



Special town meeting considers Australian balloting, reconsiders town forest allocation

by Paul Fixx

HARDWICK – The future of Hardwick Town Meeting Day floor votes in March 2027 and beyond will depend on a special town meeting vote set for next Tuesday evening by the select board in response to a petition submitted by 170 community members, well over the 5% (117) voters required.

The petition called for a vote to decide all future Town Meeting Day financial questions by Australian ballot. The select board expanded the question to include all future town meeting questions, including town officers.

Another petition submitted at the same time called for reconsideration of allocating

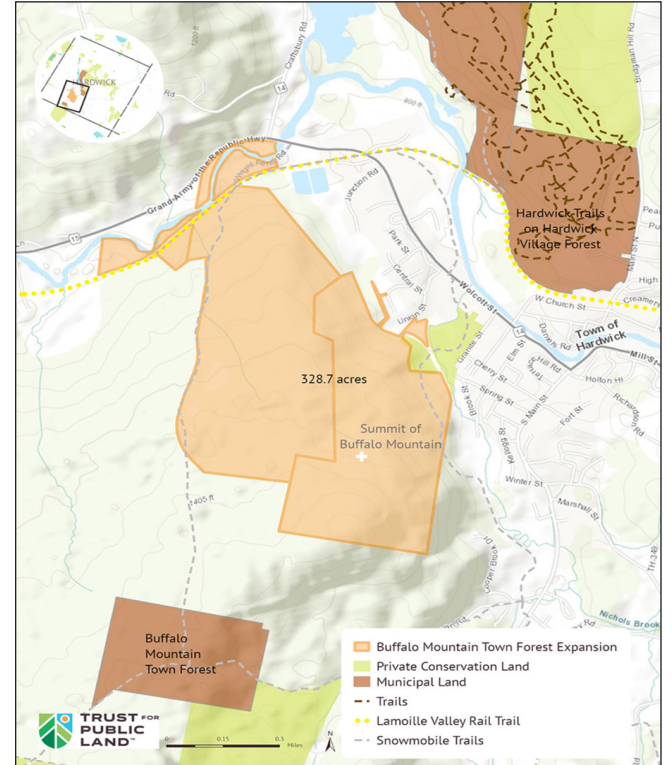
\$25,000 to a proposed Buffalo Mountain Town Forest that voters approved on Town Meeting Day in March

The special meeting comes Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town House at the intersection of Church and Depot Streets. Parking will be available in the Town House lot, along Church Street and in the parking lot on Creamery Road across from the Hardwick Town Garage.

Because of concerns raised at, and following, this year's town meeting about the possibility of votes being cast by those not registered to vote in Hardwick, a new procedure will be in place.

Voters will be checked-in as they arrive for

See BALLOTING, 6



The Trust for Public Land and Hardwick residents are exploring the purchase of 318 acres that includes Buffalo Mountain's peak and land on both sides of the Lamoille River that borders the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

map courtesy Trust for Public Lands

Commencement season begins with last for Sterling College

by Paul Fixx

AREA TOWNS – May is the month for area college graduation ceremonies to begin, with Sterling College up first to hold its final commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 16.

VTSU Lyndon and Johnson's graduations are being held Sunday, May 17.

The Community College of Vermont (CCV) Commencement ceremony combines students from all campuses at Norwich University in Northfield on June 6.

Sterling College's 27th and final commencement ceremony is being held in the Houston House Gardens on the Sterling Campus, this Saturday, May 16, at 1 p.m.

A college announcement called the event "a



Sterling College in Craftsbury, founded in 1958, and an important town institution for 67 years, announced it will end degree programs with the 2026 spring semester due to declining enrollment.

file photo by Vanessa Fournier

moment to honor not only our graduates, but the community that made their journey possible. Together, we will celebrate our students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and neighbors who have shaped this institution for more than six decades."

Graduation events begin with a senior dinner Thursday, a wine and cheese reception Friday, followed by a family dinner.

Saturday's events will begin with an alumni brunch, followed by the commencement ceremony and reception from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

At VTSU-Lyndon, commencement will be held under a tent on the soccer field at 10 a.m., preceded by an 8:30 a.m. breakfast social in the theater lobby and followed by a coffee and dessert social in Stannard Gym. Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., former Lyndon State College President from 2012 to 2016, will be the commencement speaker there.

See COMMENCEMENT, 5

School budgets headed to third vote with more staff reductions

by Raymonda Parchment

AREA TOWNS – The Wolcott and Mountain View School districts are each respectively headed to a third round of budget voting.

The public information meeting about the Wolcott FY27 budget took place Tuesday, May 12, at Wolcott Elementary School, both in person and virtual.

A public information meeting on the MVU FY27 budget is set for Thursday, May 14, from 6 to 7 p.m., with the school board meeting taking place from 7 to 8 p.m., in the same location, at Hardwick Elementary School.

The third round of Australian voting for MVU will take place May 20, with further personnel cuts in an effort to appease voters.

For the Mountain View Union School Budget Vote, voters can come to the polls at these locations by town of residence: In Hardwick, polls are open Wednesday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Hardwick Town House, 127 Church Street.

In Greensboro, polls are open Wednesday, **See REDUCTIONS, 4**



The new 35-foot high and 80-foot diameter Circus Smirkus Big Top is nearly set up, May 7, and almost stretched tight at the Circus Barn headquarters in Greensboro. The tent will be used as a practice space for campers this summer.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

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PUBLIC SERVICES

Lamoille County Sheriff

Animal cruelty, false information

WOLCOTT – On March 29, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department was notified of a suspicious incident involving two deceased dogs originating from a residence in Wolcott. An investigation was subsequently initiated.

As a result of the investigation, William Debonville, of Wolcott, was arrested and charged with two counts of Cruelty to an Animal and one count of Providing False Information to a Law Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Debonville is scheduled to appear in Lamoille County Superior Court on June 3, 2026, to answer to the charges.

Greensboro Fire Department

Power lines cause tree fire

GREENSBORO – On May 5, at 3:31 p.m., the Greensboro Fire Department responded to a reported tree on fire on power lines. Crews arrived and verified the tree was on fire. Hardwick Electric Department responded to clear the tree from the line and restore power. Once the tree was on the ground, crews cut the remaining tree out of the road and extinguished the fire on the tree.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – Seventeen people used AWARE services between May 3 and May 10. 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.

Vermont State Police

Domestic assault, resisting arrest

CALAIS – On May 3, at 4:32 p.m., the Vermont State Police responded to a report of a family fight at a residence in Calais. Troopers responded to the residence and spoke with all parties on scene. Subsequent investigation determined Jennifer Jackman of Calais had allegedly assaulted a member of her household. Jackman was taken into custody for Domestic Assault and Resisting Arrest and transported to the Berlin Barracks for processing. Jackman was released with a citation to answer to the above charges.



May 13- May 19

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Hawaiian Punch 2/\$5 128 oz.	Mott's Apple Juice \$2.99 64 oz.	Wide Awake Ground or K Cup Coffee \$4.79 11-12 oz. or 10 ct.
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Food Club Salad Dressing \$1.29 16 oz.	Food Club Mustard 89¢ 20 oz.	Food Club Spicy Brown Mustard \$1.49 12 oz.
Food Club Ketchup 2/\$3 20 oz.	Dai Day Duck Sauce \$4.29 40 oz.	Betty Crocker Frosting or Cake Mix 4/\$5 12-16 oz.
Betty Crocker Brownie Mix 2/\$4 16.3 oz.	Food Club Marshmallows 99¢ 10 oz.	Ritter Chocolate Bars \$3.29 3.5 oz.
Newman's Assorted Cookies \$2.99 10-13 oz.	Crav'n Flavor Graham Crackers 2/\$5 14 oz.	Kellogg's Nutri Grain Bars 2/\$5 10.4 oz.
Newman's Dog Biscuits \$3.99 10 oz.	Food Club Sour Cream 2/\$3 16 oz.	Hood Ice Cream \$2.99 48 oz.

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WEATHER WATCH

Cold, wet for work week, sun and warmth by weekend

by Tyler Molleur

EAST HARDWICK – Some heavy rain at the beginning of the forecast period last week brought us ahead of to-date monthly rainfall averages. 1.74 inches of new rain fell between Tuesday, May 5, and Monday, May 11, bringing the monthly total to 1.98 inches, which is 146% of normal as of May 11.

Most of that rain fell with Tuesday afternoon's thunderstorms, which also brought some localized wind damage. Wednesday's steady rainfall also contributed significantly to the accumulation. A total of 1.48 inches of rain was recorded between the two days.

The remainder of last week featured intermittent showers and breaks of sun, with Thursday being the day featuring the most sunshine. An upper-level disturbance and another low off the southern New England coast meant that showers were not too far away at any point from Friday through Sunday. Conditions briefly warmed to the 60s and quickly dropped to the 20s and 30s Sunday and Monday night. Frost developed in several areas as a result.

A clipper system will approach from the west on Wednesday morning. This is associated with

an upper-level trough that closes off as it reaches the northeast. This will funnel moisture up the Atlantic coast into Thursday, bringing a steady rain with up to an inch of rainfall. Conditions will also be about 10-15 degrees below normal under the influence of the disturbance. Showers continue intermittently as the low exits on Friday, making way for a weak ridge for the weekend.

Clearing skies and moderating temperatures are expected for Saturday. Some clouds mix in for Sunday with an isolated shower possible, otherwise the weekend will be quite pleasant with temperatures near normal. Here are the forecast details:

Wednesday: Cloudy. Rain. High: 52. Low: 39. Calm wind.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Rain in the morning, then scattered showers in the afternoon. High: 56. Low: 43. South wind 5-10 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, becoming partly sunny. Scattered showers. High: 60. Low: 43. East wind around 5 mph, becoming north.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High: 66. Low: 44. Calm wind.

Sunday: Partly sunny with an isolated shower possible in the morning. High: 68. Low: 44. Calm wind.



These trout lilies bloom in profusion in the woods near the side of the road on the Montgomery Road in East Hardwick.

photo by Dawn Gustafson

UVM opens Lyndon weather station to fill gaps in flood prediction

by Brendan Rose, VTDigger

LYNDONVILLE – A new University of Vermont extreme weather monitoring station opened in Lyndonville recently, the first in a planned network of monitoring stations to help fill gaps in extreme weather predictions and response.

The station will be able to monitor the lead-up to major weather events like flooding or blizzards, giving the National Weather Service (NWS) and state level emergency response officials localized data to inform evacuations and reducing the severity of property damage, according to Joshua Beneš, associate director of research facilities and networks at the UVM Water Resources Institute.

Beneš said that even a few hours more of lead time before a flooding event escalates can have a huge impact for a local community.

Vermont's geography makes it susceptible to smaller isolated extreme weather, according to Gabriel Langbauer, the meteorologist-in-charge at the NWS regional office in Burlington, necessitating

the expanded coverage.

The 10-meter-tall tower that opened is a prototype and the first of roughly 20 stations planned to be installed across the state. The first station was funded with support from UVM's Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships. The university is still in the process of procuring spots for the stations, but the hope is to have enough density of data collection points to study weather phenomena that are small enough to appear in gaps in current radar coverage.

The Northeast Kingdom was hit last year with flooding from isolated flash flood events with damage to property in towns like Sutton and Burke.

Vermont's weather radar and monitoring infrastructure is based mostly in Chittenden County, and the Green Mountains can obstruct the view of more rural parts of the state, according to Langbauer. The monitoring station that opened is in the region of the state most obstructed, with Mount Mansfield blocking the view of the main radar located in Burlington, according to Beneš.



UVM Water Resources Institute interns, Maeve Dewey and Liam Muskin, install a soil sensor and rain gauge on the tower of an extreme weather monitoring station, with Samantha Koehler, Senior Meteorological Technician, adjusting the tower's alignment, near the Vermont State University campus in Lyndonville.

courtesy photo

Langbauer said that a storm that hit St. Johnsbury in

2024 was only partially captured by radar.

"If it had been just a little bit further off and missed that observation, it would have been easy to miss. Currently, weather events like thunderstorms, flash flooding and localized snow squalls can appear in pockets out of view of the National Weather Service, at times making it more difficult for the state to send out evacuation announcements and begin mobilizing resources.

"East of the Greens we really have a hard time seeing," said Langbauer. "So getting more stations like this new Lyndon one that are east of the Greens in that little radar hole is very valuable."

Beyond measuring more standard metrics like rainfall, the new stations will also measure soil moisture levels, data that Beneš says will greatly improve flood prediction. Beyond the immediate application, more detailed data can improve longer-term flood mitigation efforts, informing where floodplain restoration projects will be most effective.

See WEATHER, Next Page

PUBLIC SERVICES

Lamoille County Sheriff's Department Animal cruelty, false information

WOLCOTT – On March 29, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department was notified of a suspicious incident involving two deceased dogs originating from a residence in Wolcott. An investigation was subsequently initiated.

As a result of the investigation, William Debonville, of

Wolcott, was arrested and charged with two counts of Cruelty to an Animal and one count of Providing False Information to a Law Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Debonville is scheduled to appear in Lamoille County Superior Court on June 3, 2026, to answer to the charges.

Hardwick Police Department Motor vehicle crash

On May 5, at approximately 11:15 a.m., Hardwick Police located Casandra Rich, who was arrested on a warrant, in a garage at 122 Spring St. in Hardwick. Although Rich was hiding in the garage, she was taken into custody without incident. Rich was transported to HPD for processing and later transported to HPD for processing and later transported to Caledonia Superior Court, Criminal Division.

On May 5 at approximately 6:12 p.m., Hardwick Police made a traffic stop for defective equipment. The operator, Jay Morey of Hardwick, advised that he did not have a license and a check with DMV records indicated that it was civilly suspended. Dispatch also advised that there was a warrant from Caledonia County Court. Morey was taken into custody and lodged at Northeast Regional Correctional Facility. Ticket was issued for driving with suspended license and a warning for the defective equipment.

On May 8 at 3:45 p.m., the Hardwick Police Department arrested Denise Fradette of Hardwick on an outstanding warrant. Fradette was arrested at a residence on South Main Street in Hardwick Village. This warrant had been issued for failing to show for a scheduled court proceeding at the Caledonia Unit of the Superior Court of Vermont, Criminal Division. Fradette was lodged at Northeast Regional Correctional Facility.

On May 9, at 2:31 p.m., Hardwick Police, Hardwick Fire and Hardwick Rescue responded to Vermont Rte. 15 near Kate Brook Road for a reported motor vehicle crash with injuries. This was a single vehicle crash involving a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck operated by 31-year-old Ethan Potter of Montpelier. Potter was treated at the scene and transported by Hardwick Rescue from the scene. This crash is currently under investigation.

Weather

Continued From Previous Page

“This is one of those pieces that helps get us closer to being able to answer some of those bigger questions around how we reduce long-term future risk,” said Stephanie Smith, deputy director at Vermont Emergency Management.

The state's Dam Safety Program and Vermont Agency of Transportation will also be able to use data to inform decisions around water management and road conditions, according to a statement from UVM announcing

the opening of the weather station.

The data has additional utility beyond emergency response, such as in informing agricultural decisions about when to plant or harvest crops.

Beneš said that the stations can also be used for long-term research looking into the effects of climate change and as an educational resource for meteorology students at the Vermont State University campus in Lyndonville. Some of the research stations are potentially going to be built on local school grounds, so Beneš hopes that they can introduce younger students to meteorology.

Reductions

Continued From Page One

May 20, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Greensboro Town Hall, 81 Lauredon Ave.

Stannard polls are open Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Stannard Town Hall, 615 Stannard Mountain Road.

In Woodbury, polls are open Wednesday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Woodbury Town Hall, 3675 Vt. Route 14.

Australian ballot voting will take place the same day for Wolcott residents, at polls at the Wolcott Town Office from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

As stated by Superintendent Dr. David Baker in the OSSU Superintendent Newsletter Group, “We would be remiss if we did not point out that two of our communities have to re-vote on their budgets after their votes failed. Mountain View's official vote returns: Yes: 282, No: 315. Wolcott's official vote returns: Yes: 121, No: 149.

