

## Cabot Voters to Get Questions Answered Tonight

by Will Waters

CABOT — An information meeting is set for 7 p.m. tonight at the Willey Building to discuss the questions set for an Australian ballot vote on November 7. Voting will end at the Willey Building from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will be an article on the ballot for the November 7 vote.

Article 1 asks if voters will approve a bond not to exceed \$1,000,000 to finance the cost of construction of public water improvements on Danville Hill Road. The construction will replace the three-inch line with an eight-inch line. Two fire hydrants will be added to the water line at the intersection of an eight-inch pipe, the smallest line hydrants can be put on. The cost of the construction will be reduced by federal and state grants-in-aid.

Article 2 asks for approval of six-month budgets for the highway department and general administration of the town. The six-month budget is a budget to bring the town financial accounting to a fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2018 and runs to June 30, 2019.

asks for \$862,300 for the highway department and Article 3 asks for \$288,000 for general administration.

If the budget articles are approved, tax bills will be sent out to the taxpayers with a due date in March 29, 2018. The article establishes that overhead taxes will bear an interest rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax. It also establishes the amount of penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date of eight percent of the tax collected.

Article 4 asks if the Town of Cabot consider increased funding for police patrols to ensure public safety and order.

Article 5 asks if the taxes due under the six-month transition budgets will be due and payable on March 29, 2018. The article establishes that overhead taxes will bear an interest rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax. It also establishes the amount of penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date of eight percent of the tax collected.

Article 6 asks if the Town of Cabot consider increased funding for police patrols to ensure public safety and order.



Rory Tibbitt (center) and his son Cody carry a pumpjack while his son River behind carries his own at the Henry's Halloweave and The Dan first annual Halloweave party and pumpkin carving. The businesses sponsored the afternoon event and had a Halloweave costume and music party until 9 p.m.

## NEK Healthcare Forum Advice: Stay Out of the Doctor's Office

by Michael Belsawski

HARDWICK — The Healthcare in the Northeast Kingdom Forum, presented by the Greater Hardwick Area Forum Committee, was held on October 18 at the Hazen Union School.

The discussion focused on the best approaches to not only treating patients, but also keeping them healthy in the first place — and paying for it all.

A few dozen attendees listened and asked questions to move the conversation along.

Judy Carpenter helped arrange the forum. She said that the committee had another successful forum on migrant farm workers last May. She said healthcare was a natural choice for the next topic.

"We clearly in areas that are making people in many ways," she said.

While each panelist had their own opinion on the direction health care should take, one recurring theme was the notion of preventative health to avoid people becoming ill in the first place.

"Every ill prevented in substance abuse prevention saves \$10 to \$18 in costs associated with healthcare, criminal justice, and lost productivity," said Sen. Joseph "Chip" Troiano, D-Stannard.

Troiano has made a name for himself at the Statehouse for his expertise in drug addiction. He noted that the state spends \$349,809

on prevention, which amounts to about \$9 per person served.

In contrast, \$4,033,957 is spent on intervention which is about \$159 dollars per person in treatment.

Other panelists echoed that sentiment.

"No matter one, we will never succeed in managing healthcare costs, here or anywhere else, until we start focusing on keeping people healthy," said Dr. David Belsawski, a hardwick resident, who works on the back-end." Patrick Flood, former state representative and NEK Healthcare said, "Back-end treatments are incredibly expensive, as you've heard, and there's a lot we can do to keep people healthier, but we're not investing in it."

"You can invest in prevention, or you can treat opiate addiction later on," he said. "You are going to get a much bigger bang out of your buck if you prevent in many ways," she said.

Michael, D-Calais, another panelist, spoke about changing philosophies of health care. He said, "In addition to preventing first-places.

The traditional way of reimbursing has been fee-for-service, which is volume-based. Nationally, there has been a move towards creating a different kind of payment structure, so the focus is more on health promotion and disease prevention," he said.

Later in the evening, she commented on the shortage of personnel in mental healthcare, whom

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## Remains of Powerful Tropical Storm Hammers Vermont 118 mph Winds Recorded Atop Mount Mansfield



A number of trees came down Cabot Road in Woodbury due to the overnight storm on Sunday and Monday. One tree snapped down close to below eye level, although the cover appeared to remain on.

by Michael Belsawski, June Pichel Cook and Will Waters

EAST MONTPELIER — A powerful storm pummeled New England and Vermont was right in the mix of it. In all, over a million homes in the northeast US lost power. Nearly a third of Vermonters lost electrical service.

Tuesday there were over 70,000 houses and businesses without power, that's Vermont statewide, Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC), general manager, Patty Richards said. "Obviously it's not just a Vermont storm, it's a whole regional storm."

