditions look warm enough for this system to be mostly rain. Unsettled conditions persist through the weekend, with intermittent breaks in the clouds. An upper-level trough then deepens to our west as the final system approaches later Sunday, with a round of moderate precipitation as energy shifts to the coast. Precipitation may start as rain in the valleys but will transition to snow overnight. Light accumulations are possible, with up to a few inches in the mid-elevations. Welcome to November! Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain showers likely, with isolated snow showers at elevations above 1,500 feet. High: 43. Low: 31. Southwest wind 10-15 mph, becoming northwest and increasing to 15-25 mph with gusts to 45 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy in the morning, then becoming partly sunny. More clearing overnight. Scattered snow showers in the morning. High: 38. Low: 21. Northwest wind 10-20 mph with gusts to 35 mph, diminishing throughout the day.

**Friday:** Becoming mostly cloudy. Rain showers likely in the afternoon. High: 45. Low: 34. Light and variable wind, becoming southwest 5-10 mph in the afternoon.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning. High: 45. Low: 26. Light and variable wind, becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Sunday:** Rain and snow showers likely, becoming all snow overnight. High: 39. Low: 26. Southeast wind 5-10 mph, becoming northeast and increasing to 10-15 mph.

## Chaos

Continued From Page One

sales to fund the market's gift card, saying in a social media post Monday that \$800 had been "donated from the last couple days."

The CAE is organizing the production of soups, which will then be distributed through the HAFP in containers provided by the market, according to James and the CAE's Bethany Dunbar

James says the CAE is "giving us free storage space to store a two week emergency supply of food" and "the Vermont Food Bank has graciously offered to help pay for some of these emergency food supplies. We are prepared to see more households than usual but are yet unsure what the need will be."

Dunbar says these supports have been put in place quickly, but it's a good use of the new community kitchen and "there seems to be energy around looking for ways to continue."

"Vermont officials voted to fund food assistance for the first half of November on Wednesday in the absence of federal funding while the shutdown continues in Washington, D.C," wrote VTDigger, October 29.

"It's our obligation at this point as states to do what we can for the people we serve," Scott told reporters after the meeting. "This is a basic benefit that many, many Vermonters rely on."

The state says 50% of the usual monthly benefits will be available to food stamp recipients without any special application, and in the same way they have been receiving their benefits, on or before November 7.

The Vermont Emergency Board plans to meet again by November 13 to decide whether to issue the second half of the benefits if the federal funding lapse continues.

A court decision late last week ordered the federal government to use an emergency fund to provide some SNAP benefits during the shutdown.

Tuesday in a post on Truth Social, President Trump wrote, SNAP benefits "will be given only when

the Radical Left Democrats open up government, which they can easily do, and not before!"

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department seems to be moving toward releasing some of the emergency funds to provide 50% of SNAP benefits on a delayed schedule.

CBS News reported a Monday filing by the Justice Department indicating "the Department of Agriculture would provide states with information necessary for calculating the benefits due to each eligible household, which would allow states to then begin disbursements."

She suggested it would be a cumbersome process that could result in a weeks-long delay for food stamp recipients.

"If the government opens, families get their FULL benefit much more quickly," wrote Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins on X, adding that her agency sent notice to states Tuesday morning.

Last year, 84 volunteers at the HAFP's three sites, in Hardwick, Craftsbury and Albany, provided food to 2,400 people in 836 households and from 63 towns. Eight hundred fifty four were children and 495 seniors. Home delivery served 300 people.

Brewery's near and far have been supporting the HAFP with Hill Farmstead's Festival of Farmhouse Ales bottle raffle raising over \$11,000 for the HAFP, Lawson's Finest Liquids' Sunshine Fund contributing more than \$14,000 in July and The Alchemist continuing to support it year-round through Tips for Change.

Adding to HAFP capacity to help feed area residents, each week, Jasper Hill Farm donates 120 half-gallons of milk that are distributed across all three of the HAFP sites.

The HAFP's James said the milk saves needed funds for other essential items.

"This gift not only helps families access fresh, local food — it also allows us to stretch our resources further. . . We are so grateful to Jasper Hill Farm for their generosity and for helping keep our community well-nourished."



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**Food**

Continued From Page One in Washington, D.C.

At a Tuesday meeting, Gov. Phil Scott and legislative leaders on the state's Emergency Board approved a \$6 million proposal that fully funds 3SquaresVT, Vermont's version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, through Nov. 15. The stop-gap measure will allow SNAP recipients to access half of their expected November benefits for now as usual, through Electronic Benefit Transfer, or EBT, cards.

"It's our obligation at this point as states to do what we can for the people we serve," Scott told reporters after the meeting. "This is a basic benefit that many, many Vermonters rely on."

Some 65,000 people in Vermont receive SNAP benefits.

Lawmakers have worked with Scott in recent weeks to prepare a response, after the state received guidance earlier this month that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, absent a congressionally-approved funding bill, does not have sufficient funds to continue SNAP into November.

The roughly \$6.5 million in total costs for all the provisions in the plan will be drawn from the \$50 million in surplus revenue that Vermont set aside in May to shore up state agencies impacted by federal cuts. This decision marks the first time that pot of money has been used.

Vermont is one of only a few states moving in recent days to temporarily step in and replace the loss of federal funds, which Scott said he was "surprised to learn."

"I think we're doing it right," he said.

Virginia and Louisiana are

among states who appear to be funding an alternative food assistance solution, despite the USDA having advised states that self-funded measures to continue dispensing SNAP will not be reimbursed by the federal government.

The claim that no federal funds are available has been contested, both by Vermont's congressional delegation and by state Attorney General Charity Clark, who on Tuesday joined a multi-state lawsuit against President Donald Trump's administration demanding the USDA release contingency funding for the program.

Officials estimated that extending food stamp coverage for half the month will cost the state roughly \$6.2 million, assuming that roughly 38,000 households across the state enroll. Technical support and outreach costs will add up to an additional \$100,000, they said.

Those benefits should be available to participants "on or before November 7," according to documents provided by the Scott administration. In view of this expected delay, the state will provide the Vermont Food Bank with a supplemental one-time grant of \$250,000 to assist in meeting increased need.

John Sayles, the Food Bank's CEO, said Wednesday that the funding will go directly to the organization's local partners, so that individual pantries can stock up on food. Just \$250,000 may not be truly sufficient to meet the need if state funding doesn't come through until November 7, he said.

But nonetheless, Sayles said, "it's something, and we're grateful that the legislature and the Governor recognize that."



Front Seat Coffee had donated \$800 toward the Buffalo Mountain Market's plan to offer \$50 gift cards to food stamp recipients in November, as federal benefits are delayed. *social media photo*

Scott said after the meeting that he had been worried about the financial outlay while preparing his response, and had advocated caution in deciding how much of the full monthly nutritional benefit the state would front right now.

Sen. Andrew Perchlik, D/P-Washington, who serves on the Emergency Board as the head of the Senate Appropriations Committee, called Wednesday's solution "a good compromise."

Perchlik said he would likely support two additional weeks of full coverage if the state finds itself in the same situation in mid-November. The Emergency Board will reconvene on or before Nov. 13 should the federal shutdown continue.

Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, who chairs the legislature's Joint Fiscal Committee and sits on the Emergency Board, said Wednesday she and her colleagues are taking this issue "a month at a time," at present.

Kornheiser has also been active in working to ensure that the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, is available to Vermonters as the temperatures fall next month.

"People need to heat their homes," Kornheiser said. "It's getting really cold."

Scott affirmed the importance of the heating program, calling its funding "easy" to sign off on. The Governor also said he was "confident" the state will receive federal reimbursement for

the program.

LIHEAP dispersal has already been approved by the Vermont Legislature, which eases the process of providing interim support. Heating benefits will be available to Vermonters on a normal schedule "in anticipation of federal spending," Kornheiser said. It's a move with plenty of precedent in Montpelier, she added.

While a state-funded SNAP stopgap is much more unusual, Kornheiser emphasized the state's lack of alternatives.

"I'm really pleased that we're able to fully fund the program so that Vermonters can get the food that they need," she said.

"This (shutdown) is being used as a political tool by both parties," Scott said. "It's unfortunate that they can't come together and figure this out."

In a press conference on Wednesday, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., called the Trump administration's actions in relation to SNAP "unbelievable."

"The president is legally obligated to use this emergency fund," Sanders said, referring to the same contingency funding Clark sued for on Tuesday. He also said that a bipartisan bill co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., which seeks to release funds for the USDA to continue operating SNAP without interruption, should "get to the (Senate) floor immediately" for a vote.

*Theo Wells-Spackman is a Report for America corps member who reports for VTDigger.*



Miranda Gray, the deputy commissioner of the Department for Children and Families' Economic Services Division, speaks to the Emergency Board at Wednesday's meeting. *photo by Theo Wells-Spackman, VTDigger*

## Questions

Continued From Page One

It was clear there are a lot of questions left to be answered as the process moves forward, even for Caledonia County Sen. Scott Beck, an insider to the process. Senate Minority Leader Beck is a St. Johnsbury Academy social studies teacher and a representative to the Vermont Act 73 Redistricting Task Force.

That task force is charged with providing three maps on December 1 with potential new Vermont school districts for the legislature to consider when it returns in January.

Beck had been with the task force at its meeting in Winooski the day before and was able to share some of the current thinking of that group as it works to develop the maps.

Ranny Bledsoe, who serves on both the Hazen Union School Board (HUSB) and the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Board (OSSU), began the evening with a presentation for the roughly 30 attendees in the room and a handful online.

She said there are few answers to the many questions raised by Act 73, but the school boards are working to educate the public and gather input based on what information is now available.

She made it clear that Vermont's education system is creating effective student outcomes, with Vermont measuring well against other states.

She summarized challenges of rising education costs that she said are due in part to a statewide decline of roughly 20,000 school-age students over the last 20 years. When the cost of facilities designed for more students is combined with inflationary pressures, competitive wages, legislative mandates and a shift to delivering services in schools that were once available elsewhere, such as those for mental and physical health, taxes continue to rise.

Provisions of Act 73 include district consolidation, moving toward fewer school districts by July 1, 2028; a foundation formula to replace the current education funding system for the 2028-2029 school year; a statewide property tax to replace the current system that varies by district; a new income-based homestead property tax exemption and class size minimums to be implemented in July 2026.

Beck later explained the funding formula begins with a set amount per student to equal the state's current total education expense, then makes adjustments, though the details are yet to be determined.

The current funding figure would be just over \$15,000 per student, he said.

Suggested adjustments to the base per-student funding amount would be made for economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, special education students, career and technical education (CTE) students, preschool students and some district-level adjustments for school scale and district sparsity.

Kyle Anderson, Hardwick's representative to the Mountainview Union Elementary School District (MVUESD), helped answer questions and gathered details about class size minimums in response to questions about the item that seemed to be a concern for many in the room. The proposed class size minimums exempt pre-K and K classrooms, then set a 10 student minimum for grade 1, 12 students for grades 2 to 5, 15 for grades 6 to 8, and 18 for Grades 9 to 12, he said. The State Board of Education will

be able to grant waivers in some cases, for geographic isolation, as an example.

Beck said there will likely be adjustments for Advanced Placement (AP) classes, CTE students and the need for special materials, and that he sees the class size minimums as the "most unfortunate part of the bill."

Moving on to statewide redistricting maps, Bledsoe explained three maps have been looked at by the task force so far. One is based on county boundaries, one on CTE centers and one, called the Board of Cooperative Educational Service (BOCES) model, is designed around resource sharing between supervisory unions.

Bledsoe then explained that the new funding formula and the tax adjustments associated with it will be repealed if the legislature does not approve a new map of state education districts during the upcoming 2026 session that begins in January, as will a new second home tax.

Minimum class size requirements and a reduction in the number of private schools qualified to receive private funds will still become effective in the absence of a new map, she said.

If a new map is approved, the new school districts would become effective July 1, 2028, with the foundation funding formulae and a uniform statewide education property tax rate will take effect for the 2028/9 school year.

Even with new administrative districts, schools will remain as they are for now, said Bledsoe, but it's expected the new "districts will have to begin to consider school closures and mergers."

She said there is no information available now about how these changes will affect taxes. "A major argument for redistricting is the possibility of lower taxes, but there is no way of knowing at this point."

Questions remain about school infrastructure where there are significant issues with deferred maintenance, said Bledsoe. "It is not clear how new districts and reconfigured schools will address this."

In the audience were Rep. Michael Southworth, who now holds that Caledonia-2 seat; Rep. Leanne Harple, a language arts teacher at Hazen Union School, who lives in Glover, representing Orleans-4 in the House, where she sits on the Committee on Education; Sabrina Morrison, who serves on both the HUSB and OSSU boards and Woodbury's Steven Freihfner, HUSB Chair.

Terri Vest, who serves on all three Hardwick school boards: MVUESD, HUSB and OSSU, moderated a lively and civil discussion following Bledsoe's presentation.

Orise Ainsworth said the "goal [of Act 73] is closing small schools as I see it."

Morrison said the savings are unknown. It "seems foolish to go through this without more certainty," and health care seems one of the biggest issues that isn't addressed at all by Act 73.

Beck said "redistricting is not an exercise in saving money, it's an attempt to move to a more efficient system."

Responding to a question from Hardwick resident Rachel Cole about what makes it inefficient, Beck said the current system is top-heavy with superintendents.

Cole asked how student outcomes fit in. Erica Sisk echoed that concern, wondering what KPIs (key performance indicators) will be measured.

Many returned to the question of health care costs and the apparent lack of attention to those costs under Act 73.

A comment was made about the broader context of how we encourage people to move to Vermont where there are few jobs in an environment where there's a threat of local schools closing.

Woodbury's Cindy Gorden wondered about what she said are 1,300 school board members in Vermont and fewer in larger states.

In response to a question about student involvement in the Act 73 process from Sadie Gann, Hazen Union School's Student Council President, Rep. Harple said she's been working with the Vermont Youth Student Council on a proposal to establish students as voting members of school boards.

Hardwick Elementary School art teacher Beth LeCours said taxes are going up, health care costs are going up and an issue is how far students are traveling. She said all of this misses the important questions which should be asked of teaching professionals: "What do you need for the students?" She said, "I want the money spent on kids. Being rural is real, a district of 4,000 students is unrealistic in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK)."

"The VPA (Vermont Principals Association) and superintendents are people who work to keep their jobs," said LeCours.

Gordon said "communities are the foundational unit in the state" and closing schools will have a negative impact on that, with redistricting leading to a suburbanizing rural Vermont.

Cole talked about her experience in Iowa where redistricting led to small town schools disappearing, towns being hollowed out and students having to travel a long way to school. She said "Vermont is very special," where she has been surprised driving through town after thriving town.

Audrey Grant commented on closing schools and losing towns, suggesting "Hazen doesn't seem safe from closure." She said she's frustrated with the process and thinks Act 73 misses opportunities to move away from a property tax model to pay for schools, failing to take into account reports by the Public Assets Institute on alternative school funding models.

