



Petition calls for reconsideration of pre-K, K relocation

by Paul Fixx

CALAIS – A petition began circulating last month expressing concern about the decision of the Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) administration to move Calais pre-K and kindergarten students to East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) for the 2027 school year.

The April 24 petition posted on the iPetitions platform had gathered 101 signatures late Monday evening. It asks that “the WCUUSD board give necessary

oversight to the superintendent’s decision to move Calais pre K - K to East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES).“

The petition details town and school district votes, along with other information that it says calls into question the plan to move pre-K and K students from Calais to EMES.

Primarily, it suggests enough students have registered for pre-K and K from Calais to support two classrooms in the 2027 school year.

As of April 7, it notes 14 pre-K and

See PETITION, 5



Calais Elementary School students celebrate outside before their spring break. *courtesy photo*

Community clean-up removes 175 tires from Cooper Brook

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – A student-led cleanup effort to improve water quality along Cooper Brook resulted in the removal of 175 tires and additional debris, May 1.

Many of the tires had been carried downstream during the July 2024 flooding and collected along the stretch of Cooper Brook near Atkins Field.

The project was initiated by Chelsea Ross, advisor to the Hazen Union Hatchery Club, who approached the Town of Hardwick last fall seeking a hands-on environmental project for students. After considering several options, tire removal from Cooper Brook was identified as a priority, with planning beginning earlier this spring.

A total of 47 volunteers participated in the

See CLEAN-UP, 5



Lotty Roozekrans and son River, 2, of Johnson, pick up debris on Atkins Field during a Cooper Brook cleanup effort, May 1. Roozekrans works for the Center for an Agricultural Economy.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hardwick volunteer, Tyler Buswell, unloads tires into a dumpster during the Cooper Brook clean up effort, May 1. In all, 47 volunteers picked up 175 tires and half a dumpster of debris along approximately one mile, from Route 14 to Wolcott Street in Hardwick.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Two FEMA buyouts complete, assistant treasurer appointed

by Raymonda Parchment

WOODBURY – The April 13 meeting of the select board saw a number of updates on various matters, with FEMA buyouts in the village complete and demolition soon to come, appointment of an assistant treasurer, Sheriff’s coverage to cost more, Skip Lindsay resigning his town positions and a road crew member still to be hired.

John Gordon gave FEMA updates, saying buyouts for the two flood damaged properties in the village have been completed and the town now owns both properties. He’s received notice that demolition of the two buildings has to be completed within 90 days.

Gordon mentioned other projects related to the removal of the old fire station that need to be considered and then acted upon. The scope of work for the removal of the old fire station will be of two parts: one being the demolition of the building and second, the reconfiguring of water and power lines.

The emergency generator at the school is currently hooked up to the old fire station. With the town hall designated as an emergency shelter, he recommends the power line from the emergency generator be connected to the town hall.

The water line and the storage water tank in the old firehouse will need to be reconfigured, with the storage tank being placed in the

town hall. That water source also serves the post office.

Road commissioner Alfred Larabee and foreman Peter Dailey were present to remind the board the road crew is still looking for a third full-time member. They suggested the starting rate for road crew members be \$25-27/ hourly.

They said the grader is ready to go, but rain predicted throughout the week will keep the road crew from grading to eliminate potholes in the roads.

The town truck is fixed and inspected at a cost of \$12,000. Larabee reported the water leak on Flat Street has been unearthed and

See BUYOUTS, 4

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PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department Car accidents, no injuries

HARDWICK – On February 28 at approximately 10:38 p.m., Hardwick Police were dispatched to a two-car motor vehicle accident on Vt. Route 15 West near Union Bank. Vehicle No. 1, a 2005 Honda Civic operated by John Ohear of Hardwick hit the rear of Vehicle No. 2, a 2018 Ford Escape operated by Michael Duncan, also of Hardwick, who was waiting to turn into the Union Bank driveway when he got rear-ended. Ohear advised that he got distracted. Ohear’s vehicle sustained damage to the front of the vehicle and Duncan’s vehicle had damage to the rear of the vehicle. There were no injuries as a result of this crash.

4:52 p.m., Hardwick Police were notified of a two-car accident at the intersection of S. Main Street and Lower Cherry Street. Vehicle No. 1, a 2022 GMC Sierra operated by Toni Wellinghausen of Woodbury was making a right turn on to Lower Cherry Street and didn’t see Vehicle No. 2, a 2018 Toyota Camry operated by Lorilee Hislop of Jeffersonville at the stop sign waiting to make a left turn on to S Main St. Wellinghausen’s vehicle hit the front drivers fender of Hislop’s vehicle causing moderate damage. Wellinghausen’s vehicle had minor damage to the front bumper. There were no injuries as a result of this crash.

On April 27, at approximately

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Twenty-two people used AWARE services between April 26 and May 3. The AWARE 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

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

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

For more information about AWARE, including educational resources, programming and how to get involved as a volunteer visit awarevt.org.

Orleans County Sheriff's Department Misdemeanor assault

GREENSBORO – On April 26, Chief Deputy Richards Wells was called to 108 Blacks Point in Greensboro for a reported assault. After further investigation, it was found that Michael Watsula of Morrisville waited for the home-

owner to arrive home and got into a physical altercation with the homeowner. Watsula was arrested on the suspected Simple Assault. Watsula was cited to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Orleans Criminal Division to answer the above charge.



May 6- May 12

Mother's Day Sale 5/6-5/10. 20% Off all Women's Clothing		Dansko's New for Spring. Now In.	
V-8 Juice \$3.99 46 oz.	Maxwell House Coffee \$14.99 23.1-27.5 oz.	Post Assorted Cereals \$2.99 15-18 oz.	
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Betty Crocker Mashed Potatoes 99¢ 4 oz.	Cholula Hot Sauce \$3.29 5 oz.	Tutorosso Tomatoes \$1.99 28 oz.	
Food Club Vegetable or Canola Oil \$2.99 32 oz.	Krusteaz Muffin Mix \$2.99 15.4-18.6 oz.	Snack Pack Pudding 4/\$5 13 oz.	
Bear Naked Granola \$3.99 12 oz.	Bounty 6=12 Paper Towels \$11.99 221 s.f.	Charmin 9 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue \$11.99 276 s.f.	
Chobani Greek Yogurt 4/\$5 5.3 oz.	Stonyfield Organic Yogurt \$4.99 32 oz.	Stonyfield Smoothies \$1.79 10 oz.	
Hood Half + Half Creamer \$1.79 16 oz.	Philadelphia Cream Cheese Bar 2/\$5 8 oz.	Pictsweet Steamed Vegetables 2/\$4 9-14 oz.	

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WEATHER WATCH

More unsettled weather for forecast period

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – The northeast remains persistent in its cool and wet conditions for the rest of this week, thanks to a large upper-level low situated over Hudson Bay, which continues to pinwheel pieces of energy through the region. In the past several days, we’ve seen showery conditions, with approximately half an inch of precipitation recorded over the course of the week. The middle and end of last week featured some sunny intervals prior to the weekend turning a bit cloudy and wet.

A frontal system stationed over the northeast will send another low-pressure system along the boundary today, bringing a steady rain amounting to about an inch of precipitation. This will be followed by additional bouts of precipitation as additional waves of energy approach the northeast later Friday into Saturday and again later Sunday. There will be some sunshine mixed in at times Thursday, Friday, and Sunday.

Beyond today’s rainfall, precipitation will be more showery in nature.

The influence of the upper-level system and cloud cover will keep temperatures to near or just below normals for early May. No snowfall is expected in this forecast, but it looks like it will be a while before mild conditions return. Here are the forecast details:

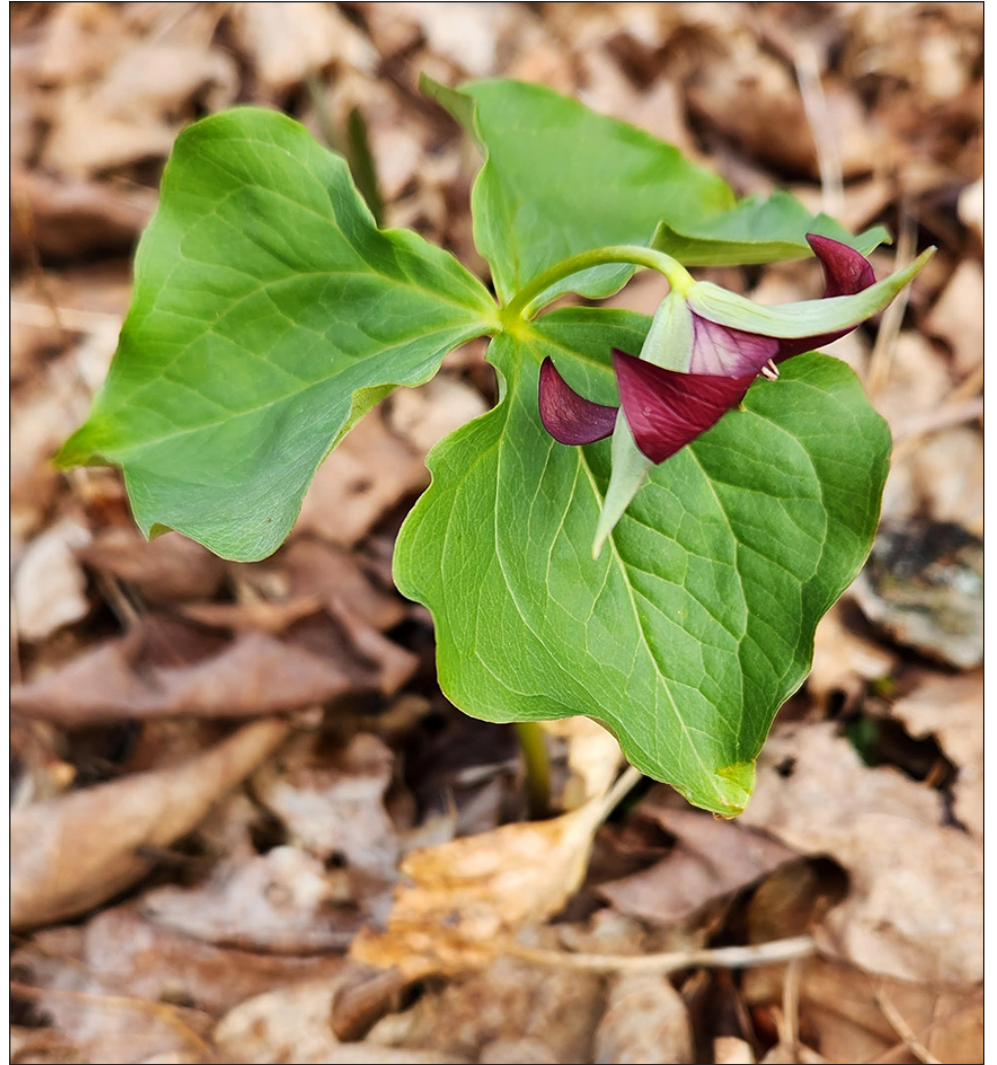
Wednesday: Cloudy. Rain. High: 52. Low: 35. Calm wind.

Thursday: A chance of showers in the morning, then becoming partly sunny. High: 56. Low: 32. West wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny in the morning. Increasing clouds with a chance of showers in by evening. High: 58. Low: 33. Light west wind.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Showers likely. High: 55. Low: 39. South wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, then becoming mostly cloudy. A chance of showers in the afternoon. High: 62. Low: 44. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.



The trillium are up on Montgomery Road in East Hardwick. Other names for the plant are Stinking Benjamin and Squawroot.

photo by Dawn Gustafson

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Fire Department April fire responses

HARDWICK – In the month of April, the Hardwick Fire Department responded to a total of nine calls, including five medical-lift assists, two odor and alarm investigations, one motor vehicle accident as well as one mutual aid response for a brush fire. In total, the department has responded to 35 calls so far in 2026.

Berlin Police Department Leaving the scene of an accident

BERLIN – On April 30, officers from the Berlin Police Department were advised of a vehicle that had struck another and left the scene. Officers were provided with a description of the vehicle. On May 3, officers located the vehicle in Marshfield. During the investigation, it was determined that the operator, Judith Tootle of Marshfield, had caused damage to the other vehicle. Tootle was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court, Washington Criminal Division, on June 4, at 8:30 a.m., to answer the above charges.

Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department Chimney fire, off road rescue

WOODBURY – On May 4, at 8:14 p.m., the Woodbury Fire Department was called to 66 Flat St. in Woodbury for a chimney fire. This was the third call that day, with the earlier calls being a medical call in Calais and an off road rescue of multiple patients in West Woodbury.



April 3, just before 3 p.m., Greensboro Fire was called to assist Hardwick Fire Department set up a Landing Zone at Hazen Union School for the University of Vermont Health helicopter following an ATV accident near West Woodbury Road. Crews cleared the parking lot, closed the entrances and coordinated with the helicopter crew. Fortunately, after an on scene report, it was determined the patients involved in the accident did not need assistance of the UVM Helicopter. The flight team cleared the area, the parking lot was reopened and Greensboro and Hardwick Fire departments cleared the area.

photo by Norma Spaulding



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PUBLIC SERVICES

Hardwick Police Department

Media Log

HARDWICK – April 19: Medical, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, Mackville Road; Suspicious Event, Hays Drive.

April 20: Threats/Harassment, N. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16;

Traffic Stop, Bunker Hill; Assist - Public, Dale St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

April 21: Assist - Agency, Hardwick; Suspicious Event, Church St.; Suspicious Event, N. Main St.; Medical, Marsh Road; Medical, Vt. Route 15 W.; Theft, N. Main St.

April 22: Animal Problem, Mini Mart Drive; Suspicious Event, Vermont Ave.; Theft, Route 14 S.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 14 S.; Wanted Person, High St.; Transport, High St.; Suspicious Event, High St.

April 23: Citizen Dispute, Buffalo Mountain Road; Suspicious Event, Vt. Route 14 S.

April 24: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 16; Traffic Stop, Ward Hill Road; Assist - Agency, Mackville Road; Suspicious Event, Lamoille Ave.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Lower Cherry Street; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Vt. Route 15 W.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

April 25: Assist - Agency, Carey Road; Information, N. Main St.; Welfare Check, Spring St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Theft, High St.; Information, Atkins Field; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15.

April 26: Citizen Dispute, Mackville Road; Suspicious Event, Porter Brook Road; Medical, Baker Hill Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 16; Assist - Motorist, Hopkins Hill Road.

April 27: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Theft, Mackville Road; Suspicious Event, West Hill Road;

Fingerprints, High St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 15; Accident - Property Damage Only, Lower Cherry St.; Assault, Dimick Road.

April 28: Traffic Stop, Mountain View Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; School Event, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Juvenile Problem, Granite St.; Littering, Craftsbury Road; Traffic Stop, E. Church St.; Safety Hazard, Vt. Route 15 W.; Assist - Agency, Allen Drive.

April 29: Noise Disturbance, Cherry St.; Alarm, Industrial Park Road.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Mental Health Incident, Vermont Ave.; Animal Problem, Vt. Route 14 S.; Animal Problem, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Dr.; Fingerprints, High St.; Wanted Person, Hazen Drive; Wanted Person, Mackville Road; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Ward Hill Road; 911 Hangup, Stratton Road.

April 30: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist - Agency, Pine Drive; Found Property, High St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Mental Health Incident, Vermont Ave.; Suspicious Event, Spring St.

May 1: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; VIN verification, Craftsbury Road; Littering, Vt. Route 14 S.; Fingerprints, High St.; Property Watch, Vermont Ave.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Accident - TCNR, S. Main St.; VIN verification, Montgomery Road; Assist - Public, Bridgeman Hill Road; Alarm, Highland Ave.

May 2: Assist - Public, S. Main St.; Fire Alarm, W. Church St.; Threats/Harassment, Good Place; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Wolcott St.

May 3: Welfare Check, Lamoille Ave.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Medical, W. Woodbury Road; Mutual Aid, Hazen Union Drive; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 15 W.

Vermont State Police

Fugitive, Aggravated Domestic Assault

PLAINFIELD – On April 27, at approximately 7:30 p.m., the Vermont State Police received a report of a domestic disturbance that occurred on Main Street in the Town of Plainfield. Troopers from the Berlin Barracks responded to the scene. Further investigation revealed that Mikell Parizo, who has a history of Domestic Assault, caused bodily injury to a household member.

On April 29, at approximately 9:38 a.m. Parizo was located and arrested for Second Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault without incident then transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing. He was later transported to the Vermont Superior

Court, Washington County, Criminal Division for his arraignment that was scheduled on April 29, at 12:30 p.m., to answer to the above charge.

PLAINFIELD – On April 27, at 7:30 p.m., Savannah Sutter of Plainfield contacted Vermont State Police. Subsequently, Sutter was found to have an active and extraditable arrest warrant from the State of Maine for Drug Trafficking. Sutter was taken into custody without incident and later transported to the Chittenden County Correctional Complex. Per order of the court, Sutter was held on \$5,000 bail and ordered to appear in Washington County Superior Court.

Buyouts

Continued From Page One

plugged, and the repair work should be done after another day's work.

The insurance adjuster's report for the town garage roof and ceiling damage was submitted. The next step is to have a contractor look at the roof and ceiling to come up with a scope of work. Larabee announced that May 1 will be his last day as the town's road commissioner. Chair Chris Casey thanked Larabee for continuing on the job through the winter.

Town Clerk Robin Durkee presented the contract with Washington County Sheriff's Department, noting both hourly and mileage rates have gone up.

As of April 13, 94 dogs have been licensed, compared to 164 in 2025. Second notices will be mailed to dog owners that have not yet licensed their dogs. The board signed an appointment letter for Kim Slik, who accepted the position of Dangerous Building Officer and the Pound Keeper.

Treasurer Lillian Baron has appointed Bonnie Collins to be assistant treasurer and requested the board approve the rate of \$25 an hour for her work. Collins will be taking over the bank account reconciliation work that Tom Beers had been doing.

Baron told the board the General Fund is currently operating at a deficit of -\$85,439, consistent with the intake of delinquent taxes and higher than expected FY26 costs. The Highway Fund has a budget surplus of \$208,028 and remains in a strong position. Overall, the FY26 budget is at a net positive position of \$122,589 year-to-date,

when considering both funds.

Total cash on hand is \$958,124, she said. It is important to note that \$422,254 is currently restricted and not available for general use as discussions continue about the outcome of the excess funds with FEMA.

Baron also informed the board the Delinquent Tax Collector has agreed to be paid a new rate of \$32 per hour, starting with the next payroll cycle. Baron reviewed a draft Fund Policy and the amendment for benefits to elected officials as part of the Personnel Policy.

Skip Lindsay was not in attendance for this meeting but did provide a written report to the board saying he had notified the board and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) on April 2 of his resignation as FEMA Recovery Officer, effective April 24. On the same date he notified the select board and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board of his resignation as the town's E911 coordinator. He also reported that FEMA, VEM and the state 911 board will be needing contact information for new appointments to fill those roles by April 24.



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Petition

Continued From Page One

K students had been registered for the 2027 school year, with six more pending.

“...we respectfully request that you advocate on behalf of Calais students and keep our littlest citizens close to home,” concludes the petition.

Calais resident Sonja Andrews, posted the petition on Facebook, saying, “Back in February our town voted to keep our elementary school open. The decision by the WCUUSD superintendent to transfer our pre-K students to EMES is misguided and there are a number of us who believe the school board should advocate on behalf of Calais as well as East Montpelier.”

