

THE Hardwick Gazette

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INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Existing School District, Supervisory Union structure may remain

by Paul Fixx

ST. JOHNSBURY – Vermont’s School District Redistricting Task Force (TF) is likely to recommend the current state school district (SD) and supervisory union (SU) structure remain in place, said Caledonia County Senator Scott Beck following Monday’s task force meeting in Waterbury.

“The TF decided not to advance the much-discussed CTE (Career and Technical Education Center) map,” said Beck.

That decision “Effectively, not advancing a map means we are recommending the existing SD and SU structure that is in place, without any forced mergers.”

Despite an agenda item indicating the hour before lunch had been set aside to discuss a map centered on regional high schools, Beck said, “there was no mention of a proposed regional high school map at the meeting.”

“The co-op services concept was discussed, but there is no associated map,” he said.

A summary of the Cooperative Education Services (CES) proposal for TF members said it “outlines a strategic framework for tackling the drivers of cost, improving quality, and protecting access to opportunity through cooperative services, voluntary mergers, and the creation of comprehensive regional high schools. Its central aim is to enhance educational equity, operational efficiency, cost containment and program diversity across districts while preserving

See DISTRICT, 4

Copley Hospital shuttering birthing center

by Olivia Gieger, VTDigger

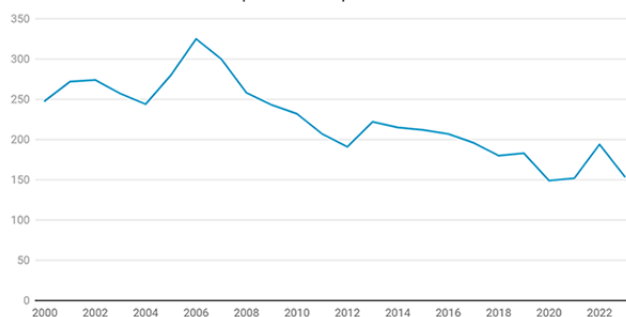
MORRISVILLE – Through October, Kipp Bovey and her fellow nurse midwives closely tracked the patients whose due dates would come close to the November 1 closure of the birthing center at Copley Hospital. They wondered who might be the one to see the final baby born before the center shuttered. When the last mother began her labor, it was only fitting that Bovey, as the nurse midwife who had worked there the longest, was the one to deliver the baby.

“That was a blessing, and also tragic. And in the way that birth can be, it was so beautiful,” Bovey said, overcome with emotion at the significance of the moment.

Then, she immersed herself in the work as

Births at Copley Hospital in Morristown by year

Births reported at Copley Hospital have slowly declined over the past 25 years, according to data from Vermont’s annual vital statistic report, which includes all deliveries in Copley’s birthing center and home births or in-transit births that are later reported at the hospital.



Get the data - Created with Datawrapper

the birthing began. “The emotional piece of it got lost, because we were doing the work, and we were keeping people safe and healthy, and then it was done.”

See BIRTHING, 4



Lyam Grant displays a cabbage that was picked during the Woodbury School K/1 class field trip to the Sterling College gardens, Monday, Oct. 27 as the class learns about food systems to help prepare for a community meal they will put on with the sixth grade class, November 18.

courtesy photo

Stone soup feeds neighbors losing SNAP benefits

by Center for an Agricultural Economy

HARDWICK – On Friday afternoon, Oct. 31, Buffalo Mountain Market’s general manager, Emily Hershberger, contacted community leaders to see how they could work together to help fill the need for food left by the freeze of SNAP benefits.

Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFFP) Director, Stella James, told her that fresh soups and stews in to-go containers, ready for families and individuals, would be the most helpful offering. From there a team quickly mobilized.

By the next day, a team at the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE), had secured donations of local meat from Snug Valley Farm and Saw Mill Brook Farm.

On Monday, there was a plan, with CAE’s Human Advocacy Director, Kate O’Neil, coordinating logistics.

On Wednesday, a team of volunteers and staff members from those convening organizations and businesses were working in the Community Room at the CAE Food Hub in Hardwick, making gallons of soup.

In stone soup style, where everyone brings



Community members from local businesses and nonprofits gather in the Community Room at the Center for an Agricultural Economy’s Food Hub to cook soup, helping to fill the gap in the loss of SNAP benefits are from left) Calder Camardello, Front Seat Coffee; Martha Machia, Salvation Farms and Bethany Dunbar, Center for an Agricultural Economy.

photo by Kelly Bogel Stokes.

an ingredient they have to make soup, local businesses and nonprofits shared what they had available. Front Seat Coffee owner, Tobin Porter, donated food, supplies and equipment.

See SNAP, 6

CCIF funding approved

by Paul Fixx

CABOT – Voters overwhelmingly approved using \$250,000 from the Cabot Community Investment Fund (CCIF) toward the town’s work on flood mitigation, last Tuesday, November 4.

Votes in favor of using the CCIF funds were 199, over 80% of the votes cast, with just 57 votes against and two ballots left blank.

Cabot was 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 will now serve as the 10%

See CCIF, 6

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POLICE REPORT

Vermont State Police Car crash, DUI

WHEELOCK – On November 8 at approximately 11:13 a.m., Vermont State Troopers responded to a single vehicle crash on Stannard Mountain Road in the town of Wheelock. Investigation revealed Eli Shedd of Walden was traveling east on Stannard Mountain Road when he lost control in the muddy, slushy conditions causing him to leave the roadway and roll down a short embankment. Both Shedd and his passenger, Emma Gray-Richards of Otisfield, Me., sustained minor injuries in the crash. Vermont State Police was assisted by Lyndon

Rescue and the Sheffield-Wheelock Fire Department. The vehicle was removed by Mountain View Auto.

FLETCHER – On November 9, at approximately 5:21 a.m., dispatch was advised of a motor vehicle crash in Fletcher. Investigation revealed that the operator of the vehicle, Maddison Hayden of Woodbury, was found to be under the influence of intoxicants. Ultimately, Hayden was released with a citation to appear before Franklin County Superior Court on December 22 at 8:30 a.m., to answer the charge of Driving Under the Influence.

Hardwick Fire Department Chimney Fire

by **Hardwick Fire Department, Greensboro Fire Department**

HARDWICK – Thursday evening at approximately 7:08 p.m., the Hardwick Fire Department was toned for a chimney fire with possible extension on Center Rd. in Hardwick. E2, W1 & Tower 6 responded. On arrival, it was confirmed fire had extended into the roof. Greensboro Fire Department and Woodbury Fire Department were called for mutual aid. Crews quickly laddered the porch roof and gained access to roof area

around the chimney to extinguish the fire. All apparatus returned to the station around 8:45 p.m. The department extends its thanks to Greensboro Fire and Woodbury Fire for their assistance.

The Greensboro Fire Department responded mutual aid to Center Road in Hardwick Thursday at 7:08 p.m. to assist with an active chimney fire. Water was established at Caspian Lake to resupply tankers. Hardwick crews made a fast and efficient response to stop the fire from spreading. Crews were back in service at approximately 9 p.m.



November 12 - November 18

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

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WEATHER WATCH



Snow appeared on the hills to the east of Caspian Lake as the sun rose Thursday, Nov. 6, as seen from Breezy Avenue. photo by Paul Fixx

More Snow and Rain in Forecast for the Week

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – A significant amount of precipitation fell over the course of the week as we were visited by multiple storm systems that dropped mostly rain through Sunday, although a few snow showers were evident during the morning hours on Thursday, Sunday and Monday. Monday featured heavy rain as a low-pressure system developed off the coast, with that precipitation turning to all snow by sunset in most elevations. Slippery travel was widespread, with a quick 2.1 inches of snow observed here in East Hardwick by Tuesday morning. Snow showers continued falling at that time.

Meanwhile, Greensboro reported 3.7 inches of snow, West Woodbury came in with 1.6 inches, and Craftsbury had 1.5 inches by Tuesday morning.

Aband of heavy snow through the Champlain Valley and western Green Mountains dumped 6-8 inches from Swanton to Enosburg Falls, with 11.5 inches just over the border in Saint-Armand, Quebec. We've received nearly three inches of melted precipitation at this point this month, which is over an inch and a half above normal. The drought monitor still shows much of eastern Vermont in extreme drought conditions last week, although some improvement is expected.

A trough of low pressure and its associated cold front will be the next feature to pass Wednesday night into Thursday, with another round of rain and snow showers. Those will linger into Thursday evening with a few inches

of accumulation possible in the mid-terrain, and enough to coat the ground in the valleys. The precipitation becomes mountain-focused on Friday, with a few snow showers mixed with breaks of sun.

Saturday will feature slightly more sunshine as a ridge of high pressure builds over the northeast. Another clipper-type system approaches for Sunday, with precipitation starting out as rain or freezing rain as we remain in the warm sector, before transitioning to all snow sometime overnight. Another couple of inches of accumulation are possible there. It will turn cool again as that storm pulls away and leaves us with snow-covered ground and more precipitation in sight thereafter. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers, especially by afternoon. Snow accumulation around an inch. High: 37. Low: 25. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

Thursday: Cloudy. Snow showers likely. Snow accumulation of a dusting to an inch in the valleys; 1-3 inches mid-terrain. High: 38. Low: 24. West wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers, especially in the morning. High: 33. Low: 20. Northwest wind 10-15 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny. High: 33. Low: 20. Light and variable wind.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. Rain and snow during the day, possibly mixed with sleet and freezing rain, transitioning to snow showers overnight. Light snow accumulation possible. High: 40. Low: 25. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – November 2: Noise Disturbance, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Elm St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.

November 3: Suspicious Event, Elm St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 15 W.; Citizen Dispute, Bridgman Hill Rd.; Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

November 4: School Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Fingerprints, High St.; Assist - Agency, High St.; Safety Hazard, Vt. Route 15.; VIN verification, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 16; Medical, Good Pl.

November 5: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; School Event, S. Main St.; Assist - Other

November 6: Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Fire, Center Rd.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.;

Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

November 7: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Rd.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Medical, Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

November 8: Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Elm St.; Assist - Agency, Elm St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 14 S.; Welfare Check, Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

November 9: Accident - Injury to Person(s), Craftsbury Rd.; Medical, Buffalo St.; Threats/Harassment, N. Main St.

Hardwick Police Department Rollover crash, fleeing the scene

HARDWICK – On October 24 at 10 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department, Hardwick Fire and Hardwick Rescue were dispatched to a single motor vehicle crash on Route 16. Upon arrival officers found a 2010 Ford F250 at an uncontrolled rest on its roof. The operator, identified as Brandon Tallman, fled from the scene. The F250 suffered major damage along with damage to the property. Tallman was later found at his residence.

Tallman was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Caledonia Unit - Criminal Division on December 8 to answer the charge of Leaving the Scene of

an Accident.

On Sunday, November 9 at 12:33 p.m., Hardwick Rescue Squad, Hardwick Fire Department, and Hardwick Police responded to a single vehicle roll over crash on the Craftsbury Road in Hardwick. The investigation revealed that Jeter Demers of Hardwick was traveling within the speed limit; however, he lost control of his vehicle on the slippery road surface. The vehicle traveled across the southbound lane into a ditch and rolled over. Demers was the only occupant in the vehicle and reported no injuries. No tickets are being issued as a result of this crash.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Nine people used AWARE services between November 2 and November 9. 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.

District

Continued From Page One

community identity and local governance.”

That last sentence seems to address concerns submitted in an October 5 letter to the task force by Samantha Friend, chair of the Mountain View Union Elementary School District (MVUESD), who wrote. “I am writing to you as the chair of a small but vital school district in the Northeast Kingdom. We were forced to merge under Act 46, and have been working through the challenges and differing experiences/needs of our communities. Now we find ourselves faced with another forced change to how we run our local districts

and Supervisory Union.”

Friend went on to express important aspects of local school districts: “Our community values town/school meetings where they can discuss and amend budgets including making recommendations to curb central office budgets. They value community-based schooling.”

“Please focus on your charge,” she said, then indicated a preference for the CES proposal that received attention at Monday’s TF meeting.

“At this point in time many districts have notified you of their preference for governance within the new larger central service regions required by Act 73.”

Friend emphasized the wishes

of MVUESD members in saying, “Both Supervisory Unions and Supervisory districts are viable governance structures and both structures are included in the law. Please comply with the law.”

Noting the focus of that board on students and involving families in their education, she said, “Young children should be educated close to home, families should be encouraged and able to attend school events to support their students.”

Emphasizing the MVUESD preference for retaining the SU structure, Friend wrote, “Supervisory Unions are best for making decisions close to the students that the decisions directly impact.

Supervisory Unions are best in governing rural distinct

communities over large geographic regions.”

The CES summary reviewed by TF members Monday presented a rationale that acknowledges at least some of the MVUESD concerns: “Rural and small districts face increasing challenges, including declining enrollment, limited curricular offerings, and financial strain. The proposal argues that cooperative approaches and strategic consolidations can address these pressures by pooling resources, expanding access to specialized programs, and reducing duplication. The goal is not compulsory consolidation but voluntary, community-driven partnerships that produce sustainable, high-quality education for all students.”

Birthing

Continued From Page One

When that last birth ended, so too did the nearly 100-year history of birthing at Copley Hospital after months of debate and efforts to preserve the beloved program.

As of November 1, not only has birthing ended at Copley, but so too has any prenatal and postpartum care, despite its statements made as recently as mid-October that those services would continue locally. On November 7, a representative from Copley confirmed that at least for now the care is no longer available.

The hospital said it has laid off the equivalent of 14 full-time staffers, including its three full-time nurse midwives, the part-time nurse midwife staff and its two obstetricians. The labor and delivery nurses have left for other hospitals, retired or been reassigned elsewhere in the hospital.

The on-call pediatrician, too, is no longer retained, the hospital confirmed, meaning that person will no longer be able to consult on cases involving newborns and infants who come to the ER.

In June, the hospital’s leadership announced its decision to close the birthing center, citing low birth rates and high costs of keeping the service. A report produced by an independent consultant informed the hospital’s final decision. Birthing, which is widely considered an unprofitable “loss-leader” for hospitals, was costing the hospital an estimated \$3.7 million a year, or \$15,000–\$30,000 per birth, according to the hospital.

Already, at least one other Vermont hospital, Northwestern Medical Center, in St. Albans, has confirmed that it is also looking at changes to its obstetric services due to a tight budget. The hospital’s board is considering a task force’s recommendation that NMC

partner with an external organization to continue births and provide OB/GYN services at the hospital, the hospital’s spokesperson Kate Laddison confirmed to VT Digger.

The fact that not very many babies are born at Copley, or in Lamoille County in general, has remained one of the hospital’s primary reasons for explaining the decision to close. For the 10 months of 2025 before the birthing center’s closing, Copley had 127 births. Since 2018, the hospital had seen around 160 births a year. Fewer than 50% of the births that happen in Lamoille County occur at Copley, the hospital cites.

Still, many feel that volume should not be the determining factor for something they feel is essential care to provide at a community hospital.

“Obstetrical care is, like, the one [part of] health care everyone uses at least once in their life. If that’s not essential health care, I don’t know what that is,” said April Vanderveer, one of the nurse midwives who had worked at Copley.

Since the June announcement, Copley Hospital’s executives have engaged in a terse back and forth with the state’s health care regulator, the Green Mountain Care Board.

During their September budget decision, care board members requested more information from the Copley administration about the closure decision, and noted the hospital’s inability to comply. The transparency of the consultant’s report became a particular point of contention, with Copley agreeing to share it with the regulator only under the condition of confidentiality.

Ultimately, the hospital submitted responses to the care board’s August questions in a letter dated October 17. Yet the report itself still remains inaccessible.

In the unsigned October

letter, Copley writes that it “is collaborating with nearby hospital(s) to continue to provide prenatal and postpartum care locally along with continuing to provide care for their current gynecology services while providing navigation for birthing families to deliver at partnering hospitals.”

Carole Ferrante, Copley’s interim chief operating officer, confirmed to VT Digger that the hospital is not currently providing those services. However, staff have been in “close communication” with University of Vermont Medical Center, in Burlington, and Central Vermont Medical Center, in Berlin, about having a satellite pre- and post-natal clinic at the Morrisville hospital.

Such a program is still in its nascent stages. “Those talks are just ongoing with them. They have their own challenges they are working through,” Ferrante said in a November 7 interview. “They are just trying to work through the details to see if they can make a program like that viable.” Former birth center staff have doubts.

“There is no prenatal care happening or any plan to provide prenatal care in Lamoille County at this time,” Vanderveer said. “They can say that they want it to happen, but that’s magical thinking, because no one is doing that.”

Ferrante also added that though the hospital contacted Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, in St. Johnsbury and North Country Hospital, in Newport, neither community hospital was interested or able to take on a satellite service at Copley.

At Copley, both the hospital and the midwives, who collected patient data, expect nearly 40% of Copley’s patients will move their care to the University of Vermont Medical Center, while about 20% will go to Central Vermont Medical

See BIRTHING, next page

Mother of last Copley birth bemoans loss of birthing center

by Raymonda Parchment

MORRISVILLE – Copley Hospital officially shuttered the doors to its Birthing Center on November 1. Babies will continue to be born at the hospital only on an emergency basis.

As reported in the Nov. 6 issue of the Hardwick Gazette, Elora Mae Kish was the last baby born at Copley Hospital to parents Daniel and Lauren (Holt) Kish of East Hardwick.

Speaking to Aaron Calvin of the News & Citizen, new mother Kish lauded the center staff, “The midwives were just like so, so devoted to just making the care incredibly special and individualized, and it’s really, really sad to see all of that kind of

come to a close,” the new mother said through tears. “But I’m really grateful that we were able to have our experience there.”

For pregnant patients in the area seeking prenatal and post natal care, there is a limited choice between Central Vermont Medical Center located in Berlin, and University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington or Northern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury.

In an effort to fill some of the gaps this loss will leave, emergency room staff and area EMTs have been preparing to deliver more babies. Emergency room doctors have undergone training with practitioners from UVM Health, as well as from the nurse midwives.

Birthing

Continued From Previous Page

Center. Another 10% is likely to go to Gifford Medical Center, in Randolph, and another one-tenth will go to Northeastern.

On average, patients will see a nearly 20-minute increase in drive times to reach care at any of these other hospitals.

“What that means is people who are well-resourced and can drive to Burlington or Montpelier or St. Johnsbury, will for prenatal care,” said Vanderveer.

She worries about the people who can’t take the time out of their work schedules to drive long distances for frequent prenatal appointments.

“They’re not going to get adequate prenatal care. They are going to have higher risk pregnancies that are going to have complications that are going to be further along,” she explained. “If they get diabetes in pregnancy or high blood pressure, they’re not going to know about it until it’s extremely complex and that there is real risk involved.”

With Copley’s closure and the 2022 closure of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Hyde Park, Lamoille County has become a maternity care desert, with no hospitals or birth centers offering obstetric care.

Two gynecologists will remain at Copley, though Vanderveer adds that their responsibilities should encompass more complex reproductive care needs, rather than the day-to-day primary care that the midwives provided. In addition to birthing, nurse midwives’ services span a broad scope of reproductive health care: They insert IUDs, screen for STDs, help patients navigate menopause and more.

“It’s a huge loss that I don’t think people even realize goes beyond just the birth piece,” she said.

In an August study published in the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, researchers found that living in a maternal care desert, which they define as a county without obstetric care, was significantly associated with higher maternal mortality and pregnancy-related death, after analyzing more than 14 million live births between 2018 and 2021.

“Ninety-five percent of the time [child birth] is totally straightforward, and you don’t need us [clinicians], but the 5% of the time you do, then it’s life saving,” Vanderveer said. “People do die in childbirth, and babies die.”