Morrison said smaller schools in Vermont give students opportunities and offer equality that larger athletic programs can't as they need to cut students. Gann and another commenter agreed, adding long drive times is likely to create less equity.

Beck said there's been lots of research on drive times and bus times and what it means.

Vest added that 50% of her 11th graders have full-time jobs and would likely be impacted if they had to travel long distances to school, making them less available for local work.

She wrapped up the conversation noting the evening was "an awareness session with not very many answers," expressing concern that quality education is not part of the conversation and her students deserve quality educational opportunities.

Board members are asking Hardwick residents to share their concerns and interest in staying informed about the redistricting process by filling out a survey at [bit.ly/survey-school-redistricting-hardwick](https://bit.ly/survey-school-redistricting-hardwick)

# Career Center looks for \$149M in bond vote

by Paul Fixx

CVCC SCHOOL DISTRICT – Voters in the Central Vermont Career Center School District (CVCCSD) had the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot, or go to the polls Tuesday to vote on issuing bonds of up to \$149,000,000 to build a new technical center.

The 18 towns of the district include Cabot, Calais, Marshfield and Plainfield where votes were underway November 5 as this issue went to press.

In warning the vote, the district said, “The School Construction Aid Program is currently under suspension by the Vermont State Legislature. Therefore, 100% percent of the project shall be built at the school district’s cost without

State participation.”

It went on to say, “State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid,” which would leave the district responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of State school construction aid.”

The board’s goal is “to serve all eligible students in our region and to provide programming that fulfills the needs of students, employers and the community.”

They say the “present facilities prevent us from doing so.”

The board says the current facility doesn’t meet its needs, resulting in turning away a significant number of applicants each year. Its current four-hour daily programs



An architect’s rendering of the proposed new Central Vermont Career Center. courtesy CVCCSD

can’t be expanded to full-day programs without sharing facilities, reducing the number of students, or finding space outside the current building.

Its vision is that, “CVCC’s state of the art facility serves all eligible students in our region, staffed and resourced appropriately, with

expanded capacity for increased enrollment versus applicant percentage; increased academic achievement through full day programming in a full school day schedule; pathways to advanced career credentials; strengthening partnerships with middle schools across the region to improve student access.”

## Towns hope to move flood-related projects forward with bond votes

by Paul Fixx

PLAINFIELD, CABOT – Flood-related projects were on yesterday’s ballots for voters in Plainfield and Cabot.

In Plainfield the select board was looking to borrow \$600,000 to purchase land for the proposed village expansion project. If its application for a \$9.7 million grant is approved, the loan will fund the purchase of land for the project, which will allow the town to keep 100% of the proceeds from the sale of that land for 40 proposed housing lots. The select board said the bond will not be needed if the grant is not approved.

Social media posts over the past several days have raised concerns about community member’s conflicts of interest and about building in wetlands, which others say will not happen.

In a post on the eve of the vote, Walker Usenza Blackwell wrote, “Increasing the housing stock will add to the town’s coffers and lower people’s tax and water/sewer bills. This plan keeps hard-earned money IN OUR HANDS if it goes forward and if we get the DR grant and if the development happens.

“We all lift each other up in this tiny financial pond. We need more lifters!”

Commenting on that post,

election day, Tuesday, Plainfield’s emergency management director Michael Cerulli Billingsley wrote, “We have a total of 27 residential buildings in for buyout right now [containing] 41 housing units, counting 4 units earlier buyout-approved from 2023. (Two had dropped out.) 21 of those 41 housing units were lost and unliveable after the 2024 flood, and the remaining 20 continue to be occupied. 15 of the 21 lost and unliveable housing units were occupied by renters at the time of the flood, including one mobile home, and 6 were owner-occupied. Many of the displaced are of modest income.”

Cabot is asking voters for permission to use up to \$250,000 of the roughly \$1,000,000 currently

in its Cabot Community Investment Fund for flood related capital projects.

\$150,000 of that would serve as the 10% matching funds for a grant application currently pending for approximately \$1.5 million to fund the replacement of the bridge at Menard Brook, the Rec Field tributary, and raising of the adjacent road beds.

Up to \$30,000 would cover the cost of obtaining legal easements from adjacent landowners to allow for the the bridge reconstruction;

Then, an additional amount of not more than \$20,000 to cover the cost of test borings on Lyford Brook (the Village Center tributary) to determine the feasibility of installing debris catchers to limit damage in future floods.

### Vote

Continued From Page One

At the July 9 select board meeting, purchase was approved and the board signed a sales agreement with Brindle Mountain Fire Apparatus, contingent on financing.

Article II, to abate taxes for the Caspian Lake beach, owned by the town of Hardwick, states Greensboro has never charged Hardwick taxes on the beach, which is used by residents of both communities. A recently-passed law states that education taxes are not to be charged to Hardwick. It is only in the ‘definitions’ section of the law that it identifies ‘municipal taxes’ for levy, unless the voters forgive taxes. This can be done for up to five years, which the ballot question asks voters to approve.

Article III, to enact a local option tax, proposes to add a 1% tax on short term rentals, meals and served liquor.

Discussion at a June select

board meeting deferred the question to the July meeting, with the eventual decision made to add a local option tax of 1% to the state’s 9% rooms and meals taxes as well as the 10% tax on served alcohol, raising those taxes to 10% and 11%.

At that meeting, Christine Armstrong said current room sales in Greensboro approach \$1 million per year. The additional 1% room tax would roughly raise \$10,000. The state would keep 25%, sending back \$7,500 to the town annually.

The town won’t need to collect the tax. The amount would be included with sales taxes paid to the state by those providing rooms, meals and serving alcohol. The applicable taxes would be then be sent to the town.

Residents can get absentee ballots via the town clerk by mail, or in person at the town offices. Absentee ballots can be mailed, put in the drop box outside the clerk’s office or brought to the town hall on voting day.



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# Greensboro Halloween Trick or Treat Trail



Beth Belote (left) in a blue donkey costume and her mother Penny Bretschneider of Greensboro were at one of 27 sites giving away candy along Breezy Avenue, East Avenue and Wilson Street for the Greensboro Halloween Trick or Treat Trail, October 31.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Oscar Peters, Logan Gravel and Olivia Peters of Albany trick or treated in the rain along the Greensboro Halloween trail, as did many others.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Left: Andy Kehler (left) and Victoria Von Hessert (center) joined Jerilyn Virden (right) at her house on Wilson Street to help pass out candy for the annual Greensboro Halloween Trick or Treat Trail held Halloween night.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Nate Gordon (third from left) and his children Solana (left), Luna and Gloria of West Glover joined many who attended the annual Greensboro Halloween Trick or Treat Trail, organized by the Greensboro United Church of Christ.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Left: Jess and Maynard Bartlett Jr. as Ernie and Bert give candy away in the front of their Greensboro Garage during the Greensboro Halloween Trick or Treat trail held Halloween night.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

# Hardwick community nonprofit moving across the road

by K. Fiegenbaum, VTDigger

HARDWICK — Hardwick's community-building organization The Civic Standard has spent the better part of the past year weighing what to do with its dilapidated headquarters in the oldest building on Main Street. The group has enlisted experts to assess its structure, applied for funding and solicited input from anyone and in any way they could.

In the end, the answer turned out to be right across the street.

In early September, the three-year-old nonprofit, which specializes in "grand and tiny experiments in getting together," purchased a three-story building at 39 S. Main St. The structure, built in the 1920s, was most recently a flower shop put on the market because the owner needed to move closer to their family, the business owner said in a social media post. Prior, the space had a long life as a grocery store.

The new building not only meets the Civic's needs, "but allows us the space to dream far beyond them," the nonprofit wrote in a newsletter announcing the purchase. "We imagine family-style meals at long dining tables, more accessible live music performances, an upstairs café run by local teenagers after school, a year-round costume library, ample studio space for the creation of new shows, and on goes the list of dreams."

Civic co-founder and Executive Director Rose Friedman said earlier this month that it feels like a big leap for the young organization to make mortgage payments (the building cost \$352,000). However, she noted that the community support for the Civic has "made it really clear that there is widespread valuing of what we offer, which is a pretty simple mission to get people together, often with this commitment to low-barrier, accessible programming for all the kinds of people in our community."

Historically, the organization's work has included everything from

"Hardwick State," a townwide, weekend-long free pop-up university, to game nights and facilitating the creation of a local skate park. The group also produces theater performances by, for and about Hardwick. This past weekend, the Civic wrapped up five sold-out performances of an "immersive soap opera" which explored the "unspoken tensions" that exist in town through a fictional wedding between a young woman who grew up in Hardwick and a young man from Connecticut who grew up summering on Caspian Lake.

The growing nonprofit, which has received state and national publicity and acclaim for its innovative work in rural community revitalization, took up residence in the then-vacant, longtime Hardwick Gazette building in the spring of 2022 and made it into a "living room on Main Street." That building was eventually donated to them.

"It was very much not at all suited to any of our needs, but it had the location," Friedman told VTDigger in March. "In my mind, we took something that wasn't being used and we tried to get it useful again, both for our purposes and to serve the community's needs."

The building slopes wildly toward the Lamoille River and needs, at the very least, its foundation stabilized, exterior painted and roof replaced just to retain insurance. It is also the only building in downtown Hardwick located in the designated floodway, Friedman said, which makes work significantly more complicated and expensive.

When the Civic's board was facing that "first layer of repairs" this past winter, it started contemplating whether patching up the building was the right move, or if it might cause its mission to drift into the "can of worms" that is preserving an old building, Friedman said.

Then, "literally, within that month," she said, "the 'for sale' sign went up right across the street" at the flower shop.

As Friedman explained, there are not a lot of buildings in town that fit the Civic's needs. Many have the same structural issues that tend to come with old buildings, and most others are small storefronts that lack space or a commercial kitchen, the key for the Civic's popular free weekly community suppers. The former flower shop, however, checked the boxes, with more than double the space on the ground floor.

Friedman and the Civic spent this year pursuing all of the options



The Civic Standard is moving from its offices in the former Hardwick Gazette building, foreground, to a location across the street in Hardwick. Seen on Tuesday, Oct. 21.  
photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

at once, furthering the building purchase, as well as repair assessments, while continuing the public conversation about what the Civic should do. The organization wrote newsletters soliciting feedback, held public meetings and had "countless conversations with all kinds of neighbors and local experts, from appraisers, to river scientists, to the kids who regularly stop by for popsicles," said the newsletter about the decision.

"Those conversations have been overwhelmingly towards the move; people have been very supportive and very clear that this was the right thing for our organization," Friedman said.

That support has been financial as well. Around the time the organization closed on its new building, it had raised just over half of the \$400,000 goal for its "New Home Fund," which Friedman said will cover the cost of the building, as well as some minor repairs. Many have also donated items or volunteered their time to paint the place inside and out.

What happens, then, to the building the Civic is moving out of at 42 S. Main St.?

"Most people have felt a 'it'll be what it's supposed to be,' kind of thing," Friedman said. "It's a beautiful historic building and it's important to the downtown landscape and also it might be that the landscape around it has changed enough to make it difficult to be worth saving."

Earlier this month, the Civic put out a call for letters of interest from anyone who wants to "maintain the building as a cultural and community asset to Hardwick" on a temporary or permanent basis.

Friedman said the organization is open to all kinds of projects that could utilize the building. According to rough assessments, shared on the Civic's website, the

three base repairs that need to be completed to maintain insurance coverage would cost around \$140,000.

While the Civic is stepping away from doing that repair work itself, it's also not condemning the space, Friedman said.

"This doesn't have to be our decision alone," she said. "We've made the decision that we are not going to save it, that that's not going to be part of our mission. But that doesn't mean that somebody else can't."

The Civic is accepting letters until Dec. 1, which is also around when the organization hopes to start hosting public events in its new building. If a new owner for the oldest building on Main Street is not found, another option could come into play.

In late February, the Civic entered the structure into the Federal Emergency Management Agency's buyout program, which would cover the costs of demolishing the structure and returning the property to green space and the floodplain. The organization can back out of the program any time and the current timeline gives them about two years to make a decision.

"We're just trying to get it either into the next set of hands that's going to care for it, or into its next life," Friedman said.

For Friedman, the most meaningful part of the move is that the Civic will continue to hold a position in the heart of town instead of being relegated to an out-of-the-way space, she said.

The "place where you can gather and meet people that you wouldn't otherwise run into" can be kept "front and center and, say, as important as having a grocery store and a bookstore and a coffeeshop and the places to eat and the places that you need to buy the things you need," she said.



Volunteers paint the exterior of the Civic Standard's new headquarters in Hardwick.  
photo courtesy of the Civic Standard

# Maple Corner saves Curtis Pond Dam

by Mason Singer

CALAIS – Thanks to a three-decade-long community endeavor, Maple Corner's historic Curtis Pond dam is once again safe and sound.

Completion of the longtime effort to replace the endangered Calais dam and preserve the scenic pond behind it was celebrated in fine fashion on a sunny and unseasonably warm fall day, October 5.

A crowd gathered at the Maple Corner Community Center for cake and ice cream, followed by two pond-related videos. The dam's nearest neighbor, Don Heise, and his locally famous hand puppet, Bucky the Beaver, thanked "Dam Nation" (otherwise known as generous supporters) and spoke about the enduring importance of the pond, likening it to "that one house in the neighborhood where everyone goes."

The party then moved to the nearby dam for a champagne toast. Glasses in hand, the group, led by Calais state Rep. Marc Mihaly (D-Washington-6) toasted the newly restored dam. Poet Geoff Hewitt then read a light-hearted ode to the pond, and "for the last time" musician Lewis Franco performed an original song titled "Hell or High Water."

Although work on the new dam officially began a little over a year ago, the path to reconstruction started about 30 years earlier when dam neighbors Don and Bev Heise first noticed large and worrisome "piles of gravel washout" at its base. This proved a forewarning; behind its picturesque facing, the barrier was slowly deteriorating.

A dam has existed at the site since around 1813, when it helped power a grain mill. The current dam was built later, in 1900, and despite its simple stone rubble material, proved remarkably durable. Its failure would threaten the thriving village store and its renowned Whammy Bar, numerous homes, the

restored community center, and an historic water powered sawmill. The heart of the village and roads would likely be washed away and with it, Curtis Pond.

Though the need for reconstruction was obvious, the means to that end proved difficult and costly. Over the years numerous efforts to fix the structure faced substantial obstacles, regulatory, legal, financial, and stalled. There was no simple path forward.

In the interim, residents worked diligently, sometimes heroically, to maintain the crumbling structure and save the 72-acre pond, home to much wildlife and a hub for year-round activities, such as fishing, swimming, ice-skating, boating, and, a local favorite, pond hockey.