Both school districts will vote for the third time on their budgets on Wednesday, May 20. The boards have made reductions to both budgets.

“We highly encourage reading the budget information sheets and attending the public informational meetings prior to voting,” wrote Dr. Baker. He also noted the state has not finalized the Yield Bill, thus making the amount the school district will receive in FY27 unclear, “With respect to the Yield, which has a direct impact on our tax rates, there is another

divergence. The House voted out a bill that has the Yield set at \$9,170. The Senate Finance Committee just passed a Yield bill that set it at \$9,395. The latter Yield is more in line with the Governor's proposal to use the state's carryover revenues for taxpayer relief. I think the Yield will end up on the higher side.”

The expense increase for this MVU budget is lower than the state average, according to informational materials. The total expenditure budget is \$9,065,204.25. This is a 1.02% expense increase over FY26 adding \$91,604 to the budget. The FY27 state average expenditure increase across districts is 3.59%. This reduces the budget by another \$113,088, comprised of the following: PCB Testing, as well as a “Reduction in Force” by attrition of a 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent Pre-K Teacher, meaning a position is being vacated at the end of this year which will not be filled.

The expense increase for this Wolcott budget is also lower than the state average. The total expenditure budget is \$6,298,447.05. This is a 3.18% expense increase over FY26. The FY27 state average expenditure increase across districts is 3.59%. This budget proposes reducing a 1.0 Full-time equivalent Behavior Specialist position.

The public can access the board meeting using this number: (US) 240-903-4200 PIN: 295 687 217, or using this link: meet.google.com/xuh-mpkf-hwf.

Hardwick Police Department Media Log

HARDWICK – May 3: Welfare Check, Lamoille Ave.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.;

Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Medical, W. Woodbury Road; Assist - Agency, Vt. Route 15 W.

May 4: Welfare Check, Atkins Field; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Theft, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; VIN verification, High St.; Mental Health Incident, Vermont Ave.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, W. Church St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Elm St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Suspicious Event, Upper Cherry St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15 W.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Highland Ave.; VIN verification, Vt. Route 16; Medical, Vt. Route 15 W.; Noise Disturbance, Alpine Heights.

May 5: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Fingerprints, High St.; Wanted Person, Spring St.; Transport, High St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.;

May 6: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Route 15; Assist - Agency, Valley Lake

Road; Assist - Agency, Dimick Road.

May 7: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Drive.; Suspicious Event, Granite St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Cherry St.; Fingerprints, High St.; Mental Health Incident, Vermont Ave.; Assist - Agency, Dimick Road; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15 W.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Hopkins Hill Road.

May 8: Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Route 15; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; VIN verification, Hardwick Farms Road; 911 Hangup, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.; School Event, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Hazen Union Drive; Wanted Person, The Lane; Consent Search, The Lane; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Route 15; Drugs, The Lane.

May 9: Transport, High St.; Accident - Injury to Persons, Vt. Route 15; Theft, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Accident - TCNR, S. Main St.

May 10: Assist - Agency, Spring St.; Parking Problem, S. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Vt. Route 14 S.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

Burt's amendments pass as Tier 3, Road Rule scraped by House

by Paul Fixx

MONTPELIER – Amid this legislative session's turmoil over Act 181's land use revisions to Act 250, adding three tiers and a road rule, and the turmoil of an extended floor debate last week, Rep. Greg Burt (R-Cabot) scored a win for Republicans.

His two pro-farm amendments to Senate bill S.325, make changes to Act 181, allow more development on rural farming properties.

S.325 "proposes to establish a task force to develop a detailed proposal to create residential opportunity overlay districts, A report of the proposed task force is due December 1, 2026.

Its most controversial provisions eliminate Act 181's Tier 3 development restrictions and the road rule, requiring Act 250 review of development beyond 800 feet of a road, or with a driveway longer than 2,000 feet.

Democrats had already signalled their support for removing those provisions, in opposition to Gov. Phil Scott's expressed support for them.

Burt's first amendment, allowing

homesteading, received wide support with a 142-2 vote. It was added to "strengthen agricultural and forest industries, including homesteading, small-scale agriculture and forestry, and supporting housing, while minimizing conflicts of development with these industries."

His more controversial second amendment, allowing on-farm businesses to bypass Act 250 provisions. "No permit or permit amendment is required for the construction of improvements for an accessory on-farm business," it reads.

That amendment was approved with support from local Democrats Rep. Leanne Harple (D-Glover) and Rep. David Yacovone (D-Morrisville). Rep. Richard Bailey (R-Hyde Park) also supported it, while other local Democrats Rep. Mark Mihaly (D-East Calais), Rep. Dan Noyes (D-Wolcott) and Saudia LaMont (D-Morrisville) withheld their support.

Burt reasoned that granting the permitting exemption for accessory on-farm businesses would include critical farm revenue streams from education-based activities and social

events that take place on farm properties.

"This amendment makes it easier for Vermonters in every corner of the state, including our rural towns and counties, to responsibly grow their community, support economic development, and keep and attract working families," he said.

Harple spoke last, before Burt's second amendment was voted on, saying, "I voted yes on this amendment because I cannot fight for local control in education if I am not also willing to fight for local control in housing development. I have faith that our local select boards will be able to make the best decisions for their own communities in terms of zoning and larger-scale housing projects and will also be able to use their own discretion about which projects should be approved and which should not. We all know we need more housing to fill our local schools to keep our communities alive, and so as an advocate for education I have to fight equally as hard for housing."

The bill had been passed by the Senate before last week's passage in the House. With the House amendments it has now returned to the Senate to have the two versions reconciled.

Commencement

Continued From Page One

The VTSU-Johnson ceremony will be held under a tent on the campus Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m. The commencement speaker is be Major General Gregory C. Knight, who culminated his career as Vermont's Adjutant General from 2019 until his retirement on April 1.

VTSU diplomas will be mailed until mid-July, after degree audits are completed.

Recent CCV commencement ceremonies have brought together as many as 3,000 Vermonters to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of graduates. This year's ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at 2 p.m. in the Norwich University Shapiro Field House.

Graduates there may invite as many guests as they like, but will not receive diplomas there. Those will be mailed the following Monday, said the administration.

Sterling College described this year's commencement, saying "This milestone occasion will be an especially memorable one, featuring celebratory events for our community and our guests with homemade dishes prepared using ingredients sourced from the Sterling Farm. It reflects our legacy of over 65 years of hands-on, experiential, place-based learning centered on the environment and community," said the college.

"Graduation is always a special event at Sterling College, designed to honor and celebrate our graduates. The graduation ceremony is thoughtfully planned with input from the graduates, reflecting their personal experiences and aspirations, including the selection of themes for our commencement speakers. It is a moment of pride and emotion for everyone at Sterling and above all, it's time to celebrate graduates and their families."

While all were welcome, space was said to be limited and pre-registration was required by May 1.

Talking about this final Sterling College semester, Trustees Chair Allison Hooper said, "Last November, the Sterling Trustees voted to offer a final Spring semester to give students the opportunity to finish a degree or time to decide where they would continue to earn a college degree.

"The Sterling faculty has deftly navigated a pathway for the 34 students on campus to complete their four-year or two-year associates degrees or advise students to complete their college experience at one of our 'teach-out' college partners."

Talking about the future of the campus, she said, "A Spring semester provided time for employees to develop the vision for the future of the campus and/or to secure future employment.

"We have seven students completing internships during the summer," Hooper said. "Three are for credit internships and four for non-credit internships."

And a group of nine faculty and staff are "in the early phases of re-invigorating non-credited educational programs" with The Sterling Center for Experiential Learning.

"They are fundraising with the help of friends and alumni of Sterling who want the Sterling legacy to continue. If Headwaters Community Trust becomes the new owner of the campus, this group would like to lease several of the core campus buildings for their work."

"Headwaters Community Trust emerged as a promising and motivated buyer for the campus in January," said Hooper.

Trustees have not listed the entire campus for sale, she said. "Hopeful for a successful outcome, the Sterling board did not put the campus on the market. We had listed two buildings [for sale] before our November announcement [about the end of

degree programs]."

"We understand that Headwaters is focused on acquiring the 155-acre campus to develop their vision for Craftsbury including securing a new home for the Saplings Child Care Center, and leasing space on the core campus to accommodate future educational programming."

The challenge now, said Hooper, is for Sterling and Headwaters to bridge a financial gap to assure that Sterling meets its liabilities. "Both parties are working together to find creative ways to reduce expenses and raise funds."

"The last day of employment for most employees is May 22," she said. "A smaller group will hopefully agree to remain employed for several weeks to wind down operations of Sterling College."

The three interrelated components being navigated by the trustees involve winding down current programs while funding Sterling College's financial liabilities and determining the future of the campus, said Hooper.

"There are a lot of moving parts and finances need to fall into place for us to achieve the above."

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\$4.49 Unsweetened Almond Milk Cafe Terns, 48 oz	\$5.00 Organic Preserves Cafe Terns, varieties, 16.1 oz	\$4.79 Organic Chocolate Bars Equal Exchange, varieties, 28 oz	2/\$3 Probiotic Soda Cafe Terns, varieties, 12 oz
\$5.99 SOY-FREE VEGNAISE Veganism Follow Your Heart, 15 oz	\$2.79 Polenta Award Harvest, varieties, 16 oz	\$6.49 Gluten Free English Muffins Duke's, 10.5 oz	\$5.99 Organic Sushi Ginger The Ginger People, 6.7 oz
\$3.99 Hummus Foca, varieties, 17 oz	\$2.99 Sliced Jalapeno Peppers Jalisco Salsas, 12 oz	\$3.99 Organic Tortilla Chips Late July, varieties, 10.1 oz	\$4.29 Marinara Sauce Newman's Own, 24 oz

Some of our Member-owner Deals This Week ...

35% off Poop Bag Dispenser Beco	20% off Flavored Nut Varieties Cafe Terns, varieties, 16.1 oz	17% off Organic Mints Yogi's, varieties, 14.1 oz	21% off Organic Taco Seasoning Papa's, 9.09 oz
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Balloting

Continued From Page One

the meeting, said Town Clerk Tonia Chase. Chase and the select board are recommending voters arrive by 6 p.m. to be checked in prior to the 6:30 p.m. meeting start time.

Those in attendance at the informational meeting before the select board meeting, last Thursday, May 7, were told it is hoped a food truck will be on hand too.

Hardwick Select Board members have been voted on by Australian ballot at least since 1988, when the merger of the separate town and village governments into a single municipal entity was approved by the Vermont Legislature.

A majority vote in favor of the special meeting's Article 2 will lead to all warned Town Meeting Day articles being voted by Australian ballot.

Select board members at the informational meeting wouldn't speculate on details of how future town meetings might happen if that article is approved. Presumably the polls would be open for a range of hours on own Meeting Day, or a date just before it, and allow for absentee ballot voting, thus giving all town voters the chance to cast their ballot, regardless of their ability to visit the voting place on the day of the vote.

Conversation about the town's move to holding all Town Meeting Day votes by Australian ballot has been lively on Front Porch Forum and Facebook, with individuals making arguments on both sides of the issue. One thing almost all commenters agree on is that there's likely to be a large turnout for the special meeting.

Before that vote, Article 1 calls for an answer to the question of allocating \$25,000 toward the purchase of a proposed Buffalo Mountain Town Forest encompassing roughly 329 acres that includes the summit of Buffalo Mountain. It suggests creation of the forest will "protect recreational access, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry and Lamoille River water quality, while it will "provide outdoor educational opportunities for schoolchildren."

Almost three times as many voters signed the petition calling for the revote than voted against the proposal at the Hardwick Town Meeting in March. The hand count then was roughly 160

in favor and 60 opposed, according to Moderator Audrey Grant.

The petition calling for the revote garnered 167 valid signatures, 60 more than the required 5% (117) of registered town voters (2,333 at that time), and 7 more than the Town Meeting Day votes to approve the \$25,000 allocation.

Recently, Northern Rivers Land Trust (NRLT), the organization managing the town forest purchase, mailed over 450 postcards detailing the upcoming special town meeting and reconsideration vote to a "publicly available list of people who voted on Town Meeting Day this year and last," said Hannah Redmon, who works as an NRLT Land Protection Project Associate.

The mailing noted "Buffalo Mountain is a 329-acre property along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and adjacent to Atkins Field that could become a new Town Forest with permanent free access for all by the end of 2026."

Talk of the town owning the summit of Buffalo Mountain for a park dates back at least 113 years, to 1913, when, in an opinion column titled, "A Park For Hardwick?" a Hardwick Gazette writer said, "On Buffalo mountain rests Hardwick's main chance for a public park that would be inexpensive to acquire and maintain. Not the whole mountain at first, but a good-sized tract large enough for park purposes. Do you know that on Buffalo Mountain in the Spring grow the most wonderfully fragrant Canada violets, red and white trilliums, better known as 'sweet Benjamins,' adder's tongues, jack-in-the pulpit, anemone, rare lady-slippers and an untold host of other forest flowers?"

It continued, "A park on Buffalo Mountain would be unique. What other village in Vermont can boast of a mountain park, a forest preserve almost in its streets? It is true that to enjoy its beauties would mean a climb, but the good things in this world come only to those who make an effort."

The writer added, "Under private ownership, the day will inevitably come when the lumber lust will strip the hill, and leave the rock ledges bare and unsightly, and Hardwick will lose much of its charm. The time to start a park is now."

While the idea came to naught then, Redmon has collaborated with the Hardwick Conservation Commission (HCC), who identified the opportunity to purchase

parcels that include the Buffalo Mountain summit from several Davis family members.

She has attended several Hardwick Select Board meetings and says she intends to be at the May 19 special meeting, along with NRLT Board Members and members of the Hardwick Conservation Commission to answer any questions that may arise during discussion prior to the vote.

In talking about the upcoming vote, Redman said "We have heard from funders of the Buffalo Mountain project that they were happy with the town meeting vote, which they felt demonstrated positive local investment and momentum."

Recently she did not speculate on what a reversal of the vote, on May 19, might mean.

Earlier the select board voted to accept a gift of the property. At that time no commitment was made for the town to provide funding.

Prior to the first vote, Redmon said she expected the purchase and subsequent gift to the town would proceed regardless of the vote, though the \$25,000 would need to be contributed from elsewhere if town voters turned down the proposal. At that time she commented that the \$25,000 allocation would show the support of town voters

when requests for funding were being submitted to other sources.

"Town forests like Buffalo Mountain are a community resource for future generations, and I hope the conversations about it over the past year have led to more clarity in the community's goals for the town forest," she said.

Redmon noted that the select board is taking applications through May 15 for the Town Forest Steering Committee. "I look forward to continued community investment in the management planning process that will take place this summer and fall."

NRLT and HCC are hosting a final Hardwick Town Forest informational meeting virtually, via Zoom, Thursday, May 14, at 12:30 p.m. Registration for that meeting can be found on the HCC website at hardwickvt.gov/government/committees-commissions/conservation-commission/.

The Hardwick Planning Commission has been asking or community input to help guide the 2027 update to the Hardwick Municipal Plan and will be asking those attending the meeting to complete the survey, which now has just 169 of the hoped for 300 responses. An online version of the survey can be found on the town website at hardwickvt.gov.



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Library's Cooking Club connects young chefs with community

by Claire Charlow and Eisha Qureshi

HARDWICK – A water main break couldn't stop the young chefs of the Jeudevine Library Cooking Club from providing a meal to the community on April 23.

In the basement of Jeudevine Memorial Library, local children meet once a month with Youth Librarian Rachel Funk for the cooking club.

What started in February as a one-time event has turned into monthly gatherings where children learn new recipes in the library's kitchen.

"I think the cooking club is important because it connects kids to experimenting with and creating new recipes, for their friends and peers, and to being part of the library and community," Funk said.

Last month, club member Madeline Crank, 12, had the idea to prepare a meal for the community with her school friends. The goal was to fundraise for the cooking club, including for more staples and new kitchen equipment.

