



## Federal lawsuit, Sterling College engage board

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – Comments by Sterling College President Dr. Scott Thomas at last Tuesday’s select board meeting about that school’s decision to end degree programs after this academic year were eclipsed by the announcement of a federal lawsuit against the town regarding operation of its gravel pit.

Plaintiffs James LaRock and Melanie MacEachern filed suit in Federal District Court, saying they own a home at 151 Gateway Drive in Craftsbury, adjacent to the gravel pit. They allege “numerous years-long violations of the federal Clean Water Act at the Town of Craftsbury’s municipal gravel mine,” which the plaintiffs are asking the court to abate.

The complaint identifies issues dating back

to before 2007 and a long list of complaints that begin, “Defendant Town of Craftsbury has failed to adequately govern or oversee its active industrial facility or follow the most basic requirements of its permit.”

A motion made and approved at the meeting called for posting a statement that had been approved by the town attorney, which appeared later in the evening on the town’s homepage at [craftsbury.gov/public\\_notices/notice-of-a-federal-lawsuit-over-the-operation-of-the-towns-gravel-pit/](http://craftsbury.gov/public_notices/notice-of-a-federal-lawsuit-over-the-operation-of-the-towns-gravel-pit/) where they wrote, “Because the matter is now in active litigation, the Selectboard and Town officials cannot comment further on the specific allegations or legal arguments. However, the Town continues to operate the gravel pit responsibly and underscores that the pit

See LAWSUIT, 4



Craftsbury’s select board meeting last Tuesday was attended by (from left) Town Clerk Michelle Warren, Road Commissioner Steve Perkins, Select Board Co-chairs Jim Jones and Bruce Urie, Select board member Alison Blaney and Sterling College President Scott Thomas.

photo by Paul Fixx



The Local Folk Orchestra (LFO) performance last Saturday evening at Highland Center for the Arts began with (from left) dancer Maura Gahan, an impromptu addition, interpreting Billy Joel’s Root Beer Rag in an arrangement by LFO founder Roy MacNeil; Fiona Bock, violin; Theresa Peura, violin (partially hidden); Tom Ziobrowski, viola and Mia Hartman, violin (not fully visible).

photo by Paul Fixx

## Gazette receives Vermont Civic Journalism Award

by Vermont Secretary of State Office

MONTPELIER – The Hardwick Gazette is among sixteen Vermont news organizations honored with the Local Civic Journalism Awards, a new program designed to steer state and philanthropic dollars to news outlets that inform Vermonters and foster civic engagement.

The recipients represent a broad cross-section of local and regional news organizations, including newspapers that have served their communities for well over a century and

See AWARDS, 5

## Meyer brothers reinvent, diversify farm, add distillery

by Alana Dutcher-Hirsch

HARDWICK – You might expect a high-end bourbon to come from Tennessee or Kentucky, yet innovatively, High Drive Distillery in Hardwick is proving that fine whiskey can be made right here in Vermont.

Brothers Nick and Taylor Meyer have transformed their family dairy into an organic distillery, crafting grain-to-glass whiskey on their Hardwick farm.

The distillery has released its first fully organic, farm-grown bourbon, crafted entirely

from grains grown on-site.

For over 50 years, North Hardwick Farm operated as a dairy operation. The 300-acre farm on Bridgman Hill Road was founded by Steve and Patty Meyer in the 1970s.

Nick and Taylor Meyer grew up on the family farm. In 2019 they decided to chart a new course for the business which was struggling financially.

In thinking about how the idea for the distillery came about, Nick Meyer recalled a simple question, “We asked ourselves, how do we continue?”

The brothers decided to end the farm’s dairy operation and launched a distillery producing gin, bourbon and rye. The farm still continues to raise cattle for meat as well.

That year the brothers turned the milking barn into the brewing room and converted the dairy portion of the farm into a distillery. They started growing barley, winter rye and heirloom corn, along with hay in the fields that cows used to graze.

Introducing liquor-production to the operation proved to be just the innovation the farm needed.

“We need the spirits to keep the animals, and we need the animals to keep the spirits. They keep the field fertile to grow the crops for those spirits,” Nick said.

While many distilleries import the grains they use in their liquors, High Drive Distillery grows all of their own. Grains harvested on the farm go straight to the distillery, like the heirloom corn variety processed into their bourbon.

See DISTILLERY, 3



Nick Meyer displays a bottle of High Drive Distillery Bourbon being released for the first time this month. It joins the High Drive Distillery Gin he and his brother Taylor released in December 2024.

photo by Alana Dutcher-Hirsch

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# POLICE REPORT

## Vermont State Police Violated conditions of release

MARSHFIELD – On November 18, troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a 911 hangup call in the town of Marshfield. Rose Hough was named as a person of interest in a possible domestic argument that took place at the address. Further investigation revealed Hough was wanted for arrest involving a previous violation in her conditions of release. Hough was located in Marshfield and arrested. Hough was issued a citation for violating her conditions of release and transferred into the custody of the Vermont Department of Regulations.

On 20, troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to a report of a possible restraining order violation at a property in the town of Calais. Troopers arrived on scene and found Clare Mills in the driveway of the property. Investigation revealed Mills had violated a temporary Relief From Abuse Order at the property in the town of Calais. Mills was taken into custody and subsequently transported to the Vermont State Police Berlin Barracks for processing. Mills was issued a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court - Criminal Division, on Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m.


CALAIS – On November

## Caledonia County Sheriff's Department DUI, suspended license

WALDEN – On November 14, at 1 p.m., Deputies Morrill and Labounty observed a vehicle being operated by Fradette on Route 15 in the town of Walden. Fradette's privilege to operate a motor vehicle is currently under criminal suspension. A motor vehicle stop was conducted and Fradette was taken into custody. Fradette was transported to the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department for processing. During transport and processing, indicators of impairment were observed. After investigation, Fradette was cited into Vermont Superior Court, Caledonia Criminal Division for Criminal DLS as well as DUI - Drug.

## Contents

- Police Report..... 2-3
- Weather Watch .....3
- Whooping cough spreading in counties.....6
- Library expansion accommodates more patrons .....7
- Parker Ladd, 1928-2017 .....7
- Community trust formed to grow opportunities.....8
- Local organizations among grant recipients .....8
- Thanksgiving volunteers help food pantry (photos).....9
- Editorial: Roots need nurturing.....10
- Editorial: Don't forget the Gazette.....10
- Yankee Notebook: Why they always hang up.....11
- Woodsmoke (cartoon) .....11
- Heller's World: cartoon.....12, 13
- Another Opinion: Seize the opportunity .....12
- Letters from Readers: Riege.....12
- Another Opinion: Leahy.....13
- Our Neighborhood: Hardwick neighbors gather .....14
- Voices of Spirit: Jesus is inviting you to supper .....15
- I Heard it Through the Jeudevine: Timely gifts.....16
- In the Garden: Now is the time for houseplants .....16
- The Outside Story: Black bear populations.....17
- Our Communities .....18, 20
- Education: Students' Hibernation Feast .....19
- Business Briefs: Local cheesemakers awarded .....19
- Obituaries: Salls Jr.....20
- Review: Local folk orchestra .....21
- Visiting artist offers art, writing, Dec. 6 .....22
- Chorus presents "Messiah," Dec. 5-7 .....22
- The Bookshelf .....23
- Handel's "Messiah" presented Dec. 5, Dec. 7.....23
- LCP presents "Scrooge's Christmas" .....23
- Ballet Wolcott "Land of Sweets," Dec. 6.....23
- Events ..... 24-25
- Catamounts suffer upset in second round .....26
- 'Tis the season of soccer in the Green Mountains .....26



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<p><b>Barilla Pasta</b> 2/\$3 12-16 oz.</p>	<p><b>Stove Top Stuffing</b> 2/\$4 6 oz.</p>	<p><b>Del Monte Canned Vegetables</b> 3/\$5 11-15.25 oz.</p>
<p><b>Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce</b> 2/\$4 14 oz.</p>	<p><b>College Inn Broths</b> 2/\$4 32 oz.</p>	<p><b>Campbells Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soup</b> 4/\$5 10.5 oz.</p>
<p><b>Hellmann's Mayonnaise</b> \$4.99 15-30 oz.</p>	<p><b>King Arthur Unbleached or Self Rising Flour</b> \$3.99 5 lb.</p>	<p><b>Domino Sugar</b> \$3.49 3.5 - 4 lb.</p>
<p><b>Hershey's Baking Chips</b> \$3.49 8-12 oz.</p>	<p><b>Nabisco Family Size Oreos</b> \$4.99 18.12-18.71 oz.</p>	<p><b>Nabisco Snack Crackers</b> 2/\$5 6.5-13.7 oz.</p>
<p><b>Cabot Shredded or Bar Cheese</b> 2/\$5 6-8 oz.</p>	<p><b>Pillsbury Ref. Pie Crust</b> 2/\$6 14.1 oz.</p>	<p><b>Philadelphia Bar Cream Cheese</b> 2/\$5 8 oz.</p>
<p><b>Wyman's Frozen Berries</b> \$3.79 12-15 oz.</p>	<p><b>Ben &amp; Jerry's Ice Cream</b> \$4.49 16 oz.</p>	<p><b>Hood Ice Cream</b> \$2.99 48 oz.</p>

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# POLICE REPORT

## Cabot Fire Department Single-vehicle accident



Sunday, at 6:58 p.m., Cabot Fire Department and Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service responded to a single vehicle accident on West Hill Pond Road. Road conditions were highly variable in Cabot, largely based on elevation: valleys were wet, while higher up there were patches of glaze, ice and snow cover. The operator was able to get out of the vehicle before first responders arrived and was later evaluated by Cabot Ambulance. Cabot Fire Department secured the scene and diverted traffic away to allow for the accident to be cleared. Also responding to the scene were Vermont State Police, Caledonia Wrecker Service and the Cabot Highway Department. *social media photo*

## Distillery

Continued From Page One

“We’re literally combining it straight off the cob of the corn here,” Meyer said.

Unlike conventional farms that depend on genetically modified crops to prevent growing issues, the Meyer brothers prefer a natural approach, rotating crops every year to different locations across the farm to encourage healthy soil.

It’s a big lift. “We’re harvesting, combining, drying, cleaning, mashing, fermenting and distilling everything ourselves,” Nick said.

The brothers announced High Drive Gin, their first distillery product in December 2024. They’re now working to place the product in more stores and bars across the region.

“Profits will come,” Meyer said.

Juniper Bar and Restaurant at Hotel Vermont has been making cocktails using High Drive Gin since its release last winter.

Kate Wise, the bar manager, developed a popular gin cocktail called “Crimson and Clover.” Wise mixes the gin with coconut water, sugar, lime and bitters.

She said she’s working to craft up another locally-sourced drink with High Drive’s new bourbon, which the farm released this October.

Bringing the bourbon to life has been a slow, meticulous process, one that’s been years in the

making, according to Nick. The bottled batch comes from a 2020 harvest of wapsie valley corn, and has aged for about three years in American oak barrels.

As temperatures fluctuate, the bourbon expands and contracts, drawing out the flavor and color of the wooden barrels, Nick explained.

The aging process lends the bourbon its unique flavor, which Nick describes as: “candy in the front, and spice in the back.”

The bourbon is now being sent out to 802 liquor stores. With further connections it will enter restaurants and bars in local areas.

Todd Hardie, fellow grain farmer and founder of Caledonia Spirits, which started in Hardwick and is now based in Montpelier, thinks the Meyer’s hard work has paid off in the taste of their spirits.

“Organic grain in whiskey and bread makes it taste so much better,” he said. “It’s delicious.”

In questioning what the farm hopes to convey through the new bourbon launch, Nick said: “We were raised to be stewards of the land and to learn how to treat and care for it. I hope we can share that through our new bourbon, and continue to teach it in future generations.”

*Alana Dutcher-Hirsch writes for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship for the Hardwick Gazette.*

# WEATHER WATCH



Holiday lights began to appear around Hardwick in the weeks after Halloween, like these at a Brush Street home last week. *photo by Paul Fixx*

## Rain and snow showers into Thanksgiving; repeat by Sunday

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK— Many areas are still experiencing snow-covered ground as several rounds of light snow mixed with breaks of sun over the weekend. More sunshine appeared earlier last week, and we ended up with some sun again yesterday. Snowpack depth ranges from six inches in Greensboro to two and a half inches in West Woodbury. At the observation station in East Hardwick, the snowpack showed five inches, following some snow showers on Sunday.

A low-pressure system moving into the Great Lakes will lift a warm front through the region this morning along with some steady rain. Some intermittent breaks in precipitation will occur this afternoon followed by the approach of a cold front as we move into the overnight hours. Steadier precipitation will then change from rain to snow overnight with an inch of snow accumulation possible. The low lingers in the Canadian Maritimes with some breaks in the clouds, however, there will be continued chances for snow showers closer to the mountains through at least Friday with additional minor accumulations. It will also be slightly cooler in the wake of the cold front.

An area of high pressure builds in for Saturday, with partly sunny skies and even cooler conditions.

As the high slides east for Sunday, another low deepens over the Mississippi River Valley before cutting northeast to Hudson Bay. The warm front will lift north during the afternoon on Sunday, and some light steady snow may mix with rain or a period of mixed precipitation. Details on the exact track of this system are not as clear at this time, so there is a possibility it will remain purely snow. Temperatures will trend slightly cooler again as we move into the beginning of the work week. Here are the forecast details:

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy. Rain, tapering off to rain showers in the afternoon. Rain showers changing to snow showers overnight with a dusting to an inch of accumulation. High: 46. Low: 30. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Thanksgiving:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. High: 38. Low: 28. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. High: 30. Low: 21. West wind 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny. High: 28. Low: 16. Northwest wind 5-10 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy. Light snow developing by afternoon, with mixed precipitation or rain possible. High: 38. Low: 30. Light and variable wind.



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**Lawsuit**

Continued From Page One

remains an important resource for maintaining the Town's public roads."