Bev Heise and Betty Copeland both vividly recalled group struggles to save the dam — working through the night to cover it in tarps and reinforce the stone during intense storms — as it overflowed and came close to washing out.

Finally, cobbling together repairs was no longer viable, and in 2019 residents formed the Curtis Pond Association to steward the pond and save it as a lasting natural resource.

The passing years and extreme weather took a toll on the dam's structural integrity, and also increased the cost of replacement, rising from around \$400,000 to a daunting \$1.2 million. The small community of 1,667 responded with a variety of fundraising efforts: benefit concerts, online auctions, boat rides, parade floats, specially brewed beers, and more. Gifts, such as proceeds from the infamous "Men of Maple Corner" calendars, piled up. After hundreds of hours of work, partial funding for the dam was eventually secured by a town bond, federal American Rescue Plan Act funds, generous donations, and a private loan to the association.

John Rosenblum, whose home



The newly reconstructed Curtis Pond dam in Maple Corner on October 5, 2025.  
photo by Mason Singer

overlooks the pond, remarked that each unfulfilled attempt had been important and served to provide the foundation for subsequent work, and "without those earlier efforts the dam might never have been rebuilt."

The new structure, designed by Debois & King and built by Herbert Excavation, is fabricated of cement secured into bedrock and then fronted by stone salvaged from the old dam. Finished, its appearance is designed to mimic its humble, but much-admired, predecessor and should last well into the future.

Curtis Pond Association member Marge Sweeney, who has compiled a comprehensive timeline of the various rescue efforts and the many people who made it possible, noted that the \$100,000 loan remains to be

fully paid off and that fundraising continues. Sweeney's detailed accounting of people and financing, "It Takes a Community," can be found at [curtispond.org](http://curtispond.org), where donations can also be made.

As the party broke up, and a harvest moon rose over the tranquil pond, there was no fear of flooding. The summer drought had lowered water levels significantly, but the dam now remains strong and ready when the rains do come again. In the fading light, CPA member, general store manager, and the town's unofficial mayor, Jamie Moorby, noted, "If we hadn't finally done it when we did, we'd have lost the pond. We really dodged a bullet."

This article first appeared in the October edition of the Bridge, covering central Vermont.



Calais state Rep. Marc Mihaly leads a toast to the newly reconstructed Curtis Pond dam in Maple Corner.  
photo by Mason Singer



The historic Curtis Pond dam in Maple Corner overwhelmed and near washing out on July 11, 2013.  
photo by Betty Copeland

# NEWS NOTES

## Helicopter flyovers begin Nov. 3

PLAINFIELD, MARSHFIELD – Beginning the week of November 3, weather permitting, there will be a low-flying red helicopter flying over the Great Brook and the Winooski River. This helicopter will be collecting LIDAR

(Light Detection and Ranging) data as part of a study of the river. The study is being funded and managed by the state of Vermont.

The helicopter will head up over parts of Plainfield, as far as John

Fowler Road, and western Marshfield.

This is not government surveillance. The helicopter was requested. Plainfield has two Hazard Mitigation projects underway, one to understand the impact of Batchelder Dam removal,

and the other to understand how the Great Brook behaves in order to plan road repairs or realignment. These low-altitude (under 500') scans will show the exact brook and river width, depth and direction.

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – A new website at [craftsbury.gov](http://craftsbury.gov) debuted October 1. The site has links to select board and other meeting archives with agendas, minutes and videos.

## New town website goes live

The website introduces the town by saying, “Founded in 1789, Craftsbury is one of Vermont’s oldest and most picturesque towns. With its classic New England village green, historic buildings, and panoramic views of the Green Mountains,

Craftsbury offers a timeless charm. Our community values heritage, sustainability and a strong connection to the land — making it a special place to visit, live and grow.

Craftsbury Website Committee members Michelle Warren,

Donald Houghton and Victoria Hudson are term limited to one year, with the site noting they and the Town of Craftsbury Selectboard reserve the right to refuse submissions if it is considered inappropriate or not directly related to Craftsbury.

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – “Lance MacKenzie will be filling the roll [sic] of [HCTV] Executive Director. Lance has been a field producer with HCTV for a year now, so you may know him as ‘Lance on Camera,’” said an October 31 email message and a blog post on the Hardwick Community Television (HCTV) website.

The appointment comes less than two months after the

## HCTV appoints MacKenzie executive director

station celebrated its twentieth anniversary with the release of a video titled “HCTV Celebrates 20 Years” that is available on the station’s YouTube channel @ [hardwickcommunitytelevision](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

May 27, 2026, will mark 20 years since Hardwick Town Manager Dan Hill and Hardwick Select Board Chair Todd Delerichiere joined then-HCTV Station Manager Robin Grant for a ribbon cutting to open HCTV’s third floor studio

and office in the Hardwick Memorial Building.

Minutes of the September 24 HCTV meeting indicate “[former director] Macy [Molleur] has moved out of state, and has continued working for HCTV remotely, but that is wrapping up. A job posting for the position of executive director received four applicants. Jim and Rachel will meet with one applicant soon, and will report back to the board.” No further

information was available about activity between that meeting and the announcement.

HCTV is a community access PEG (Public, Education, Government) cable TV station and media center, serving Hardwick, Woodbury and Greensboro. It operates as a nonprofit, funded by cable subscribers, underwriters and donors to cover local meetings, Hazen Union sports and community events.

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – As the big top tents came down early in October, Circus Smirkus Executive and Artistic Director Rachel Schiffer was already looking at scenarios for the 2026 season, while focusing on fundraising in the short-term.

The organization’s usual staff of seven or eight people has recently managed three programs: a Big Top Tour, a summer camp and year-round school residencies.

Three people staff the

## Circus Smirkus Director Schiffer cautiously optimistic

organization now as it evaluates next steps, with Schiffer saying, “I feel good about what the community response has been to our recent fundraising.”

She’s “cautiously optimistic about ending the year in a better position than we had originally anticipated.”

That’s in part because the organization had raised \$100,000 toward its \$400,000 goal by late September. In early October she wrote, “A generous group of Smirkus friends has come forward with a

Matching Gift Challenge! Every donation made between now and November 1 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.”

We’re about three quarters of the way toward reaching the goal Schiffer said last week.

“There’s energy coalescing around the Big Top with good steps being made there and a goal of building a more sustainable model,” she said. “Perhaps as a stepping stone to the future.”

In recent years the Big Top Tour has involved 30 performing

children, who have rehearsed for three weeks early in the summer, then gone on tour through the summer. Five to seven summer camp sessions have been held for children ranging in age from five to 18.

Schiffer says current staff has the capacity to plan and deliver 2026 programs, though the specific sessions may be different from what they’ve been in the past.

Smirkus finances were affected this summer due to rising costs and lower than expected ticket sales, as well as a significant hit from the tariff on a new tent shipped from overseas, said Schiffer.

## HU’s HUGS Club awarded \$10,000 grant

by Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union

HARDWICK – Hazen Union High School’s Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), known as the HUGS Club, has been awarded a \$10,000 Changemakers grant from the It Gets Better Project to support a student-led initiative: a two-day regional queer youth dance and summit. The Hazen Union HUGS Club is a community-centered club focused on uniting queer-identified and -allied youth.

The grant will fund an event organized by and for Hazen students, designed to bring queer youth together from across the region to

connect, build community and to encourage queer joy and resilience. The summit will feature a diverse range of programming, including workshops, trainings, guest speakers and experiences aimed at uplifting and empowering queer youth.

“Being a queer person in a small town is hard, and it’s even harder for queer youth who don’t always have a car, a good support system at home, or just a place where they can really be themselves,” said a HUGS Club youth leader who helped develop the project and assisted with the grant application process. “That’s why this project is so important: we want to give queer youth a place where

they can learn more about themselves, meet other queer people from all around Vermont, and be in a space where they feel supported.”

The It Gets Better Project’s Changemakers grant program supports innovative, youth-led projects that create positive change for LGBTQ+ young people in their communities. Hazen’s HUGS Club was selected from a competitive pool of applicants nationwide for their vision of creating a safe, affirming space for regional queer youth to gather and thrive.

Details about the queer youth dance and summit, including dates and registration information, will be announced in coming weeks.

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& More!



Jennifer Botzojourns, third from right, makes a presentation during a meeting of the school district redistricting task force in Winooski on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger



Rep. Rebecca Holcombe, D-Norwich, listens to a presentation during a meeting of the school district redistricting task force in Winooski on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

## Redistricting task force grapples with school choice

by **Corey McDonald,**  
**VTDigger**

MONTPELIER – The group considered several kinds of mergers that would reduce costs across the state, including for school districts that provide families choice when there are public schools in neighboring districts.

Protect Vermont's school choice system: That was the loud and clear message to the Vermont school redistricting task force during its Oct. 22 public forum at Rutland High School.

But some task force members see putting guardrails around school choice as one way to reduce costs for public education across the state.

At the same forum in Rutland, task force members also heard from Barstow school district board chair Debbie Singiser, who testified about the impact of school choice on her community. State taxpayers were “increasingly funding education for students with limited or only temporary ties to our community,” she told them.

Indeed, in the past five years, half of the 122 students who received public funding to attend private schools through Barstow Unified Union School District did not graduate from Barstow Memorial School's 8th grade. And nearly half of the students using the tuition system from Barstow's district in the past five years attended Killington Mountain School, a ski academy.

The data, compiled by task force members, supports Singiser's comments at the public forum suggesting families are “moving into our school district to take advantage of that school choice and the tuition for high school.” That raises costs of taxpayers statewide, task force members argued.

“None of this is technically illegal. I mean, it's just, is this what

we want for our public school system?” Singiser said in an interview earlier this year. “We're talking about how public education is getting expensive, and our property taxpayers are struggling, and when I look at that happening, I feel like we should fix that problem.”

During the task force's Tuesday meeting, David Wolk, Gov. Phil Scott's appointee to the task force, said it “shocked” him when he saw the data around tuition out of Barstow. He called it a problem that the Legislature “has got to change.”

“There has to be guardrails. There has to be some way to change this,” Wolk said. “It's not right.”

As the state's school redistricting task force continues its work to craft new school district maps, members are taking a microscope to the intricacies of the state's 119 school districts and 52 supervisory union or supervisory districts, and highlighting some of the inefficiencies in school districts like Barstow.

The 11 members of the body have spent three months analyzing the state's complex public education system, with one month left to go. The group is tasked with developing no more than three maps of new school boundaries for the Vermont Legislature to consider for the upcoming legislative session, which starts in early January.

So far, the task force has three map proposals in development. One creates 13 school districts to emphasize broader access to existing career and technical education opportunities. Another focuses on creating regional comprehensive high schools for underserved (and over-served) regions.

The third seeks to organize merged districts around regional BOCES, or a Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a type of educational governance entity used widely in New York and other states to help school districts collaborate on services such as special

education and transportation.

That map, drafted by task force members Jennifer Botzojourns and Rep. Rebecca Holcombe, D-Norwich, takes the first stab at highlighting in detail where the state could target mergers and why.

Among other suggestions for mergers is Barstow, which Botzojourns and Holcombe said could be absorbed by the Rutland City School District as a way to control costs.

But time is limited. The task force has only two meetings left before it is required to finalize a report with three maps. Rep. Edye Graning, the co-chair of the task force, on Tuesday called it a “herculean” task for the body.

“I just keep coming back to the time crunch. We don't have enough time,” Graning said. “We just don't have the time to do the work ... with the quality and level of detail that we would all love to be able to do it in. It makes me sad, because this is a big deal.”

At the task force's meeting on Tuesday, Botzojourn and Holcombe discussed three examples of areas where enrollment and resources were either declining or not being used efficiently, and where the state could look to merge districts.

These different cases were meant to show the kind of detailed analysis needed to determine where specifically to draw district lines in a way that both reduces the cost to taxpayers and increases access to opportunities for students, they said.

Those merged districts would then be overlaid with cooperative education service areas to allow collaboration on shared expenses like travel and special education.

One example is typified by the state's capital region, which “has a unique opportunity to coordinate” high schools in Barre, Montpelier and Twinfield, Botzojourn said.

This kind of area has “stranded costs,” where student enrollment was dropping faster than the disparate school districts' ability to decrease costs. Costs at these school districts remained the same despite enrollment declines, putting financial stress on the overall system.

Merging districts could also improve access and save costs in districts like the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union. There, public school funds are being used to pay tuition for private schools in choice systems, siphoning tax dollars spent by the state away from the public school, Holcombe and Botzojourn argued.

In that supervisory union, the Winhall School District, a non-operating district, could be merged into the neighboring Taconic and Green School District to bolster overall enrollment and per-pupil-spending.

And in their third example, Holcombe and Botzojourn discussed areas with “sparsity loss,” where schools have become so small they may be considering closure. The proposal pointed to towns like Danville, Windham, West River, Twin Valley, Readsboro, Stamford and Halifax as examples. Merging in these districts would strengthen the isolated public schools, so they don't close and potentially create regions with public school deserts.

Task force members on Tuesday also looked again at a map first proposed by Wolk and Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caldeonia, earlier this month. That map would create 13 school districts that closely mirror the state's 15 career and technical education regions, each identified by the technical education center that anchors it.

The proposal aims to expand career and technical education opportunities to students and honor “school choice where it presently

See CHOICE, next page

**Choice**

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exists,” Wolk said.

A revised version tweaked some of the boundaries in existing districts, but little else was changed from the map’s first iteration. District sizes remained lopsided. One district covering Chittenden County and a part of Grand Isle County would have nearly 22,000 students, while the smallest, the River Bend Area District, would have just over 2,000 students.

Another proposal, developed by Holcombe and Jay Badams, would center a new map around comprehensive regional high schools.

By identifying and targeting construction aid at regional high schools, the state could incentivize neighboring districts to collaborate on the design and development of new regional high schools and potentially access state construction aid. Shared governance would then ensure communities retain a voice in how schools meet the needs of students, Badams said.

“If we were to designate the areas that we identify as likely sites for comprehensive public high schools, we could give (school districts) their own designation and give them priority in school construction funding and other things,” Badams said.

Badams, like the other presenters, called his proposal “half baked.” The exact number and location of the regional high schools has not yet been finalized. But he noted on Tuesday that the three map proposals shared so far

all have elements that could be worked into each other.

“I think if we could weave them together a little better, we might be on to something that can be actionable,” he said

All three proposals, however, have yet to address how new districts would be governed. Specifically, which district governance model would be used, supervisory districts or supervisory unions.

Both models provide back-office functions such as accounting and payroll and may oversee the provision of special education services and curriculum coordination. But the two systems differ in their structure. Supervisory unions are made up of school districts that each have their own board of directors, while supervisory districts have only one governing board.

Badams called governance the task force’s stumbling block. “We have three maps on the table right now that don’t really get to the whole idea of governance in a way that was contemplated” by the legislature, he said.

“We’re tinkering,” he said. “We’re trying to make an omelette without breaking a single egg.”

