

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Volume 132 Number 6

Vaccines Available to Those 70-plus, Orleans County Behind Vaccination Rate

by Doug McClure

MONTPELIER -- Yesterday, the state announced that it was lowering the age for eligibility for COVID vaccination from 75 to 70.

Vermont Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Communication Officer Bennett Truman said in the first 15 minutes of Tuesday's office hours, the state had received over 7,000 calls. He urged patience for those trying to reach the state by phone since at some points the call volume has overwhelmed the phone system. Truman said a better route for people seeking appointments was to register at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine and added "Everyone will get scheduled and there are enough appointments for all."

Governor Phil Scott tweeted yesterday morning that "In less than three hours, we've already scheduled more than 10,000 people in this phase, nearly one-third of the entire [75+] group population. We expect to move through this phase quickly and will then open to 65+ and then those with certain health conditions that put them at greater risk if they get COVID-19."

This lowered threshold comes after the state claims significant progress in vaccinating those over 75. As of Tuesday morning, 50.8% of people over 75 across the state had received at least one dose of the vaccine. While most of the counties the Hardwick Gazette covers were almost at or above the state's vaccination rate for that age group, most

See **VACCINE, 2**



photo by Doug McClure

Northern Counties Health Care began testing at the Fire Station in Hardwick in early December. Next week, NCHC will launch vaccine clinics at the same site. Visit healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine to make an appointment.



photo by Doug McClure

The Flower Basket in the back of the Daniels Building has seen a decline in revenues because of the closure of the pedestrian bridge.

The Flower Basket Faced Triple Whammy

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Valentine's Day is normally one of the top sales days for Hardwick's lone florist, the Flower Basket, located in the Daniels Building.

This year's Valentine's Day, however, the shop faced a triple whammy: COVID, the closure of the pedestrian bridge, and the fact that the holiday fell on a Sunday, proprietor Nora DeMuth said. Compared to last year, which was pre-COVID and fell on a Friday with the bridge open, sales were "about a fifth of our volume."

DeMuth said that the shop received more pre-orders than last year, which streamlined the production process and allowed accommodation for custom flower selections. The business also just installed a new cooler which extends the period during which the product stays fresh.

DeMuth said beyond the pre-orders, more people picked up their

See **WHAMMY, 3**

Tops, Price Chopper to Merge Under Parent Company

by Doug McClure

SCHENECTADY/WILLIAMS-VILLE, N.Y. – On February 8, Price Chopper/Market 32 and Tops Markets announced that they will merge under a new parent company.

The deal was described by a company spokesperson as being more about synergy than rebranding. In an interview with Supermarket News, the chief executive officers (CEO) for both chains

said business was strong and, as far as consumers could tell, the markets would continue to operate separately.

Tops CEO and chairman Frank Curci said in an interview with Supermarket News that "we'll have two separate operating business units underneath that umbrella. And Tops will continue to operate our stores as we do

today." He said the store's name and customer relations would remain the same, as would Price Chopper/Market 32. "They'll be led by their local management as our company's going to be led by ours," he said. "And we'll take advantage of best practices and best people and eliminate redundancies and be better in the long run and take advantage of the scale on the total. That's the plan."

Price Chopper/Market 32 CEO Scott Grimmett said the merger was intended "to provide us the opportunity to have a stronger voice when it comes to vendor relations and negotiating contracts" and both chains were "very solid" business-wise. Curci said the two chains' store locations are "almost perfectly contiguous, with very little overlap."

See **MERGE, 4**

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Vaccine

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notably Caledonia County with 63%, Orleans County lags behind, with just 39.8% of those 75+ having received at least one dose, the second-lowest percentage in the state.

According to CDC data, Vermont ranks second highest in the region for the number of people vaccinated per 100 and tenth nationwide, Department of Financial Regulation Commission Mike Pieciak said Tuesday. He added that Vermont now ranks seventh in terms of the percentage of the population fully vaccinated.

On February 11 the DOH issued a release in which it said "The City of Burlington's testing of wastewater detected the presence of two COVID-19 virus mutations that are associated with the B.1.1.7 variant, first detected in the United Kingdom."

The city's COVID surveillance strategy uses wastewater sampling as an early warning system and said that the prevalence of the variant was just over the limit at which detection was possible. Many cities and towns have begun deploying such a system as a part of COVID variant detection.

Hardwick Town Manager Shaun Fielder said the town "did previously receive a notice outlining a potential program for communities to volunteer for this type of testing. [It] was described as no-cost in regards to test costs and analysis. Nothing advanced on this at this time and I cannot predict if this would be implemented in the future. My recommended focus for everyone at this time is to continue to practice recommended social distancing measures and also sign up for and obtain coronavirus vaccinations when allowed."

On Tuesday, Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine said that data from Burlington's wastewater system had not come back from the lab. He said that while no COVID-positive individual had tested positive for a variant in Vermont, "It is clear that we are now in a race, a race to continue to suppress the virus by adhering even more strictly to public health guidance, avoiding crowded indoor spaces, and multi-household gatherings a little longer, keeping our physical distance and masking, even double-masking or knot-and-tuck masking as there will

The CDC has not committed to a characterization on whether this variant is intrinsically more fatal.

be less chance for air leakage." He directed people to the CDC for details at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html).

Health authorities have expressed concerns over B.1.1.7's transmission rate. While data is still limited in the United States, based on the experience in Britain scientists have put its transmissibility at 30-50% higher than the original virus. The CDC said in January that it expected that variant to become the dominant one in the United States by March. The CDC concluded in January that B.1.1.7's "higher rate of transmission will lead to more cases, increasing the number of persons overall who need clinical care, exacerbating the burden on an already strained health care system, and resulting in more deaths."

The CDC has not committed to a characterization on whether this variant is intrinsically more fatal. On January 21, the UK's New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group presented a compilation of independent analyses that found "it is likely that infection with VOC [variant of concern] B.1.1.7 is associated with an increased risk of hospitalisation and death compared to infection with non-VOC viruses."

The CDC said that "The increased transmissibility of this variant requires an even more rigorous combined implementation of vaccination and mitigation measures (e.g., distancing, masking, and hand hygiene) to control the spread of SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID]. These measures will be more effective if they are instituted sooner rather than later to slow the initial spread of the B.1.1.7 variant."

To make an appointment for a vaccination, visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) or call 855-722-7878.



February 17 - February 23

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Post Pebbles or Honey Comb Cereal 2/\$4 11-12.5 oz.	G.M. Cheerios or Lucky Charm Cereal \$3.69 18-19.5 oz.	Post Great Grains Cereal 2/\$5 13.5-16 oz.	
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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police Media Log Summary

February 8: Assist – Motorist, Lake Shore Rd., Greensboro; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; 911 Hangup, Belfry Rd.

February 9: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15W; Suspicious Event, Ayer St.

February 10: Traffic Hazard, Dimick Rd.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 16; Citizen Dispute, High St.; VIN verification, High St.; Traffic Hazard, N. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15W.

February 11: VIN verification, High St.

February 12: Medical, Maple St.; Fraud, Farr View Rd., Walden; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Animal Problem, Main St., E. Hardwick; Citizen Dispute, Mill St.

February 13: Burglary, The Bend Rd., Greensboro; Assist – Public, Catamount Rd.; Alarm, Virginia Ln., Greensboro.

February 15: Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; DLS, Vt. Rte. 15; Juvenile Problem, West Church St.

Driving with Suspended License, No Registration

On February 15, at 5:11 p.m., while conducting stationary radar surveillance, Hardwick Police observed Ellen E. Fradette, of South Walden, operating a 2019 silver van. Police knew from law enforcement encounters that Fradette is under criminal suspension. When Fradette pulled into the Hardwick Quick Stop parking lot, police confronted her about her driver's license. Fradette admitted to being under criminal suspension. Fradette was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia

Criminal Court on May 3 at 10 a.m. for the charges of DLS.

On Feb. 15, Francis E. Huard, of Craftsbury, was stopped at 12 noon on Wolcott St. in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for No Registration.

This report is based on information provided by the Hardwick Police Department 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 nine survivors of domestic and sexual violence from February 7 through February 14. 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.

Whammy

Continued From Page One

orders “a few days in advance, which is a great option. We often hear from customers that our flower arrangements last much longer than they expected.”

This year, said DeMuth, “many of our regular customers chose to have their Valentine’s flowers in their homes for the week leading up to Valentine’s Day, so they are full and lovely on Valentine’s Day, and then last through the following week.”

