

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Volume 132 Number 3

Warning Items Finalized

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At the January 21 meeting, the Hardwick Select Board finalized the items that will appear on the Town Meeting Warning. The board discussed whether a question about allowing cannabis-related businesses was advisable.

The board finalized language on the wastewater facility and collection system improvements bond to reflect that the 2021 Town Meeting votes will be by Australian ballot only. The amount proposed for the bond is “not to exceed \$2.2 Million”, less reductions due to federal and state grants. A virtual

information session to discuss the matter is scheduled for February 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Town Clerk Alberta Miller said just one candidate applied for the opening positions on the select board, and Lucian Avery had not filed paperwork stating that he planned to run again. Michael Deering put his name in for a one-year seat, while another one-year seat and a three-year seat will be open. Miller said seats were open on both the Hazen Union and Orleans Southwest Union Elementary District, as well.

Hardwick Electric Department (HED) General Manager Mike Sullivan updated the board on HED’s status and current projects.

Sullivan said the utility’s revenues were 2.4% over projections, which he said was “directly attributable to people being home during the COVID mess” and expenses were 5.8% under projections. He said the figure “sounds enormous, but those expenses were reduced as a result of the board of commissioners’ decision to postpone several capital expenditures.”

HED’s outage frequencies for 2020 saw a 50% reduction.

The utility’s reliability should be further increased with the construction of an express circuit between the Wolcott and Hardwick

See FINALIZED, 2

Select Board Discusses Local Cannabis Businesses

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Select Board on January 21 decided not to put a question or questions on the ballot regarding the town’s stance on cannabis-related businesses.

The stated main reason for

See CANNABIS, 5



photo by Doug McClure

The 1916 pedestrian bridge in Hardwick has been out of commission since last August due to a snapped cable.

Troubled Bridge over Water

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At its January 21 meeting the select board received an update from Town Manager Shaun Fielder and from Pedestrian Bridge Task Force lead and Community Development Coordinator Geoff Sewake.

Sewake, who was hired in early December, has already secured a \$10,000 grant for the rail trail. Sewake said grants are being sought for the bridge including the USDA’s Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) and a Better Connections Grant, which funds municipal planning.

Fielder said 87 residents responded to a survey asking how

the bridge’s closure had impacted their lives and the majority said it had a “pretty significant impact” and “a direct economic impact.” Sewake said based on responses thus far, a “low-ball” number for

See TROUBLED, 4

“Swinging Bridge” Has a Storied History

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The current pedestrian bridge from South Main Street to the Daniels building was approved as the March 1915 Town Meeting’s

See STORIED, 6



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Frank Barsalow of Greensboro stands by the Lake Trout he sculpted for the Highland Center for the Arts SnowLight event held January 22 and 23. He is the 2010 and 2012 Vermont snow sculpturing champion.

Greensboro Considering More Election Alterations

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO – As the COVID-19 moves communities to vote by Australian ballot, the traditional, in-person floor debates will be limited to Google Meet informational sessions.

Two informational meetings to discuss the warning have been held by the select board. The Australian ballot has reached 36 articles. Voters can pick up an absentee ballot on February 10. Voting in-person will take place on March 2.

Articles 1 and 2 asks voters

to move the elected town treasurer position and constable posts to be made by appointment by the select board. Elected positions are open to residents of a community only; appointments can be made for applicants living in or outside the community.

The town treasurer post requires specific skill sets and is a part-time position.

The town treasurer resigned in December, 2020; Town Clerk Kim Greaves has assumed those duties in the interim.

See ALTERATIONS, 5

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Finalized

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substations. Once completed, the express circuit should provide redundancy should either station go offline. The utility is also working to purchase a transmission line from Green Mountain Power, which will afford it more control and reduce HED's annual transmission fee by more than \$100,000.

The H11 Project ran into a delay due to supply chain issues and its completion date has been pushed from February until May, still well within the parameters required by its agreements.

Hardwick Police Chief Aaron Cochran updated the board about the status of vaccinating officers and new foot patrols. The equity committee saw two positions filled.

Chief Cochran said they were able to accelerate the vaccine process and many from the department were vaccinated last Friday. He said a decision was made to avoid having everyone in department vaccinated at once "so if there were any after-effects it wouldn't wipe out the whole department." Chief Cochran said he believed the vaccinations would be a "good thing" for us, and despite his

earlier skepticism, "I've changed my mind, I'm going to get mine too."

Chief Cochran said the department resumed the practice of checking on businesses in the village at night, which had stopped in recent years. When vice chair Elizabeth Dow asked if a specific incident prompted the change, Chief Cochran replied nothing directly but mentioned the theft of catalytic converters at Lamoille Valley Ford. "One of the things that comes to my mind is that we often hear we're not seen, and it doesn't necessarily mean we're not out there," he said. "This is another tool to let them know we were for sure there." He added that businesses might find a note under the door alerting them HPD had checked in on them overnight.

Two positions on the equity committee were filled, with additional positions available. David O'Brien was in attendance and said he was prompted to join by recent events and an invitation he read written by Rep. Chip Troiano (D-Caledonia-2). "I have some fire in my belly around these issues, and I'm continuously learning [about] white supremacy, white privilege, the things we're all learning," O'Brien said.



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<p>Food Club Salad Dressing or Mayonnaise \$1.99 30 oz.</p>	<p>Food Club Ripe Pitted Olives \$1.29 6 oz.</p>	<p>Prince Pasta 5/\$5 12-16 oz.</p>	
<p>Old El Paso Japanese, Koren, or Carribean Taco Kit \$3.49 11.7 oz.</p>	<p>Campbell's Chunky Soup \$1.79 18.6-19 oz.</p>	<p>Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter 2/\$6 16 oz.</p>	
<p>Nabisco Family Size Oreo Cookies \$3.49 19.1-20 oz.</p>	<p>Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 2/\$5 16 oz.</p>	<p>Pringles Potato Crisps 3/\$4 5.2-5.5 oz.</p>	
<p>Cabot Butter \$2.99 16 oz.</p>	<p>Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream \$3.99 16 oz.</p>	<p>Pictsweet Frozen Vegetables 2/\$3 9-14 oz.</p>	
<p>Calavo Avocados 79¢ ea.</p>	<p>California Minneolas \$1.29 ea.</p>	<p>Maine Russet Potatoes \$1.69 5 lb.</p>	

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Greensboro Development Review Board

Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Thursday, February 18, at 7 p.m., on Zoom. They will consider a Conditional Use request by Tim and Nancy Howes to build a family dwelling and garage at 89 Eveningside Road. This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Uses, and 8.8 New Uses and Encroachments Within the Shoreland Buffer Resource Zone. The virtual hearing is open to the public. To join the Zoom hearing, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime (Zoom.us), then at 7 p.m., on Thursday, February 18, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 843 3779 8367. There is no password. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 646 876 9923 (this is not a toll free number).

The application is available for review at the Greensboro Town Hall or at the Greensboro Town website, www.greensborovt.org. Participation in the proceeding, either in person or in writing, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. Interested persons may join the Zoom hearing or send a letter or email (zoning@greensborovt.org) to the Development Review Board at the Greensboro Town Clerk's office to comment on the proposed plan.

Greensboro Development Review Board

Further instructions for joining a Zoom meeting are on the Greensboro Town website www.greensborovt.org under Town Business - Committees and Commissions - Development Review Board.

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

January 19: Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Porter Brook Rd.; Alarm, Slapp Hill Rd.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15W; Assist – Public, High St., Hardwick.

January 20: Accident – Property Damage Only, Shadow Lake Rd., Greensboro; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15.

January 21: Suspicious Event, Main St., Greensboro Bend; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15W; Alarm, Country Club Rd., Greensboro; Foot Patrol, Main St.; Directed Patrol, Spring St.

January 22: Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 14; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 16; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 15E; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 16; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; DLS, Nichols Pond Rd.

January 23: Assist – Agency, Benway Dr.; Custodial Dispute, Craftsbury Rd.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15W; Welfare Check, Main St., E. Hardwick; Theft – Automobile, Mini Mart Dr.

January 24: Traffic Hazard, Mackville Rd./Spruce Dr.

Multiple Driving with Suspended License Incidents

On January 19, at 4:20 p.m., Melissa Farnham of E. Hardwick was pulled over for taillight out. Lamoille County Communications Center confirmed that Farnham was Driving with a Criminally Suspended License (DLS) for failure to pay fines. Farnham was cited to appear at Caledonia County Court on March 22 at 10:00 a.m.

On January 20, at 9:50 p.m., Donald J. Shappy, of Milton, was stopped on Wolcott St. Police issued a \$162 ticket for driving without insurance.

January 22, at 4:54 p.m., Robert C. Chaplin was identified going into M&M Beverage on Route 14 in Hardwick. Chaplin has a 24-hour curfew and has conditions of release not to drive. A traffic stop was conducted on Nichols Pond Rd. and Chaplin was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia County Court on March 15 for charges of Criminal DLS and Violation of Conditions.

January 23, at 3:30 p.m., Anthony Daisey of Plainfield was stopped for erratic driving. Daisey's license was found to be under civil suspension. Police issues a ticket for \$249.

This report is based on information provided by the Hardwick Police Department and is not a full accounting of police activity. Persons named in this report are presumed to be innocent unless they plead or are found guilty in court.

Vermont State Police Retail Theft

On Dec. 30, the Vermont State Police initiated an investigation of retail theft that occurred at the Maplefields convenience store located on U.S. Route 2 in the town of Marshfield. Through investigation it was determined that Melanie Sargent, of Plainfield, and Dana Drown, of Plainfield, committed the crime of Retail Theft, a violation of Title 13 VSA 2575. On Jan. 24 both Sargent and Drown were located and issued citations to appear in Washington County court to answer for the above charge.

This report is based on information provided by the Vermont State Police but is not a full accounting of police activity. Persons named in this report are presumed to be innocent unless they plead or are found guilty in court.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served 13 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from January 17 through January 24. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

David Moody Nominated for U.S Presidential Scholars Program



David Moody

Clarkson's early college program, where he is currently enrolled in his second semester.

David has also been a part of the Lyndon Upward Bound program hosted out of Northern Vermont University for the past three years.

In his free time David enjoys cross-country skiing and was part of Craftsbury's cross-country team during his time there. He was also part of Craftsbury's soccer and ultimate Frisbee teams. He has been involved in Nordic skiing and band, and participated in the Craftsbury's theater production as a freshman.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

CRAFTSBURY – David Moody from Craftsbury was recently nominated for the U.S Presidential Scholar's program.

Moody attended Craftsbury Academy for the majority of his high school career, taking the most difficult classes available to him and challenging himself to go above and beyond traditional academics. When he completed Craftsbury's math curriculum by sophomore year, David was able to take and successfully complete calculus three online through the University of Vermont.

David's hard work and success at Craftsbury is what ultimately lead to David's acceptance to

It has since been extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts, and students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, approximately 4,000 students are nominated on a state-by state-basis, primarily based on SAT and ACT scores. Up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars each year, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Volunteers Rose Friedman (left) and Suzanna Jones (right) distributed meals to 45 people who stopped Wednesday for the first free curbside meal for members of the community. A free meal will be served every Wednesday from 5 to 6 p.m. outside for pick up at the Caledonia Grange #9 in East Hardwick. The event is organized by the Small Farm Guild and the Caledonia Grange #9, with support by the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. For more information or to arrange for delivery, call 802-472-8987 or email easthardwickgrange@gmail.com.