The task force will continue to flesh out its proposals for their Nov. 10 meeting. Members are expected to vote on which maps to recommend to the legislature at its final meeting next month.

“None of us wants to upset anyone,” Graning said, “and at the same time, that’s what we’ve been asked to do, is to make recommendations.”

*This story was first published on VTDigger, October 31, 2025, 5:16 p.m.*



Alyssa Bennett, a small mammals biologist with VT Fish and Wildlife, showed bats she had taxidermied herself during a talk about she gave at the Jeudevine Memorial Library last week, on October 28. Twenty people attended the talk during International Bat Week, learning about the nine species of bats in Vermont, each with unique habitat needs and threats.

photo by Diane Grenkow



Ready for the sari fashion show at the Child Haven benefit, November 1, (from left) are Fiona Creaven of Glover, Indriel Boyer of Walden, Aquilla Lowell of Montpelier and Oria Boyer of Walden.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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# EDITORIAL

## Federal websites and the Hatch Act

Americans visiting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service website to learn what might be happening with their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which have been threatened to end on November 1, during the Federal Government shutdown, have seen some version of yesterday's message copied below, with the main difference being the number of votes it indicates:

"Senate Democrats have now voted 13 times to not fund the food stamp program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Bottom line, the well has run dry. At this time, there will be no benefits issued November 01. We are approaching an inflection point for Senate Democrats. They can continue to hold out for healthcare for illegal aliens and gender mutilation procedures or reopen the government so mothers, babies, and the most vulnerable among us can receive critical nutrition assistance."

While I write this, a message at the top of the White House website shows, "Democrats have shut down the government for: 34d, 0h, 24m, 11s."

At the USDA Forest Service website, a message reads: "The Radical Left Democrats shut down the government. This government website will be updated periodically during the funding lapse for mission critical functions. President Trump has made it clear he wants to keep the government open and support those who feed, fuel, and clothe the American people."

A similar message at the Health and Human Services website indicates, "Mission-critical activities of HHS will continue during the Democrat-led government shutdown. Please use this site as a resource as the Trump Administration works to reopen the government for the American people."

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Supreme Court website indicates only, "Due to a lapse of appropriations, the Supreme Court Building will be closed to the public until further notice. The Building will remain open for official business," making no mention of Democrats.

And the website [uscourts.gov](http://uscourts.gov) follows that lead with "Funding Lapse: Judiciary operations are limited due to the government shutdown."

Why doesn't the U.S. court system mention Democrats as the cause of the federal shutdown when other federal departments do? One doesn't have to look far for an answer.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel has a section detailing provisions of The Hatch Act, a federal law passed in 1939, that limits certain political activities of federal employees, as well as some state, D.C., and local government employees who work in connection with federally funded programs.

There we learn that "The law's purposes are to ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation."

Under the act certain less-restricted employees may "Express opinions about candidates and issues. If the expression is political activity, however – i.e., activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group – then the expression is not permitted while the employee is on duty, in any federal room or building, while wearing a uniform or official insignia, or using any federally owned or leased vehicle."

I'm not an attorney and don't intend to litigate any issue here, I simply ask, how is it that the messages shared above get posted on official U.S. websites, presumably with someone in the chain of people that does so, being on the federal payroll?

And, how do federal courts seemingly operate with the Hatch Act in mind when other departments seem to operate differently?

Then finally, I suggest that anyone who has attempted to negotiate anything has likely learned that a successful negotiation requires talking with the other party and not continuing to vote on the same intractable question.

**Paul Fixx, editor**

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

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Submissions of Content and Deadlines: The Hardwick Gazette is published late on Tuesday each week with Wednesday's date. Submit community event information, announcements, opinions, press releases, paid ads and business news the Friday before publication by 5 p.m. Local news and sports items, letters to the editor and church submissions are due Monday by noon. Deadlines may be earlier for holidays. Obituaries may be submitted at any time. We make every attempt to confirm receipt of obituaries. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week's edition. Photos capturing news and community events are welcome with details with the full name of each identifiable person, what is happening, when and where the photo was taken and why it is newsworthy. When sending photos, send unedited files in the largest size available to ensure the best page and web presentation.

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## People who made it possible

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – “Mister Lange,” Judge Murphy intoned. “In the State of New York you are allowed to amass eight points in fourteen months on your driver’s license before a review of its status must be held. You have managed to amass fourteen points in eight months. Now, what do you imagine will be the result of this hearing?”

I don’t remember what I murmured in response, but I was mentally noting the touch of humor in the judge’s otherwise sober demeanor as he described my record.

“I notice that your wife is obviously pregnant and I have a letter from your seasonal employer stating that your truck driving job will be restarting next month. But if I don’t take your license for a reasonable amount of time, Albany will take it, and God alone knows when you’ll see it again. So I’m taking it for thirty days.”

This was better news than I’d been expecting. I nodded appreciatively. Then he asked if my wife could drive us home. He knew what I had: a retired race car, a modified Jaguar roadster with four on the floor and far too much power, plus a 25-mile drive through the woods and mountains to our home village. The notion of my wife driving was hair-raising in the extreme. I shook my head.

“Okay, then. You drive it home. I’m pretty sure you won’t get stopped on the way. Am I right?” I nodded enthusiastically. “Then you park it in your driveway and don’t touch it till your license comes in the mail. Good luck to you.”

On the way out of the courthouse, chastened but hopeful, I couldn’t help but think of a line from the old Tin Pan Alley song “A typical Tipperary,” “Irish judges and police, Begorra, the Irish are keepin’ the peace.”

My friends at home assured me that the license was gone and not likely to resurface unless I hired a lawyer. But on the thirtieth day it was in my mailbox. I solemnly salute Judge Murphy whenever I drive through Port Henry, on the far shore of Lake Champlain.

I often reminisce, on these long, dark late fall evenings, about the people, most of them now deceased, who made it possible for me to be sitting here in a quiet office, my dog in a chair just behind me, the aroma of espresso in the room, placidly typing. There were

too many to remember all at once. Just over a year after my only meeting with Judge Murphy, and now working for good wages at the state-operated bobsled run in Lake Placid, I looked around at my mates and noticed that they were doing the same work I was, but they were older than I and didn’t appear to be enjoying themselves. Uh-oh, I thought. I now have a family to support, and don’t want to be doing this for the rest of my working life. I’d better go back and finish college.

My collegiate record in Ohio was spotty, to say the least. I kept dropping out willy-nilly to go west with passing mountain-climbing friends. So I approached the dean, one of the kindest men I’ve ever known, and asked about it. I still have his response. He’d pled my case to the Academic Standards Committee and gotten its approval. He wrote that he didn’t need to remind me it was my last admission to the college, and went on to say he was looking for housing for us. He was a true mensch.

We left the Adirondacks in a January storm, now driving a more sensible VW Beetle stuffed with everything we owned and a playpen on the roof.

The local pastor came to see us. Did we have enough money to get to Ohio? Well, yeah, but it was going to be tight. About twenty gallons of gas ought to get us there. She gave us fifteen bucks from her discretionary fund to, as she said, get us out of town. Another saint.

There were many more along the way over the next thirty years or so, even my boss at the bus station where my evening job kept me in college and the family in food. He could do my job, had, in fact, for years, but now he was spending evenings “going over the books” with the woman who ran his bus station lunch counter. His indiscretions were my job security. My discretion was his security.

An elderly Dartmouth professor learned I was building my own house in Etna, N.H., and most days after work changed duds and came to help till dark. A friend from the Adirondacks heard I was going broke at one point and bailed me out by retiring my liens. If there’s ever anything he needs that I’ve got, it’s his. There were bogeymen, too. One did a Donald Trump on me and caused the bankruptcy. But the memories of the last 70 years are studded most of all with true saints.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE BEST WHEN YOUR HUSBAND IS ALLOWING CHILDREN TO BE ZIP-TIED AND DRAGGED NAKED FROM THEIR BEDS?”

## MEETING MEMO

### Wednesday, November 5

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

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

### Thursday, November 6

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

### Monday, November 10

Calais Select Board, second Monday of month, 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, November 11

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

### Wednesday, November 12

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

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

### Thursday, November 13

Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, second Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m., alternating among the three campuses.

### Town Clerks

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

## Vermont's housing needs require decisive action

by Julie Moore and Kerrick Johnson

Vermont faces a housing crisis that threatens our economic future and the ability of working families to remain in our state. The cost of housing has skyrocketed with median home prices in Vermont more than doubling in the last 10 years, putting both homeownership and rentals out of reach for many. Vermont needs 30,000 new homes by 2030, requiring 8,000 units per year for the next four years. At current rates, we'll struggle to hit even 25% of that goal.

In response, Governor Scott recently issued a Housing Executive Order (EO) that directs a set of measured yet impactful steps to accelerate housing development timelines and reduce costs. The Governor's EO doesn't eliminate regulatory review or ignore legitimate concerns. It balances the need for affordability with environmental objectives for housing projects in areas identified for development. These are modest, commonsense reforms designed to provide regu-

latory certainty, moving projects more quickly from planning to construction while maintaining needed protections.

Sadly, if not predictably, a number of environmental interest groups have responded with reflexive opposition. In voicing their opposition to the EO, environmental advocacy groups have offered no actionable alternatives. They haven't proposed how to accelerate permitting while maintaining protections. They haven't suggested which regulations could be modernized or consolidated. They haven't identified specific areas where housing could be fast-tracked. Instead, they've defaulted to criticism without contribution – the easiest position to maintain and the least helpful for Vermonters struggling to find housing.

This matters because housing isn't an abstract policy debate. These are real problems affecting our neighborhoods, communities, businesses and schools. It's about whether a teacher can afford to live in the community where they work. It's about whether a young couple can start a family here

instead of moving to New Hampshire or North Carolina. It's about whether businesses, from the smallest engineering firm to the general store to our beloved universities are able to thrive right here in Vermont. Without housing, we cannot recruit and retain staff for our nursing homes, clinics and hospitals as there simply aren't places for them to live.

Yet in the face of the Governor's modest but concrete measures that should reduce the cost and speed the timeline for constructing homes, these interest groups retreat to familiar talking points and procedural objections. Their response reveals an uncomfortable truth: their real interests lie in preserving the existing regulatory barriers rather than meaningful problem-solving.

This dynamic exemplifies what Ezra Klein, an award-winning columnist with the New York Times, explored in his recent work on abundance: our regulatory systems have become so byzantine, so weighted toward one-off objections and appeals rather than progress, that we actively obstruct the very things we claim to want most.

We say we need affordable housing, then create endless opportunities for delay. We claim we want walkable downtowns and community schools filled with children and then make land-use policies that limit density and put homeownership out of reach for young families. We declare climate emergencies, then enact policies without regard for the cost of implementation. We bemoan economic stagnation,

then strangle development with process.

Within the broader environmental community there is clear expertise and legitimate perspectives. But expertise wielded not to provide constructive input and alternatives but to instead assert picayune process objections is mere obstruction.

Vermont needs an abundance agenda: one that recognizes we can protect our environment while building the housing our communities desperately need. We can say yes to appropriate development while conserving what makes Vermont special. But this requires solving problems rather than simply scoring political points.

To the environmental groups criticizing this Executive Order: please show us your plan. Tell us how you would accelerate housing production. Identify specific regulatory reforms you support. If you cannot or will not, then most Vermonters will understand your opposition for what it really is – political theater performed at the expense of working families searching for places to live and businesses struggling to bring new hires to the state.

Governor Scott has taken action. We stand ready to implement solutions. The question now is whether environmental interest groups who claim to care about Vermont's future will contribute to solving this crisis or perpetuate the status quo.

*Julie Moore is secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Kerrick Johnson is commissioner at the Department of Public Service Commissioner.*

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



The Hardwick Gazette

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

### Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a hybrid hearing on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the Greensboro Town Office and via ZOOM. The Board will consider a Conditional Use request by Alexandra Graylin-Frey for an Accessory Dwelling Unit at 137 High Pines. This request will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 3.8 Nonconformities, and 5.4 Conditional Use. An in-person site visit for the proposal will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. Both the hearing and the site visit are open to the public.

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

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

The Greensboro Development Review Board

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## We are each other's harvest

by The Rev. Sarah Lammert

GREENSBORO – On October 19, many Vermonters stood up for democracy by attending No Kings Day 2 rallies, a reminder that freedom isn't self-sustaining, as if we needed reminding these days.

Democracy, like faith, depends on ordinary people who care deeply about one another and about the common good; people who keep showing up, speaking up and tending to one another's well-being.

When poet Gwendolyn Brooks wrote her poem "Paul Robeson" in 1970, she was honoring a man who embodied both courage and compassion. Robeson was one of the most accomplished Americans of the twentieth century. He was a concert artist, stage actor, scholar, athlete and advocate.

The son of a formerly enslaved man, Robeson rose from humble beginnings to global fame. His deep, resonant voice could make a concert hall fall silent. He starred in "Othello" and "Show Boat" and filled audiences around the world.

But Robeson believed his gifts came with responsibility. He refused to separate art from justice, speaking out against racism, colonialism and war. For that, during the McCarthy era, he was punished: his passport revoked, his concerts canceled, his voice nearly silenced. Still, he refused to stop speaking the truth. Brooks saw in him not just talent but moral strength; a life lived for others, with courage joined to compassion.

She wrote:

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

Brooks' words ring especially true in this harvest season. The

fields around us are nearly empty now. The last pumpkins and apples gathered, the corn stubble pale in the slanting light. Farmers and gardeners are storing what remains, giving thanks for the bounty while preparing for the long winter ahead. In earlier times, harvest wasn't just about food; it was about survival. Neighbors worked side by side to bring in the crops, to make sure no one faced the cold months alone. That, too, is democracy at work: a community taking care of its own.

I see that same spirit at the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

Every week, the pantry serves people doing their best to hold things together: families living in cars, elders stretching meals, working parents who never imagined they would need this kind of help. I see struggle there, but also resilience and generosity; volunteers who show up faithfully, neighbors who bring in produce from their gardens and people who share recipes, stories and sometimes even hope.

Lately, the pantry has been under growing pressure as federal SNAP benefits, the food support program that allows many of our neighbors to buy groceries, are threatened.

When those benefits shrink, more families turn to community pantries to fill the gap. It's a heavy lift, and yet it's holy work: democracy with its sleeves rolled up.

Faith, at its best, is what happens when truth and compassion take on hands and feet, when someone dares to name what's wrong, and someone else quietly shows up to help.

This is what Brooks meant. We are each other's harvest.

Truth-telling and compassion

in action are the twin labors that keep both faith and democracy alive. They remind us that love is not an idea but a practice, lived out in marches and in food lines, in words of courage and in acts of care.

It isn't grand or finished work.

It's daily, imperfect, hopeful work, the kind that calls us back, again and again, to one another.

Because when one of us names

the truth, another finds courage.

When one of us extends a hand, another gathers strength.