"We have nothing in this kitchen that we need," Crank said of their current setup. "It was a fundraiser idea and we could provide food for the community."

The day before the event, Hardwick posted a notice warning about the town's water main break. With the possibility of contamination, residents were asked to boil water before using it.

But the boil water advisory didn't slow the cooking club down, thanks to Funk, who brought in big jugs of distilled water instead.

The event was sponsored by Buffalo Mountain Market, Tops Friendly Market and Friends of the Library. The sponsors provided the funding for ingredients to make the meal.

They prepared homemade mac and cheese, cowboy caviar, a dip consisting of black beans, corn and tomatoes. They also made hummus and chips, salad and lemonade.

Just hours before the community dinner, the young chefs boiled an overflowing pot of water to cook the macaroni for the homemade mac and cheese. Endless boxes of elbow pasta, an abundance of cream cheese and eight tablespoons of mustard were thrown together for the main dish.

They also mixed a large bowl of hummus. As they sprinkled in more tahini and garlic, the chefs performed taste tests. When everyone liked it, they displayed the hummus in the bowl, presenting it professionally.

Club members aimed to have gluten-free food items, but between mixing ingredients and using the same utensils, they were not able to guarantee gluten-free options. Crank made a sign stating, "Cooking with care: But there may still be gluten!"

Fourteen community members attended the meal, Funk said. They raised money for the club, but more importantly, club members were able to connect



Juniper Bandit (left), Amelia Crank (center) and Louella Andrus (right), process hummus in a 15-year-old food processor for the Jeudevine Library Cooking Club Meal on April 23, where they served 14 community members.

photo by Claire Charlow

with the Hardwick community.

"It feels good to make things for others so they don't have to do it themselves," said 10-year-old Juniper Bandit.

Next month, the cooking club will be providing refreshments for

Hardwick's youth theatre group, the Jeudevine Players.

Claire Charlow and Eisha Qureshi write for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship for the Hardwick Gazette.



Jeudevine Library Cooking Club members (from left) Madeline Crank, Amelia Crank, Louella Andrus and Juniper Bandit, hold up a sign made by Madeline declaring they've made their best effort when preparing a community meal; "Cooking with Care but there may still be gluten!"

photo by Claire Charlow



The food made by the cooking club is ready to be served and eaten by community members at Jeudevine Memorial Library in Hardwick, April 23.

photo by Rachel Funk.



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Raising the Circus Smirkus Big Top tent



The Circus Smirkus tent crew prepare to raise the cupola after being attached to the tent canvas as the Big Top tent is raised last week for the first time.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Nat Brown (left), co-owner of Crew That, a Massachusetts events logistics company specializing in tents, and Noah Pierce (right), make final connections to the cupola before it is raised. Brown worked for Circus Smirkus for 16 years as the tent boss and helped to design the new tent with Smirkus leadership.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Nat Brown (left) and Jacob Fritz (right), with eight other tent crew members helped to raise the big-top tent, May 7. This is the first time the new tent has been set up. Each side pole weighs about 40 pounds.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Nat Brown (left) of Crew That helped to design the new Smirkus Big Top and Rob Mermin (right), who founded Circus Smirkus in 1987, look on as the brand new big-top goes up at the circus barn headquarters on 1 Circus Road in Greensboro, May 7.
photo by Vanessa Fournier



Craftsbury residents collected 77 tires and a town truck full of roadside trash on Green-Up Day, Saturday, May 2. "A huge thank you to everyone in our town, and especially our amazing school kids who showed up, worked hard and made a real difference," said Town Clerk Michelle Warren. "This was one of the best Green Up Days we've ever had! Your pride in our community truly shows, and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for . . . making our town a cleaner, better place for all of us."
photo by Craftsbury Road Foreman Steve Perkins

ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION 5L0679-5 10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

On January 30, 2026, Application 5L0679-5 was filed by the Wolcott School District, Attn: Dennis Hill, 320 School Hill Drive, Wolcott, VT 05680 and deemed complete on April 26, 2026. The project is generally described as the construction of an in-ground village wastewater disposal system for the Town of Wolcott, which will be constructed in the existing open fields to the southwest of the school building. The 50,000 square feet disposal fields will consist of a drip disposal system with small diameter pipes buried one foot below grade. Septic tank effluent will be pumped to the disposal fields from the control building and settling tanks. Construction involves the installation of one buried 1,500 gallon settling tank, two buried 10,000-gallon equalization tanks, a 12'x14' control building, and associated piping infrastructure. The 24.66 acres tract is located at 320 School Hill Drive in Wolcott. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's website <https://act250.vermont.gov/>. Click on "Act 250 Database" and enter project number 5L0679-5.

No hearing will be held, and a permit may be issued unless, on or before **June 2, 2026**, a party notifies the District 5 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 5 Office at: Act250.Montpelier@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may will not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. For more information contact the Coordinator listed below.

Dated this May 7, 2026.

By: /s/ Susan Baird
Susan Baird, District Coordinator
District 5 Environmental Commission
802-522-6428
Susan.Baird@vermont.gov

REPORTER'S OPINION

It's time to take the train

by **Raymonda Parchment**

HARDWICK – Every so often, amid the ever flowing stream of garbage coming up from Washington, D.C., something gets lost and forgotten. This time, it is the functioning government we expect our taxes to be paying for.

Did anyone else forget we were in the midst of a historically long government shutdown?

The shutdown has gone on for so long I forgot it was happening, and I work in the news and information business.

Have the Republicans finally proven that big government isn't necessary for the day to day life of the average citizen? I don't think so. Gas just reached 4.50 and flying is a gamble.

Instead, airports and travelers faced months of long lines, countless government workers going unpaid, with ICE agents scabbing in a weak attempt to rebrand their Gestapo image, FEMA dollars in limbo, and the education system straining as the President withholds an estimated 2 billion in grants and funding.

The entirety of the Department of Homeland Security was shuttered for an unprecedented 76 days, which includes the U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Secret Service, and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), also a part of the department remain unfunded.

In the meantime, mind you, our Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy was filming a road trip reality series with his family. For seven months!

"The Great American Road Trip," starring Sean Duffy and his wife, Fox News anchor Rachel Campos Duffy, features the couple and their children as they travel to famous U.S. destinations including Civil War battlegrounds, the Mayflower landing site and Yellowstone National Park.

Duffy's time at the Department of Transportation (DOT) began with a series of plane crashes, 60 in the last year, including the collision of an American Airlines jet and an Army helicopter above Washington, D.C.'s Reagan National Airport, which killed 67 people aboard both aircraft.

The Trump administration tried to blame the fatal accident on Biden-era diversity initiatives. Since Duffy's appointment and the subsequent funding changes to air traffic control and more, multiple planes have collided or had a near miss, including a deadly collision at LaGuardia Airport between a plane and a truck, and near misses at Chicago Midway and Burbank Airport.

Just hours after the transportation secretary revealed he'd been filming a family road trip for over half the year, while also ostensibly working to ensure travel safety, a plane struck and killed a person at Denver International Airport.

I write all this to ask, why are we as United States taxpayers, accepting this level of blatant disregard for our safety and peace of mind?

These agencies are created and funded to improve the quality of life and safety of those who live in the U.S. of America.

If federal appointees aren't working for us, they are working against us.

As the safety of aviation staffers and travelers everywhere is in shambles, Sean Duffy falls into the latter category. I wonder if his family uses the commercial airlines he isn't effectively regulating?

LETTERS FROM READERS

Our children need your vote

To the editor:

The schoolchildren of Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard and Woodbury need your vote to pass their budget. Twice now, a small number of budget opponents, roughly or less than 10% of our towns' combined electorate, defeated the proposed budget of Mountain View Union Elementary School District. On March 3, opponents outnumbered supporters 389 to 377; and on April 7, 315 to 282.

The defeated budgets resulted in the issuance of Reduction in Force notices, which informed teachers and staff that currently their contracts cannot be renewed. Now merely months before the start of the 2026-2027 School Year, this uncertainty makes our schools and towns unstable and unattractive to current and prospective employees and families with school-age children.

Why such opposition to school budgets? Public comments made to the school board during the budgeting process indicate some voters rejected budgets in an attempt to close Woodbury School (and Lakeview later). But closure of schools requires a separate public process; it can't be done through budgeting. Closure advocates knew this, or should have known, as the district's articles of agreement, which govern closures, is clearly posted on the school board's website and available as

a public document. Instead of seeking closure through procedure, these voters rejected two budgets, thereby potentially harming our district's students, teachers, communities, and, ironically, the school they're trying to promote, Hardwick Elementary.

Sadly, on the big stage, budget opponents and school closers and we their adversaries are playing parts scripted by the authors of national tax policy and wealth gaps. As billionaires harvest tax windfalls, we the gleaners compete for the fruits of our labor. In other words, while the billionaire buys a second yacht, the village closes its only school.

But it need not be this way. Rather than bow to the pressure of the moment, we can stand for a promising future; support budgets, maintain schools, inspire our kids to stay and raise families. And may our children succeed where we've failed, to balance our nation's wealth; keep more harvest in our towns; and spare their own children the ongoing threat of failed budgets and school closures.

And let the billionaire sail a single yacht into the sunset.

The future is in our children's hands; their fate is on our ballots. Say no to defeat and closure, and vote "yes" for our children and schools. The budget revote is May 20.

**Stephen Murphy
Woodbury**

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THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by Northeast Kingdom Public Journalism, Inc., 82 Craftsbury Road, Greensboro, VT 05841
 Tel. (802) 472-6521. E-mail: News@HardwickGazette.org. Web: HardwickGazette.org

The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 9, Hardwick, VT 05843

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

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Nowadays it's most likely a Sharpie

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Charles Dickens, as most of us have read, went to work in a boot-black factory at the age of twelve to help with his family's expenses after his father, John Dickens, had been sentenced to debtor's prison. The factory, not surprisingly, was in a sagging, tumbledown old house infested with rats. He was there for about a year, and hated it. The experience and its setting remained in his memory for the rest of his life. He was known no more for his novels than for his championship of programs to help the poor, the homeless, and the hungry.

In his celebrated story "A Christmas Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge is visited in succession by three spirits, each of whom shows him a different facet of English life. Traveling with the warm-robed Ghost of Christmas Present, Scrooge notices what appear to be claws protruding from the folds of the Ghost's robe. Naturally, he remarks and asks about them. The ghost reveals two starving, hollow-eyed children.

"Spirit! Are they yours?" Scrooge could say no more.

"They are Man's," said the

Spirit, looking down upon them. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!...Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse. And hide the end!"

Many of us so-called grown-ups fail to appreciate that the children we see about us every day will in a few short years be grown-ups, as well: driving, marrying, bearing and rearing children, voting. Further, that what they will become depends to a large extent upon how we treat them as children. Not for nothing did Dickens identify ignorance and want as factors in the doom of society.

At the moment the United States is in the middle of a crisis caused not by external agents, but by its own ignorance. Its president is on a tear, not just pushing the envelope of illegality, but tearing it wide open. The odd and infuriating catatonia of Congress is completely responsible. Amid the billion-dollar-a-day "war" in Iran, the kidnapping of the president of Venezuela, the promise to

"take care" of Cuba next, and the continuing efforts to make inroads on Greenland's sovereignty, we have a huge gold statue of the president (shades of Saddam Hussein) waving a welcome to one of his golf courses, a wing of the White House precipitately destroyed preparatory to building a ballroom with a bunker, the Reflecting Pool drained and painted blue at an expense many times the estimate, and a gigantic triumphal arch planned for near the Lincoln Memorial (you have only to stand before the statue of the seated Lincoln and read his words inscribed on the marble walls to get some appreciation of how far we've fallen). The old expression, "pissant," comes to mind.

Meanwhile, foreign aid programs that for decades projected not only American soft power, but saved hundreds of thousands of lives, have been curtailed or discontinued. USAID, for example, one of our most powerful programs of foreign aid, is gone (the Chinese are cheerfully taking up the slack). The national parks, which return about ten times every dollar budgeted, have had their staffs chopped down; hoodlumism

and vandalism are making them less beautiful and less safe. Cuts to subsidies for food, as well as school lunches, have been axed by men and women who dine regularly. The list of budget cuts goes on and on; but the reason given for all of them is different principles or (almost always) shortage of money.

That dissonance is so jarring, a Department of Defense budget request actually reaching one trillion dollars, it's amazing that a grown-up clad in a dark suit and proper tie can say any of this with a straight face. Yet they do. And the silence from Congress is deafening.

Woody Guthrie, in the midst of the Great Depression, looked at it and sang it for us: "As through this world you travel, you'll meet many kinds of men. Some'll rob you with a six-gun, and some with a fountain pen."

Nowadays it's most likely a Sharpie. But the result is the same: those emaciated children, deprived of the sustenance and education that is their right, will grow up. They'll soon become whatever we've made of them. I hope the one pushing our wheelchairs and changing our diapers won't hold our niggardliness against us.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"WHAT HEAT? THERE'S FROST ON THE LILY PADS!"

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.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislators consider yield, other education bills

by Dr. David Baker

HARDWICK – We continue to pay close attention to our legislators and the Governor in Montpelier.

As I write this report, we have the Senate and House converging on a bit of a showdown on Act 73 legislation. The House adopted H.955, which has a built in period of time for local districts to voluntarily merge.

There is a whole system set up where neighboring districts can form “study committees” to explore mergers that make sense. Districts will be pre-assigned to specific geographic areas on the map, but can petition to move outside those boundaries.

The bill also calls for the state to pay for the facilitation of these study committees.

This is very similar to the study committees that were part of Act 64. It is presumed that the Senate will dismantle this bill because of the confluent process that may put reorganization too far out on a timeline. The Senate

appears more aligned with the Governor in an escalated version of redistricting. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of a budget on April 21.

With respect to the Yield, which has a direct impact on our tax rates, there is another divergence. The House voted out a bill that has the Yield set at \$9,170. The Senate Finance Committee just passed a Yield bill that set it at \$9,395. The latter Yield is more in line with the Governor’s proposal to use the state’s carryover revenues for taxpayer relief. I think the Yield will end up on the higher side.

Here are some additional legislative updates related to education, as summarized on April 28 by the Vermont School Boards Association:

H.955: An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont’s education system has passed the House and is now under consideration in the Senate Education Committee. With a bill in excess of 150 pages, it took Senate Education most of last week to walk through

it in its entirety with legislative counsel and the joint fiscal office. This week, the committee will hear testimony on CESAs (Cooperative Educational Services Areas), school governance structures, and school construction options.

H.931: An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education law was reviewed by the Senate Education Committee last week, where they decided to move the section concerning class size out of H.931 and into H.955 with the idea that this issue is strongly related to a number of contingencies set out in Act 73. The committee is also considering adding additional language regarding performance-based contracting and a healthcare cost study.

H.930: An act relating to addressing and preventing chronic absenteeism was in the Senate Education Committee where they took testimony from the AOE [Agency of Education] last week, which incorporated suggested revisions from VSBA [Vermont School Boards Association], helping to distinguish the concepts of “chronic

absenteeism” and “truancy” as well as more clearly structured the processes of drafting model policies and procedures.

H.949/S.220: The Senate Finance Committee incorporated the language of S.220 into the Yield Bill before voting it out of committee. This bill will move to House Ways & Means later this week, where significant testimony will be heard this Thursday from various interested parties with a focus on the proposed change in the excess spending threshold from 118% to 112%.

VSBA and VSA [Vermont Superintendents Association] advocated for changes to S.227 (immigration protocols in schools) to clarify the content of the model policy required by the bill and the relationship of procedures to policy. These changes were incorporated into S.227 as passed by the House Education Committee. S.227 heads to a vote of the full House this week.

Excerpted from the OSSU May Message from Superintendent Dr. David Baker.

ANOTHER OPINION

Town meeting is more than voting

by Ross Connelly

HARDWICK – This year’s Hardwick Town Meeting was one of the best in years with an impressive turnout of 250 people. The only other time I see that many people come together in town is for a Hazen basketball game or the school’s graduation.