An anonymous comment on the petition echoed an issue raised in the petition, “Why take kids out of Calais for one to two years just to put them back. It’s not good for the kids to be thrown around.”

Leslie Bean added, “While I can somewhat understand bussing the children when there was a very tiny population, now that there is a decent class they should be kept at their home school.”

The fate of Calais Elementary School in the 2027 school year began with WCUUSD board discussions in 2025. On February 10 this year, more than 60% of Calais voters rejected plans to close the school.

Earlier, on December 17, the board had voted unanimously to honor the outcome of the February 10 town vote.

Not long after, the district announced pre-K students from Calais will attend the East Montpelier school in 2027.

Flor Diaz Smith, WCUUSD board chair said, “Our commitment to strong public education should be unwavering for all our students, and if we’re going to have five elementary schools, they should be the best five public elementary schools. And if we’re going to have three, they should be the best three that can ever dream for,” WCAX reported February 23.

On Town Meeting Day, March 3, school district voters approved a budget of over \$43 million. That budget was projected to increase property tax rates by more than 12% WCAX reported.

“After the February vote to keep both Calais Elementary and Doty Memorial schools open, the district revised its budgets to account for the five-school configuration,” reported The Bridge on March 4 based on an email it reported receiving from Superintendent Steven Dellinger-Pate.

“While we will provide nursing, library, and school counseling services at all schools, most will not have full-time employees in these positions,” he said.

“In addition, due to enrollment and staffing needs, Doty Memorial Elementary School and Rumney Elementary School’s pre-K and kindergarten programs will be combined and located at Rumney Elementary School. The same goes for Calais and East Montpelier: pre-K and kindergarten programs combined and located at East Montpelier Elementary School,” The Bridge reported then.

The petition now circulating suggests the budget was approved so that all students would remain at the Calais school. “. . . support of the budget would allow the superintendent the ability to keep the student body, including pre K – K, at CES, especially if the numbers supported that.”

The strongly worded petition calls the decision to move the youngest students “a breach in the trust of the Calais community.”

In support of the petition Jane Shore said, “It seems cruel to make the children to go to another East Montpelier Elementary, rather than let them go to Calais Elementary, especially after we voted to keep our school open.”

Some comments went as far as suggesting the decision to bus the youngest Calais students to EMES “seems cruel,” “very vindictive and shortsighted,” with John Brabant weighing in from Costa Rica to say, “Enough of the Cold War against Calais and Worcester. This behavior by the administration with the support of the school board continues to polarize our communities. This needs to stop and stop now.”

Stephanie Kaplan added, “There is no benefit and there are plenty of detriments to make little Calais children travel from their small school to a bigger school in another town. If the school board and the superintendent truly cared about the children, they would reverse their decision and leave all the Calais children in their own small school.”

The WCUUSD school board continues to hear comments from the public about the decision to move Pre-K and K students to EMES. It received a letter from the Calais Select Board called for by town meeting goers, which was discussed at the April 15 WCUUSD meeting, without a response being decided upon. Further, board discussions regarding the issue have ranged widely, from the possibility of seeing the administration reconsider its decision to standing strongly in support of it.



Charman Salls (left) Community Bank branch manager in Hardwick helps unload 10 bags of trash that she and two of her co-workers, Patty Lemay and Erin Collucci, picked up around the Tops Plaza, May 2, for Green Up Day. Helping to unload the bags is Joe Nudell (right) of the Hardwick Conservation Commission. The Hardwick Green Up Day collection site at the town garage was visited by 28 different families and community groups bringing roadside trash and four pick-up loads from the East Hardwick Grange drop-off site.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Josh Peets (left), Center for an Agricultural Economy Facilities Coordinator, and James Bowley (right), of the Hazen Union Hatchery Club, collect tires during their clean up, in and around Cooper Brook, Friday, May 1.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Clean-ups

Continued From Page One

five-hour effort, including Hazen Union Hatchery Club members, community members, partner organizations and town staff.

“It was great to see everyone get so involved, and for students to really see the impact of their efforts,” said Chelsea Ross, a participating teacher.

The Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE), Trout Unlimited (NEK Chapter), the Greensboro Association, Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department all participated in the clean-up.

Jud Kratzer, a fish biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, provided support by bringing waders for students and assisting with in-stream work.

Town Manager David Upson was among those working in the brook to assist with tire removal throughout the day.

Volunteers worked in teams to

remove tires from the brook, transport them up the banks and prepare them for disposal.

Half a dumpster of additional debris was also collected.

“Wow. Hardwick makes it happen!” said Ned Swanberg of the State of Vermont.

“In my opinion, one of the jobs of local government is to bring together a multigenerational group of citizens to accomplish a task that makes our community even better and more resilient,” said Upson.

“Something as simple as pulling tires and trash from a local brook shows how impactful we can be when we work together.”

The Greensboro Association provided financial support for the cleanup.

Removing debris such as tires can help reduce sediment buildup and limit the amount of material carried downstream during high water events.

Kristen Leahy serves as the resilience and adaptation coordinator for the Town of Hardwick.

Nunery's outstanding work recognized by colleagues

by Paul Fixx

MONTPELIER – Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation staffers were recognized by Commissioner Danielle (Danny) Fitzko for their achievements at the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Earth Day celebration, April 22.

Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery was recognized for his outstanding contributions with the Canute Dalmasse Award, and Kathryn Wrigley and Keith Thompson for completing the year-long ANR Leadership Development Program (LEAD), “no small commitment alongside their day-to-day work,” said Fitzko.

“It was incredible to see FPR so well represented across the Agency. Each of them reflects the strength of this Department, bringing thoughtfulness, leadership, and a deep commitment to the work we do every day,” she said.

“Jared Nunery was absolutely floored to discover that he was at the National Life cafeteria not to help congratulate Thompson for his LEAD graduation, but because he and the planning office’s Jen Mojo were being recognized as the 2026 winners of the Canute Dalmasse Award.” noted the announcement.

The Canute Dalmasse Award recognizes an outstanding ANR staff member whose work reflects the values Canute Dalmasse championed during his 36 years in Vermont state government. His career spanned some of the

agency’s most formative work: he served as one of the first Act 250 district coordinators, led the former Office of Water Resources (predecessor to our current Watershed Management Division), served as DEC Commissioner for four years and as Deputy Secretary for seven years before retiring.

Nominations from colleagues for the award recognize the kind of public service that defines the best of ANR staff; a person who demonstrates dedication to natural resources and public health protection, dedication to the people of Vermont and dedication to their co-workers.

Being connected with Canute, “who worked behind the scenes,” to make a big difference in Vermont “is a huge honor and recognition by peers to receive that level of confidence,” said Nunery about receiving the award.

“Nunery is a scientist who devours new research and applies it to the art and science of managing forests,” wrote Fitzko in a newsletter article about his award.

“He has a rare gift for translating complex concepts into language anyone can understand. Calm, approachable, ethical and deeply kind, he asks questions that cut to the heart of a problem and takes the time to make sure his audience leaves with genuine understanding. His commitment to sharing his knowledge of UVA (Use Value Appraisal) with colleagues, landowners, students and the public helps ensure the integrity of a program that



Jared Nunery (left), Kathryn Wrigley (center) and Keith Thompson were honored at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Earth Day celebration held in the National Life cafeteria, April 22. Nunery was recognized for his outstanding contributions with the Canute Dalmasse Award and Wrigley and Thompson for completing the year-long ANR Leadership Development Program. *courtesy photo*

is foundational to Vermont’s working landscape.”

Fitzko continued, “Much of what sets Jared apart is his commitment to the next generation of Vermonters. He works regularly with students of all ages, leading field trips to active harvests, hosting job shadows and partnering with the North Country Career Center in Newport and Green Mountain Technical Career Center in Hardwick, where he has been a consistent advocate for forestry programs when they’ve faced the chopping block. His series of public events at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center on ecological forest management, old forests, and conservation reflects the same spirit: bringing people into direct contact with the working landscape so they can see it, understand it, and care about it.


As a retired colleague put it: “People only see what they know, love what they see, and protect what they love.”

Nunery hosts workshops and events on nights and weekends, all while being, by the accounts of those who know him, an excep-

tional father raising children with the same environmental ethic he lives by, said Fitzko.

“Inside FPR, Jared’s leadership of the Northern Team is exceptional, with time together in the woods, visiting timber sales on state, private, and town forest lands, meeting with landowners, touring mills and pounding ash logs into splints for Abenaki basket makers. He seeks out training opportunities, shares emerging research, and is reliably among the first to offer a clear path forward when a complex question arises. He covers for teammates without hesitation and checks in after hard life events with genuine care. The result is a team whose members describe one another as close friends, a culture built, over time, by Jared’s steady leadership, humor, and down-to-earth presence. “Congratulations, Jared!” she concluded.

Nunery said Monday that he will be with a Craftsbury fourth-grade class Friday to continue learning about them that began this past winter when they visited several logging jobs.



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Federal funding released to support rural development projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Credit, announces the delivery of more than \$1 million in federal funding, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Rural Development (RD), to support Vermont farmers and small businesses. This announcement follows a months-long effort by the Senator and partners to release the federal funds.

The funding, provided through USDA-RD's Rural Business Development Grants, includes \$199,966 for The Center For An Agricultural Economy in Caledonia County to sustain technical assistance activities, including supporting consultation and strategic guidance for small and emerging farms and food businesses in the area.

Other grants include \$200,000 for the Northeastern Vermont

Development Association (NVDA) in Caledonia County to provide technical assistance for the benefit of small businesses; \$131,350 for the Newport City Renaissance Corporation in Orleans County to explore the feasibility of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in downtown Newport; \$125,000 for the Brighton Community Forum in Essex County to expand its reach and visitor numbers through technical assistance.

Also \$116,284 for Vermont Farm-to-School in Orleans County to provide technical assistance for agricultural producers in the NEK; \$99,942 to the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board to provide tailored, one-on-one business coaching and technical assistance to working lands businesses; \$99,725 for the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative in Caledonia County to build business and workforce resilience; and \$73,353 for Saint Johnsbury Works! in Caledonia County to provide technical assistance.



Ernie Lepierre (left) and Marilyn Harris (right) are served tea by Vicki Strong (center) at the Craftsbury Community Care Center's "Tea, Treats and Table Games," April 22. *courtesy photo*

Tea, treats served at Care Center

CRAFTSBURY – On April 22, the John W. Simpson Library staff and volunteers collaborated with Craftsbury Community Care Center to host a "Tea, Treats and Table Games" event for the community. Michelle Robinson and Lorraine Urie, tea enthusiasts, shared their expertise and volunteered time with Care

Center activities staff Vicki Strong and ensured residents and visitors had plenty of tea and treats.

The Craftsbury Community Care Center will host a craft fair and flea market, June 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Care Center is located at 1784 E. Craftsbury Road.



Work continues between South Main Street and the Lamoille River on work to rebuild the retaining wall and place an abutment for a new pedestrian bridge, last week. *photo by Paul Fixx*



The public is invited to attend the annual meeting of **Hardwick Community Television** Thursday, June 10, 6 p.m. Third-floor meeting room 20 Church St., Hardwick

Hardwick Community Television is a public, educational and government (PEG) public access cable television channel serving Greensboro, Hardwick and Woodbury. HCTV is a nonprofit organization that covers local meetings and community events including Hazen Union High School varsity athletics. HCTV can be viewed on Comcast Channel 1080 or by visiting HCTV-US, where archived videos are available for viewing. HCTV is funded by cable subscribers, underwriters and donors.



Kaitlyn Cloutier (left), Matthias Patoine (center) and Adriana Leonard (right) of the Hazen Union Hatchery Club, collect tires and debris behind Atkins Field toward Cooper Brook in Hardwick during their May 1 effort to clean out debris brought down from the July 2024 flooding. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*

State to sturdy development of dam emergency operation plans

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – A summer study committee submitted its Dam Emergency Operations Planning Report to the Vermont General Assembly on August 18, 2025. The committee identified gaps in the emergency operations planning (EOP) process for dams and recommended creation of a pilot project for one or two state-owned dams in order to test the EOP development and implementation process and to determine more accurate costs.

H.778 was developed to move that process forward and has passed to the Senate, where a proposed amendment allocating \$375,000 for two projects was set for consideration. May 5.

Scott Johnstone, then Morrisville Water & Light General Manager, and now also serving as Hardwick Electric Department (HED) General Manager, was a member of that summer study committee and said, “generally, the state’s dam safety division does regular inspections. Most dams are rated poor, largely because they don’t have a hydraulic model of what properties get inundated in a flood event.” Those studies are very pricey, he said, “so unless you generate power one likely would not do them.”

The study committee’s discussion was that each community is supposed to have an EOP as a requirement of receiving money from the state, said Johnstone. “However, not many do (though Chittenden has an incredible plan due to robust and talented volunteers). We talked about having RPC’s (regional planning commissions)

engage to help but they’d rightly want money to help with this work. So, in the end, as I recall the report, we recommended that the local emergency agencies become more rigorous in having these plans in place and then keeping them up to date.

To that end the study committee’s report recommended two pilot projects to look at state-owned dams, beginning the process of identifying what are best practices for developing dam EOPs throughout the state.

According to a map created by the state’s dam safety program, HED has high hazard dams along the Lamoille River upstream of Wolcott, at Mackville Pond, Nichols Pond, East Long Pond and West Hill Pond.

The Wolcott dam is equipped to generate power; though it has been undergoing repairs since 2023 flooding put it out of operation. The other dams are not equipped to generate power.

EOPs are created to allow appropriate mobilization of emergency responders if a dam breach seems imminent, said Johnstone. HED may need to update its plans and it was on his list of things to look into, he said in March, soon after he joined HED.

Hardwick’s Jackson dam is not classified as a high hazard dam because there’s not a large population below it. It has, however, been the subject of recent studies looking into modeling of Lamoille River flood conditions with and without the dam, along with the potential removal of hundreds of thousands of yards of silt build-up behind it in Hardwick Lake and the river.

Initial estimates of removing



Jackson Dam, which shows signs of deterioration, with cracks that may go all the way through the concrete structure, and potential undermining of it, could be between \$4 and 9 million. Removal of the silt could cost as much as \$50 million more, with less expensive options possible that involve stabilizing what is not removed, said an SLR consulting report.

The Hardwick Select Board charged SLR with taking the next steps to develop a proposal

and cost estimates for removal of Jackson Dam.

Johnstone said the failure modes of concrete dams like Jackson Dam and the high hazard HED dams, are different and less catastrophic than those of earthen dams. While earthen dams can fail like the fabled 1810 runaway pond disaster in Glover that drained Long Pond in 90 minutes, concrete dams crumble slowly, generally giving those downstream adequate time to respond, said Johnstone.



Ashley Phelps, of Green Mountain Garden Bed in West Burke, stands with her botanical lamps and jewelry decorated with leaves, flowers and plants. She is one of 35 vendors who attended the third annual Hazen Union eighth grade Spring Craft Fair held at the school, May 2. The class was fundraising for a day trip to Burlington that will include an Ethan Allen Cruise, Lake Monsters ball game and a visit to the Spare Time entertainment center.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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EDITORIAL

Support press freedom here at home, double your impact

Sunday, May 3, was World Press Freedom Day, declared by UNESCO as “a day of support for media which are targets for the restraint or abolition of press freedom.”

The Gazette stands with journalists around the world who work in oppressive or hazardous environments.

Closer to home, it's a day to support journalists whose lives may not be in peril, but their livelihoods are under threat because of declining revenue in the news business. It's a day for readers to help sustain the news sources they depend on globally, nationally and locally.

This spring, The Hardwick Gazette is asking readers to become sustaining members. Make a monthly commitment of \$5, \$10 or whatever amount is comfortable. Generous donors will match your gift up to \$120 in the first year and you'll be building a solid foundation for The Gazette's future.

Now is the time to act. This offer will end on May 13



or when 15 more sustainers join this community effort, whichever comes first. You can maximize your impact by visiting our “Donate” page and signing up for a monthly gift.

Do your part to ensure press freedom in our community!

Those who donate \$10 or more each month will receive a ceramic Hardwick Gazette mug as a thank you gift.

John Walters,
board member
Northeast Kingdom
Public Journalism

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Town forest questions answered

To the editor:

Karen Collier posted several questions on Front Porch Forum about the Buffalo Mountain Town Forest that people around Hardwick are asking. Thank you, Karen. Here are the responses.

What is the long-term plan for the property? The town forest will be a community resource with free public access forever.

Northern Rivers Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board will hold a conservation easement protecting the wildlife habitat and ensuring public access to the property.

A Steering Committee of Hardwick residents will meet over the summer to seek community input on future recreational and economic uses and make recommendations to the select board this fall. If you'd like to be on the committee, the select board is accepting applications through May 15. Email amanda.fecteau@hardwickvt.gov with your interest in joining.

How will the town offset lost tax revenue? There is very little town revenue loss to offset: about \$5,000 per year, an average of \$3 per Hardwick property owner. The town could make that up with revenue from timber harvests or maple sugaring leases if the steering committee recommends it and the Select board approves. School taxes are state taxes, so any school tax revenue loss will be made up by property owners statewide.

Who is responsible for maintenance costs now and in the future?

Since the property currently has no structures on it, there will not necessarily be maintenance costs. Future maintenance depends on uses the steering committee recommends and the select board approves. The town will receive \$25,000 from the project budget for future management. In Wolcott's town forest, trails were built using grant funds and are maintained by volunteers.

Should the town be in the business of owning land? Town forests have a rich history in Vermont and New England. They are community assets, providing access to nature close to home, educational opportunities, watershed protection, forest products and economic stimulus from outdoor recreation.

What demands might this place on emergency services? Would additional equipment be required? The public already has access to Wright Farm Road, which runs through the property, and people hike, snowshoe and ski on the property. Greater trail access is unlikely to increase the volume of calls for emergency services or require new equipment beyond small tools.

More information about the Buffalo Mountain Town Forest is available at the Hardwick Conservation Commission [website](http://hardwickvt.gov/government/committees-commissions/conservation-commission/) at hardwickvt.gov/government/committees-commissions/conservation-commission/.

Paul Cillo
Hardwick

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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Letters to the Editor, Opinions and Editorials: We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to discuss and debate issues of the day and welcome letters from all political points of view as the free expression of reader's opinions. Letters with claims of fact that are false or potentially damaging may be rejected.

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

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

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

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

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

The first casualty of war

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Is the Strait of Hormuz open or not? If it is at all, whose ships are allowed to pass through it? Is the American blockade of Iranian ports still in effect? How many ships and aircraft have we committed to expressing our displeasure with Iran? What's the daily cost (what Civil War generals called the butcher's bill)?

It's an old truism that the first casualty in any war is the truth. While stipulating that this isn't a war (which it certainly will be if the United States ever begins using land forces to impose its capricious will), the fact is that the truth died before the first attack was launched, and it has not yet risen from its grave.

Thus those of us who bear the financial burden of the hostilities have no idea, and can't even get one, what our dollars are purchasing, or more important, why. Some months ago we were jubilantly informed that Iran's nuclear enrichment program had been "obliterated." Now it appears that it hasn't been, and we need to spend a few dozen more billion to accomplish that putative goal. Plus, of course,

throw a few thousand more of our youngsters into the fray. (I'll admit a personal grievance here, that none of them will bear the names of any of our illustrious leaders. It appears that bone spurs are a genetic disease.)

