

# THE Hardwick Gazette

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Hardwick • Cabot • Calais • Craftsbury • Greensboro • Marshfield • Plainfield • Stannard • Walden • Wolcott • Woodbury

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Andrew Whitcomb (left) and Travis Trombley (right) of L & D Safety Markings Inc., lay out Hardwick's new thermoplastic crosswalks at the intersection of Main Street and Hill Street. The town has spent \$10,000 on the new crosswalks. Trombley said that while the new crosswalks are slightly raised off the pavement, summer traffic should shape them to the road so snowplows don't damage them.

## Rainy Spring Festival Has Good Turnout

by Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — In the minutes leading up to the start of the annual Spring Festival parade, the forecast was not looking good. It looked like tough luck for this year's turnout.

However, shortly after the parade started, the rain lightened up. Fire engines, steel-drum players from the Jeudwine Music School led a steel drum band, and continued performing remixes of popular rock songs at Atlantic Field.

The band, however, had to stop.

Participants purchased numbers for the ducks and the person whose duck won the grand prize got half of the money raised. The rest of the money went to revere the memory of the late Alvin Pendleton.

"We want to make sure in the future, we have to get to be more generous," Brausso said. "I came up with the idea to have them drop from the sky."

The target was to sell 400 duck tickets, which would result in 400 ducks. Brausso said they were closer to 500. In the end, 459 rubber ducks were sold, raising \$2,276.50. Bill and Robin Durkee of Woodbury had the winning duck.

The rubber duck pull was another popular event. Black Curis was the first place winner in a meet of the winning team.

"We came in, saw, we called the police, and they said we can't let the farmers the Black Dirt Pork," he said.

Holy Bollo of the Recreation Committee ran the "kids paddle" race, where children pulled a miniature John Deere tractor with a trailer full of watermelons across a cornfield. Else, Bollo said her eye was out.

"We're hoping for a good turnout if this weather keeps holding off."

Throughout the afternoon events, a vendor offered their goods to the public.

Canic Bellavance, past president of the Vermont Small Business Kiwanis organization, was busy serving grilled food. She said that was the last time she served.

"We sold out of food this year and we're doing very well right off," she said.

Local resident Nancy Noterman set up an obstacle course for kids that proved to be very popular.

Emily Lainier of the Jeudwine Music School led a steel drum band, and continued performing remixes of popular rock songs at Atlantic Field. The band, however, had to stop.

Deborah Hartt, operations See FESTIVAL, 2



photo by Vanessa Fourmar  
Two hundred rubber ducks from Hardwick's rubber duck race Saturday at Atlantic Field. The \$500 grand prize will benefit the Madville Pond Recreational Area.

Robin Durkee of Woodbury, the winners of the rubber duck dive.



photo by Vanessa Fourmar  
Weather conditions distorted the fireworks that closed out Spring Festival. One observer thought a thermal inversion was to blame.

## CAE's Vermont Farm Fund Passes Lending Milestone

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — In seven years, the Vermont Farm Fund (VFF) has lent over \$1 million to Vermont farmers and ranchers, helping to support the local agricultural economy, the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) reports. The latest financial figures (figure 1: \$1,059,394 in 7.1 million loans) were shared in 2011 by Pete's Greens of Craftsbury and the CAE, as Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Irene wreaked on Vermont. The loans are not just for emergencies, but also for growth

and expansion. Some recipients of funding have gone through more than one round of loans.

"These loans are low-interest loans come from individual donors, foundations, and tax-deductible gift supports a various type, where payments from the next, funds are lent to a farm, repaid, and loaned out again and again," says CAE executive director.

Local recipients in our area include Solvay, the Addison County Family Farm Fund, and Robin Durkee farm families company," according to the See GALLERY, 2

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photo by Marj Walters  
Maria Achione-Grodnik and Teri Battress look over the offerings at the new Cabot Artisan Gallery, which opened on Saturday. The gallery, located in the Cabot Village business district on Main Street, is open Friday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Maria Achione-Grodnik (left), Maria Achione-Grodnik and Teri Battress look over the offerings at the new Cabot Artisan Gallery, which opened on Saturday. The gallery, located in the Cabot Village business district on Main Street, is open Friday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## New Artisan Gallery Open in Cabot Village

by Marj Walters

CABOT — Opening day for the Cabot Artisan's Gallery went according to the weather: Customers came in to look at art pieces on Saturday morning and were more sparse when it poured. These custom-made pieces, created by Sam Ducharme, Ducharme formerly of Cabot Creamery, were the draw when the rain began falling stayed until the sun came back out. Apparently, rain on opening day is all bad.

The gallery on Main Street in the business section of Cabot village is in the former white building at the intersection of Main Street and Hill Street. It is a short walk from Cabot Creamery, the cream-

ery visitors' center pointed visitors to the gallery. Sam Westervelt bought the building to start a gallery in cooperation with the Cabot Community Association. The CCA is the owner/operator of the gallery. Sam's wife, Teri Battress, and Sam Ducharme, Ducharme formerly of Cabot Creamery, joined Sam Westervelt and opened the gallery.

Ducharme was not directly involved in the new co-op, but nonetheless had a good number of visitors and customers on opening day. There also was a flow of browsers, with some buyers, as well. Westervelt said that the gallery is healthy for the families and kids.

Ducharme herself was a home-

schooling parent, who homeschooled all four of her children before they went to college.

"It's not perfect and maybe one should do it, but it should be done."

Ducharme said that the Vermont Home Education Network advocates for state education personnel for resources at the state level.

She said that the 108th Minnesota House of Representatives is the state statute and corerctors that homeschooling families should know how to get their program assessed each year.

She said that the state does the curriculum used for the curriculum that the resources available online. She said that she has access to almost 20 years ago.

She started homeschooling in 1989 and I only knew of one worksheet company," she said, with the teacher who observes the child's progress.

She noted that homeschooling has backed the trend of Vermont's alternative schools, such as the Lakeview Charter School.

She said that the public school for de-

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of education in Vermont that has not lost students," she said. "It's been a success."

She said that the public school system has dropped off

See HOMESCHOOLING, 2

Photo by Marj Walters

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