This town has had its share of good times and hard times. A constant in Hardwick, however, is its sense of community. People join to celebrate and support each other when the need is there, from town meetings, to basketball games, to graduations, to church suppers, and more.

Since town meeting, I’ve heard a few people say the meeting lasted too long. Democracy can be hard work. If that means we have to spend an extra hour or

two debating an issue or listening to others’ opinions, that beats the alternative of someone else telling us what we have to do.

Yes, people have to be present at town meeting in order to speak or vote and that prevents some people from participating. The special town meeting May 19 to decide whether all measures should be by Australian ballot suggests more people would be involved in decision making than currently. This year, about 250 people voted at town meeting while 505 voted by Australian ballot for various candidates. That’s 10 percent of the 2025 registered voters at town meeting compared to 21 percent for all who filled out a preprinted ballot.

Hazen and Hardwick Elementary school board measures have been decided for a number of years by Australian ballot. The

number of people who voted in March was 755 (co-mingled with Woodbury and Greensboro) for Hazen and 773 (co-mingled with Woodbury and Greensboro) for Mountain View Union Elementary School District.

An Australian ballot decision making process brings out more people, but is still far from all eligible voters. It is hard to say an Australian ballot is a more accurate reflection of broad feelings than a yea or nay vote at town meeting.

This brings me back to the importance of town meeting as a reflection of who we are. We don’t need more of everyone seemingly locked face down in a smart phone with the inability or refusal to look someone in the eye, or an unwillingness to listen to what others have to say, or a reticence to share one’s own opinion. We have

a long history of standing up and speaking out. We lose that if we move to an Australian ballot form of decision making.

I doubt strongly there would be support to close off attendance at Hazen basketball games and graduations, instead claiming HCTV broadcasts reach more residents. My suggestion is to reject the Australian ballot proposal and double down on getting more people to attend town meeting.

Town meeting is more than voting. It is a gathering of friends and neighbors to voice ideas and opinions, to gather information, to be able to amend articles, to share in the responsibility of self-governance, and of community. Let’s make it known, loudly and clearly, we will still talk with each other, we value that, and we are not going to give that up.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The truth is more complicated

by Rep. David Yacavone

MONTPELIER – For years, Vermont’s opioid epidemic seemed to move in only one direction: worse. Each annual report brought another heartbreaking record number of overdose deaths, another reminder that fentanyl had tightened its grip on communities across the state. But for the first time in years, Vermont may finally have a measure of cautious hope.

According to new data from the Vermont Department of Health, overdose deaths have now declined for two consecutive years, following the devastating peak reached in 2022. Vermont recorded 183 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2024, down sharply from 236 in 2023 and 244 in 2022. Nationally, overdose deaths also experienced their largest single-year decline ever recorded.

Health officials attribute the decline to several factors: expanded access to naloxone (Narcan), wider use of medication-assisted treatment such as Suboxone and methadone, increased recovery and prevention efforts, and stronger harm-reduction programs across

Vermont. The state distributed more than 70,000 doses of naloxone in 2024 alone. Vermont’s “hub-and-spoke” treatment model, which integrates addiction treatment into primary care, is also credited with helping save lives.

The truth, however, is more complicated than simply declaring victory in the war on drugs.

Fewer Vermonters are dying, but addiction itself remains deeply entrenched. Fentanyl still accounts for more than 90 percent of opioid overdose deaths in Vermont. Cocaine and xylazine involvement continues to rise, and emergency rooms, law enforcement agencies, homeless shelters, and recovery centers still report enormous strain tied to substance abuse and mental health crises.

Some experts caution that what Vermont is seeing may reflect not the end of addiction, but rather a shift in how addiction is managed. Narcan saves lives, but it does not cure dependency. Harm reduction can prevent death while people continue struggling with substance use disorder. Others note a harsher reality: many of the most vulnerable fentanyl users

may already have died during the deadliest years of the epidemic.

There is also another uncomfortable truth often overlooked in Vermont’s drug debate: alcohol remains one of the state’s most damaging and socially accepted drugs.

While public attention focuses on fentanyl and opioids, alcohol abuse contributes to liver disease, domestic violence, car crashes, homelessness, mental illness, and long-term health deterioration across Vermont. In many overdose deaths classified as “non-opioid,” alcohol is involved alongside cocaine, benzodiazepines, or methamphetamine. State health reports show alcohol continues to play a significant role in substance-related deaths.

The distinction society often makes between “drug abuse” and “alcohol abuse” can be misleading. Alcohol is itself a powerful addictive substance and, in many cases, serves as an entry point into broader addiction and mental health struggles. Vermont’s binge drinking rates have historically ranked among the highest in New England, particularly among

younger adults and college-age populations.

The challenge facing policymakers now is whether Vermont can sustain the progress being made. Public health experts warn that cuts to treatment funding, recovery programs, or harm-reduction services could quickly reverse the recent decline in deaths. Similar temporary improvements nationally have reversed before.

At the State House, the debate increasingly centers on what approach works best: enforcement, treatment, prevention, housing, mental health investment, or harm reduction. In reality, the answer is likely some combination of all of them.

What seems clear is this: Vermont is no longer simply fighting to stop people from dying. The larger challenge now is helping people recover, rebuild stable lives and prevent the next generation from falling into addiction in the first place.

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

Vermonters made their voices heard

by Rep. Leanne Harple

MONTPELIER – It has been a pivotal week in Montpelier as we near the end of the biennium and work to finalize major legislation before adjournment. The biggest development this week was the passage in the House of S.325, legislation updating portions of Act 250 and Act 181. This bill came in direct response to Vermonters, particularly our rural landowners, farmers and smallest communities, who spoke up about fairness, property rights and the

growing cost and complexity of the permitting process. I am proud to share that Vermonters made their voices heard, and the Legislature listened.

At its core, Act 181’s environmental protections remain intact. Protections for headwaters, wildlife corridors, intact forests, and other sensitive natural resources will continue guiding responsible development and protecting Vermont from unchecked sprawl. But S.325 also recognizes that conservation and common sense must go hand in hand.

Among the most significant changes are the repeal of the Road Rule and Tier 3 provisions, which became some of the most debated parts of Act 181. The bill also strengthens public engagement requirements so Vermonters have a greater voice as we continue balancing environmental stewardship with the urgent need for housing and economic growth.

Another important provision that was added as a late amendment creates permitting exemptions for certain accessory on-farm businesses that require construction, including educational and event-based ventures. For many family farms, diversification is survival. These changes will help struggling farms create new revenue streams, remain viable, and continue serving as the backbone of our rural communities for future generations.

After many hours of debate, testimony and negotiation, S.325 passed unanimously in the House and is now headed back to the Senate for final approval. These efforts were a reminder that our

legislative body works best when we collaborate in a nonpartisan way to address the concerns and the diverse needs of our communities openly and honestly, and work toward practical solutions together. It’s also important to know that this bill was shaped not just by lawmakers, but by Vermonters from every corner of the state who took the time to engage in the political process.

Over the next few weeks, we will finalize the remaining major legislation of this biennium, including bills related to healthcare, education and the state budget. There is still difficult work ahead, but I remain hopeful that the same spirit of cooperation and putting Vermonters first will carry us through to the finish line.

Thank you to everyone who wrote to me concerning Act 181. I hope we have found a way to move the state forward together.

Leanne Harple represents Orleans-4 in the Vermont Legislature, including the towns of Albany, Craftsbury, Glover and Greensboro.

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



The Hardwick Gazette

WEEKS GONE BY

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 Pervention is better than cure.
Doris Beauty Shoppe Hardwick Inn
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The Hardwick Gazette, May 13, 1926

**50 years ago in
 The Hardwickian
 May 11, 1976**

**Molleur and Hutchinson
 Buy Ray and Lucy's**

Ray & Lucy's Restaurant and the block in which it is located has been purchased by Robert Molleur of Hardwick and Ahmed Hutchinson of Danville.

Molleur and Hutchinson purchased the business from Ray and Lucy Anair who purchased the block in 1950 and established the restaurant later.

There are several apartments in the facility which is located on Wolcott Street.

Molleur said he and Hutchinson plan to upgrade the business and are making renovations. The restaurant is closed and will not reopen for one or two weeks, Molleur said.

The Anairs have been living in the block and will continue to do so until their house located behind the Chicken Coop Drive-Up Snack Bar off Woodbury Road is prepared for occupancy.

During their years on Wolcott Street, Ray and Lucy made a great

improvement in the building which was falling down when they bought it.

In addition, Ray & Lucy's became known as a colorful country bar and restaurant. More recently, it has become known through most of the state because of the weekly country music evenings.

Ray Anair is a topflight fiddler and does a lot of traveling as an individual performer and as a member of the Woodbury Woodchucks. He has won many fiddling contests.

Lucy, who has been the mainstay in the operation of the restaurant, said she and Ray hope to take it easy now. "We're going to try to anyway," she declared.

**100 years ago in The
 Hardwick Gazette
 May 13, 1926
 Real Estate Items**

Wm. F. George has purchased what is known as the Gero property, consisting [sic] of house, barn and three acres of land, better known as the Olmstead place just this side of the Hardwick and Woodbury railroad crossing on the road to Woodbury. Another



Stannard residents are hopeful a state appropriation will survive the legislative process and be available to help pay for the renovation of their town hall. The building was once a school. (photo by Jo Gilder), The Hardwick Gazette, May 16, 2001

real estate transaction took place last week when Willis Reed and Willim [sic] Hart sold their farm on the Wolcott road to Mr. and Mrs. John Waterhouse. Guy Estell has purchased the Wakefield property on Elm Street for a home, E. M. Gallagher has sold his Mackville farm to Victor Dufresne of Wolcott

[sic], who will take possession immediately. Part of this farm or the timberland is in the town of Woodbury.

Phil Silver has sold his little farm near the Bend to Edward Petersen of Greensboro, who will take possession the week Saturday. Part of this farm is in Walden.

HARDWICK AMERICAN LEGION
 Clubroom Hours:
 Saturday 8 - 12:45 Cover Charge
 Legion Members, Auxiliary & Legal Guests
THE UNFORGETTABLES
 Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 Novelty Games Every Wed. Night - 8:00 p.m.
 Legion and Auxiliary Meetings Every Third
 Thursday - 8:00 P.M.

The Hardwick Gazette, May 11, 1976

Thanks
 for saying
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Hardwick Gazette
 hardwickgazette.org



Workers repaired the roof of The Fisher Bridge last week, bringing to a close a 10 year project to restore the structure. Once the last used railroad covered bridge in the country, the state secretary of transportation is expected to announce this week that the rail corridor will be turned into a trail. (photo by Jo Gilder), The Hardwick Gazette, May 16, 2001

FROM THE WATERSHED

Jackson Dam Study reveals river system complexity

by Kristen Leahy

HARDWICK – One detail in the Jackson Dam study stayed with me after I read it. When the SLR engineers began trying to measure how much sediment had accumulated behind the dam, they pushed a fourteen-foot probe rod straight down into the lakebed. In several locations they still did not reach the original river bottom.

In other words, the river has been quietly rebuilding its own valley behind the dam for decades.

That detail helps explain why the future of Jackson Dam has become an important conversation for Hardwick and the surrounding watershed.

The dam was originally constructed in the early 1900s to support hydroelectric power generation downstream. That purpose faded long ago, but the structure remained, creating the impoundment called Hardwick Lake.

The study itself grew out of ongoing concerns about the aging structure, sediment accumulation and the role the dam may play during major flood events. The Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District commissioned the study with support from the Town of Hardwick to evaluate current conditions at the site, examine how the river system has changed over time, and explore what future management options might look like.

What the recent study makes clear is that the landscape around the dam has continued to change. Sediment carried down the Lamoille River and Alder Brook has steadily filled much of the reservoir area behind the structure. In some places the depth of accumulated material is still not fully known.

Dams do not operate in isolation from the rivers that feed them. Over decades, sediment, floods and channel movement gradually reshape the system around them. What was built for one set of conditions can function very differently under another.

The Jackson Dam study looks closely at how the river is behaving today and what that means for the future. One of the questions researchers examined was how the dam interacts with flood flows.

Many people assume dams reduce flooding. In some cases, they do. But the modeling in this study suggests the situation at Jackson Dam may be more complicated.

Because so much sediment has accumulated behind the structure, the impoundment now provides limited flood storage. During large storms, the dam can act less like a reservoir and more like a narrowing in the river.

Modeling indicates that restoring the river channel through this area could lower flood elevations upstream by several feet during major events.

Those findings highlight how much the system has evolved since

the dam was first constructed, but leave open the question of what should happen next.

The study also looks at the practical realities of managing a site like this. Removing a structure like Jackson Dam would be more than a simple matter of demolition.

The sediment stored behind it represents decades of river movement. Any future decisions will need to consider that material; what is left or removed, how what remains is stabilized, how the channel adjusts, and how nearby land and infrastructure are protected during the transition.

The conversation is less about a single structure and more about how the river system itself is changing.

Hardwick has spent the past several years learning difficult lessons about how rivers behave during large storms.

Flood recovery, buyouts, stabilization projects and new planning efforts have all underscored the same point: the landscape continues to evolve whether we plan for it or not.

The Jackson Dam study is part of that effort to understand what our rivers are doing and what options may exist for the future.

The river will keep moving. The real question is how we choose to live with that movement.

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

MONTHLY MUSINGS

TRISH PASSMORE ALLEY

Tumult and tenderness

SHELBURNE – I am finding tenderness amid the tumult in today's world. Neighbors are helping neighbors. Federally defunded social profits are collaborating. Strangers in countries at war with each other are coming together to grieve and heal together. They occasionally make the news.

This is a tender time of year for me. April 26 was the 21st anniversary of the passing of my dear doggy, Spencer, just months after losing both my parents. April 30 was Grace Gaia's 36th anniversary, the daughter I lost by miscarriage. May 10 is Mother's Day.

I grieved the loss of Grace Gaia pretty much by myself in 1990. When I called Bill on April 30 this year, I reminded him of the loss of our child. Through tears, he stammered, "Thank you for telling me. I wish I was there to hold your hand." We cried together. When we got off the phone, I tossed some dried, pink geraniums out onto a lawn speckled with purple volunteer violets in the rain.

I tentatively turn on the news and hear within ten minutes that the war with Iran is over and then on again and about the billions of dollars we are spending to "blow up a civilization." My mailbox and inbox are filled with requests for donations to feed and house my neighbors. My prayer list is getting longer and longer.

April was Poetry Month. A recent conversation with a friend inspired me to write this poem.

Poetry Power

Poetry cracks hearts open-- invites others in.

When I open my heart, people walk in, glad to be there.

That's when I know the power of poetry.

My friend, old enough to retire, is still working in early childhood education. He has been shopping for "his" children and their families who are afraid to leave home. He lives in Minnesota.

Last month, I was invited to read some of my poetry at a "Rooted in Words" poetry event to celebrate Earth Day. Sue, one of my fellow readers, read two poems written to her by her best friend to console her immediately following her son's suicide and on the first anniversary of his death. When the reading was over, I told her about Grace Gaia. We clasped each other's hands. On April 30, I walked into dinner and saw Sue. I told her it was Grace Gaia's 36th anniversary. She gave me a huge hug and whispered that her son's 16th anniversary is coming up. She told me it's good to have friends who understand. We teared up.

After dinner, my friend Kate drove me home. I told her about Grace Gaia and Sue. She put her hand on my arm, looked me straight in the eye, and said, "Saturday is the 36th anniversary of my daughter's death. I was only 22."

In all today's tumult, let's turn toward tenderness.

Colors

Looking out the window
on a sunny February day,
the white snow in the yard blinds me.
Eyes lift and I sink into the deep darkness
Of the woods beyond.

Then... pulled back by stripey,
brown-winged birds at the feeder,
I remember the red of the cardinal
who visits from time to time,
and thrill at the yellow flash of the
grosbeak flock engulfing the feeder,
while chickadees dart in and out between.

In my heart, I feel all the colors
of the world have come to
this quiet place in the hills,
so many species gathering
to peacefully share the buffet.