It appears that the truth about the confrontation between the United States and Iran (how soon we forget Venezuela; and Cuba is next. Cuba probably could get off without any bruises if the Epstein files were next) will forever be obscured in the rapid-fire personal pronouncements from the Oval Office. I try to imagine what it must be like to work for such a guy, particularly if you're in charge of deploying the children of loyal American citizens. It must be like playing red-light, green light. And if you lose your aircraft carrier, your own career is up in smoke.

But the biggest surprise and disappointment has been the ovine reaction of Congress. You'd think they'd be into this with both feet. Instead, their feet seem to be pretty much up on their desks, going along with the President's whims in hopes of being unnoticed by either him or the voters, who're champing at the bit to get a crack at the ballot box in

just six months. We hear this a lot, but it may be true that this is the most consequential election in our lifetimes. And a mid-term at that.

Meanwhile the misinformation and disinformation spreads everywhere, like the molasses in the famous Boston flood of 1919. Sifting through it, I'm at a loss (as must be almost anyone) to distinguish fact from fiction. I can read the New York Times to try and get the facts, but its reports on the Strait of Hormuz, for example reflect the same confusion we experience trying to keep up with its status.

Where and when have we experienced this sort of thing before? There was a spate of it during the Vietnam war, when General Westmoreland, grossly inflated the number of enemy soldiers killed each day. But the wholesale lying about the administration is most reminiscent of 1943-45, when Joseph Goebbels was promoted to Minister of Propaganda and was turned loose on the German people. By the end of the war it was impossible for Germans, listening to the news on their little government-provided radios, to discern fact from fiction, until Russian armor and artillery were actually rumbling into eastern Berlin. It was all Goebbels' doing.

Goebbels was a scholar, an aspiring writer and playwright with a doctorate in philology, essentially the study of languages, their history, and their use. He was also an accomplished public speaker, who rehearsed his speeches in front of a mirror, just as his idol ("I love him," he wrote in his journal) Hitler did. Hitler even used a film producer to capture his gestures and inflections. Between the two of them, the toxic waste produced for public consumption did indeed resemble the molasses flood.

I bring this up for the obvious reason that our present situation in the United States is eerily similar. We seem to have been so belabored with such a mixture of truths and untruths that it's no longer possible to distinguish between them. They even get produced during the nighttime hours, as our increasingly insomniac and unhinged president creates new material when he ought to be getting some sleep. It's impossible not to notice that we, too, have haters in our government who will use its power to crush those they deem enemies and persons undeserving of participation in our national blessings. Truly, those who cannot remember the past . . .

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



Talk with Ray and Paul, Fridays



Come in to Front Seat Coffee in Hardwick at 10 a.m., Friday, and chat with reporter Raymonda Parchment and editor Paul Fixx from the Hardwick Gazette. Talk about issues, Gazette coverage or just chat about happenings in the area.

THE Hardwick Gazette
INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Defend democracy

To the editor:

Our Constitutional democracy is imperiled. The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow Louisiana to redraw its Congressional districts is emboldening other southern states to gerrymander their maps in favor of Republicans prior to the 2026 election.

Please join a dedicated group of volunteers in writing "Get Out the Vote" postcards to registered Democrat voters in key swing states. The cards, stamps and instructions will be provided, and

A call for voices

To the editor:

Since February 2025, I have managed the Gazette's Voices of Spirit column. It is an education and a pleasure to work with you and the Gazette staff, and even more so with the writers and spiritual leaders in our community. These writers offer thoughtful and meaningful perspectives on current concerns that seem to shatter our sensibilities about what is humane, fair, and kind.

Voices of Spirit writers use stories, sermons, and reflections to promote resilience and peaceful resistance. They may be associated with a community of faith or aligned with a personal spiritual path. Themes that strike me as

can be written from your own home, or at a group writing session on Thursday, 14 May at 7 pm in the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Jeudevine Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Monthly writing sessions are planned on the first Monday of each of month through November.

Please indicate how many postcards you would like to write, and whether in the group or at home by sending an email to bob.hawk350@gmail.com

Bob Hawk
East Hardwick

common among all the writers are those that convey shared struggles, empathy, and human kindness.

I appeal to every spiritual leader in our greater community to share their thoughts and perspectives on finding peace and connection in our lives. Diverse perspectives are welcome. Reasonably short (600 words or so) submissions can be sent directly to me at guareeleanor@gmail.com.

With your continued support, I hope to hear more Voices of Spirit and keep the column going strong.

Write to editor@HardwickGazette.org if you'd like to add your voice to the community.

Eleanor Guare
Greensboro

Redistricting has become politically corrupt

To the editor:

Considering the United States Supreme Court's April 29, 2026 decision in Louisiana vs. Callais, Vermont and six other states have one at-large representative in the United States House. The pros and cons of electing each representative based on the population number in each state rather than creating geographic Congressional Districts should become a national discussion.

Some individuals feel that having at large representatives, in those states where the population requires more than one repre-

sentative, will skew the electoral process toward the more populated regions of that state, disenfranchising those in more rural areas.

On the other hand, and in my opinion, the redistricting process has become so politically corrupt that at large representation will provide the equity required because each representative will serve their state at large.

We already have two Senators for each state. They serve at large. Why shouldn't our Representatives do the same?

Richard Scheiber
Cabot

Hannaford supply chain abusive

To the editor:

I arrived at a rally last Friday at 10 a.m., outside Hannaford at 78 Marshall Avenue in Williston. Attendance at that point was a little sparse, but began picking up over the next several hours. A little after three, there seemed to be a surge of groups arriving. At 5 p.m., we walked to the park, located at Maple Tree Place near Walnut Street, where hundreds more gathered for speeches and music and from there marched to the I.C.E. Data Center located off Harvest Lane.

Many may not be aware of

the reason behind the Hannaford boycott. In a nutshell it's because of the supply chain for the Hannaford brand of dairy products which has been accused of abusive treatment of immigrant farm workers, who have little to no ability to speak out due to fear of ICE targeting them.

Hannaford's parent company, Ahold Delhaize, promised transparency after taking testimony from migrant workers, but now appears to be attempting to bury it. It's vital to keep the pressure on Hannaford to do the right thing.

Kathryn Unser
East Hardwick

The Season of Being

I glide my sandaled feet over cool fescue grass
that is recently dappled with crimson maple leaves
as I ponder if I am feeling the correct amount of gratitude.
Appreciation is fleeting
if I allow the assassins of peace to redirect my interest.
Am I looking for something I will always want?
My overgrown garden craves rest
and a return to the contemplation of its next magnum opus.
13 September 2024, a Friday

Ericka Atchley-Sisk
Hardwick

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

The Eldest Game

ghosts of peo / ple hiding in this house / they grew up in and left
/ hiding
under tables in clo / sets long thin men pale pe / ople dark people
all hidden /
separately in the same room / waiting for the seeker to finis / h
counting
endlessly endlessly / up and they are all in the dark / they are
all not children
anymo / re they are all not children anymore

the next day the housekeeping find / me waiting in the closet
shivering t /
elling them I don't want to grow an / ymore I will not grow
anymore I / will
not grow anymore I will alwa / ys stay hiding yes I will always
stay h / iding.

Will Helms
Hardwick

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



Reality

No judge. No jury. No trial.
Put him on the ground.
Shoot him.
He's dead.

Ross Connelly
Hardwick

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Fixing the front door of health care

by Rep. David Yacavone

MONTPELIER – If you wake up at 9 p.m. with a high fever, a worsening cough, or a child who just doesn't seem right, you don't have many options. You can wait and worry or you can go to the emergency room.

More and more Vermonters are choosing the latter. Not because they want to, but because they feel they have no other choice.

Health policy experts have long estimated that roughly one-third of emergency room visits are not true emergencies. That statistic can sound like an indictment of patients. It shouldn't be. It's an indictment of the system.

People go to the emergency room because they can't get a primary care appointment. Because offices are typically closed at night and on weekends. Because they don't know if symptoms are serious. Or because, for many, the ER is the only place that will always take them.

In other words, what looks like overuse is often a failure of access.

This matters now more than ever in Vermont. Our hospitals are under extraordinary financial strain. Insurance premiums remain among the highest in the nation. And our primary care workforce is stretched thin, with too few providers and too many patients.

These problems are not separate. They are deeply connected.

Emergency rooms are the most expensive front door in the healthcare system. A visit can cost well over a thousand dollars, sometimes much more. The same issue treated in a primary care office might cost a fraction of that. And when care is delayed or fragmented, small problems can

become big ones, leading to hospitalizations that are far more costly and far harder on patients.

So, we find ourselves in a cycle: limited access to primary care drives more people to the ER; higher-cost care drives up insurance premiums; and rising costs put even more pressure on hospitals already operating on the edge.

If we want to get serious about costs, we must get serious about where care begins. That is where the idea of universal primary care comes in. At its core, universal primary care means guaranteeing that every Vermonter can access timely, affordable, and convenient primary care without worrying about cost at the point of service. It means same-day or next-day appointments. Expanded after-hours care. And a system designed to catch problems early before they escalate.

The potential benefits are straightforward. Fewer unnecessary emergency room visits. Better management of chronic conditions. Less strain on hospitals. And, over time, lower overall costs.

But it is important to be clear-eyed. This is not a silver bullet.

Expanding primary care access requires upfront investment. Vermont already faces a shortage of providers, and any reform must address workforce challenges head-on. And not every ER visit that appears avoidable truly is patients make decisions based on the information they have in the moment.

Still, the direction is hard to ignore. For decades, our health care system has invested heavily in acute and specialty care while under-investing in primary care. We have built a system that excels at treating crises but struggles to

prevent them.

And we are paying for it.

As policymakers debate hospital budgets, insurance rates, and long-term reform, it may be worth asking a simpler question: are we putting enough resources into the front door of our health care system?

Because if that door remains hard to access, Vermonters will continue to do what anyone would do—go where the lights are on, and

the doors are open.

We can keep debating how to pay for health care. But until we address how it is used—and where it begins, we will continue to chase costs rather than control them.

I hope the Vermont House addresses this issue soon.

David Yacavone represents Lamoille-Washington in the Vermont Legislature, including Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, Worcester and Stowe.

Vermonters feel financial strain

by Sen. Scott Beck

MONTPELIER – There's an old saying in Montpelier, "When the budget is done, we're done."

Agreement on the budget marks the end of the legislative session. Each year, more than a hundred bills may pass, and every bill that includes spending must be incorporated into the budget bill. Without legal authorization, no money can be spent in FY27, which begins July 1. As a result, any bill that contains spending but isn't included in this year's budget dies and must wait for a new legislature after the upcoming elections.

Although budgets are crafted annually, they exist within a much longer fiscal trajectory. This year's budget is the largest in Vermont's history, \$9.1 billion, yet its year-over-year increase is the smallest I can recall, just 1.6%. The story of how budgets grow over time compounding increases, program expansions, and staffing changes is enormously complex.

Comparing Vermont's spending before the pandemic with today shows just how dramatic the growth has been. In FY21, Vermont budgeted \$6.1 billion. Seven years later, we're at \$9.1 billion, an increase of 49%. Inflation during the same period was 28%.

Federal funding is another major factor. Not all state spending is paid for through state taxes and fees. Federal revenues to Vermont have also grown substantially. In FY20, Vermont received \$2.05 billion in federal support. This year, we expect \$3.15 billion. That trend runs counter to any narrative suggesting the federal government is pulling back.

Most Vermonters understandably don't track every line of the annual budget or its long-term growth. What they do see is the impact of state government on daily life and how much it costs them in taxes and fees.

Vermonters feel it when they blow a tire, bend a rim, or lose a strut because our roads continue to deteriorate while the Transportation Fund remains underfunded. Transportation is a core responsibility of government and essential to Vermont's economy. And Vermonters certainly feel the financial strain as taxes continue to climb.

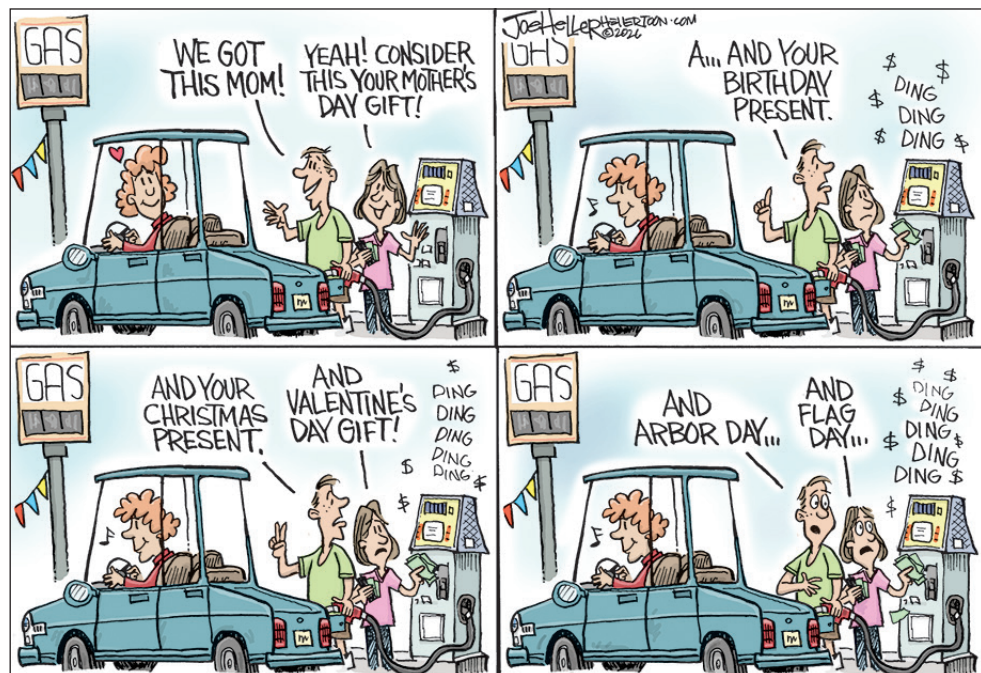
According to Vermont's Joint Fiscal Office, our major tax revenue sources have surged over the last six years. Personal income taxes are up 59% (\$536 million). Corporate income taxes are up 161% (\$153.5 million). Sales, meals, and rooms taxes have each increased 43% (\$277.6 million). The difference between this revenue growth and inflation, 28%, amounts to \$507 million.

In other words, had government grown only at the rate of inflation, Vermont taxpayers could have saved \$507 million. To put \$507M in context: this would allow Vermont to decrease home-stead education property taxes by 77%. Or we could eliminate Vermont income tax on those who earn less than \$100k, people under the age of 30, and anyone with Social Security income, and we'd still have a couple hundred million to play with. Instead, Montpelier continues to prioritize new programs, new positions, and underperforming initiatives over tax relief and essential services like transportation.

Vermont must pivot to a growth strategy that puts essential programs and taxpayers first. We can do both, but we will accomplish neither if we keep placing Vermonters behind special-interest groups pushing for more programs, more positions, and continued funding for programs that aren't delivering results.

Scott Beck is a senator from the Caledonia District, including the towns of Barnet, Danville, Groton, Hardwick, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Walden, Waterford and Wheelock.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



ANOTHER OPINION

A brief history of the Buffalo Mountain Town Forest project

by Rachel Kane

HARDWICK – In 2025 the Town of Hardwick was presented with the extraordinary opportunity, to be essentially gifted a significant piece of land on Buffalo Mountain, for perpetual access and use by the public.

The proposal to establish a town forest on Buffalo Mountain started in May, 2025. The Hardwick Conservation Commission (HCC) learned that a large 329 acre piece of land on the mountain was for sale. They became interested in finding out if there was a way to conserve, or somehow obtain the land for the public.

The commission made a connection with the Northern Rivers Land Trust (NRLT) and through them, with the Trust for Public Land (TPL). These two groups, who together had helped create the Wolcott Town Forest in 2024, were quickly interested in the Hardwick idea.

After conversations with the NRLT and the TPL, and learning more about the process and benefits of creating a town forest, plus that outside fundraising would pay for nearly all of it, the HCC felt confident about recommending this project to the select board.

After meeting with the landowners, who expressed willingness to sell, the next step was to take the idea to the town select board. Many times the usual next steps would be to take a few months for the town residents and select board to fully learn about the details, and possibilities, through presentations and surveys. Some towns choose to hold a referendum. But usually when land is proposed for a town forest it is not on the open market. In Hardwick's case, the land was already listed for sale with a realtor, and in situations like these, speed is of the essence. This was a major reason why the Buffalo Mountain project took its first steps so swiftly, to avoid missing out on this chance. Once the land is gone, it's gone forever.

A second reason for speed was that the sooner the big grants (that would essentially pay for the lion's share of the property) were applied for, the better. Grant deadlines were looming in September, and missing those deadlines would likely have set the project back a year, and risked any chance of success, with the land returning to the open market.

Both of these reasons were explained to the Hardwick Select Board. At the July 10 meeting, the town select board voted to accept ownership of the land, if all the pieces and funding came through. This vote of approval was needed to move ahead with grant applications, and all the due diligence required.

There was no specific financial contribution called for at that July meeting, but it was relayed that a town is always requested to contribute something. It was explained that a significant donation to the project was very important in the fund-raising work, for grantors really want to see that a town is committed to the project.

The \$25,000 amount was settled upon by the select board at a meeting some months later, leading to the vote on Town Meeting Day this past March 3.

It actually took months before enough pieces came together, to even plan for success. The landowners did not sign an option agreement until late January 2026. Until that time, things were still on the fence, it was deemed an awkward time to make any promises, or hold any public presentations, although the select board was kept informed, and there was a great deal of information on the conservation commission web page.

Once that January agreement happened, three public presentations were planned for, and held on January 24, and Feb 19 (live, and also separately on zoom).

Plans had been on-going for outreach, and to plan for the vote on Town Meeting Day to approve the \$25,000 contribution. A floor vote, rather than Australian Ballot, was settled on, because during a floor vote the project could be further explained, information shared, and questions answered, and that was thought to be preferable. At the March 3 Town Meeting, the question for Article 7 appeared to have had a respectable majority of the floor in favor. However, due to some procedural issues, and at the request of petitioners, it has been decided to hold a re-vote on the question, on May 19.

What will happen if the town does not make a contribution of money? Will the project still move ahead without it? It might, it might not. We can't say for sure. It will certainly make fund-raising harder. And again, as a contribution from a town is considered vital by some grant organizations,

In the greater scheme, \$25,000 is roughly 3% of the total project cost of an over half-a-million dollar gift to the town, giving us 329 amazing acres of land. To most any of us, paying the equivalent of \$76 an acre feels like quite a bargain, for our perpetual use and for future generations! Considering the time and resources that these organizations have dedicated to making this project possible, it seems a small price to pay for such a significant gift.

There is a ways to go in fund-raising, but since December, two big grants have come through. \$100,000 from The Nature Conservancy and \$465,000 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Some questions people have had are, "How much property tax money will the town lose?" No more than \$5,000 per year, based on current tax valuation.

"How much will it cost to maintain the land in the future?" It depends on how the property is handled. If things are kept simple, for example with just hiking trails, the costs are tiny. Larger developments will cost more, but these decisions lie with the steering committee, with final approval always resting with the select board.

Plain acreage does not need upkeep and maintenance, it's not like being given a building that will need upgrades and repairs. Buffalo Mountain will not need painting or plumbing or roofing, etc. Most other towns rely on volunteers, grants and donations to create facilities, trails and infrastructure, and Hardwick can do that too. Once the handover is complete, the town will be

granted \$25,000 to go towards management/development costs for the forest and that can go a long way.

