

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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Wednesday, November 19, 2025

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Volume 136 Number 47

## Sterling's 67 year legacy to evolve again

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – With news that Sterling College will be ending its degree programs in the spring, residents have expressed concern about a Craftsbury institution vital to the small community. Alumnx have come forward to share a deep love and appreciation for their time there.

An item on Tuesday's Craftsbury Select Board Agenda created time for a conversation about the change, with Sterling President Scott L. Thomas, Ph.D., planning to be at that meeting to engage with the town and its government about how the change will affect everyone involved.

While the Sterling board has been working to address issues surrounding declining enrollment, the school's final commencement is set for June 12, 2026. **See LEGACY, 7**

### Sterling College announces it will end degree programs

by Corey McDonald, VTDigger

CRAFTSBURY – Sterling College, an experiential college in the Orleans County town of Craftsbury, announced on Thursday it would be ending its academic programs after the upcoming spring semester, becoming the latest in a string of transitions and closures at small colleges.

The college's decision to end programming was made "in the face of persistent financial and enrollment challenges," according to a statement posted to the college's website. The school's final commencement is set for June 12, 2026. **See PROGRAMS, 6**



Sterling College in Craftsbury, founded in 1958, and an important town institution for 67 years, last week announced it will end degree programs with the 2026 spring semester due to declining enrollment. Plans are being made to allow students to complete their degrees during a 2026 summer session.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## Ellen Bryant Voigt, acclaimed pianist, teacher, Vermont Poet Laureate, remembered at 82



Ellen Bryant Voigt

CABOT – Ellen Bryant Voigt was born May 9, 1943, and raised on her family's farm in Chatham, Va. The middle child of a school teacher and mail carrier, she grew up near a large, extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Ellen showed an early talent for the piano, earning her a scholarship to the music school at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C. But it was during a summer job at a resort in Blowing Rock, N.C., that

her interest in poetry was sparked and she changed her major to English, graduating from Converse in 1964 and going on to earn an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

In her first semester at Iowa, she met Francis Voigt (from Okaloosa, Iowa) at a mixer for dorm counselors. Fran, despite his good looks, failed to make a good impression, but eventually, he did get her to go out with him, and they were married less than a year later on September 5, 1965.

Tempted by advertisements for inexpensive farmhouses and land in rural Vermont, they moved to central Vermont in 1969 when Fran took a job at Goddard College. They found themselves in the middle of the back-to-the-land movement of the 1960s and it was there they decided to put down their roots.

Goddard College attracted an unusual mix of artists and intellectuals interested in creating a new community. **See VOIGT, 5**

## Reactions mixed on 1% local option tax

by Raymonda Parchment and Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – Area business owners and residents have expressed a mix of reactions to a new 1% local option tax in Greensboro, which passed in a special vote last Thursday.

Two other issues on the ballot passed easily, with \$500,000 approved to purchase a new fire truck in a binding vote, with 112 in favor and just 30 opposed.

About two-thirds of voters were in favor of a non-binding, advisory question asking to exempt the Town of Hardwick from municipal tax on the Caspian Beach property for five years, with 95 in favor and 45 opposed. Voting on the option tax was much closer, with 72 voting yes and 68 no.

If Greensboro's select board proceeds with

the work necessary to implement the voter's wishes, a 1% tax will be added to short-term lodging rentals, prepared meals and served alcohol.

Hill Farmstead's Shaun Hill estimates the one percent option tax on served alcohol at his establishment could exceed the reported room tax.

He said he only recently learned about voting on the potential tax via Front Porch Forum.

There were multiple stakeholders the town doesn't seem to have reached out to, according to Hill.

He suggested that, while he could pay more attention to what the town is doing, "their methodology was flawed," and the town should have done more to "reach out to key stakeholders."

**See MIXED, 5**



Hammond Construction uses their Cat 315S to clear out the former site of 5 Sawmill Lane in Hardwick, November 10, as part of the FEMA buyout. The state has expressed interest in a Sawmill Park on the site.

photo by Raymonda Parchment

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# POLICE REPORT

## Cabot Fire Department

### CFD receives state grant

by Cabot Volunteer Fire Department

CABOT – The Cabot Volunteer Fire Department (CFD) has secured \$999 in matching funds from the Vermont Wildland Fire Gear (VWFG) Grant, administered by the Department of Forests,

Parks & Recreation. This competitive grant will enable CFD to reduce the cost of acquiring additional personal protective equipment for volunteers, including wildland fire shirts and pants. Deputy Chief Ameden put together the successful grant application.

## Vermont State Police

### Anniversary of disappearance

GREENSBORO – On November 11, the Vermont State Police wrote, “Today marks the anniversary of the disappearance of 21 year-old William Halas from Greensboro, who was reported missing by his mother on November 11, 1971.” Inves-

tigation suggested he may have been a homicide victim but no remains have been identified and he continues to be listed as a missing person. Anyone with any information on Halas is asked to contact our Derby office at (802) 334-8881.”

## Vermont State Police

### Car crash

WOODBURY – On November 15, at approximately 9:54 a.m., state troopers responded to a single-vehicle crash located on Vt. Route 14 near Ainsworth Road in the town of Woodbury. Investigation revealed Cherie Salls of Barre City was traveling north on Vt. Route 14 when the vehicle exited the roadway and collided head on with multiple trees. Salls sustained minor injuries and her passenger sustained serious bodily injuries in the collision. Both parties were

transported from the scene by EMS and provided further medical care. Vt. Route 14, in the area of Ainsworth Road, was temporarily reduced to one lane of travel during the course of the investigation. The Vermont State Police were assisted by the Woodbury Fire Department, Hardwick Police Department, Crash Reconstruction Team, Hardwick Rescue, East Montpelier Rescue, Barre EMS and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Team.

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November 19 - November 25

**Willey's Winter Wonderland**  
Dec. 13 - Dec. 14.

**Vendor demos, door prizes, plus a special merchandise drop in the clothing dept.**

**Ocean Spray Cranberry Drinks**  
2/\$6 64 oz.

**LaCroix 8 Pk. Sparkling Water**  
\$3.79 96 oz.

**Ragu Pasta Sauce**  
2/\$4 16-24 oz.

**Barilla Pasta**  
2/\$3 12-16 oz.

**Stove Top Stuffing**  
2/\$4 6 oz.

**Del Monte Canned Vegetables**  
3/\$5 11-15.25 oz.

**Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce**  
2/\$4 14 oz.

**College Inn Broths**  
2/\$4 32 oz.

**Campbells Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soup**  
4/\$5 10.5 oz.

**Hellmann's Mayonnaise**  
\$4.99 15-30 oz.

**King Arthur Unbleached or Self Rising Flour**  
\$3.99 5 lb.

**Domino Sugar**  
\$3.49 3.5 - 4 lb.

**Hershey's Baking Chips**  
\$3.49 8-12 oz.

**Nabisco Family Size Oreos**  
\$4.99 18.12-18.71 oz.

**Nabisco Snack Crackers**  
2/\$5 6.5-13.7 oz.

**Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese**  
2/\$5 6-8 oz.

**Pillsbury Ref. Pie Crust**  
2/\$6 14.1 oz.

**Philadelphia Bar Cream Cheese**  
2/\$5 8 oz.

**Wyman's Frozen Berries**  
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**Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream**  
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**Hood Ice Cream**  
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# WEATHER WATCH



Woodbury's Cranberry Meadow Pond, midafternoon, November 10.

photo by Lloyd Devereux Richards

## Some sun to start; rain returns by Friday

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Precipitation fell mostly as snow during the past week, with light snow showers occurring through Friday. Precipitation started again late Saturday night as a mix of everything, briefly turning to rain, and then back to a light-to-moderate snow. The highest accumulations were clustered near Vermont's summits, with some plowable totals across the elevated regions of Orleans and Caledonia Counties.

Greensboro reported 5.2 inches Monday morning as a 24-hour snowfall, with Craftsbury accumulating 4.5 inches and Walden measuring 4.0 inches. With 2.0 inches in Cabot and 1.8 inches in Plainfield, accumulations dropped significantly away from the spine of the green mountains.

Weekly rainfall totals of one to two inches were consistent, with parts of our area still in extreme drought as of Thursday, although an improvement in drought conditions occurred in western parts of our area. More improvement may continue in this week's outlook given the recent precipitation.

On the weather map, a dome of high pressure building in over the northeast today pushes low pressure south to the mid-Atlantic, bringing us precipitation-free conditions

for about 48 hours. The high then moves eastward and temperatures moderate. The approach of a warm front by Friday morning will bring us mixed precipitation, transitioning to rain during the day, before mixing and changing over to snow showers again by the time the system exits Saturday morning. Only minor accumulations are expected. The rest of Saturday looks tranquil, thanks to some weak ridging, although clouds will linger through the weekend. Another wave of low pressure looks to bring unsettled conditions back by the end of Sunday. After a slight moderation in temperatures Friday, highs will return to the 30s with lows in the 20s. How does this compare to historical conditions? Average. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny. High: 35. Low: 18. Calm wind.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny. High: 37. Low: 24. Calm wind.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain and freezing rain, changing to all rain by mid-morning. High: 40. Low: 27. Southwest wind 10-15 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy. Snow showers tapering off through the morning with minimal accumulation. High: 33. Low: 21. Wind northwest 5-10 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with snow showers developing by evening. High: 35. Low: 24. Variable wind around 5 mph.

# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – November 9: Accident - Property Damage Only, Craftsbury Town Road; Medical, Buffalo St.; Threats/Harassment, N. Main St.

November 10: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Alarm, Vt. Route 15 West; Assist - Public, Bridgman Hill Road; Assist - Public, Hardwick Farms Road; Suspicious Event, Cherry St.

November 11: Assist - Motorist, Center Road.; Accident - Property Damage Only, Vt. Route 15 E.; Suspicious Event, Cherry St.; School Event, Hazen Union Drive; Citizen Dispute, Upper Cherry St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Route 232.

November 12: VIN verification, Vt. Route 14 S.; Directed

Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event, Spring St.; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

November 13: School Event, Hazen Union Drive; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Route 14 S.; Wanted Person, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

November 14: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints (18), Hazen Union Drive; Medical, Dix Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

November 15: Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 14; Fingerprints, High St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Animal Problem, Lower Cherry St.; Assist - Public, Vt. Route 15; Assist - Agency, Tucker Brook Road.

## Hardwick Police Department

### Outstanding warrants, rear-end collision

by Hardwick Police Department

HARDWICK – On November 11 at approximately 4:07 p.m., Hardwick Police and Hardwick Fire were dispatched to 940 Vt. Route 15 East for a reported two-vehicle collision. Upon arriving on scene, there were two trucks on the side of the road. A 2012 Ford pickup operated by Levi Lacey rear-ended a 2017 Ram 5500 truck operated by Mark Salls. An emergency vehicle went by them, and they both tried to pull over and Lacey hit the truck in front of him. There was minor damage to Salls' vehicle while Lacey's vehicle had major front damage. There were no reported injuries.

November 13, at 3:36 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department arrested Louis Ferland on an outstanding warrant. Ferland had been walking south on Vermont Route 16 from East Hardwick when

he was recognized by a Hardwick officer on patrol. The police department had previously received a notification that a warrant had been issued for Ferland's arrest. The warrant had been issued for failing to show for a scheduled court appearance at the Caledonia unit of the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division. He was lodged at the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

November 13, at 8:25 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department arrested Todd Luce, of Hardwick, on an outstanding warrant. Luce was arrested outside of where he had been living off Vermont Route 15. The police department had previously received a notification that a warrant had been issued for Luce's arrest. The warrant had been issued for failing to show for an arraignment at the Caledonia unit of the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division. He was lodged at the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

## Cabot Fire Department

### CFD receives state grant

by Cabot Volunteer Fire Department

CABOT – The Cabot Volunteer Fire Department (CFD) has secured \$999 in matching funds from the Vermont Wildland Fire Gear (VWFG) Grant, administered by the Department of Forests, Parks

& Recreation.

This competitive grant will enable CFD to reduce the cost of acquiring additional personal protective equipment for volunteers, including wildland fire shirts and pants. Deputy Chief Ameden put together the successful grant application.

### OUR E-MAILS

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ads@hardwickgazette.org

# POLICE REPORT

## Vermont State Police Single-vehicle accident, domestic assault

On November 12, at approximately 10:04 p.m., troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a residence on W. County Road in Calais for a report of a domestic disturbance. Subsequent investigation revealed that Clare Mills, of Calais, had committed the offense of Domestic Assault and Disorderly Conduct. When taking Mills into custody, Mills attempted to cause physical injury to troopers and she resisted arrest. Mills was subsequently transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing. Mills was issued a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court-Criminal Division on November 13, at 12:30 p.m. Mills was then lodged at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility for lack of bail.

On November 15, at approximately 9:54 a.m., troopers responded to a single-vehicle crash located on Vt. Rte. 14 near Ainsworth Road in the town of Woodbury.

Investigation revealed Cherie Salls, of Barre City was traveling north on Vt. Rte. 14 when the vehicle exited the roadway and collided head-on with multiple trees. Salls sustained minor injuries and her passenger sustained serious bodily injuries in the collision. Both parties were transported from the scene by EMS and provided further medical care.

Vt. Rte. 14 in the area of Ainsworth Road was temporarily



Thomas Boggs-Harte

reduced to one lane of travel during the course of the investigation.

The Vermont State Police were assisted by the Woodbury Fire Department, Hardwick Police Department, Crash Reconstruction Team, Hardwick Rescue, E. Montpelier Rescue, Barre EMS and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Team.

On November 15, at 7:10 a.m., the Vermont State Police received a 911 hang-up call of an active domestic assault in Marshfield. The victim reported that an ex-partner had assaulted them on the morning of November 15. Troopers subsequently investigated the incident and Thomas Boggs-Harte, of Northfield, was charged with First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault/Burglary/Unlawful Mischief.



Walden and Cabot Fire Departments responded to a vehicle rollover on November 16, on Route 2 near Danville Hill Road. Road conditions were icy with mixed precipitation and snow. The operator was safe and was assessed by Cabot Ambulance personnel on the scene. *social media photo*

## AWARE Report

**HARDWICK** – Ten people used AWARE services between November 9 and November 16. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

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

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

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit [awarevt.org](http://awarevt.org).




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## Mixed

Continued From Page One

In a recent Front Porch Forum (FPF) post, Hill wrote “Since Hill Farmstead’s visitors and customers are estimated to provide more than 80% of the revenue for this local option tax fund, I’d like to encourage more direct dialogue with the businesses most affected and supportive of the town’s efforts ... There is no doubt that Hill Farmstead brings the majority of traffic to the community and remains one of its significant employers. As such, this proposal feels less like a shared community initiative and more like a tax levied directly upon Hill Farmstead and its visitors rather than upon short-term rentals or second, third and fourth homes being used as income properties instead of community housing.”

Hill suggested there are other ways to raise \$10,000 without opening the door to a new tax on customers. Vermont businesses are already required to collect and remit 9% tax on prepared meals and a 10% tax on served alcoholic beverages.

Smaller, but no less concerned, Wilson Farm’s Lindsay Beer said, “If the additional tax was added we would pay between \$500 and \$1000 in an average year. While that may seem like a small amount, small businesses in Vermont are threading the needle right now more than ever.

“We need our community to be supporting the few businesses that still exist in our towns, not placing additional burdens on them.

“I voted no on the 1% local option tax yesterday, and I was disappointed to see that the majority of the voters chose to vote yes, perhaps not understanding the long term impact that it could have on local businesses and themselves.”