DeMuth and shop employee Sally Anstey braved the cold and stood on Main Street to let passing motorists and pedestrians know the shop was open for the holiday. “[We] were out on Main Street yesterday waving giant noodle flowers, handing out samples of Lake Champlain Chocolates, and spreading Valentine’s cheer.” At the shop, the first order came in at 8 a.m. and the last at 6 p.m. “We had hot cider, donuts, and Lake Champlain Chocolates samples for folks to have in their cars while waiting for their order, and we decorated the snowbank facing Wolcott Street with a cheerful bouquet of giant noodle flowers.”

DeMuth said that the business is looking forward to two more large upcoming holidays, Easter and Mother’s Day. Despite the lower volume of sales this Valentine’s Day, DeMuth said “with a wider view of the holiday, this year compared to last, we’re doing okay!” and despite the “rough times, I’m thankful that it hasn’t been as hard on The Flower Basket as on other businesses.”

The pedestrian bridge’s closure last fall added insult to injury,

“We’re all so very thankful for all the orders we received this year, and especially grateful for our customers who give gifts of flowers delivered to their loved ones every week, every other week, and every month.”

DeMuth said, and had impacted every aspect of the business. “I have noticed a pronounced drop-off in in-store retail traffic, particularly on Saturdays, since the bridge closure. The closure also affects our ability to remain connected and deliver flowers to local businesses on Main Street.” DeMuth hoped for a new and improved replacement bridge “that will grace our community for the next one hundred years.”

DeMuth thanked the community for its support throughout these challenging months and for the sales on Valentine’s Day. “We’re all so very thankful for all the orders we received this year, and especially grateful for our customers who give gifts of flowers delivered to their loved ones every week, every other week, and every month. It’s really those every-day and recurring sales that keep us going, and we’re excited to be able to continue serving the greater Hardwick area with beautiful flowers.”

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Merge

Continued From Page One

He added that COVID-19 lockdowns and closed restaurants caused both supermarkets to experience “extraordinary sales in this past year” describing it as “a year like no other sales-wise.” He said the change in people’s habits may prove to have a lasting impact. “There’s still some reluctance to go into restaurants,” he said. “I personally think that our sales will remain elevated over normal baselines for a good part of this year until really people feel comfortable going out and living their normal lives again.”

Grimmett agreed, stating he was “not sure that those [new habits] will be broken real easily.” He added, “The stores have held up well. The teammates really have enjoyed being on the front line and being proud of what they’ve done and how they’ve served their communities. And that’s really enabled us at the end of the day to take advantage of all this incremental business that’s come our way.”

Tops Markets was founded by Ferrante Castellani in Niagara Falls a century ago when he moved there from a village outside of Rome, according to the Tops Markets website. The company recently made headlines when it filed for bankruptcy in February 2018 and closed 10 of its stores, none in Vermont.

Price Chopper operates under the Golub Corporation with Market 32, founded by Bill and Ben Golub in 1932. The company has been in the process of converting Price Chopper stores to the Market 32 brand since 2014, in what was then described as an eight- or nine-year process costing \$300 million. Golub Corporation President and CEO Jerry Golub described the rebrand as a “major plan to modernize our stores.” As customers continued to change, he said, “it’s become clear to us that our stores need to change with them. Over the past two years, we’ve been working on a new store design that we feel will reflect and address those changes.”

Pending regulatory approval, the merger between Tops Markets and Price Chopper/Market 32 is expected to be completed in the coming months.

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[NEUROLOGY AT COPLEY]

Jeanmarie Prunty, MD Offers Clinics at Copley Hospital

Neurologist, Dr. Jeanmarie Prunty joins our team of providers offering clinics at Copley Hospital.

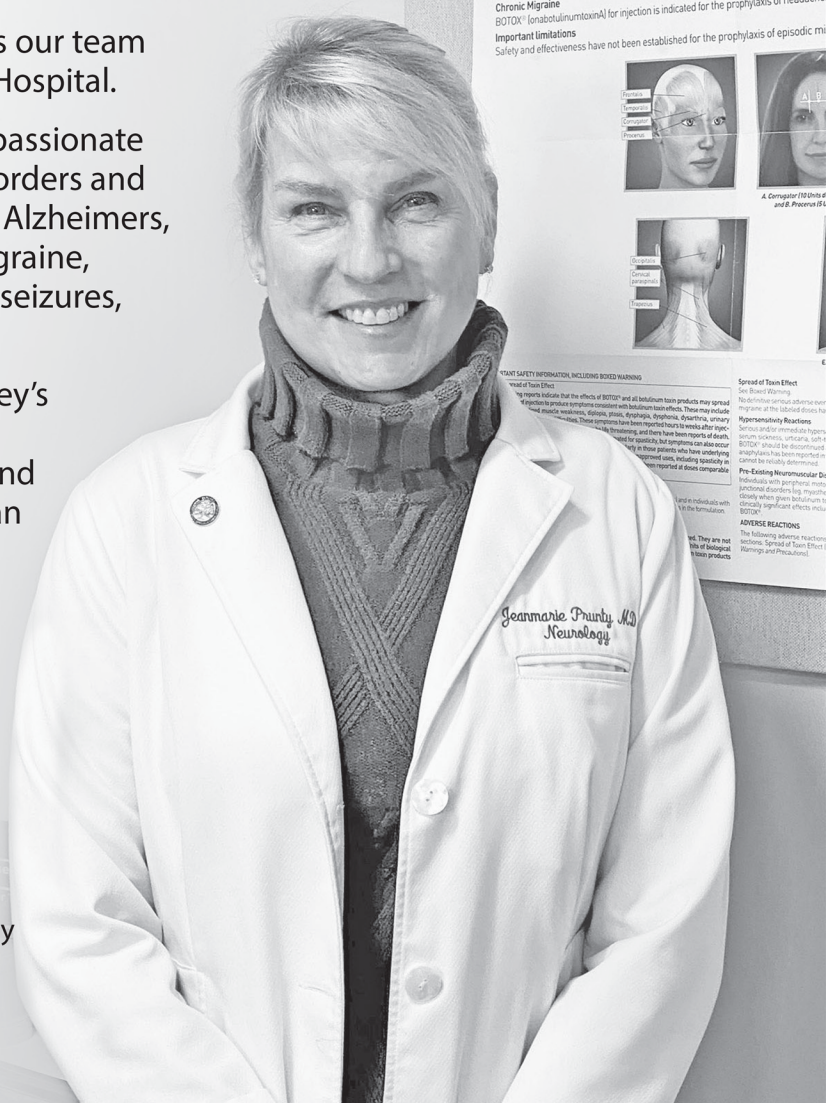
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Dr. Prunty has been a member of Copley’s medical staff since 1991. She serves as Copley’s Chief of Neurology Services and is Board Certified through the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Call **802-888-8260** to schedule an appointment. Dr. Prunty will see patients at the Multi-Specialty Clinic, 1st floor at Copley Hospital.



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See News Happening In Your Town? Let Us Know!

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photo by Vanessa Fournier
Phil Cardinal, Wolcott school facilities manager, uses a Victory Electrostatic Sprayer to disinfect the playground equipment after every recess following COVID-19 protocol. Cardinal has worked at the school nearly 40 years and has been the facilities manager for the past 20.

BLM Flag Raising on Feb. 19

PLAINFIELD – Twinfield Union School students will raise the Black Lives Matter flag on Friday, Feb. 19., from 11:30 a.m. to noon, at the school.

Over the past six months, members of the Twinfield Student Voice Group have been leading an effort to raise the Black Lives Matter flag at the school. This endeavor has been aimed at creating a space that is supportive of all students and sparks conversations around race and racism in the community.

It is the beginning of a plan to educate students and discuss with them how the school and towns can make strides towards racial justice and equity. With the raising of this flag, the students hope to reiterate their commitment to creating a space where students feel safe and show our support for the basic human rights for all people.

To bring the effort to the school board, students organized and facilitated discussions with

their peers, faculty, and community members. These presentations were able to answer the many questions about race and racism, and dispel the many misconceptions about the Black Lives Matter movement. Through these conversations, the student group was able to hear from students about their opinion on the raising of the flag, see how they viewed these issues in the state and the school, and gather enough information to show the student body's overwhelming support of the effort.

After months of preparation, a motion to raise the Black Lives Matter flag was brought to the school board and passed unanimously on February 9. The flag will be raised alongside the United States and Vermont flags after at the ceremony on Friday and will serve as a symbol of Twinfield Union School's commitment to racial justice.

The school is located at 106 Nasmith Brook Road, Plainfield.



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HARDWICK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing of the Hardwick Development Review Board will be held virtually on Zoom on Wednesday, March 3, beginning at 7 p.m. to discuss the following:

Conditional Use and Flood Plain Review regarding an addition to an existing warehouse/storage facility structure in the industrial zoning district. Addition will have an Accessory Use to a Motor Vehicle Service (Car Wash), 7 p.m., Application #2021-003 (LB2, LLC) at 75 Log Yard Drive, Hardwick, Vermont.