Copley’s own report to the Green Mountain Care Board cited three studies assessing distance from hospitals and maternal outcomes. A Pennsylvania-based study,

also published in the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, was “the most applicable” out of the three, Copley wrote in its letter. They say that the study found a “statistically significant relative risk of maternal and newborn adverse outcomes when travel distances exceeded 50 miles.” In fact, the study actually found adverse impacts became more likely at distances starting at 37 miles, becoming an increasing risk factor at 49 miles.

The two other studies cited specifically in the letter both detail more risk found for both mothers and babies with increased driving time and distance. Copley’s letter notes one study found no associated risk, but which one is not clear.

In reference to the Pennsylvania study, Copley calculated that about 12 patients each year will have to travel more than 50 miles to the next closest hospital to deliver their babies. They did not specify the number of patients who would need to travel those shorter distances.

“The decision was extremely difficult, and it is sad for the community. We recognize that it’s sad for us as well to have to let go of a service like this,” Ferrante told VT-Digger. “It is a very difficult thing to do when you’re looking at the future of the hospital and maintaining its presence in the community.”

That report tackles the issue of low-volume care that rural hospitals all across the state are dealing with, in birthing and beyond. It outlines a vision for consolidating low-volume care into regional “centers of excellence.”

The Oliver Wyman report suggested that Copley either scale up its birthing or shift it to other hospitals, as part of its “solutions for (a) long-term period,” in 2028 or beyond. In its response to the care board’s request for understanding the hospital rationale, Copley pointed to this report.

In its mid-October analysis to the care board, Copley estimated that births would decrease in 2025 (to 115 or 120, though by the end of October, births already totaled 127). It also estimates that revenue loss with each birth averages to \$16,885. Using those estimates of 2025 birth volume, in 2024, the state commissioned the consulting firm Oliver Wyman (as part of the 2022 state law Act 167) to report on the financial sustainability of Vermont’s hospitals. The hospital found it would lose \$776,000–\$861,000 this year (though, at the time of report’s publication, it had already exceeded those low volume estimates).

The letter also included financial estimates of what scaling up birthing services would cost the hospital, the other pathway outlined

by the Oliver Wyman report. The hospital said a consultant estimated “cosmetic renovations” of the birthing center would be over \$2 million and that the cost of building a satellite OB/GYN clinic would be \$675,000 and the annual operating costs would come to \$260,000 a year.

“Somehow we live in a world where, if it makes financial sense, that’s all you need to justify a completely unethical decision,” Erinn Mandeville, a former nurse midwife at Copley, said.

Many former staff are frustrated about the speed of the closure and the fact that it occurred before the hospital had begun implementing that shift of birthing care to other hospitals the report outlined. Ferrante was unable to comment on why the hospital had felt the need to shutter the service so quickly.

“I understand if we can’t keep every little hospital delivering babies, but we need a creative way to offer prenatal care in the community. We need to have a good system where we work with our colleagues,” Vanderveer said.

To help cover some of the gaps the loss of this service will leave, Copley’s emergency room staff and local EMTs have been preparing to deliver more babies. The ER doctors have undergone training with practitioners from UVM Health, as well as from the nurse midwives.

“The ER is not a place where anyone wants to have a baby,” Bovey, the nurse midwife who delivered the last baby, said. She was involved in helping transition and train emergency room staff on birthing. “[The ER staff] are working really hard. This is not their choice. This is not what they feel comfortable doing.”

Also, without the birthing center, the hospital will no longer have some of the tools and resources that could be helpful in assessing a newborn who needs to come into the hospital.

A group of midwives have also begun efforts to open a free-standing birthing clinic, in an effort to try to restore some of the services Copley had provided.

However, “it 100% does not replace hospital births,” said Mandeville, who is also the founder and president of the Green Mountain Birth Center group.

“It is basically home births, but at somebody else’s home,” she said, explaining that only extremely low-risk pregnancies are eligible for birthing center births. Copley, too, did not take high risk births. “[A birth center] doesn’t have anesthesia; it doesn’t have [pediatric] coverage. You can’t do a C-section; you can only do totally straightforward, low-risk births. So it’s not going to fix this problem.”

The group involved in creating

the center is eyeing Waterbury for a potential location, so that they can quickly transport patients to CVMC in case they need labor induced or an epidural, or in case a baby needs emergency support. Locating closer to Morristown and transporting to Copley is not an option without the birthing center, Mandeville said.

Last year, the Legislature approved a law that would make it possible to open these freestanding birthing centers in Vermont. The Green Mountain Birthing Center would be the state’s first.

But, right now, the new center is in its very early stages, explained Mary Lou Kopas, another former Copley nurse midwife involved in getting the center off the ground. The group is still working to establish itself as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is collecting donations small and large through the American Association of Birth Centers Foundation.

Kopas estimates that buying a space and then building it out will cost upwards of \$1.5 million. From there, she suspects that it will be able to pay for itself, since midwife-led births with low interventions are such inexpensive care.

“My grand vision is that we’re kind of like the village midwives, and that it’s health care for the people by the people. I’m not interested in an administrative-heavy [enterprise]. This is not a money making venture,” Mandeville said. “We want to build it for the community. We want to keep the lights on and pay people fairly, and build a beautiful facility that provides amazing care.”

She and Kopas hope that someday, they could scale to have some sort of a satellite clinic that could offer pre- and postnatal care in Morrisville, or a mobile clinic to reach people up in the Northeast Kingdom or elsewhere in the Copley service area. Kopas envisions, eventually, being able to provide more “wrap-around services,” like childbirth education, lactation support and parenting groups.

“We’re hoping that something good could come out of this. This is our phoenix rising out of the ashes,” Kopas said.

But, for now, she will be working on a per-diem basis at Northern Vermont Regional Hospital and at Gifford Hospital, in Randolph, a nearly 90-minute commute for her. She will stay overnight at the hospital for her 56-hour on-call shifts.

Her former colleagues are finding similar ways to piecemeal their schedules to other Vermont hospitals. Much like the patients they once served, the nurse midwives will now too need to drive over an hour to serve the community at the next nearest hospital.

SNAP

Continued From Page One

CAE's Community Program Manager, Bethany Dunbar, couldn't over-emphasize Porter's generosity: "I went over to Front Seat and had to make three trips back to the car to get all the stuff that Tobin donated or lent us."

Pete's Greens donated carrots and vegetables. Salvation Farms came up with gleaned vegetables and extras from their freezer. Almost everything for the project, from ingredients to containers, was donated.

The Hardwick area has a decades-long history of community organizing, which has gotten stronger in recent years through intentional collaborations. "In my mind whether it's this or something in the future, the more we work on these networks, the more we have them during challenging times" says Hershberger.

Examples of neighbors in the area coming together to support each other include Everyone Eats; a resurgence of Hardwick community meals during the pandemic; the formation of a mutual aid group, Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor and other community support through the floods of 2023 and 2024.

Buffalo Mountain Market Cafe Manager, Jessie Ziegler, took the lead on planning the soups. She started with the

donations and worked backward to figure out what could and would be made.

Ziegler first laid out all of the donations on the table and sorted them into soups. "That was the planning phase," she said, "and it is how I work at the co-op as well."

Dunbar added, "We are so lucky to have Jessie because she said 'we are going to do this and this and this' and it's perfect."

Buffalo Mountain Market has a long history of feeding the community beyond operating a grocery store. she mused, "It's so great that the co-op was leading the charge because 30 years ago Robin Cappuccino, at the co-op, would make soup from whatever was around for free for the community. He was instrumental in the early days of the community meal, which still happens at the United Church in Hardwick."

The Community Room at the CAE's new Food Hub, finished this June, was created with activities like this in mind. The multipurpose room was designed with a robust home kitchen in order to host CAE's and the HAFP's Grow Your Own Classes, meals and other activities. The idea was for it to be a flexible space to support the community, and as Dunbar puts it, "This is exactly what we hoped this room would be used for."

Salvation Farms' Vermont



Jessie Ziegler, Buffalo Mountain Market Cafe Manager, stirring many large pots of soup that will fill containers provided by the market and be distributed through the Hardwick Area Food Pantries.

photo by Kelly Bogel Stokes.

Commodity Manager, Martha Machia, jumped at the opportunity to cook in the new facility. "I get to work in that kitchen? I was so excited...[especially by the] brand new knives and cutting boards."

Ziegler agreed, adding her appreciation, "Thank you to all the people who have built this kind of infrastructure for the community."

The first day of soup making, November 5, a team of six people made 50 quarts of beef stew and 40 quarts of squash soup. 60 quarts of lentil soup were started. Chili, carrot soup and hamburger soup were made later in the week.

By the end of the day Thursday, the team had made, packaged and labelled 354 quarts of soup.

CAE's Meryl Friets, Farm Connex Logistic Manager, and CAE's Farm Connex team are

storing the soups in the Food Hub walk-in coolers and providing logistics support.

Hill Farmstead Brewery provided a contribution to support this round of soup making and another in the future.

On Thursday and Friday, Nov. 6 and 7, soup was distributed through the three Hardwick Area Food Pantries in Hardwick, Crafsbury and Albant, and the team is working to have them available at other pantries throughout the area.

The team will keep making soup as long as there are ingredients and a need. Stay tuned for more details as it all comes together.

The group doesn't know exactly what kind of help they need yet, but they know they will need help. If you want to donate food, time or money, email community-connections@caevt.org.



Quarts of finished soup stored in the cooler at the Food Hub that will be distributed through the Hardwick Area Food Pantries.

photo by Reeve Basom.

CCIF

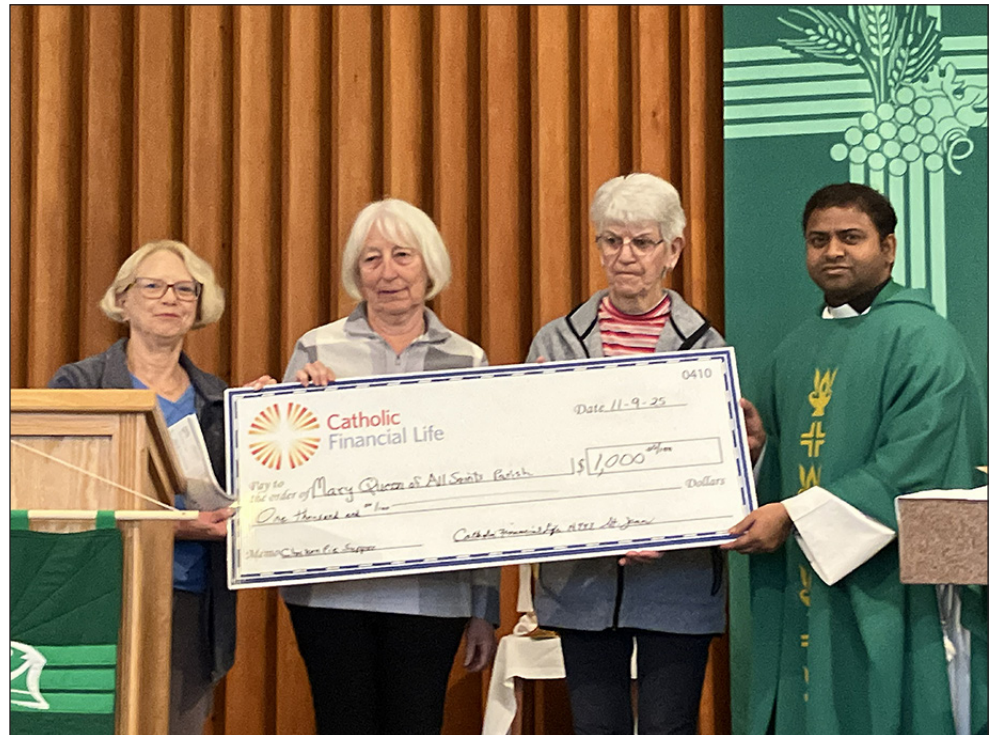
Continued From Page One

matching funds if a grant application currently pending is approved 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 will cover the

cost of obtaining legal easements from adjacent landowners to allow for the bridge replacement.

Another amount of not more than \$20,000 may now be used 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.



Chapter St. Jean President, Jeannine A. Young, presents a check to Nicole Duhamel, chair of the dinner committee of the chicken pie supper, Pierrette Lyman and Fr. Raj Madri. Catholic Financial Life Chapter N443 St. Jean, of the greater Hardwick area, co-sponsored the Mary Queen of All Saints Parish supper at St. Michael Church Hall in Greensboro Bend in August. Catholic Financial Life, a member of the Trusted Fraternal Life brand, provided a Match Fund of \$1,000 to Mary Queen of All Saints Parish.

photo by Joseph Young

Child Haven event to benefit 1,300 South Asian children

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The 17th Annual Hardwick Child Haven's Indian Dinner and Sari Fashion Show at Hazen Union school, November 1 and 2, raised \$13,000, wrote Wheelock's Robin Cappuccino, a board member of Child Haven International/India, last week.

Calling the event a huge success, he said the event will help "our 1,300 formerly destitute children in India, Nepal and Bangladesh."

Cappuccino said the sold-out event featured "an amazing meal cooked under the cheerful

supervision of Evan Karp and his huge team of cooks and cleaners. People universally comment on how calm and relaxed the kitchen is under Evan's leadership, but then when you remember that Evan's other hat is a forest-firefighting helmet, you can understand how unperturbed he might be about a pot starting to scorch a little."

Deborah and Walker Hartt helped dress "everyone from our graceful Fashion Show models to the entire cafeteria in beautiful saris!" said Cappuccino.

Donating to and helping with the gathering were The Genny, Buffalo Mountain Market, Pete's



Maris Wolf of Walden wears a hand embroidered wedding lehenga during the Child Haven sari fashion show, November 1. She was one of seventeen to participate in the show. All of the clothing was donated to Child Haven by an Indian community in Ontario, Canada. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Vermont's open enrollment period begins

by Vermont Department of Health Access

WATERBURY – Open Enrollment for Vermont's health insurance marketplace began on November 1. During open enrollment, Vermonters can sign up for or change their qualified health and dental plans for 2026. Coverage starts January 1, 2026, for those who sign up on or before December 15. Open enrollment ends January 15, 2026.

"This year, it's more important than ever for Vermonters to stay informed and stay covered. Now is the time to sign up for health coverage for 2026," said Dr. DaShawn Groves, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access, which operates Vermont's health insurance marketplace. "While there is some uncertainty around the future of enhanced federal premium financial assistance, Vermonters should take the time to review their options and make sure they and their family can remain covered. DVHA is ready to help you during this time, and we will communicate any federal changes to our members."

Enhanced premium subsidies from the federal government are set to expire at the end of 2025. These subsidies have helped reduce out-of-pocket costs for Vermonters purchasing health insurance through Vermont Health Connect. DVHA is aware that these subsidies continue to be part of the conversation related to the ongoing federal shutdown. In the event that these subsidies are extended, DVHA will immediately communicate with our members and update Vermont Health Connect to ensure that all Vermonters are paying the lowest possible premiums.

It is important to note that there are still cost saving options available through the marketplace,

even if the federal enhanced subsidies do expire. Many Vermonters enrolled through Vermont Health Connect will continue to qualify for financial assistance. For plan year 2026, an eligible individual who earns \$40,000 a year could get the lowest-cost Gold plan for \$77 a month, a savings of \$1,058 each month. A family of four with a household income of \$85,000 could get a Gold plan for \$204 a month, a monthly savings of \$2,067, or more than \$20,000 per year.

It's best to sign up by December 15 to ensure coverage throughout all of 2026. Coverage will begin on February 1, 2026, for people who enroll between December 16, 2025, and January 15, 2026, the final day of the open enrollment period.

It's easy to sign up and review options. Create an account and apply. Tell about your household for screening for eligibility for financial help to help pay for a health plan. The easy-to-use 2026 Plan Comparison Tool is designed to help you choose a health plan that best meets your financial and medical needs.

Assisters are professionals who are trained and certified by the Department of Vermont Health Access to help Vermonters enroll and maintain health coverage. They can answer questions and walk applicants through the application process. Assisters work for various agencies in the community, such as hospitals, health care providers, and community-based organizations. Learn how to calculate if employer-sponsored insurance is affordable or if there is financial help through the marketplace with vt-affordabilityestimator.checkbookhealth.org/#/

Visit VermontHealthConnect.gov, call the Customer Support Center at (855) 899-9600, or contact an in-person assister nearby for more information about open enrollment.

Greens, Harvest Hill Farm, Full Circle Farm, Sweet Rowen Farmstead, Riverside Farm, Wild Acres and others "who provided the exquisite ingredients for this year's menu," he said.

A myriad of generous donors offered their wares for the silent auction, "which did incredibly well as always," said Cappuccino.

The event allowed Child Haven "to confirm our support for our third Kaliyampoondi nursing student's education through our Rachel Davey Memorial Fund. S. Divya is now in her final year and excited to complete her studies soon to join our previous two graduates as a nurse."

"I was on a call about a new 600-foot-deep well we just drilled at our Gujarat Home thanks to a mild earth tremor that destroyed our previous well," said Cappuccino last Thursday. "We also spoke about a new borewell at our

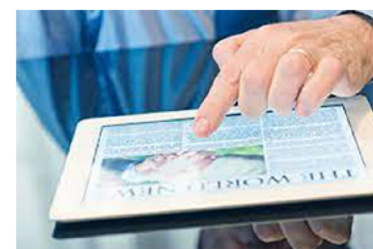
Bangladesh Home needed there because the municipality is not able to meet our water needs most days of the week.

"I was on a call several days ago with an organic vegetable farmer we are hiring to initiate a one-acre garden at our new expanded home outside of Hyderabad.

"All these things are vital, important and expensive, and just a few recent reasons your support is most deeply appreciated."

In closing Cappuccino wrote, "Together we are demonstrating the power of active love and compassion so critically important in these times when bellicose billionaires would have us believe that they alone deserve ever-more obscene amounts of our earth's fragile and finite resources. Together we can uplift each other and those in our communities, both here and overseas, in need of our solidarity and support."

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Traffic flows across a temporary bridge after the original was washed away in this summer's flooding on Mill Street in Plainfield on Sept. 23, 2024. The floodwaters also swept away several apartments in the building on the right. file photo by Glenn Russell, VT Digger

Plainfield voters deny purchase of property for housing

by Erin Petenko, VTDigger

PLAINFIELD – Residents voted Tuesday against a \$600,000 bond to purchase land for new housing development, 15 months after a flood devastated the town's village core.

The bond would have allowed the town selectboard to borrow the funds to buy 24 acres of land located uphill of the village. The town clerk's office said the vote was 238-298 against the measure.

The town applied for a \$9.7 million Community Development Block Grant to develop infrastructure on the now-undeveloped land at 68 East Hill Road and 266 Main St., according to the town website. The select board planned to sell roughly 40 parcels of land for housing development after building infrastructure like roads and utility hookups.

Plainfield experienced some flooding in July 2023, but the July 2024 flood was even more damaging for the town of 1,200 residents. Half

of an apartment building was swept away by flood waters in 2024. Between the two years, 39 households have applied for federal buyouts, according to a town grant presentation.

In the wake of the floods, local volunteers formed the East Village Expansion Committee to explore developing land outside of the flood zone. Proponents of the plan said in 2024 that they believe it could help bolster the town's tax base and relieve the local housing shortage.

Meanwhile, critics of the idea have objected to the project's cost or the potential for increased local traffic. They've also raised concerns about a possible conflict of interest, since town clerk Bram Towbin co-owns some of the land. The Vermont State Ethics Commission advised the town that the situation appeared to be in line with ethical standards.