While town staff and the select board declined to comment further, the posted statement provides some context, where it says, "The Selectboard would like to emphasize the following key points for Craftsbury residents:

"First, the Town has operated the gravel pit under state-issued stormwater authorization for many years. This authorization is subject to oversight by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Town

has worked with DEC to ensure its operations comply with applicable environmental regulations. Craftsbury will continue to coordinate with DEC to maintain compliance.

"Second, these same two plaintiffs previously brought litigation against the underlying property owners — Kurtis and Margot Mellett — regarding the gravel pit property. This new lawsuit against the Town appears to be a continuation and escalation of that earlier litigation, designed to draw Craftsbury into costly, time-consuming, and ultimately unnecessary litigation — requiring the expenditure of significant Craftsbury taxpayer resources on claims the Selectboard

believes are unfounded."

The full complaint is linked in the town's statement.

Select board member Alison Blaney said, "I'm very sad you're here" when the Sterling College agenda item came up, expressing her feeling about the college's announcement several days earlier, but also that she was glad to have a chance for the board to hear more. Others on the board and in the room concurred.

Thomas was joined by Sterling's Dean of Academics Dr. Laura Spence and shared that it's no secret Sterling has always been struggling financially. He acknowledged "this disruption is of consequence to everybody in Craftsbury."

The college has reduced all possible expenses as much as it can, noting those expenses include \$55,000 in tax payments to the town and \$10,000 for water. It will need to do still more to meet its budget goals, said Thomas.

The current 27 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff will fall to 17 after January 1, through a combination of staff and time reductions, he said.

Thomas said Sterling is seeking partnerships that will allow a seamless transition to what comes next.

He expects a systematic consideration of next steps, with the board building a process that

involves the school's many internal resources to hear from the a mix of people with different levels of interest in the college,

Thomas said he "appreciates the support and interest of the select board in this process."

"There's going to be a lot of thrashing for a few weeks," as there have been in the last several days since the announcement, Thomas said.

He's looking for "a more rational, collective process" once the initial disruption passes.

During the discussion, Blaney recalled her mother working at Sterling and the many ways students have stepped up to help her family and the time when various needs arose.

Spence said she's become attached to Craftsbury and "doesn't want to leave a gaping hole in the Common."

The select board acknowledged the difficulty facing the college and town, offering their help as the process of envisioning another iteration of Sterling's future begins its public phase.

The remainder of the meeting concerned the usual items that come before any select board, that included renewing a plowing contract, discussing a contract for road crew uniforms, personnel policies and repairs for a damaged plow.



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**News Match**

1. What is your relationship with the school boards representing Hardwick schools? Please select all that apply.

Current Hardwick Student	Former Hardwick Student	Parent of PreK/Elem Hardwick Student	Parent of Middle/High School Hardwick Student	Parent of Former Hardwick Student	Parent of future Hardwick student	Teacher or Staff in Hardwick	Hardwick Resident	Other
9	20	26	16	19	6	24	45	6

The first question on a survey 84 people responded to asked about respondents' relationship to the Hardwick Elementary and Hazen Union School Boards. Survey screen capture

## School board members release redistricting survey results

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – A survey about the state’s Act 73 redistricting conducted by members of Hardwick’s school boards last month distributed to those attending an October 29 in-person gathering at the Jeudevine Library and on-line was filled out by 84 people. Of those responding, 98.8% felt it was moderately, very or extremely important to preserve an elementary school in Hardwick with 94.8% feeling the same about a high school.

Strengthening academic opportunities was seen as the highest overall priority with an average of 3.60 out of four and financial savings for taxpayers the lowest, at 2.91. Between those extremes, preserving an elementary school (3.65), followed by preserving a high school (3.5) ranked second and third. Providing career and technical education (3.29) ranked fourth, followed by strengthening special

education (3.24), growing strong community partnerships (3.12), minimizing travel distances (3.11) and strengthening sports and extracurricular activities (2.99).

Sixty respondents felt any mergers should be with towns in the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU), with 7 favoring Danville and Lamoille, then 5 picking Cabot and others with 3 or below.

On the other hand, 10 respondents would not like to merge with St. Johnsbury, 9 not with Lamoille then 5 not with Stowe, 4 not with Lyndon Institute and others below 2.

A wide range of additional comments generally expressed uncertainty about the redistricting process, whether it is prioritizing student outcomes and how OSSU is responding. “What is the vision of the current OSSU board and boards within OSSU board for this? It seems [to be] wait-and-see.

Where and how is our leadership acting on behalf of our students, staff, and schools?” wrote one respondent.

“Closing schools should not be on the table, and it will not save money long term,” said another.

Expressing a common complaint about students traveling to distant schools, one person wrote, “My kids already spend over 30 minutes on a bus when school is less than a 10 minute drive. How is redistricting going to deal with the landscape of Vermont and how little sunshine students already get to enjoy on a school day?”

Another wrote, “I’m very concerned about the potential for Hardwick area school closures in the future and what that would mean for transportation of our students. I’m also very concerned about the potential size of schools if the redistricting process is ultimately approved. It may be true that there would be more opportunities for

students than there are currently (for example, a football team at Hazen), but there would be enough students competing for a spot in those opportunities that any one student’s chances of making the cut would be low. More opportunity doesn’t necessarily mean more access.”

Making the point that decision making would best be kept close to home, another respondent wrote, “I have faith in our local boards to manage costs better than arbitrary decisions made at the state level. . . If state leadership was serious about saving costs they would prioritize health insurance costs as they are what make it more expensive to staff schools.”

“Our preschool and kindergarten should be brought back to the elementary school!” wrote another.

See other comments and the full survey results that are being presented to the school boards at [bit.ly/HardwickSurvey](http://bit.ly/HardwickSurvey)

## Awards

Continued From Page One

recent years to fill a void. They include nonprofit and for-profit entities and are mostly locally controlled. Many of the recipients are based in regions of the state that are otherwise underserved, including the Northeast Kingdom, southern Vermont and the Upper Valley.

Each Local Civic Journalism Award-winner will receive \$5,000 or \$10,000 to further their existing mission.

The panelists opted to award \$10,000 to four news organizations that have particularly distinguished themselves in recent years by reimagining the way they foster civic engagement in their respective communities and sustain themselves for the future. They include The Bridge, Montpelier; Vermont Independent Media (The Commons, Deerfield Valley News), Brattleboro; Waterbury Roundabout, Waterbury; and White River Valley Herald, Randolph

The panel also chose to award \$5,000 to a dozen news organizations that provide essential coverage to their communities. They include Addison County Independent,

Middlebury; Barton Chronicle, Barton; Caledonian-Record, St. Johnsbury; Chester Telegraph, Chester; Hardwick Gazette, Hardwick; Hinesburg Record, Hinesburg; Journal-Opinion, Bradford; North Star Monthly, Danville; Valley News, West Lebanon, N.H.; Valley Reporter, Waitsfield; Vermont Community Newspaper Group (Stowe Reporter, News & Citizen, The Other Paper, The Citizen, Shelburne News), Stowe and Radio Vermont Group (WDEV), Waterbury.

In making its selections, the panel considered how nominees served their audiences; contributed to civic engagement; produced reliable, fact-checked journalism; adhered to ethical standards; and presented a vision for a sustainable future. The panel chose not to select any statewide news organizations this year, opting instead to support local and regional outlets.

Paul Heintz, a senior adviser to the Center for Community News, convened the selection panel.

“The quality and quantity of nominations we received reinforced to me how much excellent community journalism is taking place throughout Vermont,” Heintz said. “But many of

these nominees are struggling to stay afloat in an ever-changing news environment. I hope these awards inspire other Vermonters to subscribe to, advertise in and donate to the essential news outlets that keep us all informed.”

Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, whose office administers the awards, noted that a robust press corps is vital to civic engagement.

“In order for Vermonters to be able to work together to shape and improve their communities, it’s essential to have access to trustworthy, transparent local news outlets,” Secretary Copeland Hanzas said. “An investment in Vermont’s local and regional news is an investment in an informed, connected and engaged citizenry.”

The awards were envisioned by Sen. Andrew Perchlik, who secured \$50,000 in funding for the program in the state’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The Vermont Community Foundation, through its Press Forward Vermont chapter, then matched the state funding with another \$50,000.

“I am so excited to see these civic journalism awards help to strengthen

our civic fabric,” Perchlik said. “The growing attention paid to the critical value of local, fact-based journalism gives me hope for our democracy.”

“These awards recognize the incredible dedication and innovation found in our local newsrooms,” said Holly Morehouse, vice president for community impact at the Vermont Community Foundation. “Local news is a public good that keeps our communities connected. Vibrant communities and robust local news go hand in hand.”

The inaugural awards drew significant interest from around the state. More than 30 different news outlets were nominated, some by multiple people.

To ensure the selection process remained free of political interference, the statute authorizing the Local Civic Journalism Awards called for an independent panel to make all funding decisions. That panel, convened by the University of Vermont’s Center for Community News, included current and former journalists, as well as academics, none of whom could be employed by award nominees.

Award recipients will be honored at the Statehouse this winter.

# Whooping cough spreading in Caledonia, Lamoille, Washington Counties

by Vermont Department of Health

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Department of Health recommends that people in the impacted counties of Lamoille, Caledonia and Washington take extra steps to protect themselves and their community from whooping cough by checking that the family is up to date on whooping cough vaccine (Tdap or DTap). The vaccine work well, but protection can fade over time. People who are vaccinated can still get whooping cough, but their illness is generally milder.

People at higher risk of serious illness, including babies under one year old and pregnant people, should be especially cautious if they have symptoms. They should be seen by a health care provider if they are coughing violently and have breathing difficulties.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a very contagious respiratory disease. It is caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. It is known for uncontrollable, violent coughing which often makes it hard to breathe. After fits of many coughs, someone with whooping cough often needs to take deep breaths which result in a “whooping” sound. Whooping cough can affect people of all ages, but can be very serious, even deadly, for babies less than a year old. Other people at high risk of severe illness include those with immunocompromised conditions and moderate to severe asthma.

Coughing fits can cause people to vomit during or after coughing fits, feel very tired after the fit, but usually seem well in-between fits, have difficulty sleeping, struggle to

breathe, fracture (break) a rib.

About one in three babies younger than one year old who get whooping cough need care in the hospital. The younger the baby, the more likely they’ll need hospital treatment. Babies younger than one year old who are treated in the hospital can have life-threatening pauses in breathing, lung infection; violent, uncontrolled shaking; encephalopathy (disease of the brain); one in 100 will die from their complications.

Whooping cough is very contagious. The bacteria spreads easily from person-to-person through the air in respiratory droplets when someone who is infected coughs or sneezes. People can be contagious for weeks, and can unknowingly spread the bacteria. Without appropriate treatment, someone with whooping cough is considered contagious for 21 days after the start of their cough. After just five days of appropriate antibiotic treatment, they are no longer considered contagious. It usually takes five to 10 days for symptoms to appear after exposure to the bacteria that cause whooping cough. Sometimes it can take as long as three weeks to develop symptoms. Whooping cough appears similar to a common cold early on. Babies may struggle to breathe. Many babies with whooping cough don’t cough at all. Instead, they may have apnea (life-threatening pauses in breathing). The apnea may cause cyanosis (to turn blue) or they may struggle to breathe. For some babies, whooping cough may seem like a common cold for the entire illness, not just at the beginning. Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated babies less than one

year old have the highest risk for severe complication and death.

Later symptoms include rapid, violent and uncontrolled coughing fits. One to two weeks after the first symptoms start, people may develop

paroxysms, known as coughing fits. These coughing fits usually last one to six weeks but can last for up to 10 weeks. The cough generally gets worse and becomes more common as the illness continues.



Turkeys bagged by members of the Greensboro United Church of Christ, with supplies to make dressing, cranberry sauce and gravy, await Lakeview Early Education Center students outside the school in Greensboro last Wednesday, Nov. 19 continuing a tradition. Willey’s Store orders the turkeys, which arrive four to a box, and the school’s Administrative Assistant Lorelei Wheeler manages their distribution with clipboard in hand. *courtesy photo*



Greensboro United Church of Christ members (from left) Paula Harmon and B.J. Gray present a turkey to Head Start Cook Alison Donna and Administrative Assistant Lorelei Wheeler, with church member Shelly Jungworth at Lakeview Early Education Center. Turkeys and the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner were delivered to all the students there last Wednesday *courtesy photo*

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# Library expansion accommodates more patrons

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – Library Director Diane Grenkow was present at the November 20 regular select board meeting to provide updates on library happenings and activities since reopening with the new addition.

Grenkow delivered a glowing report for the last quarter, with a 55% increase in patrons through the door from July to October, compared to the same four-month period in previous years.

Fifty library programs have been held in the meeting rooms, with 45 local organizations using them. In total, 666 people have attended library programs in the last four months, a 43% increase in attendance.

The Department of Libraries recently interviewed Grenkow



Hardwick native, Parker Ladd, 1954. photo by Jeudevine Library staff

about the new addition, funded in part by a grant award of \$725,000,

as well as a bequeathment from the late Parker Ladd, for whom the Parker Ladd Community Room is named.

The Jeudevine’s renovations and expansion include a two-story addition, AFA compliant bathrooms, HVAC, plumbing and electrical updates.

Grenkow spoke to the state of the library pre-renovation, saying, “The Jeudevine, built in 1896, had long since outgrown its space. Not only did getting around the library require the ‘Jeudevine Jig’ (where two people had to turn sideways to pass each other in the stacks or behind the desk), but the building itself was only accessible by a set of granite steps, and accessing the bathroom required navigating a winding staircase into the basement.”

After school, the library would often fill up with kids who wanted to play on the computers, creating a noisier environment for adults. Sometimes, other kids would look in and then leave because there was nowhere to sit, said Grenkow.

“All programming had to happen outside of regular library hours because it was impossible to do it any other way. It wasn’t ideal for anyone, including patrons and staff, and it was inaccessible to patrons with mobility issues,” she concluded.

A community effort, Grenkow says input from all stakeholders was an essential first step in moving forward with the idea of the expansion. The project is the culmination of the efforts of library trustees, friends and community members.