To join the Zoom hearing, sign up for a free Zoom account anytime (zoom.us), then at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 923 9391 5583. The passcode is 734460. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 301-715-8592 (this is not a toll free number).

To join this Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92393915583?pwd=b-jRvNzZZY1JmeHJDblGdGaUluSUF5UT09>

The application is available for inspection outside the Hardwick Memorial Building or on the Hardwick website – <http://hardwickvt.org>.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Persons wishing to be heard may join the Zoom hearing or be represented by an authorized agent or attorney at the hearing. Communications regarding the above applications may be filed in writing with the Hardwick Development Review Board at the Zoning Administrator's Office in the Hardwick Memorial Building or by email at zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.org. Communications must be received prior to the scheduled virtual hearing.

Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator

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Starlink Satellite Internet Service Beta Available in Area

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – On February 9, SpaceX’s Starlink internet service announced that its “first-come, first-served” beta program will cover Hardwick and other towns in the region.

The service is designed for regions with challenges similar to those of the Northeast Kingdom: rural areas with limited ground-based infrastructure to get true high-speed internet.

On its website, Starlink describes the service as “ideally suited for areas of the globe where connectivity has typically been a challenge. Unbounded by traditional ground infrastructure, Starlink can deliver high-speed broadband internet to locations where access has been unreliable or completely unavailable.”

During the beta phase, “users can expect to see data speeds vary from 50Mb/s to 150Mb/s and latency from 20ms to 40ms in most locations over the next several months as we enhance the Starlink system. There will also be brief periods of no connectivity at all.”

SpaceX is launching additional satellites that will further augment the service’s reliability and availability. As of February, SpaceX had put over

1,000 “low-earth-orbit” satellites into orbit and had over 10,000 customers, according to a release.

Latency (the delay due to sending data between a ground location and a satellite) can cause problems for some applications. According to arstechnica.com, “Latency remains satellite’s Achilles’ heel. The lengthy round trip that data packets have to make between Earth and satellites results in a noticeable delay between the moment a user clicks on something and the moment in which the user sees the result.” According to speedtest.net, the average latency for fixed broadband in the US is 25ms [milliseconds], while the rate on mobile networks is at 48ms. To date, the Starlink beta test is reporting an average latency of 30ms.

SpaceX says that the Starlink satellites orbit at 550km (340 miles) up, compared to previous generations of internet providers’ satellites, that orbit at an altitude of approximately 22,000 miles. The satellites themselves are relatively small, described in Sky & Telescope Magazine as “the size of a table. The satellites maneuver via krypton gas-fueled, Hall-effect thrusters.”

What customers install is

also small compared to traditional satellite services: the dishes are listed in an FCC filing as having a diameter of 0.48 meters, or approximately 19 inches.

Like all satellite services, Starlink is susceptible to obstructions. In the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on its website, Starlink states that “Users who live in areas with lots of tall trees, buildings, etc. may not be good candidates for early use of Starlink. However as more satellites are launched, the field of view constraints will decrease, enabling a wider variety of users.” The equipment is not designed to be moved from location to location easily.

Customers who have ordered the equipment are reporting the company’s promised speeds mostly to be accurate. Just days ago, a user who said they were in Stannard posted a speedtest.net result showing 101MBit down and 42MBit up. That result also showed a latency of 34ms, which is good enough for online gaming. Another Vermont beta tester in Monkton reported “Multiple tests at various times of day have shown that most [tests] fall

in a range of 80-140 mbps down and 18-22 up. Pings [latency] in the 20-30 ms range are common, occasionally up into the high 30s. This is as good or better than my DSL.”

The service has attracted controversy and competition. In response to people worried about the satellites cluttering up the dark skies many enjoy for viewing and astrophotography, Starlink has committed to “making the satellites generally invisible to the naked eye within a week of launch” and “minimizing Starlink’s impact on astronomy by darkening satellites so they do not saturate observatory detectors.”

Amazon is launching its own low-earth-orbit satellite program. Dubbed “Project Kuiper,” it received FCC authorization last summer to put up to 3,200 satellites into orbit. Other companies have expressed interest in the low-earth-orbit strategy.

A big hurdle for installing the service in the NEK: Starlink is not cheap. The one-time cost for the dish is \$499 and the monthly cost is \$99, though there are no contracts.

TOWN OF GREENSBORO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Greensboro Planning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, March 24, 6 to 8 p.m. This hearing will be held for public review of and comment on the proposed changes to Greensboro Zoning Bylaw pursuant to Title 24 VSA, Chapter 117.

This hearing will be devoted to comments regarding the proposed Eligo Resource District, the Shoreland Protection District, and the Extended Village Zone. The proposed changes are available online at greensborovt.org/zoning/planningcommission/.

Paper copies of the proposed changes are available at the town clerk’s office and the Greensboro Free Library. Town clerk office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To receive a paper copy, call the town clerk’s office at 802-533-2911.

Written comment on the proposed changes should be directed to the Planning Commission, via the Zoning Administrator at:

P.O. Box 119, Greensboro, VT 05841
802-533-2640

zoning@greensborovt.org

The virtual link is: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95765022630?pwd=aE5ETk45dWlMlVlnOXROd-0p4d2MzQT09>

Meeting ID: 957 6502 2630

Passcode: 715136

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/95765022630?pwd=aE5ETk45dWlMlVlnOXROd-0p4d2MzQT09>

Dated in Greensboro, Vermont, February 12, 2021.

Dealership Quality at Service Station Prices

OIL and LUBE

4-WHEEL COMPUTER ALIGNMENTS

COMPUTERIZED SPIN BALANCE

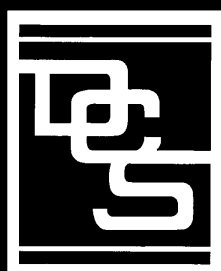
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photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury senior Logan Lanphere looks to the basket as Meles Gouge guards the play Feb. 12 at Craftsbury. The Trojans outscored the Chargers 77-31.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wolcott second graders Conner Spencer (left) and Peri McEdward (right) play in one of the school's play structures during recess recently.

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**With no in-person Town Meetings this year,
Be sure to find Informational Meetings for
Hardwick and Woodbury's Town Meeting Vote
rebroadcast on our website and channel
(including the OSSU Elementary informational meeting)**

**And if Hazen Basketball is your jam,
you will find LIVE broadcasts of all JV/Varsity
home games at HCTV.
(This season, we are recording Hazen Middle
School basketball home games, too!)**

OUR COMMUNITIES

Plainfield's Community Bagged Supper Resumes Feb. 23

PLAINFIELD – Plainfield's bagged community supper will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 23, after a two-month hiatus to avoid holiday-related COVID-19 spikes. Participants can expect a variety of precooked soups and take-out items from which to choose, as well as side items such as bread, a choice of baked dessert and an apple.

Pick up in Plainfield will be at the Grace United Methodist Church in the lower village, from 6 to 7 p.m. Participants are asked to wear masks, to choose from the menu outside, and then to pick up at the side door of the church. Each one-meal bag serves two people.

Marshfield's Onion River Food Shelf at the Old Schoolhouse

Common will provide the balance of the bagged meals to participants in Marshfield the next day, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

A contribution from a community household and food discounts from two suppliers will make the supper available. Space is provided by Grace Church, bread for the meal is donated by the Red Hen Bakery in Middlesex and the main meal soups are prepared and provided with significant discount by Joe's Kitchen in Montpelier.

Leave a message at (802) 454-1203 (before that Tuesday) for more details or if you would like to contribute for future meals. The church door and the Old Schoolhouse entrance are both handi-capped accessible.

Moonlight Snowshoe Feb. 25

CRAFTSBURY – There will be a moonlit snowshoe through the Community Greenspace trails on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m., sponsored by WonderArts.

Snowshoers will discover the Greenspace at night with lanterns, luminaries, and fairy lights guide the way. This is an easy hike, meant to be taken slowly, and then snowshoers will warm up by the fire with a cup of hot cocoa at the end.

This is a free event, but tickets are required to help ensure safe

distancing and allow groups space to enjoy the event safely. Tickets reserve time slots, and only one ticket is required for a family or group walking together.

Masks and social distancing are required, and family or pod groups are expected to stay together. There are some snowshoes available to borrow; contact carol@wonderartsvt.org to arrange. The Greensboro Free Library also has some to lend. Reserve a ticket at bit.ly/3aUOEYB.

EDUCATION

Area Students Named to CCV Dean's List

MONTPELIER – The 2020 Dean's List: Victoria following students at the Mayo, Cabot; Kassity Hale, Community College of Vermont, East Hardwick; Ciana Berry, (CCV) were named to the Fall Hardwick.