The \$600,000 bond would have been used only once funding for the rest of the project was fully lined up, according to the expansion committee's website.



Gravel Construction's (from left) Matthew Verboncoeur and Dana Gravel, work with Saint John de Crevecoeur Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American (DAR) members Elaine Bellavance and Mary Metcalf, of Hardwick to create a Never Forget Garden in Hardwick's Memorial Park fountain. Gravel Construction of Hardwick donated the gravel base and sand layer, as well as the labor to prepare the garden for potting mix. For more information about the DAR, go to facebook.com/groups/173168618290139

photo by Jeannine A. Young

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Just a taste of the deals this week. Stop in for hundreds of local items, cafe food, and more!

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| \$2 off Organic Frozen Berries Field Day, Blueberries, Strawberries, 32 oz | \$6.99 Frozen Pizza Field Day, varieties, 12 in | \$3.99 Peanut Butter, salted or unsalted Field Day, smooth or chunky, 18 oz | \$3.00 Breakfast Cereal varieties Field Day, 14.5 oz |
| \$2.69 Canned Pumpkin Farmer's Market, 15 oz | \$2.99 Sweet Potato Puree Farmer's Market, 15 oz | \$3.50 Instant Oatmeal Field Day, varieties, 11.3 oz | \$4.99 Mayonnaise Hellman's, 15-30 oz varieties |
| 2/\$7 Lavender Dish Liquid Field Day, 25 fl oz | \$2.50 Balsam Fir Mineral Bath Aura Cacia, 2.5 oz | \$8.49 Kids Fizzy Bath Kit Aura Cacia, 3.25 oz packets | 2/\$3 Organic Pasta Field Day, varieties |
| 2/\$4 Stuffing Varieties Stove Top, 6 oz variety | 2/\$5 Bar or Shredded Cheese Cabot, all varieties, -7 oz | 5/\$5 Rice and Pasta Sides Knorr, 4 - 5.7 oz varieties | \$3.99 Crispy Friend Onions French's, 6 oz original |

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| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| \$1.49 Clearly Canadian All varieties, 11 oz | 10% off 7th Generation Products All varieties, while supplies last | \$2 off Cabot Clothbound Jasper Hill, per pound | 10% off Naked Fruit Spread Blake Hill, 10.4 oz |
|---|---|--|---|

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WindowDressers program builds window inserts, community

by Liz Steel and Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – Twenty-six volunteers filled the Craftsbury Outdoor Center’s ski shop last Saturday, as they carried out the carefully designed steps to build insulating window inserts for community members in the three-corner area of Caledonia, Lamoille and Orleans Counties.

The Craftsbury, Glover, and Greensboro Energy Committees and the Albany Planning Commission worked together with teams of volunteers from Friday, Oct. 31 through Sunday, Nov. 9, to build 415 window inserts from kits provided by WindowDressers that will go to more than 60 homes in 14 towns.

This is the sixth year of the local project that now continues throughout the year as volunteers begin by sharing the benefits of the easy-to-install insulated window inserts made with two layers of plastic over a wooden frame. The inserts eliminate drafts when installed on the inside of windows, resulting in warmer buildings and lower fuel bills.

Community members learn about the mostly volunteer program developed by nonprofit WindowDressers in Maine from their neighbors and at various events where energy committees share information and often have sample inserts to examine.

Once a person decides to insulate some of their windows, a volunteer will come to their home, mobile home, apartment or business to take careful measurements and might recommend which windows are most likely to benefit from the inserts.

This year half the inserts “are being given away free to homes who cannot afford to buy them,”

said the Craftsbury Energy Committee’s Chair Kevin Gregoire. “Several of those recipients are elderly, disabled, or busy with kids and work.”

Gregoire has been involved with the local program since it started and was the lead organizer for this year’s build.

Recipients of inserts are asked to contribute some of their time toward the construction, which helps keep the cost low.

With nordic skis, boots and poles in a section behind a counter, Olympic Rowing hopefuls joined the build during their free time between morning and afternoon practices.

Holly Drapp, who earned a bronze medal at the World Rowing Championships in pairs with Jess Thoennes at September’s 2,000-meter final in Shanghai, has been training with the Green Racing Project in Craftsbury for three years. She enjoys building window inserts each fall. “This is better than the row, sleep, eat routine,” she said.

Green racing project rowers said they enjoy the Craftsbury environment and alternative activities like building inserts, for which they volunteer to defer some of the cost of their training.

Halfway through the four-hour afternoon build session, Gregoire called for a break for volunteers to sip from various beverages, sample Jasper Hill cheese, energy bars, mandarin oranges, and various other snacks.

Volunteers pulled chairs into a circle during the break to visit, enhancing the community spirit, neighborly connections and new friendships that emerge from the week building window inserts. An aspect of the program that helps to make it so special, said many.



Dale Touchette, right, a WindowDressers customer from Morrisville, works with Craig Taylor, Craftsbury Energy Committee, to put together the window frames on the first day.
photo by Liz Steel

Roughly half of the community members helping last Saturday weren’t receiving inserts, but said they do it because it’s a community event that brings people together as they join in a common purpose to help save each other money and have warmer homes.

“With the pre-cut window frame kits, there are simple taping jobs and plastic application jobs for everyone, no minimum skill level required,” said Gregoire.

In addition to the four towns organizing the build, inserts went to buildings in Barton, Derby, Hardwick, Holland, Hyde Park, Orleans, Morrisville, Walden, Westmore and Wolcott.

Grants from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, the Greensboro Association, the Town of Craftsbury and the Concrete Foundation, helped to cover some of the costs of the inserts. In addition, Efficiency Vermont and Electricity providers offer individuals rebates on the window inserts they build for their homes and businesses.

First time volunteers, Chris and Buzz Burhans, who live in Albany, saw the call for volunteers on Front Porch Forum and signed up for one shift. “We didn’t know what to expect so Buzz brought all his carpentry tools with us,” said Chris. “When we saw how the event was set up and how simple the process was, with no construction experience necessary and all the tools provided, we were hooked.

We came back every day and were so impressed with all the organization. It felt good to do something for others in our community, especially in these challenging times.”

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center donated space for the Community Build again this year. Local businesses supported the event by providing hearty snacks and warm drinks, including Cate Hill Orchard, the Craftsbury Genny, Jasper Hill and Red Sky Trading.

Community members made a selection of sweet breads to help energize the volunteers. “By the end of the workshop, over 125 volunteers and insert recipients will have put in over 650 person-hours of effort building the window inserts at the workshop,” said Gregoire.

Each year’s build begins with a truck full of components and specialized tools to speed the assembly, almost completely eliminating the possibility of error.

The inserts begin with wooden frames that are covered with plastic on both sides and have foam around the edges to conform to imperfections in the window opening, making for a tight fit and eliminating air leakage.

Windows inserts being built last week came in all sizes, to fit openings as small as a foot square and as large as three by five feet, with some even larger.

For more information, or to order window inserts for 2026, go to the WindowDressers website at windowdressers.org.



Left to right, Sister Gail and Sister Amie, from the Green Mountain Monastery in Greensboro, who ordered 16 inserts to help minimize heat loss from the Great Room at the Monastery, work together at the wrapping station, as they start to create the insert.
photo by Liz Steel



Talia Jurkiewicz shows a mushroom she's picked from a log at Sterling College that was prepared to grow them during a field trip October 27.

courtesy photo



During a trip to Sterling College, October 27, (from left) students Nora Doyon and Ruby Renaud, and K/1 teacher Catherine Siefert learn about the Sterling College gardens and pick vegetables behind red kale. courtesy photo

K/1 class studies farm-to-food systems to host community meal

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – Kindergarten and first grade students in Catherine Siefert's class at Woodbury Elementary School visited Sterling College to learn about farm-to-food systems, on Monday, Oct. 27.

The visit was part of a project that will culminate with their working with the Woodbury School's sixth grade class to put on a community meal.

The week before they and their sixth grade buddies visited the monthly Hardwick community meal at the United Church of Hardwick that is prepared by Hazen Union School students in Reeve Basom's Recipe for a Human Connection class. During the meal they interviewed the high school

students about what it takes to put on a community meal.

At Sterling College they saw how food is grown, processed and then served as nutritious meals for the college students and staff.

During their visit they tasted broccoli flowers, cauliflower and freshly picked apples.

They were introduced to fungiculture (growing mushrooms) and harvested shiitake and oyster mushrooms from logs.

They visited the Sterling sugarhouse, met sheep, cows and even resident barn cats that call the farm home.

David Baker, OSSU Superintendent of Schools wrote in a recent newsletter that, "Students are exploring every step of the food system — from farming and

transportation to processing, purchasing, consumption and waste management. The 6th graders are also studying economics and restaurant management to understand what it takes to run a successful food business.

The class visited Black Bird Bistro in Craftsbury November 4 to help prepare for hosting their own Woodbury restaurant night.

Baker said, "We're thrilled

to partner with Blackbird Bistro, Peltz Creative, Baker's Bench and the Center for an Agricultural Economy to make this meaningful, hands-on experience possible and share a delicious meal together."

At the meal taking place on November 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., they will celebrate all they've learned. Attendance will be by reservation, with Woodbury students and their families receiving first access.

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At the WindowDressers build last Saturday, (from left) Corey Jones prepares to heat finished insulating window inserts to tighten the plastic layers, rowers Natalie Hoefer, Sue Holderness, Kevin Maurice Harvell, Jacob Plihall, area residents Chris and Buzz Burhans and rowers Kai Hoite and Grace Donabedian apply plastic film to the wooden frames. photo by Paul Fixx

NEWS NOTES

School Street bridge work continues

by VTrans

WOLCOTT – The School Street bridge replacement work continues in Wolcott as crews install the coffer

dam for abutment-one. The one-way traffic pattern on School Street remains in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Motorists can access School Street from Vt. Rte. 15.

Traffic cannot access Rte. 15 from School Street and will instead detour onto Flat Iron Road back to reach Rte. 15. Motorists are advised to follow signage and plan travel accordingly. From 7 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m., motorists should expect intermittent alternating one-way traffic on Vt. 15 near School Street. Flaggers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone during working hours.

Program provides pathway to new home

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Dixie Vestal chose the Shared Equity Program as a stepping stone toward achieving her dream of homeownership. RuralEdge provided vestal with a down payment grant of \$78,250 that, combined with a first mortgage from Community National Bank, allowed her to purchase a farmhouse with attached two-car garage on three acres in Newark. The program not only made it possible for her to purchase a home she selected, but

also allowed her family to remain in her children's school district, which was a top priority.

This marks the first home she has owned on her own, and closing day brought tears of joy. "I'm so proud of myself," she shared, "and this wouldn't have been possible without RuralEdge's support and the Shared Equity Program."

RuralEdge's Shared Equity Homeownership Program makes homebuying affordable for families in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex

Counties with low to moderate incomes by offering down payment assistance grants of up to 35% of the cost of a home. Designed to increase buying capacity and for those who might not otherwise be able to afford a down payment, the program helps families purchase homes while ensuring those homes remain affordable for future generations.

Unlike traditional down payment assistance that benefits only one family, RuralEdge's Shared

Equity Program, funded through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, offers a one-time investment that stays with the home permanently, ensuring it remains affordable for future income-eligible buyers. In return, the homeowner agrees to limit the profit they earn if the home's value increases and share the appreciation with the next buyer. This means that as the property value increases, it becomes more affordable relative to market conditions.

Treasurer Pieciak confirms distribution of 3SquaresVT/SNAP payments

by Office of the Vermont State Treasurer

MONTPELIER – Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak confirmed that his office successfully sent payments ensuring recipients of 3SquaresVT, Vermont's name for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), would receive their benefits Friday, Nov. 7, despite the ongoing federal shutdown.

Approximately 67,000

Vermonters are enrolled in SNAP, and most participants access their benefits via EBT card. Funds were loaded to EBT cards Friday morning.

Thousands receive their benefits through Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments processed by the Treasurer's Office. For these individuals, the treasurer's office said they would be credited to accounts by the end of the day Friday, though timing would vary depending on the individual financial institution. Recipients who did

not receive their benefits November 7 were encouraged to reach out to their bank or credit union.

"This morning, our office worked with the administration to ensure all 3SquaresVT/SNAP recipients receive their benefit payments today while the federal government is shut down," said Treasurer Pieciak Friday. "I'm proud our state continues to put people first, and I'm grateful to everyone across state government, the Legislature, and the state's banking

partners who made this possible."

Earlier today, the Trump Administration asked the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to issue an emergency stay of a U.S. District Court ruling ordering the federal Administration to fully fund SNAP.

Pieciak continued, "While the Trump Administration is fighting to keep money out of working people's hands, Vermont is working hard to ensure our neighbors can put food on the table."

Federal efforts to undermine medical debt relief condemned

by Office of the Vermont State Treasurer

MONTPELIER – The Trump administration recently issued a new interpretive rule advising that the Federal Credit Reporting Act preempts state measures to remove medical debt from credit reports.

This guidance, issued by Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Acting Director Russell Vought, directly challenges laws passed in several states, including Vermont, that prohibit the reporting of medical debt on credit scores.

While the administration's

interpretation is not legally binding, it signals an intent to override state efforts to relieve medical debt for workers and families.

Treasurer Pieciak condemned the ruling, issuing the following statement:

"Earlier this year, Vermont passed a bipartisan plan to eliminate \$100 million in medical debt for working Vermonters and to protect their credit scores from medical debt. I was proud to lead on this initiative, which will help tens of thousands of Vermonters move forward with their lives free from the burden of medical debt.

The Trump administration's

attempt to override this common-sense protection of Vermonters' credit scores is a cruel and unnecessary attack on the health and financial well-being of working families.

While the administration's interpretive rule does not overturn state law, its actions are clearly meant to undercut our efforts to ease the burden of medical debt. I intend to fight tooth and nail against this attempt to put medical debt back on people's credit scores and fully expect all reporting entities to honor Vermont law and continue keeping medical debt off Vermonters' credit reports.

At a time when health care costs are skyrocketing, and Republican cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act will make that worse, my office remains committed to protecting Vermonters from medical debt and its devastating impact on household budgets."

The CFPB was established by President Obama in response to the 2008 financial crisis. It has since recovered over \$21 billion in relief for American taxpayers. Since taking office, President Trump has suspended nearly all CFPB activities, halting investigations, enforcement actions, and oversight of financial institutions.

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THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

EDITORIAL

Let's Make History Together

The Gazette has begun its annual year-end fundraiser. With your help it promises to be the biggest and best we've ever had.

The Institute for Nonprofit News and major foundations, are giving us a huge boost; offering The Gazette more than \$20,000 in matching funds and challenge grants. Local donors have already contributed another \$10,000 to a matching pool. The combined impact of these funds will allow The Gazette to strengthen its organization and increase reporting capacity when you step forward and do your part.

This is a unique opportunity to double the power of your donation. Gifts of up to \$1,000 will be matched.

New recurring donors and those who increase their monthly gift will see their gifts matched for a full year up to the \$1,000 maximum. Recurring donations are encouraged, because they form a solid, dependable foundation.

There's also a special incentive of \$1,000 if we receive first-time donations from at least 50 readers. If you've already supported The Gazette, please remind others to pitch in too.

The Gazette has been a nonprofit organization for almost two years, publishing without fail every week, building community and connecting you to your friends and neighbors.

Your generosity has made it happen. But more needs to be done if The Gazette is going to achieve sustainability and serve our communities for a long time to come.

This is a moment of historic opportunity.

Join in the effort at hardwickgazette.org/donate

Let's make history together.

John Walters

John Walters is a board member of Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, publisher of The Hardwick Gazette

LETTERS FROM READERS

Rapid action needed

To the editor:

One of the three maps being developed by Vermont's Act 73 Redistricting Committee is based around Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers and it poses serious risks to our local schools.

In the latest draft of the CTE-based proposal, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) has been placed in a supervisory district with Morrisville, Stowe, and surrounding towns. This change would eliminate our local school boards and dissolve our existing articles of agreement. Decisions about small community schools such as Woodbury, Lakeview, Wolcott and Craftsbury could be made without a local vote or even local representation with meaningful voting power on a regional district board.

This governance shift could also jeopardize Hazen Union and Hardwick Elementary. In a larger, more centralized district, smaller towns like ours would likely

have minority representation and limited ability to protect our schools, programs, or have much say in our budgets, services, and community values.

It's essential that residents make their voices heard now. Please write to the redistricting committee to express your support for keeping OSSU in a supervisory union model, not a district. The supervisory union structure allows our communities to retain local school boards, protect small schools, and ensure decisions remain accountable to local voters.

If you live or work in the Hazen or Mountain View districts, please also urge your local school boards to submit formal public comment to the Redistricting Committee as soon as possible. Neither board has yet taken a formal stance, and their input will be crucial in preserving community-based school governance.

**Laura Cannon
Hardwick**

Wet Yellow road paint splashes car

To the editor:

This is to share with others who had the misfortune of getting wet yellow line paint on their car.

Late one afternoon this summer, on Route 14 north-bound between Post Road and North Craftsbury Road, the road crew hired by the state engineer to paint the lines picked up their cones before the paint was dry. There were no signs indicating road painting ahead. There were no signs the paint was still wet when they were picking up their cones to go home. On my way home from work I encountered this. My black car wheel wells, front and back, wheel trims, lowers door panels were splashed by the familiar

yellow paint we see on the road daily.

I did not see the paint when I pulled into my garage, and when I did see it, it had plenty of time to be dried on my car permanently. The company that is responsible, as I sent them the video of the damages and the statement of the hundreds of dollars it cost to get the paint off, feels, because I cannot provide them the exact date it happened, they are not responsible.

The photos of the road, my car damage, and the fact they did indeed paint those lines, had their insurance adjuster call, and they feel they're not responsible.

**Lise Roussell
Craftsbury Common**

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News Match

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc., 82 Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841
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EDITOR - Paul Fixx

REPORTER - Raymonda Parchment

PRODUCTION - Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson, David Mitchell

SPORTS - Ken Brown, Eric Hanson

PHOTOGRAPHER - Vanessa Fournier

CARTOONIST - Julie Atwood

WEATHER - Tyler Mollur

CIRCULATION - Dawn Gustafson

ADVERTISING

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

CONTRIBUTORS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail addresses to send messages: ads@hardwickgazette.org for advertising inquiries including display ads and business directory submissions; editor@hardwickgazette.org for corrections, letters to the editor, story ideas, website or newsletter questions and comments; news@hardwickgazette.org for all submissions of calendar of events, news stories, obituaries, births, press releases and everything else.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Even here in Vermont

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – A few months ago I saw a cartoon in *The New Yorker*. In it, a king stands on his raised veranda with an aide, looking down on an obviously angry crowd armed with pitchforks and torches. Nonplussed, he turns to his courtier, who advises something like this: “You don’t have to put anyone down, sire. You just have to convince the torch people that the pitchfork people are trying to take their torches.”

In the political condition in which the United States currently finds itself, that cartoon was (as we used to say in grammar school) about as funny as a rubber crutch. Because it’s true. The architects, authors, and advance-persons of the system creating for our president a gilded, entitled image of himself have succeeded far better than many of us who’ve been around a while thought they could.

Even here in Vermont, where it’s been fairly easy for many of us to feel we’re living in a bubble, in a blip beneath the radar, we’re beginning to feel it. Chicago and Portland, Ore., may get all the media attention, but we’re now attracting the notice of the expanding crowd of masked, black-clad, largely anonymous goons with a clearly vague grasp of Constitutional law and a lively sense of mission: that mission being to rid the country of non- or not quite white people who’re probably violent members of some Latin American terrorist group stealing American jobs.