And when we remember that we belong to one another, the world leans, just a little, toward healing.

*Reverend Sarah Lammert is the founder of Shared Vision Consulting in Vermont and works as the Federal Chaplaincies Endorser for the Unitarian Universalist Association.*



Evan Karp (left) of Greensboro, head kitchen coordinator for the annual Child Haven Indian Dinner, held November 1, helps Linda Hunkins (right) of Barnet transfer vegetables and spices for the daal. Fifteen volunteers helped to prep and cook the Indian dinner held in the Hazen Union Cafeteria.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Penelope Otto, 5, of Walden wears a traditional girls dress from South India during the sari fashion show at the 17th annual Child Haven benefit dinner, November 1.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



# IN THE GARDEN



Peas planted as a cover crop can prevent erosion of the soil and fix nitrogen to provide nutrients for spring plants. photo by Amy Simone



Consider adding dolomitic limestone to increase the pH of garden soils that are too acidic. photo by Amy Simone

## Soil test now for healthier gardens

by Amy Simone

SOUTH BURLINGTON – As the gardening season draws to a close, now is the ideal time to set yourself up for success next year. Assessing the health of your soil this fall will result in a solid foundation for your plants by spring.

Start by conducting a soil test ([go.uvm.edu/soiltest](http://go.uvm.edu/soiltest)) for any vegetable and berry gardens, plus additional, separate tests for areas with different growing conditions such as perennial beds, fruit trees, and lawn.

The tests will be returned to you showing the value of Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), and Magnesium (Mg) present in your soil sample, in addition to many other essential nutrients. It will also identify the pH level of the sample(s) tested. Lastly, it will show the percentage of soil organic matter and the Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) percent, which

is the soil's ability to absorb and deliver positively charged nutrients.

A pH of 6 to 7 is optimal for most crops. If the pH is below 5.5 (acidic) or above 7 (alkaline), the chemical conditions in the soil may prevent the plants from properly taking up the nutrients that are present. An exception to this is plants like blueberries and rhododendron which thrive in acidic soil.

The addition of lime will increase the pH in soil that is too acidic. Look for calcite, a high-calcium form of lime, to use on soil without a magnesium deficiency. If magnesium is low, however, choose dolomite, which will boost magnesium at the same time as the lime lowers the soil pH. If the soil test recommends more than 100 pounds of lime per 1,000 square feet, splitting the application between fall and spring is recommended.

Wood ash can be used in place

of lime to increase the pH of your soil. Use about two to three times more ash by weight than lime.

For soil with too high a pH value, elemental sulfur is employed to reduce it.

To address soil nutrient deficiencies, pH is often the best place to start because some soil nutrients become unavailable to plants when the pH is off.

In terms of chemical and natural fertilizers, gardeners, like farmers, should be careful to apply only the amount of nutrients needed for optimal plant growth to avoid excessive nutrients that may inadvertently end up in ground and surface waters. In fact, a 2012 Vermont law restricts the application of phosphorus (P) fertilizers to lawns unless a soil test indicates their soils are deficient in P or if you are establishing a new lawn. Nitrogen (N) fertilizer applications are also prohibited to lawns.

While fall application of some slow-release natural fertilizers may give them the necessary time for microorganisms to break them down into accessible nutrients for plants, it is best to wait for spring

for most applications, especially if applied to bare soil. The same goes for most bagged composts that can be high in P if made from animal manures.

Cover crops, on the other hand, are a great way to add nutrients and improve soil structure. While it is late in the season for planting, winter rye, triticale, hairy vetch, winter wheat, winter peas, fava beans, and crimson clover are fairly winter hearty once germinated.

Put mulch over bare soil to protect it from erosion, help it retain moisture, reduce leaching of nutrients, build organic matter, and suppress weeds. Organic mulches such as chopped tree leaves, herbicide-free grass clippings, straw, wood bark and wood chips are broken down by microbes, releasing a moderate amount of nutrients into your soil in the process. Mulch acid-loving blueberries with wood chips, pine needles and bark fines, or aged sawdust.

Amy Simone is a University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington.



Cover crops, like winter rye and peas, are great ways to improve soil structure, add nutrients, shade out weeds, and help prevent soil erosion. photo by Debra Heleba

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# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## A Quick Trip to Birding Paradise



Broad-billed Tody (*Todus subulatus*)

photo by Jim Goetz



Greater Antillean Elaenia (*Elaenia fallax*)

photo by Jim Goetz

by Jim Goetz

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – As a conservation scientist focused on birds and their habitats, I've worked and sometimes lived on Hispaniola, the island that the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti share, since the mid-1990s.

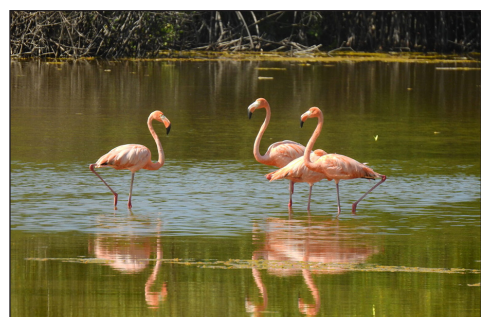
Accompanied by local colleagues who have taught me much, I've crisscrossed the island, hiking and birding all kinds of forests: dry scrub, wet, cloud, pine, mangrove and everything in between.

Every step of the way I find reasons to skip the rum drinks and tourist beaches, and explore the rest of the island.

What makes Hispaniola so enticing? The surprising interaction of diverse geology and diverse ecology, for one. Diversity begets diversity. I'll save the island's equally fascinating history and culture for another day.

Working from the ground up, plate tectonics are the first-order force, driving diversity through the slow-motion smashup of three smaller islands that today form Hispaniola.

Layer upon layer of wrinkled, folded bedrock creates a landscape resembling a crumpled piece of paper, with endless peaks and valleys. Sprinkle in sea-level changes repeatedly separating and reconnecting the islands over eons, and we have the main ingredients of the evolutionary recipe for



American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

photo by Jim Goetz

a biodiversity hot spot.

The DR's biodiversity features hundreds of endemic species — ones you'll find nowhere else on the planet, among them orchids, iguanas, frogs, ferns, and (happily for us) 33 extraordinary bird species.

To take in all this diversity, I like to start by birding from the ground up. Are we standing on granite or limestone bedrock? The former has cool rushing rivers and waterthrushes; the latter has caves and White-collared Swifts.

In the cool pines we find crossbills, elaenias and siskins; in the cloud forest, parrots, parakeets and quail-doves.

In coffee and cacao, look for migrant warblers and Red-legged Thrushes (but not Bicknell's).

In coastal wetlands, it's ducks, egrets and sandpipers.

To bird from the ground up, quite literally, we can start at the island's lowest point, Lago Enriquillo, a hypersaline lake 150 feet below sea level.

Arriving at dawn, the heat is already intense. A tiny lowland bird sings incessantly atop the tallest tree. Grab your binoculars to see the world's second-smallest bird with a body smaller than the tip of your little finger, the endemic Vervain Hummingbird. Only Cuba's Bee Hummingbird is smaller. As the sun rises, sharp images of cactus, crocodiles, flamingos and endemic Palm Crows melt and merge in the shimmering heat.

As we head to the cool mountaintop cloud forests of Sierra de Bahoruco to escape the heat, we stop to watch a Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo methodically search a tree branch-by-branch and masterfully snatch up a lizard with its long thin bill.

In the dry scrub forest of the foothills, we hear the rhythmic calls of what look like neon-green

ping-pong balls with bright orange bills. They're lowland Broad-billed Todies, a distant relative of kingfishers. Instead of fishing, they deftly catch insects on the wing. When we hear a nearly identical bird call chi-qui...chi-qui, we have found its highland cousin, the Narrow-billed Tody, and are already above 2,000 feet.

When we reach Zapotén in late afternoon, at 5,000 feet, clouds bathe the evergreen forest. In this and nearby montane broadleaf forests, the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies (VCE) has conducted extensive Bicknell's Thrush research and conservation work.

Alongside Bicknell's, we find endemic warblers, chat-tanagers and trogons. As night falls, the haunting song of the La Selle Thrush rises to fill the air. Only in this habitat, only on this island.

This winter I'll return to the

island to work with Grupo Jaragua, VCE's longtime local partner, to install Motus stations: radio receivers for tracking Bicknell's Thrush and other migrant birds that we and others have tagged. I'll also visit our research site at Reserva Privada el Zorzal, a 1,019-acre private forest reserve in the North.

Twenty years of close collaboration between the reserve's caretakers and local landholders have transformed degraded pastures and eroded hillsides into a productive cacao plantation, a lush forest, and a refuge for dozens of bird species, including Bicknell's Thrush.

Now Reserva Privada el Zorzal produces a remarkable trifecta: exquisite chocolate, great bird habitat and a model for linking productive livelihoods and forest restoration that really works.

Jim Goetz is a staff member at the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies.

### NOTICE OF HEARING

#### WOODBURY ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Woodbury Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025. The hearing will take place at the Woodbury Town Hall, 3675 Route 14, Woodbury, Vt. The hearing will be to consider the application dated September 9, 2025, to amend the current non-conforming use that was previously granted to Swenson Granite Company, LLC. The operator of the Granite Quarry, located at 1127 Cabot Road, Woodbury, Vt.

Swenson Granite Company, LLC is applying to expand the footprint of the existing quarry, including stockpile, waste block, stockpile areas and the extraction area. Operational modifications are also proposed, including the addition of a mobile crusher, stormwater improvements and other related ancillary improvements.

The hearing will review the following proposed expansions to the current non-conforming use:

- Addition of a crusher on site to be used for a maximum of 45 days a year. And to crush a maximum of 20,000 Cubic Yards per year
- Expanded use would result in 50 daily truck loads max (100 trips)
- Expanded storage and support areas on the hillside to the north of the current site

The hearing will review Swenson Granite Company; LLC's proposed expanded use and determine if the plan meets the criteria for Non-Conforming Use in compliance with the Woodbury Zoning Ordinance. Particularly Section 2.11.1 Non-Conforming Uses and Non-Complying Structures. After the review and determination, the Board will rule on approval or denial of the application.

A copy of the application for a Change of Use Permit is available for public review with all supporting documentation at the Town Clerk's Office in South Woodbury.

Dated: October 27, 2025  
Woodbury Zoning Board of Adjustment  
By Chairperson, Jonah Meacham

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Lingering Loon Chicks

by Emily Haynes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At this point in the season, most migrating songbirds and raptors have already left. But on lakes and ponds across New England, some loons are still fishing and paddling. Loon parents may set off for the ocean before their young can fly, so it's not uncommon to see loon chicks alone on the water in late autumn.

Concerned birdwatchers sometimes call up Eric Hanson, loon biologist at Vermont Center for Ecostudies, to report what they believe are abandoned loon chicks when they come across young birds without an adult. Hanson, who leads the center's loon conservation project, assures callers that loon chicks are fairly self-sufficient by 10 weeks of age, sometimes even by seven weeks, with fully grown feet and effective fishing skills.

Loon chicks spend much of the fall season mastering flight. A common training exercise is "wing rowing" across the water, using their wings like oars to propel themselves forward. To take flight from the water, loons must vigorously flap their wings for as long as a quarter of a mile before they can lift off; substantial wing and chest muscles are imperative for flight. "They have to exercise those for a while before they're strong enough to get airborne," Hanson said.

Loons take to the ocean in autumn before their home lakes and ponds freeze, since this prevents them from taking flight, limits their fishing range and makes them vulnerable to predators.

Despite their need to practice flying before migration, some

loon chicks have been known to leave their home lakes in early September, while others linger late into the fall. So what explains this broad range in departure times?

Loon behavior is highly varied, biologists say. Lee Attix, a consulting loon biologist who works with volunteers to monitor loon populations, studied fall migration timing from 2013 to 2017, observing 32 loon pairs with chicks across Maine and New Hampshire. (Reproducing loons typically have one or two chicks.)

Attix was surprised at how inconsistent migration timing proved to be. During the study's first two years, departure dates for each pair's last chick ranged from September 19 to November 20, with October 30 as the average departure date. On average, the first adult departed on October 10, while the second adult left on October 27.

Sometimes when loon chicks first leave their natal lakes, they congregate with other chicks on larger lakes before completing their journey. But Hanson said scientists understand little about how and why a loon chooses its migration route.

Leaving its home waters is only the first step in a loon chick's inaugural migration. Though short compared to other birds', often just one or two days of flight, loon migrations are still fraught with risk, including disorientation. "Once a chick begins its first migration to the ocean, it probably has a 50-50 chance that it will survive at least to the next year," said Harry Vogel, senior biologist at the Loon Preservation Committee in New Hampshire.



Loon chick

At sea, loon chicks can count on open water through the winter, but they must also avoid new predators, such as sharks, and adapt to a diet that now includes menhaden, lobster and crab. They learn new fishing and hunting techniques, and they also activate salt-excreting glands between their eyes and bill to pump salt out of their bloodstream.

While adult loons typically return to inland lakes and ponds in April or May, immature loons tend to stay on the ocean for three or four years. Once they reach sexual maturity, loons generally

return to breed within 30 miles of their home waters.

Many loons are now preparing for migration, some for the first time. If you spot loon adults or chicks on the water this autumn, there's not yet cause for alarm, biologists say. "Give them some space," Vogel said. "If you want to observe loons up close and personal, buy yourself a pair of binoculars and do it that way."

*Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast.*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Public Assistance Program funding for an action located in the floodway. Funding would be provided through Vermont Emergency Management to the Town of Hardwick Electric Department to repair the Hydroelectric Facility along the Lamoille River.

The proposed action is located on the Lamoille River in Wolcott, Vermont. Work to repair and rehabilitate this facility is ongoing. FEMA proposes to fund repairs to the dam, the gatehouse, and the access road, as well as the replacement of damaged components in the hydroelectric generation building, including the turbine, generator, and control room utilities. Future repairs to the building exterior and potential hazard mitigation to dry and wet floodproof the hydroelectric facility against future flood damages may be forthcoming.

The project is within the floodway. The repairs to the hydroelectric facility will reduce the risk of future damage adversely affecting the functionality of the facility. A map of the area is available upon request.

Alternatives considered and dismissed included the No Action alternative and re-location. The project must take place within the floodway because the hydroelectric facility is functionally dependent on its location along the Lamoille River. The No Action alternative is not practicable; the facility is needed for electric power generation for its service area and is a critical facility.

The proposed action was determined to be the most practicable alternative because it restores the utility and integrity of the facility and extends the useful life of the structures, minimizing risks to human health and safety. Furthermore, proposed mitigation measures are intended to minimize adverse impacts by protecting this facility with dry and wet floodproofing.