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

Troubled

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the economic cost to businesses was in the range of \$3,000 per month.

Nora DeMuth, owner of the Flower Basket, said she noticed a “pronounced” decline in retail traffic, “particularly on Saturdays” since the bridge closed. “The closure also affects our ability to remain connected and deliver flowers to local businesses on Main Street,” she said. “It’s simple to just dash across a bridge for a quick delivery, but without the bridge, it becomes a much more involved journey with a vehicle, parking, and traffic to contend with.” As a result, DeMuth said she spends less time conversing with other local business owners. “We also end up delivering flowers to our business accounts all at once later in the week instead of having mid-week deliveries, which isn’t ideal for some of our customers,” she said. “I strongly feel that we should honor our wonderful small town by building a new bridge.” She noted the previous bridge was not accessible for “folks who use wheelchairs, who have vertigo, or have mobility impairments” and the new bridge should be one that is “to code, accessible, safe, and that will grace our community for the next one hundred years.” She said, “many people I’ve spoken with wish to reconnect the two sides of our town.” A new bridge could also “connect our town to our surrounding landscape and community through historical references and materials,” or “by incorporating granite into the design,” she said.

DeMuth added she views the bridge as an inspiring metaphor. “The moving water reminds me of how we can remain stable and steadfast even while changing the minutiae of our routines,” she said. “I love the sensation of walking across a bridge, of being suspended above moving water, and of hearing the splashing water as I move from one bank to the other. I really miss the bridge being part of my days.”

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Superintendent Adam Rosenberg said the closure also impacted OSSU and its students.

“OSSU CO (central office) employees have felt severely cut off from our town,” he said. “Our valued shops and services sit within a stone’s throw away, but we cannot as easily access them. Last year, even in the cold weather I wouldn’t think twice about skipping across the bridge for a hot beverage at the Front Seat or some lunch at Buffalo Mountain. This year, I have to don my parka and brave the frigid winds as I wind my way up, down, and around to get to the heart of Hardwick.” As a result, he said his trips across the road are “far fewer.” His visits to the elementary school were also impacted, he said. “Whereas once I would have leapt from my paper-laden desk without a thought for a quick trip to HES, now I’m more inclined to sit here and just work,” he said. “I would gladly trade the additional parking spaces we now have access to for the euphoria of crossing the burbling Lamoille into town. I feel like a bridge has been burned, literally and figuratively. I urge the town to raise this cherished Phoenix.”

Fielder said the cost of removing the bridge completely was priced at approximately \$25,000. Two independent consulting engineers both advised against repairing the bridge. The repair cost was estimated at \$60,000 with a project lifespan of five to 10 years. Replacing the bridge would cost an estimated \$300,000, according to Burlington-based consulting firm Engineering Ventures, with an additional \$100,000 on abutment work and \$25,000 removal cost.

Sewake said further costs such as design work had not been estimated. He said there were three paths forward: replacing the bridge as soon as possible, which would likely require a bond vote; repairing the bridge so it could be restored to functional use while the town sought a long-term solution; or bypassing temporary repairs and focusing on long-term repair options.

The option of replacing the bridge as quickly as possible was detailed in the Pedestrian Bridge Task Force Report; the cost worked

out to between \$315,000 and \$425,000.

An interim solution with a temporary bridge repair that “would not bring the bridge to code” could serve as a transition to a permanent solution and was estimated at around \$355,000 to \$485,000, “plus an average annual inflation rate of 4%,” with the caveat that “this path would provide a temporary solution to the bridge, but add additional costs onto the project. It is possible additional grants may be available in the future and the project may be more competitive, but does not guarantee an award.” The third option would be “a public engagement process, again, like a design charrette, which would give the community an opportunity to identify the preferred bridge type” but “would not provide a quick solution to reactivating the pedestrian pathway across the Lamoille River and would likely result in permanent and long term negative economic and social impacts.”

“Contech Engineered Solutions was able to provide an estimate for a galvanized steel truss bridge at \$190,000 and noted a wooden covered bridge would cost slightly more but did not provide a specific figure.” General contractors Blow & Cote estimated the bridge’s removal cost at approximately \$25,000 and the abutment work at approximately \$100,000, according to the document.


Select board vice chair Elizabeth Dow said that while much discussion had centered on historic aspects of the bridge, “historic preservation is about saving something that’s there. If you’ve got something that is historically significant that cannot be

saved, there is no commandment in the whole historic preservation world that says you have to replace it so it looks it exactly like it did when it was first put up. If we’re going to replace it, and it’s a whole other design process, it would be a new bridge and it’s okay if it looks like a new bridge. A fake old bridge is not well thought of in the historic preservation community.”

Fielder said that if the Rural Business Development Grant shifted its focus to repairing the bridge, work could potentially begin in 2021. Sewake said if that were re-aligned with that lower cost in mind, the town might not be required to find a significant match for grant funding. Among potential funding sources is a \$100,000 Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) grant, which would require the town would need to win a Downtown Designation from the ACCD.

Dow said, “three or four years is enough to do a really good job of finding funding, getting a good design, getting community interest. It feels like it’s a pump-priming thing.” She described the strategy as “buying time” and said, “time is not a bad thing when you’re trying to replace something that is as complicated economically and in terms of the community sense of itself as that bridge.” Dow said there were “a lot of virtues” to getting the bridge up and running while working at “finding a way to fund it, have a design process, maybe a design contest, just really do a full community job with it.”

The board agreed to resume discussion at this week’s special meeting on the warning.



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Cannabis

Continued From Page One

for leaving it off the warning was that the state itself did not seem to know what it was doing, in the select board's opinion, fueled by comments from the only non-governmental entity present at the discussion, Healthy Lamoille Valley.

Healthy Lamoille Valley coordinator Jessica Bickford herself seemed a bit surprised that there was no other organization in the meeting.

"We're a substance prevention organization," she stressed. "We're just here to be a resource whether you move forward or not. Just keep in mind the youth safety and exposure piece our priority."

She said new legislation was in process that "may change some things" with the state's recreational marijuana laws, and the state's own cannabis control board had not been appointed. Bickford said a lot of details were yet to be sorted out at the state level and described it as a "shifting landscape," a phrase which the board adopted into their discussions.

Chair Erick Remick said the board had not taken steps to gather its own information and only had received input from Health Lamoille Valley. "We haven't really reached out to anyone except the [Hardwick] planning commission. Everything has been pushed to us, we haven't tried to pull any [information]."

Board members worried about getting an accurate read on what town voters wanted. But even with the comment put forth more than once by Town Clerk Alberta Miller that this unusual year meant every registered voter would get a mailed ballot unlike normal years, the board was not persuaded.

In some cases, even the basic terminology around the law eluded the board members. The original question proposed was described by vice chair Elizabeth Dow as a two-step process under which the first question asked whether the town wanted to have cannabis businesses and the second question concerned what sorts of businesses the town would allow. Dow also expressed concern about the lack of organization at the state level.

"If we put it on the warning just as it was given to us, how do we control expectations that this is going to hit the ground running the day after town meeting? There are so many unknowns, it seems to me we could save ourselves a lot of hassle, a lot of 'hey you guys what's going on?' until we get more from the state. There are other towns that are putting together committees and study commissions and it seems we could piggyback on that."

Overall, the board felt that given the uncertainties, it would best

to wait and see what happened.

Board member Lucian Avery made clear he was acting as a "devil's advocate" in saying perhaps if Hardwick got on board and approved some form of cannabis in the town it could result in a "gold rush." Remick noted that "There tends to be a lot of things that come along with a gold rush, not all of them beneficial."

Remick also said that businesses might take note of which Vermont towns opted in early and that could bring jobs and growth.

Hardwick Police Department Chief Aaron Cochran, who has said on the record multiple times he is opposed to legal recreational marijuana, said, "I don't think we have any idea what effect it would see yet in terms of additional traffic in town, more people in the town. In my opinion, I would like to see some other towns jump onto it first. I tend to be more cautious and kind of see what the effects were."

A part of the legislation allows towns to form commissions and apply local taxation. While supportive of the idea of a commission, the only board member to so speak about the up-to-20% local option tax was Shari Cornish who said "we're not going to do that."

Cornish herself said she was gun-shy as a result of the "hullabaloo" over the cell tower that to her was completely unexpected. "The board did know about the [tower] proposal over a year ago and we thought it was not going to be a problem because I didn't think they were ever going to get their act together and we also knew our only role in it was saying if they could use the trail or not. I'd hate to see us a year from now with this same [marijuana] question and the equivalent amount of participation from the community. I think the conversation needs to continue and it needs to stay in our consciousness because otherwise general community folks aren't paying attention and it's all a big surprise next year. I do think it's a little premature to put on this town meeting ballot."

Board member Ceilidh Gallo-way-Kane said "This is an opportunity for us to think forward. Maybe that's a special meeting, a commission. Reaching out to the schools. It might be good to help us process the changing information from the state and it will help us understand from the police to schools and our downtown what that looks like and what it means. It's really hard to understand exactly what it means for our community without more information." She compared cannabis to the rail trail, where the board had she said taken its time to maximize the benefits of that project.

Dow said it did not strike her as convincing that Hardwick moving early might bring additional businesses in. She said that if, for example, Morristown moved ahead

and Hardwick did not, a successful project would mean "they'll expand and they'll come to Hardwick whether we opted in in the first round or not."

She added, "I don't think Hardwick wants to be experimenting with how this goes. I'd rather have the business models, the social guardrails put in place before we bring it to Hardwick."

Cornish said "Sometimes I just want to know what people want, but I don't know if they know what they want yet." In her view, despite the one-time distribution of ballots to all registered voters, the fact that there would be no floor discussion and everything was being handled by Australian ballot meant that, "This is not the year to do it."

The board closed the discussion, leaving the possibility of a forming a local commission in future.

Alterations

Continued From Page One

The law requires the town to elect a town treasurer and the post is listed on the ballot as an open position. But if Article 1 passes, the newly elected town treasurer's tenure will be the length of time it takes to count the ballots.

Article 2 would change the town constables from elected posts to appointed roles. Voters will be asked to approve the appointment of a first constable, and if needed, a second constable. "Notes About the Draft Ballot" posted on the town's website states that the board can seek individuals with experience and draw on a wider pool of candidates. The ballot calls for electing a first and second constable. Their tenure would be as brief as the town treasurer's if Article 2 passes.

The status of renewing the current police service contract with the Hardwick Police Department is still in limbo.

Moving from an elected post to an appointment is not new to Greensboro. More than a decade ago, the town voted to appoint town listers.

Article 3 states: "Moving

forward, [should] all open elected positions be voted on by Australian ballot?" The article is on the warning through a voter petition. If approved, all future elected positions will be voted by using preprinted Australian ballots and not voting from the floor or using paper ballots as has been tradition.