I give scant credence to most of what comes in here on the internet, but this story came in today and I can’t find any way to fact-check it yet. Apparently, a woman of color in St. Albans was overheard by a patriotic citizen speaking with an accent. The patriot informed the authorities of this suspicious behavior, and the woman was “detained” (that word has grown ugly horns) for questioning. I don’t know how long the detainment lasted, or what went down, but eventually she was released.

A film worth seeing if you ever get a chance is “Das Leben der Anderen” (“The Lives of Others”). It won many awards when it was released in 2006. Set in Communist East Germany, it follows the efforts of the Stasi, the secret police, to record and transcribe everything that is spoken in the apartment of a journeyman playwright, a suspected enemy of the state. It’s a great plot, but to me the most memorable feature of the film is its recreation

of the universal suspicion that pervades East German society. The government has so thoroughly managed to plant the fear of spies (in our current American parlance, “the enemy within”) that offering an opinion to anyone else, even a supposedly trusted friend, is dangerous and possibly lethal.

The effect is ominous, threatening, and draped in gray and black.

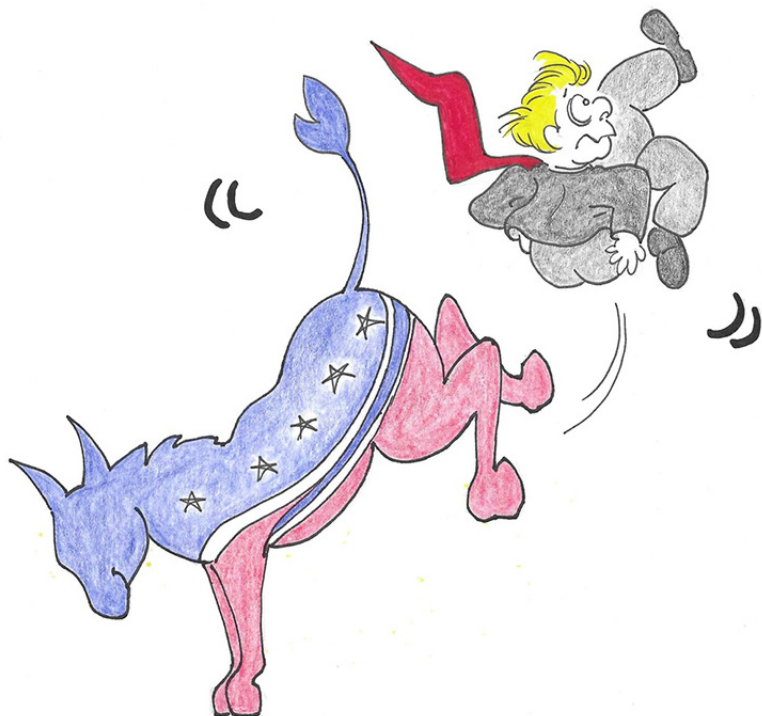
There’s no doubt that we here in the so-called united states are operating on the fringes of that mutual and universal suspicion. Reading the various responses to the Facebook post about the woman detained in St. Albans is quite an eye-opener. Most respondents (this is, after all, Vermont) are offended and outraged at her treatment. A few suggest it was only a mild inconvenience, and she was soon on her merry way.

So it’s come to Vermont, with an apparent focus on the northern part of the state, where Canada disgorges felons and undocumented migrants into the brave little state whose Republican governor has so far politely declined to hold tea parties and all-you-can-eat buffets for the brutish chaps and women in the unmarked black vehicles.

It’s nothing new. Even before the American Revolution, we were at each other’s throats in legislative debate. The November 2025 issue of *The Atlantic* describes our founders’ travails in breaking with our motherland. Patriots and Loyalists were irreconcilable. As the revolutionary spirit grew, Loyalists with valuable property and land fled for their lives to the Eastern Townships of Quebec. To this day, the Anglican Church and the English language are common throughout the townships.

We deplore the black vehicles that cruise Chicago (San Francisco would have been next but for the intervention of “some friends of mine” who dissuaded the president from sending them). We’ve been at this sort of thing forever, almost all of our country’s life. The British burned the White House; now our own president is tearing it down. Important bureaus of our government are commanded by political hacks. We’ve been conditioned to dislike and distrust each other. Every day we’re thrown another bone to fight over, to distract us from demanding information that inevitably, will change almost everything. The Stasi files, now open, make interesting reading.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“WE KICKED ASS.”

MEETING MEMO

Wednesday, November 12 p.m.

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.

Tuesday, November 18

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

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

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

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

Marshfield Select Board, third Tuesday of month, 5:30

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

Wednesday, November 19

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

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

Thursday, November 20

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

Town Clerks

Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro: greensborovt.gov

Hardwick: hardwickvt.org

Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us

Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

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

Walden: waldenvt.gov

Wolcott: wolcottvt.org

Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

ANOTHER OPINION

Shutdown poses risks to Vermont families

by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

MONTPELIER – As the federal government remains shut down, many of the supports that Vermont families and children rely on are under threat, creating ripple effects for child abuse prevention programs and the safety net services that help keep homes healthy and safe.

At Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT), we know that prevention begins with strong, supported families. Programs such as parent circles, the Nurturing Parenting Program, the Adult Responsibility Project, and the free materials we provide to hospitals, including the Vermont Parent's Home Companion, help families reduce stress, stay connected and keep children safe. When federal funding streams are stalled or delayed, these programs are placed at risk, directly affecting the families who depend on them.

Federal contracts and grants that sustain child abuse prevention and family support programs are now in jeopardy. With the shutdown halting or delaying federal payments, PCAVT faces the possibility of funding interruptions that could force us to pause or scale back critical services.

Every day the shutdown continues, uncertainty grows, affecting multi-year grants, reimbursement schedules and pending awards that our programs rely on. These disruptions do not only affect budgets; they threaten our ability to train parents, deliver prevention education and provide direct support to families in need.

At the same time, as public resources shrink, more Vermont families are turning to us for help just as we face the risk of losing or delaying the funding that allows us to serve them. The strain on both sides is real, and the consequences could be long-lasting if federal support is not restored soon.

Across the state, the effects of the shutdown are already being felt. Families who were already stretched thin may face increased food insecurity, disrupted caregiving supports and fewer options for safe, reliable services. When those safety nets weaken, everyday stress can quickly become crisis.

Research and experience show that the risk of child abuse and neglect rises when caregivers are under sustained stress and preventive supports are disrupted. For many families, these programs are lifelines, not luxuries.

At PCAVT, we and our partners may be forced to shift resources,

delay program expansion, or scale back outreach at the very moment demand is increasing. The longer the shutdown lasts, the harder it becomes to maintain the consistent, dependable support that families count on to stay strong and safe.

We remain committed to doing everything we can for Vermont's children and families. At this time, we are monitoring federal funding streams and working with state and private partners to fill gaps. We are reaching out to our community, caregivers, and service providers to ensure that stressors are addressed and that families know where to find help. We are also calling on policymakers in Vermont and Washington to prioritize continuity of essential

services for children and families during budget negotiations.

We urge Congress and the administration to act immediately to reopen and fully fund the federal government. Every day of delay puts more children, families, and communities at risk. The wellbeing of families should never become collateral damage in a political standoff.

"Prevention can't be put on hold," said Jonathan Williams, Executive Director of PCAVT. "When essential supports are delayed or disrupted, families and children feel the impact immediately. We have a responsibility to keep the safety net strong, and that means acting now."

For more information, visit pcavt.org

MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

Savoring seventy-five

by Trish Alley

SHELBURNE – In this season of giving thanks, I am grateful for the actual and aspiring Wrinkled Radicals I know. Some of you shared my October blog with staff, family and friends. I can visualize us all sitting around a Thanksgiving table practicing radical Grace, each with a food-insecure guest.

I am reading Darren Walker's new book, "The Idea of America: Reflections on Inequality, Democracy, and The Values We Share." Darren is retiring as president of the Ford Foundation at the end of the year and will join the board of the Obama Foundation in January. His book includes a sermon he gave at the Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City on October 23, 2022. He commended the congregants for their social justice work. He began, "When your neighbors are hungry, you feed them with shelf-stable 'grace-to-go' meals..." Is that why we say Grace before meals?

When I passed my doctor in the hallway recently, he congratulated me on reaching the three-quarter-century mark. When I explained that I'm now an avowed Wrinkled Radical, we both had a good laugh after a very long day.

That night, I thought of all the inspiring people I've met over the years, including Lara Love Hardin. I had just finished reading her memoir, "The Many Lives of Mama Love." Lara was the co-CEO of Idea Architects when I met her. She worked with Doug Abrams on

"The Book of Joy" with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dali Lama. She has her own literary agency now, True Literary. She is a former heroin addict and served time in jail. Lara healed herself, with help, by helping others. She is a 2019 winner of a Christopher Award for her work affirming the highest values of the human spirit. She knows Grace.

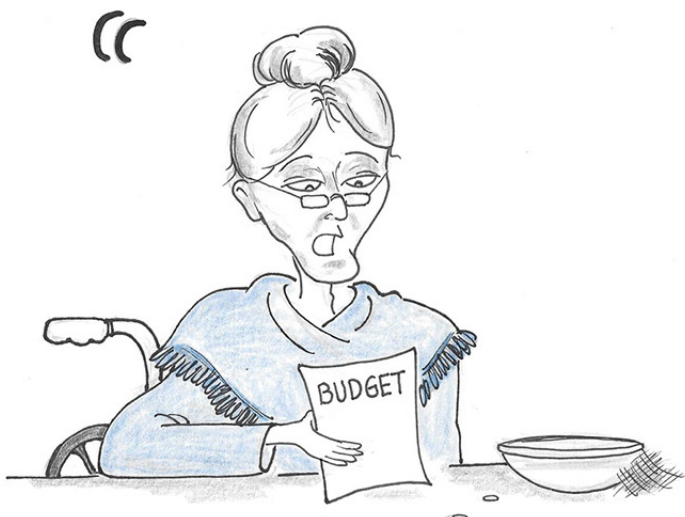
We all need help healing now. I see a lot of people reaching out to others, giving and receiving help as needed in big and small ways, thinking globally and acting locally. I am grateful for all the people who are helping me savor seventy-five and for the opportunity to help others, even when the most I can do in the moment is listen generously and connect good people doing worthy work.

I wonder if it's true that the veil between the spiritual and physical worlds is thinnest between Halloween and Winter Solstice? For me, it's a time of rich reflection, a time to give thanks for what was, what is and what could be in a world inspired by love.

May Grace be at your Thanksgiving table.

Trish Passmore Alley holds an MBA in Organizational Development and Behavior. Her career has included teaching at the collegiate level, owning several small businesses in manufacturing, engineering, and retail, and founding and operating three social profits in Greensboro. A published author and poet, she posts brief, monthly blogs at gracefulmischief.com/. She now lives in Shelburne.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"IF I BUY FOOD, I CAN'T AFFORD FUEL TO COOK IT. IF I BUY FUEL, I CAN STAY WARM WHILE I STARVE TO DEATH."

ANOTHER OPINION



Following a federal buyout that transferred ownership of 41 Brush Street to the Town of Hardwick, the home and garage that once stood there has been removed, while the stone retaining wall continues to hold the Lamoille River's bank, supporting a concrete slab left in place. photo by Kristen Leahy



On May 29, 41 Brush Street in Hardwick had continued to be impacted by the river following repeated floods, before demolition began through the federal buyout program. photo by Kristen Leahy

Rebuilding Brush Street stability

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – If you walk down Brush Street and look toward the river, it is still easy to picture the home that once stood at 41 Brush Street. In early 2023, a fire destroyed the house and the owner lost their life in that fire. Six months later, the July flood arrived before plans or decisions could be made by the family. The river cut away the bank, leaving the remains of the house hanging over the riverbank, damaged and unsafe.

Town staff began working with the estate soon after the flood to evaluate stabilization options. We had recently supported three other Hardwick homeowners with similar erosion issues, so the initial steps were familiar.

As engineers began their review, it became clear the accessory building on the property was compromised

too. What began as a repair discussion quickly became a conversation about long-term safety and responsibility for a property that could not be left as it was.

The estate chose to enter the federal property buyout program, transferring ownership to the Town of Hardwick with the land to remain as permanently protected open space.

That decision ensured the damaged structures could be removed and the land secured, rather than slowly collapsing into the river. It also meant the estate did not shoulder the burden alone. More flooding followed in December 2023, then again in July and August 2024, each storm adding new erosion and urgency.

This project uses two federal programs that operate in sequence: the Hazard Mitigation Program from the Federal Emergency Management Admin-

istration (FEMA) for demolition and acquisition, and the Emergency Watershed Protection program from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for riverbank stabilization. Because the programs cannot overlap, demolition had to occur first.

The State of Vermont contracted with ReArch Company to handle demolitions statewide, and once the Brush Street property closed, it became one of the earliest FEMA buyout demolitions to move forward in Vermont.

NRCS had initially planned to complete the riverbank stabilization design internally, but federal staffing changes shifted that work to the town. NRCS provided funding and Verdantas Engineering was hired by the town to complete the design once demolition was finished.

Demolition is now complete, and engineering is underway.

Stabilization construction is scheduled for spring 2026. The work will protect nearby infrastructure, including the roadway, water lines and remaining Brush Street properties.

Some features will remain in place. The concrete slab from the former accessory building must stay for structural reasons, although it is not suitable for public use.

Over time, small touches such as planters may be added to soften the space while maintaining safety.

An historic stone retaining wall along the river will also stay. A photograph located in the Hardwick Historical Society archives shows that wall already in place in 1927, holding the

bank through decades of high water and storms.

Following stabilization, native riparian plants will be installed to strengthen the bank and support river health. Planting will occur after construction, once the ground has settled.

A second property on Brush Street has entered the federal buyout program as well.

Flooding in August 2024 damaged the adjacent 65 Brush Street. That property is expected to transfer in early December. The state anticipates demolishing it before the end of the year. As with 41 Brush Street, once the site is cleared, future stabilization and restoration work will support both the neighborhood and the river corridor.

The work on Brush Street reflects the layered nature of disaster recovery work. Fire, flood, engineering, federal programs and waiting have resulted in steady progress.

This project has removed a dangerous structure, will stabilize a vulnerable riverbank and add long-term protection for the neighborhood and public infrastructure.

In time, the site will shift from damaged ground to a stable river edge and eventually to a small, quiet section of natural buffer along the water.

It has been a difficult chapter in this corner of town. The steps now underway lead to safety, restoration and a future shaped by care rather than crisis.

Kristen Leahy serves as the Town of Hardwick Zoning and Floodplain Administrator and the Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator.



Brush Street in Hardwick, November 1927, during the historic Lamoille River flood. The retaining wall shown along the riverbank remains intact at the site almost a century later. photo courtesy Hardwick Historical Society

WEEKS GONE BY

100 Years ago in the Hardwick Gazette Thursday, Nov. 12, 1925

Ellsworth Relief Corps Notes

A progressive whist party for the benefit of the Sons of Veterans will be given Thursday evening, November 19th, at the Corps rooms in the Memorial Building. There will be room for twenty five tables. Refreshments will be served and prizes given. All whist players are asked to be ready to start the game at 8 o'clock. Hearts are trumps. Mrs. Blanche H. Kent is chairman of the whist committee and Mrs. Effie Houston, chairman of the refreshment committee. Should this party be well attended a series will follow. The proceeds of the party will go for relief somewhere.

The President, Mrs. Ida Rowell, with one assistant, decorated The Idle Hour Theatre with flags and bunting for the Armistice Service, Sunday evening, November 8th.

Fortnightly Club Notes

At the regular meeting of the Fortnightly Club Monday evening, November 16th, Miss Mary J. Simpson of East Craftsbury will speak. Her subject for the evening will be "The Melting Pot." Each member of the club is privileged to invite four guests. It is hoped that every member of the club will avail themselves of this opportunity and that there will be a large attendance. There will also be a musical program, arranged by the committee in charge.

Notice!

Will the ladies who belong and those who care to join the Art Department of the Woman's Club, please meet at the home of Mrs. J.H. Hopkins, Tuesday evening, November 17th, to discuss possibilities for the new year's work.

Are You Coming?

To what? "The Charm School?" When? November 20th, 1925. Where? The Hardwick Opera House, at 8:00 o'clock. Presented by the Dramatic Club of Hardwick Academy. Admission, 25c; Reserved seats, 10c extra; may be procured at Kimball's Pharmacy.

65 Years Ago in the Hardwick Gazette

Locals

Erwin Gilcris is confined to his home by illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Edebohls are visiting in Long Island, New York.

Dona Bessete was a business visitor in Burlington on Saturday.

Guests at the home of Mrs. Lola Foster on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Alden Owen of Barton.

Mrs. Gerald Camp is now at home after being confined to Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington.

Mrs. Clarence Barcomb visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barcomb and family on Friday.

Larry Anair left Monday for Scottsdale, Arizona, where he will join his wife and son to spend the winter.

Merrill A. Darling, State Commissioner of the Real Estate Board, has left for a convention being held in Dallas, Texas.

Monday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hale were Mrs. Charles White and Mrs. Connie Biatti of Peacham.

Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dona Bessete were her mother and sister, Mrs. James Murphy and Miss Mickey Murphy of Barre.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Mercier, Sr. were their sons, Robert Mercier of Barre and William Mercier of Morrisville.

Miss Linda Bagley of Bradford spent Sunday with Miss Betsy Lingenfelter at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Lingenfelter, on Spring St.

Mrs. E. J. O'Malley is in Syracuse, N. Y., where she is visiting at the home of her daughter and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Curley, and daughter Susan.

Mrs. Merrill Darling was a Monday visitor in Waterbury where she visited her friend, Mrs.

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Ralph Hanks, whose husband died this week of a heart attack.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bovatt, Lisa and Donna, and Mrs. Carl Michaud spent Sunday with their brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Bovatt, at Randolph.

Circle No. 1 of the Women's Fellowship were in charge of the sale of sandwiches and beverages at the recent auction at the Hardwick Lumber Mill and Machine Shop.

Mrs. Walter York of Ottawa, Canada, spend the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Jay Woodbury on Cottage St. She was called by the illness of her sister, Mrs. Ruth Robbins, of Glover.

Dona Bessete has returned from a business trip to Baltimore, Md., and from Washington D.C., where he visited his sister, Mrs. Lena Vargas, and at Fairfax, Va., where he visited another sister, Mrs. Diane Philtoom.

VERMONT'S 16 DAY DEER SEASON OPENS SATURDAY

Montpelier - At 6:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 12, and for 16 days until 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, November 27, the crack of rifles will resound throughout Vermont's vast acreage of deer country. The

biggest parade of white-tail bucks to deer checking stations and to town and city clerk's offices will be witnessed during the opening weekend. The Vermont Fish and Game Service says that the deer kill during the first three to five days will largely determine whether or not a new record will be breached.

The Vermont record of legal antlered deer stands at 11,293, and was established in 1975. In 1958 when deer kept away from lowland areas and were deeper in the woods, the season kill dropped to 10,510. A year ago deer hunters missed the mark by only 26. The 1959 kill was 11,267.

ANNUAL HUNTERS MASS TO BE HELD AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Rev. Raymond M. Cronan, Pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Greensboro Bend, announced the annual Hunters Mass for the convenience of Deer Hunters in the surrounding area will take place every Sunday morning at 5:30 A.M. during the current Season. The first Mass will be held on November 13th with Mass on the 20th and the final Hunters Mass will be offered on the 27th of November.

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OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Shapiro to visit Namibian Kalahari desert

by Paul Fixx

EAST HARDWICK — Jonathan Shapiro has received a Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation Adventure Scholarship award to travel to the Kalahari desert in Namibia and go tracking with indigenous San Bushmen elders.