Local Students Named to CCV Honors List

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Caldwell, Rachel Gouge, Julie Community College of Vermont, Phoenix and Adrian Townsend, (CCV) were named to the Fall Marshfield; Shannon Hewett 2020 Student Honors List: and Bethany Brandt-Ashline, Sophia Morgan and Sarah Wolcott. This honor recognizes Peterson, Cabot; Tiffany a 4.0 grade point average.

CCV Announces Fall President's List

MONTPELIER – The following students at the Taylor, East Calais; Jodi Anthes, Community College of Vermont, East Hardwick; Amy Cox, Wolcott. (CCV) were named to the Fall This honor recognizes full-time 2020 President's List: Jackie students with a 4.0 grade point average.

Scribner Named to Dean's List

DURHAM, N.H. – Alexandra Scribner of Marshfield has earned Honors on the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2020 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits).



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Lights shaped as hearts illuminate the front yard at the home of Kathryn Lovinski and Jason Bahner of Upper Cherry Street in Hardwick, a unique way of wishing people a Happy Valentine's Day during these hard times of COVID-19.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Neurologist Jeanmarie Prunty Offers Clinics at Copley Hospital

MORRISVILLE – Beginning March 1, neurologist Jeanmarie Prunty, MD, will be offering clinics at Copley Hospital. Dr. Prunty is a board-certified neurologist who has been offering neurology care in our community for 30 years.

"We are happy that Dr. Prunty has made the decision to remain in our community and continue to serve her patients close to home," states Stephanie LaBarron, vice president of Ambulatory and Provider Services. Dr. Prunty joins general surgeons Donald Dupuis, MD, and Courtney Olmsted, MD, and Cardiologist Adam Kunin, MD, in offering care through the hospital's Multi-Specialty Clinic.

Dr. Prunty has been an active member of Copley's Medical Staff since 1991, serving as chief of neurologic services.

Dr. Prunty offers care for patients with neurological disorders and diseases in the areas of Alzheimer's, dementia, epilepsy, headache/migraines, movement disorders, Parkinson's disease, stroke and more. She provides care for children 12 years and older and adults. Some of the more common reasons younger patients seek her



Neurologist Jeanmarie Prunty

care are for sports concussions, migraines and seizures. Disorders and diseases that bring older patients under her care include gait disorders, memory problems, tremor, stroke and Parkinson's disease.

For more information on neurology services at Copley or to schedule an appointment, call 802-888-8260.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, February 18

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.

SUPPORT KIDS TO LOVE READING, online with reading specialists Judy Carpenter and Barbara Jacobs, 6:30 p.m. Open to parents and educators of kids both in school and homeschooled of all ages and abilities. To sign up contact Emily Purdy, Greensboro Free Library Youth Services Librarian at greensborokids@gmail.com.

Friday, February 19

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.

EVERYONE EATS PROGRAM, free frozen meal, Fridays, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, 4023 Vt. Rt. 15. No pre-registration needed. Information: ereid@capstonevt.org.

Saturday, February 20

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

Monday, February 22

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.

GRACE presents free, virtual weekly art prompts. Each week GRACE will post a piece of art from their "Outsider Art" collection for people to use as inspiration for their own original creation. These will be available on Mondays at <https://graceart.org/virtual-art-community/virtual-art-prompts/>

with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org.

Tuesday, February 23

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.

THE DADS' GROUP, every Tuesday, 8-9 p.m., on Zoom. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information and link to the Zoom meeting: Rob at rcary@LRCVT.org or 802-730-3000.

THE MOMS IN RECOVERY Support Program, tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com, 802-635-0084.

Wednesday, February 24

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.

MEDICARE & YOU WORKSHOP, for people new to the Medicare system. Offered by Central Vermont Council on Aging, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Pre-register: medicareworkshops@cvcoa.org or 802-479-0531. Done remotely.

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.

RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS of Michael Sardina: Reflections on the Northeast Kingdom. The Parker Pie Gallery, West Glover. Feb. 17 to April 17.

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



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Brent McCoy of Vermont Vaudeville juggles fire torches during the Snow Lights event held at the Highland Center for the Arts Jan. 22 and 23. An encore presentation of SnowLights was held on Jan. 30 and 31.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Miles Sherts (left) of Stannard and Jerry Schneider (right) of Hardwick look at paintings of Highland Cattle by artist Brent McCoy of Greensboro. Eight of his paintings are on display in the Highland Center for the Arts gallery.

NATURE NOTES

Emerald Ash Borer Management for Forest Landowners

by Tim McKay

PEACHAM – In last week's issue, I discussed the status and biology of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and its effects on hedgerows. Now, I concentrate on forest landowners and how we should approach our management of woodlots in the area over the next 10 and 20 years.

How Long Do We Have?

It's hard to predict how rapidly EAB will spread. In Wisconsin and Minnesota, a climate similar to ours, EAB was first discovered in 2008-2009. In the 10 years since then it has generally infested an area about 75 miles out from the first infestation. But EAB has popped up in spots all over those states, almost certainly carried there in firewood or other wood products. While EAB may only fly a mile or two per year on its own power, all it takes is a few adults being blown along in a storm or stiff breeze, and they will land several miles away. Given our proximity to the known infestations around Groton State Forest, we should expect to find EAB in our own woods within about five years, and possibly this year.

Remember that EAB is generally not noticed for the first three or four years that it is present. The population builds slowly at first and then very rapidly. It will only be four or five years from the time we first notice damage until the EAB population reaches its maximum, at which point there will be a killing wave and all our ash trees will be dead, or nearly so. After the trees die, the EAB population will crash due to a lack of food, but it will persist at a low level, with surges in population whenever there are enough residual ash trees grown big enough to provide food for the EAB. Then those trees will be knocked out, and so forth into the foreseeable future.

Woodpeckers as Allies

The objective of our management is to delay the killing crescendo for five years or so. Research in Michigan has demonstrated a significant slowing of the exponential growth in EAB populations through use of girdled ash trees and encouraging woodpecker predation. With no management, EAB populations grow by a factor of 3.6 times per year as the crescendo builds to a peak population in the eighth or ninth year after the first insect

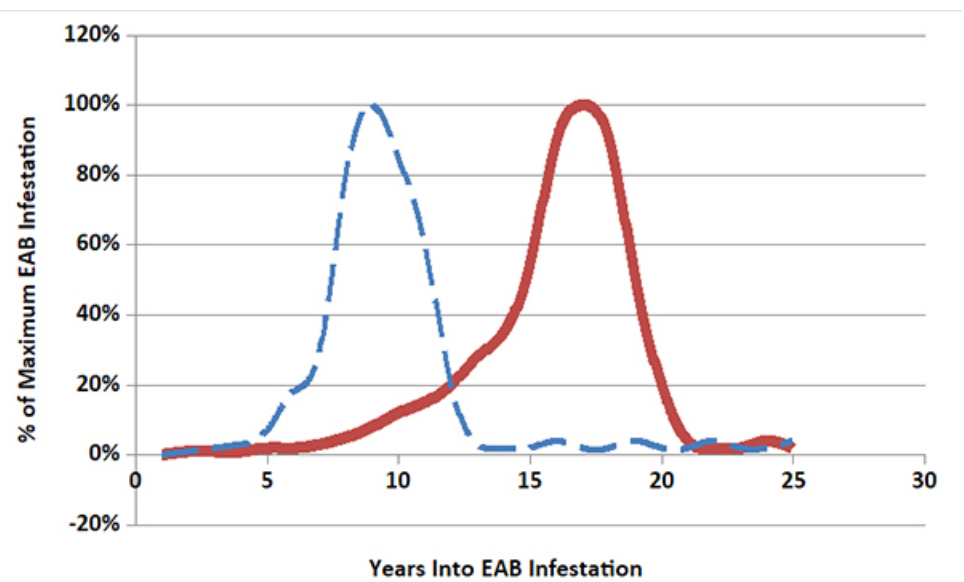
lands. With girdling management and the subsequent feeding by woodpeckers, the populations grew only 1.3 times per year, delaying the peak population until about year 18. The solid line in the graph shows this effect.

Woodpeckers are the top agent of biological control of EAB. Studies have shown that woodpeckers eat 90% of the last larval stage (just before emerging as adults). Woodpecker populations will build with the surge in their food source. Standing dead trees are good for lots of reasons, and it makes sense that we should be increasing the number of snags in our woods to increase the food available and thus increase the population of woodpeckers before the arrival of EAB.