Washington Electric's website reported over 1,700 outages Monday morning. At 7:49 p.m. on Monday, the state-wide outage map showed that the number had dropped to 6,764. Richards said that, as of 9 a.m. on Tuesday, there were still about 3,800 homes without power in the Washington Electric coverage area, which includes Washing-

ton, Orange, Coladaia, and Orleans counties.

"We're looking at a multi-day outage for many people. This could go through the end of this week," Richards said.

She estimated that her crews can get about half of the remaining 2,000 homes back with power by the end of Tuesday.

WEC has a crew of about 40, comprising line crews, tree-cutters and complementary workers, all working 16-hour shifts. Some work from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., while others are working night shifts.

WEC's crews are "hundreds" of donated power lines, as well as broken utility poles. Richards expects that this will be considered a state-disaster, which could receive additional state funds and, most likely, FEMA funds from the federal government.

Richards said that this is likely the biggest storm since 2014's Deimon, another high-powered wind and rain storm. For this week's

storm, wind speeds reached 115 mph at the top of Mount Mansfield and 63 mph at Burlington Airport.

Weather.com describes the weather phenomenon which caused the storm damage as homogen-

"Homogenization is a rapid deepening of atmospheric pressure in a storm, which leads to an increase in the ferocity of its winds. Scientifically, homogenization is defined as a drop of 24 millibars in 24 hours."

Richards cautioned residents to stay away from downed power lines — do not get out of a car near a downed line, and don't drive over one either.

She said storms like this are why it is important to keep basic supplies at hand, for example, water is always essential. She also reminded that these storms are an important time for neighbors to check on each other, especially the elderly, who may struggle more than others during emergencies.

See STORM, 9

## Select Board Reclassifies Part Of Buck Lake Road

by Will Waters

WOODBURY — The select board reclassified a section of Buck Lake Road to a recreational trail at a special Monday afternoon meeting.

The meeting was held in the town office, after a site visit which uncovered the group had moved to the location at Buck Lake here that is unincorporated.

Gray moved the group from the pavilion just before Buck Lake to see the beaver pond on the Hardwick side of the road. He said the pond made a break in the continuity of the road from the Green Mountain Conservation Camp in Woodbury to Hardwick. He said ANR has assumed the road is continuous.

The reclassification was identified in the notice of meeting extending from the northern property of the Fish and Wildlife department's Green Mountain Conservation Camp, north to the northern boundary of David and Card-Annie's property. At the time of the site visit, there was confusion whether the ANR request was for a discontinuance of 300 feet of the road, or a reclassification of the entire length from the started start point as a recreational trail.

See BUCK LAKE, 9

member Danny Hale and town attorney Paul Gillies. Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Commissioner Louisa Porter and Fish and Wildlife field employee Al Thomas met at the town office for the hearing, after confusion over the meeting's location at Buck Lake here that is unincorporated.

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See BUCK LAKE, 9

## Willey Building Committee Delays Public Library Play Yard

by Will Waters

CABOT — The proposed play yard by the public library has previously worked on since May, 2017 has hit a snag with the arrival of a letter from the Willey Building committee to the select board expressing concerns on the proposal.

The letter from the committee comes over six months after the library began work on raising funds and consulting with Road Commissioner Karen Deany on where to place the playground. The committee's letter may force postponing the project until next spring.

The committee's letter suggests putting the question of erecting a play yard before the voters on Town Meeting Day. The members of the committee understand the desire to accommodate parents and preschool children at the library and outdoor center. Putting the question before the voters at the next Town Meeting may be a fair way to resolve the question.

An anonymous donor gave the library funds to build a play

site on town hall's yard. The donor agreed to provide \$10,000 if the library provides a match of \$5,000. Librarian Kathleen Howe contacted the Cabot Community Development Fund, formerly UDAG, and the fund agreed to provide \$2,500 toward the match requirement.

The library trustees provided the remaining \$2,500 of the computer and grant account, which had a balance of about \$4,000.

Hope said she has spoken with Road Commissioner Karen Deany about configuring space and having the highway department put down a subgrade for the playground.

The basic design will be for preschool children. There will be a story hour outside and picnic tables for families to enjoy outside the Willey

building. It will encourage families with children to visit the library.

The road crew excavated behind the building to improve drainage when the anticipated playground site. The drainage was a separate issue from the playground.

The committee said in its letter one of its concerns has been satisfactorily resolved. It notes downspouts will now drain streetwater away from the back of the building to a manhole in Main Street. The letter also states the work showed the Willey Building had not been connected to the town's sewer system, which has since been remedied.

The committee cites the playground addition concerns the playground

See WILLEY, 9

Photo by Doug McClure  
Kate Lanz of Positive Points works on her crafts at the Woodcut Craft Fair and Fall Festival on October 28. The Festival is a fundraiser to help pay for the elementary school's year-end trip to Nature's Classroom in Freedom, New Hampshire.

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