In making the award, the foundation said, “This will be an epic adventure for him, as well as a chance to bring back skills to share with his tracking students in the Northeast.”

“I first learned about the trip because the San bushmen we will be visiting and tracking with in the Kalahari are some of the founding members of CyberTracker (cyber-tracker.org), the international certifying agency for professional trackers,” said Shapiro.

“Cyber in the name refers to the handheld GPS units that bushmen trackers used to log research data out in the desert when the organization first started — none of it takes place online.

“I have been getting increasing levels of CyberTracker certification over the last seven years, and as I move up in the system, I wanted to meet some of the people who were instrumental in its creation.

Shapiro is a lifelong student and teacher of the natural world. For the last decade, he has been deeply engaged in wildlife tracking as a way to learn about the lives of animals around him, and build a connection to the forests and fields where he lives.

He spends much of his time in wild places, observing carefully and piecing together the stories on the land.

Shapiro runs the Fox Paw School in Hardwick, where he teaches other passionate adults

about the natural world in an effort to promote ecological literacy and create a sense of place. He also teaches natural history at Sterling College in Craftsbury.

“The San bushmen are some of the most skilled trackers on the planet and I’ll use the skills I gain on this trip both in my teaching in the states, and in the conservation work I’m now doing in Southeast Asia,” said Shapiro.

He’s now in Laos, working for a conservation organization for a few months and said, “I was really happy and grateful when the grant came through — it will pay for a substantial part of the trip [to Namibia], which is a pretty big expense to me.”

Flyin Ryan asked Shapiro about his core values and learned he aims to “engage in deep examination of reality and our cultural and epistemological frameworks around our experience of the world; cultivate an authentic and meaningful relationship with wild nature and wild animals; be in reciprocity with the natural world — harvesting plants and animals, and offering gratitude, education and conservation efforts; be a lifelong learner, with endless curiosity and incessant questions; teach others as a community builder and culture changer; think about the seventh Generation; find time for quiet contemplation; make my mind and body strong; engage in difficult personal work and work towards forgiveness; and be generous, even when it’s hard.”

When not tracking or teaching, you’ll find him running, hunting, canoeing, or watching the weather.

The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship Program exists to provide monetary awards to assist adventurers of all kinds, from all



Jonathan Shapiro

courtesy photo

around the world, in pursuing their passions. Applicants must come up with their own set of Core Values and demonstrate character, passion for their goal and financial need. To date over 200 awards have been given out. Learn more and apply at FlyinRyanHawks.org/Adventure-Scholarship-Program/.

The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation was formed in 2011 to extend the impact of the life of Ryan Hawks who, at the age of 25, tragically died while competing on the freeride world ski tour. Before he died, Ryan composed his 14 Principles for Living. The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation has focused its

mission around the concept that “core values matter.” Over the last three years, the Foundation has developed a five step program called Flyin Ryan Decisions. The program was pioneered at South Burlington High School, Vermont, where over 1,200 students have deliberately taken ownership of their lives by composing and communicating the core values which reside within, and using their core values as a basis for increased self-respect and future decision making. The Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation is currently introducing this same program to other schools around the state.

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



Election volunteer Judy Hammack (she/her) (left) checks in voters with her child, Plainfield Assistant Town Clerk Jaime Hammack (they/them) at the Plainfield Municipal Building, Tuesday, Nov. 11 for votes on a \$600,000 bond to purchase land for the Village Expansion project and a \$149 million bond to build a new Central Vermont Career Center. Both bonds were defeated by voters. *courtesy photo*

VOICES OF SPIRIT

“We all have a voice that comes from our spirit”

by **Raymonda Parchment**

GREENSBORO—Greensboro resident Eleanor Guare has been curating Voices of Spirit column in The Hardwick Gazette for some time now. Voices of Spirit is intended to offer commentary and reflections, sometimes about current events, while providing a religious perspective or tying in a spiritual theme. Guare shared her inspiration behind starting and curating the column, and insight about her experiences thus far.

Beginning November of last year, her tireless efforts have since resulted in a weekly column, with contributions from a variety of area churches and faith communities. She shared where it all began, and why.

The last election cycle and subsequent media coverage, for some, was an ongoing cycle of negativity and fear. Guare felt similarly, “I was really struck, like maybe others were, with the reality that our country had elected a leader, who actually said right out that his term would be about revenge and retribution.

“And that really scared me because I’ve always looked up to leaders, I was raised that way, to look up to people who were in leadership positions. I just started feeling like it was difficult for me to get aligned with that kind of vision. . . I felt a responsibility to get involved. I really wanted to stand up for people, and myself.”

Guare says she asked herself what more could she do, especially to make a difference on a local level. A self-described introvert, she says she’s always enjoyed writing. With The Gazette’s continued expansion in

subject matter, the collaboration seemed a good fit. She sought to be a breath of fresh air, so to speak, amid the continued crises plaguing both state and national media.

“You guys had really expanded the coverage and provided more topics of interest, and I started to be afraid that readers, anybody reading the paper or looking at the news or listening to the news was going to be overwhelmed. I thought to myself, I wondered if readers would appreciate reading something different, something from the perspective of people who were, let’s say, like, faith leaders or rabbis, leaders who were respected for their work in that particular domain.”

Respect being key, “I wanted people to speak from their knowledge and wisdom,” she said.

Guare wasn’t interested in seeking perspective from complete strangers, or a generalized spiritual editorial column. She also didn’t want to write a political column.

Looking to faith leaders amid hard times is an age old practice, a useful tool for many in our present day. Guare created a centralized, literary space to do so.

“I just imagined that people would be looking for people to talk to about ‘why is this happening?’ How should we face this? Why are people being so mean? What is this going to mean for us going forward, and that people would want to hear from somebody who had something to say, that made some kind of a sense.”

She continued, “I wanted it to be written by people who

believed in the divine. Now, I know that that’s a really big statement and it’s hard to get your arms around, but I think there are a lot of spiritual people in the world, spiritual leaders, and I was trying to think, well, what makes one different from the other. I think they believe in the divine, that there’s something bigger than ourselves, something that is possible to move in a life giving way.”

Previous attempts to start a religion column had been unsuccessful. Guare had reservations, not wanting to alienate readers. “I thought, we’ll give it a wider berth.” She did just that, seeking contributions from monasteries, rabbis, area Christian churches and more.

Admittedly though, it hasn’t been easy, “One of the things that was challenging is that I really wanted it to be diverse. I didn’t want it just to be a Christian column or just to be a Buddhist column. I wanted it to represent a whole variety of different types of beliefs. That continues to be challenging. The hardest part of writing the column really is engaging people to write.”

“I know that in our community there are some really diverse perspectives. There are people who are associated with churches that are a little bit more Bible oriented, or there’s a large Jehovah’s Witness community. There’s a big Mennonite community. I would love to go and sit with them and have them speak for the column. I’ve started to reach out to people from different types of perspectives. I worship in a Christian congregation, but I’m really comfortable and appreciative of any opportunity to worship or pray with anyone who believes that. We all have a voice that comes from our spirit.”

While the work comes with its difficulties, as the column’s curator Guare has especially enjoyed reading others’ work. “I love seeing what people come up with. I love being surprised, like when Sister Gale from the monastery, wrote that one spiritual piece about the little wisdom that she had to offer, which was the value of making your bed every morning... I had asked somebody to write and they came forward with a piece about DEI that presented all the biblical references to the existence of DEI.”

Guare says she’s regularly surprised with what people come up with. She says some contrib-

utors use their weekly sermons, like ministers or other preachers, as food for the column. “I think that’s great because I know how much time people put into writing sermons, but I also like stories. People have stories about an event that they went to that said something about the beauty of the human spirit, or what can be done when people gather together. To be honest, it helps me too. I think we write about things that we need to learn and need to know. I have to be very grateful to all the people who’ve submitted stories because I have learned a lot about how to get through this, what we’re going through.”

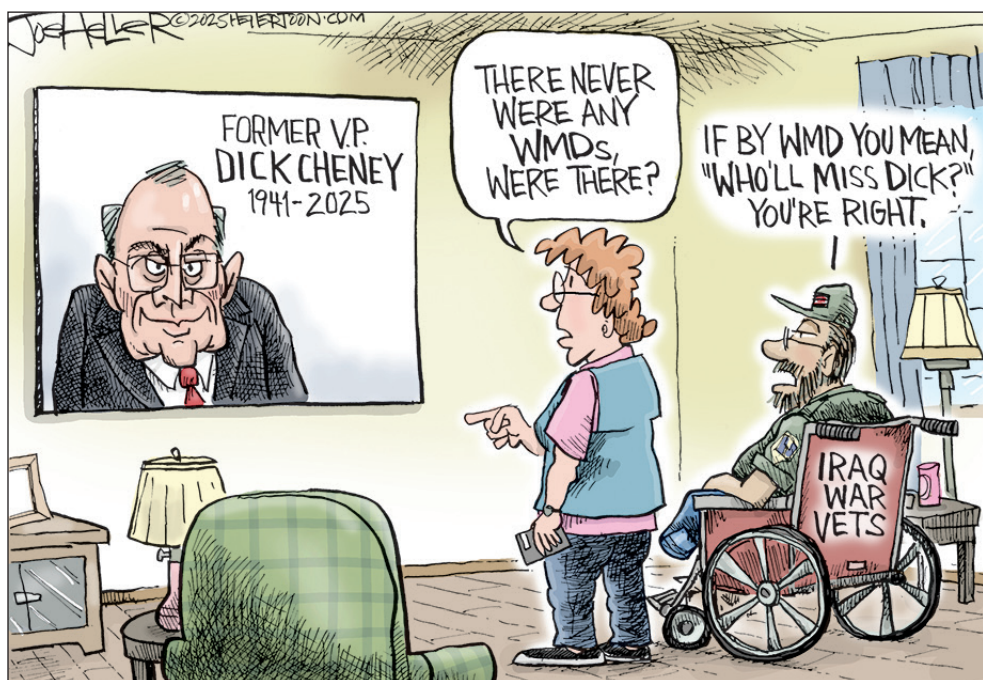
The column began last January, almost a year of tireless coordination and collaborating on Guare’s part. In curating the column, she tries to find a balance in subject matter and different faith perspectives. She gathers materials ahead of time to ensure variety. “I like to have at least three, with two in the can, because if I did something highly scripture related last week, I’d like to do something lighter the next week... I find it hard. I mean, I need more. I need more voices of difference.”

Guare says she’s seeking more writers. For potential contributors, she has few requisites, “They don’t have to be overtly spiritual or an ordained person but it is important I think that they have some credibility in standing up for their spiritual perspective... I’d like readers to know that. I’m very interested in thoughtful perspectives on our national and global feelings of crises. How to look at that from the viewpoint that there’s more to this, that being a human being and getting through this is possible.”

Guare knows the column is not a catch-all for negativity, but hopes it is a tool, “One person said to me, what is this intended to be, a salve? And I said, no one can put a salve on this. It’s not intended to make people feel better, as much as it is to get people to think about it in some new ways.”

Guare expressed her extreme gratitude for those who have contributed or even considered contributing. She also expressed her gratitude for the column’s warm reception thus far. For those interested in contributing, contact Eleanor Guare at guareeleanor@gmail.com or reach out directly to The Hardwick Gazette via editor@hardwickgazette.org

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



IN THE GARDEN



Hand tools like soil knives (left) and hand pruners should be cleaned and sharpened to ready them for next year's gardening season. Use steel wool (right) to clean and remove any rust. photo by Debra Heleba



A selection of garden tools is lined up and ready to be cleaned. photo by Debra Heleba

Smart garden tool storage for winter

by Deborah Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Storing garden tools is likely one of the last projects that's tackle when putting a garden to bed. Take the time now to clean, inspect and make needed repairs. They'll be ready to go to work in your garden when spring arrives.

Gather everything together and do what's needed all at the same time or take care of each tool as it is finished for the season. Make sure there is an organized storage space that's dry and safe from winter weather.

First, clean each item. For most, spraying with water will get the job done. Stubborn, dried-on soil can be removed using a stiff-bristled brush. Use warm water with a bit of dish soap to remove sap residue. Rust spots can be dealt with using steel wool or sandpaper.

Once clean, be sure to dry garden tools thoroughly. Before storing, wipe metal parts on hand tools with mineral oil to help

protect from moisture.

While cleaning each garden tool, take the opportunity to inspect it for damage and needed maintenance. Is a blade bent or a screw in need of tightening? A handle loose or cracked? Smooth the surface with sandpaper then wipe on a light coating of mineral oil.

Bladed tools, pruners, loppers, pruning saws, lawn mowers, and so on, may need sharpening. If taken to a professional to sharpen, the waiting time will be shorter this fall than it will be in the spring. Or do so yourself if you're comfortable and familiar with the process.

Inventory what the tools and make note of what is needed. That includes not only replacements for garden tools past their useful life, but also parts or accessories that may be needed or help make tasks easier. An extra spool of line for a string trimmer can save time and frustration when returning to the garden next spring. Likewise, a longer extension cord or extra battery could prove handy if

needed.

Make a list and keep an eye out for season-ending sales or springtime promotions to add them to the garden tool collection.

When taking care of other garden tools, don't forget hoses. Clean them as needed. Inspect them for leaks. Drain any water remaining in each hose. Finally, coil and store on a hose rack or place on a flat surface.

Powered garden tools and equipment such as lawn mowers, tillers and string trimmers should be cared for and stored according to manufacturers' instructions. If there is no owner's manual, find a digital version on the manufacturers' website.

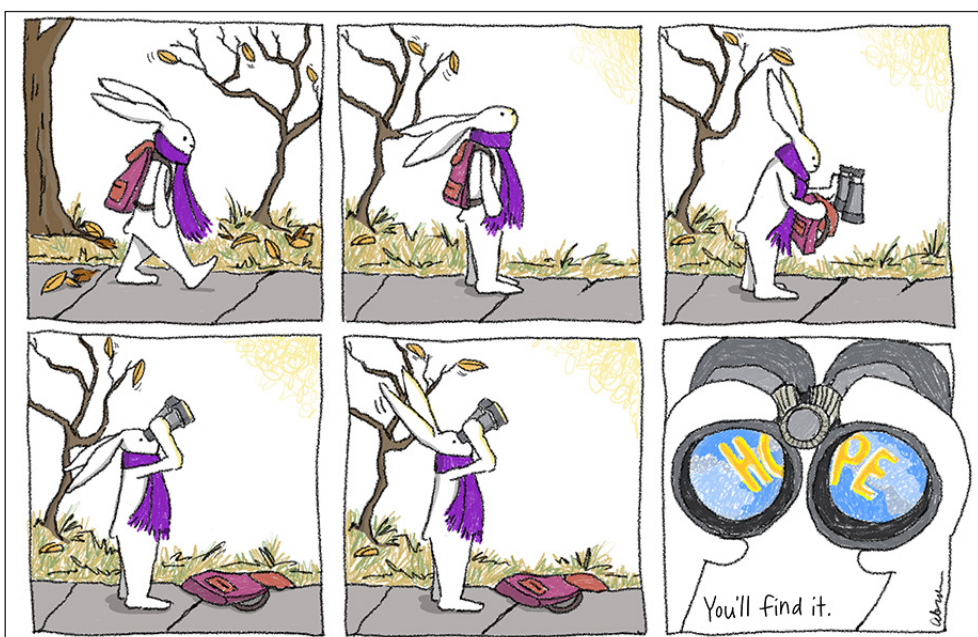
If you're utilizing more than one location for storage,

make a note where each item is stored, particularly if parts may be stored separately. While an unheated garage may be a good place for a string trimmer, its battery and charger should be stored together indoors away from freezing temperatures. Note this on an inventory list, a garden journal or calendar.

Once the clean, refreshed garden tools are stored for the winter, make plans for spring's arrival. The garden tools will be ready.

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

In My Nature by Abrah Griggs



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IN THE GARDEN

More fall garden chores

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – After a severely dry summer, October brought much needed rains, at least here, in Cornish Flat. It is particularly important for trees, shrubs and perennials planted this year to go into the winter well hydrated, and it looks like Mother Nature has taken care of that. I always recommend watering new plants before the ground freezes if they are dry.

Because of the drought, there is virtually nothing left blooming. Everything has gone by. The only bloomer in my garden is a small native tree, witch hazel (*Hamelis virginiana*), which is loaded with small curly yellow flowers on their branches. It is pollinated by the owlet moth, one of the few pollinators still active now, after many frosts. The seeds are not formed until spring, and it is not until next fall that the seed capsules burst open, sending seeds up to 45 feet away.

Winterberry is not blooming now, but it is loaded with bright red berries. A native shrub, it grows in swamps and wet places in the wild, but it also can be used in regular garden soil. It is dioecious, meaning that there are male and female plants. Fortunately, the nursery industry labels their stock as male or female. Only one male is needed for most plantings. It looks great in a vase with cuttings of witch hazel, or with sprigs of evergreens.

But on to the late fall chores. Now is the time to empty your clay and enamel pots of their soil. If not, they are likely to burst when wet soil in them expands on freezing. Best to rinse out and put your favorite pots in the garage or barn. Plastic and fiberglass pots won't break.

What about your lawn? If you have a heavy leaf load, I recommend

raking up the leaves. Oaks and other heavy leaves can impede growth in early spring, and can encourage snow mold. If you don't have a smothering load of leaves, you can just mulch them with your lawn mower and leave them in place. They will add needed organic matter to the soil, helping you to have a nice lawn next summer. To avoid snow mold, give your lawn one last mowing, cutting it a little shorter than usual.

By now, you probably have brought inside all potted house plants that summered outside. If so, you may have a nice crop of aphids on some of them. Look for sticky excrement on leaves, and tiny aphids. You can get rid of the aphids two ways: first, take the pots outside and rinse the leaves (top and bottom) with the hose. Or, take a shower with your plants. Only kidding, just rinse them off in the kitchen sink or shower. Alternatively, you can spray them with "Safer Soap" or your homemade equivalent: one tablespoon of mild dish soap in a quart of water. Spray the leaves, rinse after 20 minutes. It will dissolve the fats in their skin, drying them out and doing them in.

This is a good time to test your soil. In the spring the wait is often long. Now you can get quick results and make improvements to the soil if need be. Each state has a Cooperative Extension Service that offers soil testing for a minimum fee. In my state the standard test includes recommendations for adding fertilizer, pH, mineral content, organic matter content, and a test for lead. If your vegetable garden is near a house that was built before 1970 when lead paint was outlawed, you should get it tested for lead. For an additional fee, you can get your soil tested for cadmium and other heavy metals, too.



Winterberry brightens the winter landscape.

courtesy photo

When you buy blueberry plants, the soil they come in is at the proper pH (a measure of the acidity). But as the roots extend outward, they may not have the proper pH. If your blueberries are not producing well, get the pH tested. They need very acidic soil, 4.5 to 5.5 on the pH scale. This is a good time of year to add soil acidifier or elemental sulfur if your soil is not acidic enough. Sprinkle soil acidifier around the plants, extending out 2- to 3-feet from their centers. This will improve production in a year or two. You may want to get the soil around your bushes tested for pH, in addition to a general soil test for your other gardens.

This is a good time to do some pruning. After leaf drop you can really see the branches. You can ask yourself, as you look at a shrub or tree, "What will this branch be like in five years?" If it's growing toward another branch or shooting through the middle of the shrub, you should remove it now, while it is still small. I never prune a woody plant in the first or second year after planting: it

needs all its leaves to produce food for the roots.