Rob Hurst, part owner and manager of Willey’s store estimates the additional 1% tax would add just over \$1,000 annually to the tax that store remits to the state. Greensboro’s share would be 75% of that; roughly \$750.

Hurst is taking the possibility in stride, recalling that discussion of a local option tax has come up at town meetings for many years. He is seeing it as an item to add as a line item on receipts that will simply pass through to the state, as many other towns have already done. While he said some small number of people might change their buying habits because of the tax, he sees a benefit to the town; understanding it needs to look at all revenue sources, which will help keep property taxes lower.

Resident Nancy Riege held a somewhat different view, posting on FPF in the lead-up to last Thursday’s vote, “I am also concerned about all the Airbnb’s, short-term rentals advertised above board and especially those that are not. I

believe we all agree there is a huge need for housing, especially for people who work in the area, so why don’t we encourage long term rentals?” wrote Riege.

She suggested giving incentives to those who are willing to rent long term and said, “Short term rentals make more money for the individuals who own them but are really hurting small towns and businesses.”

Riege says she’s heard of other towns in Vermont trying to deal with this issue, suggesting Greensboro look into what other towns are doing to deal with such a heated subject.

Another area resident, however, felt similarly to Hill. Jennifer Lucas also posted on FPF saying, “I urge Greensboro voters to vote no on the third question on the Nov. 13 ballot. The additional 1% tax is proposed as an easy way to raise about \$7,500 for the town, without any administration, and levied on mostly ‘outsiders.’ That is a mistaken concept as all of us will pay the tax whenever we have a drink at Hill Farmstead Brewery, buy a sandwich, coffee or muffin at Willey’s; eat at Highland Lodge or have our visiting families stay in a local rental....”

She continued, “This tax is also very discriminatory as it is applied to only those businesses and rentals that are already complying with the law to report revenue. For

short term rentals, this tax would be on top of the additional 3% Vermont tax landlords pay that is not assessed for any other lodging. As many here rent out their properties to help pay very high property taxes, and due to market forces, cannot pass along these tax increases, this tax becomes a local burden.”

In 2024, short-term rental income in Greensboro reported to the state came to a little over \$830,000. Adding the 1% local option tax last year would have generated \$6,225 after the state’s 25% cut. That 1% tax on somewhat higher revenue in 2023 would have resulted in a payment to Greensboro of just over \$7,300.

Short-term rentals are those under 30 days, but properties rented less than 15 days each year are exempt from the tax.

State estimates are that roughly 25% of short-term rental revenue is not reported to the state, resulting in under-reporting of that revenue with no tax paid.

Town estimates of \$7,500 to \$10,000 income from the new local option tax have only included the short-term rentals. Because there are less than 10 businesses reporting on each of the sale of prepared meals and served alcohol in Greensboro, data on that economic activity is not available from the state, which suppresses it to protect the confidentiality of taxpayer information.

## Voigt

Continued From Page One

unorthodox, experimental, and alternative educational programs that inspired Ellen to co-found and direct a low-residency MFA program, the first of its kind, which would set the standard for the low-residency program of graduate study throughout the United States.

She taught in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College for nearly 40 years, following its move from Goddard in 1981. She also held teaching positions at Iowa Wesleyan College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 2013, Ellen was the visiting poet at Smith College and was also a popular and frequent faculty member at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference in Ripton. She was the poet laureate of Vermont from 1999 to 2002 and served as a chancellor for the Academy of American Poets.

Ellen supported herself throughout college and graduate school playing the piano in bars and lounges, accompanying singers, dance classes and even the synchronized swimming team at Converse. She continued to be an in-demand pianist in Vermont, finding

like-minded musicians, as well as playing for Taste of Opera, Barre Opera House, Plainfield Opera House, Unadilla Theater, Larry Gordon, various choirs and the Cabot School musicals.

While in Iowa, Ellen was introduced to what became the extended Voigt family’s passion for the University of Iowa Hawkeyes football. This was just the beginning of what grew into a fervent interest in sports. She was a scrupulous scorekeeper for her son Will’s Cabot School sports teams, and later could be found in the stands for his Vermont Frost Heaves and the other teams he coached.

Both Ellen and Fran were deeply committed to Cabot School, which continued long after their children had graduated. Ellen and two other Cabot parents created the Cabot Enrichment Program, tapping community experts to offer a wide array of experiences from ice fishing to photography. In addition to their enduring involvement in the community, Ellen and Fran co-founded New England Culinary Institute with John Dranow and Louise Glück, which changed the food landscape throughout Vermont and beyond.

Ellen was the author of nine

poetry collections, including “Collected Poems” (W. W. Norton, 2023); “Headwaters” (W. W. Norton, 2013); “Messenger: New and Selected Poems, 1976–2006” (W. W. Norton, 2007), a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, “Kyrie” (W. W. Norton, 1995), a finalist for the National Book Critics’ Circle Award in 1995, “The Lotus Flowers” (W. W. Norton, 1987); and her debut, “Claiming Kin” (Wesleyan University Press, 1976).

Ellen also published two books on the craft of poetry, “The Flexible Lyric” (University of Georgia Press, 2011) and “The Art of Syntax: Rhythm of Thought, Rhythm of Song” (Graywolf Press, 2009). With Heather McHugh, she co-edited the anthology “Hammer and Blaze: A Gathering of Contemporary American Poets” (University of Georgia Press, 2002). With Gregory Orr, she co-edited the essay collection “Poets Teaching Poets: Self and the World” (University of Michigan Press, 1996), a volume to which she also contributed.

Ellen’s other honors include the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Folger Shakespeare Library’s O. B. Hardison Jr. Poetry Prize, and

fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, and the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund. In 2015, she received a MacArthur Fellowship.

Ellen had a stroke in 2018, following the death of Fran after a long illness. Through her incredible determination and strength, she defied and amazed the medical experts by making a remarkable recovery; embracing daily exercise and rehab, publishing her final volume, working on her audiobook, giving readings around the country, spending cherished time with family and friends, doing every crossword puzzle she could get her hands on, and watching a lot of basketball. She spent the last seven years living with her daughter Dudley and dividing their time between Cabot and St. Paul, Minn.

Ellen Bryant Voigt died on October 23, 2025, and was predeceased by her parents, Lloyd and Missouri Bryant, and her husband Fran. She is survived by her sister Joan Shelton, brother L.G. Bryant, daughter Dudley, her son Will (Sabrina), her three grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of her life is being planned for April.

# Town hall condition, quarry expansion, land use maps get attention

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – Concerns about the condition of the town hall, a zoning variance for expanded operations at the Swenson Granite Quarry and an update of regional land use maps for the Woodbury area occupied the select board at its November 10 meeting, along with the more usual items.

Local residents Mary Jo Llewellyn, an architectural historian, and contractor Rick Cannon were at the meeting to discuss the physical state of the Woodbury Town Hall and suggest efforts to secure funding for improvements to make the building usable year-round and preserve its structure.

The Woodbury Town Hall is listed on the Vermont Historical Register and is considered Vermont's oldest town hall still in use. In 2022, Jan Lewandoski, a specialist in historic buildings, inspected the hall and raised concerns about the integrity of the beam on the front wall, which is close to the granite steps and susceptible to rot. Lewandoski recommended installing flashing between the building's wood and the steps to prevent moisture damage. That work has not yet been done and Cannon echoed the recommendation, suggesting lower clapboards be removed and flashing installed down to the cement wall supporting the sill.

Cutting back the granite steps, a suggested solution, would be costly, he said.

Llewellyn observed evidence of powder post beetles in the wooden floor joists beneath the building. Flooding events have caused erosion under the building, leading to pooling water and creating an environment conducive to beetle infestation, she said.

Board member Chris Casey recommended gathering information and cost estimates for remedies. Llewellyn will research solutions for the beetle problem.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) was to hold a hearing, November 18, at 6 p.m., in the town hall for a non-conforming use requested by Swenson Granite Company.

Notice of the public hearing indicates Swenson has applied for an Act 250 permit amendment to expand the quarry site, including increasing the quarry area and grout storage. He is hoping to crush grout on site for up to 45 days each year and sell finished product to the construction industry, with up to 20,000 cubic yards of product per year. This may increase truck traffic on Cabot Road to a maximum of 50 loaded trucks per day (100 round trips).

The ZBA must determine whether the expansion will result in greater detriment to the community.

Brian Voigt, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) senior planner, told the board Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions are now required to update regional land use maps according to unified statewide standards set by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) to conform with Act 181 of 2024 and changes to Act 250.

CVRPC is currently updating its map, with a final draft expected in December, said Voigt. He noted changes in data and criteria for the map, clarifying that the regional land use map is aspirational, not a zoning bylaw; it will influence future permitting but is unlikely to differ significantly from the town's current map.

The updated map will be submitted to the state Land Use Review Board for compliance, he told the board.

Town Clerk Robin Durkee reported chimney patching at the town office has been completed.

Town Treasurer Lilly Baron told the board tax payments have totaled \$3,125,502.95. with delinquent taxes of \$243,322.31, which should decrease as mailed payments are processed. She said she expects the final delinquency amount to

be slightly above the usual historical range.

Baron asked the board to sign warrants this week for a \$2,368,422.16 payment to the school district, a \$605,562.09 transfer to the Highway Fund and \$90,000 to be placed in the Highway Equipment Replacement Fund, all of which will reduce the town's available funds.

She said Insurance costs, not halfway through the fiscal year, are already near budgeted amounts for FY26. Reasons for increased insurance costs include higher valuations for town-owned properties (including the school and library), claims to cover flood repairs at the town office and workers compensation, plus inflation. There is some uncertainty about whether coverage for the school building includes both the building and its contents, she added.

Regarding the highway budget, the maintenance line for the LoPro truck exceeded the budget due to maintenance identified during annual inspections and the expiration of the truck's warranty. Road Foreman Alfred Larabee and Baron recommend allocating more funds for older equipment in future budgets.

Lister Bonnie Collins reported the town-wide property reappraisal will not begin until 2028 due to a shortage of contractors. The reappraisal is required by the state so she prepared a draft FAQ for inclusion in the town report and general distribution.

Casey announced that Peter Dailey accepted the position of road foreman. There has been limited response to the search for a new road commissioner. Larrabee will continue in a part-time interim role to train Dailey for management duties. An advertisement for a third road crew member has been posted.

Alfred Larrabee reported the road crew has been unable to grade roads due to persistent rain, as grading during wet conditions would worsen road quality. At least two days of dry weather are necessary for proper grading.

## Programs

Continued From Page One  
ceremony will be held in May 2026.

The tiny college in the Northeast Kingdom has provided environmentally-focused education for more than 65 years, focusing its courses on advancing ecological stewardship. The school's enrollment was capped at 125 students, but for several years fewer than 100 students enrolled at the school.

"We understand that this news is difficult and deeply personal for every member of our community," the college's statement reads. "Sterling College has always been more than a place of learning; it has been a home where curiosity, creativity, and compassion thrived."

The college said it will ensure students enrolled at the college will have a path to completing their degree or to transfer to another college or university, according to their press release.

"Right now, we're totally focused on seeing students through

the spring and getting as many finished as we can by mid summer, maybe August," Scott Thomas, the college's president, said in an interview. "That's our singular focus."

The school in its statement said that partner institutions including Champlain College and Community College of Vermont have agreed to accept transfer credits and financial aid packages "without requiring the regular application process," pending approval of the New England Commission of Higher Education.

While the college is ending its degree programs in the spring, Hannah Rushing, the school's director of advancement, said the school will remain fully accredited through the summer in order to run summer internships.

Allison Hooper, the chair of the college's board of trustees and co-founder of Vermont Creamery, said in a press release that ending degree programs "provides the most responsible way to honor Sterling's commitments to its

students, faculty, and staff while preserving its values and legacy."

Thomas, the president, said the college's board of trustees will determine how to steward the college's remaining resources.

"How that manifests itself? I don't think now is the time to say," Thomas said, "but let's just say we've been a plucky little institution for more than 65 years."

"I don't know what's next, but there will be resources remaining," he went on. "We do have a very clear mission, and we do have a fantastic board, so we'll see what happens at that point."

He added that "the community is going to figure prominently in whatever evolves here."

Sterling College's announcement comes as similar challenges have weighed on Vermont's higher education institutions. A number of schools that have closed in recent years faced similar declines in enrollment, including Green Mountain College in Poultney, the College of St. Joseph in Rutland and Goddard College in Plainfield. The Vermont College of Fine Arts in

Montpelier did not close but ended all its on-campus programming.

Broader demographic challenges are playing a role in that, Thomas said. Small schools like Sterling College have meanwhile faced competition from larger public institutions, and from institutions with large online course offerings.

"The reality is that mission-driven education like Sterling and financial sustainability are often at odds," he said. "I see that at Sterling, and we've seen that across the other small colleges that have closed across the state."

Sterling College, in its statement, said its "spirit and legacy" would live on through "the hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff and partners who carry forward its mission and values in their work and communities."

"The legacy of Sterling's commitment to sustainability, community, and hands-on learning will continue to inspire generations to come," the statement reads.

## Legacy

Continued From Page One

enrollment due to shifting demographics for years, the issue came to a head when the number of students entering with this year's class didn't materialize as the college had hoped for.

At their October meeting, the board made the decision to take the necessary steps to ensure an orderly transition for students, faculty and staff.

With the decision now public, Scott, the board and staff are just beginning the difficult process of working with all involved, he said. The announced plans to continue degree programs through the spring semester and then through the summer, will allow students to complete as many of their degrees as possible he said.

Virtual meetings have been scheduled this week with students and parents on Tuesday and Thursday to begin discussions about the College's transition and help those families with their decision making for the future.

Sterling has been an important part of Craftsbury since its founding in 1958 as Sterling School, a boys' preparatory school and Vermont Domestic Nonprofit Corporation based in Craftsbury Common.

Since then the campus has evolved into a co-educational institution through programs like the Grassroots Project begun in 1974.

Walden's Annie Gaillard, was a member of that first class, a guinea pig, she said. She learned many useful skills there and it's what

helped her decide to remain in Vermont.

Gaillard's class just had its 50th reunion in July, where she connected with many of her former classmates and said she enjoys meeting those from other classes too. She said she has attended classes to teach students about her experience with co-ops and continues to support the college financially.

A two-year associate degree program was later added before the campus became an accredited four-year college in 1987 focusing on environmental liberal arts education. For roughly 50 of its 67 years, the campus has been known for its sustainability-focused curriculum and connection to the local environment.

The college's institutional profile on IPEDS, the Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System, shows 2023-24 enrollment at 103 students, with some part-time, resulting in a full-time equivalent of just 74 students on a campus with enrollment capped at 125, according to last week's VTDigger story.

Sterling's declining enrollment in recent years has followed a national trend, identified as "a 'demographic cliff' with big implications for the economy," said a January NPR report.

"This 'demographic cliff' has been predicted ever since Americans started having fewer babies at the advent of the Great Recession around the end of 2007, a falling birth rate that has not recovered since, except for a slight blip after the COVID-19 pandemic,



Sterling College has been teaching sustainable farming for over 40 years.  
photo by Beana Bern courtesy Sterling College

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Sterling's experience has mirrored the national trend, said Thomas.

In response, the college has evolved to offer a single environmental studies major to concentrate on its core mission, with 37 staff on campus in the fall of 2023.

Thomas said staff and time reductions are anticipated. Work on that with staff is just beginning and nothing has yet been finalized, he said.

Sterling's current facilities include its 138 acre Craftsbury campus, with 13 or so buildings (depending upon how one counts them) and Bear Swamp, a 306 acre boreal forest in nearby Wolcott used as a field classroom and managed for its forest products and ecological value.