“Funds were raised from every imaginable place: state and federal grants, individual donors, bequests and a town bond. It was a challenging time to build, as the pandemic repeatedly drove prices up. We were fortunate to have donors step in at just the right moment, time and again, keeping this moving forward.”

Grenkow noted the town allowed them to move into the Memorial Building temporarily, while floors were refurbished and stone cutters got to work. The library was closed for one week only, “while a big crew of volunteers helped move and organize every book and piece



Parker Ladd and his husband, Arnold Scaasi, pictured together in the early 2000s. The life partners were together for more than fifty years.

photo by Jeudevine Library staff

of furniture that we have.”

The new, light-filled addition houses everything from board books for babies, to novels for young adults, with strategically placed bookcases to separate the age groups. There are public access computers available in the children’s room, creating a separate workspace for adults. The historic building now features recently restored wood floors and stained glass windows.

Two meeting rooms were added to the lower level, which have proven necessary for the community.

Concluding the interview, Grenkow had some advice for others embarking on similar projects: “Be sure to gather as much input as possible from as many stakeholders as possible, and designate someone to serve as the point of contact who can bridge the gap between trustees and staff who may not have experience with construction, and the builders who may not be familiar with modern library operations. Communication is key. It’s not always easy, but it’s always better to have clear lines of communication and to take the time needed to understand the process, so you end up with the building that everyone wants and everyone needs.”

## Parker Ladd, 1928 - 2017

by **Jeudevine Library Staff**

HARDWICK – Parker Ladd was born in Hardwick in 1928. He lived on West Church Street, just down from the library, which became a refuge for him. He read voraciously and went on to major in English at the University of Vermont. Following his graduation from UVM, he served in the United States military. He spent time in Sweden as a bookseller before returning to the United States to begin his career in publishing in Los Angeles. Soon thereafter, he relocated to New York, where he became a successful executive at Scribners. He then moved to the American Association of Publishers and rose to its presidency. His career in publishing spanned 35 years.

His life partner was Arnold Scaasi, a New York fashion designer who designed for Hollywood stars and first ladies. Together, Scaasi and Ladd were regular attendees at the city’s most exclusive social events. Ladd and Scaasi wed in 2011, when the Marriage Equality Act was passed in New York. They shared homes in Manhattan, Palm Beach, and Quogue, N.Y. They were together for more than 50 years.

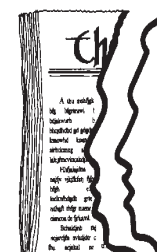
The two men, along with columnist Liz Smith, played a crucial role in expanding Literacy Partners, a nonprofit organization that promotes literacy among parents, caregivers and children. In 1986, they organized the first Literacy Partners Evening of Readings, a grand annual gala at which well-known

authors were invited to read, and students from the program shared their successes. One article quoted Ladd as believing that reading was the definition of civilization. Over the years, Literacy Partners has raised more than \$37 million.

Within that high society world, Scaasi and Smith were the celebrities, but Ladd “was the glue that held them together,” said Jane Freidman, one time CEO of Harper-Collins. It fell to Ladd to attract top authors to the gala. Following Ladd’s death in 2017, Anthony Tassi, the CEO of Literacy Partners, remembered him as “charming, elegant and uncommonly generous of spirit, a walking advertisement for the literary lifestyle. A lifelong bookworm from Vermont, he read nonstop.”

Ladd died at age 89. Shortly after he died, his executor called the Jeudevine to report that Ladd had bequeathed almost half a million dollars to the library. Trustees and staff learned about a man who had last lived in Hardwick more than 70 years ago, who never forgot the town where he grew up or the library that was his refuge. Thanks to his generosity, the town now enjoys an expanded library that sits at the heart of the community, fully equipped to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. At the heart, the Jeudevine is here to serve as a sanctuary for patrons, as it once did for a young Parker Ladd, and to encourage all to embrace his lifelong appreciation of books and devotion to reading.

**The  
Hardwick  
Gazette**



**PEOPLE  
SERVING  
PEOPLE**

# Community trust formed to grow opportunities

by Greensboro Community Trust

GREENSBORO – Over the past year Greensboro community members have voiced an interest in community spaces, new businesses, affordable housing, new recreational resources, improvements in services and the preservation of historical structures. To address some of these needs, the Greensboro Community Trust (GCT) is building on the work of the Bend Revitalization Initiative, through managing and funding specific projects to improve the social and economic conditions of the Greater Greensboro Community.

The GCT's first project, "The Steeple" is re-imagining and revitalizing the former Methodist Church and parsonage on Main Street in

Greensboro Bend.

This past year, the group hosted community engagement sessions which included opening the church to community members to envision the building and property's future during the annual Bend block party.

Following organizational work, the GCT signed an option to purchase agreement with The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church Inc. on October 13, for a 12-month term.

"We are excited to be planning another great project in Greensboro Bend following the success of the Bend Revitalization Initiative with the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail," said Jane Johns, GCT board member and treasurer.

"That project would never have succeeded if it wasn't for the grants, community donations, the Greensboro road crew and all the volunteers involved with the trail-head gardens, table and benches, historic signs and the installation of the mural. The GCT Board, along with community members, are looking forward to working together to determine how to transform the Methodist Church property into a community asset."

The work of the GCT will be led by board members, Diane Cloutier, Cathy Donnolly, Nancy Hill, Jane Johns, Chris Leary, Michael Malick, Alexis Mattos, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, Liz Steel and Nick Wright.

An advisory circle of community members will support the GCT Board.

The board is part of the inaugural cohort of Village Trust Initiative participants, working to grow community capacity, preserve a



A sign welcomes the community to a visioning session in the former Methodist Church on Main Street in Greensboro Bend during the annual Bend block party.

photo by Chris Steel

## Local organization among grant recipients

by Laura McDonough

VERMONT – The Adamant Community Club is among organizations awarded Winter Placemaking Grants from AARP Vermont. Eight organizations across the state received awards to support creative, inclusive programming that fosters community connection and combats social isolation among older adults during the coldest months of the year. The Adamant Community Club (Washington County) received \$2,980 for hosting "Winter Sundays," a series of eight gatherings featuring films, author readings, public affairs discussions, nature walks, and folk music concerts.

Other recipients include Broad Brook Community Center (Windham County), \$3,150;

Franklin Arts Department (Franklin County), \$1,200; Middletown Springs Public Library (Rutland County), \$4,000; Morristown Centennial Library (Lamoille County), \$2,070; Rockingham Public Library (Windham County), \$4,000; Town of West Rutland (Rutland County), \$2,500; Montpelier Alive (Washington County), \$4,000.

"These grants help communities across Vermont create welcoming spaces and meaningful experiences for older adults during the winter," said Kelly Stoddard-Poor, Associate State Director of Outreach at AARP Vermont. The Winter Placemaking Grant program is part of AARP Vermont's broader effort to support age-friendly communities and ensure that public spaces are accessible, engaging, and inclusive for people of all ages.



Michael Malick (right), Greensboro Community Trust Board Member, talks with community members about a new vision for the former Methodist Church. photo by Chris Steel.

sense of place and ensure Greensboro is a dynamic place for future generations.

The GCT is a registered 501(c)3, and joins a collection of trust organizations across the state working to enhance local capacity in support of vital community assets and vibrant village centers. The Village Trust Initiative is a partnership program made possible by Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont Council on Rural Development, Vermont Community Foundation, and a congressionally-directed spending award from former Senator Leahy.

"We see a lot of hope in Vermont villages like Greensboro Bend," said Ben Doyle, president of the Preservation Trust of Vermont. "When people in a village come together to save the gathering places and historic buildings that matter to them, they are modeling what community can look like when we work together. That's what the Village Trust Initiative is all about."

With support from the Preservation Trust of Vermont and their team of experts, GCT is now

embarking on a process of environmental review, water and wastewater assessment, property evaluations and architectural planning. The outcome of that activity will determine the feasibility of the property to meet a variety of needs and wants identified in the community engagement sessions. Ongoing workshops will be held next year to solicit additional community feedback and input as plans develop.

"After a year of collecting community feedback about the possibility of transforming the former Methodist Church parcel for community benefit, we're thrilled to be taking this next step on the project and thankful to have such an energized board with diverse perspectives to guide the Greensboro Community Trust as we navigate the many phases still to come," said Naomi

Ranz-Schleifer, GCT Board president.

"This is just the beginning. While we dig into the specifics of this project, we are also working to build community capacity, partnerships and a community trust that can serve us long into the future."



At NEK Together, last week in Greensboro, Executive Directors (from left) Catherine Cusack with Green Mtn Farm to School; Kelly Dolan with Salvation Farms and Jon Ramsey with the Center for an Agriculture Economy, spoke about the shifts and uncertainty in federal funding and finding the silver linings in collaborating to help the betterment of the region. courtesy photo

# Thanksgiving volunteers help Hardwick Area Food Pantry



Volunteer apple peelers Sunday, included Mary Meyer (left), Dakari English (center) and Deborah Hartt (right), who helped peel six bushels of apples donated by Burt's Apple Orchard in Cabot. The nineteen volunteers, who call themselves the "Family Pies" group, prepared 60 homemade apple pies in the United Church of Hardwick dining room for Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes.



"Family Pies" group organizer Jennifer Fliegelman packs a ready-to-bake homemade apple pie as others wait for a top crust Sunday. Pies were prepared in the United Church of Hardwick dining room and included in Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes.



Celine LeBlanc of Hardwick, along with seven other volunteers, filled 160 Thanksgiving food boxes Sunday at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.



Volunteers Sarah Remick (left) and her daughter-in-law Sarah Morgan (right), with the "Family Pies" group of nineteen, prepared 60 homemade, ready-to-bake apple pies for Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes.



Volunteers (from left) Carlotta Hayes, Terry Tuthill, both from Hardwick and Janet Newman, from Stannard, help to fill some of the 160 Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving food boxes, Sunday at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church. Alice Fler from Greensboro Bend is in the back center.

photos by  
**Vanessa Fournier**

# EDITORIAL

## Roots need nurturing

The idea of putting down roots is an old idiom, yet the idea remains evergreen. We are surely born with roots, ties and connections. Generation after generation, at some point we decide where and when we want to lay down the foundation for the rest of our adult lives.

There are a range of considerations. Where and when to buy property? What schools are in the area? Does that area have job prospects with opportunities for

growth? Do I stay near family? What hospitals are within driving distance? If I have kids, how will such choices shape their childhoods?

At the age of twenty-four, these questions have become increasingly relevant, especially as this little state continues to evolve and change.

Some changes are for the worse, in my opinion. I am faced with a choice of whether to relocate, or factor these changes

into my future plans.

The November closure of Copley Hospital's Birthing Center will impact generations of Vermonters, and whether they choose to stay in or around the Northeast Kingdom. In looking to the future, like many young women I want to ensure reproductive care is accessible, bare minimum.

Moreover, the complications and conditions that can arise from pregnancy require expertise and regular care, which the birthing center offered. I still cannot see how this gap will be filled, and thus I have had more doubts than ever about my future in this area.

The increased time traveling to hospitals located in Burlington or Berlin imposes unnecessary risks to both mothers and babies, a risk I will avoid if possible. If that means I must relocate, then so be it.

In several instances, the hospital cited declining birth rates in the county as one factor in closing the birthing center. As with many hospitals, births have never been very profitable and thus revenue is sourced from departments like orthopedics. In a stunning example of what I can only assume is short-sightedness, the hospital administration has further alienated young women and families with this decision, and thus birth rates for Lamoille County will only continue to decline.

With the closest source of reproductive expertise and care eliminated, I believe other young women like myself will reconsider putting down roots in an area with no infrastructure to accommodate the unique challenges posed by carrying children.

In combination with the potential redistricting and closure of some rural schools, incentives to

put down roots here have seriously diminished. This saddens me, as I love this state, and I believe it has a lot to offer families and children. There are unique opportunities that can only come from learning and living in a tight knit community.

Rural communities and towns are the backbone of this country, but when you discount women and their healthcare needs, these areas can only continue to diminish in population size as a reaction.

We hear the national media talking about declining birth rates as a mystery, but for the first time in history women have the autonomy to choose when and with whom we reproduce.

We no longer need a male co-signer on bank accounts, loans, et cetera.

Birth control is widely available in most contexts.

In eliminating its birthing center, I believe Copley Hospital administrators and the board eliminated the choice and incentive for young women to put down roots in and around this corner of the Northeast Kingdom.

I cannot and will not risk my own health, or simply wait for a solution to arise and thus as a twenty-four year old, will likely adjust my plans for the near future. Who's to say how many other young couples or families are reconsidering their choices too?

Vermont is already the oldest state in the country by median age.

Young people love this state, to that I can attest, but if this state doesn't start to love us back, Vermont may soon rise from third to second in median age in the U.S.A.

**Raymonda Parchment,  
Hardwick Gazette Reporter**

## Don't forget The Gazette

In this holiday season, many Vermonters are facing food insecurity. Food shelves and other providers are working hard to serve everyone. They need your help. And so does The Gazette, which keeps you informed on how our communities are dealing with the impact of decisions made far away.

Please support those who are helping our neighbors with food and shelter. And then, please make a gift to The Gazette.

This is a vital moment for your local newspaper. National funders and local donors are offering more than \$40,000 in matching funds to The Gazette. Every gift (up to a \$1,000 limit per donation) will be doubled. Every recurring monthly commitment will be matched for a full year (up to that \$1,000 per donation limit). Right now, you can double the impact of your gift and put The Gazette in a much stronger position to serve you.

The Gazette is the only news source dedicated to our communities. If not for The Gazette, would these stories have gone unreported?

"The detention of nine people by federal agents in Hardwick, and the deportation of seven of the nine."

"The efforts of local food pantries to meet rising demand and stay in operation."

"Continuing flood recovery operations and plans for future flood mitigation in our communities."

"Craftsbury prepares for big changes at Sterling College."

"Civic Standard decides to relocate across Main Street."