Caro m t
Walden

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

IN THE GARDEN

Get growing by starting a vegetable garden



Community garden plots offer space for new and seasoned gardeners alike. This community garden plot in South Burlington provides a raised bed for each gardener. An Extension Master Gardener volunteer keeps gardeners informed about insect and disease pests.

photo by Debra Heleba

by Andrea Knepper

FAYSTON – Spring has finally arrived and with it comes a renewed sense of excitement to try something new. For those who have been thinking about starting a garden, this is a great time to give it a try.

Whether transforming a corner of a backyard, building a raised bed or grow food in pots on the porch, turn that interest into the first harvest.

Start by observing the space. The success of a garden depends on the sun, as most vegetables need at least six to eight hours of direct sunlight to thrive. Once the sunniest spot is identified, assess the soil; it is a garden's best asset. There is still time before the season begins to submit a soil test and adjust soil pH and fertility if needed. If starting a new garden in raised beds or containers, look for a high-quality raised bed or potting soil mix.

Expensive tools are not needed to get started. A few basics will help through a first season. A sturdy hand trowel is essential for digging and transplanting. Gardening gloves protect hands from the soil and come in a wide variety of styles. Try on a few at a local garden supply or hardware store to discover a preference.

To take care of weeds in the garden, a hand cultivator is useful

but may not be necessary if working in containers. Finally, a watering can or hose nozzle will keep a garden hydrated.

When selecting vegetable plants for a garden, focus on high-yielding and fast-growing options. This will maximize the harvest with fewer plants and give quick results. Radishes are a fun choice for new gardeners. They go from seed to harvest in less than a month. Another rewarding choice that continues to grow all season is cut-and-come-again lettuce. Snip the outer leaves for dinner and the plant will keep growing.

What would summer be without fresh tomatoes? With hundreds of varieties available, there is a tomato plant for every garden. Look for a determinate variety to keep the size manageable. These tomato plants will generally reach three- to four-feet in height and require a cage or support structure. If space is a limitation, look for varieties bred specifically for growing in pots. The plant tag will provide the specific information needed to make an informed choice.

Basil, oregano, thyme and chives all grow well in containers and grow quickly, making them a valuable addition to your garden. These hardy herbs are convenient, taking up very little space and providing an accessible harvest easily within reach.



This demonstration garden in Arlington teaches new gardeners how to raise vegetables.

photo by Debra Heleba

Whatever is included in a garden, consistent care ensures the best results. Check plants daily for pests and disease. Water them at their base at the soil line, to keep the moisture where it's needed most.

Remember, gardening is a learning process. Keeping some basic notes will help in noticing patterns and remember what

worked over the season. Note what grew well and what didn't. These notes will be the best resource when planning for next year's garden.

Start with a few summertime favorites, keep it simple and enjoy the satisfaction of a harvest.

Andrea Knepper is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from Fayston.



A technique called square foot gardening can help keep a garden organized. Here is one vegetable crop or variety within a 1-by-1 foot block.

photo by Debra Heleba

IN THE GARDEN

Keeping track of plants



Double bloodroots spread by root, not seed. A few plants here have spread in the past 15 years or so. *courtesy photo*

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I decided this year to do a better job of keeping track of what plants are blooming when, and photographing them. I encourage you to do the same: we all forget what we have from time to time. And next winter we'll be able to enjoy our gardens.

My favorites right now, double bloodroot. They're like miniature double white peonies. They have four strings of chromosomes instead of two, so they are sterile and bloom for up to two weeks. Ordinary bloodroot only blooms until it is pollinated.

Then there is my new Merrill magnolia hybrid I planted last year. It replaces one that succumbed to a fungus after 21 years and always bloomed on my birthday in late April. This one opened its buds on May 2 with large double white blossoms. It's fabulous.

We plant lots of bulbs each year. A recent addition to our crop of daffodils is one called "Thalia," which I just love. It is one of the few that will thrive in soil that stays consistently moist. The stems are tall, the blossoms are nearly white with short cups. It seems many bulbs produce more than one blossom stem. It blooms in early May for me.

My favorite gardening centers are open for the year, and I'm visiting them all to see what might seduce me. I am always looking for

new perennials but I try to hold off buying any until I know I have space for them. But that can be tough to do.

I start my own tomato plants from seed indoors, and some flowers, but have bought some vegetable starts. I just don't have the time and space to start everything under lights. If you are buying packs of cold hardy plants like Brussels sprouts, broccoli or kale, there is one key question to ask at this time of year: "Are these hardened off yet?" Seedlings raised in a greenhouse can get sun- and/or wind-burned in your garden if you plant them outdoors right away and they have not yet been hardened off.

To harden off young plants, it is best to start them off with just a few hours of morning sun, then some afternoon sun, and finally all day sun. When I harden off my tomatoes, I take a full week to do so. And it's worth the wait, sunburned leaves will drop off and die. Your plants will recover, but they will lose a week or two of good growth.

May is the month for weeding. If you start off with a weed-free garden, you will have much less work later on, especially if you mulch well. Get the annual weeds before they develop big root systems. Get perennials like dandelions now, before their roots seeds go deeper and are harder to pull. Moist soil makes weeding easier, so go out after a spring rain.

My favorite weeding tool is the CobraHead weeder. It is a single-tine tool that easily gets under a weed and allows you to loosen the soil and to pull up from under the weed while you tug from above. It is also great for teasing out long creeping roots.

For really deep rooted weeds like burdock, I use a garden fork to loosen the soil down a foot or more. I plunge it all the way in, then tip it back. I do that in two or more spots around the weed if it is huge. Then



Thalia is one of the few daffodils that will thrive in damp or wet soil. *courtesy photo*

I pull s-l-o-w-l-y.

I use a similar technique for pulling invasive shrubs like multiflora rose, honeysuckles, barberry or buckthorn. Pulling them and getting all the roots is tough: the roots tend to break off. But if you are as determined as I am, a CobraHead is good for teasing out smaller broken sections of root.

Buckthorns are, arguably, the most difficult invasive to kill. Cutting them back will stimulate the roots to send out new shoots all around the tree. But you can kill buckthorn by double-girdling the trunk. Take a small pruning saw and cut through the bark all the way around the trunk. Don't cut into the hardwood, just cut the bark. Then go 12 inches higher up, and do it again.

Girdling a buckthorn is a slow death: you are interrupting the flow of sugars from the leaves to the roots, which slowly starve to death. I have done this in winter, and the tree leafed out and seemed normal that spring and the next spring. The third spring it never leafed out: it was dead, and did not send up any

new sprouts around the tree.

Your last chore for now is to fix those dreaded bare spots in the lawn. Buy some new seed, if yours is more than a year old. Use your garden rake to loosen the soil, then top dress with some good compost and work it in. Sprinkle seed by hand: no need for one of those fancy walk-behind seed spreaders. Just fling it gently until it is evenly spread. Don't be stingy.

Grass seeds need some sunlight to germinate. To cover the seeds a little bit, take a lawn rake and turn it upside down; drag the tines over the area being treated. That will mix the seed in to the soil, but not bury it deeply. Finally you should pack down the seeds with a roller, or use a tamper. Or put down a wide board and walk on it. Make sure the soil doesn't dry out after planting. I cover it with a very light layer of straw to help keep it from drying out.

Yes, spring is a busy time for us gardeners. But I love it: the colors, the smells and even the hard work.

Reach Homeyer at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or email him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net



CobraHead weeder. *courtesy photo*



This Merrill magnolia was planted last year, and bloomed on May 2. *courtesy photo*

THE OUTSIDE STORY

Ticks re-emerge and reveal changing climate

by Jason Hill
Vermont Center for Ecosystem Studies



Eastern Black-legged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) photo by Quillipede

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION – With each spring comes a renewed need to be vigilant for ticks.

Over the past several decades, many tick populations and the pathogens they carry have expanded globally, driven by climate change, land-use shifts, and growing host populations.

In New England, we are now at the leading edge of that expansion. Warmer year-round conditions are allowing ticks and other species to move northward and upslope, while also making the region increasingly suitable for species introduced from elsewhere. They are one visible part of a much broader ecological shift.

While Black-legged Ticks (“deer” ticks, which can transmit Lyme disease) have been present in New England for perhaps a century, their North American range has more than doubled since the 1990s, advancing northward at approximately 20 miles per year. These expansions are not uniform or gradual, but rather episodic, with more northward expansion occurring in relatively warm years.

By comparing the genetic signature of ticks across the northern United States and southern Canada, we’re learning that ticks can move hundreds of miles in a day during spring via migratory birds. These movements lead to new populations appearing in scattered patches, gradually filling in areas where ticks were previously absent or in low densities.

Lone Star Ticks, capable of triggering alpha-gal syndrome in humans, were formerly restricted to the southeastern United States, but are now regularly detected throughout the Northeast.

Gulf Coast Ticks, which in some regions have been known to transmit a bacterium that causes a mild form of spotted fever, have only recently colonized New England within the last decade but are appearing with increasing frequency.

The Asian Longhorned Tick, primarily a concern for livestock, was accidentally introduced to New Jersey around 2013. This species has now established populations in our region and is capable of rapid population growth through asexual reproduction. Incredibly, genetic analyses suggest that the entire U.S. population of Asian Longhorned Ticks can likely be traced back to just three self-cloning female ticks that were accidentally introduced from East Asia.

Warming temperatures are only part of the story. Our actions have led to increased forest fragmentation and suburbanization, which have created an environment full of shrubby edges (or ecotones, as we call them) that favor ticks and the animals they feed on, like White-tailed Deer.

These changes have not gone unnoticed in New England. In our two-year Upper Valley Backyard Tick Project, we found that pesticide use for ticks has increased substantially in recent

years, with many homeowners turning to routine, monthly yard treatments. That response is understandable given the health risks ticks pose. However, there is no clear evidence that spraying around the home reduces the likelihood of contracting a tick-borne disease. In our study, pesticide applications reduced tick numbers for a short period, but those effects did not last and pollinator populations declined by as much as 30% following treatment.

There are, however, simple and effective ways to reduce your risk from ticks. Wear long pants, tucked into your socks, while walking or working in brushy areas. It’s a nouveau fashion trend that looks great (trust me), and it makes ticks easier to spot before they disappear under your clothing.

For additional protection, consider treating your clothing with picaridin or lemon eucalyptus oil. Check yourself, your children, and your pets regularly while outdoors. At the end of the day, make a full-body tick check part of your nightly routine.

If you find a tick and aren’t sure what species it is, upload clear photos to iNaturalist for iden-

tification. For more information, including what to do after a tick bite or whether you need to save a tick for testing, see this page from the Center for Disease Control. These small steps are more effective than trying to control ticks at the scale of your yard.

As you run maple lines or direct-sow your root vegetables this spring, it’s worth considering how differently we respond to species on the move. The northward expansion of Sassafras, Common Pawpaw, and Shagbark Hickory has largely been treated with indifference, ho-hum. Some arrivals are even welcomed: many of us are excited by the prospect of encountering species like Yellow-throated Vireo or Red-banded Hairstreak farther north.

Ticks, of course, elicit a very different reaction, largely because of their direct impacts on human health. But the processes driving their expansion are the same. Across New England, species are shifting their ranges in response to a rapidly changing climate and landscape.

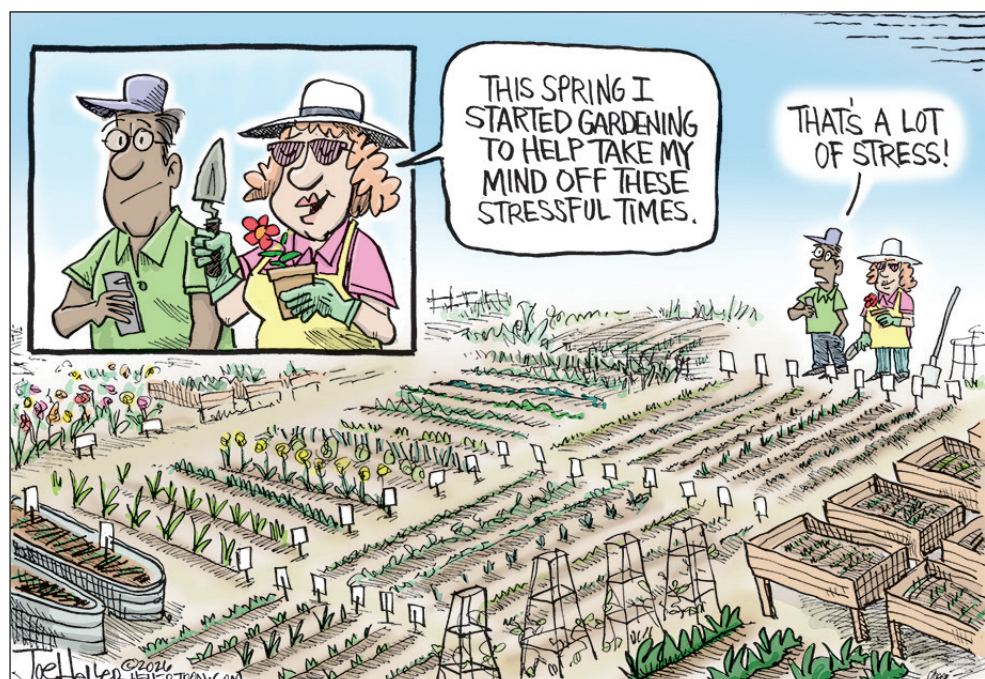
If we look closely, ticks are not the whole story. They are one thread in a much larger pattern of ecological change unfolding across New England.



Dutchman’s breeches, a spring woodland ephemeral, was in bloom on Thursday, May 7, on Montgomery Road in East Hardwick.

photo by Dawn Gustafson

Heller’s World by Joe Heller



OUR COMMUNITIES

Tree planting, May 15

GREENSBORO – Friday, May 15 is World Community Land Trust Day, honoring the more than 600 trusts around the world that develop permanently affordable housing and other assets on community-owned land. From 3:30 to 6 p.m., Headwaters will observe the day at an outing where participants will plant trees, help address the climate crisis and create the

materials for future generations' Vermont homes. Moderate walking and lifting is required for planting, but all are welcome to attend even if not able to actively plant trees. The event will be held rain or shine. There is no charge for this event.

To RSVP and receive location details, email Rick Morrill at treasurer@headwatersnek.org.

Human library May 23, Springfest at the Jeudevine

by Jeudevine Staff

HARDWICK – The Jeudevine Memorial Library will hold a human library on Saturday, May 23, between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

The library and the Hardwick Police Department bring a human library to Hardwick's Springfest celebration as someone volunteers to be an open book about some part of their life's story. Some of the stories include: growing up in Argentina and training as an artist in Europe before landing in

Hardwick; a librarian rescued by a dog team; living through the fall of the wall in East Germany; what it's like being a foster dad to 178 kids and counting and more. Sign up for one or more books by calling the library, or walk in on the day of the event. Spaces are limited; signing up in advance is recommended. Snacks are provided by the Village Restaurant.

The event is free and open to the public at the Jeudevine, 93 N. Main Street. For more information and to sign, call (802) 472-5948.

CPR, stop the bleed classes, May 25

WOODBURY – Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad continues its mission to make the towns they serve heart-safe, through education, emergency response accessibility and integrated systems. "Stop the Bleed" classes will take place at the Woodbury Fire Department, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Spots are still available. Attendees will receive a Heartsaver for Kindergarten through grades 12 Schools CPR/AED certification.

Tickets for this event allow attendees to leave with a certification in CPR skills for all ages, as well as Stop the Bleed training. Registration closes at 5 p.m., Monday, May 25. Minimum enrollment of three people required by the closing time or the event will be canceled. Register at zeffy.com

This certification does not cover Basic Life Support or CPR for Health Care Providers.