Thomas said he "expects an intentional and orderly wind-down of current academic programs to preserve the best of what Sterling has represented for 67 years."

"The board is undertaking an inclusive process of taking stock of where Sterling is and what comes next," he added.

The college remains in good standing with the state, as it has since 1958. Gross receipts have fallen somewhat in recent years according to the school's IRS filings, which show \$9,079M in 2022, down from \$9,298M in 2021, and again down from \$9,817 in 2020.

Those three year's tax filings total to show a small net loss of \$24k, with revenue exceeding expenses by \$316k in 2022, an improvement over 2021, which showed a loss of \$570k after a slight \$230k net positive result in 2020.

Assets of \$6.034M were reported in 2022, growing from \$5,649M in 2021, but falling from \$6,430M in 2020.

Frequently-asked questions (FAQs) now appearing on the website suggest the administration was well-prepared to announce the change. Among those FAQs is the

announcement that "Sterling will be hosting a College Fair on campus in February to provide current students with a chance to learn more about other institutions and how they align with their academic needs. The tentative dates are February 19 and 20. More information will be provided, as we finalize the details," it reads.

Thomas specifically expressed interest in including the many Sterling alumnx in planning for the next iteration of the campus. There too, the website suggests inclusivity, indicating, "The legacy of Sterling College lives on through our alumni and supporters: each of you has played an essential role in shaping the spirit and story of Sterling. Your accomplishments, memories, and continued connection to the College embody the values that have defined our community for generations.

"We warmly invite alumni to share memories, stories, and photos that celebrate Sterling's enduring impact and honor the experiences that brought us together. Your reflections help keep the Sterling spirit alive and remind us of the strength and resilience of our community.

A special set of FAQs is available to students through their campus accounts

Comments on a Seven Days social media post with a story about the school's press release express a deep connection to the campus and, from alumnx, the education they received there. Representative of them is one from John Molina, who wrote, "Graduate of 79. Think we had 56 graduate. One of [the] best years of my entire life!! Had students from all over the country. Ended up being a hot shot forest fire fighter in the northern Rockies. Thank you Sterling."

What the future brings is up to the board, in consultation with the many people the college and campus has connections to, and remains to be determined, said Thomas.

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# Community efforts help renew memorial garden

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – Area residents may have taken note of construction recently happening around the memorial fountain.

Last week, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Saint John de Crevecoeur Chapter, worked to create a Never Forget Garden in the Memorial Park fountain.

The fountain posed a number of dilemmas, which Town Manager David Upson outlined. First, it cannot function in the winter time, requiring the water to be pumped and drained once a year. “It was leaking, because it’s just like epoxy or whatever,” he said, “so it was kind of hard to deal with. And then when we got it going, people would just vandalize it. Fill the park full of soap suds.”

A collaborative effort, Upson shared how the project began and why.

“Scott Merrill with the Freemasons reached out to me probably a year or so ago inquiring about the fountain. They had offered to fund the repair and to get the fountain back in order, and then at the same time, the DAR was like, we want to do a garden. They identified the park, and then they kind of said “well what’s going on with the fountain?” Upson said.

They began having conversations, with Upson bringing it up at regular select board meetings.

But first, they had to solve the question, flower bed or fountain?

“I guess originally that was built for a flower garden. Then the people that built it for the flowers came and went, got older, and then it wasn’t being taken care of, so they cleared it out and did a fountain.”

Upson says amid these conversations with community organizations, the Hill family had reached out. “That got me into the history of it.” The fountain, dedicated to William (Bill) Hill, serves as the focal point for even more local family history. Notably, to former town manager Dan Hill, Bill’s son. “I guess Dan’s mother is the one who was in the group that built the fountain,” said Upson.

The DAR has since paid for the fountain to be repointed. For those unfamiliar with masonry terms, to repoint means to reseal with concrete. Upson then revealed yet another local connection. “The person that re-pointed it was actually the son of the person who built it.”

Jeannine Young of the DAR provided more background. “Robbie Reil from Craftsbury was hired to do the masonry work. His father, Raymond Reil, and Steve Hill built the fountain. Raymond Reil also built the Hardwick Academy bell tower.”

As explained by the town manager, three entities are responsible for the Memorial Park; the town of Hardwick, the American Legion and Hardwick Rescue.



An example of the vandalism that’s befallen the fountain in the Hardwick Memorial Park from several years ago shows a mass of bubbles in and around the fountain, with three bottles of Mr. Clean left on the ground in the front right, the Memorial Building to the left and the Jeudevine Memorial Library to the right.  
photo by Paul Fixx

The DAR will be responsible for the maintenance of the flower bed. Young says the potting mix is still needed as the early snow has put a halt to further work for this fall. Planting won’t start until spring.

The project was the culmination of several local names and organizations collaborating. “Gravel Construction of Hardwick graciously donated the gravel base and sand layer, as well as the labor to prepare it for the potting mix. Kathryn’s Garden in Walden donated some garden fabric. Seth Robillard of 802 Logging in Craftsbury has pledged to donate the compost when we are ready for it. Rachel Kane of Summersweet Garden Nursery in

East Hardwick is also offering advice for the garden.”

Young also mentioned Dennis Pudvah of the Sons of the American Legion, raised the \$1,500 to do the masonry work and install the plaque with pledges from the Sons of the American Legion, Hardwick Legion Auxiliary and Hardwick Legion Post No. 7.

Legion Auxiliary and the Caspian Lake Lodge # 87 F & AM Masonic Order also gave the DAR Chapter donations toward the Never Forget Garden.

Upson agreed it’s been a collaborative process from start to finish, with the park at the center. “We all kind of understand that we’re all kind of included in any decisions in the park.”

## NEWS NOTES

### Residents positive about fall tourists impact

by **University of New Hampshire Survey Center**

DURHAM, N.H. – Nearly two-thirds of Northern New England residents (64%) say that out-of-state visitors in the Fall season have a very (29%) or somewhat (36%) positive impact in their local area. Only 10% say

that out-of-state Fall visitors have a very (4%) or somewhat (6%) negative impact, while 22% say their effects are mixed. Vermont residents (71%) are more likely than New Hampshire (62%) and Maine (62%) residents to say out-of-state Fall visitors have a positive impact.

These findings are based on

the latest surveys fielded under the States of Opinion Project, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Panel members in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine were sent an invitation to complete the survey and 3,034 completed the survey online. In addition, 487 residents of these states

completed the survey after receiving an invitation via text message. Overall, 3,521 residents of these states completed the survey online between October 16 and October 21.

For complete press release and detailed tabular results, visit [scholars.unh.edu/survey\\_center\\_polls/902/](http://scholars.unh.edu/survey_center_polls/902/)

### Little Free Pantry at Grange open, needs donations

by **East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization**

EASTHARDWICK—The Little Free Pantry, a project of Caledonia

Grange No. 9 at 88 E. Church Street in East Hardwick, is seeing increased use and can use help keeping it stocked with food items. All may make donations to the

pantry and all are welcome to take items from the pantry, open 24-7. Cereals, dried fruit, granola bars, noodle packets, rice packets, mac and cheese, dried soups of all kinds

and instant mash potatoes are popular items. With winter approaching, the pantry can’t handle anything in glass jars, cans or containing liquids.

### School St. bridge replacement continues

by **VTrans**

WOLCOTT – The School Street-Town Highway 3 bridge replacement work continues as crews install micropiles for the

abutment. 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 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 Rte. 15 near School Street/Town Highway 3. Flaggers will be present to assist motorists through the work zone during working hours.

# Walgreens to pay \$500,000 for overcharging at Vermont checkouts

by Alan J. Keays, VTDigger

VERMONT – Walgreens has agreed to pay \$500,000 to settle claims of overcharging at its stores in Vermont, including in one instance where an item rang at the register \$23 higher than its shelf price, the state attorney general’s office said Wednesday.

“Deceptive advertising harms consumers and the marketplace, and it will not be tolerated,”

Attorney General Charity Clark said in a statement announcing the agreement.

Walgreens, which operates nearly 8,000 stores in the U.S., did not “contest the facts” in the settlement and cooperated with the investigation, according to the agreement. The company did not return calls for comment.

The pricing discrepancies were discovered in a routine inspection by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets’ weights and measures program, according to the agreement. The inspections involved visits to the stores to make sure that shelf prices of items matched the prices at the registers, according to the attorney general’s statement.

Amelia Vath, a spokesperson for the attorney general, said the “pattern of pricing inaccuracies” uncovered during the routine checks at the stores in Vermont prompted the opening of a larger investigation to determine what was going on.

Between 2018 and 2024, the statement added, the state inspectors found 416 overcharge errors, with the overcharges ranging from 4 cents to \$23 per item, with a median overage of \$1.92.

The inspectors randomly selected products at the stores, from personal care and health items to groceries, according to Vath. In the case of the largest price

discrepancy, the skin care product No7 Booster Serum was listed on the shelf for \$10.99 but rang up at the register for \$34.39, Vath stated in an email.

The Walgreens stores included locations in Barre, Brattleboro, Bristol, Burlington, Colchester, Enosburg Falls, Essex Junction, Fair Haven, Hardwick, Manchester Center, Middlebury, Milton, Montpelier, Morrisville, Newport, Rutland, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. Albans, West Rutland, Williston, Wilmington and Winooski.

Vath said the parties reached a settlement before a lawsuit was filed.

Investigations leading to settlements with retailers related to overcharging claims are not “terribly uncommon” in Vermont, according to Vath. In one of Vermont’s largest such cases involving price discrepancies, the state settled with Dollar General in 2017 for \$1.7 million.

Under the terms of the Walgreens settlement, in addition to the \$500,000 payment, the retailer is required to submit third-party pricing audits from stores to the Attorney General’s Office for the next three years and correct any inaccuracies.

Walgreens “has explained that the acquisition of Vermont Rite Aid stores and the challenges in store operations and staffing associated with the COVID-19 pandemic were the primary catalysts for Walgreens’ heightened failure rate in the year 2022,” the document stated.

“Walgreens’ overcharge rates improved significantly in 2023 and 2024, decreasing each year,” the document added.

Of the \$500,000 that Walgreens has agreed to pay the state, the settlement calls for \$25,000 to go to the Community Health



The Walgreens store and pharmacy in Hardwick closed permanently on September 30, 2024. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Center of Burlington, which works to provide affordable health services to Vermonters.

The remainder of the settlement money will go to the state’s general fund.

## Walgreens to pay state again by Raymonda Parchment

HARDWICK – The area’s sole pharmacy, Walgreens, permanently closed in September 2024. Twice hit by the summer floods, the absence of this store location forced residents into longer drives or alternative solutions.

Most recently, the Walgreens corporation has agreed to pay \$500,000 to settle claims of overcharging at its stores in Vermont between 2018 and 2024, according to the state Attorney General’s Office.

Those stores include the one in Hardwick, though how many of the 416 overcharges were in the local store are unknown.

This is not the first time Walgreens has found itself in trouble with a Vermont state agency. In February of 2024, the corporation settled with the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) for \$275,000 over claims that the company’s policies caused unsafe conditions for patients and staff at pharmacies around the state between 2020 and 2022.

The original charging document, presented by the OPR in response to 70 complaints filed by Walgreens employees and customers, as well as employees from other Vermont pharmacies, outlined dozens of alleged cases of medication and vaccination errors, staffing violations and unexpected store closures that left patients unable to obtain medications.

The company operated over 25% of the state’s licensed retail pharmacies at the time of the complaint, according to statistics provided in the charging document.



Greensboro’s Ed Sunday Winters (center) joined the Migrant Justice Milk With Dignity picket at Hannaford’s in Morrisville Saturday, November 15. He said, “I went because I want Americans to have ice cream, milk and butter produced by people, many of whom do what they do so their families a long way away can have a [more comfortable] life.” photo by Ross Connelly



About 50 people gathered along the driveway to Hannaford in Morrisville Saturday for a Milk With Dignity picket urging the store to support its principles of humane working conditions. A speaker said the parent company in Holland has met with Milk with Dignity representatives and sent a team of investigators to Vermont to assess the working/living conditions of farm workers on farms that supply Hannaford’s with milk. The company claims the conditions are fine, said the speaker. photo by Terry Allen

# Gov. Phil Scott admonishes school redistricting task force

by Corey McDonald

MONTPELER – Vermont Gov. Phil Scott had some strong words for the school redistricting task force after the group endorsed a proposal to incentivize voluntary mergers of the state’s 119 school districts. The task force members, he told reporters, “didn’t fulfill their obligation.”

“They didn’t redraw the lines, and they were supposed to put forward three maps for consideration, and they failed,” Scott said.

Asked by a reporter where that leaves the state, Scott said that “it would appear that those who didn’t fulfill their obligation are okay with the ever-increasing property taxes, cost of education, and they don’t want to see change, or at least not immediately.”

“So, I think it puts us in a tough position, but I think the majority of people, I’ll include the speaker and the pro tem, understand we need change,” he said. “We need to do something. So, they’re going to have to act as soon as they get back in.”

Scott’s comments Monday underscore a growing sense of uncertainty around efforts to reform Vermont’s public education system.

Debate around public education reform will feature prominently in the next legislative session, set to begin in January. And while Act 73, the state’s sweeping education reform law, was signed in July, launching that reform will depend on the Legislature agreeing to a new district map.

But on Monday, the 11-member task force voted 8-3 to endorse a proposal that defied a core directive of Act 73: that the group put forward at least one and no more than three new maps by December 1 for the Vermont Legislature to consider in the upcoming session.

Task force members Jennifer Botzjorns, a retired superintendent for the Kingdom East School District; Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia; and Dave Wolk, who is Scott’s appointee, voted no on the proposal.

The nearly 170-page proposal the group endorsed lays out a 10-year plan. Districts would be incentivized to merge to access state construction aid and to coordinate on developing regional high schools, while utilizing regional boards of cooperative educational services, or BOCES, to share the cost of services.

The only map contained within the proposal shows how the five regional cooperative service agencies proposed in the plan would layer over the state’s existing 119 school districts and 52 supervisory

districts and supervisory unions.

Vermont Education Secretary Zoie Saunders said during the meeting Monday the proposal did not adhere to the intent of the law.

Sen. Martine Gulick, D-Chittenden Central, the co-chair of the task force, said in an interview that task force members did not “see evidence that there is cost savings and improvements to quality in merging districts.”

“As we peeled back the layers, as we dug deeper into the complexity of education in Vermont and the complexity of lowering costs and improving quality, we decided it would be irresponsible just to draw lines on a map,” Gulick said.

She continued that their proposal “could save money immediately” by allowing the state’s 119 school districts to share resources and create economies of scale through shared contracting.

“In three months to dig into this level of specificity, we did a great job given those parameters, and I’m really proud of the work that we did,” she said.

Senate Pro Tem Phil Baruth said in a text message that he was waiting for the task force to issue its final report before commenting.

Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski in an email said she was “focused on ensuring our kids have the best educational opportunities at a price Vermonters can afford.”

“That is my focus for the upcoming session, and it is the mission we have had since the beginning of our education transformation work,” she said. “We’ll continue to work with the education community, the Scott administration, and all Vermonters to consider the options before us and next steps to meet our education transformation goals.”

Another proposal considered by the task force, developed by Beck and Wolk, more closely adhered to those guidelines, and had Saunders’ apparent stamp of approval.

That proposal, now discontinued, at least as far as the task force is concerned, used career and technical education regions as an organizing principle to draw lines for 13 new school districts.

