

AS THE COLORS CHANGE—Soon the cornstalks will be cut and the scene will change along Route 10 in Orford as summer has reluctantly given way to fall in the Upper Valley.

JO PHOTO BY MICHELLE SHERBURNE

Rowe Center ready to open

by Marianne Farr

WOODSVILLE—On Sept. 25, Cottage Hospital's new Dr. Harry Rowe Health Center on Swiftwater Road will open its internal medicine and specialty health care offices to the public.

Named for the beloved physician who served the community for 60 years, embodying the model of education and community health care that the hospital strives to provide today, the facility will allow the hospital to continue to meet the growing demand for additional healthcare services in the surrounding community.

According to Maryanne Aldrich, Cottage Hospital Director of Community Relations, the hospital began looking at land around the hospital campus about five years ago in order to expand its internal medicine practices. The current setup was too small to accommodate the population in the area.

In addition to the patient load, Aldrich said recent changes in health care have also led to expansion, explaining that a shift to focusing on preventative care helps to mitigate acute care and emergency department visits. Fewer patients are seeking immediate care through the hospital's emergency department, and are instead turning to their primary care physicians for these services, Aldrich said.

The result is that the hospital has seen a decrease in the number of emergency department visits and an increase in visits to primary care providers. She explained that this is a positive change, in part because the patient has an established history with his or her primary care

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The new new Dr. Harry Rowe Health Center at Cottage Hospital will open this week on Swiftwater Road.

COURTESY PHOTO

Misadventure led to Gibson's death

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the final part in a series.

by Michelle Arnosky Sherburne and Alex Nuti-de Biasi

NEWBURY—Despite the publication of *Orville's Revenge* which argues that Orville Gibson died by suicide, there are plenty who remain skeptical that the Newbury dairy farmer was responsible for his death on a late December morning in 1957. But if Gibson did not throw himself off a bridge into the Connecticut River, what exactly happened?

It may never be known for sure. Most of those closely involved with the events leading up to and after Gibson's disappearance have long since passed away. Both men implicated in Gibson's death but later acquitted have been gone for well over 40 years.

Still, during the course of dozens of interviews over the last year and an extensive study of public statements and press reports on the case, a relatively consistent pattern emerges. And although much of the story remains based on both fact and conjecture, it's likely that Gibson died neither by suicide nor by a vigilante lynch mob bent on murder.

Quite simply, it was a prank that went bad. "Death by misadventure," as one person told the *Journal Opinion*.

A group planned a retaliation against Gibson for the alleged "hired hand" incident on Dec. 25, 1957 intending to embarrass the farmer and give him a "tar 'n feathering." They mapped out how they would take him by surprise by learning his daily schedule and habits.

In the immediate aftermath of the Eri Martin incident, a teenage boy went to work for Gibson in the barn. They learned from the plant that the best time to take Gibson by surprise would be in the dark morning hours before the world awoke.

On the morning of the surprise, the plans were for two men to walk down Route 5 from north of the Gibson barn and enter before 3:30 a.m. They hid in the back of Gibson's farm truck that was parked in the barn entrance.

Dollar store targeted in bomb threat

by Alex Nuti-de Biasi

NORTH HAVERHILL—A major state road was shut down for several hours last week as police investigated a bomb threat at a chain retail store. No bomb or any other destructive equipment was found after Haverhill Police Department and other agencies conducted a sweep of Dollar General.

Staff at the store on Route 10 in North Haverhill notified police after receiving a threatening phone call in the early evening of Sept. 16, Haverhill Police Chief Byron Charles told the *Journal Opinion*.

Charles said staff and customers at the store, located directly across the street from the town offices and the police department, were evacuated and HPD officers conducted a

cursory sweep. They requested a bomb-sniffing dog from New Hampshire State Police to complete the search.

At roughly the same time the North Haverhill store received a threat, a Dollar General store in the Coos County town of Whitefield was similarly threatened. Charles said he was not aware of any other store being threatened.

The NHSP canine was already en route to Whitefield when Haverhill issued its request for assistance, so the store remained closed and the road shut down while they waited for the dog's arrival. Officers remained on scene for roughly 3.5 hours before the search was completed and the store was cleared.

While on scene police main-

tained a heavy visible presence. Authorities closed off Route 10 at the intersection with Route 116 and directed northbound traffic onto that road or to reverse direction.

HPD continues to investigate the incident.

The Dollar General store in North Haverhill was constructed in 2013. The chain based in Tennessee recently opened a new store in Fairlee this summer. Another dollar store, Dollar Tree, held a grand opening in Woodsville earlier this month.

A brief internet search turned up several press reports of bomb threats targeting Dollar General stores in recent days in Indiana, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

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Land dispute goes to lawyers

by Ed Ballam

NORTH HAVERHILL—The more the Haverhill Selectboard tries to figure out how to resolve a property dispute, the deeper the issue becomes.

At its meeting on Monday night, the selectboard decided that a disputed 174-acre parcel of land needs a full vetting by legal counsel before the board can resolve the property's ownership.

Before a nearly packed audience, the board took testimony about how officials in Mountain Lakes, a precinct located in the northeast corner of town, came to believe it owns a tract of land and started logging on it before an abutter reported the ownership discrepancy nearly a month ago.

Jeff Page, a dairy farmer on Briar Hill Road, told the selectboard about a month ago that Mountain Lakes was logging property he believes belongs to the town and not the precinct and offered proof. At the time, the selectboard instructed Town Manager Glenn English to research the issue.