The Gazette also brings you the most comprehensive listing of local events, coverage of the arts and high school sports, and the viewpoints of local residents.

None of this would be possible without your financial support.

Generous readers have built The Gazette from a small, nonprofit startup to a reliable community resource.

Now is the time to take the next step. Your donation and the matching funds promise to propel The Gazette into a more robust future, providing even more news and information to our 11 communities.

There are many causes worthy of your support. Please include The Gazette on your list.

Thank you for your trust and your financial support. The Gazette wouldn't be possible without you.

**John Walters, Northeast Kingdom  
Public Journalism Board Member**

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

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Why they always hang up

by Willem Lange

The eldest oyster looked at him,  
But never a word he said:  
The eldest oyster winked his eye,  
And shook his heavy head... -- Lewis Carroll

EAST MONTPELIER – I haven’t conducted anything like a scientific survey of the subject, but I think I’d be willing to bet even money that each time I randomly turn on the little television set in my kitchen, tuned to MSNBC (now MS NOW) or CNN, I’m more likely to hit on a commercial than news or commentary content. I don’t watch the set; it’s too small and too high up in a cabinet for easy viewing. So I just listen; I grew up on radio, anyway. As a result, I can identify the idiosyncrasies of the speakers, from Wolf Blitzer’s choppy reading, hyperventilating, and shouted numbers of deaths in various calamities to Joe Scarborough’s world-weary baritone mansplaining.

In between those frequent and maddening commercials there is a bit of information to be gleaned on various subjects, which I then sometimes fact-check with the on-line Times. And I understand it’s the commercials that make the reporting possible. Still, after I’ve had some smooth-talking middle-aged man describe the marvels that I can access by adding to my Medicare coverage, I’m ready to strangle someone.

*It’s no wonder that, after listening to three or four (or more) of these commercials in a row, you might get a bit curmudgeonly. Not only do they prey on our finances; they also suggest nostrums to cure common diseases, especially of the late middle-aged.*

One of the privileges of being the eldest oyster is the expectation of others that you will become curmudgeonly, especially if you let your eyebrows grow, which I do. Thus, when some shill first tries to frighten me with a catalog of the perils in my future and then shows me the way around them (for a fee that’s never mentioned), I get a bit testy, and often shout back at him in a most immoderate manner.

The extended Medicare coverage, for example, now being flacked

during the annual sign-up period (its coincidence with the holiday season does much to take the bloom off the rose of the celebratory atmosphere) is a prime example. Depending on the private insurance company sponsoring the ad, the script is the same. And boys, I’m ready for them! When I hear, “...Medicare Part C, sometimes called...” I drown out the ensuing words with “sometimes called the Great Ripoff of the Credulous and Vulnerable Agéd.” They have us pegged, those rascals, and know when a lot of us dodderers are listening.

So they trot out Ice-T, Detective Tutuola on “Law and Order,” to frighten us ancients with warnings about our cars breaking down: “... not if, but when.” After describing how many thousands it will cost us to fix our transmissions, electric windows, or engines, he says, “And the computer? Don’t get me started.” “Okay, okay, I won’t!” I shout back. “But how come a millionaire like yourself is driving around in broken-down junkers that he can’t afford to fix, and doing ads for pay?” He never answers.

Speaking of millionaires doing grunt work for commercials, how about Tom Selleck, at his friendliest and most intimate best, shilling for reverse mortgages? It invariably makes me wonder if maybe he’s had bad luck at the track or his wife’s attorney’s office. And that all-American elderly couple (the accents!) describing their pickle: “We thought we had enough savings for our retirement. But we suddenly realized...” Suddenly? Who was keeping an eye on it? How’d it sneak up on you? And has either of you read that contract all the way through?

It’s no wonder that, after listening to three or four (or more) of these commercials in a row, you might get a bit curmudgeonly. Not only do they prey on our finances; they also suggest nostrums to cure common diseases, especially of the late middle-aged. Psoriatic arthritis? Gotcha covered! The cure works for most people (read at least just above 50%), and after a year, some (at least two) still have relief from it.

Side effects (I’m working on the list for each; it stimulates the mind) may include pain at the injection site, soreness, swelling of the hands or feet, vision problems, constipation or diarrhea, liver or kidney problems which may or not be fatal, memory loss, depression, or suicidal ideation.

I’ll give ‘em this: They got it almost right. But the ideation I experience when I’m listening to these lists isn’t suicidal, but homicidal. What gripes me the most is when I call to speak to a “licensed insurance agent” and ask them why they always hang up when they learn my age. They ask my age. And hang up. Aargh!

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“MAMA, WHAT DOES “CULL” MEAN?”

## MEETING MEMO

- |   |  |
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| <p><b>Wednesday, November 26</b><br/>Greensboro Select Board, fourth Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 2</b><br/>Cabot Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.<br/>Craftsbury Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.<br/>Marshfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m.<br/>OSSU Board, first Tuesday of the month, 6 to 8 p.m., OSSU Central Office, Hardwick.<br/>Plainfield Select Board, first Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 3</b><br/>Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town Hall.<br/>Wolcott Select Board, first Wednesday of month, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 4</b><br/>Hardwick Select Board, first Thursday of month, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monday, December 8</b><br/>Calais Select Board, second</p> | <p>Monday of month, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 10</b><br/>Craftsbury Town School Board, second Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Commons Room, Craftsbury Academy.<br/>Greensboro Select Board, second Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Town Clerks</b></p> <p>Cabot: <a href="http://cabotvt.us">cabotvt.us</a><br/>Calais: <a href="http://calaisvermont.gov">calaisvermont.gov</a><br/>Craftsbury: <a href="http://townofcraftsbury.com">townofcraftsbury.com</a><br/>Greensboro: <a href="http://greensborovt.gov">greensborovt.gov</a><br/>Hardwick: <a href="http://hardwickvt.org">hardwickvt.org</a><br/>Marshfield: <a href="http://town.marshfield.vt.us">town.marshfield.vt.us</a><br/>Plainfield: <a href="http://plainfieldvt.us">plainfieldvt.us</a><br/>Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net<br/>Walden: <a href="http://waldenvt.gov">waldenvt.gov</a><br/>Wolcott: <a href="http://wolcottvt.org">wolcottvt.org</a><br/>Woodbury: <a href="http://woodburyvt.org">woodburyvt.org</a></p> |
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# ANOTHER OPINION

## Seize the opportunity for second chance on school reform

by Jack Hoffman

MONTPELIER – The Act 73 Redistricting Task Force wrapped up their work, and they’ve given the state a chance to rethink the course of education reform it has been pursuing for the last decade. Vermont communities, as well as elected leaders, should seize this opportunity to get us out of the ditch we’ve been in and refocus on what should be our priority: ensuring our kids have what they need to thrive.

The [168-page draft proposal](#) from the November 10 meeting of the task force had a lot to digest. And it requires close reading because the proposal offers much more nuanced analyses of problems confronting the education system than we’ve seen from the administration or the Legislature in recent years. The task force has put out a more streamlined [draft report](#), along with an [explanation of the changes](#).

One of the group’s most important recommendations is to stop further forced consolidation of school districts, which fits with one of the task force’s guiding principles: Do no harm. It’s not that the committee opposes mergers. It recommends voluntary consolidation for some districts in certain circumstances, which was the state’s policy before passage of Act 46 a decade ago.

Like all recent education reform plans, the Redistricting Task Force focused on costs. But it didn’t offer the usual we-have-to-do-something-about-Vermont’s-skyrocketing-education-spending refrain, which has pitted the administration and the Legislature against local school officials for too long. Instead of demanding that school districts curb their spending, the

task force suggested a process in which districts collaborate, with lots of support and help from the Vermont Agency of Education, to find ways to save money.

The report includes examples of potential cost savings. None of them appear to require an overhaul of the education financing system.

For example, the task force pointed to areas where public schools have seen a rise in per pupil spending because they’ve lost students to independent schools. (School taxes are tied to per-pupil costs, so a decline in students can drive up taxes.) Fixing this would require changes to how we pay for tuition students, which is not addressed in Act 73.

The proposal pushed back against some of the conventional wisdom that has grown up around Vermont’s education system, like the idea that larger schools are more efficient and produce better outcomes than smaller ones, or that small schools need to close because it’s the small communities that are losing students.

The report referenced other cost drivers, but not in much detail because they were beyond the scope of the committee’s mission. They deserve mention, though, because they go to the heart of perhaps the most consistent complaint about Vermont’s funding system: per-pupil spending.

Vermont spends more than most other states and has for a long time. In recent years, the cost of health care, especially mental health care, has been a big factor. But that’s a problem for many businesses and individuals in Vermont, not the fault of the school funding system. The task force noted Vermont spends a bigger share of its education budget on social services than neighboring

states. That’s in part because other states pay for services through the general state budget, and perhaps through county budgets in some cases, that Vermont covers through the education fund. Moving costs from the education fund to the general fund wouldn’t eliminate them, but it would relieve pressure on education property taxes and lower Vermont’s average per-pupil spending.

Vermont saw an unusual jump in education spending and school taxes in fiscal 2025, which set off the current scramble to remake the state’s education funding system. But some homeowners are getting hit with tax increases not tied to spending increases. There are ways to address those jumps and make the tax system fairer without the disruption of more consolidation or upending the entire system. But that, too, was beyond the scope of

the Task Force’s mission and can be addressed separately.

What the Redistricting Task Force has laid out is a more nuanced approach that has a better chance of gaining public acceptance than something imposed by Montpelier. It will require addressing a lot of specific problems rather than a one-size-fits-all solution. And it offers greater opportunity for local community engagement, which is critical to making any change work. At a time when democracy is under threat across the country, it makes sense to protect and preserve it here at home for our communities and our kids.

*Jack Hoffman is senior analyst at Public Assets Institute ([www.publicassets.org](http://www.publicassets.org)), a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Montpelier. He is a resident of Marshfield currently living in France.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### A clarification of remarks

To the editor:

In your front-page article last week about Greensboro’s proposed 1% local option tax [Ed. Note: [hardwickgazette.org/2025/11/18/reactions-mixed-on-1-local-option-tax/](http://hardwickgazette.org/2025/11/18/reactions-mixed-on-1-local-option-tax/)] your reference to some of my earlier comments on FPF were significantly misleading. The way your article reads made it sound like my strong desire to support long-term rentals (and discourage short-term ones) had led me to support the 1% tax as proposed: i.e., to apply to prepared meals and served alcohol in addition to rentals.

In my FPF remarks I never mentioned any desire to add

taxation for the meals and alcohol.

I, in fact, agree with Shaun Hill’s opposition to subjecting those services to a new tax. My remarks in FPF were only about seeking to encourage long-term rentals, and to discourage short term rentals, like Airbnbs.

And, if any new tax is to be adopted (along the lines of the local options tax proposal) I would support that on the short-term rentals only, not on prepared meals and served alcohol.

Thanks for including this clarification.

**Nancy Riege  
Greensboro**

## Heller’s World by Joe Heller



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# ANOTHER OPINION

## When letting go is an act of strength

by Kristen Leahy

**HARDWICK** – Last year, I stood in the backyard of a young woman who had bought her family home believing she was building her future in the place where she was raised.

She experienced six floods in two years; she moved her car to higher ground six times; she watched her chickens scramble to the highest roost as water rose; She shoveled out mud repeatedly and asked every question a responsible homeowner is told to ask.

Could she elevate the house? The structure was too damaged. Could she dredge the river? Technically yes, though the state's river scientist explained it would only buy time. She had tried every option Vermonters are encouraged to consider. Still, the water kept coming.

Vermonters often celebrate grit. We rebuild barns after fires. We re-stack stone walls after they fall. Grit is a familiar part of our identity.

After the 2023 and 2024 floods, people in Hardwick are learning another dimension of grit. Sometimes grit is the quiet strength to recognize when the river has shifted and when stepping back is the safest choice.

Hardwick has completed ten voluntary property buyouts. Four were funded through the Flood Resilient Communities Fund and six through FEMA. Another ten are in progress. These properties were not seasonal camps or speculative investments. They were homes where families lived, raised children and planned their futures.

Leaving was rarely a simple financial decision. For many residents, it meant wrestling with loss,

relief and uncertainty.

One fact is often overlooked: Nearly all of the families who accepted buyouts stayed in our region. They moved to Calais, Greensboro, Eden and Craftsbury. They purchased smaller homes, more energy efficient homes and most importantly, homes outside floodplains and river corridors.

We checked the correlating models before they bought or built. They wanted to remain part of their communities, just not in locations where the river kept reclaiming space.

Many made their decisions with others in mind. They did not want future buyers to inherit repeated flooding or insurance struggles. They asked how the town would use the land and how it might help protect nearby homes.

Community care guided their choices.

We have cultural work to do alongside the technical work of recovery. Many residents told us the hardest part was not paperwork, but the idea that stepping back meant they had not tried hard enough.

Not every form of resilience looks like rebuilding in the same place. Sometimes resilience is recognizing risk clearly and choosing safety. Sometimes it is leaving a flood prone area so emergency responders are not repeatedly called back and so families do not have to shovel out basements again.

There has been a rumor that buyouts caused recent tax increases. It was the flooding itself, including the damage, the lost assessed value and the emergency costs, that was reflected in the town's grand list.

Buyouts help stabilize finances over time because they



The house at 387 Carey Road, purchased in a buyout after repeated flood damage and 2023 flooding, is seen here in mid-demolition after the 2024 flood hit. photo by Kristen Leahy

prevent repeated loss and repeated taxpayer funded recovery cycles. They are not the cause of the fiscal challenge. They are one tool that reduces long term risk.

Vermont needs housing. It needs safe housing. Buyouts support that by helping residents leave unsafe conditions and by restoring floodplain functions that can protect neighborhoods.