EAB is attracted to stressed ash trees. The technique for stressing trees and maximizing woodpecker predation is now well established after years of work in the Midwest. This is a way to detect the arrival of EAB in your woods, and also to delay the increase in the EAB population once it is here. About a month before adult emergence, lightly girdle some mature ash by cutting the phloem but not the sapwood. In response, the trees apparently emit some sort of stress chemical which attracts EAB. If the insect is already well established, these trees then act as sinks, attracting large numbers of EAB, which lay their eggs later in the summer. Leave the tree standing through the next winter to give woodpeckers the chance to feed on the larvae. Then in March or April cut the tree and buck it up. You can burn it yourself, but do not transport it! Continue to do this each year to delay the build-up of EAB. In late May I girdled two ash trees and several cull trees of other species to act as food for woodpeckers. I encourage all forest landowners to study up on this technique and get started.

Forest Management in Anticipation

Talk with your forester about when you should cut ash. If a logger knocks on your door offering to cut your ash "before it's too late", do not agree until consulting a forester. The value of logs grows exponentially as they increase in diameter from 12 to 20 inches, so hesitate to cut too soon. In Peacham we may have only six or eight years if the insect is already here, or perhaps as many as 15 to 20 years if EAB moves



Graph demonstrating the effect of girdling/woodpecker management (solid red line) vs. no intervention (dashed blue line).

slowly and/or we practice girdling management as it arrives. A healthy 12-inch ash will grow an inch in about four years. If EAB does not start killing on my land for 16 years, the board feet in that tree will more than double.

Your forester will also track the price of ash logs. Last year ash was selling for \$800/1,000 board feet, a very good price that was driven by Chinese demand. This spring it was down to about \$600 and falling, thanks to the trade war. You might think a glut on the market would drive prices way down, but that has not happened in other places.

A well-informed decision about when and how to cut your ash will involve a discussion about the size and maturity of the trees (are they 12-16" diameter, or 18-24"?), the current price of logs, and your tolerance for risk, both in terms of market price and the arrival of EAB. If you wait too long and the tree is already infested when you cut it, the log will be worth less because the mill will trim off the outer inch. Personally, I have been cutting ash that are 18" or bigger. For now, I'm leaving smaller diameters, hoping to get another couple of inches growth before having to cut them.

Northern White Ash trees are the tallest hardwoods in Caledonia County and their big crowns

can do a lot of damage as they fall through the trees around them. Ash should be cut between October and April. During this period, the bark of surrounding trees is more resistant to damage. It is also the period when your ash logs can be trucked without risk of spreading emerging EAB adults.

More Information

For the latest updates on EAB in Vermont and links to national information, go to vtinvasives.org where you will find the latest map of the infestation, along with information on EAB and all other invasive plants and insects in Vermont. This is also where you should report possible detections of EAB in your area. If you want to be on the statewide list-serve to receive direct email updates, you can sign up there.

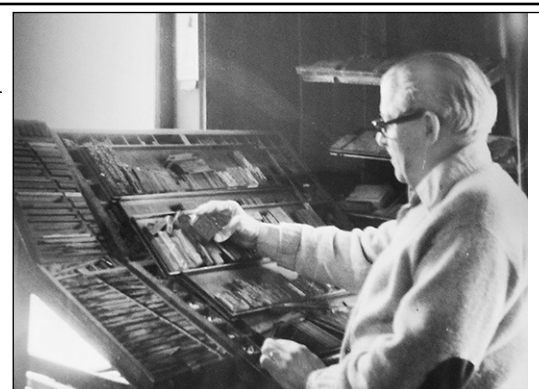
For the latest national information go to emeraldashborer.info.

A very informative webinar given last fall can be found at urbanforestrytoday.org/videos.html. Look for the "Emerald Ash Borer Update" given by Dr. Nate Siegert, USDA FS at UMass Amherst on 9/18/2018. It contains both practical stuff and some dry research data.

[Editor's note: Tim McKay is a retired natural resource conservationist and current woodworker and tree farmer in Peacham.]

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

It's the Isolation That Does It

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – It's a late winter morning, almost a year into the enforced isolation dictated by the pandemic. The alarm clock beeps in the twilight at six on the dot. Reaching my arm out from under the covers to shut it off reminds me how cold the room is. Wide awake, but still torpid, I hear running through my head the line, "It would have been in vain for Scrooge to plead that the weather and the hour were not adapted for pedestrian purposes; that the bed was warm and the thermometer a long way below freezing."

Then, as I consider the next necessary and long-ingrained moves between bed and a hot shower, I wonder whether the little fur ball beneath the spread on the other side of the mattress will want to go out, or sleep in till she hears me chopping cheese. She answers by standing up and jingling her tags. "Oh, never shake thy gory locks at me!" I cry. "Thou canst not say I did it!" Utterly unimpressed by the beauties of iambic pentameter, Kiki leaps to the floor with a ka-thump (which itself is an iamb) and trots to the back door.

It's the isolation that does it; liquor and weapons sales are up nationwide – as is the nation's avoirdupois (notice the recent uptick in ads for weight-loss programs?). It also evokes our normally quiescent fantasies: Household objects – a lamp, a coffee brewer, even a shower curtain – take on animistic identities. I talk to mine in their native languages, so often that Kiki has quit peeking around the corner to see whom I'm talking to. I think she senses the mild, but nagging distress caused by our enforced immobility, and responds by perching closer to me than usual day and night (as I type, her rump is touching my left elbow).

Then, for some folks, there's the additional burden of a liberal education. From the moment my mother began giving me anthologies of chestnuts – "The Arab's Farewell to his Steed," "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," and "The Charge of the Light Brigade" – my head, which, it happens, has a huge attic, began to stuff away bits of remembered verse. The college I went to prided itself on its "liberal education." The atmosphere wasn't all that liberal in the sense the word's used these days – it was, after all, in central Ohio – but the note-taking young Presbyterians and I were exposed to everything from Geomorphology to "Paradise Lost" to great chunks of Shakespeare.

All that stuff in my cranial attic yearns to burst forth these days whenever a situation, even remotely, suggests it. I bought a long rack of barbecued ribs last week, set it on the drainboard of the sink, and cut it up into meal-sized chunks for freezing. When I'd finished, the sink looked like the scene of an axe murder. Turning toward my little companion, who was expressing great interest in what I was up to, I roared, "What hands are here? Hah! They pluck out mine eyes! Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather the multitudinous seas incarnadine, making the green one red." I thought it rather well played, but the audience's interest was fixed instead upon the barbecue sauce dripping from my bloody fingers.

That's the major disappointment: the lack of an astute and appreciative audience. Though I can't say that my wife was ever very enthusiastic about, for example, "Father William" – "In my youth," said his father, "I took up the law, and argued each case with my wife; and the muscular strength which it gave to my jaw has lasted the rest of my life." The occasional bits of Edward Lear limericks, as when it began raining far from home – "It is time to return to Dunluce" – fell upon ears deaf to the lyric genius of the ages. She did like "Ulysses," though. Maybe once a year. She loved the line, "Yet all experience is an arch wherethro' gleams that untravell'd world..."

So I muggle about the house alone, feeding the wood boiler on cold days (while reciting the furnace scene from "The Cremation of Sam McGee"); doing an occasional wash ("Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder?"); and recall the sorrier plight of Robert Service's lonely telegraph operator, in his cabin shrouded in silence and the winter snow: "I will not wash my face; I will not brush my hair; I 'pig' around the place. There's nobody to care." He wishes he had a pet.

If he had one, he could look forward to the daily prodding in mid-afternoon for a walk in the snowy woods, a second prod at five for a snack, another at six for supper. And he'd have someone to listen as he rummaged aloud through the attic of his mind. Oh, it's an exciting life we have here!

LETTERS FROM READERS

Sardina Runs for Select Board

To the editor:

My name is Mike Sardina and I have submitted my candidacy for a Greensboro Selectboard Member for a 2-year team. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me (yet), and, with as much brevity as possible, provide a bit of background.

I grew-up in upstate New York and attended Ohio State University, graduating with honors and a BS in clinical psychology. I then attended law school at Santa Clara, Calif., where I was editor-in-chief of the Law Review and graduated in the top of my class. Following law school, I passed the California Bar Exam and practiced law for three years as an intellectual property litigator at a large multinational law firm in San Francisco.

Finding the faceless corporate legal world unfulfilling, I choose to follow a passion of mine, transitioning into the brewing industry, taking an administrative position

at Societe Brewing Company in San Diego (where my parents lived and still do). During my time there, I served as president of the San Diego Brewers Guild, working intimately with an elected board of industry members.

After meeting Shaun Hill, I moved to the Northeast Kingdom in 2016 to take a position at Hill Farmstead, where I am currently the retail operations team leader. I currently live just down the road from the brewery in Greensboro Bend.

I am hoping to get further involved with this community that I have been welcomed into and truly love, and use some of my background, youth (relatively speaking, I am 34!), and experience and perspectives to help further its interests.

Thanks once more for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, at all, please do not hesitate to reach out at 415-596-2490.