At a subsequent meeting, English said he believe that Page is correct and the town does own the property. At a meeting two weeks ago, Mountain Lakes' precinct officials presented a different perspective, taking the position that the precinct owns the property, or at the very least, should own the property. The precinct said that in 1987, the town deeded all the common, greenbelt and recreational space in the development that it has acquired by tax deed after a developer behind Mountain Lakes went bankrupt.

On the other side of the fence is Robert Rutherford, who is a land

surveyor and served on the board of selectmen when the town voted to give the greenbelt land back to those who had bought into the Mountain Lakes development. Rutherford said the selectboard was particular about the parcels it conveyed and did not intend to give back large tracts of developable land, selecting only to return common property that Mountain Lakes residents thought they bought when they purchased property in the ambitious development that not only included a lake and beach, but a ski area as well.

"We did not intend to give back the parcel in question," Rutherford said.

Selectman Lynn Wheeler said she believes Rutherford and has respect for his opinion.

"It probably wasn't included in the greenbelt," Wheeler said.

Mountain Lakes Commissioner Robert Long Sr., said all the land records they have indicate it is and for 29 years, Mountain Lakes residents thought they communally owned the parcel off Tewksbury Road. It wasn't until they began logging the property to create trails and manage the forest that its ownership became an issue.

Page, who was accompanied by Littleton lawyer Arend Tensen, acknowledged that he has been using some of the land in question and would be interested in purchasing it if it became available. In previous meetings, he's said there's a boundary dispute between himself and the property Mountain Lakes says it owns. He's also said he's willing to work to resolve, but only

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BES, NES could join Oxbow solar project

by Lillian Gahagan

BRADFORD—According to discussion at the most recent Oxbow High School Board meeting on Sept. 17, this is an ideal time to be considering the construction of a solar power array.

Norwich Technologies is the Upper Valley company that Orange East Supervisory Union Assistant Superintendent Keith Thompson has been working with to develop plans to build the array that would provide enough electricity to take care of at least the Oxbow and River Bend campus. During the presentation, the idea was floated to add enough to the array to completely power the two elementary schools in Bradford and Newbury.

Norwich Technologies President Joel Stettenheim and his colleague Troy McBride attended the meeting to share with the board the latest research they have conducted into the Oxbow array.

Stettenheim said there was a "confluence of factors" that make the timing of the project ideal. Financial incentives, the educational component for students and the impact on the environment of using solar rather than fossil fuel are all positive aspects of such an initiative. But incentives are set to expire at the end of 2016, making the situation tighter as the credits expire.

The cost is currently under \$1 per watt and strong subsidies are offered through 2016, making such a project "financially very attractive," Stettenheim said. He also said the potential site above the campus is also ideal because it has "great exposure."

Since the previous board meet-

ing, the consultants resized the proposal to add another 150 kilowatts to the 500 kilowatt array to power not only Oxbow and River Bend, but also the Bradford and Newbury elementary schools. There would be a total of 2,200 solar panels located on a slope below Fairground Road.

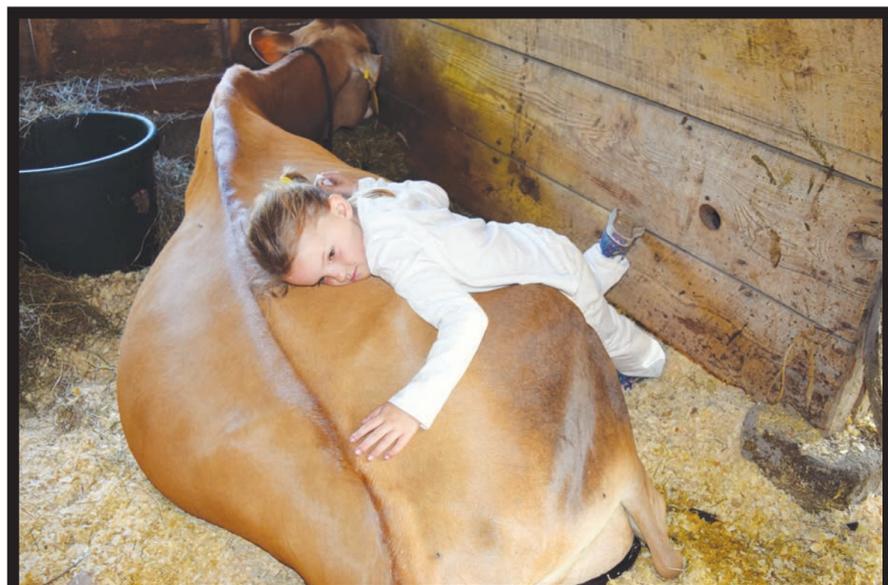
According to Stettenheim and McBride, the planning process includes aesthetics and environmental studies. This part will give the community and neighbors a chance to address any concerns they may have.

The solar field itself has a 100-foot setback and is built on the incline so it slopes away from neighbors across Fairground Road. The Canadian Solar 310-watt silica panels have a lifetime of 25 or more years. In response to a question from board member Bill Ellithorpe, the manufacturers have a recycling program for the panels once they conclude their useful life.

Statistically, over the 25-year lifetime of the panels, solar power will save 27,549,484 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere. The school at this time is heated with fuel oil, but the potential solar array is intended to provide all the electricity needed to run lights, computers and other systems in the schools.

The Norwich Technologies team also intends to provide science and engineering instruction in the form of educational displays that can be incorporated into the curriculum. Students can participate in interac-

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SCENES FROM THE WORLD'S FAIR—Happiness is a warm, gentle cow to take a nap on.

JO PHOTO BY LILLIAN GAHAGAN