Hardwick is not alone in facing these questions. Communities across Vermont are considering where rebuilding is appropriate or not. They are working through how to support residents and how to discuss adaptation

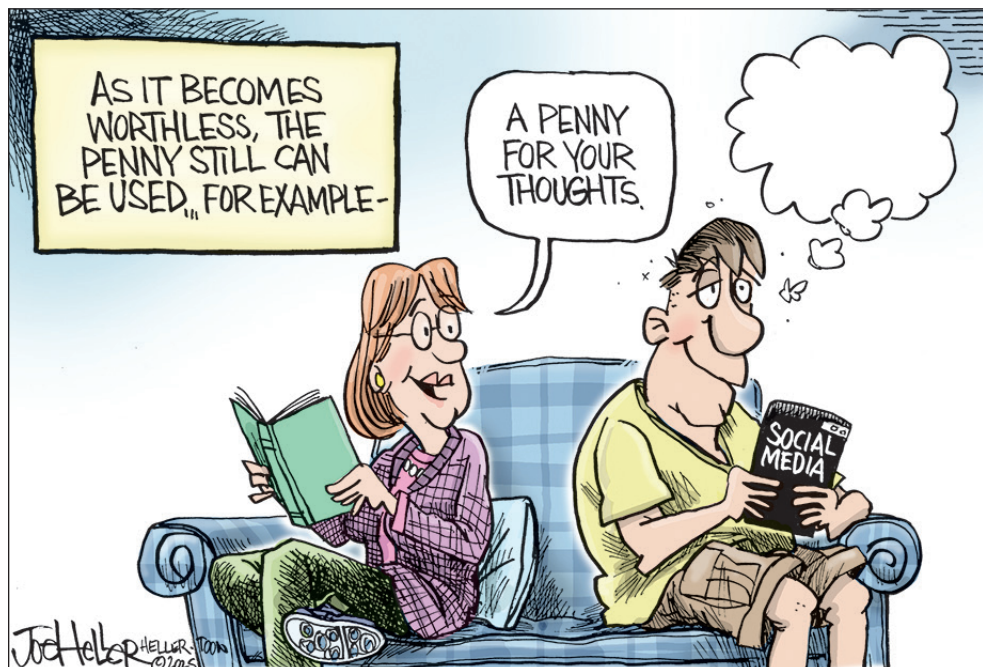
without shame or blame.

For those who have gone through it, a buyout is not simply a transaction. It is a decision shaped by memory, safety and a sense of responsibility to the community. In Hardwick, those choices are being made with honesty and care.

Sometimes grit looks like rebuilding. And sometimes it looks like listening to the land and choosing a safer path forward together.

Kristen Leahy works as the zoning and floodplain administrator and resilience and adaptation coordinator for the Town of Hardwick.

## Heller's World by Joe Heller



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# OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## Hardwick neighbors gather, share food, purpose

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – The Jeudevine Memorial Library was filled to capacity with conversation and the smell of tacos on a recent Wednesday evening as residents gathered for the “Forward Together” community meal hosted by Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor. The event brought together volunteers, families and town staff to talk about community connections, emergency readiness and what comes next for local resilience work.

Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor began in 2020, during the first months of the pandemic, when a small group of volunteers organized to make sure no one in town was left on their own. They made phone calls to check on residents, delivered groceries and prescriptions, and helped neighbors stay connected during a time of isolation. It was quiet, practical work built from trust and care.

In 2023, when the July floods swept across Hardwick, the group pivoted to meet a new kind of need. With roads damaged and communication strained, volunteers checked on households, shared information, and took responsi-

bility to manage the Emergency Supply and Support Center. The network that had formed around public health quickly adapted to support flood recovery and local coordination.

Since then, Neighbor to Neighbor has continued to work alongside the Town of Hardwick, the Jeudevine Library, and local organizations to carry forward the lessons learned from both the pandemic and the floods. The “Forward Together” gathering was an opportunity to reconnect, share food, and plan for the year ahead.

Inside the Parker Ladd Memorial Room, long tables filled quickly. Families, volunteers, and town staff sat together, talking easily about recovery, outreach, and volunteer projects on the horizon. The tone was collaborative and forward-looking, focused on maintaining the relationships that make local response possible.

“What a night! Delighted to see Hardwick brimming with positive energy,” said organizer Mary Braun, who helped coordinate the event.

“Once again, Hardwick and area residents turned out in spades to learn more about HNTN and to pursue volunteer opportunities that strengthen our ability to best care



Neighbors gather at the Jeudevine Memorial Library for the “Forward Together” community meal hosted by Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor.

photo by Mary Braun

for one another, during a disaster situation and throughout all the blue-sky days in between,” added organizer Helen Beattie. “The spirit of community was palpable.”

As the evening went on, conversations turned toward what’s next; how to keep volunteer momentum going, how to share information more easily between neighborhoods, and how to continue strengthening Hardwick’s ability to respond quickly when needed. The atmosphere was practical and optimistic, reflecting a town that knows recovery and preparedness

are ongoing work.

By the time the tables were cleared, new plans were taking shape for volunteer outreach, preparedness sessions, and more community gatherings in the coming months. “Forward Together” served as both a theme and a reflection of how the town continues to move ahead, through food, conversation, and the steady presence of neighbors who are willing to show up for one another.

*Kristen Leahy is the Hardwick resilience and adaptation coordinator.*



NEK Together, an annual conference hosted by the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative (NEKO) welcomed 152 registrants at Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro, the morning of Tuesday Nov. 18, where (from left) Sarah Waring, Northern Borders Regional Commission Executive Director, and Abby Long, NEKO Interim Executive Director explain that NEKO holds the agreement with USDA Rural Development, acting as a neutral convenor to stay in touch with the needs, challenges and priorities of the region to help federal and state decision makers know where best to direct funding and other resources.

courtesy photo



The Civic Standard’s Rose Friedman shares a story about belonging and having a shared experience at Northeast Kingdom Collaborative’s NEK Together event last Tuesday, in Greensboro. One attendee summed up the event, saying, “If there was one feeling I came away with, it was pride. I felt proud to be in the NEK, proud of the many great organizations and partners active in this area, and hopeful that together we can address challenges and grasp opportunities.”

courtesy photo

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# VOICES OF SPIRIT

## Jesus is inviting you to supper

by Rev. Joe Welker

EAST CRAFTSBURY – At a recent discussion group, someone told a story about a car their father left when he passed away. It was a Dodge Omni that hadn't been driven in decades, as it had been sitting in the garage.

When he passed, there was suddenly a passionate fight over who it was supposed to go to. Finally, one grandchild got it. And then as soon as they took it on the road, it died almost immediately because the engine was busted.

In chewing on this, a Quaker friend pointed out something we've all seen: when we die, what we leave behind us immediately becomes symbolic. The car or the farm is more than a car or a farm; becoming dad's car or mom's farm.

And it's true, what we leave behind isn't just the thing, but what that thing points to; in the case of a parent, their love. The most powerful photos that have ever been taken are more than just what they show, but what they represent: how incredibly small we are in the universe, the desperation of poverty, the risks of immigration, the horrors of war or the joy in finally finding peace.

We need images. Not photos, images. Hope takes the shape of an image, for we can only get so far running away from something. We need to find something that draws us, something to aspire to, create a

picture of what is possible.

We can't run forever on an anti-vision, on being against something, even if we are right to be against it; Jesus did not simply denounce the world as it was, he told us about the kingdom of God. He did so through stories, farming parables, analogies of sheep and goats, lost coins, lost brothers. That is, he used images of real things we could touch, not only see, just as his flesh was something we could touch, not only see.

But in the awful predicament that is our sin, false images can draw us almost as captivately as true images. Sometimes, we are drawn to a false image of the future: if only everybody would just X-Y-Z, the world would be perfect. Sometimes, the false image is an idealized past: if only we could be as perfect as we imagine things were. We can believe in these images so much that we impose our will to gain them.

Sometimes I feel like what is happening in the country now is like we have all lost whole generations of saints who left us this car. It used to work pretty well, but now when you try to drive it, it breaks down. Sometimes you have to wonder if people are intentionally trying to total it to cash in on the insurance claims, but one thing's for sure, nobody remembers how it works anymore. So we fight over the car because it's more than a car that we're currently stuck together in, it's an image of a country

we all inherited that is neither completely true nor completely false, neither fully good nor fully evil, but surely at least functional.

For Christians, the Church is another car we've inherited. In our nostalgia, we sometimes imagine it as something more perfect than it really was, while the New Testament actually preserves just exactly how imperfect it's always been.

Read the Epistles start to finish and you will not only hear inspiring words, but also the fighting, the false teachers, the unethical behavior, the pride and the confusion. If we are holding onto an image of the Church we grew up with that if we brought it back there would be perfect peace and harmony, we may be forgetting a few things.

The thing about false images is that we eventually get betrayed by them, even as we struggle to let them go. Maybe it is more comforting to pursue a false vision than to realize we can't see clearly by ourselves. The impossible situation of our sin is that while we can't see clearly ourselves, we still need images.

The good news of the gospel is we don't have to see by ourselves. We have the image of the invisible God in the real person of Jesus Christ. He is not nostalgic, but a living memory of a true image. He is a true vision that cannot simply be let go, and he will not let you go.

Despite its issues, we know the Church is worth holding onto

because it is Christ's body; more than an image, it is also real. You can touch it, because it is made of people. Together, we can do many things we can't do by ourselves.

Many of us Christians can't fully explain to our friends why Christianity, why Jesus. We often can't fully explain to ourselves why. And yet there's something about the image of him that draws us to him, and when we see him, we know we must walk with a different kind of invisible vision: by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7).

Jesus did leave a few visible things for us. We call them sacraments. They are visible signs of invisible grace. He does not only leave us the mysterious Holy Spirit, but some simple, practical elements: bread, wine, water. Because while we need images, we need the substantial, the material, the real.

When Jesus gives us these simple things in his supper, he invites us to eat, saying, "Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:24)

What is amazing about this memory of Jesus is that he is not a relic of the past. He is not nostalgia, but a real, living image through his Spirit. He is here, alive, the risen Lord. And he is inviting you to supper.

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



A group from Vermont Works for Women, (from left) Kayla Morse, Karen Mason, Rita Martin, Natasha Bali, Sarah Keener and Becky Citarella, worked on the Habitat for Humanity duplex in Greensboro Bend, November 1. They spend the day working under the direction of Bill Hardy, site supervisor.

photo by Jenny Bayles



On Monday, Nov. 3, the Habitat for Humanity Greensboro Initiative hosted a group of 15 students from Hazen Union High School in Hardwick, and their teacher, Evan Chartier (far right in overalls). The students are enrolled in Chartier's Hands-on Economics class. After a tour of the duplex with Site Supervisor Bill Hardy, the students worked to fill in and grade material around the foundation, mark and run lines for future internet service, and discussed many aspects of the economics of building a house.

photo by Jenny Bayles

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# I HEARD IT THROUGH THE JEDEVINE

## Timely gifts from Vermont Department of Libraries

by **Brendan Buckley**

HARDWICK – Among the many timely gifts that contributed to the successful completion of the new Jeudevine addition was a grant of \$725,000 from the Vermont Department of Libraries (DOL). That money was a portion of almost sixteen million dollars that the U.S. Treasury distributed to the DOL from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The DOL's intent was to support projects across the state that were already in progress, or close to shovel-ready. Although the Jeudevine Board of Trustees learned of the money soon after the 2021 passage of ARPA, it was not until 2024 that the money at last became available. By then, our collective fingernails had been gnawed to the quick.

Recently the DOL paid us a visit to see the new addition for themselves and to chat with Librarian Diane Grenkow about the project. You can link to that interview through the library website or pick up a paper copy at the circulation desk.

Another article that might

hold some interest for library patrons appeared in the News and Citizen last week and then was carried by the Vermont e-newspaper VT Digger. It tells the story of the Cadys Falls Nursery, begun and managed for over forty years by Don and Lela Avery.

That beautifully tended property has fallen prey to the twenty-first century definition of Vermont floods, where 100-year floods swamp river-side acreage within living memory of the most recent deluge. The Averys have elected to accept a buyout from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and to cede the land back to flood-plain. The barn is being dismantled; the house has been torn down. The Avery's connection to the Jeudevine is that the Averys designed the garden space that graces the back of the patio along the North Main Street side of the library. [Ed. note: and the in-laws of Librarian Diane Grenkow.] They also donated many of the plants for that space and advised on and selected the two trees on that side of the building. Their decades of devotion to cultivating

beauty will live on in gardens across New England.

I have always enjoyed reading history, particularly that of the twentieth century. A recent book that I borrowed from the Jeudevine proved a perfect fit: "The Splendid and the Vile" by Erik Larson. The narrative details the first year of Winston Churchill's term as Prime Minister of Great Britain, from May 1940 through the summer of 1941. As Churchill assumed office, Hitler's forces had completed their rout of Belgium and the Netherlands, and Germany was anticipating the capitulation of France at any moment. The United States was more than eighteen months from joining the war, so England found themselves very much alone. Over the next year the populace endured hundreds of bomb attacks that devastated their cities and challenged their will to endure.

Larson has performed a deep dive into the archives of both England and Germany. He details the high-level meetings that were taking place in both London and Berlin. At the same time that Churchill was publicly expressing his belief

that Britain would ultimately prevail over Germany, he was doing his utmost to encourage President Roosevelt to bring the United States into the war. Meanwhile, as confident as Germany was that it would triumph, its leaders held a grudging respect for Churchill's tenacity and leadership. Germany's confidence that Britain was on the verge of surrender probably played into its plan to invade Russia, thus creating a second front of military involvement that eventually contributed to its downfall. Larson explores how both sides wrestled with the critical decisions that shaped their respective strategies, while also bringing us into their homes and sharing glimpses into personal relationships among each country's leaders and their families. Larson is adept at storytelling, such that his explorations into history are engaging reads. I have also read his "Devil in the White City," in which he intertwines preparations for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with the chilling tale of a serial killer at work in the city. You can find that at the Jeudevine as well. Happy reading!

## IN THE GARDEN

### Now is the time to rejuvenate houseplants

by **Susan Socks**

CABOT – After a long season of tending flower beds and veggie gardens, how are houseplants looking? If you're like me, it's been all too easy to ignore the indoor denizens, and they are looking . . . um, not the best. But never fear! Here are some ways to rejuvenate (and apologize to) those indoor friends.