Mike Sardina
Greensboro

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Message to the Voters of Craftsbury

To the editor,

I urge you to vote for Susan Houston as our select person.

In my role as chair of the Municipal Forest Committee I have enjoyed her participation, cooperation, and keen interest in our work. She shares my environmental concerns and represents

Everyday is Saturday

To the editor:

One of the things that used to make Vermont a great place to live in was its “make do or do without” attitude. In other words, when “the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Now, under the Progressive banner of ex-Lieutenant Governor Dave Zuckerman, the now politically defeated Tim Ashe, and good riddance Bernie Sanders, it has become “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme.”

It used to be the difference between a Republican and Democrat in Vermont was when they milked

these effectively.

Susie brings a good healthy balance to our select board and represents a good percentage of our citizens. She has the time to give it her all and has a good vision for the future of Craftsbury.

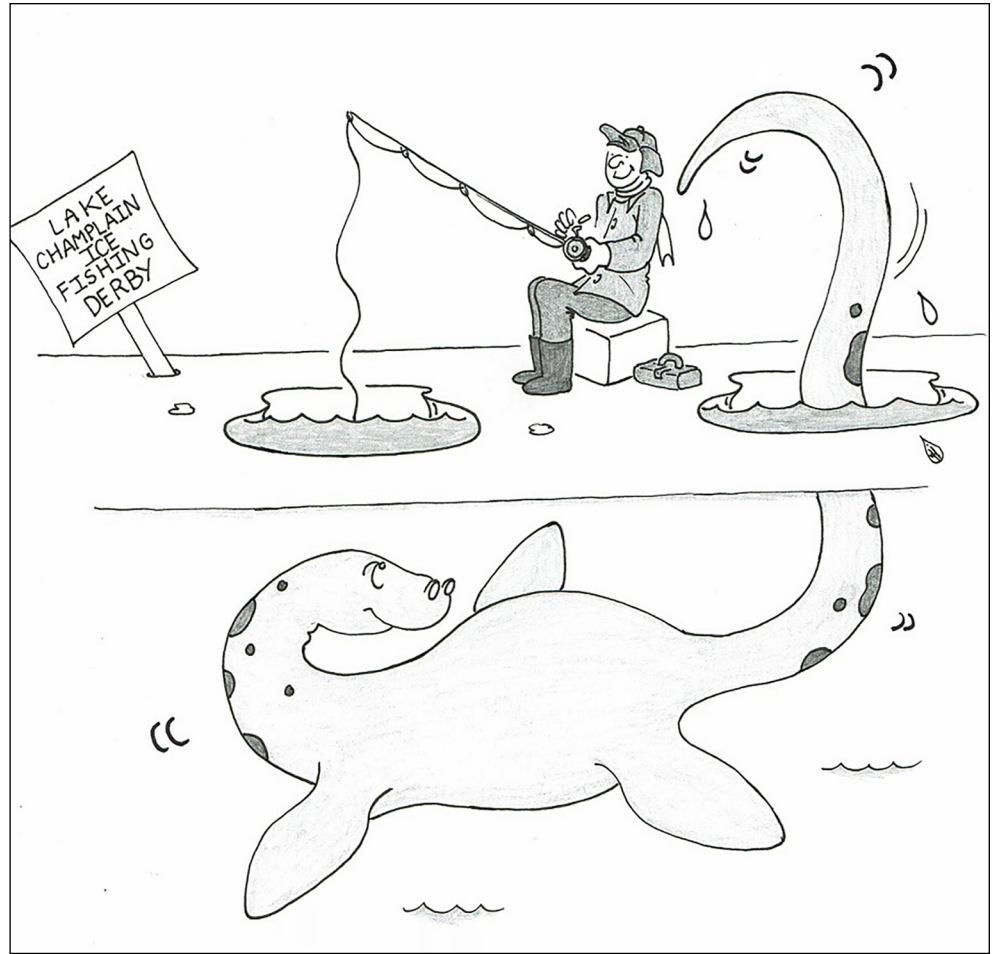
Jim Moffatt
Craftsbury

their cows in the morning. The Progressives’ only knowledge of milking is how to milk the hard working taxpayer with more government and more government supported bloated non-profits.

Politely, on the farm when the bull gets with the cow it’s called the bull is serving the cow. So when ex-Lieutenant Governor Zuckerman and his Progressives talk about serving the people, “hike” your britches up a little higher and get a hold of your wallet.

Charley Burbank
Calais

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Full Steam Ahead for the Legislature

by Katherine Sims, State Representative, Orleans-Caledonia

It’s full steam ahead for the legislature and there’s good news for Vermont: We anticipate significant federal spending in policy areas that align with our priorities, like childcare, family leave, food access, housing and broadband. Because revenues in Vermont are exceeding projections, we have an opportunity to address systemic issues and ensure equitable recovery that leaves no Vermonter behind.

Here’s an update about my committee work, key bills, and state finances.

Broadband: We all agree we need better internet here in the Kingdom. I introduced bill H.194 to accelerate broadband development in our rural communities. Several components of the bill have been incorporated into the House Energy and Technology Committee’s comprehensive committee bill to support Communication Unions Districts and other partners in building out broadband to the last mile. We’ll finalize the bill in the coming weeks, after which it will head to the Senate.

Affordable childcare: Childcare is essential to our children, families, economy and recovery. I joined more than 90 of my colleagues as a cosponsor on H.171, which would ensure no Vermont family pays more than 10% of their income on childcare

by 2026. This bill begins a three-year strategy to make childcare affordable for families, and expand the workforce by significantly raising wages and educational opportunities for early care and education providers.

Education Funding: I support bills H.54 and S.13, which will help ensure that all students receive equal educational opportunity and to reduce the property tax burden for high poverty communities by appropriately adjusting Pupil Weighting Factors. Several of our regional school boards have joined a statewide coalition working to see the corrected weights implemented. Want to help? Let me know!

FY21 budget adjustment On January 29, the House approved a budget adjustment that includes coronavirus relief funds for emergency food, hotel-housing for the homeless, rental assistance, support to the Vermont State Colleges for additional expenses related to COVID-19, and continuation of the Everyone Eats program, which provides healthy meals prepared by restaurants for food-insecure Vermonters, through June 2021.

FY22 budget: The governor put forward his proposal for the FY 22 budget, which proposes using \$210 million in one-time funding for economic recovery through investments in housing, infrastructure, broadband build-out, environmental stewardship, carbon reducing initiatives, and government

modernization. Next up, the House and Senate will review and make recommendations.

Property Taxes: Recently, the Tax Structure Commission issued a report that proposes expanding the state’s sales tax and funding its education system with an income tax, rather than the existing education property tax. The report concludes that income is a better proxy for one’s wealth than the value of one’s home.

Teacher pensions: The teacher pension system has been underfunded for years and the State Treasurer Beth Pearce issued her latest report with new recommendations to address the situation. This is the beginning of a conversation about how to adequately fund our retirement system after multiple administrations failed to do so. No decisions have been made yet and can’t be made without legislative action. I stand by educators and believe the solution must not place an unfair burden on educators, especially after a year of serving their communities on the frontlines during this pandemic. I am hopeful we can find a path forward that makes good on our promises for years to come.

Vermont State Colleges System: The Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont was formed to help the state address the urgent needs of the Vermont State Colleges and envision a high-quality, affordable, and workforce-connected future for

public higher education. The Select Committee published its first draft report in December, and a revised and expanded draft was released on February 11. The final report is due in April. Simultaneously, VSCS leaders are working on a transformation plan while the legislature discusses a funding solution for the FY22 budget.

New legislative aid: I am happy to announce that I am partnering with legislative aid Shannon Comiskey, a political science student at the UVM. She’s an advocate for reproductive health and environmental protection. Shannon and I were matched through UVM’s Legislative Intern Program, which pairs students and local legislators. I’m grateful for her work researching policy issues, attending hearings to take detailed notes, creating content for social media, and supporting me with constituent events.

I want you to know what I’m working on, how I’m voting and why. For those who like to keep of track of things in real time, visit the general assembly website at legislature.vermont.gov to watch the House of Representatives live (or recorded) daily deliberations, for bills I’ve co-sponsored and roll call votes, and to watch committee testimony.

If you need assistance or want to discuss your priorities or needs, please reach out anytime. I look forward to connecting with you: ksims@leg.state.vt.us, or (802)-673-7376 (cell).

IN THE GARDEN

A Winter Soup from Our Garden

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – There is something about a bowl of warm soup on a cold winter day that warms the heart and soul, as well as filling the tummy. And if the ingredients are from your own garden, the soup tastes even better! Here is a soup I made largely with ingredients from my garden.

This is a vegan recipe, but you can include some of your favorite sausage in it or cook sausage on the side and add it to your bowl at mealtime if other members of your household don't want meat.