But the majority of task force members declined to support that proposal and raised concerns about the size of the map’s proposed district in Chittenden County. Nearly 22,000 students would be consolidated into a single district there under the plan.

Gulick in an interview said that map did not adhere to Act 73’s parameters that new districts



Gov. Phil Scott pauses before speaking after a meeting of the Emergency Board at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Thursday, Nov. 13.

photo by Glenn Russell, VTDigger

have anywhere from 4,000 to 8,000 students.

“It’s supposed to be logistically feasible and create the least amount of disruption,” she said. “I just don’t think that that map did those things.”

The task force will meet for the last time on Nov. 20, where it will refine and finalize its final

report due to the Legislature in December.

“I do hope the Legislature looks at what we’ve done. I hope they take our recommendations to heart,” Gulick said. “But there’s no guarantee that that will happen.”

VTDigger reporter Theo Wells-Spackman contributed reporting.

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# Hazen Union Dare to be Me class helps plant trees



Hazen Union School students (from left) Ginger Bowley and River Nelson join Vermont's Urban Forester Adam McCullough and Anja Pfeffer, Dare To Be Me class teacher; the Center for an Agricultural Economy's (CAE's) Reeve Basom, students Sophia Busano and Eliza Marshall to hear from the CAE's Daniel Keeney (not pictured) as they prepare to plant trees near Wright Farm Road behind the Hardwick Food Hub, November 10. photo by Paul Fixx



CAE Farm & Food Business Specialist Daniel Keeney (bending) shows (from left) Reeve Basom, Sol Lew, Jeremy Gonyaw, Ginger Bowley River Nelson how to plant trees, Monday, Nov. 10. The mix of 80 or 90 two year-old trees and shrubs planted that day included red osier dogwood, speckled alder, highbush cranberry, balsam poplar, shrub willow, boxelder and red oak. Planned tamarack plantings didn't survive to be planted. photo by Paul Fixx



Hazen Union School teacher's assistant Sol Lew (left) advises Dare to be Me class students (continuing from left) Ginger Bowley, River Nelson, teacher Anja Pfeffer (red jacket in back), Eliza Marshall and Sophia Busano as they plant wetland trees and shrubs along Wright Farm Road, November 10, photo by Paul Fixx



Members of the Hazen Union School Dare to be Me class helping to plant trees, November 10, in wetland along the Lamoille River near the start of Wright Farm Road are (from left) River Nelson, Eliza Marshall, teacher Anja Pfeffer (in back) and Sophia Busano. photo by Paul Fixx



Planting a small tree as part of a plan to reclaim wetland at the start of Wright Farm Road and along the Lamoille River, November 10, are Hazen Union School's (from left) River Nelson, teacher's assistant Sol Lew and Ginger Bowley photo by Anja Pfeffer



Hazen Union students (from left) Ginger Bowley and River Nelson plant Red osier dogwood bushes near Wolcott Street / Vt. Rte. 15 at the start of Wright Farm Road on November 10. Planting was planned by the Center for and Agricultural Economy's Daniel Keeney to help reclaim land disturbed during construction of the nearby Hardwick Food Hub building. photo by Paul Fixx

# EDITORIAL

## What is so important about a Vermont education?

I've been following the work of the School District Redistricting Commission, created by Act 73 of 2025; the many recent area school board forums about it; and the work of the state's Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont, created by Act H.887 of 2024. All of them are struggling with the work of reducing the cost of Vermont's educational system without taking away from the important value of student outcomes and maintaining local schools.

As I've thought about writing this commentary, nothing can better express my sentiments than the words of the almost 100 year old 1927 Inaugural Address by Governor John E. Weeks, which ends: "Money, spent in repairing the school houses and making them neat and the grounds attractive, will pay better dividends in education than money spent on transportation busses, and at the same time it will tend to keep up the population in the rural districts, which is of the utmost importance for the general welfare of Vermont."

It seems an important conclusion for which the full text leading to it follows.

"Vermont ranks high in intelligence and leadership among the states of the Union. To thoroughness in early school training we must attribute, in large measure, our enviable position. We have made progress educationally, and I believe that under the school system that has prevailed, excellent work has been done in furthering efficiency and standardization.

"To provide better rural schools, schools with better buildings, better equipment and better surroundings, and supplied with capable, trained teachers, is a task immediately confronting us. Influences which improve conditions of work in the rural schools, or which promote interest in those schools, have a beneficial effect upon the welfare of our communities.

"The Constitution of Vermont from the days of the independent State republic to now has contained the first principle of a sound educational policy: 'A competent number of schools ought to be maintained in each town for the convenient instruction of youth.'

"From that declaration of principle, adopted by the people before Vermont became a State, we cannot safely depart. The fathers emphasized both an adequate number of schools and their location convenient to the children. They knew Vermont, its narrow winding valleys compelling a scattered population, and its rugged climate. God gave us our mountains, and with them He gave us school problems which must be solved in our way with our own good sense.

"We have, I believe, drifted away from the Constitution in abandonment of school centers for the convenient instruction of youth. A community which has lost its school is likely to lose also its spirit and its pride. Abandoned school houses mean abandoned farms. It is yet to be proved that children who are forced to spend hours a day riding to a larger school receive a better education or turn to be stronger men and women than children who attend smaller schools near their own homes. It is not the size of the building or the number of grades that makes a good school, but the kind of teaching that is done in it. With a devoted teacher — and there are many such in Vermont — there is

no better place for a start in education than the neighborhood school fostered by the local community. School taxes are paid more willingly when the money is spent nearby and not to build up the institutions of a larger center. The loyalty of a neighborhood to its school, and pride in the attainment of the children, are more stimulative to excellence than the most skilled supervision can be. The financial assistance of the State should be brought as near as possible to the children, and that means higher wages to the teachers, especially in the more scattered districts where the burden is naturally heaviest.

"In educational matters especially we can well afford to respect the principle of local self-government. The people of Vermont can be trusted to provide for the education of their children. Let us foster the local school and help every school district where there is a sufficient number of pupils to keep its school and to make it a good school. Money, spent in repairing the school houses and making them neat and the grounds attractive, will pay better dividends in education than money spent on transportation busses, and at the same time it will tend to keep up the population in the rural districts, which is of the utmost importance for the general welfare of Vermont."

Vermonters working on the future of the state's public education system would do well to take Weeks' advice and likely have positive effects on other state issues, including the important one of attracting affordable housing to support businesses in rural towns.

**Paul Fixx, editor**



Rachel Funk (right), the Jeudevine Memorial Library Youth Librarian, assists Savannah Thompson as she mixes batter during a teen cookie baking and decorating program, November 12.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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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 5 p.m. Local news and sports items, letters to the editor and church submissions are due Monday by noon. Deadlines may be earlier for holidays. Obituaries may be submitted at any time. We make every attempt to confirm receipt of obituaries. Call to confirm receipt of any obituary submitted Tuesday if it is important it appears in that week's edition. Photos capturing news and community events are welcome with details with the full name of each identifiable person, what is happening, when and where the photo was taken and why it is newsworthy. When sending photos, send unedited files in the largest size available to ensure the best page and web presentation.

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## I travel in silence

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Another interesting weekend in Massachusetts. This time it included the wedding of the son of a pair of old friends of Bea’s in Cambridge. Accustomed as I am to the haute couture of Vermont, my Sunday-go-to-meetin’ duds are a pair of chino work pants that look pretty good, a turtleneck and blazer, and a pair of sensible shoes. So I had to raid the dusty side of my closet to dig out my black suit and dress shoes, which turned out to be dusty in not only the metaphorical sense. I picked out two red ties (Bea could choose the one I’d wear), dusted and stuffed everything into a suit bag, and I was ready, except for three and a half hours on the road toward Boston.

It’s an irony, in this age of instant and constant communication, that I travel in silence. I haven’t figured out yet how to turn on and tune my car radio, and the owner’s manual on the subject is well over 150 pages of dense, confusing instructions beyond my geriatric comprehension. So I just say to hell with it and meditate instead, as I thread my increasingly complicated way through the throngs of vehicles streaming into and out of the looming urban presence on the southern horizon.

Thus, when I arrive at Bea’s place on the shore, I’ve missed most of a complete news cycle and have no idea what’s been going on since I left Vermont. You have to admit that, when you turn on the news, you can’t help but wonder what he and his minions are up to now. It’s at least one new thing each day. The president is a master at commanding media attention. Once I’m at Bea’s, there’s no radio or television news, and each morning the Times and the Globe to skim before the business of the day begins. I return home in a couple of days with only a dim notion of what’s going on outside my hearing.

It’s pretty clear what those bozos are up to: they’ve been doing it since way before the second Trump campaign. They “flood the zone,” creating one distraction after another to give their presumed opponents no time to respond before another proposal, executive order or outrageous government decree hits the news.

Steve Bannon and Stephen Miller have, each in his turn, been the chief producers of the distractions. The current bully-boy detainment

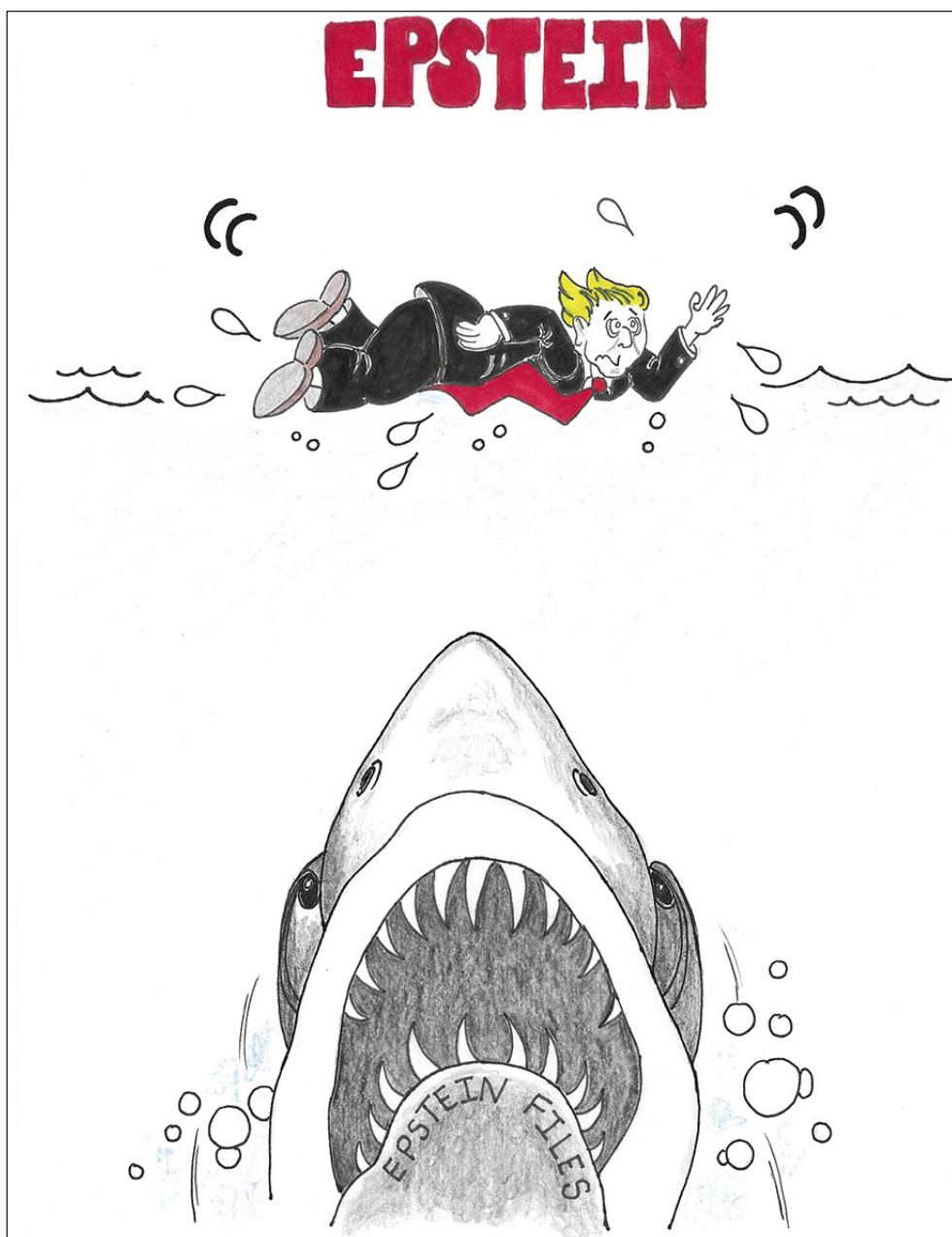
practices of the masked goons displaying ICE on their camouflage clothing are largely the result of Miller’s years-long obsession with immigration. Only now are citizens of targeted cities beginning to respond in anything like an organized fashion. The administration’s apparent hope is that the resistance will seem organized enough to warrant being given a name, which will “justify” an emergency decree and the use of military forces and techniques of suppression. And while we’re focused on curbing the outrageous behavior of the masked Icemen, something else is happening behind our backs.

This time, as I discovered when I got home Sunday evening (it was a fantastic wedding, by the way, with a reception, hors d’oeuvres and dinner at the Faculty Club at Harvard, which clearly has done that sort of thing before), I discovered that I was about to be two thousand dollars richer, thanks to the billions our country has been raking in through the president’s tariffs. But then I considered the source of the offer and read some of the fine print, which had to do with the limits of eligibility. I should have known: as Longstreet said of Meade after Day Three at Gettysburg, “He ain’t comin’.” But I’ll bet that particular zone flood caused some momentary glee in the single-wides of the deep red states, and diverted attention from the black vehicles cruising the poor neighborhoods for human prey.

The diversions come too thick and fast for my aged brain. I can’t get over the outrage from one before there’s another. I loved the short-lived merriment caused by the charge of assault against the protester who impulsively flung a wrapped sandwich at a flak-jacketed goon who said he felt it “explode” against his chest. But most of the news is much more somber. With regard to all the accusations coming from the administration, I keep firmly in mind my belief that accusation is confession. At the moment (I discovered after getting home to the TV news I watch while cooking and dining) the president has called attorney Jack Smith “a deranged criminal.” Jack is obviously not that, but the accusation speaks volumes of the accuser. If Smith testifies in public (not likely), it may become clear who the deranged criminal is.

Now I understand that the current government shutdown is about to end; may have ended by the time you read this. Everybody with a microphone has an opinion about the subject. I think I’ll just fill the tank with gas and take a long, quiet ride.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“WHEN THE PAST RESURFACES TO BITE YOU IN THE ASS.”

## MEETING MEMO

### 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.

### Monday, November 24

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

### Wednesday, November 26

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

### Town Clerks

Cabot: [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us)

Calais: [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)

Craftsbury: [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)

Greensboro: [greensborovt.gov](http://greensborovt.gov)

Hardwick: [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org)

Marshfield: [town.marshfield.vt.us](http://town.marshfield.vt.us)

Plainfield: [plainfieldvt.us](http://plainfieldvt.us)

Stannard: Stannard town clerk:

(802) 533-2577, open Wed.,

8-noon, [townofstannard@myfairpoint.net](mailto:townofstannard@myfairpoint.net)

Walden: [waldenvt.gov](http://waldenvt.gov)

Wolcott: [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)

Woodbury: [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org)

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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Vermonters deserve notice, fair voice in land-use decisions

by Vermont Rural Caucus

MONTPELIER – Vermont is undergoing the most significant land-use regulation update in over 50 years. As Tier 2 and Tier 3 mapping and rulemaking under Act 181 of 2024 move forward, decisions are being made right now that will affect how Vermonters access their homes, and live on, build on and use their land. These decisions will shape our communities and our landscape for generations.