Candidates for office would be required to obtain signatures to be included on the preprinted Australian ballot. Campaigning or discussions would need to be completed before voting day. Nominations from the floor would not be made and candidates' speeches could not be made at the meeting. Write-ins could be made on the ballot.

Article 4 states: "Moving forward, [should] any bylaw or ordinance change be voted on by Australian Ballot?" The article is also on the warning through voter petition. If approved, all future ordinances and/or town bylaws would have to be approved by voters through Australian ballots. The current process does not require voter approval for new ordinances or alterations: the select board may implement changes or create new ordinances.



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FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS ON FACEBOOK



photo by Vanessa Fournier

An encore presentation of SnowLights, a magical display of lights, will be held at the Highland Center for the Arts on Jan. 30-31. A \$5.00 reservation is required by contacting the center at highlandartsvt.org.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Rene Brooks of East Hardwick, followed by her grandfather Tom Brooks, head toward Woodbury Saturday.

Storied

Continued From Page One

Article Ten with a maximum budget of \$350.

Proprietor Sam Daniels was tasked with construction, which began with laying cement piers on November 25, 1915. Work was completed by February 26, 1916.

The Hardwick Gazette reported at the time, “Sam Daniels has made the finishing touches on the foot-bridge the past week, and now we can go from our office on Broadway to our room in Brooklyn by the short cut. The bridge is a dandy and will be a big accommodation to people living immediately across the river from Main street.”

The bridge was promoted by Daniels and other merchants, advertising “A trip across the foot bridge will save you money.” Some news reports from the time mention residents’ misadventures with winter ice on the bridge, sometimes in painful detail. On January 2, 1941, the Gazette reported the injuries of “well-known townsman, Chas. A. Stanford, very active at 75 or more,” due to ice on the bridge. He was “nursing a sore shoulder, back, and other parts of his anatomy as a result of quite a severe fall ... He elected to come over town by the Sam Daniels bridge, something he had not done for quite a long time. He was stepping along quite blithely with the old Yankee trick of having both hands in the pockets of his reefer [close-fitting usually double-breasted coat] when both feet went out from under him with a suddenness that came near knocking him out. His cap went one way, and he the other. Finally deciding no bones were broken, he got up, put his cap on his head, and came along down the sidewalk to the footbridge, and was just going up that little incline to the bridge when he fell again, this time on his

knees which did not hurt him quite so bad. To add insult to injury if he had waited five minutes even, before having decided to take that short cut he would have been all right, as the sanding men were right behind him and making the walks over the way safe for pedestrians. Fortunately indeed, that he is not suffering more severe injuries. Charlie probably thought about ‘he that walketh in slippery places, etc.’”

Other reports chronicle in the crosswalk adjacent to the bridge. In the September 25, 1925, Hardwick Gazette, Publisher J. E. Appolt noted, “Some recent, very narrow escapes of persons crossing the street at the point of the footbridge east of the Flatiron building [a former structure that was next to the Hardwick Gazette building] leads us to emphasize the suggestion that that section of Main Street be made an especially restricted danger zone, and the automobile laws be strictly enforced in this area.”

On November 27, 1924, the Gazette reported “Boy’s Leg Broken in Auto Accident”. Allen McDonald “received a broken leg in an accident which occurred on Main Street Tuesday afternoon just after school,” the report said. “R. J. Orton was coming down the street in his large car and when in front of the Daniels footbridge, the McDonald boy was hit, knocked down, and the front wheel passed over him with the above casualty... Mr. Orton had sounded his horn and siren just previously and was driving at a slow gait, but the boy, with others, were chasing each other and did not notice the approaching automobile, his back being turned toward the auto when struck.”

A more recent article, from September 2012, described the

“But the boy, with others, were chasing each other and did not notice the approaching automobile, his back being turned toward the auto when struck.”

case of a nine-year-old boy who “went flying” after being struck by a car while using the crosswalk adjacent to the bridge. As a result, Chief Aaron Cochran labeled that location the most hazardous crosswalk in town.

Over its 106 years, the bridge has seen numerous small repairs and closures, but withstood the violent 1927 flood, with the Gazette reporting that on November 8, the bridge “withstood a great force of flood wood.”

Daniels repainted and repaired the bridge in 1936, with the July 9 Hardwick Gazette noting that “Sam Daniels has about completed making repairs on the foot bridge over the Lamoille river connecting the Terrace avenue section with Main Street, and he has made a good job of it. He has not only put in new strings and new planking for the floor but the whole entire suspension structure has been repainted and new fencing has been placed on each side of the floor space for protection and safety of pedestrians.”

The bridge was closed in March 2007 for repairs and upgrades as a part of the Hardwick bike path. Town officials at the time opted for a temporary bridge as a solution to allow people to cross from one side to the other. The cutline [caption] of a March 28, 2007 photo in the Gazette titled “Don’t Look Down”

said of one young man’s crossing, “After completing his trek across the rushing waters, this young student said he thought the bridge was ‘a real kick.’” The only recent significant repair was a re-decking of the bridge in November 2017.

The bridge also served as a community centerpiece for residents. In September 2009, the Gazette reported that during a visit, Mexico’s Minister of-Counselor of Agriculture Carlos Vazquez “snapped photos of the Centennial Building and the swinging bridge,” and noted, “This is a very nice Main Street.”

In recent years, the bridge continued its central community role in the town. Residents crowded onto the bridge to take in the solar eclipse of August 23, 2017. The bridge was long a place where public art was featured, especially art of a sociopolitical nature, until the select board halted that use in 2020, citing an increasingly acrimonious political climate. In June 2016 a banner hung over the bridge in honor of World Refugee Day proclaiming “Refugees Welcome” was cut to shreds by unknown parties.

The bridge also served as a backdrop for lighter fare. In October 1943, the Hardwick Gazette reported “It seems that one of those-to-be-avoided pretty ‘kitty’ animals with a beautiful white stripe along the middle of its back had been bothering various merchants along that section of Main street.” Referring to a resident named Dick’s “inventive genius,” a contraption made of a carton box “was devised” and “the ‘kitty’ was enticed to enter this open box, and then the top was tightly closed.” Dick was next seen “walking the street as unconcernedly as you please with a box under his arm” the paper said.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM ALEXANDER DUNN

CONCORD, N.H. – Bill (also known as Sandy) Dunn, a resident of the Harris Hill Center Nursing Home in Concord, passed away on December 27, 2020.

Bill was born in 1943 in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Mary Elisabeth Dunn and William Joseph Dunn. His parents were well into their 40s when he was born. They had desperately wanted a family and had all but lost hope that they could ever have a child so considered him their miracle baby. Bill's mother called him Sandy after her baby brother and while most of the people that he knew during his working life knew him as Bill, later in life he adopted Sandy as his preferred name.

Sandy attended school at Immaculate Heart of Mary and Erasmus Hall in Brooklyn. He excelled at art, photography and drafting. He dropped out of school in his senior year and was persuaded by a young teacher to go to night school and graduate. He did so and was inspired to become a teacher himself.

Bill joined the Air Force in 1967 and was stationed at Whiteman Air Force base in Knob Noster, Mo., where he met Ann Martin, a student at Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg, Mo. They married in 1969. Bill completed his military service, spent a semester as a student at CMSU, and a year later they moved east to Connecticut where he continued his studies at Central Connecticut State University, graduating with a BS in Education in 1977.

With their infant son, Zachary, they moved to East Hardwick, where Bill became a technology education teacher working at Hazen Union High School. Their son Jacob was born three years later and for the next 16 years Bill's dedicated teaching impacted the lives of several generations of students at Hazen Union.

As a teacher and mentor, Bill was passionate about teaching, volunteering, leading and engaging young people. Going beyond his classroom teaching,



William Alexander Dunn

Bill created a student wood drying business for the community, established a darkroom and courses in photography, including projects that showcased historic photos of Hardwick and the generations of families that grew up there. He also worked with students to design and build a school greenhouse and helped design and build the playground at the Hardwick Elementary School. In honor of his storied career as a teacher, Bill became the first runner up for Teacher of the Year in Vermont, and when Vermont's Teacher of the Year winner was unable to attend the Washington, D.C., celebration honoring all of the state winners, Bill was invited to represent Vermont, which he proudly did.

Bill continued his professional education at the University of Vermont, where he earned a master's degree in education administration going on to become principal at Barton Graded School for the next three years. He served a stint at as a technology teacher at Harwood UHS before joining the staff at U-32 in 1997 as a technology education teacher until he retired from classroom teaching in 2005. Unable to leave his U-32 family, Bill returned to work as an occasional food service substitute, and a substitute custodian on the

buildings and grounds crew until he became a full-time custodian in 2008. Bill continued with this until his second retirement from U-32 in 2019.

Bill also spent many summers working as a Camp-Ta-Kum-Ta volunteer, overseeing maintenance of the camp and making lasting friendships with the campers and staff. Bill treasured time at the camp and the inspiring lives of all there.

Bill/Sandy was devoted to his students throughout his teaching career, staying in touch with so many of them throughout the rest of his life. His passion for work and those that he loved was intense. His students remained devoted to him as well, staying in touch with Bill at his East Montpelier home, helping out whenever they could as his health became increasingly fragile. Sandy and his partner of five years, Mary Ann Drouin Murphy, spent happy years together, with Mary Ann being a constant source of support and companionship to the very end of his life.

His enduring love for Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Irish roots of his immigrant grandparents never faded. Although he lived in and loved Vermont for over 40 years, he never stopped considering his beloved Brooklyn as home. His sons, Zac (Brooklyn, N.Y.) and Jake (Golden, Col.) and grandchildren Hana and Xander were loved heart and soul by Bill. As an inspiration of love, caring and generosity, Bill/Sandy Dunn will be missed by all whose lives were touched by his commitment to all of them.

A celebration of Bill's life will be planned once the pandemic allows the many friends, colleagues, students and family who loved him to gather together. Bill will have his own home going at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Brooklyn when travel is again permitted. For those wishing to remember Bill/Sandy with a gift, a donation to Camp Ta-Kum-Ta would be appreciated by his family.

DARLENE G. DRAGON

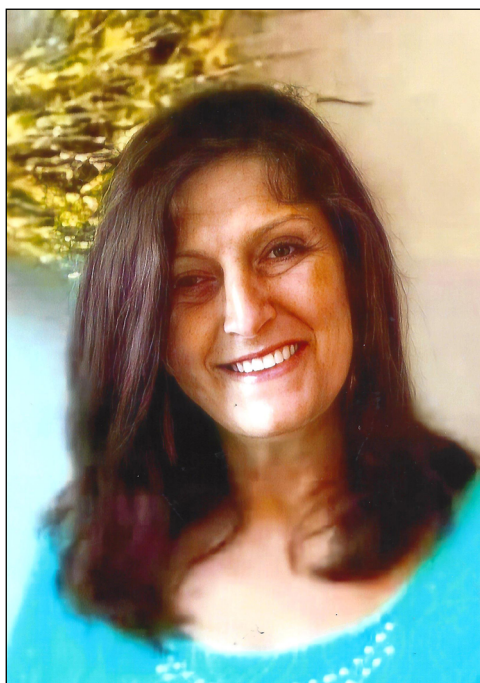
BARRE – Darlene G. Dragon, age 64, passed away Wednesday, January 13, at Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin.

