

WEATHERSFIELD

Ladder truck suffers damage

Truck went off road last weekend

By MARION UMPLEBY  
Valley News Staff Writer

WEATHERSFIELD — The town is currently without a fire truck with a ladder after the Fire Department's truck was damaged when it went off the road last Sunday.

For now, Weathersfield is relying on a mutual aid agreement with nearby towns, including Claremont; Springfield, Vt.; West Windsor and Windsor, which allows other towns' ladder trucks to be used in the case of an emergency.

"First and foremost, I want to assure residents that there has been no impact to the town's ability to respond to fire or rescue calls," Town Manager Brandon Gulnick wrote in a statement to residents on Thursday.

Around 2:15 p.m. last Sunday, members of the Weathersfield and Claremont fire departments were driving south on Weathersfield Center Road for an event at the town's Center Church when the ladder truck's front right tire caught a soft shoulder on the road's edge.

The driver, Andrew James Stevens, who is a member of the Weathersfield Fire Department, attempted to correct the vehicle's course, but the shoulder couldn't bear the truck's weight. The truck left the roadway and came to rest in a wooded area where it remained until approximately 9:30 p.m. while a recovery operation was underway.

Stevens is estimated to have been driving at 30 mph, below the speed limit, when the truck went off the road. He was not cited by police for the incident.

The vehicle's occupants were wearing seat belts, and no one was injured in the accident.

The truck, a 1998 Spartan Motors Chassis Ladder Firetruck, sustained cos-

SEE WEATHERSFIELD A3

EDUCATION

LET THEM LEAD THE WAY



JAMES M. PATTERSON / Valley News

Gaelen McNaughton, 10, of Perkinsville, talks with his Weathersfield School fifth grade teacher Leanna Robinson about his homework at the end of class in Ascutney on Wednesday. McNaughton was elected by his fellow fifth graders to become one of seven candidates competing to become Vermont's first Kid Governor in a program run by Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas.

Two Upper Valley fifth-graders among Vermont Kid Governor finalists

By LUKAS DUNFORD  
Valley News Staff Writer

WEATHERSFIELD — Two Upper Valley fifth-graders are in the running to become Vermont's first Kid Governor.

Gaelen McNaughton, 10, representing Weathersfield School, and Westyn Danforth, 11, of Bradford Elementary School, are among seven final candidates chosen by the program's organizers from a pool of 26 nominees.

"Each of these inspiring students has an important role to play," Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, D-Bradford, said in a news release earlier this month. "And I can't wait to work with them all!"

The program, free to participating schools, was created by the nonprofit Con-



ALEX DRIEHAUS / Valley News

From left, Kid Governor candidate Westyn Danforth, 11, talks to his fifth grade classmates Bentley Cole, 10, and Warren Griffin, 10, at Bradford Elementary School in Bradford, Vt., on Thursday. Westyn, who is running on an anti-bullying platform, has proposed programs to make kids feel safer in school, including a forgiveness day every month during which students can apologize to anyone they have wronged.

necticut Democracy Center in 2015, to teach kids about state government and civic engagement. The program works through affiliate organizations in the individual states, such as Vermont Secretary of State's Office. Nebraska, Connecticut, New

Hampshire, Oklahoma and Oregon also participate.

"The Kid Governor program gives young people an opportunity to get involved in civics at an early age," Kid Governor Director Brian Cofrancesco said in a news release earlier this month.

"And it's our goal to empower them to remain engaged in our democracy and within their communities for the rest of their lives."

Sixty-five Vermont schools participated in the first year

SEE KID A8

ART

'Capturing the human spirit'

Randolph photographer's book is a record of community

By ALEX HANSON  
Valley News Staff Writer

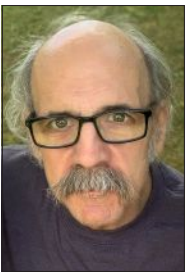
Leafing through the photographs in his forthcoming book is a walk back in time for Jack Rowell. The book was still at the printer's during a recent interview, but he unrolled sheets of proofs on a table in Randolph's White River Craft Center.

As he turned the pages, he talked about the people whose portraits he's taken, people he likes, his friends. He talked about the Tunbridge Fair, his first serious subject, and photographs he took during his drinking years, the 1970s and '80s, when Vermont, and the world, were wilder places.

"It's pretty much my life that I've photographed since I was a teenager,"

Rowell said.

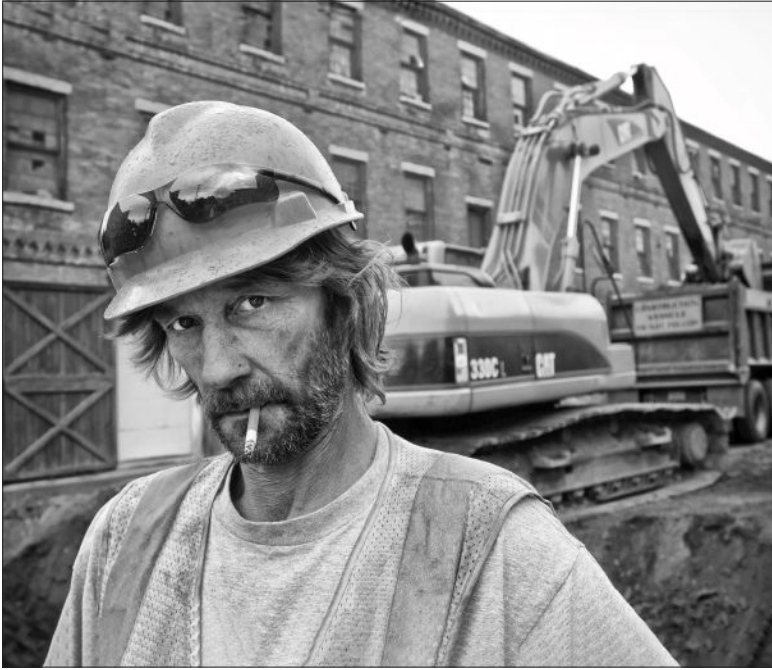
Yes, but there's something more going on in "Jack Rowell: Photographs,"



Rowell

which is due out at a launch party on Nov. 22 at the craft center. Rowell, a Central Vermont native who is, as many photographers are, by turns gregarious and owlish, has photographed mostly in the same place for much of his life. His book is also a record of his community and how he sees it.

"His camera is his way of relating to



JACK ROWELL photograph

SEE PHOTOGRAPHER A6 A construction worker in Claremont in 2007.

INSIDE



SPORTS

CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

Previews of Woodstock High and Mascoma High playing for football titles today in their respective divisions. Page B1

OUT & ABOUT

COMMUNITY MEALS ON THANKSGIVING

Those who are looking to share a free meal with others in the Upper Valley on Thanksgiving Day have a few options to choose from. Page A2



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