The proposed action is being conditioned for coordination with the local floodplain administrator and Clean Water Act permitting.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodway impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 1 220 Binney St. Cambridge, MA 02142

FEMA-R1-COMPTA-ENV@fema.dhs.gov



Local and South Asian items on the silent auction and bazaar table attract attention at the annual Hardwick Child Haven Dinner benefit in the Hazen Union School Cafeteria, November 1, where around 180 attended.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Chess club meets after school Mondays

CRAFTSBURY – Students from grades 2 to 12 can play chess at Craftsbury school on select Mondays, from 2:45 to 4 p.m., in the Minden Art Room. Join club advisor Andras Hadik-Barkoczy in preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament on March 28.

## Death cafe, fourth Monday's

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Senior Center will host a death cafe from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, with tea and goodies served. There is no set agenda, just a safe place to listen, talk and share about death. Discussion will range from plans, hopes and worries, to the many options for all parts of death.

## Taco dinner, Nov. 5

HARDWICK – On November 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Neighbor to Neighbor (NtN) will host a taco dinner, provided by Caja Madera, as well as desserts in the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Memorial Library. Attendees will celebrate NtN's volunteer efforts, explore new opportunities to get involved, and discuss next steps for building a more resilient Hardwick.

## Library Mystery Month features games, trivia, performances

ST. JOHNSBURY – The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum has a slate of events for its November Mystery Month, including a live CLUE game and a murder mystery live radio play in the Art Gallery. Lee Mueller.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., local mystery writer Beth Kanell will talk about her process of writing mysteries, including her series "Winds of Freedom," which includes "The Long Shadow" and "The Darkness Under the Water."

Mystery Month concludes with a Live CLUE game on Saturday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m.. Food and soft drinks will be provided and tickets are available at the Athenaeum website at stjath- enaem.org but attendance is limited. The Athenaeum is located at 1171 Main St.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 1 p.m., the Athenaeum Players will perform "Murder Me Always: by

## Blood donations scheduled for Hardwick, Plainfield

HARDWICK, PLAINFIELD – The American Red Cross asks people to schedule time to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply stable ahead of the holiday season. Donations may be made through the Red Cross in Hardwick, at Hazen Union High School, November 11, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and in Plainfield, at Twinfield High School. November 14, from noon to 5 p.m. Those who give blood, platelets or plasma through November 16, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice and automatic entry for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards.

## Guild Christmas show, Nov. 7 and 8

PEACHAM – The Peacham Corner Guild Christmas Show will be held upstairs at Peacham Town Hall, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and November 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Guild members and invited guest artists will be selling their work. A trunk containing items made and donated by Peacham Corner Guild members will be raffled. There will be a variety of baked goods and light lunch fare to eat in or take out.



The reseeded Lamoille riverbank where a 41 Brush Street home once stood to the left of where the concrete slab of a garage is all that remains of the two Hardwick buildings removed by the state with FEMA funding. The town has hired an engineer to provide advice about next steps to protect the riverbank and area from erosion and future Lamoille River high water event.

photo by Paul Fixx

## Bollywood dance party to support Cutler Library, Nov. 9

PLAINFIELD – The Plainfield Memorial Library. Admission by Opera House will host an afternoon of Bollywood music ,Sunday, Nov. 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. Come to dance or enjoy the music, and support Cutler

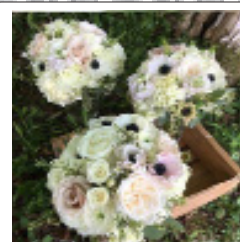
Memorial Library. Admission by donation, accepted as cash/check at the door. Bring indoor clean shoes. For information, email elizabeth-mathai@yahoo.com

## Fiber art exhibition, Nov. 14

PLAINFIELD – An opening reception for "Fibers of Being," an exhibition showcasing the fiber artistry of Elisabeth Mazzilli, will take place at the Cutler Memorial Library, 151 High St., Thursday, Nov. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition is free and open and to the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artist and learn more about the techniques and inspirations behind her work.

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The Hardwick Gazette provides space for engagements and wedding news as a free service. Wedding announcements and photos should be received by our office within two months of the ceremony. Photographs supplied will be returned when accompanied by a SASE. Use of engagement and wedding information, as well as accompanying photographs, is at the discretion of the editors.

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For information about advertising in the Wedding & Party Planner call The Hardwick Gazette at 472-6521!

# EDUCATION

## Students harvest seeds for planting

by Center for an Agricultural Economy

HARDWICK – In October, first-graders from Hardwick Elementary School met with high school students from Hazen’s Dare to Be Me class at Atkins Field. There, Reeve Basom and Bethany Dunbar from the Center for an Agricultural Economy welcomed them for a morning of riparian seed conservation activities with community partner guest experts from the Northwoods Stewardship Center and the Intervale Center.

The speckled alder trees that line Cooper Brook were perfectly mature for a seed harvest. Students learned how to differentiate cones from next year’s flowers as they carefully used pruning tools to harvest no more than 20% of the seeds from each chosen tree. Next, students used a series of special screens to clean the alder seeds as well as other varieties brought by the instructors. Conservation nurseries will grow these seeds for planting in riparian zones to support ecosystem health and flood mitigation.



Craftsbury middle-schoolers near the top of Jay Peak, on a hike October 15, during their WOW (With Out Walls Wednesday) activity. courtesy photo

## WOW Wednesday has middle-schoolers learning outdoors

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury Middle School students in grades six to eight leave the classroom each Wednesday for the WOW (With Out Walls) program. Vermont becomes a classroom every Wednesday as they have picked blueberries, gone rock climbing and visited the shores of Lake Champlain.

All 59 middle-schoolers made the 1.6 mile hike up Wheeler Mountain and 4.4 or 3.8 mile hikes up Jay Peak on

consecutive Wednesdays. Follow middle school WOW activities at facebook.com/CraftsburyMiddleSchoolWOW A social media post there noted: “Decades of research and the experiences of Craftsbury educators – indicate that health and well-being are directly correlated with time spent in nature. Students who spend time learning outdoors exhibit: Improved focus and behavior, stronger academic connections and increased confidence and resiliency.”

# BIRTHS

Elora Mae Kish

MORRISVILLE – On October 26, Elora Mae Kish was born to Daniel and Lauren (Holt) Kish of East Hardwick at Copley Hospital.



Donna O’ Malley (left) and Cheryl Grimes (right) chop kale for the Hardwick Child Haven benefit dinner, held November 1, in the Hazen Union Cafeteria. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Eve Gordon of Woodbury stirs daal as Robin Cappaccino (center), director of Child Haven International and Tina Ghantous of Glover (right) look on at the annual Hardwick Child Haven benefit dinner in the Hazen Union High School Cafeteria, November 1. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Julia Barstow (left) and her mother Betsy Barstow (right) of Adamant examine the many items on the silent auction tables displayed to bid on during the Child Haven benefit, November 1, in the Hazen Union school cafeteria. photo by Vanessa Fournier

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# OBITUARIES

## Arline R. Pasette

HARDWICK – Arline Rita Pasette, 82, of Hardwick died October 31, at the Crescent Manor Nursing Home in Bennington.

She was born November 6, 1942, in West Glover; one of 14 children born to the late Raymond and Margaret (Lussier) Gravel.

Arline attended schools in West Glover, Barton and graduated from Peoples Academy in Morrisville in the class of 1962.

She was employed by several agencies and local businesses during her early working years, including the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, Greensboro Nursing Home, Hardwick Knitwear, and the Dumont Nursing Home.

On June 24, 1967, she married Thomas Calvin Pasette at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Morrisville. At that time, Arline stayed at home for six years to care for her young family. Later she re-entered the work world and was employed at Hardwick Elementary School for two years, Concord Manufacturing, Ames Department Store and Price Chopper, all in Morrisville.

Arline was a devoted member of Mary Queen of all Saints Parish in Hardwick. She enjoyed puzzles, drawing, spending time with her very large family, especially her son and his family and



Arline R. Pasette

her dogs, Annie and Little Boy.

Survivors include a son Thomas R. Pasette (Tammy), of Hardwick; a granddaughter Lynn Pasette and a great-grandson Huntley Watson, both of Floyd, Va.; her siblings Roland Gravel of Northfield, Conn., Lucien Gravel and Marcel Gravel, both of North Wolcott, Norman Gravel, Edward Gravel and Debbie Draper, all of East Hardwick, Hazel Bowen of Morrisville, and Paulette Hill of Johnson; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by Thomas C. Pasette in 2001; her siblings, Raymond Gravel, Robert Gravel, Jane Bachert, Susan Campbell and Delores Dannat.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in the Spring of 2026 at Mary Queen of all Saints Parish, in Hardwick, with a date and time to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to: Lamoille County Mental Health Services, Attn. Rita, 72 Harrel Street, Morrisville, VT 05661.

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

## Beverly A. (Bev) Phelps

HARDWICK – Beverly Ann (Loura) Phelps, 91, died peacefully on Sunday, October 26, at the Greensboro Nursing Home.

She was born November 13, 1933, in Hardwick, the daughter of the late Carl A. and Daisy (Downing) Loura. She graduated from Hardwick Academy in the class of 1951.

On September 30, 1954, she married Edward Nelson (Eddie) Phelps in Morrisville. They eventually settled in Hardwick to raise their two sons. Beverly stayed at home to care for her young family. She was a member of the United Church of Hardwick and Circle No. 8 of that church.

She enjoyed bowling, crocheting, dancing, country and western music, playing canasta and all kinds of card games with her sisters and friends. Bev was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who loved the time that she spent with her family.

Survivors include two sons: Reginald (Reg) Phelps of Hardwick, and Richard (Rick) Phelps and wife, Nancy of Williamstown; two granddaughters Andrea Phelps and her partner Travis Bailey of Hardwick and Rachel Phelps and her partner Justin Tosh of Montpelier; a great-granddaughter, Elexia (Lexi) of Salem, Mass.

She was predeceased by her husband Eddie, two sisters Thelma and Leola, and a half brother, Jack Loura.

Private family services will be



Beverly A. (Bev) Phelps

held in the spring.

The Phelps family would like to extend a very sincere thank you to Lester Fuller for delivering the daily mail (and local news) from the start of Eddie's decline in health until Bev relocated to Greensboro, the staff of Greensboro Nursing Home, Dr. Sarah Morgan and Bonnie Cleveland for the kindness and support given to Beverly during her declining health.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Lamoille Area Cancer Network, 198 Farr Avenue, Morrisville, VT 05661.

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

State of Vermont  
Superior Court Probate Division  
Caledonia Unit, Docket No. 25-PR-05717  
In re Estate of Denise Michaud Fradette, late of E. Hardwick  
I have been appointed to administer this estate. All Creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented with the four (4) month period.  
Dated: October 31, 2025  
Signature of Fiduciary: Mario Fradette  
Executor/Administrator: Mario Fradette  
64 Petes Pond Rd.  
East Hardwick, VT 05836  
802-793-4764  
Email: [fradettesmaplesyrup@gmail.com](mailto:fradettesmaplesyrup@gmail.com)  
Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette  
Publication Date: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court  
Address of Probate Court: Caledonia Unit  
1126 Main Street  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

## The Women's Center at Copley

Providing Expert and Compassionate Care



Dr. Robin Leight and Dr. Michael Silverberg, with our dedicated team of caring physicians, nurses, medical assistants, and administrative staff, work together with one common objective: providing excellent care for the patients in our community.

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- Comprehensive menopause care
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email [TheWomensCenter@CHSI.org](mailto:TheWomensCenter@CHSI.org) or  
visit [copleyvt.org](http://copleyvt.org).

## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843

802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb  
Funeral Director

PRENEED  
PLANNING

# THE BOOKSHELF

**ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 530 Main St., Albany, (802) 755-6107, [albanypubliclibraryvt.org](http://albanypubliclibraryvt.org). Mon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wed. 2 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 1 to 5 p.m. Storytime for all ages: Mon. 10 a.m. and Sat. 4 p.m.

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

**CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 3084 Main St, (802) 563-2721, [cabotlibrary.com](http://cabotlibrary.com), Mon., 3 to 6 p.m.; Tues., noon to 6 p.m., Wed., 2 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon.

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

**CUTLER MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 151 High St, Plainfield (802) 454-8504, [cutlerlibrary.org](http://cutlerlibrary.org), Tues., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wed. 3 to 6 p.m., Thurs., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**GLEE MERRITT KELLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, 320 School Hill Drive, Wolcott, (802) 472-6551, Mon. to Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY**, 53 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, [greensborofreelibrary.org](http://greensborofreelibrary.org), Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thur. and Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

## Illusionist Leon Etienne at the BOH, Nov. 15

BARRE – Illusionist Leon Etienne will perform his “Magic Rocks” show at the Barre Opera House on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m.

Etienne has been featured on “America’s Got Talent,” “Penn & Teller: Fool Us!,” “Masters of Illusion” and “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon.” The show is immersive and family-friendly.

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

**THANKS FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN**  
 THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sun. noon to 2 p.m.

**HAZEN UNION SCHOOL LIBRARY**, 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick, (802) 472-6511, [hazen-library@ossu.org](mailto:hazen-library@ossu.org), 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. while school is in session. Open to the public.

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., Marshfield, (802) 426-3581, [jaquithpubliclibrary.org](http://jaquithpubliclibrary.org), Tues. to Fri., 9 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. to noon, closed Sundays. Winter Storytime and Playgroup, Friday 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for the weather.

**HEARTWOOD'S THE WELL TREE**  
 Friday, NOV 7 | 7 PM  
 A unique and enchanting weaving of song and storytelling.

**FRIENDS-GIVING**  
 Behind-the-Scenes Look at HCA  
 NOV 14 | 4 - 7 PM

**LOCAL FOLK ORCHESTRA**  
 NOV 22 | 7 PM

**HIGHLAND Center for the Arts**  
 HIGHLANDARTSVT.ORG  
 802.533.2000  
 2875 HARDWICK ST, GREENSBORO, VT

WGDR 91.1 FM		WGDH 91.7 FM		Current 2025 Schedule							as of June 2025	
Syndicated		Local		Slot-Sharing Local							Talk/Interview	Music
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT					
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop		12 AM			
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Latin Explosion	Baroque and Beyond	Adagio	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour		1 AM			
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine						2 AM			
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix Music Directors								3 AM			
4 AM									4 AM			
5 AM	Counterspin Grassroots	Thom Hartmann Program					What's the Frequency, Kenneth?		5 AM			
6 AM	Big Picture Science Show	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Prison Pipeline Food Sleuth		6 AM			
7 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage & Steven Farnham	Magpie in the Morning Della 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		ROTATING SLOT #4 (see below)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	Night Train Cocktail	¿Where Do We Go From Here? Caleb			11 AM			
12 PM	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat	The Rubber Room Dan Towner	Unshelved J Kramer	Tectonic	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt		12 PM			
1 PM									1 PM			
2 PM	Spanning the Chasm Peter Goreau	The Monday Drive at 2 Corey Flynn	Straight Up Soul	Adiagio	UpFront Soul	Modern Jet Set	Boxful of Blues John Foster		2 PM			
3 PM			Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder	Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn			3 PM			
4 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see below)	Trailing Edge David Ferland					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 & Deininger	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see below)				6 PM			
7 PM	The Revel Level DJ EhMmAh	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		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		8 PM			
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #3 (see below)	Blues Edge Les Mawson							9 PM			
10 PM			Indigenous Music	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	And You Don't Stop	The Beatdown Z-Point		10 PM			
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville							11 PM			

**Rotating Slots**

**#1: Sun 10 am–12 pm**  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Audio Ergo Sum  
 Darien & Ruby McElwain  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Grove  
 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 Bois  
 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  
 Still Life with Orange Peel  
 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

# EVENTS

## Thursday, Nov. 6

**LIVING WITH BEARS WORKSHOP**, an online discussion, 10 to 11 a.m. Register at [vtcoverts.us20.list-manage.com](http://vtcoverts.us20.list-manage.com)

**GRAPHIC NOVEL GROUP**, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Recommended for ages 7-11. Learn about novels at the library, share your favorites and take part in a comic drawing activity. Information: [jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-5948.