Darlene was born in Bristol, Conn., on April 25, 1956. She was the daughter of Donald and Peggy (Harrison) Bezanson. She grew up in Bristol, Conn., where she received her early education and graduated from New Britain, Conn., high school. She afterwards furthered her education at E.C. Goodwin School of Cosmetology. She has been a resident of Vermont since the early 1970s. She has made her home in Barre since 2016.

In her earlier years she had worked at Cabot Creamery in Cabot, followed by working alongside her husband Clifton for their business Dragon's Logging. She was an avid gardener and loved her flowers. She enjoyed lawn sales and fishing. Photography was one of her biggest passions.

Her children and her fondly shared the phrase "I love you to the moon and back" with one another.

She is survived by three sons: Jason Bezanson of Tilton, N.H., Robert Dragon of Hardwick, and Donald Dragon of Hyde Park; three sisters: Patricia Bezanson of Middlebury, Donna Bezanson of Weybridge, and Sherry Bezanson of Chester, N.H.; one brother: Wayne Bezanson of Whiting; her father,



Darlene G. Dragon

Donald Bezanson of Waterbury, Conn. Three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her mother, Peggy Farnham; a brother, Edward Bezanson; and her former husband, Clifton Dragon.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol, Conn.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; the American Cancer Society, Vermont Division, 55 Day Lane, Williston, VT 05495.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Important Town Meeting information for Registered Voters of Wolcott

In response to the concerns posed by COVID-19, the Vermont Legislature passed ACT 162, which allows a legislative body to vote to use Australian ballot for any town meeting (annual or special) in 2021:

All voting in the Town of Wolcott for Town Meeting Day 2021 will be held via Australian Ballot. No floor meeting will be held in 2021 (as voted by the Select Board on 12/30/2020). Information on website: wolcottvt.org

OUR COMMUNITIES

GRACE Offers Community Workshop on Thursdays

HARDWICK -- Every Thursday, from 1 to 3 p.m., GRACE will offer a Thursday Community Workshop in a live virtual format. Everyone is invited to join each week for part or all of the time to make art, socialize, and connect with community members. The class is free of charge. If art supplies are needed to participate, contact carol@wonderartsvt.org or call (802) 472-6857 for a free materials kit. Curbside pickup in Hardwick and delivery in the local area is available for those in need.

Our Living History Collage Seeks Entries

GREENSBORO -- WonderArts has organized the Our Living History Collage. Members of the community are invited to share experiences, document challenges and successes, and increase understanding of how the pandemic has impacted individuals and communities. Story contributions may be made through photographs, poems, essays, artwork, song or dance, whatever best expresses experiences. Visit wonderartsvt.org/livinghistory to view the collage or to submit an entry.

Meals Available on Thursdays

CALAIS - Everyone in East Central Vermont will have single serving meals available on Thursdays, from 4 to 6 p.m., on the porch of the East Calais General Store. Individuals may take as many meals as they can use. These events are hosted by the East Calais Community Trust in collaboration with Everyone Eats.

Meals will be available on January 28, February 4 and February 11. East Calais Community Trust is (ECCT) the new owner of the East Calais store building including the apartments and the store front. Everyone Eats of Central Vermont provides nutritious meals to Vermonters that are made by area restaurants and food producers to meet the nutritional needs of our communities and to provide a stabilizing source of income for Vermont restaurants, farmers, and food producers.

EDUCATION

LeCours Graduates

CASTLETON - Denis LeCours of East Hardwick graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management from Castleton University following the successful completion of the fall semester in December 2020. Graduates will be recognized during the 234th Commencement.

Hogan Named to President's List

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Ashlyn Hogan of Plainfield was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2020 President's List. Hogan is majoring in exercise science. To qualify for President's List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.

Hall Named to Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - Springfield College has named Brenda Hall from Hardwick to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.5 for the term. Hall has a primary major of Human Services. The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows:



photo by Vanessa Fournier
This photo of Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont was taken by photographer Brendan Smialowski at Joe Biden's Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20. The photo instantly went viral, placing him in scenes everywhere including this picture at the Craftsbury Public Library.

NEK

Safe

ALL TOGETHER

KEEP IT CLEAN!

- Practice good hand hygiene
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces
- Ensure adequate ventilation and filtration



FLATTEN THE CURVE—ALL TOGETHER

Funding for development of this project made possible through a Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development Small Business Recovery Technical Assistance grant awarded through Northern Community Investment Corporation.

NEKsafe.com

Craftsbury School District Warning Posted

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury School District directors have posted the warning for 2021 annual meeting. Voters will not be meeting in person but will vote by Australian ballot. Absentee ballots will be available through the town clerk’s office. Voting takes place on March 2.

The board has scheduled an informational hearing on the FY22 school budget for Saturday, February 20, at 3:30 p.m. The phone number to access the meeting is 1-803-563-6945 and PIN 211 642 677#. The meeting can be accessed also by using the link meet.google.com/tvc-eztx-stv.

Two school director positions are open. Incumbent director Anne Morse has chosen not to run again. Incumbent director Jennifer Schoen has indicated she will be running for a two-year slot. Newcomer Jared Nunnery has announced his candidacy for the open three-year slot. All candidates for an office, including incumbents running for reelection, had to sign a consent form by Monday to be on the ballot.

The board is seeking \$4,059,066 for FY22 to operate the Craftsbury Schools. The projected education spending results in an \$18,513 expenditure per-equalized pupil, which is a half of a percent higher than the current year.

The residential educational tax rate is projected as 1.7653, which is about a .0425 increase over last year. It reflects a \$42.47 increase per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The non-residential educational tax rate is projected at 1.7228. Educational tax rates are affected by a town’s Common

Level of Appraisal (CLA) as well as budget increases or decreases. The CLA causes the educational tax rate to increase if the town is not assessed at 100% of market value. For FY22, Craftsbury’s CLA is 97.44% as determined by the state. The CLA is a yearly review of property sales within a community. Comparisons are made between the town’s assessed valuations of a property and the actual transfer market price for which the property sold.

If a town’s CLA drops below 80%, the state requires the municipality to be reassessed. If a town’s CLA is above 100%, the state formula lowers the projected educational tax rates and reduces the educational tax.

In Article 4, the board is asking the town to authorize the transfer of \$127,254 of unobligated year-end fund balances, projected as of June 30, 2020, to a reserve fund for building maintenance and repairs. Chief Financial Officer Brittany Currie explained that the \$127,254 is half of what is expected to be the year-end fund balance, which is projected to be \$254,508.

In an e-mail she explained, “This was mainly because of savings due to COVID that struck during the later end of the school year. This resulted in many areas of savings in the budget such as field trips, transportation, athletics, professional development, and many other areas of the budget.”

The remaining half, \$127,254, is in the FY22 budget as revenue to be carried over towards FY22 budget expenditures.

Article 7 seeks to transfer all property owned by the Craftsbury School District to the Craftsbury

Academy Trustees/Corporation.

Enacting and seeking voter approval for the property transfers has been on the board’s radar for several years since the enactment of Act 46, which forced school districts to regionalize and fold into newly formed districts. In the process. Craftsbury was allowed to remain as a single school district, pre-K through grade 12. Under Act 46, this can be re-evaluated or the state could pass other legislation affecting school district formations in the future.

When school districts under Act 46 had to regionalize, all school properties became the property of the newly formed regional school district. Some school districts took steps to preclude losing their school building to a newly created regional school district by transferring ownership to another entity or to the town.

Board Chair Harry Miller in a phone interview explained the

article refers to three properties: Academy Woodlot on Wylie Hill, Dustan Field lot, and Minden Hall lot. He explained that Dustan Field and Minden Hall lots had been transferred originally from the Craftsbury Academy Trustees/Corporation to the Craftsbury School District. The Minden Hall lot was transferred so that the school building subsequently built on the property would be eligible for state funding.

He explained, “When Act 46 was passed, at that time it was brought up by a board member that we should return ownership to the CA Trustees/Corporation.”

The board will be holding an informational meeting, as well as posting information through Front Porch Forum and other venues to explain Article 7 fully and why it is in the town’s interests.

Polls will open on March 2 at 9 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. if voters choose to vote in person.

WARNING

STANNARD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON THE FY22 BUDGET

on February 26, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Public can call into the meeting using this number: +1 331-303-5896
PIN: 877108121# public can also access the meeting using this link
meet.google.com/dcy-crnf-pgx

The legal voters of Stannard Town School District are hereby warned to meet for the Stannard Town School District **Public Informational Hearing on the FY22 Budget** online via a google meeting on, **February 26, 2021, at 5 p.m.** for discussion on the school district’s proposed FY22 budget as required by Title 17 VSA 2680 (g).

Article 1: To elect the following school district officers for the ensuing year:

- School District Meeting Moderator
- District Clerk
- District Treasurer
- Alternate District Treasurer

Article 2: To elect all necessary School Board Directors as required by law:

- Stannard Town School District Director for a term two years remaining on a three year term
- Stannard Town School District Director for a term of three years

Article 3: To see if the voters of the school district will authorize the following salaries to be paid for the officers and directors of the school district:

School Board Chair \$100/yr.
 School Board Member \$100/yr.
 District Treasurer \$000/yr.
 Alternate District Treasurer \$000/yr.
 District Clerk \$000/yr.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$257,482, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,951 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.39% higher than spending for the current year.

Article 5: To see if the voters of the town will authorize the school board to borrow money in anticipation of state revenues.

Voting on the aforementioned Articles 1-5 will be by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at the Stannard Town Hall, Between the hours of ten (10) o’clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7) o’clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close.

Dated at Stannard, Vermont, this 18th day of January, 2021

Diane Janukajtis, Julie Swank
 Stannard Town School District Directors

Attest: Connie J. Withers, District Clerk
 Date: 1/20/2021

Calais LHMP Survey -- Feedback Requested

The Town of Calais is looking for help identifying local safety hazards to assist in editing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)! Hazard Mitigation Plans aim to develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property damage by lessening the impact of safety hazard events or disasters. This is accomplished by identifying risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural and other risks.

Hazard mitigation is most effective when implemented through a strategic, comprehensive, and long-term Hazard Mitigation Plan, which are reviewed and updated every 5 years. The Town of Calais, in collaboration with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, has begun the LHMP update process and is looking for input from Calais residents to help identify the hazards that impact the Town.

Please respond to the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JBCH6F9> to help inform the LHMP. Your input is greatly appreciated and will help reduce risks and damages from future hazards.

Contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com with any questions.

Winter Fun In Woodbury



Woodbury 3rd grader Hayden Hopkins skis down the school's hill off the playground during Winter Wellness Day held Friday afternoon for grades K-6.

Photos by
Vanessa Fournier



Choosing to skate during Woodbury School's Winter Wellness Day January 22 are 4th grader Maya Kittredge (left) and 5th graders McKenna Durkee (center) and Evelyn Molina (right).



Woodbury 6th grade student Levi Higgins (right) plays hockey with teacher Dave Swanson (left) during the first Friday of four for the school's Winter Wellness Days.