Each teacher and staff member at Hardwick Elementary School received a plant from the Friends of Hardwick Elementary School on the Monday of Teacher and Staff Appreciation week, May 4. *social media photo*

For the love of books: a conversation, June 28

EAST CRAFTSBURY – Four Vermont authors and illustrators, Katherine Paterson, Mary Azarian, Grace Worcester and Natalie Kinsey, are coming together in East Craftsbury on Sunday, June 28, from 3 to 5 p.m., at the library for an informal conversation about their five favorite books. This is a fundraiser for the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library. Donations

for the library will be taken at the door, and a basket raffle including signed works by the authors/illustrators will take place. There will also be a collection of items for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry.

The J.W. Simpson is located at 1972 East Craftsbury Road, 05826. For more information, (802) 586-9692 or visit jwsimpsonmemorial.org.

Adult swim classes on Caspian Lake, July 20

by Liz Baum

GREENSBORO – Adult swim classes on Caspian Lake (16 years or older) are scheduled for 6 p.m., during the weeks of July 20 and July 27. Enroll in one or both sessions. No prior swimming experience is

necessary and instruction will be tailored to student swim and water comfort levels. There is a small fee for the classes. After May 31, late registration fees of an additional \$10 apply.

Sign up at teachamericatoswim.com/greensborovt.html

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDE

Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO) has applied for a right-of-way pesticide application permit through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the purpose of making selective ground base applications of herbicides. These herbicides include: Aquamaster (Glyphosate), Escort XP (Metsulfuron Methyl), Garlon 4 Ultra (Triclopyr), Krenite S (Fosamine Ammonium) and Polaris (Isopropylamine salt of Imazapyr). Applications will be made on VELCOs 450 DC transmission line right-of-way located in the following county and town:

Caledonia County
Waterford

Herbicide application will start on Monday June 15, 2026.

Landowners adjacent to the areas in which will be treated should contact VELCO if private water supplies or other environmentally sensitive areas are located within 200 feet of the right-of-way edge. For further information please contact:

Colby Marshall
VELCO Utility Arborist
366 Pinnacle Ridge Road
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 779-7163
cmarshall@velco.com

Please contact the state agency with any other questions, comments or concerns:

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Plant Industry
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
(802) 828-1732
AGR.PlantIndustry@vermont.gov
www.agriculture.vermont.gov

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BUSINESS BRIEFS



New washers and dryers installed at the Hardwick Village Laundromat now accept credit card payments as part of their commitment to renewing the facility at 9 Mill Street. Most of the new machines, that include two 40-pound and four 30-pound washers, are now ready for use while listening to classic rock. Several of the new dryers still need to have larger vents installed.

photo by Paul Fixx

NEK Broadband, CVFiber launch fiber internet plan

by Julia Vallera

ST. JOHNSBURY – NEK Broadband and CVFiber (collectively, NEKCV) recently announced their newest internet offering: a 50/50 Mbps plan for \$59 per month.

NEKCV Executive Director Christa Shute said, “This price reduction is possible because of Vermont’s commitment of ARPA grant dollars and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant funds, which together will fully fund construction to all unserved addresses in our district. By not borrowing for that construction, we can lower our price accordingly.”

In the past few years, NEK

Broadband and CVFiber have built over 1,300 miles of fiber-optic cable to addresses without reliable internet service.

Basic 50/50 plan highlights include, \$59 per month, no installation fee, unlimited data and local customer and technical support.

For households or businesses with heavier demands such as frequent large file uploads and downloads, high-volume simultaneous usage, or the need to support a large number of smart-home devices, faster plans ranging from 100 Mbps to 2 Gbps are also available.

Learn about all the plans and sign up for updates by visiting nek-broadband.org/ (NEK residents) or cvfiber.net/ (Central Vermont residents).

The Hardwick Gazette ~ Since 1889 ~
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EDUCATION



Students, (from left) Roman Jurkiewicz (5th grade), Jess Zehngut (music teacher), Michael Putvain (5th grade), Maddison LaPoint (5th grade), Owen Allen (5th grade), Paislee Judkins (5th grade), Chance Luce (5th grade) and Alexander Lanphere (6th grade), perform in a modern band at Hardwick Elementary School as they work on “Smoke on the Water.”

photo by Lisa Stinson

Music teacher awarded grant to expand band program

HARDWICK – Hardwick Elementary School (HES) music teacher Jess Zehngut has been selected as a recipient of the Music Will National Instrument Fund, a highly competitive national award with only 11% of applicants chosen. Through this grant, HES will receive new instruments and resources to expand its music program and provide more students with hands-on musical opportunities.

This new award builds on previous support HES has received from Music Will. Last year, the school was awarded six acoustic guitars, along with an electric bass and amplifier, resources that helped lay the foundation for its emerging modern band program. The latest grant will further expand those offerings and increase access for students.

The award will support the growth of HES’s modern band offerings, giving students access to instruments such as guitar, drums, keyboards, vocals, and ukulele. Zehngut plans to increase formal acoustic guitar instruction in upper-grade music classes and create pathways for students to transition into electric guitar and participate in small, student-led rock groups.

Zehngut, a strong advocate of the modern band approach,

emphasizes its ability to connect students with music in meaningful and engaging ways. “Modern band programs boost engagement by focusing on music that is relevant to students’ lives,” Zehngut said. “Traditionally, there’s not much overlap between what kids listen to and hear outside of school and what music class covers. This draws students in with what’s already familiar, and by starting with simple tunes, they can feel immediate success.”

The program also fosters collaboration, independence and creativity. Students work in small groups, take ownership of their learning and develop critical musical skills. “Grouping students into small bands and giving them a fair amount of autonomy encourages cooperation and creativity, and boosts confidence,” Zehngut added. “In time, students will be managing their own rehearsals, learning to improvise and composing their own music.”

Beyond immediate classroom benefits, the initiative is expected to have a lasting impact on students’ musical journeys. “These skills will also strengthen and benefit more traditional musical forms and ensembles, boosting participation at the middle and high school level,” Zehngut said.

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OBITUARIES

Mary E. Woodruff

ESSEX JUNCTION – Mary E. Woodruff, 74, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 9, at Maple Ridge Assisted Living.

Born on January 10, 1952, to Dr. Frank and Evelyn (MacDonald) Woodruff in Barre, she graduated from Marian High School in 1969 and went on to attend the University of Vermont where she graduated with a B.S. in education in 1973. She later received her master's degree in history from UVM in 1985.

Mary began her love for teaching in Lake Zurich, Ill. After three years the Green Mountains of Vermont called her home. She spent most of her teaching career in Chittenden County and in 1998 she became a school principal and served in Franklin, Winooski and Smilie schools until her retirement. Her students were the center of Mary's commitment to public education whether in her role as teacher or principal.

Mary had a love of traveling, she traveled to China and climbed the Great Wall, toured through the former Soviet Union, backpacked through Newfoundland and trekked in the Himalayan mountains of



Mary E. Woodruff

northern India. She enjoyed the sights and food of Italy and traced her family's roots in Scotland. Mary wanted to expand her knowledge of the world and its people so that she would be a better teacher.

She spent her summers growing up with her siblings at her family cottage on Caspian Lake in Greensboro. She cherished her time there and returned to the Woodruff gathering place at camp every summer. Mary also enjoyed

golf, kayaking, yoga, reading, playing piano and loved playing bridge with family and friends.

Mary is survived by her brothers Stephen (Micki), Frank Jr. (Jackie), and Paul; sisters Sarah and Jane; sister-in-law Dianne and their families. Mary also leaves behind many nieces and nephews and their children of whom she was very fond. Her family will miss her dry sense of humor, generosity and life-long commitment to learning. Along with her parents Mary was predeceased by her brothers Richard and David and her sister Anne.

The family would like to thank the people of Maple Ridge Assisted Living and UVM Home Health and Hospice for the compassionate care they provided.

According to Mary's wishes there will be no calling hours or service. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be made to the Vermont Food Bank or Kidsafe Collaborative.

Arrangements are by Hooker Whitcomb Funeral Home, 7 Academy St. Barre. For a complete guest-book, please visit hookerwhitcomb.com



MOUNTAIN VIEW UNION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOUNTAIN VIEW UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND BUDGET VOTE

The legal voters of the Mountain View Union Elementary School District consisting of the Town School Districts of **Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, and Woodbury** are hereby warned to meet for the Public Informational Hearing on the FY27 Budget at the Hardwick Elementary School in Hardwick, Vermont, on **Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, for a discussion on the School District's proposed FY27 budget as required by Title 17 VSA 2680 (g).

Article 1: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$9,065,204.25 which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Mountain View Union Elementary School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,328.74 which is 4.79% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Voting on the aforementioned **Article 1** will be by Australian Ballot on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**, between the hours of

- a. Nine (9) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open, and seven (7) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close at the polling place for the following member town:
Hardwick: Hardwick Town House, 127 Church Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843
- b. Ten (10) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close at the polling places for the following member towns:
Greensboro: Greensboro Town Hall, 81 Lauredon Ave, Greensboro, VT 05841
Stannard: Stannard Town Hall, 615 Stannard Mtn. Rd., Stannard, VT
Woodbury: Woodbury Town Hall, 3675 VT-14, Woodbury, VT 05681

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed and reopened at the polling place in the town of Hardwick, and the ballots will be commingled and publicly counted.

The legal voters of the Mountain View Union Elementary School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapter 43 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont, this 16th day of April, 2026

[Signatures of Mountain View Union Elementary School District Directors]

Mountain View Union Elementary School District Directors

Attest: *[Signature: Shelley Wheeler]*
District Clerk

Date: *[Signature: 4/16/2026]*



Learn more by scanning this QR code or go directly to the web page at <https://mountainview.ossu.org/fy27-budget>



Boots the cat waits for its owner at the Hardwick Memorial Building during the Special Town Meeting Information Meeting, last Thursday, May 7, 2026. photo by Larry Fliegelman

OBITUARIES

Dr. Clive S. Gray

GREENSBORO – Dr. Clive Gray, of Greensboro, died at home on May 7. He was 92.

Born August 30, 1933, in New Haven, Conn., to Philip and Margaret (Peg) Gray, Clive's connection to Greensboro began in early childhood through his mother's family and became a lifelong attachment. He retired there in 2002.

Clive spent his early years in Madison, Wis., and New Canaan, Conn., before attending the University of Chicago, where he earned a master's degree in political science and served as student body president. In 1955, he was elected international vice president of the U.S. National Student Association.

Through that role, he worked abroad in programs later revealed to have been funded by the CIA, aimed at supporting student organizations in developing countries. From 1957 to 1958, he was based at Delhi University and traveled widely in South and Southeast Asia. (Afterwards, Clive chose to leave that role as he realized their policy conflicted with his personal political morals.)

His experiences in India led him to economics, which he studied at Harvard from 1958 to 1961. He went on to work with USAID in Nigeria and served as an agricultural adviser to Kenya's Ministry of Economic Development. In 1968, he joined the Harvard Institute for International Development, leading advisory teams in Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Morocco.

Clive met Ethne Bertram, the mother of his three children, in



Dr. Clive S. Gray

South Africa when they were 16 and 17 years old at an interracial work camp sponsored by the World Council of Churches. Together he and Ethne worked to champion social justice against apartheid and continued to live accordingly. Clive married Ethne in London in 1959; and after living in many different countries as a family, their marriage ended in 1987. Clive and Ethne's three children are Auriel, Megan, and Ethan, all of whom inherited their love of nature and wild forests. In 2010, he married Nancy Davis Hill, widow of his close friend Lewis Hill.

Over his lifetime, Clive lived in or visited 100 countries, primarily for his work. He taught economic policy in Spanish, Indonesian, and French, and also spoke German, Norwegian and Russian.

In later years, he devoted himself to land conservation in Greensboro. He chaired the Barr Hill Stewardship Committee, served on The Nature Conservancy's Vermont board, and led the Greensboro Land Trust for two decades. He was also active in the Greensboro Conservation Commission, Greensboro United Church of Christ, Orleans County Democratic

Committee, and Greensboro Historical Society. In 2002, he received the Greensboro Award.

Clive loved the outdoors, especially bushwhacking, fishing and camping at Long Pond, a landscape he worked to protect. He also enjoyed welcoming visitors from around the world to his family's cottage on Caspian Lake.

He was predeceased by his brothers Sherrard and Philip Jr. He is survived by his wife Nancy; his children Auriel (Adrian) Ivakhiv-Gray, Megan Paterson-Brown (Willy), and Ethan (Sue); his

grandchildren Zoryan, Finlay and Diego; his great-grandson Xander; his siblings Harold (BJ), Nancy Keyes, and Ronna (Les) Pearlstein; his step-sister Pat Bidlake; and many extended family members.

Services will be held at the end of July in Greensboro.

Donations in Clive's memory may be made to the Greensboro Land Trust, Greensboro Historical Society, or Greensboro United Church of Christ.

Online condolences are welcomed at: northernvermontfuneralservice.com

George P. Ray III

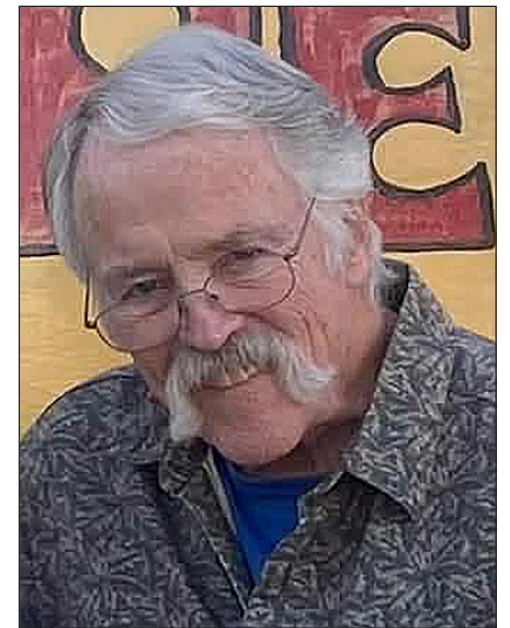
WOODBURY – George P. Ray III, devoted homesteader, self-taught musician and loving father and grandfather, passed away on April 20, after battling Parkinson's disease.

Born August 6, 1947, in Queens, N.Y., he was the eldest of seven and raised in Bethpage, N.Y. He later moved to Woodbury, where he built a life with Carol Ray and helped create the sanctuary called Beaver Haven.

George had a deep respect for nature, dedicating himself to land conservation and serving his town in roles such as select board member, volunteer fireman, and constable. He was known for his resourcefulness, always building, fixing and improving the land he loved.

Music was a lifelong passion: a self-taught guitarist, he played with many friends and groups, especially cherishing his time with The NIPS. He loved sharing music, community, and connection with others.

He created lasting memories with his family through adventures like canoeing, skiing, sailing,



George P. Ray III

diving and swimming. In his later years, his greatest joy was his nine grandchildren, with whom he shared a special bond with each.

George will be remembered by his family and grandchildren for the life he built, the music he shared, and the love he gave.

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 25, at 327 Cabot Road, Woodbury, All are welcome to come share stories, music and memories and should bring a chair to the event.

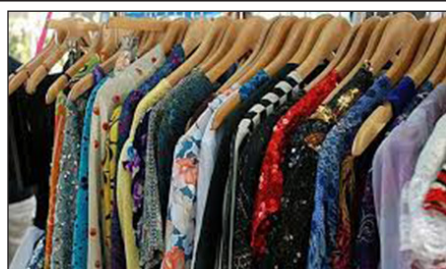
Clara J. Massey

GREENSBORO BEND – Wednesday, May 27, at 11 a.m., at St. Michael's Cemetery in Greensboro Bend. Clara's full obituary may be viewed at dgfunerals.com.

Card of Thanks

The family of Clive Gray wishes to thank Bonnie Cleveland of Cleveland's Quality Care and her team of special, compassionate caregivers: Pat, Kylee, Laura, Regina, Jana, Sherral and Kathy for their wonderful care during his illness. We are indebted, as well, to Dr. Rebecca Tatel and the tremendous help from Laurel, Devon, Melanie, Megan and others from Caledonia Home Health and Hospice.

A special thank you, too, to the guys from Hardwick Electric who cut trees and worked hard to restore our power after the storm last week.