Do we need more conserved land? Compared to other towns, Hardwick actually has a low percentage of truly conserved and protected land. This new town forest will be under our control, and presents so many options for recreation and education, right in the heart of town, plus opportunity for economic activity. As Vermont changes, Buffalo Mountain can always be there, open and accessible to all of us, forever.

This brief piece hasn't been able to cover all the details, but I hope it has answered some questions and brought confidence that this is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and a gift for the future of our wonderful town. We hope you will come to the May 19 Town Meeting, to vote in favor.

The next and final project presentation will be on zoom, May 14, at noon. Register for the zoom meeting at us06web.zoom.us/j/9121212121.

Applications for the steering committee will be accepted at the town office until May 15. Send applications to amanda.fecteau@hardwickvt.gov

Rachel Kane can be contacted at rmkane7@gmail.com for more information.

Rachel Kane is co-chair of the Hardwick Conservation Commission. For full detailed project information and maps, see the Hardwick Conservation Commission web page at hardwickvt.gov/government/committees-commissions/conservation-commission/.

Heller's World by Joe Heller



ANOTHER OPINION

When students engage in education it creates a better world

by Azailya C. L'Esperance

WALDEN – Hello, my name is Azailya L'Esperance. I am from Walden, and in sixth grade.

Throughout my years here, I have noticed that we don't have enough student engagement.

My school has combined grades and most classes are mixed together with multiple ages. This arrangement really limits students' learning.

Today I'm addressing the lack of differentiated learning, because this is an issue of equality. This country was founded on the principle of freedom: we strive to incorporate equality in everything we do. We need to respect that there are many learning styles and we have a responsibility to reform the way that we deliver education to students.

As I was stating previously, my school has many combined grades and ages together. This can really affect students. If some students aren't being challenged enough or are being challenged too much, it can lead them to having

a lack of motivation, difficulty engaging in their work and mental health issues can result.

An article titled, "The Hidden Struggles" from Ballou Education talks about how over challenged students often experience anxiety and depression. At the same time, when accelerated students are not challenged enough, they can lose their interest in learning and their excitement to engage. If students aren't getting taught to their full potential, they get bored and lose motivation in class.

It is time to step up and take a stand to advocate for myself and other students. Last week I went to the statehouse to meet with people involved in Vermont education policy. I spoke with John Castle who is the executive director of the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative, and Jessica DeCarolis, who is getting her Ph.D. in Education. I am looking forward to meeting other legislators and continuing the conversation about how we make education more alluring to students.

Civics is all about collaboration, coming together and engaging in conversation. I am so fortunate that I have a good support system cheering me on every step I take. I have my teachers, my mom and friends that strive to support me. Our school has a Student Voice Advisory Council (SVAC) made up of two to three seventh- and eighth-graders from our school, who advise district and school leadership, and elevate youth voice and youth perspectives in decision making. I can work with the chosen council members to share my ideas with our district leaders. The SVAC gives my ideas an amplifier so my voice can be heard throughout our corner of Vermont. You have to start somewhere and I think this is a great place for me.

When students engage in education it creates a better world. The future of America relies on what they are being taught now and how it's being presented to them. If students are able to have a voice and advocate for themselves, school would be a much more

exciting and welcoming place for them. It would give them the motivation they need to get up in the morning and engage effectively in their work.

I truly believe that if I can get my voice out and advocate for this, it would make schools much more reliable and allow students to get the equality in curriculums they so desperately need.

Throughout history America has always strived to have equality in the country, why should our education system fall short of that? As American citizens we have the right to equal education, so let's finally see that happen!

Let's dive in and realize the urgency of this situation and let's please remember here that this is the next generation of American citizens we are jeopardizing.

This is truly a huge problem in education, affecting students on the daily. So it's finally time that we take the leap of faith and do something about the lack of engagement in curriculum, for the next proud generations of Americans.

FROM THE WATERSHED

BY KRISTEN LEAHY

Waiting has a cost

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – In a small town like Hardwick, it's easy to put off big decisions.

Projects are expensive. The timing never feels quite right. When something is still working, at least most of the time, it can be hard to justify making a change.

Concern about the cost of projects is real. Affordability matters in Hardwick, and people are feeling it. Every investment the town makes has to be weighed carefully.

But waiting has a cost.

In Hardwick, the fire station is one of the clearest examples.

It sits at the meeting point of the Lamoille River and Cooper Brook, in a location that has flooded repeatedly over decades. This isn't theoretical. It's something we've seen recently, both in 2023 and 2024.

When flooding happens at that site, the impacts are imme-

diately. Emergency vehicles have to be moved or protected. Access can become limited. The people we rely on during an emergency are working around the very conditions they are trying to respond to.

After each event, there are repairs. Cleaning. Assessment. Getting the building back into service. That takes time and money, but more importantly, it takes focus away from what the Hardwick Fire Department is there to do.

In many cases, those repairs have been supported by insurance or FEMA funding. That has helped. But those sources are not infinite, and they won't always be there in the same way.

And then, for a while, things return to normal.

Until they don't.

The cycle of impact, repair, recovery, repeat, is what "doing nothing" can look like in practice.

It doesn't feel like inaction, because there is always work

happening. But it is a way of accepting the same outcome, over and over again.

Over time, the question begins to shift.

It's no longer just: Can we fix this again?

It becomes: What is it costing us to keep fixing it?

Those costs aren't only financial, although those matter. They show up in the strain on a critical public safety service, the uncertainty during flood events and the growing complexity of maintaining a facility in a location we know is vulnerable.

They also show up in the same place residents are already feeling pressure: the overall cost of keeping the town running.

At the same time, communities like Hardwick are being offered opportunities to address risks like that in a more lasting way.

State and federal programs exist because repeated damage

has proven to be more expensive than prevention. These funds can help reduce the burden on local taxpayers, but they don't last forever.

Choosing not to act doesn't avoid cost. It usually means paying later, with fewer resources and fewer options.

These are not simple decisions. They involve trade-offs, long timelines, and real investment. And they require public support, which takes time to build.

But the fire station conversation makes one thing clear: Doing nothing doesn't mean nothing happens. It means the cycle continues.

The impacts don't go away.

In a place like Hardwick, where we've seen what water can do, and where affordability matters, that's a choice worth looking at.

Kristen Leahy is the Town of Hardwick zoning and floodplain administrator.

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ANOTHER OPINION

MVU Re-vote No. 3

by Harold McCoy

HARDWICK – In my last post I talked about the elephant in the room. I'm dismayed to say that the elephant is alive and well.

I attended the MVU School Board meeting, April 16, at Lake View School.

The question about consolidation for this year has finally been answered. Due to the articles of agreement signed when we formed the MVU, closing any one of the schools requires public hearings and a vote in each town. Now that we are down to crunch time if you will, there is not enough time to consider consolidation for the '26-'27 school year following the Articles of Agreement.

Clarity was brought forward at the meeting on April 16 by Superintendent Dr. David Baker in regards to how many schools were to be operational for the '26-'27 school year. The board decided at the beginning of budget process to operate all three campuses. The decision was not unanimous.

I have also heard that there was discussion of money to be saved by consolidating the Woodbury school with Hardwick. However, the board decided to keep all three campuses operating for the '26-'27 school year.

The other important piece of information that Dr. Baker presented to the group at the meeting was that if the board were to consider consolidation for the '27-'28 school year those discussions and consolidation would need to start soon, and need to be completed by October 1. The school district starts their budgeting process in October to meet the deadlines of getting budgets ready for town meeting day. Therefore if we are going to consolidate Woodbury with Hardwick the issue needs immediate attention. In my opinion, the board is not there yet

in agreeing to start those talks and presenting the voters with an opportunity to vote by October 1.

"The People for Common Cents", the voters-taxpayers, have voted down the '26-'27 budget twice. We have overwhelmingly said to the board we don't want to spend tax payer money on repairs to a building we don't own (Woodbury school building) and that we want the K-6 program under one roof at HES.

At the April 16 MVU meeting the board did, after an executive session, move a new budget removing \$113,000 from the original budget, of which \$15,000 was cut from the account for PCB testing, the remainder they said would come from retirement of staff. They wouldn't share with us where the cuts were coming from, another example of the board's lack of transparency. Voters will decide if the cut of \$113,000 is enough.

I suggest that the board comes to the May 14 informational meeting fully prepared to give us a complete and accurate update on the repairs needed at the Woodbury School. At the April 16 meeting, the board briefly discussed the bid to hire a structural engineer to assess the issues with the fire escape mandated by the fire marshal. Maybe, and this is only a maybe, the engineer's results will show an acceptable, inexpensive short term repair to the fire escape that will insure safety of our students and a repair that would be approved by the fire marshal for the remainder of the current year and the '26-'27 school year.

I asked Dr Baker what would happen if the fire marshal closed the school. He said we would bring the students to Hardwick. What happens if we pass the budget as it stands now, and the engineering study comes back after the budget passes, with demands for

a new fire escape? The projected cost using the board's numbers is around \$395,000. The projected elevator issue is another \$133,600. However, there is a band-aid approach underway to get another year out of the elevator.

I believe the current board will go ahead with the expenditure if their hand is forced by the structural engineer and fire marshal. They will use the \$290,000 in the capital fund and probably find the rest of the money in the '26-'27 school budget. They showed us the way they do things at the meeting on April 16. They voted to take \$38,800 out of the current year's '25-'26 budget, under the salary line item, and move it to the maintenance line to fix the steps at Lakeview School. It is important for all of us to remember that we are giving our school board and administration a budget of over nine million dollars; they tell us how they think they are going to spend the money, but they really can do whatever they deem necessary. We need to know what the board will do given the possible scenarios for the fire escape before we vote on the budget.

I believe the board at the May 14 meeting needs to commit to instructing the administration to start working on consolidation of Woodbury and HES for the 27/28 school year. They need to guarantee the voters will have the opportunity to vote on consolidation by October 1.

We don't need to have a study committee for a year or two. We have enough information about the condition of all our school buildings.

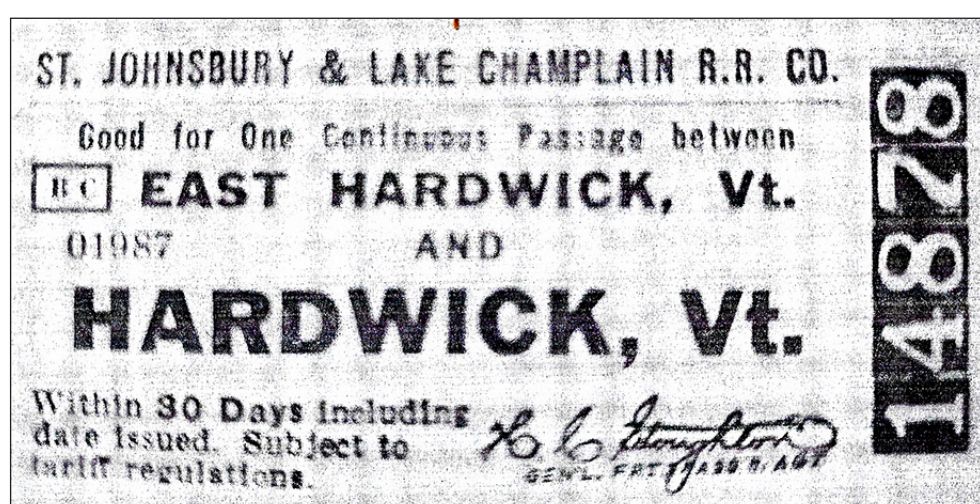
We have a capable staff in our central office to map out a plan of the efficiencies that could

be accomplished by consolidation. We have enough administration to make educating 260 to 270 students pre-K through 6 work without hiring an outside financial consultant.

The first step is bringing all the students K-6 to HES for the '27-'28 school year. After listening to educational concerns the past month and half, there is an argument to be made to keep Lakeview School Pre-K open for the '27-'28 school year. Evaluating the space available for the pre-K program at HES after a year with a consolidated K-6 might be the best plan. I believe the Pre-K program has a different student to teacher/support staff ratio than K-6. If we project ahead to the '27-'28 school year using the latest published numbers, it looks as though we will be at a total of around 210 to 215 students K-6. That would make approximately 30 students per grade level with 15 students per class. Plus the specialists we have, or may need. There is more than enough room for them at HES. Once K-6 is in place, the board and administration could work toward a plan of the Pre-K program moving to HES as well.

In conclusion, no big expenditure on the building in Woodbury for '26-'27 school year and a commitment from the board to initiate a vote on consolidation for '27-'28 will get my vote on May 20. Short of that, I suggest "The People for Common Cents" vote "no" again. There still would be time for one more vote before June 30, if more time is needed to hammer out agreements and a budget that is reflective of what voters/taxpayers want and can afford. I support public education, however there needs to be educational and financial common sense in the budgets being presented.

WEEKS GONE BY



Record of Wrongs

You rubbed me wrong. I mean,
 rubbed the wrong way.
 You rubbed me the wrong way.
 And me I know, I know
 I rubbed you the wrong way.
 Way wrong.
 All wrong the rubbing.
 Two-way wrong rubs.
 Along the rubbing way.

We belong in this club.
 Our rough edge exposed.
 I will protect yours
 with awareness of mine.

Glenn McKee
 Hardwick

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Area maple makers claim successful season

by **Raymonda Parchment**

EAST HARDWICK – For many in the New England region, spring showers aren't the only expectation for the season. Many families anticipate the sweet smell of boiling sap, one that can only be found in and around a sugarhouse.

For some, acquiring maple syrup or a maple treat is as simple as getting in the car and finding your nearest store. For others, dedicated maple producers, the process is far longer. The state of the Vermont maple industry can be fickle, reliant on the weather and thus changing year to year.

Caledonia County Director Shawn Messier of the Vermont Sugar Makers Association, as well as the Caledonia Maple Association provided some insight into how this year's sugaring season went for the area, as well as developments in maple syrup production methods.

Messier is a second-generation sugarmaker. He began sugaring in the Hardwick area with his father in 1972. Now he runs the Messier Family Sugar House with his partner Deb.

"Everyone that I have talked to in this area was about average. Whereas last year, the year before, were slightly above average, three years ago was way below average in this area. So this year we kind of return to what we would consider normal production," Messier began. However, he explained there are nuances to be found in operations even just miles apart.

"I have heard of a couple of people that had a better than average year. Why? I'm not sure. They're pretty close in proximity to most of the rest of us that had just an average year. So, there's so many little intricate, minutias, that every area can be different."

The weather conditions are of the utmost importance. Even a slight difference in temperature can impact the outcome of the season, explained Messier, "A lot of times the season depends on the difference of two degrees. If it had been two degrees warmer, it would have run, if it had been two degrees colder, it would have frozen overnight, and it had a better run the next day. Two degrees can make or break a season."

Three years ago, as many maple producers in the state can attest, that's the way it was. "We just never, never quite got warm enough. So many times, and so it was a very poor year," he recalled.

Things have turned around,

however, over the last two years, Messier said, "The stars have aligned and things worked well for us. This year was just kind of back to our baseline average."

Of his own operation, he says "We made just over four pounds per tap, which I like to consider my baseline average."

Messier talked about the growth of reverse osmosis (RO) in the area, "I would say most sugar makers in the area of any size at all now use reverse osmosis. There's not many producers, beyond hobby, that don't use it. Because of the wood you would need or the oil or propane, whatever you're using in your evaporator for a fuel source. By using the reverse osmosis, you're cutting that, the need of that source by 75%."

Reverse osmosis is not an entirely new development, having been in the maple industry for around thirty years. Messier says as operations change and get larger, the process has become more popular.

"It used to be scary to some people, and now I think people understand that it's a necessity. It really is. If you're just a hobbyist, then you don't mind sitting in your lawn chair and boiling sap for a long time to make a gallon of syrup, but if it's something that you hope to earn a living or even a supplemental income, you have to find ways to make it more efficient and RO is probably the largest single item that can help with your efficiency."

He explained further, "Using the Jones' rule of 86, if your raw sap that you get from the tree is, say it's 2% sugar, which is a general average. Some years are more, some years less, some areas are more, some areas are less, but at 2% sugar on your raw sap, it takes 43 gallons to make one gallon of syrup. So if you use reverse osmosis and take that to, say 10% sugar content, it takes 8.6 gallons that you have to boil to make one gallon of syrup."

That's a stark difference, especially in consideration to the growing prices of fuel.

He continued, "If you're producing any volume, you almost have to have it. If you were burning fuel oil, boiling raw sap, you're going to use several gallons of oil to make one gallon of syrup where, with reverse osmosis, you can be down to less than a gallon of oil to make a gallon of syrup."

Messier still burns wood, and the difference there is clear too, "It means burning 10 cord of wood a year instead of 40. The manpower needed to cut and split and stack

40 cord of wood is tremendous. Whereas the 10 cord, that's doable."

Other aspects of making maple syrup have changed too, with the production of syrup and other maple products becoming more regulated, said Messier. Safety is crucial, he emphasized.

"You're making a food product, you've got to be concerned with lead in your production equipment, making sure that you don't have anything that is lead, lead soldered pans, things like that can introduce lead into your syrup. You're making a food product. Unless you're giving away everything you're making, if you're selling a food product, you're required to meet certain guidelines that the food and drug administration (FDA) has out there and one of them is lead in your syrup."

The FDA retains the right to come and inspect maple operations at any time. Messier says it's important for maple producers to be vigilant and aware.

"Don't store your gas cans in the sugar house, things like that. You're making a food product. You have to treat it as such. For a lot of years, maple production was something that farmers did in the off season and things like that, and it kind of got treated as just a little sideline, but if you're selling your product, you have to treat it as a food product, because that's what it is."

In addition to customer safety, their experience is just as important, Messier explained, "That's something everyone needs

to think about, because you don't want to sell an inferior product either. Because that gives maple in general a bad name. For somebody that's never had maple syrup . . . Well, you're never going to have them as a customer. So you need to make sure you're only producing a quality product."

According to Vermont Business Magazine, Vermont is the top producer of maple syrup in the United States, contributing over 50% of the nation's total, with New York coming in second. Notably, "Vermont has, I would say the most active enforcement of maple oversight and always has. The Vermont Sugar Makers Association (VSMA) is, as far as I am aware, the oldest, kind of oversight, for maple in the U.S., It's been around for a long, long time . . . That is important."

Formed in 1893, VMSMA is one of the oldest agricultural organizations in the United States. The association is made up of Vermont maple sugar makers, maple packers, equipment manufacturers and other industry leaders.

Messier had a final fact that will surely please maple consumers: "There's a lot of good health things with maple syrup. It's high in antioxidants and it's actually good for you," he says.

"There are definitely bonuses, not only in the fact that it tastes good, but it is relatively good for you as far as natural sweeteners go.

"I don't know anything that would be better for you," concluded Messier.



The Indivisible Hardwick crew (from left) of Rachel Cole, Julia Pringle, Carlotta Hayes, Tess Broadbeck, Charity Carbine-March and Amber Carbine-March join the picket line in Williston's Maple Tree Place Park, with Migrant Justice's Milk With Dignity campaign on May Day, Friday, May 1.

photo by Will Fritch

THE OUTSIDE STORY

This Spring, look up for the bees



Unequal Cellophane Bee (Colletes inaequalis) on a Red Maple.
photo by Spencer Hardy

**by Spencer Hardy
Vermont Center for
Ecostudies**

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – The changing colors of fall leaves is undeniably one of the great spectacles of the northern hardwood forests. But consider for a moment the other end of the growing season from early April through late May, the color palette of our local forests changes at breathtaking speed. The daily commute, whether on a highway or trundling down a back road next to a rushing stream, becomes a crash course in forest diversity and structure, with each day revealing a new shade of white or green corresponding to a unique tree or shrub species.