Yet many Vermonters who will be directly affected do not know what this will mean for their property. The only parcels not facing increased Act 250 jurisdiction compliance and financial pressure are those that are able to meet the Tier 1 requirements. This means most Vermont homeowners, landowners and working land stewards will be touched by this process for designating automatic Act 250 jurisdiction.

We lead the rural caucus, a bipartisan coalition of legislators from different political parties and opposite corners of the state focused on policy impacts for Vermont's rural spaces. We did not all agree on Act 181. But we do agree on this: when the government changes rules that affect use, access and value of your property, Vermonters deserve direct notice and a real chance to participate in an informed way before those changes take effect.

Most Vermonters live outside designated growth centers that qualify as Tier 1. Rural Vermonters have long been stewards of our forests, farms and waters: work that has benefited the entire state.

They own family land and want the next generation to have the same opportunity. They are small business owners, farmers and tradespeople. Vermont's rural working lands communities already carry much of the responsibility for caring for our landscape. They deserve fairness and clarity as rules change.

We are introducing legislation to do four simple things:

**Direct notice:** Landowners mapped in Tier 2 and Tier 3 must receive mailed notice before Tier 3 rules are finalized. Vermonters should not find out after the fact that new regulations apply to their home or land.

**Meaningful participation:** People deserve a real opportunity to understand and comment before decisions affecting their property rights are finalized. Public trust depends on this.

**Continued progress on housing:** Housing exemptions in previously identified growth areas remain active while this rulemaking process is completed. Our small towns, villages and local employers cannot afford any more uncertainty around the availability of housing.

**Fair property valuation:** If new rules limit or change how land can reasonably be used, that reality must be considered in tax assessments. Not automatic tax cuts: just ensuring valuation is based on real development potential in light of these changes, beginning with the 2027 grand lists.

This bill does not undo Act 181 or weaken Act 250. It does not slow environmental progress or create loopholes. It makes sure Vermonters are notified and included before location-based rules take effect on their land

and roads.

This is not a pause. It is a fairness fix.

Most Vermonters live outside Tier 1 areas and already do the work of caring for our forests, farms and working lands. They deserve notice and a voice before rules change under their feet.

If you agree, please contact your legislators and ask them to support what we are calling the Rural Notice and Fair Imple-

mentation Act.

Environmental stewardship and respect for Vermonters must go hand in hand.

*This commentary is by members of the Vermont Rural Caucus, Rep. Laura Sibilio, I-Dover; Rep. Lisa Hango, R-Berkshire; Rep. Monique Priestley, D-Bradford; and Rep. Lucy Boyden, D-Cambridge, and first ran in VT Digger on November 14.*

## A lot has happened since we last connected

by Rep. Leanne Harple

GLOVER – I hope you've had a restful summer and a cozy colorful autumn. It's been a little while since I've written, but with the new legislative biennium approaching, I'll be in touch more often. A lot has happened since we've last connected.

As many of you know, Orleans District 4 will soon have a new senator. I won't revisit all the details surrounding Sam Douglass' resignation, but I supported his decision to step down. The Orleans County Republican Committee will now submit three names to Governor Scott for his replacement. I don't yet know whom Governor Scott will appoint, but I look forward to working closely and collaboratively with our new senator once that decision is made.

I continue to follow the work of the Redistricting Task Force as we begin navigating the post-Act 73 landscape. In case you missed the update, the task force recently voted against the governor's proposal for forced consolidation of small schools. Instead, they're recommending a voluntary approach in which existing district and supervisory unions can partner, through Boards of Cooperative Education (BOCEs), to reduce costs while keeping local voices at the table. The approach could still lead to voluntary mergers, which will be supported by additional funding, but it centers around community engagement and acknowledges an important truth, which is that the data simply doesn't show that forced mergers would fix the cost pressures that are actually driving our education crisis. The work is complex, and I encourage you to learn more and share your thoughts at a special community meeting hosted by Sterling College and

Northeast Kingdom Organizing this Friday, Nov. 21, at Sterling College. Dinner begins at 4 p.m., in Dunbar Dining Hall, and the meeting starts at 6 p.m. Several task force members will be there to hear directly from you and I hope you can attend.

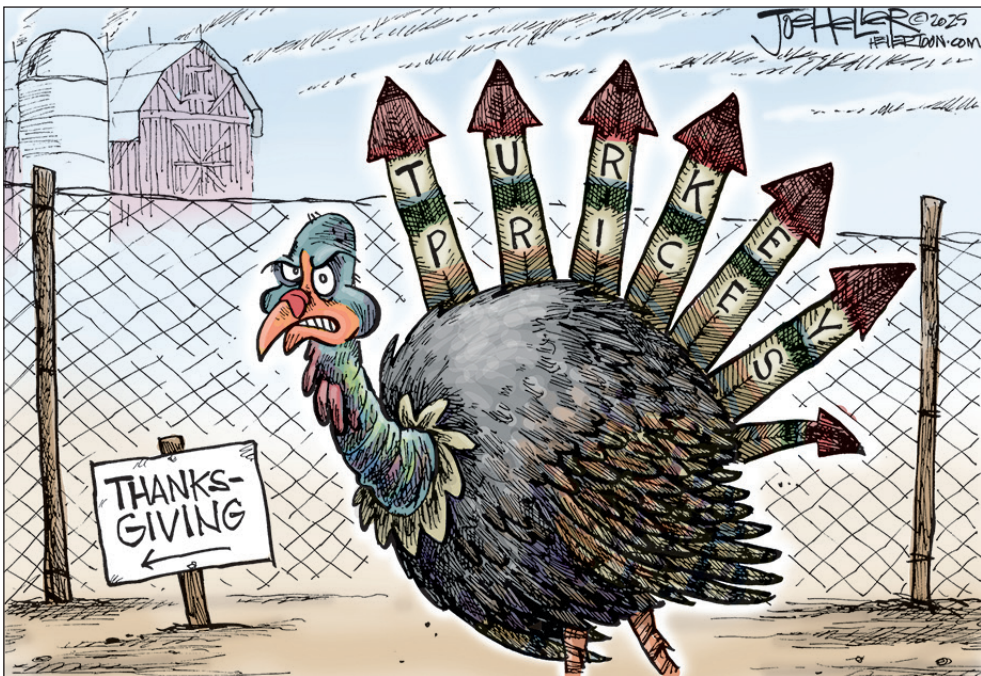
Speaking of Sterling College, you have probably heard that, sadly, the college will close at the end of this academic year. Like many in our community, I felt a deep heaviness when I was told this news. A college that small, that mission-driven and that deeply rooted in environmental stewardship is rare. Sterling has been such a vital part of the Craftsbury community. It wasn't just a school, it brought students who lived, worked, volunteered and became part of the daily rhythm of the town. At a time when we are already feeling uncertainty around institutions like Craftsbury Academy, this loss cuts even deeper. In the months ahead there will be many conversations about the future of the Sterling campus, and I hope our community will play a strong role in shaping what comes next. This moment underscores how fragile our rural institutions are, and how important is it that we protect those that we still have while thoughtfully stewarding those we are at risk of losing.

Before the legislative session begins in January, I'll be hosting two more coffee hours at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro, November 29 and December 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. I hope you'll stop by to share what matters most to you and ask any questions about ongoing legislative work.

It remains an honor to serve you.

*Leanne Harple represents Orleans-4, the towns of Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro.*

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



# WEEKS GONE BY

## 65 Years ago in the Hardwick Gazette Thursday, Nov. 17, 1960

### GREENSBORO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN QUIZ

Two Greensboro Junior High students, Mary Lee Merrill and Louise Tanguay, won the Current Events Quiz on WCAX-TV in Burlington last Friday night. The winners defeated students from Essex Junction and Turnbridge. Their victory gave them the opportunity to return to the same show this Friday when they will challenge students from Randolph and Richmond.

Leo LeCours, social studies teacher at Greensboro prepared the students for the quiz and drove them to Burlington last Friday.

Louise and Mary were chosen to represent their school after having won a general assembly quiz at Greensboro High School.

### 65 Years Ago - Worker on new school injured

#### WORKER ON NEW SCHOOL INJURED IN FALL

Henry Hardy, 63, of Randolph suffered dislocations of the right hip and left finger when a broken staging dropped him 15 feet last Thursday afternoon at about 3:30.

Several cement blocks toppled on Hardy as he landed.

An employee of the Hali Construction Co., Hardy was working on the new elementary school and gym. Holcomb's ambulance was called and the injured man was taken to the Hardwick Hospital for treatment and Monday was transferred to the Randolph Hospital.

### 100 Years ago in the Hardwick Gazette Thursday, Nov. 19, 1925

#### Fortnightly Club Notes

"One of the best programs the Fort-nightly Club has ever given us," seemed to be the verdict of those present at the fourth regular meeting at the Pythian hall last Monday evening, under the direction of Mrs. Nettie Taylor, chairman of the American Citizenship Department.

Nearly eighty people were present to listen to Miss Mary Jean

Simpson's most enjoyable talk, "The Melting Pot."

According to Miss Simpson's views, America, and especially New England, has not been entirely successful as a melting pot - the entering foreigner, after several years residence, has not become a thoroughly Americanized citizen, but is still a foreigner.

This is not a wise or safe state of affairs for our good old U.S.A. and we should not delay in applying some remedy.

Not much can be done for the adults but our hope lies in the children in our rural schools. We should see to it that the work being done in our schools is such that it will produce true American citizens.

Miss Simpson made her topic so interesting and her appearance and delivery were so charming that not a head nodded, although she spoke for an hour. What greater compliment can a speaker desire?

A vocal solo by Mrs. Leota Hoyt and a piano duet by Mrs. Gertrude Battles and Mrs. Ethel Hall were much enjoyed, also the light refreshments served by the social committee.

Mrs. Nettie Taylor and Mrs. Lulu Kimball were hostesses for the evening.

### 100 Years ago in the Hardwick Gazette Thursday, Nov. 19, 1925

Fifty Orleans county overseers and selectmen, at a meeting held last week, seemed to favor a county farm plan of caring for their poor, and it is probable the plan will be carried out. According to figures given, ten per cent of the grand list of the towns of the county will pay for expenses and something on the debt.

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Reforestation is growing in Vermont and the movement is not only being taken up by individuals but towns and villages are becoming more and more interested. A number of places doing this work have mapped out programs extending over a period of years with the idea of having forests of considerable extent in

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Vermont State Library

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the end. No legacy willed to the next generation in these communities will be of greater value, and in the case of individuals if begun in time will provide a reliable old age insurance. Sometimes we have hoped that something along this line be done by the village or town of Hardwick and the available territory nearby and within sight of us be planted systemically with quick-growing trees. In time such an undertaking would be incalculable benefit.

### 100 years ago in the Hardwick Gazette Thursday, Nov. 19, 1925

A very interesting and well attended meeting was held in the Scout hall last Thursday evening. The meeting was called at 6:45, on account of giving those who desired a chance, to attend the entertainment at the Idle Hour Theater by the Royal Holland Bell Ringers.

After the roll-call and several other items of business were transacted, two new members were received into Troop No.2, Guy Fabrizio and George Reil, making at the present time fifty-one active Boy Scouts. The Scout Master took

up some little time in a talk that could not help but make the boys realize how necessary it is for them to attend regularly and as to their conduct, wherever they happen to be, and cited instances to bear out his statements.

Andrew Somes Jr., was elected librarian for the ensuing or balance of the Scout year.

It was decided to hold a big social on Wednesday evening, November 25th. At this social, girls will be invited to bring a box lunch for two, and the girls will be sold instead of the boxes. Following the sale of the young ladies, a big four college indoor track meet will be staged. This will be something extraordinary and will consist of hazing the freshmen, aquatic events, one-yard dash, shot-put, discus throw, standing broad grin, continuous glum and a relay race. The four colleges to be represented are Doolittle Institute, Dunmore College, Wisefoax University and Hardnox University. Other interesting details of this great indoor track meet will be given on the night of the social. No girl to be sold for more than 50c, and no bid less than 10c. Spectators, 10c.



# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Holiday boycott targets three companies

To the editor:

Kicking off the holiday shopping season, from November 27 to December 1, there is a nation-wide call to boycott three major corporations, demonstrating the power of everyday citizens to vote with their dollars to protest the Trump regime.

These companies are Target, which caved to Trump over their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion company principles; Home Depot, which has colluded with ICE agents to allow them to arrest, detain and deport people with brown skin without due process; and Amazon, which funded Trump's election campaign in exchange for massive corporate tax breaks.

While leaders from more than 190 nations around the world are meeting this month in Belem, Brazil for the COP 30 Climate Summit, the U.S., the largest global polluter, is conspicuously and outrageously absent. [Ed. Note: The term "global polluter" can be interpreted in many ways. While the U.S. is a significant global polluter, it is second to China in current global emissions of greenhouse gasses, the primary source of pollution the COP 30 gathering exists to regulate.]

I have been boycotting one particular company for decades and encourage others to join me. ExxonMobil has fueled our

present climate crisis for decades though its disinformation campaigns.

Beginning in the 1970s, they suppressed the results of their own internal and university studies that projected an increase of CO2 greenhouse gases due to burning fossil fuels. They poured billions of dollars into institutions and influential media outlets and wrote weekly op-eds lying that the science of climate change was unsettled. And of course, they successfully lobbied Congress to prevent effective climate protection legislation which would be detrimental to their profits.

So, if you have experienced any number of climate-related catastrophes in recent years, multiple 100-year floods, devastating droughts, record-breaking heatwaves, wildfires, etc., think about how companies like Exxon-Mobil wasted decades in which we could've changed course for the health of our planet and its inhabitants.

We all need gas to drive our vehicles. It's a small act, but when I am low on gas and have multiple stations to choose from, I always drive right by Exxon-Mobil. I encourage you to do the same. Together we can hold them accountable for all the damage they have done.

Fletcher Dean  
E. Calais

## Act 181 imposes needless rural development restrictions

To the editor:

The public may have heard about Act 181's reduction of Act 250 review in developed areas. Few have heard of new, major, Act 250 review intrusion in rural areas that does not involve the large developments Act 250 was designed to address. Construction of a single-family home may trigger Act 250 review and the need to address its 32 criteria and sub criteria. Here I explain these features and suggest legislative fixes while still addressing the goals of the Act.

Act 181, whose rules are in the process of being generated, designates Tier 2 and Tier 3 lands.

Tier 2 lands, whose provisions take effect this June, encompasses all of Vermont outside of developed areas. An Act 250 permit will need to be obtained for construction of a road greater than 800 feet in length, or combined roads and driveways greater than 2,000 feet, with some exceptions.

Tier 3 was created to address lands with critical environmental elements worthy of special protection. The largest elements are areas designated as "habitat connectors." The current Tier 3 draft map (available at [act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report](http://act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report)) would apply 2,000-foot buffers on both sides of the road for those areas. These encompass 387,000 acres where Act 250 permits would now be

required for construction of a single-family home or other development.

The need for these connectors is questionable considering that Vermont wildlife did fine without needing massive, protected corridors. This certainly does not meet the statutory intent of addressing "critical" needs. Tier 3 rules take effect in December 2026. There is time to provide input to the rule making process.

How should this be fixed legislatively?

Three things: first, Act 250 is the wrong means of addressing legitimate issues. A simplified Act 181 permit should be used that would address the few areas of concern without burdening applicants with the many unnecessary Act 250 criteria.

Secondly, eliminate the "habitat connector" criteria. If there are key areas where migration of species is, or could be a problem, rights to those areas should be acquired from willing landowners and not blanket regulation of hundreds of thousands of acres of land.