Woodbury 5th grader Bella Alden puts on a pair of snowshoes during the school's Winter Wellness Day on Friday.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, January 28

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

GRACE FREE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP. Free online art class every Thursday, 1 - 3 p.m. Join at <https://meet.jit.si/GRACECommunityWorkshop>. Free materials kit available for pickup or delivery. Information: carol@wonderartst.org or 802-472-6857.

Friday, January 29

BLACK LIVES MATTER/Peace and Justice Vigil, 5 - 6 p.m., Fridays, Peace Park, Hardwick. All welcome.

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com. ets at highlandartsvt.com.

Saturday, January 30

BLACK LIVES MATTER/Peace and Justice Vigil, 3 - 5 p.m., Saturdays, South Main at Wolcott Street, Hardwick. All welcome.

MAGICAL DISPLAY OF LIGHTS, 5-8 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts grounds, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro. Take in the warmth of glowing fires and enjoy live music. HCA Cafe will serve light dinner fare, desserts and drinks. Wear outdoor gear. Social distancing and masks required. Purchase tickets at highlandartsvt.com

Sunday, January 31

MAGICAL DISPLAY OF LIGHTS, 5-8 p.m., Highland Center for the Arts grounds, 2875 Hardwick St., Greensboro. Take in the warmth of glowing fires and enjoy live music. HCA Cafe will serve light dinner fare, desserts and drinks. Wear outdoor gear. Social distancing and masks required. Purchase tickets at highlandartsvt.com

Monday, February 1

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, Mondays, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace AG Church, 104 Vt. Rt. 16, E. Hardwick. Men's Addiction Group. Information: 802-279-2185.

Tuesday, February 2

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Wednesday, February 3

JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER, a free meal for the community, Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Caledonia Grange #9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. A curbside dinner for the whole family to enjoy. Information or delivery: easthardwickgrange@gmail.com or 472-8987.

Exhibits

HIGHLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Greensboro, 2875 Hardwick St., outdoor art experience. Ski or snowshoe at your own pace, and on your own time, in and through artwork by Vermont artists. The 1.8-mile trail begins at HCA and loops to the neighboring Wilson Farm. Open daily, weather permitting from dawn to dusk. Social distancing and masks required. Register online at highlandartsvt.org.

ELIZABETH NELSON/ICELAND, The Satellite Gallery, 71 Depot St., Lyndonville. 802-229-8317. [facebook.com/thesatellitevt/](https://www.facebook.com/thesatellitevt/) through January 31. Open Wednesday and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

To get your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: news@hardwick-gazette.com.



photo by Doug McClure

Custodian Dave Brochu demonstrates the use of an electrostatic sprayer to clean and disinfect tables and chairs.

Hazen Union Staff Demonstrate Aggressive COVID Cleaning Measures

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Last Thursday, Hazen Union's custodial staff demonstrated their stringent COVID cleaning measures.

Smaller hallways have signs marking them as allowing only one-way traffic, and more than a few awareness signs are up to remind the students of the critical role they plan in keeping Hazen Union safe.

Principal David Perrigo, who led the demonstration, was wearing not one, but two face-masks. The classrooms now have signs on the doors indicating whether that classroom was used by students during the day so the custodial staff knows how to clean the room most efficiently.

The new protocols reflect extreme thoroughness, often including doing two steps where pre-COVID just one would suffice. Virucidal cleaning fluids are deployed everywhere possible, from floors to desks to walls. One tool in the fight against COVID is

electrostatic sprayers, as noted by Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Facility Director and Hazen Union Facilities Manager Tod DeLaricheliere.

This new tool is used to spray down everything students may have touched. The liquid carries a small static charge, which means it adheres to the surface. This allows for consistent coverage of the virus-killing solution.

DeLaricheliere said the school had just received new, improved filtration on top of an already-upgraded system. He credited the new measures with keeping Hazen Union as "probably the safest place you could be" in terms of COVID, while also stressing that the community itself had been careful. As of Sunday, none of the OSSU schools have had a recent case of COVID. Craftsbury Academy, Hardwick Elementary, Hazen Union, and Wolcott Elementary have each had just one case thus far, with Lakeview Union and Woodbury Elementary having none.



photo by Doug McClure

Custodian Dave Brochu demonstrates floor-cleaning techniques now in use to combat COVID at Hazen Union. In this photo, the hallway has been designated as only one-way traffic to promote physical distancing protocols.

5G Petition Fails to Get Enough Signatures

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — A group of citizens led by resident Emily Lanxner brought concerns to the select board over what they say is the imminent deployment of harmful 5G, but the group failed to collect enough signatures on a petition to add their question to the town meeting warning.

The petition had 68 of the requisite 118 signatures. To pass, petitions require five percent of Hardwick voters. Lanxner told the select board on January 21 the group needed more time to obtain signatures as voters had yet to be educated on the topic and suggested that the select board “adopt that as a resolution rather than putting it to a vote.”

Except for board member Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, who made a motion to put the question onto the warning, the board declined to intervene, with no second to Galloway-Kane’s motion.

The language of the proposed warning question was, “Shall the Town of Hardwick be required to inform its residents within ten business days of the receipt of proposed cell tower or small-cell

antennas within its town limits? Format shall be clearly labeled, specific to this announcement, and include post-office and municipal building fliers, printed newspaper announcement, digital town website and Front Porch Forum announcement, and verbal announcement made at the beginning of next available select board and planning commission meetings.”

Vice chair Elizabeth Dow said putting such a question on the warning would be “bad public policy.” Dow said if the town sided with this group it would set a precedent for other groups to expect the same treatment.

“If we set this up for a cell tower, what other groups are going to come to the town and say, ‘we want you to look at us whenever there’s something in our particular interest range that should concern us?’” she said. “I do not dispute the concerns about the tower, I think asking the town to keep you all notified about it is a bridge too far.” Dow added, “The government, this small town of overworked employees, cannot take on the job of lobbying on behalf of every special interest in the community

who has a heartfelt and probably accurate concern.”

Other board members said the information was already available through the state’s online Public Utilities Commission (PUC) “ePuc” site. Chair Eric Remick said, “I’d rather not place the onus on the town to have to spoon-feed residents something they could follow along and get their information already through other sources.”

Lanxner argued that the concern was of special importance due to the accelerated rollout of 5G. “The whole roll-out of the 5G antennas is brand new and people don’t know what they are,” she said. “It’s being pushed at the industry level very quickly. It’s not so much ‘it would be a bummer if [there were] a cell tower.’” Lanxner said she is concerned there will be “all kinds of antennas going up all over town, people are going to be confused about what they are, [or] they don’t know what they are, and it’s all going to happen very quickly.” The board noted that small cellular equipment might not need to be put before the Hardwick Zoning Administrator.

Lanxner said the select board had an obligation to warn people

of the dangers the new towers would pose. “We’re up against paid lobbyists that are experts at this who are really pushing hard to get this technology to every town they possibly can,” she said. “I’m trying to do what I honestly think needs to be done for this town to be aware of what’s happening, and aware of the dangers, and have some agency about making decisions.”

She argued that due to COVID-19 many residents are distracted from town business and “I wouldn’t want to have some distracting thing happen with COVID or something, and then all of a sudden see a crew out there putting a 5G antenna in front of my house.”

Resident Judith Ruskin agreed, and asked the select board to “step in” and provide “some buffer to slow down what could happen here.” Lanxner said she wanted the board to commit to continuing discussion on the issue “so we know our safety is being considered.” She described the technology as “dangerous” with “the potential of being very damaging to health not just for people but for animals and insects and the environment.”

Australian Ballot Lays Out Budget Detail in New Format

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO — Reconfiguring how budget information is relayed to voters without creating confusion has presented a challenge for select boards as towns opted to put in-person town meetings on hold in lieu of voting by Australian ballot.

The process has led to lengthy ballots and confusion for voters who may be used to traditional budget formats and understanding the mass of figures.

The Greensboro town budget, draft warning, and notes about the draft Australian ballot are posted on the town’s website. The budget of \$1,954,845 is actually a decrease from last year of \$66,116, a drop of 3.3%.

Although the budget has decreased, municipal taxes are expected to increase by 2.12%. Last year, the town was able to use about \$100,000 in reserves to lower the FY21 tax rate. The town does not expect to be able to do so for FY22.

Article 6 is a standard article the voters have seen before. It seeks approval to transfer any surplus from the highway fund into the highway equipment reserve fund (HERF). At the end of FY20, a surplus of \$52,000 in the highway fund was transferred

to the HERF in FY21 with voter approval. The reasoning for the transfer is to “help reduce the volatility of the municipal tax rate.”

On the warning, Article 7 through Article 35 reflect the changing format. In the past, the town voted one main total budget which included the proposed expenses for the coming fiscal year, appropriations to reserve funds, and appropriations made to 28 organizations.

This year Article 7 splits out the single “main” budget into component parts. Voters are asked to approve \$1,574,491 to cover the proposed expenses for the coming year and subsequent articles add to the total. If Article 7 and all subsequent separated funding requests through Article 35 are approved, the total commitment is \$1,954,845.

Following the first informational meeting on the town warning, the select board reinstated the Greensboro Public Library funding to \$25,000, which is level funding from previous years. The board had proposed cutting funding by 40% to \$15,000, but a town petition was presented to the board seeking to eliminate the proposed cuts. The board reconsidered its position and restored the appropriation

request to \$25,000.

Articles 8 and 9 seek appropriations for two reserve funds: the highway equipment reserve fund (HERF) and the capital budget fund. The reserve funds are used for projects approved by the voters. Over the past three years, voters have approved \$249,000, \$252,000, and \$260,000; the request this year is \$268,000, an increase of 3.1%.

The split out into Articles 8 and 9 from one main budget article (as in the past) gives voters a clearer idea of which moneys will be spent in the current year (Article 7) and which moneys may not be spent until the future. Article 8 seeks an appropriation of \$78,000. The highway equipment currently includes three dump trucks, a grader, a loader, an excavator, and a pickup truck. A smaller dump truck, used for spreading sodium chloride on dirt roads, wasn’t traded in because its value was too low.

Article 9 seeking an appropriation \$190,000 for the capital budget fund and reflects the need to fund larger projects, i.e., maintaining the town’s buildings. The town’s buildings include the town hall, town garage, library, Historical Society, fire station, and Grange Hall. Anticipated future

projects include painting the town hall roof, parts of library roof, and exterior of the Historical Society.

The town has eight payments of \$64,300 left to pay off the fire station loan. No funds are put aside for this loan; the \$64,300 payment comes from the capital budget fund. Money is also put aside for replacement of the town’s fire trucks and firefighting equipment.

Building a new town garage had been in the planning stages but was delayed due to COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to visit the town garage to assess for themselves the need for a larger building, particularly when all of the equipment is there.

In September, the town committed to buying a new tanker fire truck; the current tanker was not inspectable for a period of time. The purchase of the tanker greatly reduced the capital budget fund.

In “Notes About the Draft Ballot,” the select board felt “it would be prudent to rebuild the balance in the fund.”

Articles 10 through Article 35 are individual requests from town and other entities.