If you have cleaned up your vegetable bed and removed annual flowers elsewhere, it is good to cover the soil with chopped leaves. Weed seeds are blowing around now. Don't offer them a good place to land and spend the winter. I don't usually pull annuals in the fall for that reason. I just snip off the tops and pull the roots in the spring.

Generally we are most active in the garden in the spring and early summer, but this is the time to do some planning. Put on an extra layer of wool, grab a notebook, and take a walk around your gardens. Make note of places that need more or different plants, and do some research about what would do well there. We have a long winter ahead, so do your homework.

Homeyer is an organic gardener. He is the author of four gardening books, and frequently lectures to garden clubs and library groups. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.



Witch Hazel blooming in November.

courtesy photo



Open soil invites weeds, so mulch with leaves now.

courtesy photo

THE OUTSIDE STORY

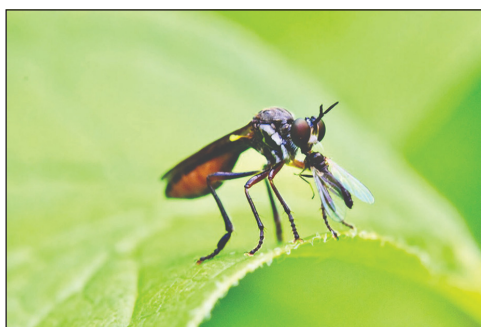
Paquette receives Community Science Award

by Alden Wicker

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) bee biologist Spencer Hardy first met Bernie Paquette at the 2019 Jericho-Underhill Christmas Bird Count. Paquette had long since retired from his career at IBM in Essex Junction, but had only recently caught the naturalist bug at a 2016 walk hosted by Alicia Daniel, a University of Vermont instructor and director of the Vermont Master Naturalist Program.

Soon after, Hardy noticed that his neighbor (Paquette lives about two miles away) was uploading an astounding number of bee observations to iNaturalist, where he goes by BugEyedBernie.

Since those humble beginnings, Paquette has become the top bee observer in the world by number of iNat observations: more than 12,000, with 6,800 of them high-quality-enough photos to be research grade. He's also



Stripe-legged Robber Fly (*Dioctria hyalipennis*) eating its prey
photo by Bernie Paquette

contributed to every invertebrate-related community science project at VCE, including Pollinator Interactions on Plants, led by VCE biologist Desirée Narango, and the Vermont Bee Checklist compiled by Hardy with his colleagues Kent McFarland and John Ascher.

"He found the first state record of the Mock-orange Scissor Bee which wasn't even really on my radar," Hardy says. "And it showed up in his yard."

The Vermont publication Seven Days profiled him in June of this year, noting he spends up to eight hours a day photographing butterflies, flies, moths, wasps, bees, caterpillars and more with his standard digital camera and macro lens.

"Because he puts so much time and also care into taking high-quality photographs for documentation, he's increased our observations for a lot of uncommon and rare species that we don't have a lot of data for," says Narango.

Paquette keeps a blog at vt-bugeyed.blogspot.com where he shares his astoundingly detailed macrophotography of insects, from solitary bees digging ground nests to an Asian Lady Beetle chowing down on aphids. He calls the world of insects "the Greatest Show on Earth: an immense world of small, extraordinary wonders. And the best part? The show takes place as close as our backyards."



Bernie inverting

photo by Chuck Lacy

At the regional level, Paquette's observations have significantly expanded knowledge of invertebrate phenology (a species' seasonal timing) and made it possible to model the northeastern distribution of Vermont's more rare insects.

"I find seeking insects is like treasure hunting, and observing their behavior is like going on a wild safari," he says.

Paquette also encourages others to contribute observations to iNaturalist. In 2022, he ran a nature photo contest in Jericho, receiving 566 entries. He's organized native plant sales and, with other volunteers, facilitates monthly, family-friendly nature walks around Jericho.

His partner Maeve Kim leads birding classes and walks, and posts on their Vermont Birds and Words blog at vtbirdsandwords.blogspot.com,

while Paquette offers bug safaris to anyone interested in seeing what is on their own property. He calls going out looking for bugs "inverting."

Though relatively new to the world of invertebrate biology, Bernie Paquette's contribution to science and enthusiastic promotion of all things insects has earned him this year's Julie Nicholson Community Science Award.

"I believe that inverting will soon be the new birding," Paquette wrote in an email accepting the award. "I hope to help lift this quiet, crawling, humming world into the public eye."

Alden Wicker is an award-winning environmental journalist, book author, and communications director at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

Journey of a single bee observation

by Susan Hindinger

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – Last month I reconnected with a geologist colleague from years ago who mentioned that he uses iNaturalist in the university classes he teaches. "We contribute a lot of observations," he said. "Who knows if they're really of use to anyone?"

So let's trace the journey of a single bee observation submitted to the platform. This observation was made in Vermont, so it was automatically added to the Vermont Atlas of Life (VAL) iNaturalist project, which captures all observations within the state's boundaries.

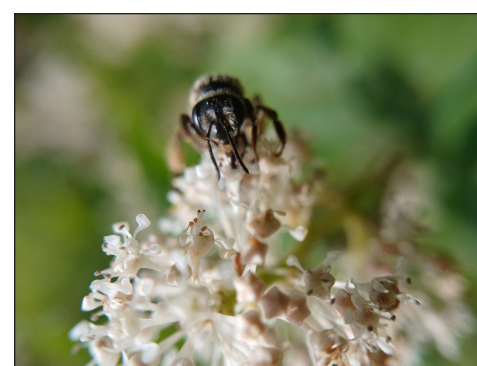
The observer wasn't sure what kind of bee it was, so she used the program's suggestion that it was a "Mining Bee (genus *Andrena*)" and clicked "Submit."

Though bees can be tricky to identify by nonexperts, about 60% of Vermont bee species are identifiable from clear photographs of live bees. Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) biologist Spencer Hardy regularly reviews bee observations in

iNaturalist, and from the photo, he determined the specimen to be a Hawthorn Miner (*Andrena crataegi*). Another biologist confirmed, and the observation joined Spencer's statewide database of some 24,270 research-grade bee observations on iNaturalist, amassed over several years.

VCE Data Scientist Mike Hallworth developed a method to combine this iNaturalist dataset with bee data from other sources into a single analysis. This doubled the dataset to more than 50,000 records, enabling Hallworth and Hardy to determine each species' rarity in Vermont, model species distributions based on host plants and other habitat factors, identify Important Bee Areas around the state, apply climate change scenarios to the models to predict how geographic ranges might shift, and assign state conservation rankings.

VCE's State of Vermont's Wild Bees report (available on the website) documents these findings. Spencer's peer-reviewed catalogue of 352 Wild Bees found in Vermont (up from 98 listed species from the last 1962



Hawthorn Mining Bee (*Andrena crataegi*)
photo by David Mantack

effort) will be published this fall in Northeastern Naturalist. It includes a supplement that summarizes all the available data records for each species, including this observation of the Hawthorn Miner.

From there, our bee observation left VCE global headquarters in White River Junction and traveled on. The bee dataset was shared to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and on the VAL data portal, where it has so far been downloaded thousands of times and cited in dozens of scientific publications.

Several organizations joined forces with VCE and UVM's Bee Lab

to form the Vermont Pollinator Working Group, which set to work educating farmers about which bees are critical to which crops and how to protect them. The group's crowning achievement was educating the Vermont Legislature on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees, setting the stage for passage of tight restrictions in 2024. The bill's language cited VCE's State of Vermont Bees report.

Word spread to other states about the State of Vermont Wild Bees project. Colleagues from Texas, Washington, University of California-Riverside and the Xerces Society wrote a \$1 million grant to replicate VCE's methods at a national scale and invited VCE to help make it happen! That project is now underway.

Susan Hindinger earned a B.S. in geology from Duke University and an M.S. from the Field Naturalist Program at the University of Vermont. Her master's project found her trapping invertebrates along the shores of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and initiated an unlikely interest in spiders. She lives in Weathersfield.

OUR COMMUNITIES

“2050” book launch, Nov. 15

ST. JOHNSBURY – A book launch for “2050: Vermonters Take a Swipe at the Future,” essays collected by Bill Mares, edited by Jane Smith, illustrated by Don Hooper and published by Rootstock Publishing, is scheduled on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m., in the Art Gallery at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

The collection of essays and stories features contributions from thirty-seven Vermonters.

Reading from their essays at the Athenaeum will be Mark Breen, Jane Kitchel, Scudder Parker, Eric Duncan, Brett Stanciu and Ben Doyle. Green Mountain Books will be selling copies and essay authors will be signing. A reception with refreshments will follow the reading. The event is free, ADA accessible, and open to the public.

For more information call (802) 748-8291. The Athenaeum is located at 1171 Main St.

Clothing giveaway, Nov. 15

MARSHFIELD – Saturday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m., to 1 p.m., the Jaquith Public Library will host a winter clothing giveaway. Beginning Monday, Nov. 10, drop off clean winter clothing through Friday, Nov. 14. Volunteers are needed Friday from 3 to 5 p.m.,

to sort and set out clothes, and on Saturday at 1 p.m., to pack up remaining clothes. Two drivers are needed to bring the clothes to Barre. Call or email the library to sign up to volunteer. For more information email jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or call (802) 426-3581.

Fill a van with cans, Nov. 15

CRAFTSBURY – Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Craftsbury Town Hall will hold a benefit event for Craftsbury Food Share. Starting Nov. 4, look for marked items at the Genny and the Craftsbury Village Store to find the most-needed donations. All donations are welcome, and cash is appreciated. The most needed food items include canned meat

(tuna, chicken), peanut butter, jelly, soup, pasta, rice, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables. The most needed household essentials include toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, menstrual products, soap, shampoo, cleaning supplies and pet food. Bring items or donations to the Craftsbury Town Hall before November 15, or to the town hall tent on the day of the event.

Super bingo benefit, Nov. 16

HARDWICK – St. Norbert Church, 193 Main St., will hold bingo on November 16 to benefit Ct. St. Veronica Catholic Daughters. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., with mini bingo at 11:30 a.m., then super bingo beginning at noon running through 3 p.m. Attendees must purchase nine

cards to enter, with additional cards available. \$2,000 in prizes are offered. Soup, sandwiches, and goodies will be available throughout the games.

Call (802) 793 - 4764 for more details, or email fradettesmaple-syrup@gmail.com to purchase tickets. Venmo payments accepted.

Harvest barter fair, Nov. 16

GREENSBORO – The 13th annual harvest barter fair, hosted by the Swap Sisters, will be at Lakeview Elementray School building, 189 Laundon Ave., Sunday, November 16, from 1 to

3 p.m. Bring items grown, baked, preserved or raised to swap with neighbors on a one-to-one basis. Please label items with ingredients. People of all ages may participate.

Forest management panel, Nov. 17

CRAFTSBURY – The Conservation Commission will host a panel presentation at Sterling College Simpson Hall, Monday, Nov. 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Orleans County Forester Jared Nunnery will discuss forest management in Orleans County.

Vermont Forest Productions Association, Vice President Colleen Goodridge will discuss sustainable forestry and the importance of a strong forest products industry.

Farley Brown, Sterling College faculty in Ecology, will discuss historical land use in a local watershed.

Winter potluck series begins, Nov. 19

WOODBURY – The monthly winter potluck series begins Wednesday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m., at the Woodbury Town Hall. Bring a

dish to share and a place setting. Everyone welcome. Potlucks will continue every 3rd Tuesday until March.

NEK Together, Nov. 18

GREENSBORO – NEK Together will hold a public meeting, November 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at its the Highland Center for the Arts. Attendees will discuss the purpose of the NEK Collaborative and its role supporting federal and statewide visioning and decision-making. Rose Friedman will discuss the formation of The Civic Standard and case studies will feature NEK Broadband (NEK CV), and the

Working Communities Challenge community hubs in St. Johnsbury and Barton. Attendees will be asked to share their perspectives on where the NEK Collaborative should focus its efforts in 2026 and help shape our agenda for NEK Day at the Statehouse on January 22. Live music will be played by Autumn Chamberlain and graphic recording will be facilitated by Melissa Cain of Iceberg Consulting.

Farm to Plate conference, Nov. 20, 21

BURKE – The 15th annual Farm to Plate conference will take place November 20 and 21, at Burke Mountain Resort to discuss community meals and more. This year’s theme is “Keep Calm, and Collaborate on Working Better Together as a Region in Uncertain Times.”

this year offers longer 2.5 hour sessions Thursday to focus on big-picture, overarching themes shaping Vermont’s food system, and offering broad context and framing. On Friday, shorter 1.5 hour sessions will dive into specific examples, and on-the-ground efforts, that tie back to those themes.

Attendees will hear examples of collaboration and practice the skills that make collaboration work. A new structure

Learn more and register at: vtfarmtoplate.com/events/15th-annual-farm-plate-gathering-0

Town of Walden PLOWING BIDS

The Town of Walden is soliciting bids for plowing the following roads: Brookside Drive, Rowell Road, Frost Lane, and the Fire Station/Town Clerk parking lot.

Bids are due into the Town Clerk’s Office by 4 p.m., November 17.

The select board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

New exhibit on display at Copley Hospital

MORRISVILLE – Copley Art Gallery will host the Northern Vermont Artist Association (NVAA) for an exhibit scheduled now through January 5. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free soup and bread daily at Broadfork

by Carol Fairbanks,
Broadfork Homestead

GREENSBORO – In light of the current situation with food assistance, Broadfork Homestead is now offering free homemade soup and fresh bread to anyone in need. The farm stand is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

They are available in the farm stand, no questions asked and no need to show a SNAP/EBT card. Hot soup is available by the cup, and quarts for take away are in the refrigerator, with fresh bread to accompany it, while supplies last.

Proceeds will go towards more soup and bread.

Friendsgiving at HCA, Friday, Nov. 14

by Highland Center for the Arts

Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) will be celebrating the joy of community-oriented arts, and the launch of its new membership program at Friendsgiving, Friday, Nov. 14 from 4 to 7 p.m.

“Whether you’re carving a pumpkin, expressing gratitude, or just trying to kick a football before that neighborhood girl pulls it out

from under you, we all have our own ways of celebrating fall,” said HCA Director Keisha Luce.

“At the HCA there will be culinary treats, a behind-the-scenes look at HCA’s building, with guided tours, a classic family Thanksgiving film and the opportunity to learn about benefits of the HCA membership program. Bring your friends, bring your kids and the people you’re grateful for.”

Justice For Dogs craft show and pet food drive, Nov. 15

HARDWICK – Justice For Dogs will hold its 19th annual craft show, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Hazen Union high school gymnasium in Hardwick with free admission and free parking.

Shop local with over 50 area crafters (no direct sales) and 73 spaces displaying homemade items, including many food items. There will be live music throughout the

day along with door prizes. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and a lantern auction.

The annual Justice For Dogs pet food drive will be held at the craft show. Please bring dry or canned cat and dog food, cat litter and treats. Any brands will be accepted. The pet food drive is held in memory of the many past Justice For Dogs supporters. For more information visit justicefordogsvt.org.

Honk and wave, Nov. 18

HARDWICK – Tuesday morning at 10 a.m., Nov. 18, there will be a honk and wave event at the

Hardwick Peace Park, located at 34 Main Street. For more information visit: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me

VEC offers webinar: Harnessing tech to lower your electric bill, Nov. 20

by Vermont Electric Coop

ONLINE – Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) energy experts will present a one-hour webinar with tips and tools to help VEC members save energy and cut their electric bills, Thursday, Nov. 20 from noon to 1 p.m.

Learn what drives electricity usage and discover how VEC’s online portal SmartHub can help members manage that usage more effectively. There will be ample

time for Q and A.

(Those interested in the topic but who are not sure they can make the live session may register anyway as VEC will be sending the recording to all registrants.)

The presenters are Dave Lahar, VEC Key Accounts Manager and Angela Daniels, VEC Billing and Technology Coordinator.

Learn more and register at bit.ly/3JT3Z1m

communities. Learn more at vermontelectric.coop

Advanced directives discussion, Nov. 18

HARDWICK – Join Valerie Valcour of the Vermont Department of Health on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m., at the Jeudevine Library. Valcour will discuss how to have special care and end-of-life care conversations and determine the best way to document and record

those plans. This event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Parker Ladd Community Room, located on the lower level of the Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 North Main Street, Hardwick.

For more information, please contact the library at 802-472-5948.

Part-time, seasonal job fair, Nov. 19

by Vermont Department of Labor

ST. JOHNSBURY – The Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) is holding a “Work Your Way” job fair series, a statewide event for part-time and seasonal hiring. The series will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the St. Johnsbury Job Center, 1197 Main Street, #1, St. Johnsbury.

“Part-time and seasonal jobs play a vital role in Vermont’s economy,” said Kendal Smith, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Labor. “Whether you’re a student gaining experience, a retiree looking to stay active, or someone seeking extra income, Work Your Way makes it easier for Vermonters to explore opportunities that fit their

schedule and lifestyle.”

Attendees can meet with local employers, learn about available job opportunities, and explore flexible work arrangements that cater to their individual needs. Pre-registration, which can be found on the Department’s website, is welcome but not required, and all are welcome.

Other locations holding job fairs at the same time include: Barre-Montpelier Job Center, 5 Perry Street, #200, Barre; Burlington Job Center, 63 Pearl Street, Burlington; Rutland Job Center, 88 Merchants Row, Rutland and Springfield Job Center, 56 Main Street, #101, Springfield.

For more information, including tips for preparing for the job fair, visit the Vermont Department of Labor website at labor.vermont.gov.

Flu/Covid-19 vaccination clinic, Nov. 20

CABOT – Thursday, November 20, from 2 to 5 p.m., Kinney Drugs is providing a flu and COVID vaccination clinic at the Cabot School Wellness Space, building 49, for ages three and up. This clinic is open to the general public.

Before 3:15 p.m., parking will be at the Neighbors in Action Building, across from the school gym. After 3:15 p.m., parking is available in the Cabot School gym parking lot.

For online registration, visit kinneydrugs.as.me/CabotSchool. Walk-ins are welcome.

Cabot School families who wish to have their children vaccinated between 2 and 3 p.m. may have their child dismissed early from class to do so.

If a parent or guardian is unable to attend the clinic but wishes their child vaccinated, please contact Cabot School Nurse Kris Stecker at (802) 597-2790

Blood drive, Nov. 24

by Copley Hospital

MORRISVILLE – Monday, Nov. 24, Copley Hospital is spon-

soring a blood drive at the hospital from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., registration is required. To sign up, contact Jill Baker at (802) 888-8302.

Copley pie and bake sale, Nov. 25

MORRISVILLE – Volunteer bakers are getting ready for the annual Copley Hospital Auxiliary Thanksgiving Bake Sale, commonly known as the “Pie Sale,” Tuesday,

Nov. 25., from 8 to 11:30 a.m., in the Copley Hospital art gallery hallway. Pies of all varieties and lots of sweets will be available to purchase.

Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 27

by Cooperation Vermont

MARSHFIELD – A free community Thanksgiving meal will be held at the Marshfield Old Schoolhouse Common, 122 School St., November 27 at 2 p.m.. Dona-

tions and side dishes are welcomed, and can be brought to the Marshfield Village Store anytime on Wednesday, Nov. 26. The meal is hosted by Cooperation Vermont, Marshfield Village Store and Mo’s Backyard BBQ.

OBITUARIES

Clifton "Chip" Bissonward

GEORGIA – Clifton William "Chip" Bissonward, 59, of Georgia, formerly of Hardwick, Walden and Cabot, died unexpectedly on Sunday, Nov. 2, in Swanton. Clifton was born on January 24, 1966, in Barre City, the son of Clarence and Sharon (Fisk) Ward.