Most houseplants rarely get a good soaking, because that can get quite messy. Instead, we give them just a little, so we aren't running for a towel when the saucer under them overflows. Over time, the soil can get very dry, to the point where it is hydrophobic. Think of a dried-out sponge, that sheds water instead of absorbing it. When watering a plant with hydrophobic soil, the water is often just running down between the soil and inner wall of the pot, with little reaching the roots.

A second problem is salt buildup. When the soil never gets flushed out, it starts to accumulate salts, which isn't great for most houseplants. Treat plants

to a relaxing soak. Set them in a deep dish (mixing bowls are great) and water them well. Let them sit in the runoff for 20 minutes, then dump the

excess water. You may be surprised how much of the water gets re-absorbed after initially running right out the bottom. A caution: I don't recommend this spa treatment for succulents. They are adapted to dry conditions, and often to mild salt levels as well, and really don't like being soaked.

Dusty plants can't breathe. Their leaves are covered with little openings (called stomata) for exchanging air and releasing water vapor? Dust clogs up the openings, and that just can't feel good. For tropical plants, give them a nice shower in the sink or tub, and gently rub the leaves clean. For desert plants, use a soft duster instead of water.

Periodically, houseplants appreciate a fresh soil. Purchase a good quality potting soil, and make sure it is the right type for your plant (succulent mix for desert plants, general purpose for

tropical). Pop the plant out of the pot, gently shake off most of the soil from their roots, and re-plant with fresh soil. Once potted, hold the edges of the pot and tap it firmly on a work surface a few times, to help settle the new soil around the roots. Water well (also to help settle the soil around the roots). If you have plants that don't need soil, such as orchids, check their growing medium (granular mix, or peat moss) to make sure it is draining well, and isn't getting mildewed.

Sometimes houseplants suffer because they have outgrown their pot. There are two choices: either cut back the roots to make the plant smaller, or buy a bigger pot. I'm frugal, have a small house, and a lot of plants, so I usually opt to reduce the size of the plant, rather than dedicate even more of my home to my chlorophyllic buddies. For single plants, use sharp clippers to cut away some of the roots. Reduce some of the foliage as well, so that the roots and top maintain about the same proportion as when you started the operation. For plants

that are crowded because they made copies of themselves, pick one, and give away or discard the rest.

Some plants, with a tendency to drape or trail (philodendron, tradescantia, ivy, angel wing begonia, etc), can become disheveled over time, with dead leaves or bare stems near the pot, and fresh leaves only at the far ends. Sometimes it is easiest to re-start these plants. Cut 8-10" off the end of the trailing part, strip off all but the last 2-3 leaves, and put the cut stem into a jar of water. Once it sends out roots in the water, plant it in fresh soil. Now you have a fresh, new plant, and can discard the original one.

Most houseplants are pretty darn tough: that is why they are still with you after all these years. But they do appreciate a bit of special attention, once a year or so. Happy indoor gardening.

*Susan Socks, is known as the Garden Goddess. For gardening help, email gardengoddess802@gmail.com, call (802) 498-7785, or visit SocksFamilyFarm.weebly.com.*

# THE OUTSIDE STORY

## Burgeoning black bear populations

by Michael J. Caduto

READING – A few nights ago, I heard a crash on the front porch and flicked on the light to reveal a black bear’s reflective eyes. It lorded over the contents spilling out of our overturned floor freezer. I opened the door, prompting it to tear back through the screen and off into the night.

With Vermont’s black bear population at a record high, this kind of encounter is no surprise. Vermont Fish & Wildlife set a statewide population goal of 3,500 to 5,500 black bears, based on available habitat for food, cover and winter denning, as well as the size of black bear territories. But in 2024, the population numbered between 6,800 and 8,000. These numbers have been consistently high for four years, resulting in a significant rise in interactions between people and bears, larger numbers harvested by hunters and more

bears being killed by vehicles (183 in 2024).

At just under 6,000 individuals, New Hampshire’s black bear numbers are also above the state-wide goals set by the state’s Fish and Game Department to balance population with available habitat and resources. In the White Mountains, the bear population is twice the Fish and Game goal of 0.8 bears per square mile.

Jaelyn Comeau, lead bear biologist for Vermont Fish & Wildlife, says the two biggest drivers of population increase are habitat recovery and restrictions on legal black bear hunting. “The population has been slowly growing since we began estimating the population in the early 1970s,” Comeau said. “We experienced a period of growth from 2018 through 2022 of about 12 percent annually. The population has been hovering near the 2022 peak for the past couple of years.” Numbers continue



Black bear

to grow despite increased mortality due to hunting and vehicle strikes.

Researchers surmise that rising birth rates, cub survival and access to alternative foods are contributing to the population increase. Black bears are omnivores and eat a variety of foods, ranging from beechnuts, acorns, wild apples and fungi, to insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and even some mammals, including young deer and baby moose. Bear populations normally rise and fall with the availability of staple foods such as beechnuts. In the last two decades, black bear populations have risen dramatically in places where acorns are abundant and agricultural fields are full of corn, such as the Connecticut River Valley.

“We suspect that access to greater food diversity might be increasing reproductive rates and possibly survival of cubs,” Comeau said. “We also wonder if increased access to human-caused foods may supplement bear diets in a way that negates the normal limitations that wild food crop failures place on the population.”

The large population of black bears has led to more interactions with people and an increase in their incursions into densely populated areas. Although bears instinctively flee

when they see or smell people, it is important to give them a wide berth and leave space for the animal to escape. Human-bear encounters often happen when the animal is surprised and doesn’t have enough time to leave. To reduce the chances of a close encounter, make noise while hiking and keep dogs leashed.

Black bears have a good memory and will often return to where they previously found food. “They are food motivated animals,” Comeau observed. “They want a high calorie meal with as little effort and risk as possible.” Bears are attracted to bird feeders, compost, gardens, orchards, bees and garbage. Keep trash and compost securely covered and located where bears cannot access them. “You want to avoid teaching a bear that your backyard is a place to find food,” Comeau said. “They will remember!”

At my property, I wait until winter before putting up the bird feeder and take it down again in early spring. And that floor freezer that used to live on the screened-in porch is now safely ensconced in the basement.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading. He is author of “Through a Naturalist’s Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England.” Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.



Students from the construction technology program at the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center in Hyde Park helped install siding at the Habitat for Humanity duplex in Greensboro Bend. The students and their instructor Greg Stokes have been coming to the site every Wednesday since September 17. Some of the students were Burk Kayhart (blue sweatshirt), Matthew Brown (brown sweatshirt) and Ryker Atwood (grey sweatshirt).

photo by Jenny Bayles

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Thanksgiving Caspian Run, Nov. 27

GREENSBORO – Thursday, Nov. 27, beginning at 9 a.m., the annual Thanksgiving trek will take place around Caspian Lake. Run, walk or bike on this 6.8 mile loop.

This is not a race and there is no course support. Attendees will

meet at the ballfield, at the intersection of Center Road and Lake Shore Road, and depart at 9 a.m.

If possible, please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Hardwick food shelf. Email [vhillpt@gmail.com](mailto:vhillpt@gmail.com) with any questions

## Veterans quilting group, Dec. 7

HARDWICK – December 7, from 1 to 3 p.m., join the quilting group at the Hardwick American Legion and support area veterans by crafting handmade quilts to be given to area veterans, a “Quilt of Valor.” Donations of patriotic material (red, white, blue) to craft these works of art and fabric backing are sought. To nominate

a veteran for one of these quilts, reach out as the recipients for the first QOV ceremony are being lined up. Contact Tammy at (802) 881-9779 or Corrinna at (802) 274-8333 with questions or donations which can also be dropped off the day of the event. The Hardwick American Legion Post No. 7 is located at 15 N. Main St.



Volunteers Charlie and Polly McArthur of Morrisville show donations that were brought in for the pet food drive during the annual Justice for Dogs Craft Fair, November 15, in the Hazen Union gymnasium. The organization was started by and still run by Amy Touchette of Wolcott and the McArthur's have volunteered to help with the fundraiser for the last 19 years.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Andrea Brightenback and Bruce Fortmann talk about their cycling tour through Albania, December 4, at the Jeudevine Memorial Library. courtesy photo

## Cycling through Albania talk, Dec. 4

HARDWICK – Andrea Brightenback and Bruce Fortmann will give a cycling tour presentation of Albania at the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Memorial Library on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. The two lead a virtual cycling tour around the southern half of Albania featuring

vistas, ocean and agrarian lands, photos of Mediterranean food and an introduction to 2000 years of the history of this tiny country.

This program is free and open to the public. The library is located at 93 N. Main St. and is fully accessible. For more information, visit [jeudevinememoriallibrary.org](http://jeudevinememoriallibrary.org)

## Farmer Advocacy Program subsidizes meeting attendance

by Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District

ORLEANS COUNTY – The Farmer Advocacy Program seeks to encourage farmers to attend public input meetings related to natural resources.

The Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) will provide a \$75 stipend via the Farmers Advocacy Program, to those attending meetings related to natural resource concerns.

To enroll in the Farmer Advocate Program, contact OCNRCD to express interest; they will follow up

with a short application. Then check the listing of advocacy opportunities at upcoming events, meetings and public forums on the website at [orleanscountynrcd.org](http://orleanscountynrcd.org).

Once reviewed, applicants will be added to a mailing list, to be alerted of upcoming meetings and be prepared to attend them.

After enrolling, attendees will receive a stipend for attending meetings after completing a short survey for each event. The OCNRCD will provide preparatory information in advance of the meeting as well as periodic trainings on how to advocate and effectively meet with agencies, legislators, and other decision makers.

## Holiday stories with Santa, Dec. 6

WOODBURY – Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m., the day-themed music, story telling, Woodbury Town Hall will and treats.

## Film screening, community discussion, Dec. 7

ST. JOHNSBURY – Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Catamount Arts will host a film screening and community discussion of “Can’t Look Away: The Case Against Social Media”, a documentary that exposes the dark side of social media and its impact on young users. The film under-

scores the need for industry reform and serves as a wake-up call about the dangers of social media and a call to action to protect future generations. This film deals with difficult subject matter and viewer discretion is advised. The film is rated for 13 and over. Catamount Arts is located at 115 Eastern Ave.

## The Women’s Center at Copley

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# EDUCATION

## Students' Hibernation Feast featured on WCAX



Randy Sayers, Laila Kromash, Nina Livellara, Joel Higgins and Henry Upson. Prepare a salad for the Woodbury Elementary School's Hibernation Feast, Tuesday, Nov. 17. Livellara, the chef and owner of Baker's Bench in Woodbury gives students a lesson on building a salad by adding one ingredient at a time, almost like "constructing a layer cake," she said. photo by Lisa Stinson

by Paul Fixx

WOODBURY – Kindergarten and first grade students, with their sixth grade buddies at Woodbury Elementary School, prepared and served an on-campus Hibernation Feast to over 100 of their families, teachers and community members, last Tuesday, Nov. 18.

The Woodbury Bears' meal was the culmination of a farm-to-fork and restaurant business unit conceived by sixth grade teacher Lindsey Benton and K-1 teacher Catherine Siefert, which brought WCAX to town.

Nina Livellara, the chef and owner of Baker's Bench in Woodbury helped students prepare the meal, teaching them to build a salad by adding one ingredient at a time, almost like "constructing a layer cake," she said.

Guests arrived to find tables set and decorated with miniature pumpkins.

The meal, served buffet style, included dishes prepared by the students, with Sunshine Soup with root veggies from Pete's Greens;

Autumn Salad; a Vermont Rice Medley; Braised Beef Short Ribs in Gravy from North Hardwick Farm and Apple Crumble with local apples.

To prepare for their own meal, students visited a monthly community meal at the United Church of Hardwick prepared by Hazen Union School students in Reeve Basom's Recipe for a Human Connection class, where both the K-1 and sixth grade students interviewed the high school students about how they prepared their meal.

As part of the study, Siefert's K-1 class visited Sterling College, where they visited and picked vegetables and mushrooms at the farm and joined students there for lunch, learning how the staff there prepared the cafeteria-style meals.

WCAX's Cat Viglienzoni visited the Washington County town of about 930 people for last week's "Vermont's Own" segment, which was broadcast on the following evening's news. It can be found at [wcax.com/2025/11/19/woodbury-elementary-students-transform-school-into-restaurant/](http://wcax.com/2025/11/19/woodbury-elementary-students-transform-school-into-restaurant/).



WES first and sixth grade students decorated tables for the Hibernation Feast they prepared for parents, teachers and community members last week, on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

photo by Lisa Stinson



Students (from left) Leo Jarvis and Randy Sayers are in place at their serving station, with Nina Livellara, chef and owner of Baker's Bench in Woodbury, ready to feed the more than one-hundred guests who have reservations for the Hibernation Feast, November 18 at Woodbury Elementary School.

photo by Lisa Stinson



Woodbury Elementary School students (from left) Joel Higgins and Talia Jurkiewicz, serve a guest at the Hibernation Feast last Tuesday where first and sixth grade students prepared sunshine Soup with root veggies from Pete's Greens; Autumn Salad; a Vermont Rice Medley; Braised Beef Short Ribs in Gravy from North Hardwick Farm and Apple Crumble with local apples.

photo by Lisa Stinson

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Local cheesemakers are international winners

by Vermont Cheese Council

WAITSFIELD – The Vermont Cheese Council received word that Vermont took home at least 33 awards at the World Cheese Awards international competition in Bern, Switzerland. The Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm, Greensboro and Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Cabot, were among the cheesemakers who received awards.

Super Gold winner included Withersbrook Blue from Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm

Vermont cheese producers won the following awards:

Silver winners included Cabot Clothbound, Harbison, Willoughby, Moses Sleeper and Bayley Hazen Blue from Cellars at Jasper Hill.

Bronzer winners included Cabot Alpine Cheddar and Cabot Vintage Choice Cheddar from Cabot Creamery Cooperative and Alpha Tolman from Cellars at Jasper Hill.