The first color arrives with the swelling maple buds, often prior to snow melt, but the party really gets started when the Red Maples open their flowers and the bottom lands tinge red. Shortly thereafter, the early willow species

of wet meadows turn yellow with their catkins full of pollen. After the willows, there is a rapid fire collection of flowering shrubs, each like ephemeral fireworks with their own signature shade of white and preferred niche on the landscape. In rough phenological order, Downy Serviceberry, Smooth Serviceberry, American Plum, Pin Cherry, Chokecherry, Black Cherry and hawthorns bring us to the end of May and are then eventually supplanted by another cast of late spring and early summer species.

While these explosions of color can be witnessed at highway speeds, there is another whole layer of associated color and natural history that requires closer observation. With decent weather, all of these shrubs and trees are likely to be literally buzzing with potentially hundreds of insects, many of them wild bees. We know of nearly 60 species of mining bees that are likely to be active in May in Vermont. Twenty-four of them



Nason's Mining Bee (Andrena nasonii) observed in Pennsylvania and added to the PIP project on iNaturalist.
photo by Gabriele Monshausen

are specialists, the picky eaters of the bee world, only gathering pollen from a small subset of the available flowers.

Within the shrub-associated mining bees, there are seven species that are dependent on willows, four that need dogwoods, and two associated with blueberries, plus a number of others that have a strong preference for flowering shrubs in general. And of course this explosion of flowers in the woods doesn't go unnoticed by the less picky bees. Watching bumble bee queens cruising a patch of willows has become a spring ritual for me.

Perhaps because I perceive them as overlooked, and I like to root for the underdog, I've increasingly found myself drawn to our woody species and will promote their virtues whenever I'm given a chance. There are also, of course, bees that like the more quintessential spring flowers. Many of our rich hardwood forests are awesome places to look for bees, but often only for a few sunny days in early May before the canopy closes and shades out the spring ephemerals. Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, and bellworts are true spring ephemerals that have associated specialist bees.

Other spring plants that host specialist bees include Wild Geranium, Golden Alexander, Wild Strawberry, Violet spp., and Virginia Waterleaf.

With so many picky bees, each with their own diet, phenology, and nesting habitat, it's hard to know what to prioritize in efforts to help protect them, especially for backyard naturalists. Here are a few tangible ideas to ponder this spring while cruising back roads and admiring the return of color to the landscape.

Mow less. Even just raising your mower blade gives wild strawberries, violets, and many others a chance to bloom. Also, unfertilized lawns and meadows tend to have a higher portion of flowering forbs, and thus more bees.

Buy bird-friendly maple syrup. It's good for the bees too.

Eat more venison. In many areas, deer are the number one killer of many of the plants mentioned above, especially our woodland ephemerals.

Plant some fruit trees. Though the cultivated varieties might not be as good as the native species, they are still popular with a lot of bees, and certainly better than turf grass. Think plums, cherries, apples, blueberries, currants, and gooseberries.

Avoid pesticides. Bees are insects (shocker, I know) and can be heavily impacted by many of the insecticides used on farms and backyards (think mosquito and tick control, and Raid). Choosing organic fruits at the store is a good way to limit bees exposure, since some fruits are often sprayed while the crops are blooming.



Greater Bee Fly (Bombylius major) observed in Massachusetts and added to the PIP project on iNaturalist.
photos by Jeremy Coleman



Frigid Miner (Andrena frigida) on a Willow.
photo by Spencer Hardy

IN THE GARDEN

Azaleas, Rhododendrons attractive, well-behaved

by **Deborah J. Benoit**

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. – Azaleas and other rhododendrons are fixtures in yards and gardens for good reasons: they're attractive, well-behaved, and easy to care for. But which is which?

Azaleas (Rhododendron spp.) are, in fact, rhododendrons, though all rhododendrons are not azaleas. Azaleas tend to be smaller shrubs (around five feet tall) and their leaves more petite and less leathery.

Both azaleas and rhododendrons include evergreen and deciduous varieties. Evergreen azaleas are native to Asia and retain their leaves through winter. The leaves of deciduous azaleas may change color before dropping in autumn. They're native to North America and Europe.

Their flowers have five lobes and are bell- or funnel-shaped. They might be purple or pink, red, orange, yellow, or white. If the flower has five stamens, it's an azalea. If you count 10 (or more), it's a rhododendron.

Most azaleas are hardy in United States Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zones 6 to 9, but there are cold-hardy varieties that do well in areas as cold as Zone 3. Rhododendrons are hardy in Zones 4 to 8, also with some hardy to Zone 3.

Both prefer acidic soil (pH 4.5-6.0).

Plant azaleas and rhododendrons in early spring or autumn. Choose a location that receives the recommended hours of sunlight for the variety you've chosen. Light requirements can vary from part shade to part sun. Select an area with good drainage. You can amend heavy soils with compost, peat moss, composted leaves, pine needles or pine bark to increase drainage. Evergreen rhododendrons can suffer from winter desiccation, so be sure to plant them in a protected site where there is not a lot of wind.

After planting, water well and apply a layer of mulch to help retain moisture. Water consistently during the first year, especially during the heat of summer.

Azaleas and rhododendrons are easy-care additions to the garden. In late winter or early spring, prune any damaged or diseased parts. Any other pruning, including for size or shape, should wait until immediately after flowering. Pruning too late can remove buds for next year's flowers, which form soon after this year's flowers have faded.

There's no need to deadhead spent flowers: they'll fall on their own. If fertilizing azaleas, do so after flowering. Fertilize according



Rhododendron in full bloom.

photo by Deborah Benoit.

to package directions using a balanced, slow-release fertilizer for acid-loving plants.

To keep azaleas and rhododendrons happy over the winter months, give them a good, deep drink before the ground freezes and apply a layer of mulch to protect the roots and retain moisture.

If the rhododendron is an evergreen variety, during the coldest days of winter its leaves curl into tight rolls. The curling leaves reduce the surface area and exposure to harsh environmental conditions that could result in water loss (transpiration) and lead to winter damage.

All parts of rhododendrons and azaleas contain toxins and can be harmful if eaten. That doesn't, however, make them a deer resistant plant for home gardens. On the contrary, deer often dine on their leaves and buds.

Deer nibbles and other hazards aside, azaleas and rhododendrons can live 30 to 50 years (or more), bringing decades of color and fragrance to a garden.

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

Upon Hearing the News

I step outside and hear birdsong
 on the -14 degrees sunny March morning
 and the laughter from my daughter sliding,
 face first, down a bank of snow.
 Beside the woodstove, I feel the warm
 embrace of my love
 and see the brightness of felted wool
 glowing on our dining table.
 Later, I bask the illumination of the full moon
 on winter's white.
 Tear drops fall into wisdom.
 There is still room for joy here.

**Sarah Eve
 Woodbury**

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

Sauna

Crisp stars lit the dark sky as I strode
 through two-foot deep paths of snow,
 not caring about my wet hair or
 hat stuffed into my pocket
 on this below-zero night.
 My jacket hung carelessly on my body,
 as I sauntered like a god,
 relaxed and open to the frigid night.

**Emily Hershberger
 Hardwick**

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

Prey

The barred owl sits on a lofted limb,
 Her white feathers puffed up from the cold.
 A curious grey mole pops up from the snowy depths below,
 Suddenly, she swoops!
 Claws extended; she grabs the furry creature & in two rhythmic
 gulps,
 Ga-lump, ga-lump.
 She swallows him whole.

**Nina Livellara
 Woodbury**

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

Now all of autumn's gaudy gold is spent,
 Its bronze & ruby turned to brown and rust.
 The fiery glory was not owned but lent,
 Abandoned now to piles of ash and dust.
 Handfuls of hungry, homeward crows are tossed,
 Raucous, across November's slate of skies.
 The hopeful cricket at my doorstep dies,
 And all September's promises are lies.
 Now, since my hopes beneath cold snow must sleep
 I'll dream of promises that Spring may keep.

**Rosann Hickey
 Greensboro**

This poem was written for the Verse-Village celebration of April Poetry Month.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Book club meets May 7

WOODBURY – The Woodbury Community Library Book Club meets on Thursday, May 7, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., to discuss “The Melancholy of Resistance” by Laszlo Kraznahorkai. Visit our

webpage for a list of the books that will be discussed in the future. The library is located at 69 Valley Lake Road. For more information call (802) 472-5710 or email library@woodburyvt.org

Local author to present new work, May 12

HARDWICK – Author and photographer Jane English of Woodbury will give a talk and slide show presentation on her recently published book, “White Pines,” at Jeudevine Memorial Library on Tuesday, May 12, at 7 p.m. in the Parker Ladd Community Room. This event is co-sponsored by The Galaxy Bookshop.



Jane English

“White Pines,” is a love letter from English to the trees that she grew up among and an invitation to the understanding that we are part of the living community of “All Our Relatives”: clouds, plants, rivers, humans, rocks, animals, birds, trees, wind and more. Along with writings and photographs by English is work from twenty-two other friends of the native North American trees that are held sacred by

certain indigenous traditions. This event is free and open to the public. Jeudevine Memorial Library is located at 93 North Main Street in Hardwick. For more information, call (802) 472-5533 or visit galaxybookshop.com for a full schedule of events.

Crafting group, Tuesdays

MARSHFIELD – The All Hands Together community crafting group will meet at the Jaquith Public Library Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Knitting and spinning expert Donna Hisson, from Marshfield, is the host of the group. Bring

knitting, crocheting or start a new project. All ages are welcome if they are old enough to sit and work on a craft.

More information: (802) 426-3581 or at www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org

Film series continues, May 14

MARSHFIELD – The last film in the “Glimpses of a Maybe Future” series will be shown Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. A construction worker accidentally discovers that many public figures, politicians and newscasters are aliens disguised as humans. When

he is found out, the world of influential “people” spares nothing to track him down and get rid of him. Sponsored by Salmon Falls Sangha and Jaquith Public Library.

More information is at (802) 426-3581 or www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org

Free movie, May 16

EAST HARDWICK – Touch of Grace Church will host a free movie night beginning at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 16, part of the faith and family featured films series.

The film to be screened is “I Can Only Imagine 2”, with free popcorn. Touch of Grace is located at 104 Vt. Route 16. For information, contact clahill77@hotmail.com.

Spring bird walk, May 17

MARSHFIELD – Join naturalists Bob Popp and Betsy Ziegler, Sunday, May 17, 8 a.m., at the Stranahan Town Forest to meet some of the many species of birds who are returning to Vermont after their long spring migrations. Learn to identify species by both sight and sound, and also discuss

bird behavior and ecology. Meet at the Thompson Road parking lot off of Hollister Hill Road. Co-sponsored by the Marshfield Conservation Commission and the Jaquith Public Library.

For more information visit (802) 426-3581 or www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org



Green-up day bags collected at the Grange in East Hardwick have been loaded by (from left) Dave Gross, Mary Piper and Mary Whittaker for their trip to a dumpster at the town garage in Hardwick, Saturday, May 2.

courtesy photo

Figure drawing studio begins May 7

ST. JOHNSBURY – Artists Larry Golden and son Ricky will host a figure drawing studio at Catamount Arts, Thursday evenings, from 4 to 6 p.m., beginning May 7. This drop-in style studio will run through September 24.

for each studio session. Larry Golden is primarily a painter, but says he is “very much influenced by traditional drawing, wherein proportion is the primary aspect of concern. Figure drawing is the key to becoming a great draftsman.”

Each weekly session will feature a live model posing for four 10-minute sketches and three 20-minute sketches. Larry Golden hosts each session, and will be available for guidance and critiquing.

He taught art for many decades at St. Johnsbury Academy and studied at New Hampshire Art Institute, Pratt Institute, The Art Students League, Vermont Studio Center, Lyme Academy and more.

Participants must bring their own drawing materials and paper, but easels will be available for those who need them. There is a fee

To learn more about this and other arts classes in St. Johnsbury, visit catamountarts.org.

Budbill poetry, Sunday afternoon, May 17

MARSHFIELD – Nadine Budbill, Literary Executor of the David Budbill Literary Estate will read from the new edition of her father’s book, “Jeudevine: A Love Song for a Place and Its People,” Rootstock Publishing, Sunday, May 17, 2 to 4 p.m.

a picture book for children, the libretto for an opera and dozens of essays. He was posthumously named “The People’s Poet of Vermont.”

David Budbill authored eight books of poems, seven plays, two novels, a collection of short stories,

This event, free and open to the public, is a collaboration between the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library.

More information at (802) 426-3581 or at www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

River memories: exploring settlement patterns, May 21

MARSHFIELD – Vermont’s rivers have long shaped where and how communities grew, but recent storms have made clear that many communities in Vermont are vulnerable to damage from flooding. Historian Alan Berolzheimer examines how the development of settlement

patterns over time has contributed to the problem of flooding in Vermont, Thursday, May 21, 6:30 p.m. This presentation is a collaboration with Vermont Humanities.

More information: (802) 426-3581 or www.jaquithpubliclibrary.org

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Tim Hodges (left) of NEK 3D Creations in Derby answers questions about fidgets to Melissa MacLaren (center) and her daughter Alexi Hill (right), both of Hardwick, at the third annual Hazen Union eighth grade Spring Craft Fair, featuring 35 vendors, May 2. The class fundraiser is for a day-trip to Burlington which includes an Ethan Allen Cruise, Lake Monsters game and going to the Spare Time entertainment center. photo by Vanessa Fournier

EDUCATION

Administration to release education funding for Vermont

by Paul Fixx

BURLINGTON – Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, announced that the Department of Education has released \$11.58 million in federal K-12 COVID-19 funding for 20 Vermont school districts and the Agency of Education, after over a year of delay.

Included in the funding are \$232,834 in funds for Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU). And \$149,375 for Caledonia Central Supervisory Union.

“After a year of needless delay from the Trump administration, Vermont school districts will finally receive federal funding for summer and afterschool programs, school renovations and other critical services. At a time when so many of our school districts are suffering and struggling economically, this is an important step forward,” Sanders said.

OSSU Superintendent Dr. David Baker reported “the state had already reimbursed us for these funds and now the federal release is just making the state whole.”

Those funds helped support after school and summer enrichment programming; the We R Hope program facilitating student readiness for learning by helping them learn how to cope with and manage anxiety; Music Education Artist Residency with Burlington Taiko at Craftsbury; facilities items for safe and healthy schools: duct cleaning, standby generator, controls maintenance and floor scrubbers; flexible seating for classrooms based on

needs assessment; The Regulated Classroom professional development supporting teachers with classroom management and implementation of the Bookworms reading program.

In March 2025, the Trump administration canceled an estimated \$2.5 billion nationwide, including about \$17 million for Vermont in unspent funding for K-12 schools provided under the American Rescue Plan Act that had already been approved for states to spend and created a burdensome appeals process for states and school districts to reapply for money they had been promised.

Sanders urged Education Secretary Linda McMahon to reverse this decision on multiple occasions and ultimately secured her commitment that Vermont schools would receive the funding they were due. Courts also ruled against the Trump administration’s illegal withholding of the funds. The department assured the senator that the funding would be released in June of last year, but has forced the state through a months-long process to release funds. As part of the Trump administration’s actions to dismantle the Department of Education, the staff who managed these federal funds were fired in March 2025, further delaying the funds from reaching Vermonters.

This month, Sanders finally received confirmation from the Department of Education that a total of \$11.58 million in funding has been sent to Vermont to reimburse schools for essential activities, such as summer and after school programs, school renovations, teacher training, literacy and math coaches and mental health programs.

OBITUARIES

Lynda Mercy

A Graveside Committal for Lynda Mercy, who passed away on April 6, will take place on Monday, May 18, at 1 p.m., at the St. Isidore Cemetery, 246 Mountain Road, Montgomery Center, VT 05471. Lynda’s full obituary may be viewed at dgfunerals.com.

Kylee M. Bean

ELMORE – Spring Committal Services for Kylee Marie Bean, who died unexpectedly on March 1, at Copley Hospital in Morrisville, will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, May 8, in the family plot in the Fairview Cemetery in Hardwick. Arrangements are in the care of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcomed at northvermontfuneralservice.com

OUR COMMUNITIES

Macrame basics, May 12

MORRISVILLE – The art of macramé will be taught in a Macrame Basic workshop on May 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at River Arts. The workshop will show essential knots and techniques while creating a collection of macramé keychains. Instructor Karen Gunterman will guide the workshop step-by-step through selecting cords, mastering foundational knots and shaping designs. No prior experience is needed. River Arts is located at 74 Pleasant St.

For more information, call (802) 999-1261 or email info@riverartsvt.org.

Cooking club, May 13

HARDWICK – The Cooking Club will meet Wednesday, May 13, at 3 p.m., at the Jeudevine Memorial Library to make refreshments to sell during intermission at the Jeudevine Players production on May 18. For more information, contact jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Britto-inspired painting, May 14

MORRISVILLE – A workshop using Britto-inspired shapes and patterns for acrylic painting will be held May 14, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at River Arts. Using Britto-inspired shapes and patterns as a simple starting point, the workshop will explore bold lines and bright hues. There is a fee for the workshop. River Arts is located at 74 Pleasant St. For more information, call (802) 999-1261 or email info@riverartsvt.org

Storytime with HPD, May 14

HARDWICK – Storytime with the Hardwick Police Department will be held Thursday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m. Listen to a story and check out the police cruiser. For more information, contact jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

New Jeudevine Players production, May 18

HARDWICK – The Jeudevine Players will present “The Revenge of Popcorn . . . I Mean Joe,” Thursday, May 18, at 4:30 p.m. This is the Jeudevine Players’ latest original production. The library’s Cooking Club will sell refreshments during intermission. For more information, contact jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Northern Vermont Funeral Service

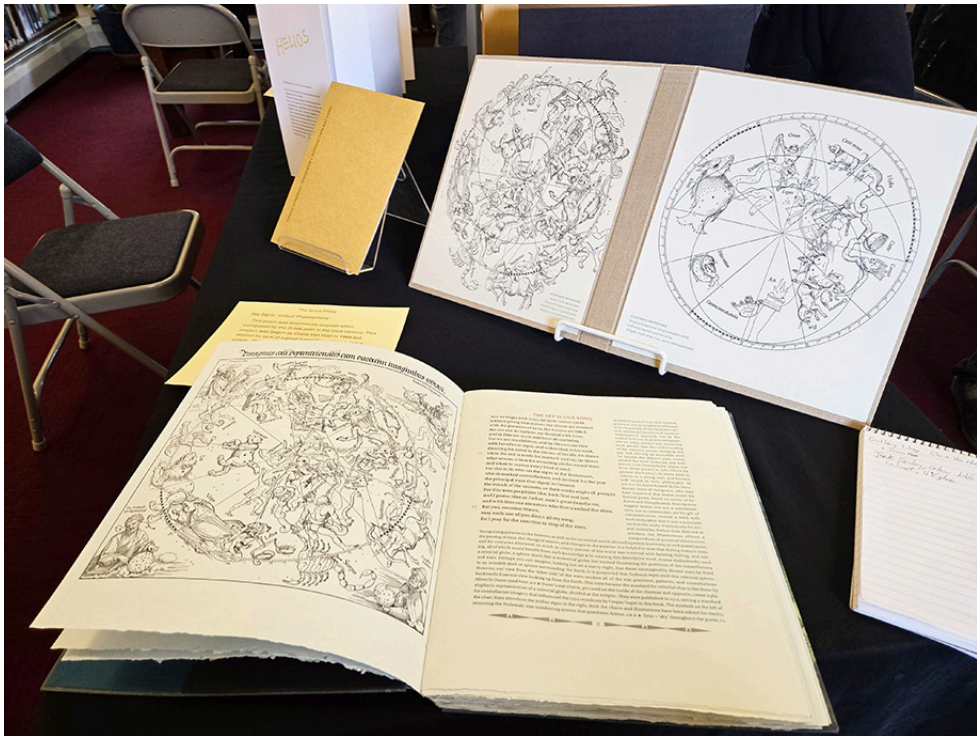
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Dian R. Holcomb
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PRENEED
PLANNING

Library receives handcrafted Janus Press book collection



The book, "Sky Signs: Aratus' Phaenomena," a poem that was popular when it was composed by the Greek poet in the third century, is among the collections of hand-bound, illustrated and lovingly crafted Janus Press books donated to the Craftsbury Public Library by Paul Gruhler and Jane Marlin.

photo by Paul Fixx



The colorful book, "Gameboard Symmetries," published by Clair Van Vliet's Janus Press, underlines Craftsbury Public Library visitors (from left) Deb McKinley, Tom Twetten, Diane Morgan, Dave Brown and Ann Ingerson, Saturday, April 11, as they view and discuss the Janus Press Collection being donated to the library by Paul Gruhler and Jane Marlin. photo by Paul Fixx

by Paul Fixx

CRAFTSBURY – For the last six decades, Claire Van Vliet has been producing some of the most extraordinary artist book editions in her quiet corner of Newark.