Third, eliminate the Tier 2 road rule. If and how to regulate this aspect of development is a matter for local planning and zoning to decide.

These can and should be fixed to avoid imposing an unfair burden on our rural communities.

Norm Etkind  
Woodbury

# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## The full meaning of "bless you"

by Kenzan Seidenberg

WOLCOTT – Many of us say "bless you," when someone sneezes, whether we know them or not. Although perhaps primarily a cultural habit, it can also be a warm wish for the person's good health (and by fearing contagion, our own). A blessing extended between strangers and family members alike. Many of us occasionally say, "Have a good day!" Again a cultural habit, but again a blessing extended to another: "may you have a good day;" a form of warm wishes, a form of "may your day be blessed."

We have an opportunity in every interaction to give a blessing. We do not need to say "bless you" to do so. When we give someone our full attention, that is implicitly what we are doing. When we give someone our full attention we are giving them our most valuable possessions: our energy and our time. We are blessing them and by

extension it reverberates back to us and we receive a blessing.

In one of the Buddhist teachings, there is a monk named "Never Disparaging" (or sometimes translated "Never Disrespectful") who would always bow to everyone he met and encourage them, seeing only their full potential.

How would it be to be that kind of energy moving in the world? Never disparaging. Never disrespectful. How would we be transformed by that? How would the world be transformed by that?

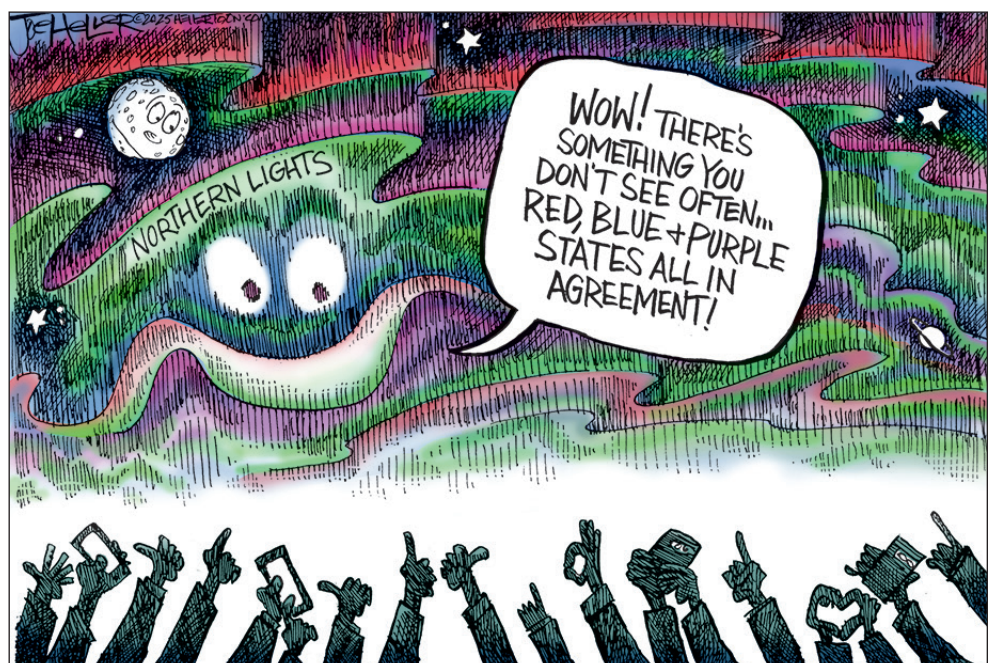
And even knowing that I am probably not capable of being like that much of the time, maybe today, for a couple minutes, I can give the gift of my full attention and by doing so wordlessly say "bless you."

Rev. Kenzan Seidenberg is Abbot-in-residence, Shao Shan Temple, Woodbury, within the Japanese school of Soto Zen Buddhism.

## For the record:

A page eight photo last week omitted the full name of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The photographer said, "Hardwick American Legion Post 7, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 7 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 7 donated to have the stones on the base replaced and regouted." The work has been "spearheaded by Dennis Pudvah, Treasurer of the Sons of the American Legion; Opie Upson, Hardwick Town Manager; and Jeannine Young of DAR," she added..

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



## IN THE GARDEN

### Cranberries are more than a side dish

by Deborah J. Benoit

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Thanksgiving is just around the corner, with cranberry sauce playing a supporting role in traditional holiday feasts.

Native to the northern United States and Canada, cranberries grow in rich, moist soil in boggy areas near rivers and lakes. The most familiar cranberry is the American cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), sometimes referred to as large cranberry or bear berry. Its fruit ranges from one-half to one inch in diameter. Another native species is the small cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*), also known as swamp cranberry or bog cranberry. Though similar in appearance, its leaves are smaller and its fruit about half the size of the American cranberry. Both are low-growing, broadleaf evergreen shrubs. They're hardy in United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 3 to 7.

The most common type grown commercially is the American cranberry in packages of fresh cranberries in markets this time of year. It's the one used to make cranberry sauce, juice, and dried cranberries.

The American cranberry grows only four to six inches high and about one to three feet

wide. Cranberry plants spread by creeping rhizomes that root and form new plants. Cranberries don't do well in drought conditions or in excessive heat. Their roots prefer to remain cool and moist. They can be difficult to transplant. Cranberry flowers contain both male and female parts, making them self-pollinating. If growing cranberries, they can work well as a ground cover or an edging plant. Their evergreen foliage makes an attractive addition to the garden throughout the year. Plant in acidic soil that's consistently moist but well-draining. They'll grow in partial sun but do best in full sun. Space plants about two feet apart.

Cranberries can be propagated by taking stem cuttings and rooting them or try growing them from the seeds inside fresh cranberries. The seeds will need to be subjected to cold before germination. Place seeds in a damp, folded paper towel and store in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for a few months. Plant the stratified seeds in an acidic potting soil. Keep the soil moist. Watch for germination in about three weeks, though it could take longer.

When in bloom, cranberries will attract pollinators to a garden. Birds and local wildlife will also find cranberries attractive and eat. Spring brings whitish-pinkish



Fresh cranberries are harvested in the garden by hand or commercially in large bogs.  
photo by Debra Heleba

flowers from May into July. The pink to red berries are ready for harvest between August and November.

Native Americans have harvested cranberries for food, medicine and dye for thousands of years. Early European settlers adopted these uses and, by 1672, English writer John Josselyn recorded that cranberries were being boiled with sugar and served with meat, a precursor to the sauces we enjoy today. Cranberries were first commercially grown in 1816 in Massachusetts.

Home growers can easily hand pick cranberries. Commercial growers generally design cranberry bogs (typically a sunken field with

a water source) to make harvesting more efficient. Because the berries contain air pockets, they'll float when the cranberry bog is flooded at harvest time. They'll also bounce if you drop a fresh cranberry onto the table.

The next time you are opening a can of cranberry sauce, or adding some dried cranberries to homemade oatmeal cookies, think about the tiny shrub that grew them.

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.



Hardwick American Legion Unit 7 Auxiliary members Ishanna Smith (left) and her daughter Shannara Smith (center) present Hardwick Kiwanis President Audrey Grant (right) with a \$500 check for the Hardwick Kiwanis Turkey Drive, November 15 at the Buffalo Mountain Market. The Hardwick Kiwanis Club, in partnership with Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union and Buffalo Mountain Market, have raised \$2,923 of their \$4,000 goal, to contribute 100 turkeys to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and 75 to the Woodbury Food Shelf, with all of the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. Donations will be accepted until November 30.  
photo by Vanessa Fournier

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or help at  
[hardwickgazette.org/donate](http://hardwickgazette.org/donate)

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Porcupettes No More

by Catherine Wessel

BURLINGTON – Last week, during a walk in the woods, I turned towards soft sounds in the understorey and saw a small porcupine waddling through fallen oak and maple leaves. Porcupines have terrible eyesight and can't see more than several feet in front of them, so I was able to quietly watch this one for a few moments. As the porcupine continued meandering along, it caught my scent and suddenly stilled before lifting up its forelegs and rising onto its haunches, nose in the air. It was hardly an intimidating gesture, but I got the message and didn't want to startle it further, so I moved down the path and let it continue moseying in peace.

Young porcupines are dispersing from their mothers this time of year, and with that, leaving behind the cutest name for a baby animal, porcupette, as they strike out on their own. Porcupettes are born in May or June, after a seven-month gestation period. The dedicated mom-of-one (or, rarely, two) spends the next few months nursing. In July I was delighted to find a mother porcupine and her porcupette munching on clovers in my backyard. I like to think the one I spotted the other day is the same young porcupine, now venturing out on its own.

Winter comes with a number of challenges for porcupines, and the young ones must learn to navigate these on their own. This time of year, securing food and shelter are

top priorities. Porcupines find pre-made dens in tree cavities and rock outcroppings to spend the winter, only traveling short distances to eat from nearby trees. In a 2011 study, the porcupine biologist Uldis Roze found that during years of average snowfall, winter ranges for porcupines were about 11 percent the size of summer ranges; in years with little to no snow, ranges remained larger throughout the season.

Porcupines' short legs make moving through snow slow-going, but their quills, modified hairs made of keratin, protect them despite the animals' leisurely pace. Although a quick web search will suggest an individual porcupine has around 30,000 quills, in a 2017 paper delightfully titled "Getting to the Point: How Many Quills Does a North American Porcupine Have?" researcher John Shokeir discovered that one porcupine had 44,006 quills. Quills harden within an hour of birth and deter all but the wildest predators. Fishers, which regularly predate porcupines, attack the prickly animals' faces first, disorienting a porcupine enough to flip it over and get at its unprotected underside. American martens use the sneak-attack approach of tunneling under snow to get to the same vulnerable underbelly area on young porcupines.

Porcupines seek safety and food in trees. White pine and eastern hemlock are their preferred food species, and these trees' rough-textured bark makes for easier climbing compared to the smooth trunks of beech



Porcupette

and birch. Although porcupines feast on leaves, flowers, and fruits in summer, their diet shrinks to twigs, needles, and the cambium, or inner bark of conifers and a few hardwood species, in winter.

Porcupines have a large cecum, a digestive sac in their intestines, which allows them to ferment cellulose and extract nutrients from this harsh diet. It's no walk in the park or field of clover. In one study, Roze found that his research subjects lost an average of 17 percent of their body weight over the winter. Porcupines' winter forage is generally high in potassium but low in sodium, so they need to seek out salt to maintain the right internal balance of these minerals, a drive that brings them out of the relative safety of their home ranges, and sometimes into residential areas to lick road salt from tires,

tools and even buildings.

If you see a small porcupine in the coming weeks, know that it might be gearing up for its first winter. This time of year, porcupines are likely to be gorging on late season forage such as apples and acorns to pack on the pounds, or sniffing around den sites. While we get to spend the harshest days of winter cozied up by the fire with bowls of soup, young porcupines have no such luxury: they'll be hunkered down in their dens, gnawing away on bark until spring comes. After the snow melts, I hope to see the porcupine I came across again and offer it silent congratulations for making it through the toughest season.

*Catherine Wessel is the assistant editor at Northern Woodlands who lives in Burlington. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.*

## Twinkletaters by Diana Clarke



At the Fill A Van event in front of the Craftsbury Town Hall, November 15, volunteers (from left) Barb Mutrux, Barb Strong of Craftsbury, Christina Billings of Hardwick and nine others sort out donations in the United Church of Craftsbury dining hall. Eight hundred twenty pounds of food, other products and \$1,000 cash were donated over the past week for the Craftsbury Food Share, one of three satellite sites of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## New Vermont bee checklist, conservation rankings published

by Vermont Center for Ecostudies

VERMONT – A decade-long study published in the journal *Northeastern Naturalist* this month found that 352 wild bee species call Vermont home, with 60% of those species likely in need of conservation action.

The study, led by researchers from Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), in collaboration with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department (VFWD), and experts from across the continent, provides the first comprehensive faunal list and conservation assessment of Vermont's wild bees.

"Thanks to the efforts of thousands of Vermonters, we've learned an incredible amount about the status of wild bees in Vermont," said Kent McFarland, a co-author and director of VCE's Vermont Atlas of Life. "But it will take



A mason bee in a jar.

photo by Lisa Cass on iNaturalist

strong collaborations between biologists, public agencies, conservation organizations, land owners, land managers, and even beekeepers for us to conserve Vermont's diverse wild bee fauna effectively now and for future generations."

The last checklist of bee species found in Vermont was published more than 60 years ago in 1962, and included only 98 species of bees, with little to no information on their abundance or geographic distribution.

"This lack of information on a crucial and beloved group of pollinators has hampered efforts to protect and conserve wild bees, which are important parts of Vermont's natural ecosystems and agriculture," said lead author Spencer Hardy, a bee expert at VCE. "Much has been uncovered about the challenges facing the non-native Western Honey Bee, Wild bees face many of the same problems, and likely others that aren't as well understood."

Acquiring the bee records for this study was no small feat. For over a decade, the authors and a corps of over 2,500 volunteer community scientists searched across the entire state. Additionally, the scientists combed through historical museum and private collections containing thousands of specimens, carefully verifying the identification and digitizing each specimen. Altogether, they amassed a database exceeding 79,000 individual encounters with wild bees from all of Vermont's counties and biophysical regions, shared as open access data at VCE's Vermont Atlas of Life and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

"We recruited and trained community science volunteers to find, photograph, and share wild bee encounters to our iNaturalist Vermont

project," said Hardy. "Which now make up the majority of scientific records of wild bees in Vermont, and it keeps growing."

Some observations uploaded by community scientists to iNaturalist.org were remarkable, including a male Ground Cherry Sweat Bee (*Lasioglossum pectinatum*), and the first state record of Mock-orange Scissor Bee (*Chelostoma philadelphia*),

The study discovered nine species previously unreported in New England, several species not regularly found elsewhere in New England, and as many as 24 novel host-parasite bee relationships. Vermont now has the largest list of known bee fauna of the northern New England states, not far behind recent studies in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

While most Vermont species present in 20th-century collections are still found in Vermont today, their mere presence doesn't indicate a stable wild bee population. Historical sampling was inadequate for documenting rare species that may have once occurred within the state. Conservation rankings from this study indicate that as many as 60% of the bee species in the state are vulnerable, while 37% are critically imperiled or imperiled.

For example, consider charismatic bumble bees. Comparing the 10,000-plus records from the Vermont Bumble Bee Atlas led by Vermont Center for Ecostudies between 2012 and 2014 to historic specimens from public and private collections revealed large changes in species diversity, richness, and abundance. Most noteworthy is the drastic decline of the once common Rusty-patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), which is now state and federally endangered and has not been reported from Vermont since 1999.

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VCE biologists and study co-authors Kent McFarland (left) and Spencer Hardy (right)

photo by Alden Wicker

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Community members go hunting for native bumble bees near VCE's office in the spring with VCE biologist Jason Hill. photo by Alden Wicker

collections revealed large changes in species diversity, richness, and abundance. Most noteworthy is the drastic decline of the once common Rusty-patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), which is now state and federally endangered and has not been reported from Vermont since 1999.

"The vital functions that bees and other pollinators perform across Vermont's landscape are becoming well recognized by the public," said VFWD biologist Mark Ferguson. "This study identified our most vulnerable bee species and should encourage the development of management strategies to ensure populations remain robust and viable."



