

Atkins Field Project Gets State Grant

By Doug McClure
HARDWICK—Bethany Dunbar of the Centers for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) announced a new \$100,000 Recreational Facilities Grant from the State of Vermont is the first phase of revitalizing Atkins Field and transforming it into a vibrant community space.

"I've seen tons of photos of people holding their eyebrows, 'checks,' also said. "It was strange to actually be the one in the photo."

The grant is part of Phase One of the Atkins Field project. Of the \$244,000 needed, all but \$32,750 has been raised. Dunbar said a lot of changes have already been made to the property, from trails to a bicycle pump track "the kids love."

"I was an important change in how schools are starting to use outdoor classroom curricula. At the start of the 2018-2019 school year, the CAE showed Atkins Field to a group of new teachers as a part of an immersion to the unique opportunities Hardwick has for education."

"At Hardwick Elementary School, we seek to weave science, history, nutrition, farming, literacy, and math together to create inspirational experiences for our children. The children envision some sort of shelter where they could continue their work outside. It's exciting to hear that this may be a reality," said fourth-grade teacher, Susan Bader.

Dunbar said the CAE hopes to complete the last funding to finish the work for the first phase, and then move on to the next phase by early 2019. While large amounts of funding have come from state and federal sources, a very significant part of the funding is from area residents who believe in the project and want to see it succeed.

"We had some family foundation donating money, and some non-profit, but they are private," said Dunbar. "They are private."

SEE FIELD, 2

Budget for Internet Organization Set for Public Hearing

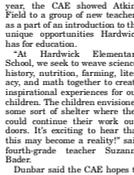
By Will Walters
BERLIN—Central Vermont Internet (CVI), a communications union district, will be holding a public hearing on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Berlin Elementary School. The hearing will be about the budget for the first year of operations, which will be in 2019.

CVI came into existence when the central Vermont counties of Benning, Franklin and Wardsboro incorporated. In addition to the original 14 member towns, Cabot and Orton are applied to be members. The membership now encompasses towns from Northfield to Ellsworth in the central Vermont region and includes Cabot, Galais, Woodbury, Plainfield and Marshfield.

Providing high-speed fiber optic internet access is the purpose and goal of CVI. It will be working on delivering fiber optic internet service in areas within member towns that have limited internet speeds due to a lack of infrastructure or service offered by for-profit providers. It is a non-profit organization and will be able to offer services where it is not economically viable for commercial providers.

The governing board recently adopted a statement of purpose: "We envision a high-speed digital network where traffic flows freely, providing the regional economy and broadening digital opportunities for people of all ages, means, and interests, thereby enriching the public and private lives of our residents."

The group intends to change its name from CVI to CVFiber. Construction of the infrastructure is expected to begin in 2020 after a survey is conducted in the 16 towns to determine the



A fire was reported at 11:10 p.m. on October 30 in Woodbury. A second fire was discovered at an adjacent house after the Woodbury Fire Department responded. After both fires were put out, a murder victim was found in each house.

Double Homicide Shocks Woodbury Community



One of two buildings on Bliss Road in Woodbury that were the scene of a double homicide and arson on October 30.

By Michael Bielawski
WOODBURY—Late last Tuesday night, fire broke out in two houses on Bliss Road in Woodbury. After extinguishing both blazes, fire officials discovered one murder victim in each building.

The Vermont State Police were called to assist after a preliminary investigation, the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's Office announced that it had positively identified the victim found at 637 Bliss Road as David Thompson, 48.

SEE INTERNET, 8

Board of Education's Confusion Creates OSSU Frustration

By Doug McClure
HARDWICK—At its monthly meeting, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) struggled to come up with a meaningful budget interpretation in response to the State Board of Education (SBE) October 29 announcement that the administrative staff of the Orleans, Lakerose, Union, Stannard, Woodbury, and Wolcott schools be merged into a Special Education Unit (SEU). Special education was also discussed in detail, and LeBlanc announced his resignation.