Her Janus Press has collaborated with poets, writers and artists from Vermont and around the world to produce hand bound books on fine paper.

Among other accolades, she was the recipient of a MacArthur Genius prize.

Local artist Paul Gruhler, a personal friend of Van Vliet's, and his partner Jane Marlin, are donating their collection of 24 volumes of her work to the library.

The books show the heights of artistic achievement in the medium.

This donation makes the

Craftsbury Public Library one of a very few locations to offer patrons the opportunity to view and interact with these creations, said a library promotional announcement.

Gruhler said he hopes patrons will handle the books and read them to get the full experience they can provide to a reader. A preview of the collection was held Saturday, April 11, with talks by library board members and donor Paul Gruhler about Claire Van Vliet and her work.

Visitors were then encouraged to explore the works which cover a wide range of subjects, including

poetry and prose.

Each book is bound by hand, often without glue. Many include pull out maps and diagrams. Some on display included carefully produced slipcovers, some crafted of wood by Jack Sumberg of Glover.

The collection will be transferred to the library once a cabinet to house and display the collection is completed by Sumberg, who was at the event with a drawing of the cabinet. It will be built with UV glass to protect the book collection.

It is hoped the collection will move into the library this summer, said Librarian Susan O'Connell.

Renne's work on exhibit through June

WOODBURY – Elisha Renne's "The Warp and Weft of Life" will be on display through June at the Woodbury Community Library, 69

Valley Lake Road.

For more information, call (802) 472-5701 or email library@woodburyvt.org



Geof Hewitt (left) performs a poem to kick off the Jeudevine Library's "Anything Goes, All Ages Poetry Slam," in Hardwick, Saturday, April 25, while Stella James provides a beat.

photo by Diane Grenkow

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

Disciplined youth symphony creates beauty

REVIEWS

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The Green Mountain Youth Symphony, now in its twenty-fifth season, gave an impressive concert at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro last Saturday evening, featuring works by Telemann, Dvorak, with a specially commissioned piece in the first half of the program and four movie music selections in the second half. There are about thirty musicians in the orchestra, with just a few older artists filling in some of the bass positions. Robert Blais was the very competent conductor.

The “Viola Concerto in G Major” by Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767) highlighted Isla Robeck in a very professional performance on viola. In the first slow movement, she brought out the fine sonorous tone in the range of the instrument, with a depth of color in her sensitive bowing. The second section was a lively melody with baroque elaborations, while the third part had a stately tempo and a short solo cadenza. The last movement showed fast fingering in its scoring, which Robeck played with precision and expressive feeling.

“These Green Mountains” was an orchestral arrangement of the Vermont State Anthem by Callum Robeck, based on the original theme by Diane Martin and Rita Buglass which won a competition several years ago. It has heartfelt and poetic lyrics, which conductor Blais read, and an engaging melody that was nicely transcribed here.

“Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95,” the “New World:” by Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904), was written in 1893 while he was teaching in New York City and

visiting settlements of immigrants from his own country of Czechoslovakia in the Midwest. In it he draws on both Afro-American and Native American sources for inspiration, one of the first classical music composers to do so. The Green Mountain Youth Symphony skillfully played the fourth movement, which has a number of beautiful melodies that utilize the full resources of the orchestra dramatically, building up to a triumphant ending.

Following intermission the group presented music from film scores, beginning with an arrangement from “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” by John Williams. It started off with a prominent trumpet part and then distinct marching rhythms, with a touch of a mariachi element in the brasses, presumably referring to the setting of the movie in Mexico, where in the National Art Museum there is an Aztec crystal skull.

Selections from “Les Misérables” by Claude Michel Schönberg featured the clarinet, flute, trombone, and French horns as well as percussive texture in this cinema version of Hugo’s novel.

Chuck Mangione composed the score accompanying “The Children of Sanchez,” which came out in 1979. Again there was a slightly Latin flavor to the rhythms and themes. The last number was music by Klaus Badelt for “Pirates of the Caribbean,” which had a series of crescendos emphasizing the brasses and drums in its orchestral meaning.

The Green Mountain Youth Symphony provides an invaluable experience to young musicians to play with disciplined coordination the rich repertoire of orchestral music written over the past few centuries. To have the opportunity to create such beauty and share it with the public is a real blessing, both a personal and community builder.



Members of the Highlands View Chamber Ensemble who performed April 10 at the Cabot United Church included, front (all from left) Josiah Noel, Frey Donn and Esme Boles; middle, Ella Lacelle, Kathy Charlestream. Eve Bakowski. Orion Vitale. Anat Grosfeld and Skye Schroer; back, Lucas Vitale, Spencer Vitale, Jacob Bakowski, Maia Boyer, Evelyn Fentiman, Noam Stroup and Marianne Hahr. *courtesy photo*

Young musicians of chamber ensemble perform

by Amanda Legare and Kathy Charlestream

CABOT – The Cabot United Church was filled with classical music Friday evening, April 10, when the youthful members of the Highlands View Chamber Ensemble played to a large good crowd of appreciative listeners.

Music by Rachmaninov, Handel, Bach, Vivaldi and others was performed in the fine acoustics of the 175-year-old church.

After the concert, Cabot resident Connie Hourihan said, “That concert was wonderful, It made my heart soar to see these young people making such beautiful sound.”

Four of the musicians, including their leader, Kathy Charlestream, are from Cabot. One is from Walden and one is from Danville. The rest come from Kirby, St. Johnsbury, Fairlee and

Canada. Charlestream and her family moved to Cabot in 2000. She had lived in Massachusetts where she taught string instruments from 1987 to 2000 and was director for several ensembles.

The Vermont group was formed in 2001 with members from all over New England and has toured throughout the area.

In 2016 the group renamed themselves the Highlands View Chamber Ensemble because the group is based in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) and the original name for the NEK was Northeast Highlands.

Over the years the group has included harp, flute and oboe players which allowed the group to perform a wide repertoire.

Those who would like to take lessons or audition to be in the string orchestra may contact Kathy Charlestream at excellentstrings@gmail.com.

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Schumann's career, theater, highlighted on film

REVIEWS

by David K. Rodgers

GREENSBORO – The world premier of a new documentary film about Peter Schumann, “An Artist Responds to War: Peter Schumann and the Bread and Puppet Theatre” was given its showing last Sunday afternoon at the Highland Center for the Arts. Created by filmmaker Robbie Leppzer over the past nine years, it is part of a much larger project about Peter Schumann's whole life and the Bread and Puppet Theatre, which should be completed by next year. Leppzer felt that this forty-five minute preview should be released now, as we are living in perilous times, with growing authoritarianism both at home and abroad, along with dangerous wars in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The event began with the wonderful ragtag Bread and Puppet band playing some classic popular tunes such as the circus performances in the summer at Glover. And then a more solemn group came out holding a series of painted cloth banners, the first

depicting a circle of human faces in rows, our common humanity. The second sheet had six small panels illustrating the uses of fire: when we are cold, hungry and need light, and when we can help out neighbors when they are cold, hungry and they need light. The third hanging banner illustrated the dark side of fire in six sections: a tank, an airplane and a bomb, all given to our neighbors whose hands are raised in despair, to attack and kill them. On the fourth sheet the killer makes victory parade with a crowd of people in a triangle, and the questions, “Whose money?” “Who is he?” “Who?” All these powerful works were painted recently by Peter Schumann in his response to wars.

Ed Sunday-Winters, pastor of the United Church of Christ in Greensboro, gave some preliminary remarks about how art really matters more than ever when your own country is dropping bombs on other countries and shredding basic rights. Artists through their work speak out against cruelty and greed, telling the truths that cannot be denied. He thanked Peter for his life-long dedication against the evils of war, for his artistry and courage to strengthen our voices and resolve to be human.

Leppzer then spoke of his extensive research and filming of the nine-year project to document the history of Schumann's life in particular and Bread and Puppet Theatre in general.

Schumann was born in the Silesia region of Germany in 1934, one of five children. He grew up in the 1930s with a reasonably happy childhood. One of his favorite activities was making puppets and giving theatrical performances with his siblings.

As in all authoritarian regimes, and as a child, he probably did not know the full extent of the horror show that was going on under the Nazi dictatorship. Whatever isolation he had from the effects of the Second World War, which began in 1939, was quite literally shattered by the time he was ten years old in 1944, when Allied bombing by English and American planes began day and night, systematically destroying all German cities and infrastructure. He awoke one night to the sounds of the detonations of bombs falling where he lived. He and his family had to flee to a safer place, and all he could take with him were some of his puppets. This was the deep childhood trauma that, as he said, made the memories of war part of his very bones and shaped his fate to vigorously oppose war for the rest of his life.

Peter migrated to the United States and founded the Bread and Puppet Theatre in New York City in 1963. The film focuses on his specific responses to war as an artist and peace and social justice activist, from Vietnam to wars in Central America, the 78 year old conflict in Palestine, the two Iraqi wars, and the current wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

As a painter he has used powerful graphics combined with imaginative puppets in humorous circus skits with barbed political implications and more archetypal ceremonial pageants in the streets, in theatres and outside in the former gravel pit amphitheater in Glover, where he and his wife Elka moved in the late 60s.

The fabulous Bread and Puppet Museum there contains puppet sculpture from decades of performances, plus a wealth of his beautiful posters and books.

Schumann's life exemplifies what one person with compelling vision and tireless energy can do to change the world for the better, inspiring others to join and make that happen, sharing in a vibrant community. Bread and Puppet participants have regularly toured in America and many countries around the world, awakening people to the issues that matter most and leading them to the formation of similar theater groups.

After the film was shown, there was a discussion panel by Rev. Sunday-Winters with Leppzer, Schumann's daughter, Maria Schumann, Hamid Bakar (originally from Palestine) and Deborah Stoleroff of Plainfield. They commented how easy it is to be overwhelmed these days, but to open our hearts to grief, compassion and solidarity with human beings who are suffering every where.

Bakar felt so sad that the world has allowed genocide to happen in Gaza, killing thousands of civilians and leaving the rest without food, water, electricity, housing or medical care, and America has been complicit in this ongoing brutality by Israel since 1948. Maria mentioned her mother Elka, who was the daughter of Scott and Helen Nearing, with a family tradition of protesting war and social injustices going back nearly a century (as well as being prominent in the back to the land movement). Stoleroff emphasized the importance of speaking out against the horrors of the awful world we live in today and to raise our hopes that we can do something to end the nightmares of oppression and war.

Leppzer intended that this film would help us connect more to one another in all ways, to live in cooperation and not competition, to inspire people to be more active and to use art to protest evil.

The screening was a fundraiser to help complete the documentary project of Peter Schumann and the Bread and Puppet Theatre's 63 years. It is a very moving and professionally made film that should have many future showings. For more information, go online to AnArtistRespondsToWar.com or BreadandPuppetMovie.com or TurningTide.com.



Chinese pole artists Edie Pryll (above) and Syd Wes (below), both of North Carolina, perform during the New England Center for Circus Arts “Broken Open” show April 24, at Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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EVENTS

Thursday, May 7

Play: "Quest," 7 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: tinyurl.com/Questreservations.

Friday, May 8

Community contra dance, 7 to 9 p.m., Willey Building (Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St.). Live music. No partners needed. All ages welcome.

Play: "Quest," 7 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: tinyurl.com/Questreservations.

Saturday, May 9

Play: "Quest," 2 and 7 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: tinyurl.com/Questreservations.

Sunday, May 10

Bird walk, 7:30 a.m., with David Brown. Meet at 495 Hanks Hill Road. Information: jwsimpson-memorial@gmail.com or (802) 586-9692.

Play: "Quest," 2 p.m., Cabot School Performing Arts Center, 25 Common Road. Reservations recommended: tinyurl.com/Questreservations.

Tuesday, May 12

Macrame basics workshop, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., River Arts, 74 Pleasant St., Morrisville. No prior experience needed. Information: (802) 999-1261 or info@riverartsvt.org.

Local author to present new work, 7 p.m., Parker Ladd Community Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Jane English, of Woodbury, gives a talk and slide show presentation on her book "White Pines." Information: (802) 472-5533 or galaxybookshop.com.

Wednesday, May 13

Cooking Club, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Information: (802) 472-5948 or jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov

Thursday, May 14

Storytime with HPD, 10:30 a.m., Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick. Listen to a story and check out the police cruiser. Information: jeudevineyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

Britto-inspired painting workshop, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., River Arts, 74 Pleasant St. Morrisville.

Information: (802) 999-1261 or info@riverartsvt.org.

Film series, "Glimpses of a Maybe Future," 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Friday, May 15

Disco dance fundraiser, 7 to 9 p.m., Plainfield Opera House, 18 High St. A fundraiser for the Cutler Memorial Library.

Saturday, May 16

Free movie, "I Can Only Imagine 2," 6 p.m., Touch of Grace, 104 Vt. Rte. 16. Information: clahill77@hotmail.com.

Barn dance, 6 to 10 p.m., Brassnocker Farm Barn, 2000 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. Dave Rowell hosts benefit and silent auction, with the Radio Rangers. Tickets at the door or at eventbrite.com/e/old-fashioned-barn-dance-tickets-1983388181442?aff=oddtcreator

Sunday, May 17

Spring bird walk, 8 a.m., Stranahan Town Forest, with naturalists Bob Popp and Betsy Ziegler. Meet at the Thompson Road parking lot off of Hollister Hill Road. Co-sponsored by the Marshfield Conservation Commission and Jaquith Public Library. Information: (802) 426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Budbill poetry, with Nadine Budbill, reading from the new edition of her father's book, "Jeudevine: A Love Song for a Place and Its People," 2 to 4 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Thursday, May 21

River memories: exploring settlement patterns, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield, with historian Alan Berolzheimer. Information: (802) 426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Saturday, May 23

Chicken barbecue, held by The Knights of Columbus, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Norbert Church parking lot. To pre-buy, contact any member of the Knights of Columbus or email Mario at fradettesmaplesyrup@gmail.com or call (802) 793-4764.

Sunday, May 24

Poetry reading, 2 to 4 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Hosted by the Poetry Society of Vermont and the library. Information:

See EVENTS, Next Page

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page jaquithpubliclibrary.org or (802) 426-3581.

Monday, May 25

Legislative breakfast, presented by the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, 8 a.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. All are welcome. Information: nekchamber.com/monthly-legislative-breakfast.

Ongoing Wednesdays

Pilates, 9 a.m., mat level 2, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Office hours, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John The Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St., Hardwick. Information, (802) 472-5979.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon, Craftsbury.

Parents of Challenging Children, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., first Wednesday of month, support group for adoptive parents of children presenting serious emotional and behavioral challenges, Easter Seals Vermont, 641 Comstock Road, Berlin. Information, (802) 223-4744.

Outdoor Story, activity, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Cabot Recreation Field Pavilion with the Cabot Public Library's Amanda Otto for stories, songs, snacks, crafts, open play and special programming.

Parenting Group, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Caregivers can relax and connect with each others while their babies play. Geared toward babies to 18 months. Siblings invited. Information at jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Social, every first Wednesday morning, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Craftsbury Public Library, for book-lovers. Sharing books, authors or books new to the library collection, no assigned reading. ea and coffee, handwork projects welcome.

Brain Injury support group, 1 to 2:30 p.m., second Wednesday of month, Vermont Department of Health, 107 Eastern Ave., Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, hosted by The Vermont Center for Independent Living. Information, (800) 639-1522 or tyoungman@vcil.org.

Quilters, 1-4 p.m, Jeudevine Memorial Library, the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. All levels welcome.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Weigh-in at 5:15 p.m. United Church dining room, Hardwick.

Acudetox, 4 p.m., ear Acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, 802-851-8120.

Food Shelf, 5 to 6:30 p.m, fourth Wednesday, , 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

Community Supper, 5:30 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick.

Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Meeting, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Stannard Town School Board, first Wednesdays of month, Stannard Town Hall.

Death Cafe, 6 p.m., second Wednesday of month, Albany Public Library, 830 Main St. Information: (802) 755-6107, albany-publiclibraryvt.org.

Meeting, 6 p.m., first Wednesdays of month, Wolcott Select Board.

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

Jam Session, 6 to 8 p.m., J.W. Simpson Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury. All ages and abilities. Old-time jam sessions held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Meeting, 6:30 p.m., second

Wednesday of month, Greensboro Select Board.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., The Church in Cabot, 2 Common Road. Beginners' and open meeting.

Ongoing Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 - 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, West Church St., Hardwick. Literature and open meeting.

Tai Chi, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., Church of Christ, Greensboro. Advanced Tai Chi taught by Norma Spaulding. Information, (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com

Arthritis Relief, 10 a.m., Community Center, Hardwick. Exercise class sponsored by the NEK Council on Aging. Information at Sara, Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Office hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Information, mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Tai Chi, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30, Church of Christ, Greensboro. Qigong and Tai Chi, taught by Norma Spaulding and Paul Fixx. Information at (802) 472-8724, nspauld@gmail.com and (802) 441-4599, pfixx@pfixx.net.

Story Time, 10:30 a.m. preschool, Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N. Main St., Hardwick. Books, songs, art activities and more for ages 5 and under. Information, jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov, (802) 472-5948.

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.

Diabetes support group, 1:30 p.m., The Health Center, Plainfield. third Thursday each month. Information, (802) 322-6600 or dgrabowski@The-Health-Center.org.

Sign Language, 2 p.m., practice group, John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury. Information at (802) 586-9692 or jwsimpson-memorial.org.

Hang Out, 2:45-6 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Relax, make art, play games, get help with homework, 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.

Refuge Recovery, 3 p.m. Thursdays, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Figure drawing studio, Thursdays through September 24, 4 to 6 p.m., Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. Hosted by artists Larry Golden and son Ricky. Information: catamountarts.org.

Pilates class by Kris Coville, 4 to 5 p.m., Thursdays, United Church of Christ, Greensboro.