Growing up on the farm he was active in Cub Scouts, training beagles and going to Field trials.

He attended Hazen Union School in Hardwick.

Following his education he joined the Vermont Army National Guard.

Clifton married Mary Bisson on July 27, 1991, at the United Church in Hardwick. Together they raised their only child, Joseph, and lived in Walden before divorcing later after almost 30 years of marriage.

In his earlier years, Clifton moved to Florida where he was employed by a wrecker service. Later, returning to Vermont, he was employed as a farm hand in Bridgeport, and for 30 years was employed by Ron Bisson hanging dry wall and doing plaster work. Later Clifton worked for Paul Davis Restoration in Hardwick, Elite Construction in Williston and for the last two years, he operated his own residential construction business.

With his love for guns, Chip was a past member of the NRA. He enjoyed hunting and was an avid fisherman.

He loved socializing with family and friends.

He also, enjoyed running his own business and watching his hard work and skills progress.

Survivors include his mother, Sharon Ward-Cate of Barnet; a son, Joseph Bissonward (Jennifer)



Clifton "Chip" Bissonward

of Barton; three young grandchildren, Ella of Brookfield, Ariya and Anthony of Barton; Clifton's two sisters, Laurie Mason (Edmond) of Albany, Beverly O'Neill and her fiancé, Gilbert Musgrave, of Hardwick; Clifton's loving girlfriend, Heather Hughes of Swanton; nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life to honor Clifton, will be held on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the American Legion Post No. 7 in Hardwick. Zoom meeting information: Clifton Bissonward Celebration of Life, November 23, at 3:15 to 4:30 p.m., Zoom meeting link to join: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5753539150?pwd=Y-2dvampkbUFzN3YyazVBSVdK-MVdXUT09&omn=73790116951MeetingID:5753539150> Passcode: 17bn0Q

Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are welcomed at: northernvermontfuneralservice.com

Kathleen Vinson Clow

BERLIN - Kathleen Vinson Clow, 85, of Berlin, passed quietly at home on Friday, October 31, with family at her side, after a long battle with lymphoma and leukemia. She was the daughter of the late Owen Vinson and Pauline Sopkin of West Hollywood, Calif.

Kathleen had a lifelong love of writing stories and exploring art in many forms. She enjoyed learning through *The Great Courses* and was an avid mah-jong player. Although she was largely housebound in recent years, she found great joy in the company of friends and family and in the occasional online shopping splurge. Kath also had a life-long love of animals, including her many cats and her beloved dog Zoe.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 47 years, Gordon Clow; her daughter Raina Stone; her son Zachary Zilius and his partner Ellen Hoots-Debenham; her



Kathleen Vinson Clow

grandson Adil Sriti and his partner Yamelsa Callwood; her sister Holly Vinson; and her brothers Starr, Lincoln, and Crawford Kilian.

At her request, a gathering of family and friends will be held in lieu of a formal funeral. Interment will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice or the Central Vermont Humane Society.

WEEKEND SERVICES

Hardwick UNITED CHURCH OF HARDWICK. 216 South Main Street. 802-472-6800 for information. Sunday Service, 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Livestreaming. Communion Service first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, Music Director. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. All are welcome. Masks optional.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 39 W. Church St., 802-472-5979. Office hours Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. All invited; all welcome. Sunday 10 a.m. Rite II Service with music. Coffee hour immediately following service.

ST. NORBERT CHURCH, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, Father Raj Madri, S. Main St., PO Box 496, Hardwick, VT 05843; mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net; 802-472-5544. Office Hours: Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday - 8:30

a.m. Confessions before Masses. **HARDWICK BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH,** 296 S. Main St. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon; Thursday 6:30 p.m. For transportation or information call 802-472-5294.

State of Vermont

Superior Court Probate Division
Caledonia Unit Docket No. 25-PR-04599
In re Estate of Janis Dewey, late of Hardwick, Vermont

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: November 5, 2025
Signature of Fiduciary: Dean Lafont
Executor/Administrator: Dean Lafont
PO Box 386
East Barre, VT 05649
802-476-7943
Email: dclafont@gmail.com

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette
Publication Date: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court
Address of Probate Court: Caledonia Unit
1126 Main Street Suite 1
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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November 15, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 16 through Nov. 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

November 22, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments every night and lunch meals both Saturdays

KidsZone every night

Morrisville SDA Church
65 Best St., Morrisville

Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843

802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb
Funeral Director

PRENEED
PLANNING

Celtic, French Canadian band performs, Nov. 15



Atlantic Crossing, including (from left) Peter Macfarlane, Viveka Fox and Rick Klein, perform Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Adamant Community Club.

courtesy photo

ADAMANT – The Burlington-based Atlantic Crossing, a traditional ensemble, will perform at the Adamant Community Club on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m.

For about three decades, Atlantic Crossing members Peter Macfarlane, Viveka Fox and Rick Klein, have been providing music at the contra dance halls of New England and beyond with their songs about local history. Their music is drawn from Celtic traditions of the British Isles as well as from Maritime and French Canada.

The Adamant Community Club is located at the intersection of Martin and Haggett Roads in Adamant. Admission is free for twelve and under. For more information call (802) 454-7103.

THE BOOKSHELF

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 530 Main St., Albany, (802) 755-6107, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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.

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

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Rotating Slots | #3: Sun 9-11 pm 1 st & 3 rd Sun: Walkin' Will: Show of Live 2 nd & 4 th Sun: All Mixed Up | #5: Mon 7-9 pm 1 st Mon: Future Reflections DJ Syd 2 nd Mon: In Common Sounds Brother B 3 rd Mon: Gilded Splinters Kevin Titterton 4 th Mon: Borderlands DJ Tenderman | #7: Tue 7-9 pm Biweekly rotation: Still Life with Club Soda Serena Matt Still Life with Orange Peel Ada Bowman | #9: Sat 9-10 am 1 st Sat: Gathering Peace Joseph Gainza 2 nd Sat: Civic Radio Project 3 rd Sat: Pollinator Report Emily Lanxner 4 th Sat: Kitchen Permaculture Rebecca Beidler |
| #1: Sun 10 am-12 pm 1 st & 3 rd Sun: Audio Ergo Sum Darren & Ruby McElwain 2 nd & 4 th Sun: The Immanent Grove Conni Mags | #4: Mon 11 am-12 pm 1 st Mon: Blluminations Stefanie Lingenfelter 2 nd & 4 th Mon: Cuneiform Radio Kyle Schlesinger 3 rd Mon: Project Censored | #6: Tue 9-10 am 1 st & 3 rd Tue: Alternative Radio 2 nd & 4 th Tue: Structurally Unsound Yardain Amron | #8: Thu 6-7 pm 1 st Thu: The Broken Bois Collective Presents... 2 nd & 4 th Thu: Into the Issues Steve Pappas 3 rd Thu: Radio RoundUp CVCR hosts | #10: Sat 10-11 am 1 st Sat: Sex Fly Bengé 2 nd Sat: Pitter Patter Radio Pat Kantner 3 rd Sat: Under the Covers DJ Rhizosphere 4 th Sat: Indigenous Music |

Heartwood's "Well Tree" at the Highland Center for the Arts, Nov. 7

REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – “The Well Tree,” an original storytelling musical illustrated by the moving scroll of a crankie was performed by Heartwood at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro on the evening of November 7.

The trio of singers and instrumentalists were Willy Clemetson from Belfast, Maine, Heidi Wilson from Plainfield and Sarina Partridge from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Jennifer Jones of Walden created the very beautiful visuals on transparent papers in a box lighted from behind, which could be seen in sequence with the story line by turning the handles of vertical rollers on each side. The crankie was in some ways the ancestor of the modern cinema projector.

Clemetson, Wilson and Partridge originally got together at a songwriting workshop on Rabbit Island in Lake Superior in 2021 and conceived of this project.

The work follows the mythical journey of a great-great-grandmother named Ariel, which seems to draw some of its images from native American reverence for plants and animals from children's stories where talking animals are common, from mystical experiences of a union with nature and from a celebration of the universal archetypes of trees and water, all combined with a deep concern about contemporary ecological changes.

Ariel comes from a family of tree cutters. Her adventure begins when a crow (designed by Erican Gillard) flies over and drops an oak acorn seed by her. It is the end of summer, the harvest season is in full tilt and there is a song of gratitude, sung with harmoniously blended voices by the three players, accompanying themselves on banjo, guitar, violin and drum, with the audience joining along in the chorus.

Then a great fog rolls in and makes everything very hazy, but worse, the rain stops falling.

Fields become parched and wells go dry. Ariel sets out in the dense fog to try to find a spring, heading up a ridge. She comes across a large old tree, such trees having become scarce from her family's lumbering, and she cuts it down with her axe. Further on she finds a magnetic borderstone in a cliff, which she hopes she can use as a compass to guide her home in the fog. The crow which has been following her returns several times, and she has conversations with it. She stumbles onto a patch of blackberries and feasts on those. Then she encounters in turn a snail, a bee and a snake and reaches dunes and the ocean.

Following intermission, she admires the shell and the wind-swept trees, which she talks to. Entering a small cavity on one of the trees, she is absorbed into it, feeling her own blood and the sap merging. Next she drops down to the roots of the tree and comes into a luminescent cave, which psychologically is an archetype for the unconscious. She meditates about her journey thus far, even having a conversation with her own reflection in some water on the floor of the cave. Two mysterious eyes held up on sticks appear and help Ariel escape from the cave back out into the world again. Using her borderstone compass, she finds her way home. She drops the borderstone into the empty well, which somehow ends the drought and makes the rain return again. Symbolically she plants the acorn seed that she has been carrying all this time as an offering to replace the tree that was cut, demonstrating the perpetual renewal of life. The singers end with the phrase, “May we pass these gifts on endlessly.”

The near capacity audience rose with a standing ovation in appreciation for this meaningful performance. Others involved in “The Well Tree” were Lily Salvia, helping make the crankie box, and Maura Gahan, supporting the choreography.

For more information about this group, go online at HeartwoodTrio.com or Heartwood-TreeMusic@gmail.com.



Willem Lange returns to the Lost Nation Theater for his performance of “A Christmas Carol: a Ghost Story” on Sunday, Dec. 7. *courtesy photo*

Lange's “A Christmas Carol” performed for 50th year, Dec. 7

MONTPELIER – Yankee storyteller Willem Lange is back for a 50th-anniversary performance of “A Christmas Carol: a ghost story” by Charles Dickens, live on stage at Lost Nation Theater, 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7.

Emmy-winner Lange's tradition of reading Dickens' Christmas Carol began in 1975, and has continued uninterrupted ever since. He uses the cutting of the novel Dickens himself used when performing the tale.

Lange's performance benefits The Haven in the Upper Valley. Lost Nation

Theater will donate a percentage of its proceeds to Just Basics Food Pantry and Good Samaritan. Masks are encouraged but not required. A Bio-Defense Air Purification “Synexis” System is also in service 24-7. The theater is located in the Montpelier City Hall Arts Center on Main Street. Information and tickets are available at lostnationtheater.org The play will be available digitally to make the show accessible to those unable to physically attend.

Lost Nation Theater, 39 Main Street, Montpelier City Hall. info@lostnationtheater.org

“One Family in Gaza”, Nov. 28

by Catamount Arts Center

ST. JOHNSBURY – The Catamount Arts Center will present an original play by Crystal Zevon Friday, November 28, at 4 p.m., at 115 Eastern Ave.

The play is based on extensive correspondence between Zevon and a young Palestinian family. It chronicles the lived experience of Yasser, his family's attempt to survive in this critically damaged region, and of the friendship that has evolved between the young husband and father, Zevon, and supportive allies across the globe. The story is told through their correspondence since the fall of 2023, reflecting Zevon's efforts to help the family, intertwined with short

news reports that give context to the letters.

Join the Vermont Peace/Antiwar Coalition, Jewish Voices for Peace, Cooperation Vermont, and the Vermont Coalition For Palestinian Liberation along with playwright and longtime activist Crystal Zevon, Ariel Zevon, additional cast members and special guests.

There is no charge for the performance. Donations are accepted and will support The Gaza Soup Kitchen and the family.

One Family in Gaza website: <https://www.onefamilyingaza.com/>

For more information, contact Mary L. Collins at mlcollinscom@gmail.com or (802) 730 - 0289 or Crystal Zevon at onefamilyingaza@gmail.com.

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THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 12

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

BRANFORD MARSALIS and his quartet, 7:30 p.m., Barre Opera House, 6 North Main St. Tickets online at 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: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@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: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@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.

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

Saturday, Nov. 15

JEUDEVINE PLAYERS PRESENT "Where is...Little Baby Richie?", 4:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. An original production by community youth. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

BRENT MCCOY, solo exhibit, "Tricks of the Light", opening reception, 5 to 7 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Refreshments and an artist talk.

ALBANY LIBRARY WRITING GROUP, 2 - 4 p.m., facilitated by Krista Mayer. Teens and adults welcome. Writing prompts provided. 830 Main St., Albany. Information: albanypubliclibraryvt.org, (802) 755-6107.

FILL A VAN WITH CANS to benefit Craftsbury Food Share. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Craftsbury Town Hall tent. All donations welcome.

JUSTICE FOR DOGS CRAFT SHOW, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hazen Union School, Hardwick. Justice for Dogs will have a pet food drive at this event. Bring cat/dog food, litter and treats.

FREE MOVIE AND POPCORN, Touch of Grace, 104 Vt. Rte. 16. Faith Family Feature film Animated "The Star", 6 p.m.

CELTIC, FRENCH CANADIAN BAND Atlantic Crossing, 7 p.m., Adamant Community Club, intersec-

tion of Martin and Haggett Roads, Adamant. Information: (802) 454-7103.

Sunday, Nov. 16

SUPER BINGO BENEFIT, St. Norbert Church, 193 Main St., Hardwick. To benefit Ct. St. Veronica Catholic Daughters. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with mini bingo at 11:30 a.m., super bingo at noon, running through 3 p.m. Information and tickets: (802) 793-4764 or email fradettesmaplesyrup@gmail.com.

HARVEST BARTER FAIR hosted by the Swap Sisters, 1 to 3 p.m., Lakeview Elementary School, 189 Lauredon Ave. Bring items to swap with neighbors on a one-to-one basis.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

STORYTELLING and Community Harvest Dinner, 4:30 p.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church. Information: eastcraftsburypresbyterianchurch.org/

Wednesday, Nov. 19

WINTER POTLUCK SERIES BEGINS, 5:30 p.m., Woodbury Town Hall. Bring a dish to share and a place setting. Everyone welcome.

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: jeudevine youthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY DINNER, noon, United Church of Hardwick, S. Main St., Third and Fourth Thursdays of the month. Call

See EVENTS, Next Page

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EVENTS

Denise Carr at (802) 472-3134 to reserve a meal. Take-Out or Eat-In. Donations appreciated.

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

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

TAI CHI CLASSES, Tuesdays, Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, Hardwick, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com.

TAI CHI CLASSES, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30. Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information: Norma Spaulding, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and Paul Fixx (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

MAGIC ON TUESDAY. A group of youngpeoplegettogetheratTheCivicStandard, S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns, Games begin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

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

COMMUNITY SUPPER, Wednesdays, 5:30p.m., TheCivicStandard, 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, Commu-

nity 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 clippers andshovels.

STORY TIME, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Books, songs, art activities and

more for ages 5 and under, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

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

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

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.

BRENT MCCOY, solo exhibit, "Tricks of the Light", Highland Center for the Arts, Greensboro. Saturday, Nov. 15 through January 11.

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

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

Hazen's Besett tops Capital League honors

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Hazen Union boys soccer head coach Harry Besett and his senior goalkeeper Grayson McNaughten received top Capital League honors last week after a revival season by the Wildcats on the pitch this past fall.

The Capital League boasts some of the best soccer programs in the state of Vermont, and making their end of the season honors list has been a tall task for Hazen since joining the league five years ago. Besett helped guide the Wildcats to their first regular season winning record since 2019 in his second year on the sidelines and was named Capital League Coach of the Year for his efforts.

The Capital is a who's who of perennial state champions that include the likes of Stowe, Peoples Academy (PA) and Harwood. Hazen has struggled to post-competitive matches within the league in their first four seasons, but that narrative changed under Besett this past fall.

The Wildcats lost one score matches to Division II power Montpelier and perennial Division III contenders Thetford Academy and PA. All their wins came out of division, including a signature road win over Division I North Country back in September.

Besett's transformation of the program into a more ball control

possession type playing style is still a work in progress, but the defense anchored by McNaughten was on point all season. McNaughten led the Wildcat defense to six shutouts on the year and was named to the Capital League First Team for his outstanding play. Since coming over from Craftsbury Academy as a lanky sophomore, McNaughten has matured into a physical force. He filled a highlight reel over the course of the season with his acrobatic saves and turned his right leg into an offensive weapon with booming kicks that traveled box to box.

Joining the senior Wildcat keeper with First Team honors were: Ian Nolan, Miles Lane, Jack Clearly and Jaden Baird of PA, Brycen Scharf, Felix Kretz, Cole Shullenberger and Oliver Reilly of Hardwood, Colby Sterling-Prouix, Will Curtis and Michael Vitti of Montpelier, Graeme Jostrand, Luca Rovetto and Eli Young of Stowe, Jon Giroux and Liam Wood of North Country, Braen O'Donnell and Aien Huston of U-32, Lamoille's Ethan Rossi, Lake Region's Ben Thompson and Henry Trage of Thetford Academy.

Hazen seniors Sully Laflam and Justin Montgomery earned Second Team honors for their stellar play this past fall. PA's Gavin Jolly, Noah Brown and Charlie Isselhardt, Lamoille's Ben Turner and Estes



Second year Hazen Union varsity boys head coach Harry Besett.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Rodriguez and Declan Coggins and David McLaughlin of Stowe rounded out local Second Team selections. Fellow Wildcat seniors Seville Murphy and Ari Jurkiewicz

earned honorable mentions.

Harwood's Brycen Scharf joined Besett with top honors in the Capital League, taking home the Player of the Year award.

Caledonia United dominates posts-season honors

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Following an undefeated regular season that they rode all the way to the division IV state championship match, the Caledonia United boys' soccer team swept the top postseason awards in the Mountain League last week.

Head coach Peter Stratman was named Mountain League Coach of the Year after a program record 16-0 season that ended with a 2-0 loss to top seeded Twin Valley in the Division IV championship. Making his first Final further cemented Stratman's legacy as one of the top high school soccer coaches in the state. Stratman has now taken three different programs (Cabot, Twinfield-Cabot and Cal United) to the Final Four in his 18-year career, racking up 172 wins along the way. Stratman has seamlessly molded the three-school cooperative (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) of Cal United in two seasons on the sidelines, posting an impressive 27-5-1 record.

Joining his coach with top honors was Cal United senior



Coach Peter Stratman (right) advises Danville Player Connor Winn (left) before heading out onto the field in Danville for a scrimmage against Hazen Union, August 23.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

midfielder Eli Russell, who was named Mountain League Player of the Year. The two-time Vermont All-State selection terrorized

league opponents with a program record 30 goals this past season.

Joining Russell as First Team selections were senior teammates

Sam McLane, Jola Otten and Josh Petersen. McLane returned from a late season ending injury last fall in full force in 2025, scoring a career-high 26 goals. Otten rounded out a potent Cal United scoring attack that found the back of the net 90 times this past season with a personal best 14 goals. Petersen anchored a steel trap Cal United defense with 11 shutouts and dozens of saves of the spectacular variety.