Budgets and Taxes followed the interview. Superintendent Joanne LeBlanc said the sudden inclusion of Lakerose, Greensboro, and Stannard into the merger was a surprise to the OSSU and that he was not consulted. Special education was also discussed in detail, and LeBlanc announced his resignation.

"It was so cold that the tires actually froze to the ground. The engine turned over and everything, but it wouldn't move. It was brought up a town worker and I had to push the car out of the ground."

"He would invite us over and he took the battery from the old town which must have been from 1800, out of the plow and he put it in his oven. And I thought I was going nuts, 'what is he going to do with that?' But it's what you do when you put the battery in the oven with the pilot light, it's



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the Division of Public Safety Fire Investigation Unit, which responded to the scene, followed by the Vermont State Police Crime Scene Search Team and Major Crimes Unit.

Cerutti said that the houses are a few hundred feet apart and that the first fire did not cause the second as vehicles belonging to local residents.

At previous Woodbury Select Board meetings, neighbors and the state police had become engaged in discussions about how to make the community safer, especially state police are limited in their ability to respond. The police representative at the select board meeting acknowledged that their ability to patrol the area was limited by resource constraints, but that community members should always report crimes.

The Vermont State Police is asking anyone with information about the incident to contact the Middlesex barracks at (802) 259-3191.

When the fire department arrived at the scene, they initially saw only one fire.

"When we were extinguishing that fire, I noticed that the house next door was also on fire. About 20 minutes after we got there, I noticed smoke coming out of the building next door."

Cerutti said the fire department was able to successfully extinguish both fires. That is about the incident to contact the Middlesex barracks at (802) 259-3191.

Vermont Election Results
 The results of yesterday's election were finalized after the Gazette went to press. For detailed Vermont election results, please visit vt.electionresults.state.vt.us.

In Sports, 10
DEER HUNTING
 YOUTH HUNT

In Towns, 2
 PEACE VIGIL
 IN CRAFTSBORO



Photo by Vanessa Fournier. Clerk Alexander of Cabot is in his 40th year as a wildlife biologist. Many hunters mourned about the loss, but he had an opportunity to help. He is now a wildlife biologist. Many hunters mourned about the loss, but he had an opportunity to help. He is now a wildlife biologist.



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Town Hall in Stannard Features Candidates

by Doug McClure

STANNARD—For about 90 minutes on the snowy, rainy night of November 5, the population of Stannard nearly doubled in size as an enthusiastic audience packed the Stannard Town Hall to hear from U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I, U.S. Representative Peter Welch D, Lt. Governor David Zuckerman (D-Vermont), gubernatorial candidate Christopher Holquist (D), Rep. Chad Trumbo (D-Caledonia-2) of Stannard, and Sen. Jane Kitchee (D-Caledonia) of Darrville.

Asked why organizers picked Stannard for such an event, Senator operations director Krista Harness said "It's all Bernie."

All of the speakers emphasized the importance of healthcare, a fair minimum wage and the environment as common in Democratic Progressive platforms.

The speakers focused on broader themes, as well as industry, region, civility, and threats to democracy. All urged people to help get out the vote. Most speakers drew a correlation between President Trump's attacks on minority groups to a rise in hate crimes, incidents of violence against minorities, and a general lack of civility in political discourse.

Hallquist, who has earned national coverage as the first openly transgender candidate for governor, focused on issues important to Vermonters.

"From 2007 to 2017, there were 9,200 jobs created in Chittenden County and the rest of the state last 3,500 jobs."

She spoke of her plans for a further expansion of internet services to rural Vermont and noted that the working class had not seen financial benefits from low unemployment rates.

"I was thinking about those days and it's been such a long time," said Sanders. "And I was thinking, thank God I got a lot of that work that was going on in the Stannard forty-odd or fifty years ago, which drew lumber from the crowd."

Sanders brought up a story about his car freezing to the ground.

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