An absentee ballot will be available as of February 10. Voting in person takes place on March 2.

Board Signs off on Warning, Budget

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At its January 20 meeting, three of Wolcott’s five board members were in attendance and managed to agree on several measures to approve the warning and the budget. Under quorum rules, three board members must agree for measures to pass.

The board also received an e-mail from a resident who had been convinced that limiting voting at town meeting to only Australian ballot would raise taxes (it does not). The board acknowledged that steps needed to be taken to address disinformation being spread regarding the change to Australian Ballot and plans to add this to the topics discussed at the informational meeting, which is set for February 24, at 6 p.m.

Over the course of discussions in previous meetings, it had been suggested that two items previously put in as appropriations were better suited to being in the select board budget. Both Hardwick Rescue and the Lamoille County Planning Commission were considered in the discussions as “town service agencies” with critical roles in the town. The board decided to move those two items from the appropriations articles in the warning and into the select board budget, cementing the warning as having 15 total articles.

Logistical issues were sorted out regarding town meeting. Wolcott will mail all eligible voters postcards to alert them they can request a ballot. Residents can mail those ballots in or bring them

to the town clerk any time up to the day before town meeting, or submitted in person on Town Meeting Day between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The board also finalized the budget after much discussion. Several items discussed in the previous special meeting moved from suggestions to decisions. \$6,009.73 was taken out of the fund balance from the North Wolcott road grant to offset taxes and projected revenue. Another \$5,800 was taken out of the fund balance for the town building account to be used for the same purpose, as was \$52.75 designated for tax mapping (previously reported erroneously as \$5,275) that was no longer necessary.

The tabulator was removed from the budget. Library staffing funding was also reduced, while utility costs were factored in for the depot. Two major increases in the highway budget, for temporary labor and equipment repair, were taken out. The board settled on \$25,000 for recording fees since it was felt that this number reflected reality. The proposed across-the-board raises for employees based on cost-of-living increases were taken out.

“I don’t see how we can take much more out of [the budget] without decimating what we have to do for the town,” said vice chair Linda Martin.

Before appropriations, the budget approved is \$1,198,172 less anticipated revenues of \$308,366.48 which leaves \$889,805.52 to be raised by taxes plus whatever appropriations voters approve.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Shanties are beginning to appear on Caspian Lake. There were some hardy ice fisherman Sunday as the temperature was 5 degrees above zero with a wind chill factor in the -20s.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Above, Lakeview kindergartners Adele Barsalow (left) and Lennix Nash (right) slide down the school’s play structure as classmate Annabelle Putvain waits for her turn during recess.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Left, snowmobiles are parked outside of the Hardwick House of Pizza Saturday as there was finally enough snow to ride the trails. Riders grabbed a quick bite to eat while following COVID-19 protocols.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

All Normal Philosophic Calm Vanishes

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER -- If there's anything more hellish in the life of an elderly Yankee than driving in Boston traffic, it's anticipating having to. The thought of hurtling at 75 miles an hour through Methuen, Medford, and Somerville in the company of thousands of homicidal maniacs in SUVs (all of whom, unlike me, know where they're going) makes me peruse commuter airline schedules. When I add the prospect of darkness, rain, sleet, snow, or rush hour, all normal philosophic calm vanishes, replaced by Wagnerian bass viols expressing deep existential dread.

Yet go I had to, for work: a New Hampshire Public Television shoot on Cape Cod. The route couldn't have been much simpler -- interstates most of the way, and according to Google Maps, a bit less than four hours. So, if I left around one, I should pull into the motel in East Sandwich just about dark. It was a Sunday afternoon, to boot; but I still wasn't easy in my mind.

Tom moved to New Hampshire, at the foot of the Mount Washington Valley, some years ago and enjoyed several happy, creative years. But in the last several months, feeling cramped by the influx of tourists and the percentage of local houses now listed as second homes -- not to mention the encroaching leash laws on dogs on public trails -- he's thinking of moving.

Sunday morning, when I let Kiki out, there was a little over a foot of new, wet snow in the yard, and more coming down, hard. Okay; so we'll leave at noon and hope for the best. Which we did. Before we'd gone thirty miles, it was obvious our home had been on the southern edge of the storm. Clear roads, and by the time we turned south at Concord, dry pavement and broken clouds.

Cape Cod is currently in the middle of a mini-surge of COVID, so the motel had asked us not to come to the office; that the room would be open with the key inside. They also don't allow dogs normally; but these are hard times in tourist locations. Assured that Kiki doesn't shed, and that she's now a member of the crew,

they relented. The other crew members trickled in 'til about ten.

Next morning, up and at 'em, and off to the shoot, with a stop at a Dunkin' Donuts along the way. We were to meet Tom Ryan at a trailhead parking lot at the edge of the West Barnstable Conservation Area, take a little hike, and chat with him a bit just before -- literally -- he took off on a months-long road trip through the West with his two canine friends, Samwise and Emily.

A lot of you know Tom from his best-selling "Following Atticus," the tale of a fascinating little miniature Schnauzer who pretty much saved Tom's life and with him climbed all New Hampshire's 48 4,000-foot peaks in both winter and summer. We've done several episodes of the show together, and he was responsible for getting me over my grief at the loss of our last dog, the utterly amazing Tucker, and signing up online for a peppy little ginger-colored rescue terrier from Texas. Whenever we get together, our three dogs sort of melt into a rolling ball of fur and happy growls.

Tom moved to New Hampshire, at the foot of the Mount Washington Valley, some years ago and enjoyed several happy, creative years. But in the last several months, feeling cramped by the influx of tourists and the percentage of local houses now listed as second homes -- not to mention the encroaching leash laws on dogs on public trails -- he's thinking of moving. He's lived through a stroke and the failure of several major organs, but is able to travel on the proceeds of his writing; so he's taking a long walkabout and thinking about where to settle next. It's to his credit that he's leaning, without my even recommending it, most toward Vermont. I have a feeling that a few months' traveling through the American West, dodging COVID, will seal the deal. I hope so.

Cape Cod, the world's most famous glacial moraine, where Tom's been quarantining for six weeks, has filled in with people since I spent my sixteenth summer here washing pots and pans in a summer camp and sailing during every free minute. Still, he's been able to relax here more than in Mount Washington Valley, and walk unrestrained for miles in places like the one we were in that morning, a four square-mile semi-wild area somehow saved from development. We climbed to an observation platform near the top of the high point (232 feet!) of the area and sat chatting in a biting breeze with our backs to the sun. Mountain bikers and hikers with their dogs went by. Everybody sat or stood about two meters apart, and many wore masks, a reminder that Tom and his pals were about to venture into perilous country, while Kiki and I were about to return for a seven-day quarantine away from the horrors of Boston and back in the center of the civilized world. We bade the three pilgrims goodbye at the trailhead and all went our separate ways, carefully.

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MEETING MEMO

Monday, February 1
Walden Select Board, every other Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 2
Danville School Board,
Regular Meeting, 6 p.m., <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/7143620563>. Meeting ID: 714 362 0563. Dial 1-646-558-8656.

Town Websites, Town Clerks
Cabot: cabotvt.us
Calais: calaisvermont.gov
Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
Greensboro: greensborovt.org

Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. waldentc@pivot.net
Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
Woodbury: woodburyvt.org



Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



“DEMOCRACY WINS OVER TYRANNY!”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Reflections on Jan. 20

I feel as though I've awakened from a nightmare,
A nightmare of four years,
A nightmare that was short, nasty and brutish,
But not four years in the making.

No, a nightmare of years, of decades, of centuries,
Centuries of brutality, of trauma, of horror.
Those years are the foundation blocks of a nightmare,
Of a nightmare that came to fruition four years ago,
That gripped us, brutalized us for four years.

The four years are past, but the foundation blocks remain.
Life is short, but we can and must fight,
Must fight that which is nasty and brutish,
To keep the nightmare at bay,
To allow us to sleep and be awake with peace.

Ross Connelly
Hardwick

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AMENDED WARNING

HAZEN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #26 PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON THE FY22 BUDGET on February 22, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Public can call into the meeting using this number : +1 678-256-3930 PIN: 821 696 533# or by using this link meet.google.com/ycf-pxqp-rqu

The legal voters of Hazen Union School District No. 26 consisting of the Town School Districts of Greensboro, Hardwick and Woodbury are hereby warned to meet for the Hazen Union School District #26 Public Informational Hearing on the FY22 Budget online via a google meeting, on Monday, February 22, 2021, at 7 p.m. for discussion on the school district's proposed FY22 budget as required by Title 17 VSA 2680 (g).

Article 1: To elect the following school district officers for the ensuing year: (Voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

- School District Meeting Moderator
- District Clerk
- District Treasurer
- Alternate District Treasurer

Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district authorize the following salaries to be paid for the officers and directors of the school district? (Voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

School Board Chair - \$0/yr.
School Board Member - \$0/yr.
District Treasurer - \$2,500/yr.
Alternate District Treasurer - \$ 96 per payroll worked
District Clerk - \$25/yr.

Article 3: Shall the voters of the school district authorize its school board to borrow money pending the receipt of payments from the member districts and state funds as provided in Title 16 of the Vermont Statutes? (Voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

Article 4: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$6,692,354, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,068 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.44% lower than spending for the current year. (Voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

Article 5: Shall the voters of the school district authorize the school board to transfer \$96,454.04 of unobligated year end fund balances as of June 30, 2020 to a reserve fund used for all buildings established pursuant to Title 24, Section 2804 to be used for building maintenance and repairs? (Voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021)

Voting on the aforementioned Article 1-5 will be by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 between the hours of

a. Nine (9) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close at the polling places for the following member towns:

Hardwick: Hardwick Fire Station, Hardwick, VT

b. Between the hours of ten (10) o'clock in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open and seven (7) o'clock in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close at the polling place for the following member town:

Greensboro: Greensboro Town Hall, Greensboro, Vt.

Woodbury: Woodbury Town Hall, Woodbury, Vt.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed, reopened at the polling place in the town of Hardwick, the ballots commingled and publicly counted.

The legal voters of the Hazen Union School District No. 26 are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapter 43 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated .

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 24th day of January, 2021:

Steven Freihofner, Mike Metcalf, Christopher Casey,
Brett Stanciu, Andrew Meyer

Hazen Union School District #26 School Board Directors

Attest: Tess Martin, District Clerk

Date: 1/25/2021

IN THE GARDEN

Why Eating Organic Food Is Important

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I've been growing vegetables organically all my life. I use no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. I don't often think about the reasons I do so, any more than I think about breathing – it's just something I do.

I recently picked up a book written by Maria Rodale called *"The Organic Manifesto: How Organic Farming Can Heal Our Planet, Feed the World, and Keep Us Safe"* (Rodale Press, 2010) and it reminded me why I do so. I'd like to share some of the important points with you here.

In the introduction Eric Schlosser (author of the fabulous book, *"Fast Food Nation"*) presented some stark facts: American farmers use 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides each year – four pounds for every man, woman and child. Some of these pesticides – the organophosphates – were first developed in Germany in WWII as chemical weapons. The federal government does not require reporting of usage, and testing is done by manufacturers, not the EPA or USDA. Most food has some pesticide residue – except for organic foods, which shouldn't have any.