All Recovery, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Craftfit, 4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Taming Knotweed, 4:30 p.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsbury Conservation Commission.

Dance, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Prayer Service, 5:30 p.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick.

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HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Town of Woodbury is accepting applications for a highway maintenance worker to join our road crew. This is a full-time position that requires a CDL (min Class "B") and the ability to work outside of regular working hours as necessary. Work takes place outdoors, in the equipment, or in the shop. The ideal candidate will have at least one year of experience in highway maintenance, including operation and maintenance of highway equipment.

The starting hourly wage (\$25-27) will depend on experience and qualifications. Woodbury offers excellent benefits, including health and dental insurance, paid time off, and an optional retirement plan. Candidates must be able to pass a physical as well as a drug test.

Contact the Town Office for a job application and job description (clerk@woodburyvt.org) or 802-456-7051 to receive a paper copy in the mail or stop at the Town Office at 1672 VT RT 14 in Woodbury. A job description and application can also be found on the Town web site www.woodburyvt.org.

The position will be open until filled.



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EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page
Information, touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Writing Circle with novelist Brett Stanciu, 5 to 6:30 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at the Civic Standard, Main St., Hardwick.

Grief Support, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., first and third Tuesday of each month, a safe, confidential space to can share a story or be surrounded by those who understand and care, Lamaille Home Health & Hospice Building, 54 Farr Avenue, Morrisville. Information, Oona Lee at (802) 888-4651 or olee@lhha.org.

Trivia, 6 - 8 p.m., Village Restaurant, S. Main St., Hardwick, unless there is a home basketball game. Limited menu of burgers and appetizers. Hosted by Annie Houston. First come, first serve event, with room for about 10 teams.

Al-Anon, 6 p.m., Church on the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Meeting, 6 p.m., first Thursdays of month, Hardwick Select Board.

Services, 6:30 p.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Meeting, 6 to 8 p.m., second Thursdays of month, Mountain View Union Elementary School Board, alternating among three campuses.

Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Films, 6:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield, "Glimpses of a Maybe Future," second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Ongoing Fridays

Pilates, 9 a.m., level 3, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Rail Trail walks, 9:30 a.m., every Friday, with the East Hardwick Walkers. Meet at Steven's Lane intersection near 123 East Church St. Everyone invited. Information: Gail at gob7878@gmail.com.

Taiji, 10:15 a.m., intermediate, Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield, play-

group.. Information at jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Homeschool Program, 10:30 a.m., Friday, Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Meditation, 3-3:45 p.m., Craftsbury Community Care Center, 784 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, the second and fourth Fridays, with Nancy Milholland. Open to all, sponsored by the Mental Health Resource Group of Craftsbury.

Farmers Market, 4 to 7 p.m., 13 Mill St., Plainfield. Food and craft vendors, baked goods, fruits and veggies and more.

Haiku Club, 5:30 - 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hard-

wick, every first Thursday, Read published haiku, brainstorm Vermont kigo, or season words, write a haiku. No previous writing experience needed. Hosted by Mark Scott.

Contra Dance, 7-9:30 p.m., Cabot Town Hall, 3084 Main St., Cabot, second Fridays, through June 7. All dances taught, no partner needed, all welcome. Information, cabotdance@aroundvt.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., for women only, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

News Discussion, 10 a.m., Front Seat Coffee, Visit with Hardwick Gazette staff.

Ongoing Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30 a.m., step meeting, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

History book group, second Saturdays of the month, 2 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, Marshfield. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com or jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Food Shelf, 9 to noon, third Saturday of each month from 9 to noon, 49 Valley Lake Road, South Woodbury. Information, (802) 472-6292.

Fiber Arts, 10- 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets

See EVENTS, Next Page

WGDR 91.1 FM WGDR 91.7 FM CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY RADIO		<h1>Current Schedule</h1>							as of April 2026
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
12 AM	Moist Fluids	Deep Threes	Dancehall/Reggae	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	RNB Love Train	12 AM	
1 AM		BantuNauts RAYdio		Donne Del Mondo	Baroque and Beyond	The Kinetic Playground	Timeless Oldies Radio Hour	1 AM	
2 AM	Cafe Chill		Oldies Time Machine	Open All Hours DJ Citrus Heights		The Sonic Cafe		2 AM	
3 AM	WGDR New Music Mix							3 AM	
4 AM	Music Directors							4 AM	
5 AM	Softpower/Fulstories Prison Pipeline	Thom Hartmann Program					Oldies Time Machine	5 AM	
6 AM	Counterspin Green St. News	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Project Censored	Podcast Steven and Walt	Background Briefing w/ Ian Masters	Woodsongs Radio Hour	6 AM	
7 AM	Curse of the Golden Turnip Alan LePage, Steven Farnham & Ethan O'Hara	Magpie in the Morning Delia Gillen	Bike Talk	Portal Levi		Eastern Dawn Luke Lampugnale	Ozark Highlands Radio	7 AM	
8 AM	Democracy Now!						The Country Jamboree	8 AM	
9 AM	Trance-Formational Listening Dennis Darrah	Eggs on Toast Kelly	Alternative Radio	The Quilting Hour Maura Quinn or Sasha Thayer	Relocalizing Vermont Carl Etnier	The Magical Mystery Tour Tonio Epstein	ROTATING SLOT #12 (see reverse)	9 AM	
10 AM	ROTATING SLOT #1 (see reverse)	Peace Talk Radio Sprouts	New Dimensions	Wings	This Way Out	TUC Radio	ROTATING SLOT #13 (see reverse)	10 AM	
11 AM		ROTATING SLOT #3 (see reverse)	Rising Up w/ Sonali	Spawning Stones Ben Bashore	What's the Frequency, Kenneth?	Writers' Voice		11 AM	
12 PM	Thought Pasture Maura Quinn	Personal and Political Stephanie Fraser	That Driving Beat		Unshelved J Kramer	Modern Jet Set	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	12 PM	
1 PM				The Rubber Room Dan Towner		Now Playing DJ Liu		1 PM	
2 PM	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	Upfront Soul	Straight Up Soul		David Rogers Music Mix		Boxful of Blues John Foster	2 PM	
3 PM			Econ. Update Rumble Strip	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see reverse)		Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn		3 PM	
4 PM	Afrosonic Taxi	Trailing Edge David Ferland		Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder			4 PM	
5 PM	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Shortwave Rpt. Food Sleuth	Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see reverse)	Big Picture Science	Found Sound Corey Flynn	Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	5 PM	
6 PM	The Good Ways Reggae Kind	Democracy Now! (rerun)	ROTATING SLOT #5 (see reverse)	ROTATING SLOT #10 (see reverse)	ROTATING SLOT #11 (see reverse)			6 PM	
7 PM	The Revel Level DJ EhMmAh	ROTATING SLOT #4 (see reverse)	ROTATING SLOT #6 (see reverse)	Woodwarbler's JazzGrass Brian Aust	Xav Wax Xav Jimenez	Spiral Galaxy Tom McMurdo	Jagler Katz Worm Hole Jason Hagler	7 PM	
8 PM								8 PM	
9 PM	ROTATING SLOT #2 (see reverse)	Deep Blues Les Mawson	ROTATING SLOT #7 (see reverse)	Music as Art Uku Meri	DJ Eben Flow Eclectic DJ Eben Flow	The Meltdown KingTone	First Wave	9 PM	
10 PM		Blues Edge Les Mawson						10 PM	
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw	Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow	RNB Love Train	The Beatdown Z-Point	11 PM	

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page the third Saturday of the month.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. – noon, Craftsbury.

Al-Anon, 10 a.m., Community Justice Center, St. Johnsbury, information, (802) 626-5355.

Overeaters Anonymous, 10 a.m., Zoom meeting, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Knitting Class with Lise Rousell, 10 a.m. to noon, John W. Simpson Memorial Library, East Craftsbury. All levels welcome on April 11, 18, 25 and May 9, 16, 23.

Acudetox, 11 a.m., every fourth Saturday, ear acupuncture, good for anxiety, depression, various organ supports, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information: (802) 851-8120.

Taming Knotweed, 11 a.m., Town Highway 19 across from Little Hosmer Dam. Bring water, bug spray, gloves, assorted clippers, shovels. Craftsbury Conservation Commission

Spanish Club, 11:30 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the second Saturday of each month.

Osteoporosis Education and support group, 1 p.m., first Saturday of month, Better Bones of the Northeast Kingdom, Community Room at Community National Bank, Derby. Information, BetterBonesNEK.org or Mary King at Mary@BetterBonesNEK.org, or (802) 535-2011.

Craftfit, 2:30 p.m. Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Vigil Mass, 4 p.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Confessions before Mass, Information, mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

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

Writing Group, 2 to 4 p.m., Albany Public Library, 830 Main St., first and third Saturdays, (802) 755-6107, albanypubliclibraryvt.org.

Ongoing Sundays

Service, 8:30 a.m., United Church of Marshfield, U.S. Rte. 2, worship service and Sunday

school, Pastor Carlyle Pierce. Information, (802) 684-2114.

Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Norbert Church, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, 193 S. Main St., Hardwick, Father Raj Madri. Confessions before Mass, Information, mary_queenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Service, 9 a.m., Danville United Methodist Church, Danville Green, Rev. Henry Cheney. Information, (802) 684-3389.

Sunday School, and prayer, 9 a.m., adults, Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information: touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Sunday School, 9 a.m., The Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, for all ages. Information, (802) 888-5277, (802) 888-9113.

Sacrament Meeting, 9 a.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Rte. 15 W, Johnson. Bishop Erik Worthington, (802) 326-3035, mormon.org.

Story time, 9:30 a.m., The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, for children. thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 9:30 a.m., West Danville United Methodist Church, Vt. Rte. 15, across from Joe's Pond, Pastor Pam Smith. Information, (802) 684-1201.

Service, 9:30 a.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information. (802) 472-5294.

Bible study, 10 a.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05856. Information, (802) 586-7707, ecpcvt@gmail.com, eastcraftsburypresbyterian.com.

Worship, 10 a.m., and Sunday School, Albany Methodist Church, Route 14,.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 South Main Street. In person, Zoom or livestreaming. Communion Service, first Sunday of month. Rev. Avril Cochran, Pastor. Jean Hackett, music director, an Open and Affirming Congregation. Information, (802) 472-6800 for information.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Cabot, 2 Common Way, refreshments following. Information, (802) 563-2278.

Service, 10 a.m., Touch of Grace Assembly of God, corner of Rtes. 15 and 16, E. Hardwick. Information, touchofgraceagvt@gmail.com

Children's service, 10 a.m., The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 10 a.m., St. John The Baptist Episcopal Church, 39 W. Church St., Hardwick. Rite II Service with music and coffee hour following service. Information, (802) 472-5979.

Service, 10 a.m., the United Church of Craftsbury, an Open and Affirming Congregation; Affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Handicap accessible, (802) 586-8028, unitedchurchof-craftsbury.com, unitedchurch-craftsbury@gmail.com.

Service, 10 a.m., the Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott, Pastors, : Marlin Wadel and Stephen Groff. Information, (802) 888-9113, (802) 888-5277.

Service, Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Calais-Woodbury United Church, Rte. 14, South Woodbury. Communion, first Sunday of month. Church phone, (802) 232-1013, information, (802) 456-1557.

Service, 10 a.m., First Universalist Parish of Derby Line, P.O. Box 454, Derby Line, VT 05830, (802) 873-3563, derbylineuu.org, Zoom service.

Service, 10 a.m., United Church of Christ, 165 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-2223, also online. Communion Service first Sunday of the month. Rev. Dr. Ed Sunday-Winters. Coffee hour following service. An Open & Affirming Congregation. guccvt.org.

Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Michael's Church, 270 Bend Road, Greensboro Bend, a part of Mary Queen of All Saints Parish, confessions before Mass, Father Raj Madri. Information, (802) 472-5544.

Service, 10:30 a.m., The Act of Consecration of the Human Being, The Christian Community, Heartbeat Lifesharing, 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick. Information, thechristiancommunityvt@gmail.com.

Service, 10:30 a.m., Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

Service, 11 a.m., East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1773 East Craftsbury Road, Craftsbury, VT 05856. Sunday Service, 11 a.m., handicapped accessible. Rev. Joe Welker, Pastor. Information, (802) 586-7707, ecpcvt@gmail.com, eastcraftsburypresbyterian.com.

Service, 11 a.m., First Congregational Church (NACCC), 123 E. Church St., East Hardwick, worship led by Jim Casavant, interim Pastor. Closed in winter. Information, (414) 856-1620.

Pickleball, 11 a.m., Hardwick Elementary School gym. Beginners group. Information, Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Service, 11 a.m., Trinity Assembly of God, Rte. 15 East, Hyde Park. Pastor Ron Doyle. (802) 888-7326.

Fellowship Service, 11 a.m., The Healing Stream Church of God, Wolcott Town Hall, Pastor Peter LaBonnville, Wheelchair accessible.

Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, Route 15

Pickleball, noon, Hardwick Elementary School gym. Intermediate and above, noon to 2 p.m. Information, Sara at Shbeharsing@gmail.com.

Service, noon, Hardwick Bible Baptist Church, 296 S. Main St. For transportation or information, (802) 472-5294.

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TOWN OF GREENSBORO
PO BOX 119
GREENSBORO, VT 05841 802-533-2911
townclerk@greensborovt.gov

ACCEPTING SUMMER ROAD BIDS

The Town of Greensboro is accepting bids for the following:

Paving

Roadside Mowing

Winter Sand Screening at Greensboro's Gravel Pit in Glover

Gravel Crushing at Greensboro's Gravel Pit in Glover

Please contact the Town of Greensboro, PO Box 119, Greensboro, VT 05841, or 802-533-2911 or at townclerk@greensborovt.gov for more details. All bids must be in the Town Clerk's office by noon on Wednesday May 20th, 2026. Bids will be opened at the May 27, 2026 Selectboard meeting.

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

EVENTS

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Poetry readings, third Sundays, beginning March 15, 2 to 4 p.m., hosted by the Poetry Society of Vermont and the Jaquith Public Library. This month features Buffy Aakaash and Bethany Ann Barrett Bohall. Information: jaquithpubliclibrary.org or call (802) 426-3581.

Mending Circle, 3 to 5 p.m., every third Sunday, The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick. Bring clothes in need of fixing. Materials, instruction, snacks supplied.

Poetry Readings, third Sunday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m., Jaquith Public Library. Each reading will feature two Poetry Society of Vermont poets. Information: (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn Street, Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Evening Service, 7:30 p.m., The Wolcott Mennonite Church, Rte. 15 between Morrisville and Wolcott. Information, (802) 888-5277, (802) 888-9113.

Ongoing Mondays

Pilates, 9 a.m., level 1, at the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Death cafe, fourth Mondays, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Hardwick Community Center, 58 High St. Tea and baked goods served.

Adaptive Biking, 2 to 3 p.m., the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road in Hardwick. Reservations or information, kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org, call (802) 427-4116.

Mending, 3 p.m., Craftsbury Public Library.

Quit Tobacco, support group, 3 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Adaptive Biking, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, beginning at the trailhead parking lot on Creamery Road in Hardwick. Reservations or information, kerry@adaptivesportspartners.org, (802) 427-4116.

Hardwick Conservation Commission meetings, second Monday of the month, 5 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, third floor. Public invited. Information: Rachel Kane, Co-chair, (802) 472-5512.

Dads' Group, 5 to 6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. Connect with other dads. Information, Rob at rcary@LRCVT.org or (802) 730-3000.

Dance, 5:30 p.m., Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Service, 6 p.m. Walden United Methodist Church, 109 Noyestar Road, handicap accessible, (802) 684-1201.

Families Anonymous, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Alcoholics Anonmous, 7 p.m., United Church of Hardwick, 216 S. Main St. Open discussion. Information, (802) 748-3708, local AA (802) 334-1213 or toll-free (877) - 334-1213.

Ongoing Tuesdays

Qigong, 8:30 a.m., the Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

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

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

Storytime, 10 a.m., Craftsbury Public Library, early literacy for children ages 0 - 5. Information at childrenslibrarian@craftsburypubliclibrary.org or (802) 586-9683.

Exercise, 11 a.m., Highland Center for the Arts, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro, lead by certified AFE_instructor Alice Perron. Information esanderson@nekcouncil.org, (802) 751-0431.

Moms in Recovery, support program, 1 - 2 p.m., tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information, (802) 635-0084.

Kids' Chorus, 3 p.m., Jeudevine Library, Hardwick. For ages 8 and up. Vocal warm-ups, musical games and group singing. Information at jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.gov or (802) 472-5948.

After School, 3 - 5 p.m., Greensboro Free Library. Information, (802) 533-2531.

Dungeons & Dragons, 3:30 - 5

p.m., Cabot Public Library, ages 11 and up. Learn how to build a character and then embark on an adventure.

Pilates class by Kris Coville, 4 to 5 p.m., Tuesdays, United Church of Christ, Greensboro.

Smart Recovery, 4 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Craftfit, 4:30 p.m., Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Crafting Group, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield. Information, jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com, (802) 426-3581, jaquithpubliclibrary.org.

Magic, 5 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, A group of young people get together at to play Magic: the Gathering, hosted by Dean Burns. New players are welcome.

Friends of Jeudevine Library, 5:15 p.m., third Tuesday of every month at the library, N. Main St., Hardwick.

Greensboro Community Meal, every Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Greensboro United Church of Christ, East Craftsbury Road. Meal is free and all are welcome. Information: GreensboroCommunityMeal@gmail.com.

Meeting, 5:30 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Marshfield Select Board.

As Bill Sees It, AA Meeting, 6 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Morrisville. Information, (802) 851-8120.

Hardwick Energy Committee Meeting, second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., first floor. Information: Call Bill Chidsey, Hardwick Energy Coordinator, (802) 249-6004. Energy.Coordinator@HardwickVT.org.

Meeting, 6 to 8 p.m., Orleans Southeast Supervisory Union Board, first Tuesday of month, OSSU Central Office, Hardwick.

Taiji, 6 p.m. Barn off the Common, Craftsbury Common.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 p.m., meditation meeting, United Church, 6 Church Lane (next to library), Craftsbury Common. Open meeting.

Meeting, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Cabot Select Board.

Meeting, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Craftsbury Select Board.

Meeting, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of month, Plainfield Select Board.

Exhibits

Elisha Renne's "The Warp and Weft of Life" will be on display through June at the Woodbury Community Library, 69 Valley Lake Road. For more information, call (802) 472-5701 or email library@woodburyvt.org.

Community Services

Aging assistance, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, St. Johnsbury, (800) 642-5119.

Aging assistance, Central Vermont Council on Aging, Montpelier, (802) 479-0531.

Community dinners, United Church of Hardwick, noon, third and fourth Thursdays, eat-in or take out. (802) 472-6566 to reserve meal.

Crisis line, 24 hours, involuntary custody screening, Lamoille County Mental Health, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., (802) 888-5026; nights and weekends, (802) 888-8888.

Food pantry, Woodbury-Calais Food Shelf, serving Calais, Woodbury, Cabot, (802) 472-6292..

Food pantry, Hardwick Area Food Pantry, 36 W. Church St., Mon., noon - 2 p.m.; Thurs. and Sat., 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (802) 472-5940.

Food shelf, vtfoodbank.org/nature-people/3squaresvt, (802) 855-6181.

Human services, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 181 Crawford Road, Derby, (802) 334-6744.