The quantities listed below are enough for a large pot of soup able to feed six or eight, but they are only intended to give you an idea of proportions. You can cut the recipe in half. Or double it if you have half a dozen ravenous teenagers. Each time I make it I vary the ingredients and spices.

Henry's Homegrown Winter Soup

4 cups cooked dry beans such as Jacob's cattle beans or black beans, 2 cups leeks, 1/2 cup chopped shallots, 2 tbsp. smashed and chopped garlic, 2 cups chopped kale, 5 medium carrots, 30 oz.



courtesy photo

A quick soak in hot water will make these garden tomatoes thawed enough to chop easily.

tomatoes, either frozen whole or one large can, 1 medium butternut squash (about a pound), 1/4 tsp. chipotle pepper powder, 1 tbsp. fennel, 1 tsp. each oregano and marjoram, 2 tbsp. tomato paste, 1 to 2 cups sweet peppers, 2 tbsp. finely chopped jalapeno pepper, salt and pepper to taste.

A day ahead of "soup day" I measured out a cup and a half of our home-grown dry beans and soaked them overnight. Then I drained and rinsed them and cooked them

in plenty of water for an hour and a half. They produced four cups of beans when cooked and drained. They should not be hard or crunchy -- but not mushy when the soup is done, either. Beans stored longer take longer to cook.

Other dry beans can be used, but avoid pinto beans as they tend to get mushy when cooked a long time. And if you forget to soak dry beans, you can use canned beans – three standard 14 oz. cans would be needed, after draining and rinsing.

I cooked my soup in a six-quart heavy enameled cast iron French cooking pot. I started by sautéing the leeks, shallots and garlic in a little olive oil on low heat. You can use onions instead of leeks, but leeks freeze well and I grow a lot leeks. My supply of onions from my garden is low by now, so I used leeks. When the garlic started to brown, I added a quart of water and the beans and cooked at medium heat.

While that was happening, I chopped two cups of kale that I had picked that day from my garden. Yes, even in early February my kale was still okay, despite freezing and thawing many times. I also have bags of kale in my freezer. I remove the mid-rib before chopping. I

added it to the soup, along with five medium carrots cut in rounds, not too thinly.

Carrots and onions come in lots of varieties, including those labeled "for storage." Storage carrots last for months in a spare fridge or cold cellar (so long as you keep them protected from mice). The classic storage carrot is a variety called 'Bolero'. Plant on the Fourth of July weekend for fall harvest. Patterson is the yellow storage onion I grow.

Next, I added a little hot



courtesy photo

Ingredients from the freezer.

pepper -- not enough to notice, but enough to add complexity to the broth. I had frozen chopped jalapenos peppers I grew in 2018 and added some along with a smoky dry pepper I buy called chipotle. Fennel seeds compliment carrots well in a stew, so I added a tablespoon of them, and some marjoram and oregano we had grown and dried.

Tomatoes are central to most soups and stews I make, so I freeze large quantities of them whole and store in zipper bags for winter use. I used nine two-inch tomatoes that weighed 30 ounces – roughly one big can from the store if you don't have your own. To thaw them, I submerged the tomatoes in a bowl of hot water for five minutes or so and chopped them coarsely.

Why are tomatoes a key ingredient? They contain the fifth flavor our tongues recognize, one called umami. Americans seem not to

know much about it. We recognize sweet, sour, salty and bitter, but not umami, which is Japanese for "essence of deliciousness". So, I used not only those frozen tomatoes, but a cup of dried 'Sungold' tomatoes and two cubes of tomato paste I froze in an ice cube tray.

I have a few winter squashes I've been storing in a cool room, but they don't last forever, so I peeled and cut one in small chunks for the soup. After peeling and coring, it weighed about 12 ounces.

Lastly, I added two cups of sweet peppers. I bought a half bushel last fall and froze it all in zipper bags. No blanching required, and they add a lot of sweetness to the recipe.

Use whatever veggies you have in your freezer and larder. Keep tasting, and add spices, salt or sweet things (like more carrots or dried tomatoes) until you have it just right. Bon appetit!



courtesy photo

Kale is still usable in early February.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Start Collecting Data

To the editor:

I would particularly hope legislative leaders would take note:

In May of 2016 I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Since then, I have witnessed a degradation in mobility and cognitive functioning. I am fortunate to be living in a time where drugs and exercise have a combined effect at slowing the disease's progression; however, no cure exists.

With the above in mind, I would like the State of Vermont to begin the collection of data as it relates to the tracing of Parkinson's. As outlined in "The Rise of Parkinson's Disease" (E. Ray Dorsey, Todd Sherer, Michael S. Okun, Bastiaan R. Bloem for American Scientist) research reveals the rise of Parkinson's in rural areas likely elevated by the presence of paraquat, rotenone and trichlorethylene. The first two are used in agricultural applications, while the latter is used in "washing away grease, cleaning silicon wafers, removing spots in dry cleaning." Current evidence exists linking the above to increasing rates of Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no coordinated effort to gather data to establish rates and

clusters of Parkinson's diagnosis in Vermont. While this research may not lead directly to a cure, the establishment of patterns can lead to evidence supporting the ban of harmful chemicals. For example, "In Canada, investigators have found an almost perfect correlation between areas with the highest pesticide use and the highest rates of disease." Furthermore, "[the] Netherlands is one of the few countries in the world where the rates of Parkinson's disease are actually waning." Research indicates a correlation of the wane with the Netherlands' ban on paraquat.

It is difficult to watch the onset of Parkinson's on many of my neighbors, friends and leaders. Our state and country will witness increasing rates of Parkinson's; research is predicting that the rate of Parkinson's is set to overtake Alzheimer's disease.

Please know that while my letter is specific to Parkinson's, my efforts are also focused on the overall health of Vermont – its environment and its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the above.

John Zaber
Craftsbury Common

Select Board is a Ton of Work

To the editor:

Being on the Craftsbury Select Board is a ton of work. There are all the usual meetings overseeing town operations and preparing and implementing the budget. Select board members also have to be available to all and responsive to an array of public concerns.

I have known Susie Houston for decades. She taught my eldest son in the late '80s when Saplings was East Hill Preschool. I watched her kids grow up here and was happy to see her elected to the select board and bring a female perspective to town affairs. I am truly perplexed as to why anyone would want to see her go.

First of all, Susie cares deeply about our town, but that's not enough. She has and continues to invest time and effort in numerous initiatives.

After the 2015 community visit, when we had the chance to deliberate who we are as a town and what we want to be in the future, Susie got to work. She encouraged the broadband, Saplings, energy, and road safety committees, was directly involved in some of these efforts and helped make sure the board was supportive of all.

This past year I watched her play an important role in launching the Craftsbury Neighbor to Neighbor Task Force, which you can read all about in the town report. Lots of folks have been involved, but it would not have happened without Susie lighting the spark. She has played an active role ever since.

For example, when cloth masks were donated last summer, she packaged and distributed them around town. If you want to be a Neighbor to Neighbor volunteer or are in need of help accessing services during the pandemic and you call the Neighbor to Neighbor phone number, Susie is the one who answers.

She is a board liaison to the planning and conservation commissions and has spent hours making the wood lot more accessible. I have worked closely with Susie on four different town grants. She is always supportive and positive.

Our current select board has guided the community through a lot this past year. They have worked as a team. Let's continue to support their efforts and re-elect Susie Houston.

Gina Campoli
Craftsbury Common

Wireless Proven Dangerous to Health

To the editor:

Contrary to the information in the last issue of the Hardwick Gazette, wireless has been proven dangerous to human health. There is a report made by a N.H. State Commission of scientists, legislators, state agencies and representatives from telecommunications industry that clearly recommends that wireless expansion be reversed on the basis of public health.

The Hardwick Gazette's staff, however, have the same view as the telecommunications industry. They say there is nothing proving that WiFi is deleterious to health. The Gazette's last issue was devoted to promoting WiFi expansion. Doug McClure's article was filled with misinformation in the guise of the latest science. The whole issue was biased toward WiFi.

During this pandemic time, we can all see the importance of the internet. It is vital to us all. Yet, there are other options than WiFi that are safer and faster. Fiber Optics is the chosen internet access of our own Jeudevine Library. There is a fiber optic company that serves the Northeast

Kingdom with an office right here in Hardwick.

We need to find out more about it because while we are all stressed here hunkering down because of the COVID virus, more and more WiFi antennas of all strengths are popping up. The telecommunications industry is very busy! There are no laws here in Vermont yet to slow down its expansion or to protect us on the basis of harm to human health. No laws! Here is a link that will explain the N.H. report : last-treelaws.com/11/nhreport/.