A male Ground Cherry Sweat Bee (*Lasioglossum pectinatum*) photo by Lisa Cass on iNaturalist

Volunteer community scientists, naturalists, gardeners, farmers, or anyone with a fascination with bees are encouraged to continue to contribute to this scientific effort. Though bees are more difficult to identify than other wildlife such as birds, about 60% of Vermont bee species are identifiable from clear photographs of live bees, and this number may grow as additional field-based traits are discovered and tested. These records can help track the spread of exotic bee species, and help biologists learn more about habitats and locations as well as the phenology (or seasonal patterns, such as spring emergence) of wild bees. For gardeners who wish to support native Vermont bees, the study includes a detailed supplement that lists the plant species each species was observed visiting.

The study by Spencer P. Hardy, Michael Veit, Joan Milam, John S. Ascher, Nathaniel Sharp, Michael T. Hallworth, Mark Ferguson, Leif Richardson, Charlie Nicholson, Taylor H. Ricketts, Jason Gibbs, and Kent P. McFarland (2025). An Annotated Checklist of the Bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) of Vermont with Conservation Status and Natural History Notes. *Northeastern Naturalist* 32(Monograph 27): 1-73.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Copley's 2nd annual craft fair

MORRISVILLE – Homemade crafts such as jewelry, artwork, pottery and more will be available at Copley Hospital's holiday craft fair, Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Crafters looking to participate can contact Jerica at (802) 521-5275. Entry form and payment are due by November 28.

## Financial literacy "AMA" hour

CRAFTSBURY – Dick Miller will host a financial literacy "Ask Me Anything" (AMA) hour Thursday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m., at the Craftsbury Public Library. Miller, a Craftsbury community member and experienced financial advisor, will hold a one-hour open Q&A session focused on everyday financial topics.

The event encourages members of the community to bring their real-life questions, whether about budgeting, debt management, or long-term planning. The goal is to create a welcoming, judgment-free space for individuals and families to build confidence in their financial knowledge and decision-making.

## Pies for people community dinner, Nov. 21

by Sterling College Staff

CRAFTSBURY – In partnership with the Hardwick Area

Food Pantry, Sterling College announces "Pies for People" community dinner, Friday, Nov. 21 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## Film screening, Nov. 21

MARSHFIELD – The Jaquith Public Library a free public event on trauma, post-traumatic growth, and resilience Friday, 6:30 p.m.. Join The Vermont Kindness Project to learn about the science of resil-

ience through the film "The Faces of Aces (Adverse Childhood Experiences)", followed by discussion and demonstration of some techniques that regulate stress. All are welcome.

## Redistricting conversation, Nov. 21

by Sterling College Staff

CRAFTSBURY – The state committee of education will host a public commentary meeting on the campus of Sterling College, Friday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m., after the monthly

community dinner. The committee is planning to host three or four public engagement meetings across Vermont to receive public comments on their proposals of alternative maps for the new statewide school districts.

## Craft show and bake sale, Nov. 29

WOODBURY – A craft show and bake sale will take place, Saturday, Nov. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Calais Woodbury

United Church located in South Woodbury. There will be lunch available for dining in or take out.

## Blood donation scheduled for Dec. 5

CABOT – Donations of blood and platelets is scheduled for December 5, noon to 4:30 p.m., at Neighbors in Action. Donors of all blood types, especially those with types O negative, O positive and B negative blood and those giving platelets, may make an appointment to donate.

platelets are available at RedCross-Blood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor app, or calling (800) RED CROSS.

All who come to give blood will receive a pair of Red Cross x PAC-MAN socks, while supplies last.

Neighbors in Action is located at 3339 Main St.

Reservations to give blood or

## Poetry evening, Dec. 5

by Woodbury Community Library Staff

WOODBURY – The Woodbury Community Library will host an evening of poetry Friday, Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., to share and celebrate poetry and prose. Bring three writings to share. The event

will take place in the Woodbury Community Room, beginning with a meal to share at 5:30 p.m., followed by reading starting at 6 p.m.

Confirm your attendance by calling (802) 472-5710 send message to library@woodburyvt.org. This is a bi-monthly event on the first Friday of the month.

## Clark talks about multi-state lawsuits, Nov. 25

ADAMANT – The Adamant Community Club will host Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark who will be joined by Times-Argus editor Steven Pappas on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 5 p.m., at the Adamant Community Club.

Since January 2024, Clark has joined more than 30 multi-state lawsuits against the Trump administration. The suits have involved cancellation of funds already allocated for solar construction, Planned Parenthood and the Food and Drug Administration.

The talk will be followed by a question-and-answer period. The event is free and open to all. The Adamant Community Club is location at the intersection of Martin and Haggett Roads. For more information call (802) 454-7103.



Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark will be in conversation with Times-Argus editor Steven Pappas at the Adamant Community Club, Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 5 p.m.

photo by Glenn Russell

## 2025 Christmas bazaar, Dec. 6

HARDWICK – The East Hardwick First Congregational Church will hold their annual Christmas bazaar, Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trees

and wreaths, an auction table, hand-made crafts, donuts, pies, fudge and baked-goodies will be available. There will be a tag sale (by donation) for Christmas decorations and items.

Thanks

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# OUR COMMUNITIES



Former Inn by the River location on Mill Street after the flooding in July 2024. photo courtesy of Kristen Leahy

## Results of new flood modeling, mitigation analysis, Dec. 3

HARDWICK – The Town of Hardwick will host two public information sessions on Wednesday, Dec. 3, to share results from its new Lamoille River and Cooper Brook hydraulic modeling and flood-mitigation alternatives analysis. This project is funded directly by the U.S. Economic Development Administration through the Northern Vermont Economic Development District and carried out by SLR Consulting. It provides Hardwick with its first fully-modern, locally-focused hydraulic model.

Sessions will be held 1 to 2:30 p.m. (in person and Zoom) and 5 to 6:30 p.m. (in person, recorded by HCTV) on the third floor of the Hardwick Memorial Building.

The updated hydraulic model covers 12 miles of the Lamoille River through Hardwick and 1.5 miles of Cooper Brook, creating a detailed picture of how water moves through the community during various flood events. Engineers evaluated five mitigation alternatives tailored specifically for Hardwick's geography, infrastructure, and flood-impacted areas.

This work gives Hardwick independent, high-quality scien-

tific data that can be used directly by local officials, businesses, and residents. The modeling provides clear, actionable insight into where water backs up during major storms, how depth and velocity change along key corridors such as Wolcott Street and opportunities to reduce damage to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure.

Data also shows ways to reconnect floodplains, lower flood levels or reduce erosion and how different mitigation strategies perform under multiple storm scenarios.

Similar modeling has guided successful mitigation work in other Vermont communities, informing decisions on road relocations, bridge upgrades, and floodplain restoration.

Presentations at the session will include how hydraulic models work and how this one was built, the five mitigation alternatives tested for Hardwick, modeled changes in depth, velocity, and floodplain function, examples of mitigation strategies that have succeeded elsewhere and how these results can shape Hardwick's long-term resilience planning.

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Bahner featured in magazine

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – Jason Bahner, co-owner of Hardwick's Riverside Cycles shared his thoughts about the most effective things the store has done to engage with customers in the November issue of Bicycle Retailer and Industry News (BRAIN).

"We have a holistic approach with our customers that centers around being personal and providing ideas and solutions for upgrades and accessories. We firmly believe that trying to sell customers what they need versus what they don't need is critical when establishing an honest customer relationship.

Riverside Cycles was opened in the Hardwick Inn by co-owners Levi Bourne and Jason Bahner in mid-August 2024.

Bourne has said, "it's no secret that a bike shop can be a huge contributor to a community. . . Both Jason and I feel this is a piece of the Hardwick economic ecosystem that has been missing for a long time and we are so excited to be able to bring this to fruition."

"We strive to build rapport with our customers, and we also build community through our



Jason Bahner, co-owner Riverside Cycles. courtesy Bicycle Retailer

Wednesday night gravel rides. We do our best to have sales that promote products, and communicate with our customers via bulk email to create connectivity with our activities and sales," said Bahner.

"For the younger segment of our customers . . . we do our best to promote youth riding by giving discounts to youth groups and local schools for rentals and accessories."

Riverside Cycles is at 4 South Main St., Suite 3, Hardwick and online at [riversidecyclesvt.com](http://riversidecyclesvt.com).

## Cabot butter named best overall

WAITSFIELD – Cabot Creamery received nine awards, including Overall Best Butter, at the National Milk Producers Federation's (NMPF) Annual Cheese & Yogurt Contest held this week in Arlington, Texas. The cooperative's Greek Yogurt and Cheddar also took home top awards.

"As dairy farmers, we are exceptionally proud of our Cabot team that consistently delivers great tasting and high-quality dairy products. It's an honor for our butter, yogurt, and cheese to be recognized by our peers at NMPF," explained James "Cricket" Jacquier, chairman of the board. "It is a validation of the tried-and-true efforts across the co-op that contribute to the success of these award-winning products."

NMPF is comprised of dairy producers throughout the country and the cooperatives they own. The organization advocates for policies shaping the dairy industry domestically and abroad. The annual contest recognizes the best cheese and yogurt products produced by NMPF's member cooperatives.

Cabot Creamery won the following awards: Overall Best Butter, Extra Creamy Premium Salted Butter; first place for Extra Creamy Premium Salted Butter, Extra Creamy Premium Unsalted Butter, 10% Triple Cream Vanilla Bean Greek Yogurt; second place for 2% Plain Greek Yogurt, 2% Vanilla Bean Greek Yogurt, Vermont Sharp Cheddar; and third place for 10% Plain Greek Yogurt and Private Stock Cheddar.

The Hardwick Gazette



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# OBITUARIES

## Raymond G. Salls, Jr.

HARDWICK – Raymond Geoffrey Salls Jr, 82, of Hardwick, died Sunday, November 16, at the Jack Byrne Hospice Center in Lebanon, N.H., with his family at his side.

He was born November 2, 1943, in Sheldon, the son of the late Raymond G. Salls Sr and Mary

(Gamble) Salls.

A complete obituary will appear in a later edition.

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

## Wendell R. Ainsworth

HARDWICK – Wendell Russell Ainsworth, 83, of Hardwick, died Friday, Nov. 14, at the Greensboro Nursing Home with his loving family at his side.

He was born December 12, 1941, in Hardwick, the son of the late Paul E. and Arlene (Ross) Ainsworth Sr. He attended Woodbury Elementary School and graduated from Hardwick Academy in the class of 1959.

On December 3, 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, J. Ann Hodgdon, at the United Church in Hardwick. Together they raised seven children and enjoyed more than 64 years of marriage.

Throughout the years, Wendell was employed by several businesses including, Rock of Ages, Central Tire and Coca Cola, all in Barre, Barr's Better Beverages and Grand Union, both in Hardwick. He retired at age 57 due to health problems.

Wendell was a member of the United Church of Hardwick, the Caspian Lake Lodge No. 87 F & AM Masonic Order, an active 22 year-member of the Hardwick Fire Department as well as a member of the Vermont Trappers Association. He loved spending time with his family, especially with the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He very enthusiastically attended their sports games to cheer for each of them and their teams. He treasured his time at the family camp on East Long Pond in Woodbury. He helped to create so many good times, laughs, hunting and fishing, for all who visited including the four-legged friends. He will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of sharing his favorite place in the world.

Survivors include his beloved wife, J. Ann Ainsworth of



Wendell R. Ainsworth

Hardwick; six children, Tammi (Scott) Smith of Hardwick, Bonnie DeGoosh (Jeff Vaughan) of Walden, Annette Meservey, Rick Ainsworth, both of Hardwick, Rusty Ainsworth (Ilsa Farley) of Sanford, N.C., and Connie (Rich) Owens of Taylor, Pa.; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a sister, M. Ann Brown of the Greensboro Nursing Home; nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by a son Randy Ainsworth in April 1969, and his siblings, Paul E. Ainsworth Jr., M. Jean Mancini and Ralph Ainsworth.

To honor his request, all services will be private at the convenience of his family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Greensboro Nursing Home, 47 Maggie's Pond Road, Greensboro, VT 05841.

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



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Brent McCoy, *South Main Street, Hardwick*, Acrylic, 8 x 8 inches  
photo by Paul Fixx



Brent McCoy, *Long Shadows at the Brewery*, Acrylic on Gessoboard, 16 x 16 inches  
photo by Paul Fixx

## McCoy illuminates everyday beauty with “Tricks of the Light”

### REVIEW

by Paul Fixx

GREENSBORO – “Tricks of the Light,” a new show by Brent McCoy in the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) gallery, opened with a well-attended reception, early Saturday evening, Nov. 15.

McCoy is a multidisciplinary artist and adventurer living in Greensboro. Much of his creative work focuses on developing connections between people through laughter and shared experiences.

McCoy grew up on a hilltop dairy farm in Hardwick. His parents actively counseled him not to become a farmer because of the inherent financial difficulties, so he became an artist.

He holds a BA in Studio Art from Bates College, 2003. His paintings capture reflection, detail and the color of the world around him, ranging from still life, to industrial landscapes, to portraiture.

When he’s not in the studio in Northeastern Vermont, he travels the globe as a variety entertainer and paraglider pilot.

This show highlights his work in the American realist tradition, with three themes that demonstrate various aspects of his work.

Silverware bouquets highlight his mastery of the many ways light travels through transparent materials, reflects off shiny surfaces and transforms slightly with each subsequent reflection.

Vibrant colors feature in most of McCoy’s work. He says he generally limits himself to just five colors as

each piece develops, though he will sometimes allow himself additional colors as he finishes each painting.

The show’s second theme features a variety of everyday household objects, examples of which are a stand mixer and an artfully arranged set of stainless steel pots, with a top balanced on the edge of a bowl, that some gallerygoers at the opening thought might tip over at any moment. That sense made it clear light isn’t the only trick in McCoy’s quiver.

Again, treatment of the subjects demonstrated McCoy’s facility in the treatment of reflection and the subtleties of color in shadow and light.

A variety of landscapes include a series of small Hardwick subjects familiar to many at the opening. Vibrant color, night scenes and light, both natural and from cars and streetlights featured in those works too. Larger landscapes demonstrate similar explorations of their subjects.

“The work in this exhibit comes from Vermont’s mud season and stick season, times of year when ‘beautiful’ might not be the first adjective to come to mind,” said McCoy. “But I enjoyed trying to capture the color of Hardwick’s dreary November mornings, the golden light of late December afternoons, and long shadows on muddy back roads at the first signs of winter’s thaw.”

In his talk, McCoy shared his thoughts on what it means for him to be a painter, saying he sees this aspect of his work as a lifelong pursuit, allowing him to make a connection to other artists.

He talked about his process being about the tactics he employs to create his paintings. Some of which

are limiting the size of his canvases, limiting the number of colors he allows himself and limiting the number of brushes he employs. He said the restrictions help him to “avoid distraction because less is more.”

“I have included several larger pieces and drawings from the past in this showing,” said McCoy. “These were not part of a sustained investigation, but rather brief forays into something I found compelling at the time. Each has informed my more recent work in its own way.”

McCoy said he’s seen improvements in his technique as he’s devoted more time to his painting over the last year and took pride in what he called, “Cool accomplishments.”

Talking about his technique, McCoy laid out various steps in his process. He begins with an under drawing, followed by under painting, then a wash of color. Only then does he begin to add texture, he said.

McCoy paints with acrylics and enjoys the tactile effect of working on solid panels, which offer a firm surface that canvas does not.

He talked about exploring the balance between looseness and precision, saying, “When everyone has a phone, why paint in photorealism?” His answer was, “Because it’s sloppy.”