Another Super Gold winner was West West Blue from Parish Hill Creamery, Westminster.

Other Gold winners from Vermont included Gisele, aged 8 months from Boston Post Dairy, Enoseburg Falls; Reverie from Parish Hill Creamery; Clover Blossom Honey Goat Cheese and Cremont from Vermont Creamery, Websterville.

Cheesemakers from Vermont winning Silver awards included Madison Blue from Green Mountain Blue Cheese, Highgate Center; French washed rind 4 months

from Mt. Mansfield Creamery, Morristown; Kashar, Jack's Blue, Idyll and Humble from Parish Hill Creamery; Hooper from Vermont Creamery and Mt Alice and Mad River Blue from von Trapp Farmstead, Waitsfield.

Bronze winners included Tres Bonne Reserve aged 8 months from Boston Post Dairy, Shepsog aged approximately 11 months from Grafton Village Cheese Co., Grafton; Vermont Herdsman, St. Albans; Coupole, Maple Chipotle

Goat Cheese, Honey Truffle Goat Cheese, Strawberry Spritz Goat Cheese and Classic Goat Cheese from Vermont Creamery and Oma from von Trapp Farmstead.

The World Cheese Awards is an annual international competition hosted by different nations, working with the Guild of Fine Food to shine a light on local cheesemaking, food and drink tourism and culture. This year there were 5,000 cheeses from over 40 countries.

### OUR E-MAILS

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



The Hardwick Area Quilters, (from left) Helen Willey of Hardwick, organizer Gail O'Brien and Nancy Nottermann of East Hardwick and Jayne Nold-Laurendeau of Woodbury, meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Jeudevine Memorial Library's Parker Ladd Community Room. Quilters of all levels are welcome to join the group.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Arthritis relief exercise class

HARDWICK – Thursdays at 10 a.m., the Community Center in Hardwick will host the arthritis foundation exercise program, sponsored by the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. The class is free and open to anyone.

The exercises are meant to relieve joint pain from arthritis, strengthen core and help with balance and strength. Contact Sara Behrsing for more information at Shbehrsing@gmail.com.

### Pickleball Sundays at elementary gym

HARDWICK – Sunday's, the Hardwick Elementary school gym hosts pickleball. Open to the public, the beginners group starts at 11

a.m., with intermediate and above at noon to 2 p.m. Contact Sara Behrsing for more information at Shbehrsing@gmail.com.

### Redistricting education webinar, Dec. 2

by Libbie Sparadeo

ONLINE – Join VTDigger's free webinar via zoom at noon on Dec. 2 for a live discussion on Vermont's education transformation under Act 73 and what lies ahead, with education reporter Corey McDonald. Space is limited, so please register to reserve a spot.

McDonald has been covering the rollout of Act 73 since it was signed into law in July, 2025. In this one-hour session, he'll unpack the reforms already reshaping Vermont's schools and answer reader questions. The event will be moderated by VTDigger's Libbie Sparadeo and will respond to questions submitted in advance by readers.

### "Holly Jolly Brawly" invitational, Dec. 13

HARDWICK – December 13, a children-only benefit martial arts tournament will take place at Hazen Union High School. Doors open at 7:30 a.m., with the event kicking off at 9 a.m.. Featured martial arts forms include gi and no gi grappling; flag sparring and point sparring; weapons forms and empty hands forms as well as a padded swords division. All styles are welcome, and competitors can

participate in up to seven divisions of competition. Some divisions require pre-registration. Judges and volunteers get free admission and will be offered a free lunch. All profits and donations go toward the Hardwick Holiday Project and the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

For more information, reach out to Adam Beckley or check the website at [www.martialartsin-hardwick.com](http://www.martialartsin-hardwick.com).

## OBITUARIES

### Raymond G. "Ray" Salls Jr.

HARDWICK – Raymond Geoffrey "Ray" Salls Jr., 82, of Hardwick, passed away peacefully, on November 16, at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care in Lebanon, N.H., surrounded by his loving family.

Ray was born on November 2, 1943, in Sheldon, the son of Raymond Geoffrey Salls Sr, and Mary (Gamble) Salls. He graduated from Cabot High School and went on to proudly serve his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

Following his service, Ray built a long and successful 37-year career at IBM. On April 2, 1966, he married the love of his life, Sharyn Alice Smith. Together, they shared nearly 60 wonderful years of marriage and built a warm and loving home for their three daughters.

Ray lived a full and active life. He enjoyed fishing, playing horse-shoes, four-wheeling, hunting and golfing. More than anything, he treasured time spent with his family, his daughters, his cherished granddaughters, and especially his two beloved great-grandsons. He was a member of the Caspian Lake Lodge No. 87 & AM Chapter in Hardwick and served his community as a part-time police specialist. Those who visited his shop knew it as a place of welcome, laughter and good conversation.

Ray and Sharyn endured the heartbreaking loss of their first-born daughter, Lori Ann Salls, who was tragically killed by a drunk driver in 1986. Ray's strength, devotion, and love of his family carried them through unimaginable grief.

Survivors include his daughters, Shelley Hale (David "Bum") of East Hardwick and Sherri Wiswell (Michael) of Woodbury; his



Raymond G. "Ray" Salls Jr.

grandchildren, Mykala Wiswell (Kolin Barclay) of Walden and Kassity (Hale) Marckres (Andrew) of Craftsbury; and his two great-grandsons, Bennett Barclay and Wyatt Marckres.

Ray was predeceased by his loving wife of 59 years, Sharyn, on September 4, 2025; his parents Raymond and Mary Salls Sr.; and his daughter Lori Ann Salls.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the many people who enjoyed visiting his shop and sharing stories over the years.

Visiting hours will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, at Northern Vermont Funeral Home, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick.

Spring graveside services will be private at the convenience of his family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to: Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice Care, 154 Hitchcock Loop Road, Lebanon, NH 03766.

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

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## Northern Vermont Funeral Service

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Dian R. Holcomb  
Funeral Director

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### HARDWICK MEMORIAL TREE

An emergency vehicle parade through Hardwick Village immediately precedes the tree lighting.

Tree Lighting Sunday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

\*first/last name of individual or last name of family

# bulbs, at \$5 each \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Hardwick Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 837, Hardwick, VT 05843

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: DECEMBER 3 (None accepted after this date)

Only the name of the loved one on the purchased bulb will be in the newspaper



# Local folk orchestra receives standing ovation

## REVIEW

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The local folk orchestra gave a concert last Saturday night with a generous program of a wide variety of musical genres, bringing out the individual talents of its members under the enthusiastic conducting of Roy and Mavis MacNeil, all to a near capacity audience at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro.

They started off with a high energy number, “The Root Beer Rag” by Billy Joel, a lively tune with a fast beat, creating a great introductory piece.

Piano rags became very popular at the beginning of the twentieth century in this country and sold a lot of sheet music and early gramophone records. Next was the Romanian “Dances of Bela Bartok” (1891-1945). He and Zoltan Kodaly (1882 - 1967) were among the first to record authentic folk music in Central and Eastern Europe on wax cylinders in the early 1900s and incorporate these rich rhythms and unique harmonies into their own compositions. The first dance had an immediately engaging melody, the second featured the cello played by Annie Rowell. The third was scored for flute, here with Mavis MacNeil, slower in tempo and beautifully evocative of the landscape and culture of Romania. The fourth highlighted the violin, performed by Mia Hartman and was full of feeling, while in the fifth one could readily picture villagers dancing. Guest artist Maura Gahan accompanied the music with improvised movements and amusing props.

Icarus Tyree lent her fine clean voice to a rendition of “Donna Donna” by Shalom Secunda and Aaron Zeitlin, as well as playing her guitar, in a song about going to market that had a certain haunting character. A traditional Klezmer piece, “Lebedik un Freylach,” also had its roots in Eastern Europe, vivacious dance music with complex progressions, led by Jeff Reinhardt on clarinet. The “Scherzo from Symphony No. 2 in D Major” by Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827) followed, the third of four movements, having a stately elegance.

Leslie Campos gave a skilled interpretation of three Irish and American fiddle tunes, “Haste to the Wedding,” “Drowsy Maggie” and “The Devils Dream,” accompanied by Fiona Bok and Roy MacNeil on violins, Annie Rowell on bass, Icarus Tyree on guitar and Mavis MacNeil on spoons. “O’ Delight” was Annie Rowell’s original piece, “Dolly’s Song,” about her husband’s truck with the refrain, “Lets go home.” Mavis MacNeil joined voices with her, while Roy MacNeil on guitar and Andrew Koehler on piano added to the men. “Who Knows Where the Time Goes,” by Sandy Denny rounded out the first half of the program, with a dreamy rhythm and poetic lyrics, well sung by Mavis MacNeil, Leslie Campos and Annie Rowell, combined with Roy MacNeil and Randy Bulpin on guitar and Andrew Koehler on piano.

After intermission the four members of the Bird House Band sang “I Hear Them All” by the Old Crow Medicine Show, with wonderful meaningful verses, vocalized by Roy and Mavis MacNeil with both guitar and saxophone respectively, Andrew Koehler on piano and Annie Rowell on bass.

A classic love song, “Fly Me to The Moon” by Bert Howard, had excellent ensemble playing, with Andrew Koehler on piano and Roy MacNeil on violin getting in some imaginative improvisations, while Mavis MacNeil’s warm voice was a pleasure to hear. Randy Bulpin on guitar and Esteli Kitchen on saxophone accompanied them.

“Mercy, Mercy, Mercy” by Joe Zawinul was made famous by Cannonball Adderley’s recording of it, a memorable melody beautifully sequenced, giving Leslie Campos on violin, Esteli Kitchen on saxophone and Max Densmore on French Horn a chance to do some permutations.

“Na Srce Mi Lezi” was a traditional Macedonian song, which Icarus Tyree and Mavis MacNeil sang together in Greek with finely blended voices, a lovers lament with many verses. “Bist Du Bei Mir” by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 -1750), translated as “If Thou



A traditional Macedonian tune, “Na Srce Mi Leži,” arranged by Jeff Reinhardt (left), clarinet, with (from left) Roy MacNeil, guitar; Will Helms (barely visible), clarinet; Icarus Tyree, voice; Mavis MacNeil, voice; Randy Bulpin, guitar and Annie Rowell, cello, sung in the original Macedonian and performed Saturday, Nov. 22, at Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro by the Local Folk Orchestra. photo by Paul Fixx

God Be Near Me, (I Can Die in Peace),” was a moving piece, sung by Mavis MacNeil with her exquisite color and change. Bach’s harmonies often have rhythm, whose tempos correspond to the beating of the human heart, which is one reason they are so powerful.

The final movement of the “Symphony No. 36 in C Major,” marked Presto, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791), was triumphal, so positive in its energy as most of his music is.

Mara Gahan made a visual addition with her spontaneous dancing. “A Day in the Life” by John Lennon and Paul McCartney was one of their best compositions as the Beatles, having remarkably original lyrics and orchestra, with Roy MacNeil and Annie Rowell

bringing out the deeper feelings in their expressive voices.

The last selection on the program was the Shaker tune, “Simple Gifts.” The Shaker movement in 19th century America was a daring experiment in communal living, and the verses of this beautiful song embody their vision of creating paradise of joy and peace on earth, a perfect ending to this concert. As Roy MacNeil put it, music gives us “light in these dark times.” The audience rose in appreciation to the local folk orchestra in a standing ovation.

Other supporting musicians not mentioned above were Will Helms on clarinet, Adam Lebow on tuba, Tom Ziobrowski on viola, Theresa Peura on violin and Torri Lynn Ashford on percussion.



## Holiday Craft Fair

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**10 AM - 2 PM**  
**Copley Hospital, Main Floor**  
**528 Washington Highway, Morrisville**

*With 26 participating local artisans you are sure to find the perfect holiday or all-occasion gift!*

- Dried flower wreaths and arrangements
- Aprons, table runners and other sewing crafts
- Rope baskets, ornaments and felted wool items
- Pottery and ceramics
- VT landscape paintings, prints and cards
- Cutting boards, baked goods and more...

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[hardwickgazette.org](http://hardwickgazette.org)



# Visiting artist offers hybrid art, writing class, Dec. 6

ST. JOHNSBURY – Gnaomi Siemens will host a hybrid art and writing workshop for adults and high school students, on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Catamount Arts.

Gnaomi's workshop "Anarchy in the Imagination" invites community members to find inspiration and explore artistic practice regardless of skill or experience level.

There is a fee for the workshop. High school students get a 10% discount. Call (802) 748-2600, extension 109, to inquire about financial assistance. Bring a notebook and pen or pencil, no phones or laptops.

Siemens will host an additional workshop, "Poetry as Divination," Sunday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., also at Catamount Arts.

Gnaomi Siemens is a New York City-based poet and artist who writes about ecology, culture, and art through a queer, ecofeminist lens. Her work can be found in *The Believer*, *Seneca Review*,

*Portland Review*, *Epiphany* magazine, *Poet Lore*, and *Action, Spectacle*, among others in the U.S. and beyond. Her work has been supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, the Arctic Circle, Millay Arts, Vermont Studio Center, the British Library, the Poetry Society of New York, American Literary Translators Association, and the Council for European Studies. Her first poetry collection "The Errant" was a finalist for the X. J. Kennedy Poetry Prize.

To register for the workshop or to learn more about the 560 Railroad Community Artists program, including the full roster of visiting artists, visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).

**Lamoille County Players**  
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 PRESENTS  
**Serooge's Christmas**  
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 Tickets available at the door (802) 888-4507  
 \$20 (adults) • \$15 (students & seniors)  
 Friday, Saturday 7pm • Sunday 2pm

# Chorus presents "Messiah," Dec. 5-7

ST. JOHNSBURY – The North Country Chorus sings Handel's "Messiah" at their annual holiday concerts on December 5, 6, and 7. The Friday concert is at 7:30 p.m., at Wells River Congregational Church. The Saturday and Sunday concerts are at 3 p.m., at United Community Church in St. Johnsbury and Peacham Congregational Church, respectively.