## Friday, Nov. 7

**PEACHAM CORNER GUILD Christmas Show**, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., upstairs at Peacham Town Hall. Artists selling their work, raffle, baked goods and light lunch fare to eat in or take out.

## Saturday, Nov. 8

**PEACHAM CORNER GUILD Christmas Show**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., upstairs at Peacham Town Hall. Artists selling their work, raffle, baked goods and light lunch fare to eat in or take out.

## Sunday, Nov. 9

**BOLLYWOOD DANCE PARTY** to support Cutler Memorial Library, Plainfield Opera House, 3 to 5 p.m. Information: [elizabethmathai@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethmathai@yahoo.com).

## Tuesday, Nov. 11

**BLOOD DRIVE**, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Hazen Union School, 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick. Contact the American Red Cross to schedule a time.

**TUESDAY MORNING HONK & WAVE**. Stand up for Veterans and military families. 10 a.m., Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St. Information: [IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me](mailto:IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me).

## Wednesday, Nov. 12

**DEATH CAFE**, 6 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Refreshments provided. Information: (802) 755-6107, [albanypubliclibraryvt.org](http://albanypubliclibraryvt.org).

**BRANFORD MARSALIS** and his quartet, 7:30 p.m., Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. Tickets online at [barreoperahouse.org](http://barreoperahouse.org) or call (802) 476-8188.

**TEEN COOKIE BAKING** and Decorating, 3 p.m., Parker Ladd Community Room and kitchen, Jeudevine Memorial Library Hardwick. For ages 12-18. Information: [jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-5948.

## Thursday, Nov. 13

**READ TO FOREST** the comfort dog, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Sign up for a 10-minute time slot to read to Forest. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Information: [jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov) or (802) 472-5948.

## Friday, Nov. 14

**BLOOD DRIVE**, noon to 5 p.m., Twinfield High School, 106 Naismith Brook Road. Contact the American Red Cross to schedule a time.

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, 2nd Fridays, Sept. - June, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall,

3084 Main St. All dances taught, no partner needed. Families and beginners welcome. Live music by local musicians. Information: [cabotdance@aroundvt.org](mailto:cabotdance@aroundvt.org).

**OPENING RECEPTION** for "Fibers of Being," an exhibition showcasing the fiber artistry of Elisabeth Mazzilli, 5 to 7 p.m., Cutler Memorial Library, Plainfield.

## Ongoing Events

**CHESS CLUB MEETS**, on select Mondays, 2:45 to 4 p.m., Craftsbury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-Baroczy in preparing for the Vermont State Chess Tournament on March 28.

**KIDS' CHORUS**, Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information: [jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov](mailto:jeudevinyouthlibrarian@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](mailto:cdu.tim@gmail.com)

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simp-

son Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, [jwsimpsonmemorial.org](http://jwsimpsonmemorial.org).

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

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

**COMMUNITY DINNER**, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call Denise Carr at (802) 472-3134 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.

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

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, 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

**See EVENTS, Next Page**

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Flooring




Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat., 9 a.m. - noon  
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## Plumbing



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05843  
Josh Holmes • 472-6228

## Restaurants



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Home Cooking at Its Best  
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(802) 472-5701  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
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## Services



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Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services  
Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance  
24/7 Emergency Service  
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802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

## Services



- Dumpster rental
- Excavation
- Landscaping
- Stump Grinding

802.793.7388  
HARDWICK • VERMONT  
[dwrichardson1999@gmail.com](mailto:dwrichardson1999@gmail.com)

## Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing  
Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service  
Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products  
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120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE  
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Jeff Holmes, Master Electrician  
2089 Laporte Road, Morrisville,

# EVENTS

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

**DEATH CAFE**, hosted by the Hardwick Senior Center, 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month. Tea and goodies served. A safe place to listen, talk and share about death.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CRAFTSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, open Wednesday and Saturday, 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 clipper 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., begin-

ning 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).**



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### Town of Woodbury, Vermont, Job Search Highway Maintenance Worker

The Town of Woodbury is accepting applications for a Highway Maintenance Worker to join our road crew. This is a full-time position that requires a CDL (min Class "B") and the ability to work outside of regular working hours routinely. The ideal candidate will have at least one year of experience in highway maintenance, snow plowing, and operation and maintenance of associated equipment.

The starting hourly wage (\$20-24) will depend on experience and qualifications. Woodbury offers excellent benefits, including health and dental insurance, as well as a retirement plan.

The town will also consider applications for seasonal (winter only) work. Contact the Town Office for a job application and job description (clerk@woodburyvt.org) or (802) 456-7051 to receive a paper copy in the mail, or stop at the Town Office at 1672 Vt. Rte. 14 in Woodbury. A job description and applicant can also be found on the Town web site, woodburyvt.org.

The position will be open until filled.



Town of Stowe  
**Senior Accountant**  
**Come Grow with Stowe!**

The Town of Stowe is looking for a dynamic, detail-driven Senior Accountant to join our Finance team. If you're passionate about public service, love turning spreadsheets into stories, and want to make a real impact — we want to hear from you!

As Senior Accountant, you won't just be reconciling numbers — you'll be supporting transparency, accountability, and sound financial practices. Your core responsibilities will include:

- Processing payroll and accounts payable
- Preparing and reviewing journal entries, reconciliations, and financial reports
- Assisting with month-end and year-end closing processes
- Collaborating on annual budget development and monitoring
- Participating in audit activities and preparing audit schedules
- Ensuring compliance with GASB, GAAP, and Town of Stowe financial policies

We're looking for someone who thrives in a collaborative, public sector environment and brings strong accounting expertise. The ideal candidate will have (or equivalent combination of education and relevant experience):

- Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or related field (Master's or CPA a plus!)
- 5+ years of progressively responsible accounting experience (governmental accounting preferred)
- Strong computer skills and proficiency at Excel is a must. Knowledge of NEMRC municipal software is a plus.
- Analytical mindset with sharp attention to detail
- Excellent communication and problem-solving skills

This is an in-person position. Salary Range: \$65,000 - \$80,000, depending on qualifications.

The Town of Stowe offers a robust benefit package including health and dental with low premium share, generous paid leave, VMERS B pension, and more!

More information can be found at [stowevt.gov/jobs](http://stowevt.gov/jobs). Submit cover letter and resume to [recruit@stowevt.gov](mailto:recruit@stowevt.gov). Application deadline: November 21, 2025, with position to start January 5, 2025.

The Town of Stowe is an equal opportunity employer



Senior Jola Otten of Caledonia United readies to get a shot off on goal defended by Arlington's Will Calder during semi-final action on Danville's town field October 29. Otten scored one of the winning goals with Caledonia United defeating Arlington, 3-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United junior Evan Whitehead controls the midfield on the town field in Danville during Division IV semi-final play October 29. Second-seeded Caledonia United beat the No. 3 Arlington Eagles, 3-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Cal United boys lose heavyweight title fight in Rutland

by Ken Brown

RUTLAND – In what was the marquee matchup of championship weekend in Vermont high school soccer, top seeded Twin Valley survived a battle of the unbeaten against the Caledonia United boys soccer team to claim the Division IV state title.

Brayden Brown and Niko Gerding scored a goal apiece to power the Wildcats to a 2-0 win over Caledonia United under the lights Saturday night at Rutland's Alumni Field. Both teams came into the highly anticipated matchup with identical 16-0 records and high powered offenses that steam-rolled their opponents throughout the regular season by a 9-1 scoring margin. After a scoreless first half, both teams went into the break having survived the cold as well as relentless pressure on their back lines. Brown landed the first punch for Twin Valley from long range, beating senior keeper Josh Petersen high on a direct kick from 25 yards out for a 1-0 lead eleven minutes into the second half. Brown appeared to trip on the artificial turf as he broke towards the box, but the play was blown dead by the lead official, a foul was called and Brown didn't miss.

"There was good play from both teams in the first half in what seemed like a frenetic pace early. There was a feeling out process for



Cal United's Alijah Andrews boots a pass at midfield past a Twin Valley defender, during the clash of undefeated teams for the Division IV High School Soccer Championship, Saturday in Rutland

photo by Rory Thibault

both teams speed-wise and adjustments to the physicality of play. We created some high quality chances early on in the match that we just didn't quite finish. Coming out of halftime it felt like the type of match where the first team to score was going to be tough to beat. The call could've gone either way on awarding them the set piece that led to the goal, but credit to them on executing and capitalizing on it. Josh is a great keeper and I know he feels he makes that save 9 out of 10 times, but in that moment, in that atmosphere, it was just a great shot. We played a little nervous and tentative after that, and it wasn't until 10 minutes left in the match

before we regained some shape and possession that created some great opportunities that their keeper handled really well. Once again, credit to them and their players for disrupting our rhythm, especially in the second half," said head coach Peter Stratman.

Petersen made a pair of high level saves to keep the Cal United faithful's hopes alive before Gerding applied the dagger with

*"It was a big stage under the lights at night on turf but it's a state championship and it's supposed to be big."*



CU boys soccer team ready for their state championship match against Twin Valley over the weekend.

photo by Rory Thibault

a mini breakaway off a goal kick that he finished far post for a 2-0 lead with thirteen minutes left in regulation. Stratman's club went down swinging, applying relentless pressure in the closing minutes. Sam McLane lofted a



Sam McLane (right) boots a direct kick against Twin Valley defenders in the Division IV championship game in Rutland Saturday as no. 2 ranked Cal United takes on top seeded Twin Valley.

photo by Rory Thibault

perfect ball into the penalty area that Eli Russell headed towards the goal mouth and Wildcat keeper Kaelyn Lackey snagged with seven minutes left in regulation. Lackey then denied a Judah Klarich rocket off the post late to secure the ninth shutout of the season for the Wildcat defense.

Twin Valley head coach Buddy Hayford further cemented his legendary status with his eleventh state title after becoming Vermont's all-time winningest coach earlier this season with the 500th of his career. The Wildcats had been Division IV state runner-ups the last two seasons but the tandem of Brown and Gerding provided the offense throughout the playoffs to

See CU BOYS. next page



Isabelle Gouin

socialmediaphoto



Taylor Thompson

socialmediaphoto

## Gouin leads girls to Mountain League honors

by Ken Brown

NEK – More than a few area athletes were recognized for outstanding play on the pitch this past season with girls All-Mountain League selections and honors last week.

Hazen Union’s Isabelle Gouin put a cherry on top of an outstanding career by not only being selected as a First Team selection, but also being named Mountain League Co-Offensive Player of the Year. The 2024 Vermont All-State selection posted her second consecutive 20-goal season for the Lady Cats this past fall, on her way to becoming the all-time goal scorer in school history with 56.

Gouin broke Kaitlyn Forant’s record of 54 goals, which stood for 17 years.

Sharing the honor as top offensive player in the Mountain

League was Ava Francis. The star forward scored the game-winning goal to lead her Vergennes team to a Division III state championship over the weekend.

Joining Gouin as First Team selections were teammates Brianna Holbrook and Taylor Thompson.

Holbrook finished up her career last month with another outstanding performance on the back line for the Lady Cat defense.

Thompson earned her third consecutive First Team selection after anchoring the midfield for Hazen, leading them to an 11-win season. The 2024 Vermont All-Stater recorded her first career hat-trick this past season and is primed to be a scoring force for the Lady Cats in her senior campaign.

Caledonia United was in a rebuilding year this past season, but the outstanding play of Cora

Abetti, Eliska Siebenbrunner and Sarah Austin earned them a home playoff seed and Mountain League First Team selections. Abetti was a force in the middle of the field, Austin was versatile on the back line and Siebenbrunner was one of the top keepers in the Mountain League before breaking her finger late in the season. Siebenbrunner returned from injury after missing only one match, recording two goals and two assists in the field. The versatile junior will be a key piece to a young and developing Cal United team next season.

Rounding out First Team selections were: Oxbow’s Natalee Spear, Ainsley Smith and Brianna Marsh; Richford’s Adison Chagnon and Mia St. Pierre; Winooski’s Eliza Willis and Bora Kashindi; Enosburg’s Kallie Morill, Jorja Kinney and Vienna Wilde; Blue Mountain’s Kennedy Perrigo,

Addison Murray and Lily Roy; Ashtin Stearns, Adrienne Smits, Faith McAllister and Sophia James of Vergennes; Lilliana Fournier of Missisquoi Valley; Cailin Macaulay of BFA-Fairfax and Paine Mountain’s Hannah Spencer.

Hazen’s Julia des Groseilliers, Kelsie Rivard and Mya Lumsden, along with Cal United’s Jaidyn Carson, Phoebe Crocker and Lauren Pecor earned Mountain League Second Team honors. Honorable Mention selections went to Hazen’s Autumn Dailey, Ella Renaud and Marina Smith, along with Cal United’s Peyton Winn.

All-Mountain League Defensive Player of the Year honors went to Natalee Spear of Oxbow. Mountain League Keeper of the Year went to Enosburg’s Jorja Kinney and Oxbow’s Shannon Gould was named Mountain League Coach of the Year.

## CU Boys

Continued from previous page offense throughout the playoffs to send their 8 senior teammates out in style with a perfect 17-0 season.

It truly was a storybook season for Stratman and his eight seniors that included McLane, Russell, Petersen, Jola Otten, Ben Monaco, Sean Lehoe, Samson Kitonga and Alijah Andrews. It was the first state championship match for Stratman and his Cal United program that was created just two years ago with the three school cooperative of Twinfield, Cabot and Danville. This outstanding core of seniors continued to reset the program wins record with 16 this season and Russell (30 goals), McLane (26) and Otten (14) blitzed Mountain League opposing defenses all season



Cal United moves close to the Twin Valley goal as (from left) Jola Otten and Sam McLane look for a scoring opportunity.

photo by Rory Thibault

long. Petersen developed into an elite goalkeeper for Cal United, recording 11 shutouts this fall.