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The Hardwick Gazette
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PRENEED PLANNING



Luzsa Hadik (left) as Lemondil the elf, talks to the birds (from left), Moirah Usinowicz, Penelope Otto, Ariella Helfand and Ellie Otto during “Quest,” presented by the Cabot Community Theater, May 7-10, at the Cabot School Performing Arts Center. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Cabot Community Theater players (from left) Cora McIntyre and Coraline Brooking Metcalf try to defeat Izzy Hatch, as the inflatable tube person, during “Quest” held, May 7, at the Cabot School Performing Arts Center. photo by Vanessa Fournier

“Quest” an ambitious play with huge cast

REVIEWS

by David K. Rodgers

CABOT – The Cabot Community Theatre gave five stagings of a very ambitious play last week at the Cabot School Performing Arts Center, divided into two acts with five scenes in the first half and four scenes in the second half, involving a huge cast of four dozen children and adults.

“Quest! One Play to Rule Them All,” has the basic plot of various characters attempting to go on a journey to free the Hero of Legend from a curse by sorcerers that had paralyzed them. The fate of the world depends on freeing the hero. Each of the sections was written by a separate author, presumably a cooperative undertaking of students.

Mary Rogerson, as Bowendir, started off the Introduction, with Ruthie Podolin as the scribe. The heroes were presented, which included Macks Frisby, Amara Hansen, Lucas Vitale and Liam Waugh, while the sorcerers were Erin Barry, Rue Jacobs and Henry Torres. Thus setting the overall situation, Bowendir called for volunteers to make the quest. The first scene was called “The Wizards of Northwick,” with Gwenyth Pare as Dennisovan, Reagan Rich as Sharondo and Rue Jacobson as The Wind. They had a magic globe which they hoped would guide them through dangerous places, but they ended up arguing about the globe being faulty, and they were chased away

by the Montage Players: Enid Hammond, Fern Hammond, Rue Jacobs and Moirah Usinowicz.

The Three Thieves was the second scene, acted by Spencer Vitale as Jamie, Elizabeth Vitale as Cassia and Lucas Vitale as Micah. They were confronted with a very difficult choice: three cups, of which two contained poison, while the safe cup would give the person who chose it access to a treasure. Two of the thieves drank the wrong cups and died. The remaining thief returned to the original group and reported what happened, but without fulfilling the quest.

The third scene was the Power of the Elves, featuring Lucas Hadik as Lemondil, Alice Hannan as Grundy, Ellen Cairns as Mystelon and Moirah Usinowicz as the Talking Bird. Additional birds were played by Ariella Helfand, Ellie Otto, Penelope Otto and Lucille Sewake. The birds got busy eating berries, some picking on one of the elves. Their arguing ended that quest in failure.

The Law of the Instrument had Thomas Donbarin in the amusing role of Gorgondolous, a clumsy troll with a large war hammer. Luna Dunbar as Haruspex entered and somehow transformed him from an aggressive oaf to a harmless singing troubadour. Villagers in the scene were Ariabella Clayton, Ty Dunbar and Katherin McIntyre. Once again, the quest was unsuccessful.

Scene five was Cosplay, set strangely in New Jersey with Cora McIntyre as Auroro, Coraline Brooking Metcalf as Loreth, Ariella Helfand as Danwyn, Izzy Hatch as an Air Dance, Ellen

Cairns as a Car Salesperson, Clare Watermana as a Crossing Guard, Silas Irwin as Skater Boi, Macks Frisby as Skater Grrl and Orion Vitale as a Cashier. The first three seem to be lost despite having a map. They encountered the others in succession and took pictures of themselves with the skateboarders using their cell phones, ending up at a pizza place, the quest abandoned.

Following the intermission, the play continued with a shift of the character Bowendir to Karen Mueller-Harder and the Scribe to Elfi Goldenrose. The sixth scene was The Heroes Journey to Group Therapy, something of a satire on that kind of psychoanalysis. Darren Usinowicz portrayed Herlemachus, a warrior much given to repeating his heroic deeds and the quasi-immortal son of the highest of all the gods, Xephus, a role taken by Sean McIntyre. Others in the therapy group, Erin Barry as Dr. Munson, Macks Frisby as Joy, Henry Torres as Darby and Liam Waugh as Topper, tried to help the warrior with his father problem. The results were humorous, but a complete distraction from the quest.

“Huzzah for Three Wishes”, scene seven, cast Molly Paire as Rhianon, Katy Kowalk as Lundwina, Amara Hansen as Natalie, Henry Torres as Anthony, Izzy Hatch as Genie and Tristan Dill as a Dragon. They were confronted with the classic conundrum of being offered three wishes, but things are upset by the roar of a dragon and his appearance.

Scene eight was “Possessed” with Tommy Brink as Crudilus,

the stiffly awkward thug who brags about killing people and pushes two over a cliff offstage. Others in this part were Simone Kulsick as Veritas, Jessica Della Pepa-Clayton as Fortimar, Fern Hammon as Arcumitla and Ariabella Clayton as a Witch.

The ninth scene, “Most Special Child”, involved a very young girl, Kyle, played by Althaea Irwin, who becomes The Chosen One to save the world after all the previous people have failed, each with their own excuses. She was given protection by the Mystery Woman, Luciana Abare-Rossi and the Stranger-Ranger LaShelle Easton, but even she cannot win in her quest. Nora Rader as a Witch and Enid Hammon as a Dragon were in this section as well.

Back with the initial group there seems to be no one left to pursue a journey to free the Heroes, but then the Scribe, Eli Goldenrose, suggests they all go together on the quest to defeat the evil sorceress.

Clare Waterman was the head director, Jesse Clayton the co-direction, Karen Mueller-Harder the producer, Jessica Della Peppa Clayton the costume designer along with Elizabeth Vitale for coordination and Molly Paire as the scenic painter. Many others were involved in this play, unfortunately too numerous to mention.

“Quest!” Was certainly a great example of genuine community, involving whole families as can be noticed in the cast list. All the actors and actresses showed a lot of promising dramatic talent and hopefully this experience will give everyone a life-long love of the excitement of live theater.

Museum is on a mission of “glorious obscurity”

by Javi Huta

GLOVER — The Northeast Kingdom is a place defined by its rugged individualism, hyper-traditionalists, some of the last true hippies of North America, and, of course, regular, everyday people. At least that’s how Clare Dolan explains it.

Clare Dolan’s property, just south of Glover on Route 16, consists of many things: her home, her dog, an ample garden, and the old barn that houses the Museum of Everyday Life.

The Museum of Everyday Life is filled with objects that many might overlook. The collection is comprised of objects that represent the common, the ordinary, the universally experienced moments that connect all of

us; the aspects of life that make us human. This includes things like knots, scissors and lists.

Each year, Dolan collects a variety of objects pertaining to a specific theme. Last year she filled the barn with an exhibit based on stains, which included yellowed teeth, bloodied aprons and dirtied farm clothing. Parts of her yearly exhibits are then incorporated into the permanent collection, which is always changing and growing. This year, an exhibit on chairs, titled “Deep Seated,” will open in June.

Originally from Illinois, Dolan came to Vermont through her involvement in Bread and Puppet. She toured with the theater company for a number of years before eventually choosing to settle down in Glover. She created the Museum of Everyday Life in 2010.

Her first exhibit was for the bicentennial anniversary of a famous local natural disaster. In 1810, laborers unintentionally caused the banks of what was once Long Pond to give way. Millions of gallons of water rushed into the Barton River, draining Long Pond and creating Runaway Pond, now a marsh.

Just up the road from Dolan’s property is the Bread and Puppet Museum. It is housed in another old barn, slightly bigger and full of handmade puppets ranging from six inches to over 20 feet tall. Dolan says that the museum taught her a valuable lesson.

“You don’t need to be a professional to create a museum,” Dolan said, “as long as you make something that people will want to visit.”

Amy Cunningham is deputy director at the Vermont Arts Council, which is a supporter of this year’s “Deep Seated” exhibit. For Cunningham, small institutions like



This sign greets visitors at the entrance to the Museum of Everyday Life.

Illustration by Javi Huta

the Museum of Everyday Life are what make Vermont’s art scene so special.

“They can try stuff out, they can experiment. They can be responsive to community needs in a way, where there’s no hoops or bureaucracy,” Cunningham said. “Clare can decide to do an awesome project because that idea came to her, or it came to her in conversation with folks in her community.”

Dolan’s process of developing each year’s new exhibit usually starts in the fall. She decides the final theme over the winter and announces it in the spring.

Dolan reaches out to her advisors, a group of like-minded individuals passionate about the museum’s mission. She and her team begin collecting items. Then, she opens the call to the wider community for donations and suggestions.

“Sixty to 70% I collect and 30 to 40% are donations from folks, but that really depends on the topic of the exhibit,” Dolan said.

Theresa Peura of West Glover is one of Dolan’s collaborators. She helps design and execute exhibits at the museum.

“I think what Clare’s doing is so important because it’s letting people have the opportunity to share parts of their lives,” Peura said. “These little stories have value and they have meaning and they have connection.”

As a society, we typically imagine museums as large institutions, and what we deem valuable is housed inside, be it a taxidermied animal or the largest diamond found. By displaying regular, everyday objects in a museum space, Dolan invites visitors to reconsider what we as a society deem valuable.

“Big fancy museums are so wonderful but carry a baggage that attaches to what is singular, rare or associated with fame,” Dolan said. “Museums are everywhere; appreciate the smaller places, the richer places, not only what our culture emphasizes.”

What Dolan, whose day job is as an intensive care unit nurse in St. Johnsbury, wants to emphasize is more simple: living life.

“Being a nurse lets me see some momentous moments of the ordinary. Like taking the first drink of water can be momentous for someone who has been on a ventilator for weeks,” she said.

For Dolan, the point of a museum is not just to display things; it’s to invite visitors to think about them. She says anything can be a museum:

“The spider makes the dew drop museum on her web every morning,” she said.

Javi Huta writes for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship



It is said that stork-inspired scissors were originally the tool of choice for midwives to cut umbilical cords after birth. Illustration by Javi Huta



The heroes return victorious in “Quest” (from left), Elfi Goldenrose, Lucas Vitale, Liam Waugh, Althaea Irin, Darren Usinowicz and Spencer Vitale performed with the Cabot Community Theater over the weekend in the Cabot School Performing Arts Center. photo by Vanessa Fournier



Thomas Dunbar (left) as Gorgondulous, explains to Mary Rogerson (Bowendir) why he can’t go on the quest. In the background are Spencer Vitale (left) and Cora McIntyre (right) during their presentation of “Quest” by the Cabot Community Theater, May 7. photo by Vanessa Fournier

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EVENTS

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

Live "Punch" show, presented by Modern Times Theater performing "The Perils of Mr. Punch," 1 p.m., The Civic Standard, Main St., Hardwick. Tickets available at the Civic Standard, Tuesday through Friday, 2 to 6 p.m.

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.

Live "Punch" show, presented by Modern Times Theater performing "The Perils of Mr. Punch," 1 p.m., The Civic Standard, Main St., Hardwick. Tickets available at the Civic Standard, Tuesday through Friday, 2 to 6 p.m.

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: 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.

Saturday, May 30

Open house to view sign, 1 to 3 p.m., Grange Hall, East Hardwick. Preview the new Historic Interpretive Panel that will be placed in the trailhead near Stevens Lane. Refreshments provided.

Ongoing Wednesdays

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

See EVENTS, Next Page

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page 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 to 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.

AI-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, jeudevineyouthlibrarian@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. 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, Lamoille Home Health & Hospice Building, 54 Farr Avenue, Morrisville. Information, Oona Lee at (802) 888-4651 or olee@lhha.org.

Trivia, 6 to 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.

AI-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.

See EVENTS, Next Page



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EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page

Storytime, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jaquith Public Library, 122 School St., Marshfield, playgroup.. 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 to 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 to 7 p.m., The Civic Standard, S. Main St., Hardwick, 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 to 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@around-vt.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 to 11 a.m., Woodbury Community Library, meets the third Saturday of the month.

Historical Society, 10 a.m. to 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, maryqueenofallsaints@comcast.net (802) 472-5544.

Contra Dance, 8 to 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. **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	
		Syndicated		Local		Slot-Sharing Local			
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 Della 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	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	The Rubber Room Dan Towner	Unshelved J Kramer	Modern Jet Set	The Metal Edge Willis Pratt	12 PM	
1 PM						Now Playing DJ Liu		1 PM	
2 PM	Swivel Radio DJ Effery	Upfront Soul	Straight Up Soul	Econ. Update Rumble Strip	ROTATING SLOT #8 (see reverse)	David Rogers Music Mix	Boxful of Blues John Foster	2 PM	
3 PM				Listen Up! Bill Nowlan	ROTATING SLOT #9 (see reverse)	Hittin' the Note Bill Hahn	Acoustic Harmony Mark Michaelis	3 PM	
4 PM	Afrosonic Taxi	Trailing Edge David Ferland		Country & Western Sounds in Modern Music Barry Matthews	Law and Disorder	Found Sound Corey Flynn		4 PM	
5 PM	Bon Mot Rick Agran	Shortwave Rpt. Food Sleuth		ROTATING SLOT #10 (see reverse)	Big Picture Science			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			Metal Radio DJ Eben Flow		The Beatdown Z-Point	10 PM	
11 PM	Deep Threes	Train to Skaville	Julian Taylor's Jukebox	Full Moon Hacksaw		RNB Love Train		11 PM	

EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page
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. Informa-

tion, 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 LaBonville, 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.

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.

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WOLCOTT TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND BUDGET VOTE

The legal voters of the **Wolcott Town School District** are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Wolcott Elementary School in Wolcott, Vermont on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** The assembled meeting shall constitute the **Public Informational Meeting** for discussion on the proposed FY27 School District budget as required by Title 17 VSA 2680 (g).

Article 1: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$6,298,447.05 which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Wolcott Town School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,229.49 which is 6.07% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Voting on the aforementioned Article 1 will be by Australian Ballot on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Wolcott Town Office, 28 Railroad Street, Wolcott, VT 05680, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close.

The legal voters of the Wolcott Town School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said meetings shall be as provided in Chapter 43 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Wolcott, Vermont this 15th day of April, 2026

Sheila Danney _____
John P. Kelly _____

Melissa Moin _____
Wolcott Town School District Directors

Attest: *Belinda Davis Clegg* _____
District Clerk

Date: 4/16/26



Learn more by scanning this QR code or go directly to the web page at <https://wolcott.ossu.org/fy27-budget>



EVENTS

CONTINUED from previous page

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.

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.

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

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

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 to 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 Peron. Information esanderson@nekouncil.org, (802) 751-0431.

Moms in Recovery, support program, 1 to 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 to 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.

Crafting Group, 4:30 to 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.

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.

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/nutrition-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

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.

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.

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, cabotlibrary.com, Mon., 3 to 6 p.m.; Tues., noon to 6 p.m., Wed., 2 to 6 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon.

Craftsbury Public Library, 149 Common Loop, Craftsbury Common (802) 586-9683, craftsburypubliclibrary.org, Mon. and Thurs., 2 to 6 p.m., Tues., Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 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. to 6 p.m.; Fri. closed; Sat., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

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. to 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 to 6 p.m., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 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 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to noon; Sun. noon to 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. to 1 p.m.

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Big week for Caledonia United softball

by Ken Brown

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Caledonia United (Twinfield-Cabot-Danville) softball team earned its first two wins of the season last week with offensive explosions against Paine Mountain and Craftsbury Academy (CA).

Phoebe Crocker smashed a grand slam over the left field fence to power Cal United to a 25-13 win at Paine Mountain last Thursday. Crocker led the offense with seven RBI and four hits on the day. Teammate Austin Roos also punished Paine Mountain with four hits and five RBI. Alaina Robbins struck out seven to earn the win in the circle. Trailing 9-3 after one inning of play, Paine Mountain stormed back to retake the lead 11-9 behind Melody Davison (3-5, two doubles, triple) and Dawn Marietta (2-3). Crocker delivered

the knockout blow in the fourth inning as Cal United pushed across 11 runs and never looked back. The loss dropped Paine Mountain to 1-3 on the season.