One of Maria Rodale's reasons for eating only organic

organically? You are helping the environment.

Secondly, irrigation water for commercial agriculture, particularly in the West, uses large quantities of water, depleting aquifers and polluting ground water. When I traveled through the Midwest in the early 2000s I was amazed that supermarkets designated entire aisles to jugs of water – no one wanted to drink from their own wells. And there is a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico that is bigger than New Jersey caused by agricultural run-off of chemicals from conventional fields.

Children are particularly vulnerable to chemicals used in commercial farming. Rates of childhood cancers, asthma, diabetes, autism and other debilitating conditions continue to increase. Ms. Rodale attributes (with copious footnotes to scientific studies) many of these changes to the chemicals children consume. As she says, "Cheap food equals high health care costs."

The "organic" label on food also means that no genetically modified organisms were used in producing your food. Back in 2010 when Rodale wrote the book, 91% of all soybeans and 95% of all corn produced in America was genetically modified to be tolerant of a



courtesy photo

This organic farmer has nurtured soil rich in microorganisms that sequester carbon.

though many scientists do.

Ms Rodale never once, in this book, criticized conventional chemical farmers. Organic or conventional, she recognized their hard work and a desire to work their land and support their

vegetables. The supplier of the local farm stand near me uses an approach called IPA or Integrated Pest Management. This method encourages farmers to use natural controls, and to use pesticides only when a crop is threatened. They cultivate crops to root out weeds instead of spraying herbicides like Roundup.

But the bottom line is this: the more you grow organically, the better your soil will be. If you use only organic methods,



courtesy photo

Organic fertilizers contain more healthy minerals than chemical fertilizers.

families. She recognizes that transitioning to organic farming takes time, money, and education.

So, what can you do? You may not be able to afford to buy nothing but organic food. But you probably can buy your meats from local farmers that do not use the feedlots of the Midwest that feed their cows and pigs antibiotics. And you can get eggs, as I do, from a local teenager that treats his hens well. (Thank you, Ian's Eggs).

For vegetables, you can probably grow some of what you require for vegetables in summer or buy from a local farm stand. Many farmers are happy to tell you about how they grow their



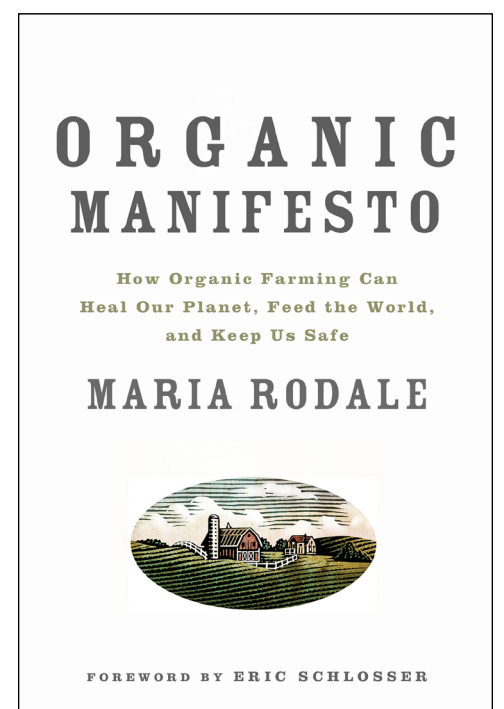
courtesy photo

My organic veggies look and taste great.

food might surprise you: it has to do with climate change. Soils treated with chemicals, including fertilizers, do not have robust populations of microorganisms. Organic soils do. Key among these living beings are the mycorrhizal fungi that coat the roots of plants in organically tended soils. These fungi sequester huge amounts of carbon, taking greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere and holding it the soil. But they are virtually non-existent in soils treated with chemicals. Grow organically? Eat

weed killer called glyphosate, sold under the trade name Roundup.

There has been much controversy about Roundup, and whether it is harmful to humans. Ms. Rodale points out that Roundup cannot be washed off food: it has a surfactant that allows the chemical to penetrate the cell wall. And since corn and soy are used to manufacture many foods from ice cream to baby food and ketchup, it is everywhere. The federal government does not consider Roundup a problem,



courtesy photo

Organic manifesto cover.

you can avoid many chemicals in your food that might be present in grocery store foods.

I recognize that I cannot change the world with what I do. But I have learned to grow plenty of vegetables, and to keep them for eating out of season. So think about a bigger vegetable garden this summer, and I will tell you about how to put food up for next winter when the time comes.

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Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way. Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000 feet of an electric utility right-of-way:

1. **Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000 feet of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15, 2021, to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. **You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. **Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. **Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. **You have the right to request**, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. **You have the right to refuse**, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **distribution lines**, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. **You have the right to refuse**, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines or sub-transmission lines**, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

Vermont Electric Power Company VELCO 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt. 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-800-622-4496
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15, 2021.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List

Name	Town/City of Affected Area		
Street Address	Home Phone Number		
Town	Work Phone Number		
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number" (circle one) Yes No	
Electric Utility Account Number	Best time to contact you		
Affected Property:	Year-round residence	Summer residence	Commercial property
	Water Supply	Organic Farm	Land Other (circle all that apply)
Line/Pole identification Utility initials	Pole numbers		

Please fill out this request to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.
MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY BY FEBRUARY 15, 2021.



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SPORTS

SKI REPORT

BY ERIC HANSON

Craftsbury Hosts First COVID-Era Ski Race

CRAFTSBURY – The first races in the COVID era were held at Craftsbury Outdoor Center on Saturday Jan. 16. It had to be the quietest race event ever held at the Center: no spectators, groups of 25 skiers going out on course over 15 minutes, finish, go for cool down, and head home. Thirty minutes later, the next group of skiers headed out.

The races were held over five hours, compared to the normal two-hour period for a race this size. Except while racing, masks were mandatory and everyone complied. Parents hung out at their cars, went on their own solitary skis, or went for a walk. The only cheering was by coaches scattered along the trail. The kids and young adults were happy to race. All seemed to go smoothly and more importantly, safely.

I always thought that the phrase ‘the loneliness of the long-distance runner’ was a reference to the hours of solitary training in an endurance sport, but it’s actually a movie about social divides in Great Britain. Despite my misconception of the origins of the phrase, the racers were mostly on their own, with occasional groups of two to three racers passing each other in the four- or eight-lap course – the solitary life of an endurance athlete.

The guys headed out first. UVM standout and U.S. Junior World skier Ben Ogden skied

up front, winning in 22:10 over the eight-lap, 8.8 km course. Craftsbury Academy graduate Finn Sweet skied well, finishing 39 seconds back. Finn was supposed to be a first-year student at UVM this year, but decided to take the year off and train with the Craftsbury GRP. Craftsbury Nordic Ski Club (CNSC) skiers Tzevi Schwartz and Aiden Casey had outstanding races, finishing eighth and ninth overall (third and fourth among U18 skiers). Former Craftsbury Academy skier Anders Hanson was tenth. CNSC skiers Cormac Leahy was 14th, Orion Cenkl 25th, and Linden Stelma-Leonard 28th. In the U16 (under 16) boys’ race, Bailey Fin from Stratton Mountain School placed first in 12:42 in the 4.4 km race. CNSC’s Leo Circosta placed a strong third, with Charlie Krebs seventh, Sage Grossi 11th, Alan Moody 12th, and U14 skier Charles Kehler 15th.

In the women’s 8.8 km race, SMS2 skier Alayna Sorenson, a former UVM standout, bested the field by 1:20 seconds (25:47) with Craftsbury GRP skiers Alex Lawson second, Margie Fried third, and Michaela Keller-Miller fifth. Junior CNSC skier Nina Seeman was 10th, Quincy Massey-Bierman 12th, Camille Bolduc 13th, and Maggie McGee 14th among the 35 starters. U18 skier Ava Thurston (Mansfield Nordic – Waterbury), one of the top young skiers in the east, showed her prowess by finishing fourth. She’ll be one to watch for in future years. In the U16 girls’ race, Virginia Cobb (Mansfield Nordic 15:32) led the way in the 4.4 km race. Local finishers include Anika Leahy (fifth), Amelia Circosta (seventh), Ruth Krebs (eighth). The three Craftsbury Nordic girls finished one-two-three in the U14 age class.

For many of the racers, this was their first hard effort of the season. For some it went well; others will find their fast gears in later races. By learning how to hold COVID-safe races, more will be on the schedule, allowing these young athletes to learn and test their strength. High school Nordic races have now been allowed by the governor in limited race formats.



courtesy photo

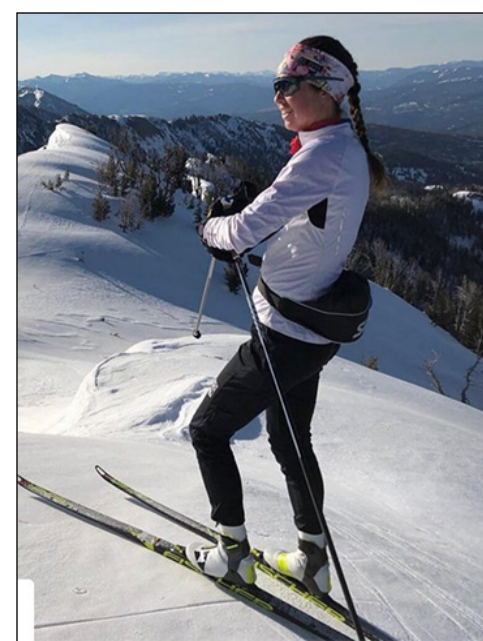
Alex Lawson is a former Craftsbury Nordic skier named to the U.S. U23 World Team.

World Cup Racing Action and World Junior Teams

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy – Craftsbury Green Racing Project’s Caitlin Patterson recently completed the Tour de Ski, eight days of racing over 11 days in Italy and Switzerland. It’s the equivalent of the Tour de France bicycle race in the cross-country ski world.

Caitlin, a UVM graduate, has been skiing for the Craftsbury GRP for about six years, her second home. She grew up in Alaska but came to Vermont to ski on the college circuit and then stayed to ski professionally with the GRP. It’s a grueling race with two sprints, five middle distance races, and the infamous hill climb on the final day. Patterson finished 27th in the hill climb and 34th in the overall tour. She was the fifth U.S. Ski Team finisher with Jessie Diggins taking the dramatic overall win for team U.S.A., the first time a non-European has won the race in its 15-year history.

