Month delay no dam problem

Installation set for November

By JIM BENTON
Messenger Staff Writer

SWANTON — The replacement rubber bag dam will not be installed, by PC Construction and Contractors Crane Service, would be done by early November, and the Orman Croft facility could resume full capacity.

Then, in late September, HTE informed Beliveau that, while the company had produced the bag on schedule, its delivery would be delayed until the second week of November, one month after the agreed-upon delivery date.

Beliveau, in response, organized a conference call with HTE and the contractors installing the dam on Oct. 4, hoping to realign the delivery schedule. The later the new dam is installed, the greater the challenge of weather — rubber is less pliable in colder temperatures.

Beliveau told the Messenger: “I’m going to pray hard and long we get a good stretch of weather.”

Reg Beliveau, Swanton Village Manager

See DAM on page 3

A pawsome day for homeless cats

FCAR reopens today

By MARIEZ TEGZAKEYA
Messenger Staff Writer

ST. ALBANS — Today Franklin County Animal Rescue (FCAR) in St. Albans reopens after closing in April due to financial distress. The shelter features an expanded area for cats, which FCAR will care for exclusively until mid-November when dogs will also be received and re-homed.

The former dog kennels have been transformed into updated and colorful spaces where cats can roam in and out of their individual cages. Other renovations include flooring, updated HVAC, and an improved space where all cats can be isolated, as well as an improved intake scheduling system.

FCAR will be holding both an adoption event and a calcutta night this Saturday. Please contact FCAR at (802) 524-9650 for more information regarding these events.

More photos and information about FCAR’s current adoptable cats and the reopening will be included on the Paws & Claws page in tomorrow’s edition.

Cold Hollow to Canada fights forest loss

Regional conservation group gets funding

By ELAINE EZERINS
Messenger Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY — Vermont is losing 1,500 acres of forest every year, according to a new report by Harvard Forest, a research institute of Harvard University.

The Waldenlands and Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities report finds the state’s annual land conservation rates have fallen back to early 1990s levels as well, even as groups report that private landowners’ interest in conserving their land remains high.

“I think for us, that just makes our work as much more relevant right now,” said Bridget Bullock, the program director for Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC).

CHC is a conservation partnership operating in seven towns along the northern Green Mountains, including Bakersfield, Enosburg, Montgomery and Richmond.

One of the CHC’s missions is to permanently protect 45 percent of the non-fragmented Priority Forest Blocks, large contiguous blocks of forest providing critical habitats for wildlife, in the region by 2030.

The CHC was recently awarded grant funding to develop a conservation fund to financially support landowners interested in donating a conservation easement.

This morning, Rep. Brian Danis called for the development of a local conservation easement. He said the school will be investigating further.

MVU ‘devastated’ by student death

By ARMAND MESSIER
Messenger Correspondent

SANTON — A student at Missisquoi Valley Union (MVU) has taken her own life.

Superintendent Winton Goodrich confirmed this morning that sophomore Summer Jabusch died Wednesday. “We are absolutely devastated here at MVU,” he said. “We express our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.”

Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS) was at MVU this morning to provide support to students and staff.

Jabusch was on the cross-country team, a very good student and active in the after-school program for years, he said.

An initial look into her records during her time at MVU did not show any evidence of bullying, according to Goodrich, but he said the school will be investigating further.

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Cold Hollow (continued from page 1)

“The hard thing to think about is if you want to donate your land to the Vermont Land Trust, you want to have a conservation easement — and that means that land just from development moving in. But if you want to have to do that,” said Butler. “You can have thousands of dollars to do the right thing, she said.

With the Cold Hollow Land Conservation Program, up to $10,000 can be used to offset costs for such projects, and the provision of surveys, appraisals and appraisals is the key.”

“It’s worth the ask, search for help and dollars,” she said.

To be eligible, the project needs to be in the greater Cold Hollow Woodlots program, and have a project plan in place. The Forest Service’s Landscape Scale Assistance program, for example, could help with the forest management needs,” said Montgomery.

Cold Hollow woodlot owners can be supported at the CRC at any time, but will be helped on a quarterly basis for review.

This year, the CRC also received grant money from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Regional Conservation Program, in the amount of $40,000 to expand the work of Cold Hollow Woodlots Program.

Butler said the program is “all about bringing more landowners together and looking at how to make forest management just a little better,” she said.

In their meetings, the program groups meet four to eight times a year to review and determine funding from experts in best forest management, prescribed fire, production, sustainable practices and more.

The program groups then meet up to the table to actually help pay for projects on the projects. “We’re going to be recommending to the program groups that we’re going to be meeting that — that we need to have the program groups for the first time,” said Butler.

The Cold Hollow’s biggest thing is decreasing the barriers to good forest management, and most importantly, “So it’ll be really interesting to see how CRC can raise to meet their goals,” she said.

Butler added that CRC received $50,000 from the U.S. Forest Service’s Landscape Scale Assistance program.

The CRC can help with the coordination of these projects, including some of the projects that the Mehrnhart Institute to provide technical support, and the program groups.

To learn more about Cold Hollow Woodlots Program, contact the CRC at 866-237-2706 or email info@coldhollowvt.org for more information.

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