“I’m really proud of the team for coming together, throwing strikes, making routine plays and hitting the ball hard,” said head coach Jennie Moore.

The offense continued to cook on Saturday behind a pair of rockets over the fence by Robbins as Cal United enjoyed a dominant 29-5 road win over Craftsbury Academy. Robbins finished her big day with three hits, while driving in seven runs. She also combined with Peyton Winn and Desirae Crocker to strikeout 12 Lady Chargers, while scattering three hits. Amelia Tibbitts collected three hits of her own, and Crocker stayed hot with a double and four runs in the win. Winn joined the offense’s coming-out party with a pair of hits, and Amyra Simmons and Tasa Howe combined to score eight runs. The loss dropped the Lady Charger team, made up of CA and Hazen Union players, to 0-4 on the season.

“The team did a good job of coming into this game with confidence. I’m proud of our veteran players for continuing to bring along our younger players with leadership and encouragement. They really came out and played as a united team this past week. It’s great to get our first two wins, and we are excited to build on that,” said Moore.

Cal United is scheduled to travel to BFA-Fairfax on Thursday and will welcome Richford to Paul Remick Field on Friday. They



Caledonia United’s Aaliyah Keyes is out on third as Ada Allen of Craftsbury makes the tag on Dustan Field. Caledonia United prevailed 29-5.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

are slated to travel to Wells River to take on Blue Mountain next Monday. CA hosted BFA-Fairfax

at Dustan Field on Tuesday and was scheduled to travel to Blue Mountain on Thursday.



Caledonia United’s Phoebe Crocker aims to swing at the ball against a Craftsbury pitcher, May 9, on Dustan Field. CCSU won 29-5.

photo by Vanessa Fournier



Craftsbury eighth-grade pitcher Aliya Young throws the ball to a Caledonia United batter during play Saturday, May 9, on Dustan Field in Craftsbury. At right in the background is Hazen Union student Temperance Allen. Cal United outscored Craftsbury 29-5.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wildcats fight through adversity to notch second win

by Ken Brown

LYNDON CENTER – A short-handed Hazen Union baseball team rebounded from a lopsided loss to Division II Lyndon Institute with a hard-fought win over Lake Region last week, improving to 2-4.

Jackson Dwyer silenced Hazen’s bats with a one-hit gem last Thursday to power Lyndon to a dominating 15-0 home win. Dwyer recorded seven strikeouts over five innings of work to earn the win. Danville senior Sebastian Eldred led the Viking offense with a 2-3 effort at the plate, driving in a season-high five runs on the day. Karter Morey went 2-2 with an RBI, and Connor Wood (1-3) drove in a run in the win. Junior Chayse Newell recorded the Wildcats’ only hit. Lyndon improved to 6-1 and

has now outscored its opponents 65-9 on the season.

Grayson McNaughten scattered four hits in a complete game effort to will Hazen to a 2-1 home win over Lake Region on Saturday. The big senior righty struck out a career-high 16 Rangers, while walking four to earn the win. The Wildcat pushed across the game-winning run in the bottom of the fourth to break a 1-1 tie. Fellow senior Justin Montgomery went 1-2 on the day for Hazen, drawing a pair of walks and stealing two bases. Sophomore Avery Loomis (1-3) drove in the only run for the Wildcats, and Kiah Cloutier (1-2) and freshman Wyatt Hunt (1-2) each scored in the win. Owen Skorstad and McNaughten both chipped in with a hit apiece. Jackson Hafotter led Lake Region with a pair of hits, and Ryan Pepih

struck out six and walked four in taking the hard luck loss on the mound.

“This team is finding itself in some pretty tough circumstances so far this year. We are putting on our fiercest face and charging into the storm and hoping to come out the other side with hard-fought victories like the one today,” said head coach Shaun Allen.

Allen’s team was already recovering from losing promising sophomore Will Halperin to a season-ending injury last month. More adversity has hit the Wildcat dugout this past week, with senior Jake Hayden leaving the team and multiple players unable to suit up due to eligibility issues.

“This is the best Grayson has looked his whole career, and we’ll continue to lean on our senior leadership. We’ve been forced to call

up a couple of 8th graders to join the team, just to give our starting nine subs. We’re also starting two freshmen in the outfield. The bottom of our lineup continues to be soft, but their fielding is starting to come around. Our young guys just haven’t been given the opportunity to grow enough to adapt to the speed at the varsity level. There isn’t much we can really do but keep working and learning on the fly throughout the season,” said Allen.

Hazen was at home on Monday for a match-up against Thetford Academy and traveled to Lamoille on Tuesday. They are scheduled to host Randolph on Thursday and wrap up a busy week with a trip to Spaulding on Saturday. All home games can be streamed live on Hardwick Community Television (hctv.us).

Vermont's state fish thriving despite national population decline

by Finn Hummel
and Isabelle Fitzgerald

PLAINFIELD – Brook trout populations are in decline across the eastern United States due to human-caused climate change leading to warming water temperatures.

But in Vermont, the state fish is doing well.

“We haven’t observed large-scale declines in brook trout populations in Vermont,” said state fisheries biologist Lee Simard. “Our data suggests that brook trout populations are still thriving and stable here.”

The brook trout’s resilience is partly thanks to Vermont’s naturally cooler northern waters. But it’s also the result of ongoing conservation efforts by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

For the past 13 years, state fisheries biologist Jud Kratzer has led Vermont in a brook trout conservation strategy called strategic wood addition. It involves adding woody material, like tree trunks and branches, to specific spots in streams, almost like building a beaver dam.

“It’s an ‘addition’ because we’re adding something that’s lacking,” Kratzer said.

The wood slows the water current down and creates deeper pools, which stay cooler in the summer and don’t freeze as easily in the winter, both great for trout. And the messiness of the wood piles also helps the trout avoid predators.

“It provides great cover for fish like brook trout,” Kratzer said. “And the wood captures leaves, which decompose and become food for insects, which are food for fish.”

It was over a decade ago when Kratzer first had a hunch that adding wood to streams would improve fish habitat. He conducted two studies that proved him right.

“We found that brook trout biomass tripled, on average, in places where we added wood,” he said. “So we had more and bigger brook trout. Three times as many.”

The importance of this work is underscored by Simard, who said that brook trout are a “bellwether for watershed health.”

“If your brook trout populations start to go, that’s a very strong indication that your whole system is becoming degraded,” Simard said.

Brook trout are one of the most targeted species by Vermont anglers, so losing them would carry both significant social and economic consequences, Simard said.

Strategic wood addition isn’t the only trout conservation effort happening in the state.

Julie Butler is a fish biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

She says the office is partnering with groups in the Winooski River Basin to make it easier for trout to move.

“It is pretty critical for any



Brook trout in Vermont are said to be in good shape, despite national decline. photo courtesy of Peter Abdu, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

fish to be able to move around within a variety of micro-habitats, because they know where they need to be,” Butler said. “If it gets too warm, they’re looking for cooler water. And if it gets too cold, they’re looking for a more temperature-regulated area.”

In Vermont, old dams and too-small culverts make it harder for brook trout to swim between stream systems. The solution? Remove the dams and replace the culverts.

Butler says that, through the end of next year, there are about a dozen projects across the state that will open over 125 miles of connected habitat for brook trout.

“This work has definitely ramped up, not only in the [Winooski River] Basin, but across the state,” she said.

Simard said while Vermont’s trout populations are steady right now, they’re not immune from the effects of climate change and other human-caused threats.

“Climate models are certainly predicting that the conditions being experienced by the mid-Atlantic and southern states in the brook trout range are going to be moving towards, if not being on top of, Vermont in the coming years,” Simard said.

These conservation efforts then, he said, are intended to help brook trout, and the streams themselves, be more resilient to change in the future.

Finn Hummel and Isabelle Fitzgerald write for the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship, in partnership with Vermont Public.

KEN BROWN'S SPORT NUGGETS

by Ken Brown

Sign-ups starting for 25th Annual Hazen Hoop Camp

HARDWICK – Coming off the heels of his Hazen Union varsity boys basketball program’s seventh Division III State Championship, head coach Aaron Hill is set to hit the quarter-century mark on his Hazen Hoop Camp this summer.

The camp will run from July 13-17 at the Hazen Union gymnasium. Hill, his coaching staff, along with present and former players from both the Wildcat and Lady Cat championship teams, will be in attendance. The Hazen Lady Cats captured their second Division III State Championship in the last three years this past March. It marked the first time in school history that both programs captured state titles in the same season. The camp for grades 3-6 will run from 9 a.m. to noon. Grades 7-9 will follow from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost for participants will be \$35.

For more information on registration, contact Aaron Hill at ahill@ossu.org.

Alekson bounces back for Stags

FAIRFIELD, Conn. – Former Peoples Academy (PA) three-time state champion Ben Alekson bounced back from his worst start of the season with a stellar outing for his Fairfield University baseball team last week.

Alekson allowed just two hits over 6.0 innings of work to power the Stags to a 4-0 home win over Marist on Friday night. The 6-foot-2 junior struck out one and walked three, lowering his team-leading ERA to 2.40. The Stowe native improved to 21-7 in his career at Fairfield and has been added to the College Baseball Foundation National Pitcher of the Year Watchlist.

Fairfield improved to 23-19 after starting the season with just one win in their first 10 games. Alekson should get one more start for the Stags as they wrap up the regular season

with a three-game tilt against Sacred Heart this week, starting Thursday. The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship is scheduled to start May 20 at Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

Key roles for Twinfield-Cabot athletes in Montpelier baseball

MONTPELIER – Twinfield-Cabot’s Isidore and Ambrose Hochschild continue to get key playing time for the Division II Montpelier varsity baseball team this spring. Ambrose Hochschild took the loss on the mound this past week against Thetford Academy. He allowed five hits, five runs and issued five walks as the Panthers took the road win 12-2. Isidore recorded an RBI and Ambrose scored a run in the loss.

The Solons have lost three straight since blanking Hazen 6-0 two weeks ago. Montpelier and the Hochschild’s will be back in action this Thursday as they host Lake Region at Montpelier Recreation Field.



Flying Tiger victory lane included (from left) Brendan Moodie (3rd), winner Eric Messier and Parker Gagne (2nd).

photo by Alan Ward



Road Warriors Community Bank opening day podium included (from left) Neal Foster (3rd), winner Taylor Sayers and Eddie Thompson (2nd).

photo by Alan Ward

Brown Earns Thunder Road Win in Community Bank 150

BARRE – Even as snowflakes fell during the first driver’s meeting of the season at Thunder Road on Sunday, May 3, race fans filled the Nation’s Site of Excitement to witness the frigid opening event of year on Quarry Hill. A pit area held 119 cars with the Street Stocks on high with 38 entries.

The large field prompted officials to run two 25-lap features to split the entry list. Defending Alera Group Triple Crown champion Paige Whittemore and sophomore racer Jason Kirby led the first feature to green. While Whittemore later fell out with mechanical issues, Kirby went toe-to-toe with Nate “Tater” Brien just ahead of the lap-eight pileup caution. Back under green, young hot-shoe Hayden Morris worked from third on the restart to first, taking the checkers on feature one ahead of last year’s top rookie Hayden Bushey and all-time division winner Tommy “Thunder” Smith.

Feature-two for the Street Stocks never slowed as polesitter Connor Rueda bested the field with a 1.675-second lead over Derek Farnham at the end with Ryan Foster rounding out the podium.

The 31-car Flying Tigers kicked off their 2026 season strong with their 40-lap main event. After Parker Gagne led the early going,

the lone caution for Rich Lowrey’s spin on lap nine allowed for fourth-place starter Eric Messier to restart alongside the youngster under the renewed green flag. Gagne fought back to the lead for two laps before Messier made it known he aimed to see the checkers first and so he did. Hinesburg’s Eric Messier would take the Community Bank bonus check over Parker Gagne with Brendan Moodie taking third.

Thirty-five Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour teams made the trip to Thunder Road for the 28th annual Community Bank 150. Twenty-nine would start the show led by Rehoboth, Mass., driver Jake Johnson and Quebec’s Jeff Côté. While the two touring stars drove away with the top spots, the best battle on track saw the last two Thunder Road champions Jason Corliss and Kaiden Fisher duke it out for seventh on the grid. The two Kings swapped lanes and paint throughout the middle of show.

The final caution came for Cooper Bouchard’s run-in with the Widowmaker in turn four prompting a three-lap shootout to the end. By then, Center Conway, N.H.’s Gabe Brown had led the majority of the Community Bank 150 but now had the field closed back up to his rear bumper. The former Milton CAT American-Canadian



Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour victory lane for the 28th annual Community Bank 150 included (from left) Jesse Switser (3rd), Thunder Road first-time winner Gabe Brown and Jake Johnson (2nd).

photo by Alan Ward

nadian Tour champion chose the outside lane on the restart and drove away with the \$5,000 win as Jake Johnson and Jesse Switser clashed at the line to come home second and third, respectively. Fisher and Corliss would round out the top-five as the highest finishing Late Models in fourth and fifth.

Vermont Milk Bowl winner Marcel Gravel made it up to sixth from a 21st-place starting spot followed by D.J. Shaw, Justin Prescott, Côté, and top ACT rookie Jacob “Rowdy” Burns in tenth.

The Road Warriors rounded out Sunday’s racing action with mechanical woes bringing the fifteen car line-up to just ten starters. Taylor Sayers would use a midrace pick with lap-car Jami Raymo to steal the lead away from Neal Foster and take the opening day win. Eddie Thompson motored his way into second in the final three laps with Foster rounding out the podium.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

(local competitors)

Milton CAT American-Canadian Tour

Community Bank, n.a.

150 (150 Laps)

- 6. 86VT, Marcel J. Gravel, Wolcott
- 17. 01VT, Stephen Martin, Craftsbury Common
- 27. 92VT, Jaden Perry, Hardwick

Flying Tigers (40 Laps)

- 3. 94VT, Brendan Moodie, Wolcott
- 28. 22VT, Travis Patnoe, Wolcott

Street Stocks

Feature #1 (25 Laps)

- 12. 32VT, Kylee Potter, Marshfield
- 13. 34VT, Patrick Tibbetts, Plainfield

Street Stocks

Feature #2 (25 Laps)

- 5. 8VT, Walker Fitch, Marshfield

Road Warriors – (20 Laps)

- 6. 18, Cayden Green, Marshfield

Caspian Challenge scheduled for July by Eric Hanson

GREENSBORO – The Caspian Challenge run is scheduled for July 26, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., beginning at the ball-field. The run includes a 6.8 mile loop around Caspian Lake and a 5K out-and-back race-walk loop.

The race is sponsored by the Greensboro Association and all proceeds go to support the Greensboro Community Meals program. Runners and walkers may register at greensboroassociation.org. Volunteers to help on race day may contact Eric Hanson at ehanson1448@gmail.com.



The second feature for the Street Stocks was won by Connor Rueda (middle) with Ryan Foster (left) and Derek Farnham (right) rounding out the podium.

photo by Alan Ward

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Ensure your right to be curious



The most important news is close to home.

Over 15,000 people saw our Farout Gazette, April 1. It's easy to make up fake news, but we do that just one day a year. We know it's important you have straight-up facts without spin. We're careful to do that.

Our staff live in the communities we serve, so we know the governments and businesses in your area.

Just for fun, some readers share what our April Fools issue of the Farout Gazette meant for them.

Nice job, you all!!! - D.B., Glover

{The} April Fools issue :) brought a smile to my face, most welcome in these challenging days. Thanks for putting so much into it.

BTW: you can thank {board members} John Walters specifically: he's how I came to donate and subscribe and I'm glad for it.

You folks do a great job. - M.R., Burlington

Nicely done. Journalism at its finest . . . or at least most creative. - J.H., Hardwick

 - P.H., Barnet

Just read your April issue. Excellent work! - S.B., St. Johnsbury

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