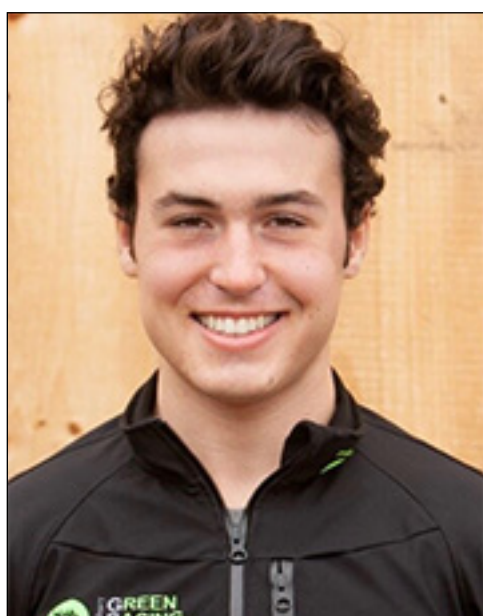
On the U.S. junior skier front, it was announced this week that Craftsbury’s Nina Seeman, along with Waterbury’s Ava Thurston, have been named to the U.S. World Junior team, which



courtesy photo

Caitlin Patterson enjoying a free ski in the southern Alps of Italy.

will race in Finland in February. Finn Sweet was named the U-20 men’s team. Sweet graduated this past spring from Craftsbury Academy high school. Alex Lawson, a former CNSC skier and Middlebury student, was named to the U.S. World U23 team for the second time. These are major accomplishments for these young athletes. We’ll follow their results in February. All these young athletes have been coached by Anna Schultz, Audrey Mangnan, and Jake Barton as part of the Craftsbury Nordic Ski Club.



courtesy photo

Finn Sweet, a 2020 Craftsbury Academy graduate, was named to the U.S. Under 20 (U20) World Junior Team.

SPORTS

Lanphear to Take Over Driver's Seat at Green Racing

"We felt that Brandon was probably the best choice among up-and-coming, soon-to-be Late Model drivers who were available. We had a meeting with him a week ago and told him what we were all about, and he's excited about the chance."

BARRE – One of the most iconic cars of the past two decades at Barre's Thunder Road has a new pilot. Richard Green Racing has announced that Morrisville's Brandon Lanphear will drive the #16VT Chevrolet with sponsorship from Richard Green Trucking, Green's Ace Hardware, and Pro Driver Training during the upcoming Late Model season.

Since early 2014, Milton's Scott Dragon had been behind the wheel of the familiar blue machine. In that time, he won the 2016 and 2018 "King of the Road" titles, along with 12 feature events. However, Dragon recently decided to step away from the #16VT and pursue interests outside of racing.

Now, the 26-year-old Lanphear is taking the reins. Brandon, the son of former track champion Dwayne Lanphear, is coming off a year where he won the Triple Crown Series title and finished fourth in Flying Tiger points.

"We had a team meeting a couple weeks ago and looked over the rosters," team owner Richard Green said. "We felt that Brandon was probably the best choice among up-and-coming, soon-to-be Late Model drivers who were available. We had a meeting with him a week ago and told him what we were all about, and he's excited about the chance."

"We had a great run with Scott," Green added. "We spent seven years in the hunt for championships. We want to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to our team. We're still on good terms, and if we ever want to do something later on, we'll get back together."

"I'm already excited for the season," Lanphear said. "It makes a world of difference for me having their knowledge and experience. They've been racing for almost 20 years now. They're definitely a proven team — their stats speak for themselves. It's really exciting just to have the opportunity to drive a Late Model, and to have it be a good one at that."

Since 2002, Richard Green Racing has been a constant presence at Thunder Road and on the traveling American-Canadian Tour (ACT). The team debuted with Dave Wilcox as its driver before Joey Becker took over the seat midway through the 2003 season. Becker spent more than 10 years as the team's weekly Thunder Road racer. Dragon joined the team early in the 2014 season with Becker remaining as a crew member.

Mark Lamberton and Travis Stearns have also piloted Richard Green Racing cars in ACT Late Model Tour competition. Together, RGR drivers have combined for 17 wins at Thunder Road, including

Lady Cats

Continued From Page 19

us more options at the point guard position," said Whitney.

Alexis Christensen and Haley Michaud are the lone sophomores but will be asked to play big minutes once again for Whitney's 11-person squad that is rounded out by four freshmen. Christensen had her best game of the season in the opening round of the playoffs last winter, dropping a career-high 22 points in a dominant win over Rivendell Academy.

"We have some really good young talent, but in this strange season they will have to develop extremely quickly and it is going to take some quality leadership from our seniors. We have some good potential if we can stay healthy, but it is going to take an effort from everyone on our roster and everything is going to have to go right for us to be successful. We've dealt with some quarantining early on in practice so a few of the girls are a little behind, but everyone is going to be dealing with adversity this year so you have to adapt.

Hazen Union is tentatively scheduled to open its season at Peoples Academy on Monday night.



courtesy photo

Morrisville's Brandon Lanphear will move up to Thunder Road's Late Model class in 2021 with Richard Green Racing.

victories in the Vermont Governor's Cup, Labor Day Classic, and Memorial Day Classic.

Lanphear has spent the last three seasons in the Flying Tiger division. He won three features and finished in the top four in points every season. Lanphear also won the Rookie of the Year in the Street Stocks. He has two Late Model starts under his belt, including a

16th-place effort in the most recent Vermont Milk Bowl.

In 2021, the new pairing is set for a full card of weekly racing and special events at Thunder Road. Green also has the Midsummer 250 at White Mountain Motorsports Park and Night Before the 250 event at Oxford Plains Speedway penciled on the team's calendar.

Thunder Road opens the 2021 racing season on Sunday, May 2, with the 23rd Community Bank N.A. 150. The ACT Late Model Tour and Late Models go 150 laps with the Flying Tigers, Street Stocks, and Road Warriors also on the card. The annual Thunder Road Car Show and an open practice are scheduled for Saturday, May 1.

Wildcats

Continued From Page 19

if everyone stays healthy, a tough matchup in those physical games that we struggled in last year," said Hill.

Tyler Rivard grew four inches, giving the Wildcats an inside presence they've lacked and fellow sophomore Jadon Baker looks to match the breakout season he enjoyed on the soccer pitch this past fall. Coupled with Shopland and Isaiah Baker, who is a three-time VT Dream Dozen selection, the Wildcats will be a problem to defend.

"I'm really excited about this group and the young guys we have on the roster have proved to be very coachable and loyal to a basketball program we are trying to sustain here at Hazen. Everybody is anxious to get started, stay safe and healthy, and we hope to get the green light to start the season next week," said Hill.

Hazen is tentatively scheduled to start the season at home next Tuesday against Stowe.

Trojans

Continued From Page 19

"We have some good young athletes on this team, but like a lot of teams they're not going to have the usual amount of time to develop throughout the season with it being such a sprint to the playoffs. It's going to be a different year for everyone, hopefully the offense clicks early and we develop our defensive principles as quick as we can. We are all kind of shooting blind here with very little wiggle room for interruptions in the season. It is going to take everyone following protocols and doing their part and we'll hope for the best," said Hudson.

The Trojans are tentatively scheduled to start their season next Friday at home against Winooski.

SPORTS

High School Hoops Have One More Hurdle to Clear this Week

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – High school basketball teams around the state began full contact practices and scrimmages last Monday, but they await a decision by Governor Scott this Friday to give the greenlight for varsity competition to finally begin.

Area teams are optimistic that they will tip-off their high school basketball seasons early next week, but with participation numbers down statewide and strict COVID-19 protocols in place, this season will look anything but

normal.

All players, coaches, referees, and personnel will be required to wear masks at all times. Teams must have two off days in between games, which means that coaches and athletic directors are hoping to get in two games a week for their boys' and girls' squads. Games will also be played without fans inside of the gymnasium for safety reasons.

"The guys are still getting acclimated to running up and down the court with a mask on and there will definitely be an adjustment period for everyone once we start

playing games," said Twinfield boys' head coach Chris Hudson. "Guys seem to be losing their wind a little quicker wearing a mask, so we'll have to substitute a little more, but with smaller rosters we're all going to have to adjust on the fly," said Hudson.

Once the season finally tips off, it will be a 10-12 game sprint

to the playoffs for most teams. There is little to no wiggle room for rescheduling around positive tests and snow days at this point. The basketball season normally ends at the Barre Auditorium in March, but there are hopes that the Vermont Principals Association will consider extending it if possible.

Trojans Look to Navigate Unknown Season



Chris Hudson

File photo by Vanessa Fournier

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – The Twinfield boys' basketball team will look to improve upon a disappointing first round exit from the Division IV playoffs last season, but will do so with a smaller roster as participation numbers are down statewide due to COVID-19.

Head coach Chris Hudson had another successful 14-win season at Twinfield last year, but it ended on a low note with a narrow loss to West Rutland in the first round. He returns senior star Gavin Fowler, a two-time Vermont Dream Team selection. Fowler will likely fall short of reaching 1,000 career points due to an abbreviated season, but the Trojan offense will likely go as far as he goes.

"It won't be a big secret to other teams that our offense starts

with Gavin. He's done a great job of fighting through double teams the last couple of seasons. We return some good height with Cutler Gladding and Mason Cushing and some of our best offense will probably be pounding the defensive glass and getting out in transition. Numbers are a little down this year for everybody and with so many unknowns this season it is going to take everyone on the roster for us to be successful," said Hudson.

Lucas Roberts and Henry LoRe will give the Trojans some ball handling experience in the backcourt. The additions of freshmen Meles Gouge and Sam Russell, and eighth grader Kerrick Medose give Hudson some shooting threats from the outside if they develop quickly.

See **TROJANS, 18**

Wildcats Return Bigger and Stronger

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen boys' basketball team's season ended in the Final Four at the Barre Auditorium last winter for the second straight year and they're poised to contend again this season with a bigger, stronger, more experienced roster.

Last season was supposed to be a rebuilding year for head coach Aaron Hill, but he flipped the script behind another stellar season from star guard Isaiah Baker, leading the team to a 18-5 record. COVID-19 may rob Baker from eclipsing Tim Shedd's all-time school scoring record and a shot at the state three-point record, but one of the best shooting guards in the state makes a sixth Division III state title for Hill and his Wildcats in his 23rd season a distinct possibility. Ethan Shopland joins Baker as the lone returning senior surrounded by a group of talented underclassmen that have playoff experience under their belt.



Aaron Hill

File photo by Vanessa Fournier

"We were dynamic last season, but small and we gave away a lot of possessions on the boards. The guys have looked great so far in practice and a lot of them came back bigger, stronger, and more physical. We'll be a different team this season and

See **WILDCATS, 18**

Lady Cats Hope to Build on Late Postseason Run

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen girls' basketball team made a late run into the Division IV playoffs last season, but will have to develop some young talent quickly to repeat that same feat this year.

Hazen Union alum Tim Whitney returned to the sidelines last season to lead the Lady Cats to a 9-13 record, including an impressive home playoff win over Rivendell Academy and a near upset of top-seeded West Rutland in the quarterfinals.

An abbreviated schedule will likely rob senior center Alleigh Gabaree a chance to reach 1,000

career points, but the four-year starter will be the main cog in the middle for Whitney and his Lady Cats once again this season. Seniors Natalie Geoffroy, Macy Molleur, and Harley Papineau will also be leaned on, as well as Abby Ainsworth, who returns from injury to stabilize the backcourt.

"Alleigh was great for us down the stretch last season and despite all the variables we are dealing with this season, we are hoping to get her off to a quicker start this year. We have some good senior leadership with playoff experience and we hope to get Abby back up to speed as quick as possible to give

See **LADY CATS, 18**



Tim Whitney

File photo by Vanessa Fournier