Human services, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 2225 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-3181, nkhs.org

Online safety, cyber tipline, reporting online exploitation, missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline?gad_source=1

Online safety, Take it Down, support for removing and reducing spread of explicit images, takeitdown.ncmec.org/

Meals on Wheels, Greensboro Nursing Home through Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, (800) 642-5119.

Meals on Wheels, Vermont Center for Independent Living, Montpelier, (802) 224-1825, melissa@vcil.org.

Mental health, Lamoille County Mental Health Services, 72 Harrel St., Morrisville, (802) 888-5026, (802) 228-0591, lamoille.org.

Mental health, Washington
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EVENTS

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County Mental Health Services, 9 Heaton St., Montpelier, (802) 223-6328, wcmhs.org

Recovery center, St. Johnsbury Recovery Center, 297 Summer St., (802) 751-8520, recovery-info@stjkr.org, kingdom-recovery-center.com

Thrift store, Angel Outfitters Thrift Store, United Church of Christ, 216 S. Main St., Hardwick, Thurs., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; (802) 472-6800.

Veterans' services, Caledonia County, (802) 338-4324.

Veterans' services, Lamoille County, (802) 338-3411.

Veterans' services, Orleans County, (802) 338-4325.

Veterans' services, Washington County, (802) 338-4318.

Libraries

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. Story time 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, Mon. to Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

Cabot Public Library, 3084 Main St, (802) 563-2721, cabot-library.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. - 1 p.m., Story time, Fri., 10 a.m.

Cutler Memorial Public Library, 151 High St, Plainfield (802) 454-8504, cutlerlibrary.org, Tues., 10 a.m. - 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. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Greensboro Free Library, 53 Wilson St., Greensboro, (802) 533-2531, greensborofreeibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. closed; Tues., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thur. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;

Sat., 10 a.m. - 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. - 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. - noon and 3 to 6 p.m., Sat. and Mon. 9 a.m. - noon, closed Sundays. Winter story time and playgroup, Fri., 10:30 a.m., outdoors, dress for weather.

Jeudevine Memorial Library, 93 N Main St., Hardwick, (802) 472-5948, jeudevinememoriallibrary.org, Mon. and Wed. 1 - 6 p.m., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

John W. Simpson Memorial Library, 1972 E. Craftsbury Road, East Craftsbury, (802) 586-9692, jwsimpsonmemorial.org. Wed., 9 a.m. - noon and 6 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. - noon and 2 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - noon; Sun. noon - 2 p.m.

Morristown Centennial Library, 7 Richmond St., Morrisville, (802) 888-3853, centenniallibrary.org, Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Walden Community Library, Walden Elementary School, 135 Cahoon Farm Road, (802) 563-2195, walden.mimas.opalsinfo.net/bin/home, Tues., 6 to 8 p.m.

Woodbury Community Library, Woodbury School, 69 Valley Lake Road, (802) 472-5710, library@woodburyvt.org, Wed., 1 to 5 p.m.; Thurs., 2 to 6 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Town Clerks

Cabot, cabotvt.us

Calais, calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury, townofcraftsbury.com

Greensboro, greensborovt.gov

Hardwick, hardwickvt.org

Marshfield, town.marshfield.vt.us

Plainfield, plainfieldvt.us

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

Walden, waldenvt.gov

Wolcott, wolcottvt.org

Woodbury, woodburyvt.org

To have your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, e-mail news@hardwickgazette.com.



Kristen Leahy (left), Hardwick resilience and floodplain administrator, Tim Morgan (center) and Chip Conquest (right) of the Trout Unlimited (NEK chapter) and 44 other volunteers including 12 students from the Hazen Union Hatchery Club, organizations, community members and the Center for an Agricultural Economy participated in the Cooper Brook clean up effort, May 1. The event was organized by Kristen Leahy. photo by Vanessa Fournier



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Hazen Union catcher, Owen Skorstad, makes the catch as home plate umpire, Travis Bingham, makes the call during play against Montpelier, Friday, on Hudson Field. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Hazen Union sophomore, Kiah Cloutier, is out on first base from Dylan Pelletier, of Montpelier, during action, May 1, on Hudson Field. The Solons won 6-0. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wildcats competitive in Capital League losses

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union baseball team showed a lot of growth in a pair of losses to Division II Montpelier and Lamoille last week, despite dropping to 1-3 on the season.

Brody Stanton surrendered just one hit over five innings of work, striking seven Wildcats leading Montpelier to a 6-1 win on the road on Friday. The Solons jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning thanks to a trio of Hazen errors and hits from Stanton (2-3 with a triple), Arda Kohn (2-3, double) and Jaysen Graves 1-3, 2 runs). Graves closed the game out for Montpelier with two innings of hitless relief. Grayson McNaughten had the lone hit for the Wildcats. Jon Sicard took the loss, striking out 10 Solons, while also issuing 10 walks on the day.

“Jon’s going to be a great asset to this team on the mound as he learns to figure out his control. He’s only a sophomore and has plenty of time to sort that out. He is his hardest critic. He’s learning to accept his failures and learn from

them in a game where perfection doesn’t exist. He’s going to continue to grow and get better with every game he pitches. Lots of great things for that athlete in the future,” said head coach Shaun Allen.

Lamoille took advantage of some more wildness on the mound from Hazen on Saturday, scoring three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to steal a 3-2 home win. The Wildcats took a 1-0 lead into the sixth before McNaughten had to leave the mound with a pair of runners on base and his pitch count maxed out. Fellow senior Owen Skorstad took over, but couldn’t find the strike zone, walking four straight Lancers. Hazen rallied back with a run in the top of the seventh, but Daniel Micuch (three Ks) settled down to close it out for Lamoille. McNaughten was the hard-luck loser, scattering three hits and striking out 11 over five-and-two-thirds innings of work. Skorstad and Chayse Newell led the Wildcat offense with two hits apiece as Hazen outhit Lamoille 8-3 and stranded 15 baserunners in the loss.

“Lamoille has a good team

this year. I think I probably made the wrong choice bringing Owen in with runners on. I should have left him behind the plate to help guide Avery Loomis through that inning and then bring Owen in to start the seventh on the mound. We got one back in the seventh but just fell a little short of pulling it off,” said Allen.

Hazen looked to right the ship on Tuesday with a home tilt against Thetford Academy before traveling to Lyndon Institute on Thursday. They wrap up a busy week with a match-up against Lake Region at Hudson Fields Saturday afternoon.

All home games can be live-streamed on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

Charger team members notch personal records

by Ken Brown

COLCHESTER – The youthful Craftsbury Academy (CA) track and field team again posted impressive finishes, setting more personal records last week at Colchester High School.

Kosmos Gletsos led the way for the Chargers with multiple personal bests in the field events last Tuesday. The junior placed fourth in the discus event with a personal record throw of 29.30m. Colchester senior Dallas Sulton bested the field with a throw of 33.16m.

Gletsos carried his momentum into the javelin event with another personal-record throw (29.22m) that earned him a fifth-place finish. CVU sophomore Sawyer Wellman won the event with a throw of 36.89m.

Gletsos also posted his best toss of the season in the shot put.

Freshman teammate Aemilia Terrone had a big day for CA, finishing fourth in the 800m with a personal best time of 2:45.01. Charger sophomore Nora Van Gulden (6th) and freshman Eliza Buntin (7th) posted personal best times in the same event. Buntin qualified for states in her event debut. CVU senior Isabella Gravina-Budis took home first-place honors.

Freshman Eden Boggs posted a top-ten finish in the 800m, beating his personal best time by 13 seconds. BFA-Fairfax sophomore Henry Scannell was

the first-place finisher. Freshmen Jade Griggs and Ora Nobel, along with sophomore Killie Burnor, all recorded personal bests on the day for the Chargers.

“The team has been working hard, and it shows,” said head coach Kyle Anderson. “All three of our girls in the 800m moved into the top ten in Division III after Tuesday’s event. It shows the depth of this team and also serves as a great example of what team running looks like. They work together and support each other in practice and at meets. Our throwers are also consistently improving in large part due to Kosmo’s leadership. He’s had a positive impact on our young throwing crew. Our team has not yet been at full capacity for our first two meets, so I’m looking forward to seeing how they perform as a full team.”

On Wednesday at Lyndon Institute, freshman Chris Tongolei led the Hazen Union track and field team with a personal record throw in the discus that earned him a third-place finish. Lyndon senior Luther Pellerin bested the field. Freshman teammate Alden Pougner also recorded a personal best in the 1500m event for the Wildcats.

Hazen was back in action on Tuesday at North Country and is scheduled to travel to St. Johnsbury Academy the following Tuesday. CA traveled to CVU on Tuesday and is scheduled to be at Lyndon next Wednesday.



Hazen Union Wildcat Avery Loomis, a sophomore from Craftsbury, takes a swing during play against Montpelier in Hardwick, May 1. Hazen lost to their opponents 6-0.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS



Assistant coach Jacquelyn Farquharson (right) greets CCSU player Amelia Tibbitts (left), a Twinfield freshman, as she comes off the field during innings, May 2. The Blue Mountain Bucks won 27-0. photo by Vanessa Fournier

Tough start to the season for local softballers

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – The Cal United (0-3) and Craftsbury Academy (0-2) softball teams got off to slow starts last week to start their seasons.

Cal United suffered a pair of lopsided losses at home to BFA-Fairfax and Blue Mountain, and another on the road to Richford. Austin Roos collected four hits on the week, and Peyton Winn added two in their three losses.

Craftsbury suffered the same fate in a pair of five-inning home losses to Blue Mountain and Paine Mountain at Dustan Field.

Cal United was back in action on the road against Winooski on Tuesday and traveled to Paine Mountain on Thursday. Craftsbury traveled to Richford on Thursday. The Lady Chargers are scheduled to host Cal United on Saturday afternoon.

Fielder and Lady Cadets' run comes to an end in Boston

BOSTON – East Calais native Caitlyn Fielder and her Norwich University women's Lacrosse team's playoff run came to an end at the hands of Emanuel College last week in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Final Four.

Second-seeded Emanuel College completed a season series sweep of the Lady Cadets last Tuesday, advancing to the GNAC Championship with a 13-5 win. Norwich finished their season at 14-4, tied for the second-most wins in program history. Fielder, a former U-32 star, recorded an assist in the loss. The senior midfielder finished the season with a career-high in goals (49) and

has found the back of the net 134 times in her three years at Norwich.

Emanuel's GNAC Championship defense came to an end on Saturday, falling to top-seeded St. Joseph's of Maine 12-3. With the win, the Lady Monks advanced to the first round of the NCAA Tournament.



Caledonia United's Phoebe Crocker, a Danville senior, gets set to bunt the ball against a Blue Mountain pitcher during play, May 2, at Danville. Blue Mountain took the victory 27-0. photo by Vanessa Fournier

McKibben finishes up an outstanding senior campaign with Ithaca

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Former Craftsbury Academy (CA) state champion Noah McKibben put a bow on a stellar collegiate career with the Ithaca men's track and field team last week at the Liberty League Indoor Championships at RIT.

McKibben finished 11th in the javelin and 13th in the long jump over the weekend to help lead his team to a fourth-place finish. The two-time Liberty League All-Academic winner captured his first collegiate title earlier this season at the Doc Jopson Track & Field Invitational



CCSU catcher Austin Roos, a Danville junior, catches the ball from Blue Mountain's pitcher during Saturday's game in Danville as home plate umpire Brian White watches. Blue Mountain won 27-0. photo by Vanessa Fournier

in Bridgewater, Va. McKibben's 48.91m throw in the javelin event took home first-place honors. The senior capped off that same

meet with a runner-up finish in the 4X400m relay. McKibben finished the season with nine top 10 finishes for the Bombers.

KEN BROWN'S RUNNERS' ROUNDUP

Record breaking week for Teter and English at Adamant

ADAMANT – Craftsbury's Alayne Teter and Wolcott's Maxfield English each had record-setting performances last week as the overall winners of the 2026 Adamant Half Marathon and Relay.

Teter was the first female to cross the finish line with a time of 1:35:57 on Sunday, besting runner-up Dylan Broderick of Middlesex by nearly three minutes. Teter navigated the hilly course at Adamant in record-breaking fashion, establishing a new time to beat in her 30-39 age division. She finished fourth overall in a co-ed field of 84 runners. East Hardwick's Emma Podolin (17th overall) was the fifth female to cross the line with a time of 1:43:42. Craftsbury's Hallie Grossman finished with a time of 1:46:30, good enough for eighth among female runners. Montpelier's Anna Milkowski established a new record time (1:42:01) in the 50-59 age division, previously set by Sarah Pribram four years ago. Milkowski competed in the Boston Marathon last month. West Danville's Elizabeth Markison won her 40-49 age group with a time of 1:50:20.

English was the first competitor to cross the line on Sunday with a time of 1:25:50, besting Waterbury's George

Aitken by more than three minutes. The head track and field coach at Hazen Union and cross-country coach at Craftsbury Academy broke the record previously held by Tom Thurston (1:30:11) in the 50-59 age division in 2019. Montpelier's John Hackney established a new record in the 80-plus division with a time of 2:25:32. He became the first runner over 80 years old to ever complete the Adamant Half Marathon.

Last month, English posted a third-place overall finish in the 52nd Annual Paul Mailmain 10 Miler and 5K in Montpelier. English finished with a time of 1:02:09 behind event winner Peter Maksimow (1:00:07) from Manitou Springs, Colo., and runner-up Seth Jackson (1:01:04) of Montpelier. The top female finisher was Erin Magill of Montpelier, who crossed the line fourth overall with a time of 1:06:09. Runner-up Sarah Vandal of Thetford finished over 12 minutes later. Randolph's Benjamin Donahue was the overall winner in the 5K with a time of 18:51. Waterbury's Tamara Jacobsen was the top female finisher with a time of 24:50. Darien McElwain (61) of Calais posted a top-20 overall finish with a time of 32:29.

Next up on the Central Vermont Runners Circuit is the Barre Town Spring Run on May 17.

HERcules Team: Senior women powerlift to gold

by Bronwyn Dunne

MORRISVILLE – The parking lot was full when I pulled in at Snap Fitness, a full-service gym in Morrisville. I'd driven an hour from South Burlington to be in the audience of a contest I knew nothing about, Amateur Powerlifting.

I was there to cheer on my cousin and Stannard resident, Durrelle Morey, competing for the first time in the senior women's dead-lifting category. I was surprised by how many supporters had turned out for the event. I had no idea that powerlifting was a popular sport in Vermont, but the packed parking lot proved I was wrong.

It was April 18. I struggled through the crowd to find my cousin and the three women I knew were part of her team.



Durrelle Morey lifts 150 lbs. to win second place in her division at the Snap Fitness Center USPA Powerlifting meet, April 18.

courtesy photo

My group, the HERcules Team, were waiting in an improvised holding area. It was partitioned off from the powerlifting area with canvas walls sporting the slogan of the national organization sponsoring the event, The US Powerlifting Association. (USPA).

I could tell there was a little nervousness shared by Morey and the rest of the team, Jan Ward, Linda Johnson and Marie LaPre Grabon. That wasn't a surprise. What was a surprise was seeing four women, who had never competed before, looking totally prepared and ready to go.

Contestants take turns in various categories that have to do with age and personal weight as well as the weight lifted.

The actual lifting takes seconds.

Like a horse race, the audience is watching the results of lengthy preparation with a very quick pay-off. It looks easy, even



The gold medal winning HERcules Team (from left) Marie LaPre Grabon, Linda Johnson, Trainer Jeff Rutledge, Jan Ward and Durrelle Morey, at the Snap Fitness Center USPA Powerlifting Meet, April 18.

courtesy photo

effortless unless you notice the grim determination of the faces of the competitors and the attentive quiet that falls over the audience.

Later, after the competition was over, I was surprised to discover that Morey knew only one of her teammates, Grabon. They'd taught Tai Chi classes together. She met the other two women at the only team gathering a week before the meet though they'd been training individually for months.

From different towns: Stannard, Wolcott, Hardwick and Morrisville, with different reasons for joining the gym, what they had in common was their trainer Jeff Rutledge. Each had worked out separately with Rutledge at Snap Fitness strength training.

All four had a history of competitive exercise and a fierce desire to beat the odds of reduced muscle strength that comes with aging.

Each was persuaded power lifting was something they could do.

All had Rutledge's confidence in their abilities and considered it to be the most important part of the preparation.

When I asked Rutledge why he'd thought of putting together a senior women's team, his said he'd seen a set of barbells at a sporting goods store labeled "for women" that were 25 lbs. next to a standard set of 45 lbs.

"That didn't sit right with me, because the women I train don't need a lighter standard. They're capable of much more."

He continued, "They took that challenge individually, and from there we built a focused training approach centered on mastering the deadlift."

Rutledge explained the difference between power-

lifting and weightlifting which is often referred to as Olympic weightlifting.

"They are completely different sports. Powerlifting focuses on



Gold medal winner of her division Marie LaPre Grabon at the Snap Fitness Center USPA Powerlifting Meet in Morrisville, April 18.

courtesy photo

maximal strength using the squat, bench press and deadlift. Olympic weightlifting focuses on speed and technique, using the snatch and clean jerk to move weight explosively overhead."

He explained USPA meets take place year-round throughout the country and Snap Fitness in Morrisville holds two meets a year. The next one will be held in November 2026.

"We're competing against ourselves, totally! So, a win for one of us is a win for all," said Morey.

When all the medals had been handed out, the HERcules Team collected three gold medals for firsts in their age and weight

category; and my cousin was presented with a medal for lifting 150 lbs, a challenge that she had trained for starting in January and achieved for the first time the day of the meet.

To a woman, the HERcules team said their biggest concern going into the competition was the rule that they had to wear skimpy singlets. They all had their HERcules T-shirts with the slogan on the back that said, "I'll lift that for you, sir" under the USPA uniform.

These women, whose ages spanned the 70s, the oldest member having just turned 80, could not have looked more self-assured as they lifted above their weight.

Rutledge says it best about women entering the field. "They're in their 60s, 70s, even 80s, setting records and redefining what strength looks like. What they did goes beyond numbers on a bar, it's a reflection of discipline, courage and what they're capable of when they commit to something bigger than comfort."

And, he said, "The energy is electric!"

Youth Turkey Weekend



Vermont Fish & Wildlife photo

Smith's Store

April 25: Lucas Barnett, in Hardwick, 19 lbs., 2 oz., 9.75-inch beard, .75-inch spur; Desmond Raynor, in Walden, 20 lbs., 8 oz., 8-inch beard, 5/8-inch spur; Lydia Alden, in Hardwick, 19 lbs., 6 oz., 10-inch beard, 5-inch spur; Talon Michaud, in Greensboro, 20 lbs., 9-inch beard, 1-inch spur; Beau Perry, in Stannard, 15 lbs., 4.5 inch-beard, 3/8-inch spur; Monica Hay, in Hardwick, 15 lbs., 2 oz., 4-inch beard, 1/8-inch spur; Noah Foster, in Greensboro, 17 lbs. 8 oz.; 9.25-inch beard, 7/8-inch spur; Emilyn Rogers, in Hyde park, 19 lbs., 6 oz., 9.5-inch beard; 1 1/8-inch spur.

April 26: Greyson Nash, in Hardwick, 14 lbs., 2 oz., 3.25-inch beard; Hadley Michaud, in Walden, 14 lbs.; 4.5-inch beard, 1/8-inch spur; Brandy Clark, in Walden, 12 lbs., 4 oz., 3.5-inch beard; Ryan Goodrich, in Cabot, 15 lbs.; 5.5-inch beard.