“It was a big stage under the lights at night on turf but it’s a state championship and

it’s supposed to be big. I thought the boys warmed up well, they were loose and focused and came into the match prepared with the right mentality. Going up against a coach like Buddy makes it even bigger and I have respect for what he has done to grow the game of soccer in this state throughout his career. The emotion of losing a state title match really hit me and it’s all tied to watching these amazing players work and develop throughout the season and throughout their careers. It has been so much fun getting to know players and their families from these three communities. The support we’ve received from all of them has been simply amazing and it just shows that this great game of soccer truly brings people together. I’m proud of these players, I’m



Goalkeeper Josh Petersen looks to Eli Russell as he heads a Twin Valley shot away from the Cal United goal with defenders Ben Monaco and Sean Lehoe in on the action.

photo by Rory Thibault

proud of these communities and I’m proud to be the coach of this program,” said Stratman.

# HUNTING REPORTS

## Smiths Store, Greensboro Bend

### Archery Report

Adam McAllister in Glover, bear, 150 lbs.; Emerson Hale in Craftsbury, bear, 128 lbs.; Travis Michaud in Hardwick, bear, 300 lbs.; Dean Hill in Hardwick, bear, 93 lbs.; Daniel Greaves in Hardwick, bear, 134 lbs.; Britni Bartlett in Kirby, bear, 167 lbs.; Hunter Michaud in Hardwick, bear, 164 lbs.; Nicholas Crum in Cabot, bear, 97 lbs.; Heaven Perry in Cabot, bear, 142 lbs.; Samuel Mattson in Craftsbury, bear, 205 lbs.; Susan Rivard in Wolcott, bear, 200 lbs.; Daniel Laggis in Hardwick, bear, 98 lbs.; Joseph Slayton in Woodbury, bear, 99 lbs.; Jeffery Perry in Hardwick, 106 lbs.; Bryan Reynolds in Stannard, 120 lbs.; Clarence Wheeler in Greensboro, 105 lbs.; Brent Hodgdon in Hardwick, 100 lbs.; Britni Bartlett in Wolcott, 96 lbs.; Justin Holbrook in Hardwick, 128 lbs.; Hunter Michaud in Hardwick, 124 lbs.; Matthew Atwood in Walden, 93 lbs.; Shawn Richard in Walden, 36 lbs.; Cody Dunbar in Walden, 134 lbs.; Justin Delarichelier in Hardwick, 97 lbs.; Thad Shedd in Wolcott, 81 lbs.; Quentin Lee in Greensboro, 120 lbs.; Heaven Perry in Cabot, 158 lbs.; Garth Christensen in Hardwick, 87 lbs.; Trevor Smith in Hardwick, 121 lbs.; Daniel Des Groselliers in Hardwick, 108 lbs.; Matthew Larose in Hardwick, 113 lbs.; Frederick V. Demag in Hardwick, 124 lbs.; Danielle Bailey in Cabot, bear, 98 lbs.; Michael Tatro in Stannard, 203 lbs.; Joshua Ducharme in Calais, 90 lbs.; Gregory Adams in Hardwick, 90 lbs.; Melvin Bailey in Woodbury, 164 lbs.; Thad Shedd in Johnson, 103 lbs.; Nathan Kirby in Walden, 158 lbs.; Seville Murphy in Woodbury, 111 lbs.; Andrew Menard in Hardwick, 103 lbs.; William Brian Niemi in Greensboro, 122 lbs.; David Bailey in Albany, 110 lbs.; David Bailey in Albany, 110 lbs.; George Bailey in Hardwick, 128 lbs.; Jeffery Perry in Cabot, 117 lbs.; Britni Bartlett in Wolcott, 95 lbs.; Thomas Collier in Greensboro, 132 lbs.; Robert Gonyaw in Hardwick, turkey, 20 lbs., 3 oz.; Shawn Chaplin in Greensboro, 158 lbs.; Nathan Hayden in

Woodbury, 188 lbs.; Stanley Mcallister in Hardwick, bear, 115 lbs.; Bradley Slayton in Woodbury, 104 lbs.; Joseph Rivard in Hardwick, 94 lbs.; Quentin Lee in Greensboro, 100 lbs.; Matthew Larose in Hardwick, 111 lbs.; Hutson Michaud in Hardwick, bear, 81 lbs.; Patrick Smith in Calais, 98 lbs.; Julian Mercy in Craftsbury, bear, 58 lbs.

### Youth Weekend

Ralph Pickett in Greensboro, 117 lbs.; Gary Whipple in Cabot, 140 lbs.; Michael Reed in Lyndon, 112 lbs.; Carter Eldred in Hardwick, 105 lbs.; Cy Lyon in Greensboro, 116 lbs.; Wade Michael Noyes in Greensboro, turkey, 5 lbs., 2 oz.; Easton Tatro in Greensboro, 89 lbs.; Jacob Hoadley in Glover, 125 lbs.; Reegan Lumsden in Hardwick, 58 lbs.; Patrick Morin in Wolcott, 94 lbs.; Emma Thereault in Hardwick, 60 lbs.; Ethan Hanson in Woodbury, turkey, 10 lbs.; Calvin Spaulding in Craftsbury, turkey, 12 lbs.; Nate Drew in Glover, bear, 113 lbs.; Jonathan Sicard in Hardwick, 57 lbs.;

Adrian Holbrook in Hardwick, 96 lbs.; Brantley Gouin in Hardwick, 49 lbs.; Corey Gates in Craftsbury, 113 lbs.; Matthias Patoine in Walden, 122 lbs.; Deegan Michaud in Greensboro, 162 lbs.; Talon Michaud in Greensboro, 118 lbs.; Tyler Putvain in Stannard, 136 lbs.; Dawson Michaud in Hardwick, 87 lbs.; Emmet Barcomb in Wolcott, 61 lbs.; Isibel Gonthier in Hyde Park, 108 lbs.; Gavin Philip in Hyde Park, 124 lbs.; Deegan Michaud in Greensboro, turkey, 8 lbs., 6 oz.; Ronald Rich in Stannard, turkey, 10 lbs.; Hadley Michaud in Walden, bear, 77 lbs.; David Smith in Burke, bear, 61 lbs.; Lydia Alden in Hardwick, 59 lbs.; Kenidee Gouin in Hardwick, 99 lbs.; Cooper Ruetz in Greensboro, 92 lbs.; Nora Churchill in Hardwick, 80 lbs.; Seeley Cota in Glover, 105 lbs.; Ethan Hanson in Woodbury, 106 lbs.; Archie Hodgdon in Woodbury, 104 lbs.; Hadley Michaud in Walden, 99 lbs.; Grant Ainsworth in Elmore, 119 lbs.; Trevor Smith in Hardwick, 141 lbs.; McKenzie DeMag in Hardwick, 134 lbs.

## Craftsbury General Store

### Early Bear Season Report

September 1 to November 14: Diane Earl in Craftsbury, 209 lbs.; Stephen Davis in Craftsbury, 122 lbs.; Jeremy Flanders in Glover, 243 lbs.; Kody Ovitt in Johnson, 92 lbs.; Tyler Earle in Glover, 3 legged, 281 lbs.; Camden Pierce in Craftsbury, 114 lbs.; Wayne Goff in Craftsbury, 233 lbs.; Shawn Currier in Albany, 168 lbs.; Faith Orton in Johnson, 120 lbs.; Joshua Paquette in Barnet, 182 lbs.

### Archery Report

October 1 to November 14: Nick Wheeler in Albany, 93 lbs.; Cliff LaPoint in Craftsbury, 120 lbs.; Erika Tallman in Albany, 138 lbs.; Shawn Barrow in Craftsbury, bear, 99 lbs.; Shawn Curnev in Craftsbury, 108 lbs.; Nicholas Tetrault in Eden, 10 pts., 91 lbs.; Michael Shad in Wolcott, 86 lbs.; Joseph Bowen in Hyde Park, 7 pts., 71 lbs.; Peter Pitt in Craftsbury, turkey, 7 lbs.; Anthony Bellavance in Craftsbury, 37 lbs.; Elizabeth Searles in Morristown, 2 pt., 94 lbs.; Joshua Powers in Albany, 104 lbs.; Blair Locke in Craftsbury, turkey, 10 lbs.; Rodney Stone in Coventry, 6 pts., 134 lbs.; Anthony Gravel in Wolcott, 4 pts., 114 lbs.; John Borneman, Eden, 7 pts., 164 lbs.; Nathan Brown in Craftsbury, 5 pts., 188 lbs.; Roscoe Conklin in Hyde Park, 115 lbs.; Brian Moody in Wolcott, 7 pts., 156

lbs.; Thomas Collier in Greensboro, 155 lbs.; Ashley Straib in Craftsbury, 5 pts., 137 lbs.; Raymond LaPoint in Craftsbury, 7 pts., 127 lbs.; Thomas Chamberlin in Craftsbury, 75 lbs.; Bernard Earle in Hyde Park, 9 pts., 143 lbs.; William Quinn in Craftsbury, 128 lbs.; Gregory Talmadge in Craftsbury, 116 lbs.; Kaleb Weatherell in Morrisville, 3 pts., 110 lbs.; Jerome MacNeal in Craftsbury, 110 lbs.; Ian Masse in Craftsbury, 100 lbs.; Kevin Willey in Craftsbury, 100 lbs.; Katelyn Colaceci in Albany, 128 lbs.; Joshua Powers in Albany, 130 lbs.; Landon Cochran in Craftsbury, turkey, 8 lbs. 5 oz.

### Youth Weekend

October 25 to 26: Stig Link in Craftsbury, 104 lbs.; Lincoln Robillard in Craftsbury, 98 lbs.; Brettley Dolan in Eden, 103 lbs.; Ivan Masse in Craftsbury, 6 pts., 146 lbs.; Tanner Westcom in Hyde Park, 115 lbs.; Alex Lanphere in Waterville, 111 lbs.; Uriah Sherlaw in Lowell, turkey, 9 lbs.; Anson Magoon in Albany, 129 lbs.; Leighton Tabor in Wolcott, 3 pts., 118 lbs.; Chase Tallman in Greensboro, 4 pts., 163 lbs.; Jace Truell in Greensboro, 125 lbs.; Finn Nunery in Greensboro, 125 lbs.; Jessa Audet in Craftsbury, 116 lbs.; Owen Audet in Craftsbury, 109 lbs.



Caledonia United senior Sam McLane (left) speeds past Landon Hill (center) of Arlington during semi-final play at town field in Danville October 29. McLane got one of the winning goals. In back at right is teammate Eli Russell. Caledonia United won 3-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# KEN BROWN'S RUNNERS ROUNDUP

## High Schools wrap up cross-country seasons at States

THETFORD – Craftsbury Academy (CA), Hazen Union, and Danville wrapped up their seasons two weeks ago, getting their young teams some invaluable experience at the Vermont High School Cross-Country Run State Championships.

In the girls 5,000m, freshman Aemilia Terrone led the way for CA, posting an impressive 7th-place finish (22:41) in her first ever Division III final. Green Mountain's Desi Broadley bested the field with a time of 20:22.70. Peoples Academy freshman Daisy Berg capped off an incredible season with a runner-up finish. Hazen Union sophomore Ursa Goldenrose and senior teammate Chloe Dyer also qualified and

finished. Rice came out on top in the team competition, edging Stowe for the Division III state title.

On the boys side, Danville freshman Landon Garrand was the only area runner to finish in the top 20 with a time of 19:03.20. Hazen sophomore Kaiah Cloutier finished the season strong by besting more than half the field, along with CA freshman James Reynolds and Hazen Junior Daniel Pougner. Charger seniors Owen McKibben and Soren Stelma-Leonard wrapped up their high school careers by qualifying and finishing, along with junior teammate Theo Alexander. Hazen's future also looks bright after their trio of freshmen Losada Stoddard, Alden Pougner and Kolten Lumsden qualified and finished in their first state competition.

BFA-Fairfax senior Gage Magnuson bested the field with a

time of 16:38, leading his Bullet team to the division III state title. Stowe's Nico Delena was individual runner-up, posting a time of 17:21.

## Mantius leads the way for Danville in Middle School finals

ST. ALBANS – Danville eighth-grader Willa Mantius bested over 200 runners to win the individual title in the Vermont Middle School Cross-Country Run Championships at Hard'Ack Recreation Area two weeks ago.

Mantius ran her best time of the season in the biggest moment, crossing the finish line first with a time of 11:40.70 to win the 3,000m individual state title. Georgia's Lydia Phillips earned runner-up honors with a time of 11:52.70. Danville sixth-grader Ryker Stevens posted an impressive

21st place finish with a time of 12:49.30, her best of the season. Craftsbury Academy seventh-graders Adrienne Robillard, Mia Stout and Evelyn Patch ran their best time of the season to finish ahead of more than 75% of the field.

Middlebury took home the team title, with Danville finishing eighth and CA eleventh out of 27 teams.

In the boys 3,000m, Danville sixth grader Wyatt Mantius ran a personal best time of 11:04.40 to lead all local runners with a twelfth place finish. Craftsbury Academy fifth grader Lawrence Fox wasn't intimidated by the big stage, besting over 150 runners with his best time of the season (12:22.10).

Frederick H. Tuttle edged Camels Hump and Hinesburg to capture the team state title.

# KEN BROWN'S SPORTS NUGGETS

## Eames finishes off collegiate career for Lady Badgers

JOHNSON – Former Craftsbury Academy (CA) multi-sport standout Ida Eames wrapped up an impressive career for her women's VTSU-Johnson soccer team last week.

The Lady Badgers fell to the University of Maine-Farmington in penalty kicks last Wednesday in the quarterfinal round of the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) tournament. The two teams had played to a 0-0 tie four days earlier in their regular season finale, earning the Lady Badgers a home playoff match. Eames was honored, along with her fellow senior teammates for their outstanding collegiate careers on the pitch. The former CA track & field,

cross-country and soccer standout finished her career with 12 goals and five assists for VTSU-Johnson. She helped lead the Lady Badgers to 23 wins the last three seasons, including a program best double-digit win season last fall that earned them the second seed in the NAC tournament.

Their loss last week ended their season at 8-4-5.

## Green & Gold Senior Classic this weekend

NORTHFIELD – Several local seniors will be in action on the pitch this coming weekend at Norwich University's Sabine Field in the Vermont Green & Gold Senior Classic.

The Vermont Senior Coaches Association (VSCA) have created a day of soccer celebration, Sunday, for

the top seniors from all across the state. Invites have been sent to the top seniors from Hazen Union and Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) after leading their teams to impressive seasons this past fall.


The division 3-4 girls match consisting of Green and Gold teams

from both North and South all-stars will kick off the Senior Classic at 12:30 p.m. The division 3-4 boys match will follow at approximately 2:30 p.m. The division 1-2 girls and boys matches will be played under the lights at Sabine Field at approximately 4:30 and 7 p.m.

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