Rounding out the Mountain League First Team selections were Enosburg's Blake Teague, Bennie Wolfe, Gavin West, Sawyer Bentley and Wilder Howell, Ryker Mosehauer, Tiegen Buskey, Aiden Fuller and Garrett Wood of Vergennes, Oxbow's Jayden Huntoon, Paine Mountain's Zeke Aronson, Richford's Colton Kittell and Tristan Metruk of BFA-Fairfax.

Cal United's Alijah Andrews, Kaiden Rogers and Samson Kitonga led the way with Mountain League Second Team selections. Teammates Judah Klarich, Sean Lehoe, Evan Whitehead and Ben Monaco were honorable mentions.

Local footballers land VT All-State selections

by Ken Brown

NEK — Several local high school soccer standouts were recognized for their outstanding seasons last week with Vermont All-State selections.

Hazen Union senior Isabelle Gouin put a cherry on top of an incredible career with her second straight selection. Junior teammate Taylor Thompson staked her claim as one of the best midfielders in the state with an unprecedented third straight All-State selection.

Gouin posted her second straight 20 goal season for the Lady Cats and broke the all-time school scoring record with 56 goals, to surpass the record of 54 set by Kaityln Forant 17 years ago. Gouin also earned Mtn. League Offensive Player of the Year honors this past fall.

Thompson has helped lead Hazen to 27 wins in her three years patrolling the midfield and looks poised to breakout as more of a scoring threat in 2026.

Caledonia United junior Eliska Siebenbrunner earned her first VT All-State selection after an incredible start to her high school career as a goalkeeper. Siebenbrunner traded in her skills as a

talented scorer to step into the net for head coach Spencer Morse this past fall. She posted three consecutive shutouts for the Cal United defense to start the season and kept her team in several matches throughout a rebuilding season with her stellar play. A broken finger late in the season kept her out of only one match, where she returned to the field to score two goals and record a pair of assists.

Other local All-State selections included: Lamoille's Ila Rankin, Peoples Academy's Ella Bliss and Stowe's Emilia Marron, Ava Buczek, Vivi Hermsdorf and Tanner Gregory.

On the boys side, Cal United's Eli Russell, Sam McLane, Josh Petersen along with Hazen Union's Grayson McNaughten earned All-State selections. Russell (30 goals) and McLane (26) torched Mtn. League defenses this season, leading Cal United to a 16-0 record before falling to top seeded Twin Valley in the division IV state championship match.

Russell ended his incredible career with his second straight All-State selection as well as Mtn. League Player of the Year honors.

McLane returned to the pitch this season after a leg injury kept



Wildcat Taylor Thompson

photo by Vanessa Fournier

him out of Cal United's playoff run last fall. His career high in goals this past season earned him his first VT All-State selection.

Fellow senior Josh Petersen ascended to one of the top goalkeeper's in the state in 2025. He posted a program record 11 shutouts for a Cal United defense that allowed only 10 goals in 17 matches.

Hazen's Grayson McNaughten stood up against some of the best offenses in the mighty Capital League this past fall to earn his first All-State selection. McNaughten transferred from



Wildcat Isabelle Gouin

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury Academy as a sophomore and matured into one of the state's premier goalkeepers. His incredible athletic ability helped post six shutouts for the Wildcat defense and his booming kicks, that often traveled the length of the field, led to multiple assists for an up and coming Hazen soccer program.

Rounding out local All-State selections were: Lamoille's Ethan Rossi, Peoples Academy's Ian Nolan, Jack Cleary, Jaden Baird, Myles Lane and Stowe's Graeme Jostrand.

VTSSM speakers series presents "Celebrating Vermont's Olympians," Nov. 20

by Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum

STOWE — The Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum (VTSSM) will present a virtual Red Bench Speaker Series, "Celebrating Vermont's Olympians: Inspiring Journeys to the Winter Games," featuring four women from the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

The talk will describe how they got their start, what it meant to make the U.S. Olympic Team, and who



Donna Weinbrecht

courtesy photo



Trina Hosmer at the U.S. Nationals in 1971

courtesy photo

inspired them along the way. Peter Graves, the television sportscaster and race announcer known as "the voice of skiing in America." will moderate a conversation with Olympic gold medalist Barbara Ann Cochran, cross-country skier Trina Hosmer, snowboarder Betsy Shaw and freestyle skier Donna Weinbrecht. A member of the Cochran ski family, Barbara Ann won Olympic gold in Slalom at the 1972 Winter Games. A U.S. Ski Team member from

1969-74, she later became an educator, coach and mentor to young athletes. She has been inducted into both the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame and the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, and lives in Starksboro. Cross-country skier Trina Hosmer represented the U.S. at the 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics, the first to include women's Nordic events. A lifelong racer and Masters World Champion, she is a leader with the New England Nordic Ski Association. Raised on the slopes of Bromley, Betsy Shaw transitioned from alpine skiing to snowboarding and went on to compete in the sport's Olympic debut at the 1998 Nagano Games. A former World Cup Giant Slalom champion and Burton Team rider, Betsy now lives in Scotland. The first Olympic gold medalist in women's freestyle mogul skiing (1992), Donna Weinbrecht rose from training on small slopes in New Jersey to dominating the World Cup circuit with five overall titles and 46 victories. Today, she shares her passion through her ski



Betsy Shaw

courtesy photo



Barbara Anne Cochran in 1972

courtesy photo

camp and clinics at Killington. The virtual event begins at 7 p.m. via Zoom. A donation helps support the museum's mission to collect and preserve Vermont's skiing and snowboarding heritage. Register for the event at vtssm.org/new-events

Top runners, special award winners honored at Banquet of Champions



2025 Thunder Road champions celebrating their seasons at the Banquet of Champions Saturday, with their Hoosier Race Tire Championship Jackets, are (from left) Street Stock champion Kyler Davis, Late Model King of the Road Jason Corliss and Flying Tiger top runner Sam Caron.

photo by Alan Ward



Barre's Nick Sweet being awarded the annual Tom Curley Award for his continued commitment and contributions to Thunder Road and the American-Canadian Tour franchise at the Thunder Road Banquet of Champions, Saturday, Nov. 8.

photo by Alan Ward

by Thunder Road Speedbowl

BARRE – Saturday saw the Thunder Road family of race teams come together one final time to celebrate the 2025 season at the annual Banquet of Champions. The Banquet returned to the famed Barre Auditorium after decades away, much to the delight of most attendees. Catering was courtesy of Jockey Hollow, with Good Measure Brewing providing bartending services for the evening's festivities.

Along with the top 10 drivers in the rk Miles Street Stocks, including champion Kyler Davis, 'Flyin' Fred Fleury was awarded the annual Ed Carroll Memorial Sportsmanship Award for the division while Hayden Bushey accepted his Rookie of the Year honors. Bushey would later return to the stage as the 2025 recipient of the Gordon 'Doc' Nielsen Memorial Award for Outstanding Rookie in his dominant performance as a freshman racer on the highbanks. Defending champion Dean Switzer Jr. accepted his Vermont Agency of Transportation Triple Crown, joined by top-three chasers Kyle MacAskill and Kylee Potter.

Sam Caron led the Lenny's Shoe & Apparel Flying Tiger top-ten teamsters while Cameron Ouellette earned the division's Sportsmanship Award. Jason Woodard was on hand to accept ACT Tri-State Flying Tiger Series championship accolades alongside top-three runners Caron and Mike Martin while Milton's Robert Gordon accepted his Myers Container Service Triple Crown championship trophy with fellow top runners Ouellette and Brendan Moodie.

After Justin Prescott was surprised to earn Thunder Road's Most Improved Driver Award, Tanner Woodard was just as stunned to be called up for the Late

Model division's Sportsmanship Award.

The Maplefields/Irving Late Models were well represented beginning with Brandon Gray's acceptance of his hard-earned Rookie of the Year honors, followed by the top-ten in points. Jason Corliss was happy to return to the Barre Auditorium to collect his fourth King of the Road championship, several years removed from high school state basketball games the champ once played at the hallowed institution.

For the first time, two winners earned the Pete Hartt Memorial Media Award in Connecticut duo Connor Sullivan and Stephen McLaughlin. The pair are the leaders of the weekly FloRacing broadcasts from Thunder Road since 2022 and have grown their roles to now include the North East Short Track Network (NESTN) with exciting additions coming to the Network in 2026 and beyond.

While unable to attend with family commitments, Barre's Mike Foster earned the annual Ken Squier Award for contributions to the Nation's Site of Excitement. Named in honor of Thunder Road's iconic founder, Foster was named the 2025 recipient after years of hard work as Pat Malone's right-hand man and on-site manager of the many upgrades to Thunder Road these past several seasons.

Rounding out the evening's celebrations came the annual Tom Curley Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to the ACT franchise, including Thunder Road and beyond. Nick Sweet was awarded the annual recognition, named in honor of the legendary New England promoter, for his many contributions to Thunder Road including a career of climbing Curley's famed 'Ladder System' of divisions to rise as a



Jason Corliss at the Thunder Road Banquet of Champions, Saturday, Nov. 8. shows the Maplefields/Irving Late Model King of the Road trophy he earned for the 2025 season. The former Twinfield Union basketball player, joked that he always wanted to celebrate a championship at the Barre Auditorium but never thought racing would be involved.

photo by Alan Ward

multi-time King of the Road and eventual Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour champion. Along with his top driving honors, Sweet's roles as crew chief, car builder and business owner continue to grow his commitment to the sport, especially at his Thunder Road homebase.

The Banquet of Champions is the official wrap on the 2025 season at Thunder Road International Speedbowl.

Officials expect to release the 2026 Schedule of Events and updated rulebooks in the coming days. Keep tabs on all the winter happenings online at thunderroadvt.com or on social media as new partnerships, drivers and programs are announced for the upcoming season.

For more information, contact the Thunder Road offices at (802) 244-6963, media@thunderroadvt.com. Follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @ThunderRoadVT.

Turkeytrot, Nov. 21

by Craftsbury Schools

CRAFTSBURY – A turkey trot will take place beginning 1 p.m., November 21, on the common for students and staff of Craftsbury Schools, grades K-12. Families are welcome, walking or running. Attendees are encouraged to wear orange, yellow or brown. There will be music and post-race treats. Staff and student prizes for "Best Turkey" will be awarded.

HARDWICK AREA FOOD PANTRY
Hardwick * Craftsbury * Albany

CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER'S
TURKEY TROT
FUNDRAISER FOR THE HARDWICK AREA FOOD PANTRY

November 24, 2024 2 PM
Craftsbury Common

Adult + Big Kid Run - 5k
Kid's Fun Run - Around the Common at 1:45 PM
Raffle with Prizes!

Besett and Gouin lead senior all-stars to win

by Ken Brown

NORTHFIELD – Hazen Union head coach Harry Besett and Lady Cat star striker Isabelle Gouin led their Division 3/4 Green soccer teams to victory over the weekend at the Vermont Green & Gold Senior Classic at Norwich University.

Fresh off leading his Hazen boys soccer program to their first winning regular season in 6 years, earning him Mtn. League Coach of the Year honors, Besett's Division 3/4 Green team downed the Division 3/4 Gold team 2-0 on Sunday at Sabine Field. West Rutland's Brayden Schutt buried a feed from Caledonia United's Eli Russell for the game-winner. Oxbow's Jayden Huntoon fed Enosburg's Wilder Howell for the insurance goal that put the match away. Hazen's Grayson McNaughten and Cal United's Josh Petersen combined to make 10 stops to earn the shutout. Schutt took home MVP honors for the Green team.

Other top local seniors that were named to the all-star rosters included: Cal United's Sam McLane and Jola Otten, Hazen's Sully Laflam and Justin Montgomery, Peoples Acad-

emy's Ian Nolan, Gavin Jolly, Noah Brown and Lamoille's Ethan Rossi.

"Both Josh and Grayson came up with a few outstanding saves to keep a clean sheet for our team. The most enjoyable part of the day for me as the coach was seeing players from all over the state come together, cheer each other from the bench and work selflessly for each other on the field. Seeing the players smiling and joking with each other at the final whistle made it easy to forget the freezing and rainy weather," said Besett.

On the girls side, the Division 3/4 Green team defeated the Gold 3-2 in an old fashion shootout. Hazen's all-time leading scorer Isabelle Gouin finished a perfect ball from Blue Mountain's Kennedy Perrigo just three minutes into the match for an early 1-0 advantage. Windsor's Kemari Wildgoose and White River Valley's Mackenzie Vesper made it 3-0 heading into the break. The Green survived scores from Enosburg's Kallie Morrill and Poultney's Eme Silverman in the second half to hold on for the win. Stowe goalkeeper Tanner Gregory took home MVP honors for the Green.



Hazen Union Head Coach (far right) Harry Besett led the Division 3/4 Green soccer team to victory over the weekend in the Vermont Green & Gold Senior Classic at Norwich University. Local players were (back, far left) Cal United's Sam McLane, (middle row, fourth from left) Hazen's Grayson McNaughten and Cal United's Josh Petersen, with (front, from left) Cal United's Jola Otten and Eli Russell.

Courtesy photo

Other top local seniors that were named to the all-star rosters included: Hazen's Brianna Holbrook, Cal United's Lauren Pecor and Phoebe Crocker, Stowe's Mena Spaulding, Ava Buczek and Emilia Marron and Peoples Academy's Ella Bliss and Lamoille's Ila Rankin.

The Vermont Green & Gold Senior Classic was presented by the

Vermont Soccer Coaches Association (VSCA). The inaugural event, spearheaded by VSCA Executive Director John Olmstead, was upgraded from its previous versions to honor the best senior soccer players in the state much like the Vermont Basketball Association's North-South Senior All-Star Game has done for senior basketball players every March.



Seniors who played on the Hazen Union varsity boys team (from left) are Hazen students Seville Murphy, Morgan Michaud, Sully Laflam, Craftsbury student Grayson McNaughten, Hazen students Ethan Gann, Ari Jurkiewicz and Justin Montgomery.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Danville student Phoebe Crocker (left) and Cabot student Lauren Pecor (right) are the only two seniors who played on the Caledonia United varsity team.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Senior girls who played on the Hazen Union varsity team include (from left) Hazen students Isabelle Gouin, Ella Renaud, Julia des Groseilliers, Craftsbury student Adelina Augsberger and Hazen student Brianna Holbrook.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Caledonia United varsity senior boys include (front) Danville student Josh Peterson. Back row (from left) Twinfield students Jola Otten, Eli Russell, Sean Lehoe, Sam McLane, Cabot student Ben Monaco and Danville students Alijah Andrews and Samson Kitonga.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Vermont's Regular Deer Season Starts Saturday, Nov. 15

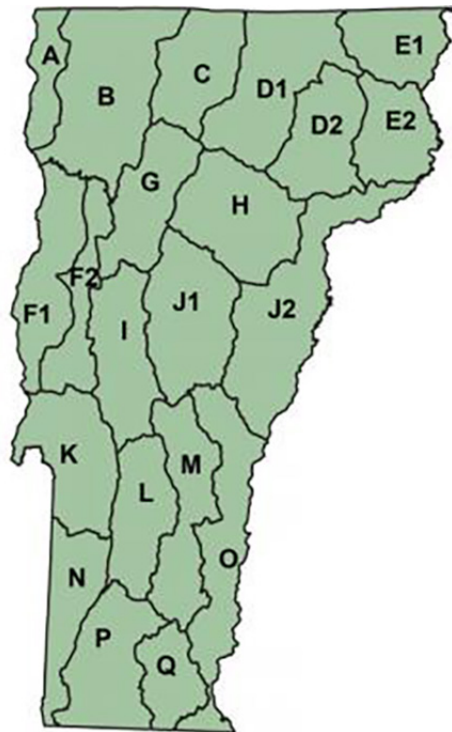
by Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

VERMONT – Hunters are gearing up for the start of Vermont's traditionally popular 16-day regular deer season that begins Saturday, November 15 and ends Sunday, November 30.

A hunter may take one legal buck during this season if they did not already take one during the archery deer season. The definition of a legal buck depends on the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). A map of the WMU is on pages 24 and 25 of the 2025 Vermont Hunting & Trapping Guide available from license agents and highway rest areas.

In WMUs C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length.

In WMUs A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.



courtesy image

“The greatest numbers of deer continue to be in western regions of the state and other valley areas,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s deer biologist Nick Fortin. “The Green Mountains and Northeast Kingdom offer more of a big woods experience with fewer, but often larger, deer.”

Vermont hunting licenses include a buck tag for this season and a late season bear tag (for Nov. 15-23), cost \$28 for residents and \$102 for nonresidents. Hunters under 18 years of age get a break at \$8 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Licenses are available on vtfishandwildlife.com and from license agents statewide.

“I am urging all hunters to wear a fluorescent orange hat and vest to help maintain Vermont’s very good hunting season safety record,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jason Batchelder.

A 2025 Deer Season Hunting Guide can be downloaded from the department’s website. The guide includes a map of the Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), season dates, regulations, and other helpful information.

Hunters are required to report deer in person at a big game reporting station during the regular season. Online

reporting will not be available. This requirement allows biologists to collect important information from as many deer as possible.

Hunters who get a deer on November 15 or 16 can help Vermont’s deer management program by reporting their deer at one of the biological check stations operated by Fish and Wildlife Department personnel in the Hardwick area at Rack N Reel in New Haven, Maplefields in Plainfield, Lead & Tackle in Lyndonville and R&L Archery in Barre

Hunters who do not go to a biological reporting station are asked to provide a tooth from their deer. Tooth envelopes and tooth removal instructions are available at all big game reporting stations. Each tooth will be cross sectioned to accurately determine the deer’s age, and the results will be posted on the Fish and Wildlife website next spring.

WHERE ELSE?



- Where else would the public get the very complete coverage of the candidates for local and state offices such as appeared in this week’s issue?
- Where else would there be coverage of the exciting news that Habitat for Humanity will be building two housing units in Greensboro Bend?
- Where else was there coverage of the beautiful mural recently unveiled in the Bend?
- Where else has there been unbiased coverage of the critical issues such as the future of the Lakeview School or discussion of the proposed use of Town Hall?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of events at the Highland Arts Center?
- Where else do you find such complete coverage of Hardwick sports and local teams?

Remember the value received and how an investment by you will make the service even better. As a 501(c)(3), all donations in support of this valuable resource are tax deductible. Your support, through a donation, will help us fill the vacuum in local news and the continuation and expansion of full and unbiased information about the things that directly impact your lives. Please consider giving your support to the Gazette and its hard-working staff.

hardwickgazette.org

2025 Moose Hunt Results



courtesy image

by Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

VERMONT – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department issued 180 moose hunting permits this year, resulting in 68 moose harvested between the October 1 to 7 archery season and the October 18 to 23 regular season. Moose hunting was only allowed in Wildlife Management Unit E, in northeastern Vermont.

“Moose are relatively abundant in WMU-E,” says Nick Fortin, the department’s moose biologist. “This high density of moose contributes to high winter tick numbers that can negatively impact moose health and survival. A goal of this year’s hunt was to improve the overall health of WMU-E’s moose population by reducing its density.”

Moose management goals were informed by years of monitoring data and extensive research on moose and

winter ticks from the northeastern U.S. and Canada.

Vermont research has shown that chronic high winter tick loads have caused the health of moose in northeastern Vermont to be very poor. Survival of adult moose remains relatively good, but birth rates are very low, and many calves do not survive their first winter.

“This year’s hunt in WMU-E was another step towards achieving a healthy, sustainable moose population,” said Fortin.

Of the 180 permits available, 174 were issued by lottery, to which nearly 6,000 hunters applied. The department reserves the first five lottery permits for Vermont military veterans. Three non-lottery permits are reserved for persons with life-threatening illnesses, and three more are auctioned as a fundraiser for conservation.

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