All the artwork in the show is for sale, with prices noted on each. Learn more at [brentmccoy.com](http://brentmccoy.com)



Brent McCoy, *Stainless Stack*, 2025, Acrylic on Panel, 12 x 12 inches  
photo by Paul Fixx



Renaissance musical repertoire will be performed by the Tallis Scholars, December 12, at the Highland Center for the Arts. *courtesy photo*

### Tallis Scholars in Greensboro, Dec. 12

GREENSBORO – The Tallis Scholars choral ensemble will perform at the Highland Center for the Arts, December 12, at 7 p.m. The ensemble has been bringing sacred Renaissance music to audiences for more than 50 years, performing over 2,500 concerts worldwide.

Three-time Grammy nominees, the Tallis Scholars were founded in 1973 by Artistic Director Peter Phillips. Through recordings and concert performances at international venues, they have established themselves as exponents of Renaissance sacred music throughout the world. Over five decades, Phillips and the ensemble have created a sound that showcases the Renaissance repertoire. The performance will explore winter with a theme of the Virgin Mary, with the “Votive Mass” written by Byrd, or in Tallis’s “Missa Puer natus”. The choice of music is taken from the English repertoire, featuring Renaissance masterpieces and compositions by Britten and Matthew Martin.

To buy tickets or learn more, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org) or [kcp-presents.org](http://kcp-presents.org) or call (802) 748-2600 or visit the Catamount Arts box

office at 115 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury.

## Shady Trees perform Nov. 29

WOLCOTT – A live musical performance by The Shady Trees will be given Saturday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m., at the Wolcott Town Hall.

The Shady Trees is a four-piece band formed in 2013 in amazing Lamoille County Vermont. Their mountainous style of music blends Funk, Rock, Reggae into what they call Northeast Mountain Music.

The Wolcott Arts Collaborative (WAC), sponsored by the Wolcott Public Library, support the

event for the second Winter Saturday Series event. There will be a sliding scale donation at the door. Ten Bends Beer will be available for sale onsite.

Volunteers receive free admission, and are needed for parking cars (6:30 to 7:30 p.m.) and clean-up (10 to 10:45 p.m.). Email [selectboardadmin@wolcottvt.org](mailto:selectboardadmin@wolcottvt.org) to volunteer.

The town hall is located at 4176 Vt. Rte. 15. For more information, see [wolcottvt.org/events](http://wolcottvt.org/events)

The Hardwick Gazette



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## Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

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

### Rotating Slots

#### #1: Sun 10 am-12 pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Audio Ergo Sum  
Darren & Ruby McElwain  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Grove  
Conni Mags

#### #2: Sun 4-5 pm

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

#### #3: Sun 9-11 pm

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

#### #4: Mon 11 am-12 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Mon: Blluminations  
Stefanie Lingenfelter  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Cuneiform Radio  
Kyle Schlesinger  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mon: Project Censored

#### #5: Mon 7-9 pm

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

#### #6: Tue 9-10 am

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue: Alternative Radio  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue: Structurally Unsound  
Yardain Amron

#### #7: Tue 7-9 pm

Biweekly rotation:  
Still Life with Club Soda  
Serena Matt  
Still Life with Orange Peel  
Ada Bowman

#### #8: Thu 6-7 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Thu: The Broken Bois  
Collective Presents...  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu: Into the Issues  
Steve Pappas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thu: Radio RoundUp  
CVCR hosts

#### #9: Sat 9-10 am

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

#### #10: Sat 10-11 am

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



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## Grand Kyiv Ballet performs “Nutcracker,” Dec. 10

LYNDONVILLE – Ukraine’s Grand Kyiv Ballet will present two performances of “The Nutcracker,” December 10 and December 11, at 7 p.m., at Lyndon Institute.

The Grand Kyiv Ballet is an independent touring ballet company of 30 Ukrainian dancers, some of whom are temporarily operating from the International Ballet Academy in Bellevue, while in refuge from the Russian invasion. The company works under the artistic direction of Oleksandr Stoianov, who was born in Crimea and became a champion ballroom dancer at the age of 10. At the Kyiv State Choreographic School, Stoianov worked under the mentorship of Ukrainian dancer and choreographer Vladimir Denisenko. After graduating, he became a soloist for the National Opera of Ukraine,

performing the leading roles of nearly the entire repertoire, and received invitations to work at the Mariinsky Opera and Ballet Theater in St. Petersburg, the Bolshoi Theater and the Berlin Opera. “The Nutcracker” is a classical ballet in two acts, based on E.T.A. Hoffmann’s 1816 fairy tale “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King,” with music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The story follows a young girl, Clara, who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift. On Christmas Eve, the doll comes to life, battles an army of mice and transports Clara to the Land of Sweets.

To buy tickets or learn more, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org) or [kcpresents.org](http://kcpresents.org) or call (802) 748-2600 or visit the Catamount Arts box office at 115 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury.



“The Nutcracker” will be performed by the Grand Kyiv Ballet, Dec. 10-11, at the Lyndon Institute. *courtesy photo*



Kassidy Gann (left), Sadie Gann (center) and Ursa Goldenrose (right) of the Hazen Union Drama club perform during “Silent Sky” by Lauren Gunderson, November 14, in the school’s auditorium. The cast of seven who performed the evenings of November 13, 14 and 15 were directed by Marc Considine. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*



“The Continuing Adventures of King Wenceslas and his page Edith” will be presented by the Vermont Suitcase Company at the Plainfield Opera House, December 20 at 7 p.m.

## Vermont Suitcase’s “Wenceslas” back at Opera House

PLAINFIELD – The Vermont Suitcase Company brings “The Continuing Adventures of King Wenceslas and his page Edith” to the Plainfield Opera House, Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

This play delves deep between the stanzas of the Christmas carol, with physical comedy, stage magic and puppets, all

performed by four actors.

Tickets will be available by donation at the door. Visit [plainfieldartsvt.org](http://plainfieldartsvt.org) for more information or contact Plainfield Arts at [plainfieldartsvt@gmail.com](mailto:plainfieldartsvt@gmail.com). The Plainfield Town Hall Opera House is wheelchair-accessible and assisted listening devices are available upon request.



Hazen Union Drama Club students Daniel Pougner (left) and Juniper Book (right) perform during “Silent Sky” by Lauren Gunderson. The play, directed by Marc Considine, was held in the Hazen Union auditorium, November 13, 14 and 15. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*

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# EVENTS

## Wednesday, Nov. 19

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

## Thursday, Nov. 20

**FLU/COVID 19 VACCINATION CLINIC**, 2 to 5 p.m., Cabot School Wellness Space, building 49, for ages three and up. Open to the general public. Online registration: kinneydrugs.as.me/Cabot School. Walk-ins welcome.

## Friday, Nov. 21

**COMMUNITY DINNER** - Pies for People, 4:30 TO 6 p.m., Sterling College, Craftsbury. All in the greater Craftsbury area invited.

**FILM SCREENING**, of "The Faces of Aces (Adverse Childhood Experiences)," 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield, hosted by The Vermont Kindness Project. An event on trauma, post-traumatic growth and resilience.

**REDISTRICTING CONVERSATION**, 6 p.m., Sterling College, Craftsbury, hosted by the state committee of education.

## Tuesday, Nov. 25

**MOVIE MATINEE**, 1 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. For ages 5 and up. Rated PG. Refreshments served. Information: jeudevinememoriallibrary.org, jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

**HONK & WAVE**, 10 a.m. Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St. Informa-

tion: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me  
**VERMONT ATTORNEY GENERAL** Charity Clark, in conversation with Times-Argus editor Steven Pappas, 5 p.m., Adamant Community Club, intersection of Martin and Haggett Roads. Information: (802) 454-7103.

## 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. Informa-

tion: (802) 586-9692, jwsimpson-memorial.org.

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

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

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

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

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

**TAI CHI CLASSES**, Tuesdays, 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 youngpeoplegettogetheratTheCivic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. Games begin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

**PARENTING GROUP**, on Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library. Caregivers can relax and connect with each 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

**See EVENTS, Next Page**

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# EVENTS

be supplied.

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

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

**ALL HANDS TOGETHER**, Community Crafting Group, Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, call (802) 426-3581, or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

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

**CABOT COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE**, second Fridays, through June, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St. All dances taught, no partner needed. All welcome. Information: cabotdance@aroundvt.org.

**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 and shovels.

**STORY TIME**, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

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

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

## Exhibits

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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.

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# Greensboro's Caden and Torin Stuart excel on the ice

by Ken Brown

GREENSBORO – Local hockey players are following in the footsteps of recent area standouts, excelling on the ice for their youth teams.

Greensboro's Caden and Torin Stuart both had contributions last week to lead their Lyndon Area Youth Hockey Association (LAYHA) 10U Tier 4 team to a 1-0-1 record. Caden recorded an assist in a 2-2 tie with Chittenden-S. Burlington two Saturdays ago and on Sunday, Torin and Caden each scored a goal to lead the Redwings to a decisive 8-1 win over Burlington. Caden recorded an assist in a 6-3 loss to Rutland over the weekend.

The brother tandem both attend

St. Paul's Catholic School out of Barton and have been skating since they were six and seven years old. Their father Michael Stuart is the head coach of the Redwings and grew up playing the game in Massachusetts at a high level.

Like many small schools around the state, aspiring hockey players have to travel to surrounding high schools that have programs to try and make a team. Former Hazen Union multi-sport standouts Andrew Menard and Max Fortmann are recent examples. Menard finished his career as a starting defensive captain for a Lyndon Institute team that made it to the Division II Final Four in 2024. Fortmann was on that roster and finished his high school

ice hockey career with the Stowe Raiders last winter. By rule, aspiring Vermont high school hockey players whose school doesn't have a program, must play where a fellow student currently plays. Caden and Torin's mother Denise cites local high school careers like Menard's and Fortmann's as shining examples for her sons.

"We put skates on Caden and Torin since they were really young and they loved it! They have been able to watch some of the older kids play along the way like Andrew, Max and Felix. Living in the Mountain View School District, we haven't decided where they will attend high school yet. We all went to our first NHL game in February and also got to meet Bruin's legend Terry O'Reilly this past

summer. There is a hockey culture in the area that the kids are pretty dedicated to and all of this has fueled their love for the sport," said Denise.

Other locals on the ice this winter include Hardwick's Gracie and Paige Cruickshank. Gracie attends Hardwick Elementary and plays for the Black Bears 10U Tier 2 team out of Barre. Paige attends Hazen Union and is a standout for the Vermont Flames U14 Elite team. Waylon Mercier, grandson of Phil Mercier, skates for the Barre Black Bears 10U Tier 5 team.

The Redwings will be back in action on Saturday at Barre and will host Middlebury on Sunday at Fenton Chester Arena in Lyndonville.

## KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS

### Hilltoppers wrap up cross-country season

THETFORD – The St. Johnsbury Academy (SJA) cross-country team wrapped up another successful season earlier this month with a strong finish at the New England Championships at Thetford Academy.

Joel Thornton-Sherman was the top Vermont high school boys runner, leading the Hilltoppers to a strong sixth place team finish at the 90th edition of the New England High School Cross-Country Championships. Thornton-Sherman finished 7th overall in the boys 5,000m with a time of 16:31.8. Sean Gray of Portsmouth, N.H., was the overall individual winner, crossing the finish line with a time of 15:53.1. Reigning Division III Vermont state champion Gage Magnuson of BFA-Fairfax posted an impressive top 20 finish with a time of 16:53.9. SJA finished 6th overall in the boys team competition, with Bryan Stocker, John Thornton-Sherman and Manny Fliegelman complimenting their team captain. Fliegelman has transitioned seamlessly to division I competition in his second year with the Hilltoppers after an outstanding freshman campaign with Hazen Union.

In late October, the Hilltoppers and Thornton-Sherman both secured runner-up finishes in the Division I State Championships. Stocker finished 9th and Fliegelman finished just outside of the top 20 for SJA. CVU took home the team title to end the Hilltoppers four year championship run.

### Everett named new athletic director at Craftsbury Academy

CRAFTSBURY – Amber Everett will be the new athletic director and

activities coordinator at Craftsbury Academy (CA), replacing Steve Welch after less than 18 months on the job.

Everett, a former Peoples Academy (PA) multi-sport athlete, graduated from VTSU-Lyndon in 2024 with a Bachelor's degree in business with a concentration in sports management and a minor in marketing. She competed at the varsity level in soccer, basketball and softball for PA

before continuing her softball career at both SUNY Adirondack and VTSU-Lyndon.

As small schools all around the state have clawed and scratched to keep their athletic departments from merging with larger schools or shuttered altogether, the Charger athletic program remains alive with varsity sports in cross-country, track and field, softball, bowling and an elite Nordic and cross-country

ski programs. CA student athletes who want to participate in varsity basketball, soccer and baseball travel to Hazen Union to compete under the Wildcat banner.

Everett becomes the seventh A.D. in as many years at Craftsbury Academy. Former Charger A.D. Gabriella Silva now leads the PA athletic programs and Connor Bean is at Missisquoi Valley Union after a year at Bellows Falls.

### Cal United celebrates magical season at Virtue Field

by Ken Brown

BURLINGTON – The Caledonia United boys soccer team celebrated their record breaking season over the weekend by witnessing the defending Division 1 national champion UVM Catamounts men's soccer team on their way to their second consecutive America East title.

Head coach Peter Stratman and his Cal United team braved the cold last Wednesday to watch the Catamounts clip UNH 2-1 in the America East semifinals at Virtue Field.

UVM then rolled past Bryant 2-0 on Sunday to claim the America East title, improving to 14-0-5 and securing their fifth straight bid to the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

The Catamounts claimed the university's first-ever team national title last fall and will defend their crown as the No. 2 team in the nation.

Bryant came into the America East championship as the No. 5 team in the country, suffering just their second loss of the season.

Despite the frigid cold, the Catamounts played in front of a raucous sold-out crowd for the twelfth consecutive time.

The Cal United trip to Virtue Field was made possible by the

support of the Danville and Twinfield Boosters.

Stratman and his senior-laden team led by Eli Russell, Sam McLane, Josh Petersen, Jola Otten, Ben Monaco, Sean Lehoe, Alijah Andrews and Samson Kitonga, took Cal United to the program's first ever Division IV state title match this fall with a 16-0 record.

Stratman was named Mountain League Coach of the Year and Russell took home Player of the Year honors.

Russe II earned his second straight Vermont All-State selection after finding the back of the net a career-high 30 times this past season.

McLane and Petersen earned their first All-State selections for their stellar seasons on the pitch. McLane scored a career-high 26 goals for Cal United and Petersen anchored the defense with a program record 11 shutouts.

Making the trip to Rutland High School to play in the Division IV state title match was made even more special for the Stratman family with daughter, Ava, playing earlier in the day in the state title match for Peoples Academy. The sophomore defender rebounded from a season-ending knee injury last season to lead the Lady Wolves

into the Division III championship with a pair of goals against Fair Haven in the semifinal round. For a coach that has now brought three different programs to the Division IV Final Four with over 170 career wins, it wasn't lost on Stratman how special the entirety of the soccer season was for him this past fall.

"I don't think we've ever been so cold, but what a great way to wrap up the season. I'm so appreciative of having the opportunity to coach a team like this and see great athletes who are great people like that bring their talents and personalities to positively influence a soccer program. Getting to cheer on my daughter and her team in her match before we took the field for ours made the day even more special for my family and our team. Watching her work to recover from that injury for nine months physically and mentally, and then seeing her and her team achieve that kind of success brought out a lot of emotion," said Stratman.

The Catamounts were awarded the No. 1 overall seed in the upcoming NCAA tournament and will begin their title defense Sunday in the second round against the winner of Syracuse-Hofstra.