Accompanied by a chamber ensemble, the 80 voices in the North Country Chorus are directed by Alan Rowe. Soloists are sopranos Lisa Baclawski, Suzan Derby, and Kristen Morgan-Davie; altos Kim Beckley and Bridget Peters; tenors Michael Eareckson and Andrew Hudson-Sabens, and bass Lucas Weiss.

Admission to the concert is by donation.

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## WGDR 91.1 FM / WGDH 91.7 FM Current 2025 Schedule

as of June 2025

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

**Rotating Slots**

#1: Sun 10 am-12 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Audio Ergo Sum  
Darien & Ruby McEwain  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: The Immanent Grove  
Connie 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: Illuminations  
Stephanie Lingenfelter  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon: Cuneform Radio  
Kyle Schlessinger  
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 Astion

#7: Tue 7-9 pm  
Blues/jazz rotation:  
Still Life with Club Soda  
Serena Malt  
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 Ganza  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat: Civic Radio Project  
Still Life with Orange Peel  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: Pollinator Report  
Emily Larocser  
4<sup>th</sup> Sat: Kitchen Permaculture  
Rebecca Beidler

#10: Sat 10-11 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat: Sex Fly Benge  
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

Support, stream live or listen to archives at [WGDR.org](http://WGDR.org) @WGDRWGDHVT

# THE BOOKSHELF

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

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

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

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

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

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

**GREENSBORO FREE LIBRARY**, 53 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, greensborofreelibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thur. and Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sun. noon to 2 p.m.

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

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



Handel's "Messiah" will be performed by the orchestra and chorus of the Vermont Philharmonic on December 5 in Montpelier and December 7 in Barre. *courtesy photo*

## Handel's "Messiah" presented Dec. 5, Dec. 7

**BARRE-MONTPELIER** – Handel's "Messiah" will be presented by the orchestra and chorus of the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m., in St Augustine Church in Montpelier, and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., in the Barre Opera House. Lisa Jablow, will conduct and soloists include Colleen Flynn Campbell, soprano; Nessa Rabin, mezzo-soprano; Connor Trombly, tenor; and Erik Kronke, bass. Mary Jane Austin is the assistant choral director.

The performances will present the entire first part of Messiah, with arias and choral numbers and concludes with the "Hallelujah"

chorus from Part II, and six numbers from Part III.

Celebrating its 67th Season, the Vermont Philharmonic is composed of professional and amateur musicians from throughout Vermont. It is Vermont's oldest community orchestra, founded in 1959 by Jon Borowicz, emeritus professor of music at Norwich University. Since 1993, the Philharmonic's home base has been the Barre Opera House. Lou Kosma has been the music director of the Philharmonic since 1999.

Tickets are available online at [vermontphilharmonic.com](http://vermontphilharmonic.com) or at the door.



Barry Hayes of Lyndonville provided music at the annual Justice for Dogs Craft Show, November 15, in the Hazen Union gymnasium.

*photo by Vanessa Fournier*

## Ballet Wolcott's "Land of Sweets", Dec. 6

**WOLCOTT** – December 6, at 6 p.m., Ballet Wolcott will present "The Land of Sweets" at People's Academy High school, located on Copley Ave. "The Land of the Sweets", Ballet Wolcott's 2025 winter production is choreographed by Gabrielle Berger, to Tchaikovsky's well known music from "The Nutcracker." The

performance will feature nearly 50 student dancers, ages three to adult, plus professional dancers in the roles of the Sugarplum Fairy and her Cavalier.

Tickets are available at [balletwolcott.com](http://balletwolcott.com). Tickets may be available (by cash or check) at the door.

For more information, visit [balletwolcott.com/performances](http://balletwolcott.com/performances).

## LCP presents "Scrooge's Christmas"

**HYDE PARK** – The Lamoille County Players' 73rd season at the Hyde Park Opera House concludes with Ken Jones's "Scrooge's Christmas," directed by Nathaniel Beyer. In Ken Jones's adaptation of Charles Dickens's classic tale, "A Christmas Carol", a group of actors portray all the characters of this Christmas tradition. The ensemble provides the songs and sounds as Scrooge is confronted by the Spirits of Past, Present and Future.

"Scrooge's Christmas" runs December 5 to December 7 and December 12 to December 14 at the historic Hyde Park Opera House, 85 Main St. Shows begin at 7 p.m., Friday, and Saturday nights, with Sundays (matinees only) starting



Karein Shearer portrays Scrooge in the Lamoille County Players production of "Scrooge's Christmas."

at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online at [LCPlayers.com](http://LCPlayers.com).

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# EVENTS

## Thursday, Nov. 27

**THANKSGIVING RUN**, 9 a.m., Caspian Lake. Run, walk or bike the 6.8 mile loop. Meet at the intersection of Center Road and Lake Shore Road. Not a race. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Hardwick Food Shelf if you are able. Information: vhillpt@gmail.com

## Saturday, Nov. 29

**CRAFT SHOW AND BAKE SALE**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Calais Woodbury United Church, South Woodbury. Lunch available for dining in or take out.

## Monday, Dec. 1

**JEUDEVINE PLAYERS** present "Where is...Little Baby Richie?" (rescheduled from previous date), 4:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. All are welcome. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Tuesday, Dec. 2

**TUESDAY MORNING HONK & WAVE**, new time: noon, Hardwick Peace Park, 34 Main St., Hardwick. Information: IndivisibleHardwick@pm.me

**VTDIGGER WEBINAR**, noon, A live discussion on Vermont's education transformation under Act 73. Register to reserve a spot.

**KIDS' CHORUS**, 3 p.m., for ages 9 and up, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information:

jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

## Thursday, Dec. 4

**CYCLING TOUR** through Albania presentation with Andrea Brightenback and Bruce Fortmann, 6:30 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library Parker Ladd Community Room, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Information: jeudevinememoriallibrary.org.

## Friday, Dec. 5

**AN EVENING OF POETRY**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Woodbury Community Room. Hosted by the Woodbury Community Library. Bring three writings to share. Begins with a meal followed by the reading. Confirm your attendance at (802) 472-5710 or library@woodburyvt.org.

**BLOOD DRIVE**, noon to 4:30 p.m., Neighbors in Action, 3339 Main St., Cabot. All blood types needed. Reserve an appointment to give blood or platelets at RedCrossBlood.org or call (800) RED CROSS.

**NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS** sings Handel's "Messiah," 7:30 p.m., Wells River Congregational Church.

## Saturday, Dec. 6

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., East Hardwick First Congregational Church. Trees and wreaths, auction table, hand-made crafts, donuts, pies and other baked goods. Tag sale of Christmas decorations and items.

**BALLET WOLCOTT** presents "The Land of Sweets," 6 p.m., People's

Academy High School, Copley Ave., Morrisville. Tickets at balletwolcott.com or at the door. Information: balletwolcott.com/performances

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

**HYBRID ART AND WRITING Workshop**, for adults and high school students, with visiting artist Gnaomi Siemens, 9 a.m. to noon, Catamount Arts, 560 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury. Information and registration: catamountarts.org.

**NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS** sings Handel's "Messiah," 3 p.m., United Community Church, St. Johnsbury.

## Sunday, Dec. 7

**WILLEM LANGE'S** "A Christmas Carol: a ghost story" by Charles Dickens, 2 p.m., Lost Nation Theater, Montpelier City Hall Arts Center, 39 Main St. Information and tickets: lostnationtheater.org

**NORTH COUNTRY CHORUS** sings Handel's "Messiah," 3 p.m., Peacham Congregational Church.

**VETERANS QUILTING GROUP** meets, 1 to 3 p.m., Hardwick American Legion, 15 N. Main St. Support area Veterans by crafting quilts to be given to area veterans. Information: (802) 881-9779 or (802) 274-8333.

## Ongoing Events

**ARTHRITIS RELIEF EXERCISE CLASS**, Thursdays, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information: Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

**PICKLEBALL**, Sundays, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Beginners group starts at 11 a.m. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information: Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

**CHESS CLUB MEETS**, on select Mondays, 2:45 to 4 p.m., Craftsbury School, Minden Art Room. Join advisor Andras Hadik-Barokczy 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

See **EVENTS**, Next Page

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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dwrichardson1999@gmail.com

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# EVENTS

cdu.tim@gmail.com

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** practice group, every Thursday, 2 p.m., John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information: (802) 586-9692, 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 young people get together at The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. Games begin at 5 p.m. and new players are always welcome.

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

**COMMUNITY SUPPER**, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick.

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

**MENDING CIRCLE MEETS**, every

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

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

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

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

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

**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

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

**VICTORIA MATIESEN**: Always Looking. New landscape paintings, through January 20, Parker Pie Gallery, 161 County Road, West Glover.

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



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# Catamounts suffer upset in tournament second round

by Ken Brown

BURLINGTON – The defending Division I National Champion University of Vermont (UVM) men's soccer team suffered their first defeat in over a year on Sunday as Hofstra upset the top seeded Catamounts in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Laurie Goddard buried a feed from Daniel Burko seven minutes into overtime to pull off the upset of the tournament with a 3-2 stunner over the Catamounts. Philipp Kuhn gave UVM a 1-0 lead 13 minutes into the match and the Catamount defense held Hofstra down before all hell broke loose midway into the second half. Goals by Pablo Hempelmann-Perez and Jan Ziewiec over a two minute span gave the Pride a 2-1 lead in the 68th minute, leaving a shivering sold out crowd at Virtue Field stunned. Rui Aoki breathed life back into the stadium with an equalizing header off a perfect corner kick by Omar Robbana with

six minutes left in regulation. The Catamounts appeared to survive Hofstra's upset bid four minutes later when a penalty kick was awarded to the home team for the potential game-winner, but was overturned by official video review. Goddard crashed a perfect service from Burko in the penalty area in the early minutes of overtime to once again silence the crowd, handing UVM their first home loss in over two years.

Despite being the No. 1 overall seed, the unseeded Pride was a dangerous match-up for the Catamounts. They outlasted Hofstra 2-1 during their Cinderella Run through the NCAA Tournament last fall and escaped with another 2-1 victory over the Pride this past September. The Catamounts were one of five of the top six seeded teams to fall over the weekend in the second round, blowing the tournament wide open. Second seeded Virginia, No. 3 Princeton, No. 5 SMU and sixth seeded Indiana all



2025 UVM men's soccer team

image courtesy uvmathletics.com

met the same fate. Fourth seeded Maryland is the top ranked team left in the field after surviving a penalty kick shootout with North Carolina.

UVM's season came to an end at 14-1-5 in front of the thirteenth consecutive sellout at Virtue Field. The Catamounts captured the University's first ever Division

I National Championship last season as an unranked team in the tournament. Their loss on Sunday snapped a program record 29-match undefeated streak.

Hofstra (14-5) advances to the Sweet 16 for the third time in five years. They take on No. 16 Furman on Sunday for a chance to make their first Elite 8 in program history.

## 'Tis the season of soccer resurgence in

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – With UVM's national title defense coming up short in the second round of the NCAA Tournament over the weekend, it brings the official end to the season and an eighteen month-plus run of the meteoric resurgence of the sport of soccer in the Green Mountain State.

Soccer is absolutely booming in the state of Vermont, especially at the youth levels. Helping drive that boom has undoubtedly been the success of a UVM men's soccer team that had a Cinderella Run for the ages last season that ran right into this summer. The Catamounts



Kaitlyn (Forant) Jacobs (left) of Irasburg presents a soccer ball to Hazen Union senior Isabelle Gouin (right) of Hardwick, October 15, for becoming the school's new all time leading scorer with 56 goals.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

championship players elected to play for Vermont's semi-pro soccer team, Vermont Green FC. Those players double dipped into championship glory, leading the Green to their first ever USL2 National Title this past August in just their fourth year in existence. The Green went undefeated on their way to their USL2 title, while continuing to pack in standing room only crowds at Virtue Field.

That enthusiasm for the sport has trickled down into the high school, middle school, and youth levels all across the state. Participation numbers were up this past fall for most high school soccer programs in all divisions, with local programs like Hazen Union (Craftsbury Academy) and Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) enjoying successful seasons, along with uptick in numbers. The Cale-

donia United boys team rode the program's first ever undefeated regular season all the way to the Division IV state title match. The Hazen boys team had their most competitive season in the rugged Capital League since joining four years ago, finishing with their first winning season at 7-6-1. The Hazen girls hosted a playoff game for the third straight year, winning 27 games over that span. Cal United now has the reigning Player of the Year in Eli Russell and Coach of the Year in Peter Stratman. Isabelle Gouin



Hazen junior Lincoln Hill heads the ball during play in Hardwick October 11. At left is Levi Higgins.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

McNaughten, Taylor Thompson and Cal United's Sam McLane, Josh Petersen and Eliska Siebenbruner, were all Vermont All-State selections.

Summer soccer youth programs are surging across the state and the Vermont Soccer Association as an affiliate of U.S. Youth Soccer, is leading the way to grow the game. Vermont has become the largest youth member of the United States Soccer Federation. Recent data shows that Vermont is one of the top states for youth sports participation in the entire country at nearly a seventy percent clip, including the nationwide leader in youth soccer participation.

If soccer enthusiasts need a breather, make it short, because with help from Canada and Mexico, the United States will host the World Cup in the summer of 2026.



Hazen Union freshman Ella Luther (No. 9) looks to move the ball around senior Ella Bliss (left) of Peoples during action, September 3, on Hudson field.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

also won Player of the Year in the Mountain League for the Lady Cats, breaking the all-time scoring record at Hazen with 56 career goals. Harry Besett was named Coach of the Year in the Capital in just his second season coaching the Wildcats. Russell, Gouin, along with Hazen's Grayson



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

photo by Rory Thibault

captured their first-ever Division I National Championship last fall as an unranked team. Virtue Field in Burlington just sold out their thirteenth straight match over the weekend with Catamount faithful that have turned the modest stadium into a standing room party atmosphere week in and week out. The party continued into the summer when several Catamount