Judith Ruskin
Hardwick

[Editor's note: Thank you for your letter. The Hardwick Gazette does not have a view on the subject. We reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have stated that there is no evidence that Radio Frequency (RF) services damage health, but that more research is needed. We also reported that some parties dismiss all RF-related health risks, while others are highlighting the dangers that RF services may present.]

Australian Ballot Allows for More Voices to be Heard

To the editor:

Australian ballot voting was adopted in Vermont in 1892 – so nothing new. In 2008, only 61 towns out of 246 conducted all of their business by floor vote. That means 76% of towns use a combination of Australian ballot voting and traditional town meeting for deciding things such as who the local officials will be, town budgets, ordinance/bylaw changes etc. 100% of towns conduct town meetings.

The issue before voters in Greensboro is whether elected officials and changes to town ordinances should be voted on by Australian ballot or continue to be decided by floor voting. Clearly these are very important local matters.

Town Meeting Day is not convenient for everyone. Most voters are not government employees who have the day off. Some cannot physically make it to the meeting. Many voters are intimidated by those loudest in the room and would rather say nothing than stand up in front of a room full of people and present an opposing point of view.

Australian ballot voting, which is used in all US federal, state and most local elections, was

"designed to eliminate bias and to prevent anyone from linking voter to ballot." Australian ballot voting allows for those voters who elect to participate to vote in private for each official or issue in a timeframe that is suitable and without fear of public push-back.


Back to 2008, a study done by the State of Vermont showed that there is a dramatic increase in voter turnout when towns allow for a combination of traditional town meeting and Australian ballot voting (including absentee ballots). The results were 78.1% participation vs 21.1% when only floor voting was allowed. Isn't greater participation desired?

Those who argue town meeting would become irrelevant are mistaken. Much discussion and voting will continue to take place during that forum. Furthermore, there is ample time ahead of voting day for candidates on the ballot to campaign, as well as suggested bylaw changes to be discussed.

Greensboro voters do care and want to be able to have their voices count. Vote to have more voices heard. Vote "yes" to article #3 and article #4.

Mary Parker
Greensboro

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SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen's gym looked big and empty Friday night for the first basketball game allowed to be played since the COVID-19 pandemic. State officials announced that high school basketball games could begin Feb. 12, but that no spectators are allowed. Seated at the game Friday were Sue Lasher (temperature taker), someone filming the game for Northfield, and Hazen Principal David Perrigo.

Lady Cats Start Season Early, Fall to Mid-Vermont with Tough Road Test

by Ken Brown

QUECHEE – The Hazen girls' basketball team started the season with a tough road test last weekend, falling to a hot-shooting Mid-Vermont Christian (MVCS) team on the road.

Hayley Goodwin exploded for 33 points to lead MVCS to a 65-50 home win over the Lady Cats last Friday. Hazen led 13-12 after the first period behind a team-high 13 from Alleigh Gabaree, but the Lady Eagles got red hot in the second quarter, hitting 12-19 shots, ending the half on a 12-0 run to take a 38-25 lead into the break. Hazen wasn't supposed to tip-off its season until this week, but when MVCS called looking for a last-minute fill in for their schedule Thursday night, the Lady Cats agreed to take the long cold bus ride to Quechee.

"I told the girls Thursday night at practice that we picked up a last-minute game if they wanted it and they couldn't have been more excited," said head coach Tim Whitney. "It was a couple of long cold bus rides, but in the situation everyone is in this season, you have to be ready for anything. They are a very good team and you can see how they made it to the finals last

"It was great to see the girls able to get back out there on the court and compete."


season. The Goodwin sisters are extremely difficult to mark in the back court and on the wing and they got hot in the second quarter and that was difference in the game," said Whitney.

Cindy Goodwin chipped in with 15 points for the Lady Eagles who were co-Division IV champs last season, along with Proctor, after the title game was canceled due to COVID-19. Natalie Geoffroy added 11 points for Hazen and Macy Molleur chipped in with 10 in the loss.

"It was great to see the girls able to get back out there on the court and compete. We are still very young as a team in many ways, we pushed the ball really well early, but we get impatient offensively instead of letting plays develop and flow and that is when they went on their big run. We played decent defensively, but as we get into the season we need to shore

up rebounds a little better. Overall, it was a good effort against a good team and we'll keep working on improving," said Whitney.

The Lady Cats were scheduled to host Peoples Academy on Monday in the "Cat Den" before traveling to North Country on Thursday.



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SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield's Kerrick Medose (#1) drives between Evan LaMare (front) and John Smith (right) of Craftsbury during play Feb. 12. Twinfield player Cutler Gladding is in back at right. The Trojans beat the Chargers, 77-31.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Dylan Washer of Craftsbury looks to pass by Twinfield's Kerrick Medose (left) during action in the World War II Memorial Gymnasium in Craftsbury Friday. Watching the play are Trojan Cutler Gladding (#55) and Charger Mark Guebara (#5). Twinfield defeated Craftsbury 77-31.

Trojans Roll Chargers in Opener

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The Twinfield/Cabot boys' basketball team started the season off on the right foot last week with a dominant road win over Craftsbury Academy.

Cutler Gladding had his best game as a Trojan last Friday, pouring in a game-high 24 points to lead Twinfield/Cabot to a 77-31 win over Craftsbury. The Websterville transfer scored 18 in the first half to give the Trojans a 39-8 lead at the break.

"It's been a long wait for these guys and the night before and on the bus ride over they were so excited to finally tip-off the season. As soon as they stepped on the court it was all business and they went right back to being in their own element and everything just fell into place. Gavin got into foul trouble early and Cutler stepped up big time. I was so happy to see all of the kids get back out there and compete," said head coach Chris Hudson.

Gavin Fowler had a strong game with 15 points for the

Trojans and Lucas Roberts and freshman Meles Gouge chipped in with 11 apiece. Dylan Washer led Craftsbury with 10 points in the loss in what was their first game under new head coach Tyler Gillespie. Cabot's Brody Moran, Neil Alexander, and Dominic Hale are playing for the Trojans this season, making it a true cooperative between the two schools.

"The guys did a great job of taking care of their own responsibilities, played our style of basketball, hit the boards, and got out in transition. Cutler and Gavin were great on the glass and that got everything started for us. Our man-to-man was pretty good for three quarters and that really allowed us to dictate the tempo and get good looks. It was a good first win and we'll get ready for some tough challenges ahead of us," said Hudson.

Twinfield/Cabot was scheduled to host Twin Valley in their home opener on Monday. All home games will be carried by nsnsports.net. The Chargers were scheduled to host Christ Covenant on Monday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The new Craftsbury boys' varsity coach is Tyler Gillespie (right) of Eden and the new assistant coach is Joe LaMare (left) of Craftsbury.

SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wildcat Carter Hill looks to dribble past Marauder Ethan Miller (#22) as Hazen's Ethan Shopland (#11) follows the play. Hazen topped Northfield 77-57.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen senior Isaiah Baker drives up the court past Ethan Miller of Northfield on Feb. 12. Baker scored 28 points. Hazen beat Northfield 77-57.

Wildcats Pull Away in Season Opener

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen boys' basketball team found its groove in the second half to pull away from Northfield last week in both squads' season opener.

Senior sharpshooter Isaiah Baker scored 12 of his game-high 28 points in a decisive third quarter to help the Wildcats put away the Marauders 77-57 Friday night. Baker added eight rebounds, six assists, and six steals to help Hazen break open a tight game with a 26-15 run in the third. Caiden Crawford-Stempel kept the Marauders close for two and a half quarters with a team-high 20.

"They are a very young and talented program and they are much improved from last year. We definitely showed some rust in the first half which is understandable, but we did a nice job of righting the ship after the break. We have a little more height and girth this season and it's going to allow us to play with more physicality inside than last year," said head coach Aaron Hill.

Tyler Rivard put his inside

presence on display with 15 points and 10 boards and fellow sophomore Jadon Baker had a strong first game with 19 points of his own. Preston Lilly chipped in with 12 points for Northfield in the loss. Coach Hill acknowledged that the lack of fans and the energy in the gymnasium will take some getting used to, but overall everyone was just excited and relieved to finally get the season underway.

"I think it will be more of an adjustment for the players to build their own momentum without fans in the gymnasium, but honestly once we tipped off I think as coaches we kind of just dive into match-ups and the flow of the game. It has been a long wait for these guys and especially our seniors to get back out on the court and just watching them in warm-ups before the game was awesome. It was a good first win and I'm just so happy to see the kids get a chance to compete again," said Hill.

Hazen is scheduled to host BFA-Fairfax at the "Cat Den" Wednesday night before traveling to Peoples Academy on Saturday in what is always a difficult match-up.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen's Gabe Michaud drives for a layup as Caiden Crawford-Stempel defends during action Feb. 12. Wildcat Isaiah Baker follows the play. Hazen took the win 77-57.