

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Sanders Hears from High-Schoolers

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – On Monday night, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) hosted a panel of Vermont high-schoolers and experts, including former Hazen Union student and mental health awareness advocate Lucas Whitaker and Hazen Union's Work-Based Learning Coordinator Jen Olson.

Titled "Vermont Students Discuss Pandemic Challenges," the virtual town hall was designed for Sen. Sanders to hear directly from students about what they confronted during what he described as "the worst year for

our country in a long, long time." He also wanted their ideas for next steps. Sen. Sanders had no predetermined menu of options, but instead said "We need your help, guys, to figure out what works best for you."

The nine students started by relating their experiences. The students all described common themes: extreme stress, mental health issues, frequent issues with Vermont's subpar broadband, isolation. Things that would normally be stressful for the students, they said, were amplified by COVID-19.

See SANDERS, 2



screenshot/youtube.com/senatorsanders

Hazen Union's Work-Based Learning Coordinator Jen Olson speaks with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) at a March 15 virtual town hall about COVID's impact on Vermont students.



photo courtesy Ian Ackermann

Ian Ackermann of Cabot is the new young voice on the Cabot Select Board. His wife, Caitlin, and their two sons enjoy the outdoors with Ackermann.

Coming in Green or Ready for Action?

by Maggie Lee

CABOT – Last Tuesday, during the first Cabot Select Board meeting since Town Meeting Day, Ian Ackermann was sworn in as the newest select person. In the election that took place on March 2, Ackermann was elected for a two-year term, beating out incumbent Ruth Goodrich by a vote of 467 to 86. Mike Hogan, another incumbent, was elected for a three-year term, also defeating Goodrich.

So far, Ackermann reports that his first two weeks as a member of the select board have been "Exactly what I thought it was going to be, except a lot more after-hours stuff." Ackermann says that he has been going to select board meetings for months so that, in the event he was elected, he could be fairly caught up. While this helped, he admitted, "It's hard going in green."

Goodrich, for her part, was happy to see Ackermann take her seat on the board. "I think it'll be very good. He's younger, he's a business owner, and he's got a good sense about him. Good common sense about management of finances and that sort of thing, so I think he'll do great." Goodrich is excited for the extra time now that she's not on the board and says, with her multiple businesses, gardening, and young granddaughter, she "won't skip much of a beat."

Ackermann and Goodrich are close. Both run sugaring operations in

See ACTION, 2

Is Food Still Saving Our Town? Recent Developments in Hardwick's Agricultural Economy

by Anna Kolosky

HARDWICK – Twelve years ago, Hardwick received widespread media attention for successfully returning to its farming roots and uniting around locally grown food.

Ben Hewitt, author of "The Town that Food Saved: How One Community Found Vitality in Local Food" and owner of Lazy Mill Hill Farm, recalled what the town was like over a decade ago.

"I grew up about a dozen miles south of Hardwick," Hewitt said. "Hardwick always had this

See FOOD, 4



Ben Hewitt

Greensboro Select Board Will not Renew Contract with HPD

by June Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO – After deliberating an hour in executive session last week, the select board voted to sign a one-year contract with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department for police services. The contract begins July 1, 2021 and will cost the town \$190,000.

The contract with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department for policing services replaces a service that has been provided by the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) for over 15 years. Contracts with the HPD were negotiated in three-year contract, and the current contract expires June 30, 2021 at midnight.

Hardwick Town Manager Shaun Fielder said, "We just found out this past week that Greensboro is deciding to go a different direction. We have an existing contract to provide police services for Greensboro through June 30 this year. Nothing is changing."

He stressed, "We have a contract to provide the services through June 30, and we will definitely continue to do that service. That is our obligation. But 12:01 a.m., July 1, the Hardwick Police Department is no longer the police service agency that will be responding in Greensboro."

"We are disappointed to hear that Greensboro didn't want to

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Sanders

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Whitaker said he left Hazen Union after last spring when “the not-so-pleasurable pleasure of Zoom classes” became untenable for him. “It was the worst I personally felt I’ve done in school since my elementary days,” he said. “I couldn’t focus, I was constantly distracted, and I fell behind on most all of my classes.” He said he “fell out of” activities such as drama and music and is now trying to get back into them. He said he applied to four study-abroad programs and “not only do I not know if I’m being accepted into a program, I don’t know if these programs are even going to happen.”

For Winooski High School’s Hussein Amuri, food insecurity was a problem, along with poor Wi-Fi. After the town’s COVID-19 outbreak last June, “I’ve been in constant fear of one day transmitting the virus to a classmate and then that could possibly lead to a school-wide outbreak,” Amuri said.

Dustin Beloin of North Country Career Center said, “school has just not become essential for me anymore.” He cited struggles with Wi-Fi and “missing the connection to my teachers and classmates.” He said, “I couldn’t play baseball, the one sport I live for.”

One student caller who identified themselves as Cody from Thetford asked what students could do to help their communities. Sen. Sanders said students should talk to their school boards and their legislators. “I would hope that more and more young people do just that, your voices are important, you’re the future of this country,” he said. “And even if you are not eighteen yet, or voting, it doesn’t matter. You have a right to express your point of view, especially in this very difficult moment

that you and your friends are living through.”

He asked students and experts alike to come up with ideas for making this summer a positive turning point. Sen. Sanders added that Vermont’s legislature is considering H. 293 to create a statewide youth council focusing on many topics.

Olson suggested expanding programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act “to really get kids out there getting experiences in the workplace with mentors.” Whitaker agreed it was a good idea and noted that it would enable some students not only to put money aside for college but “unfortunately, for their families as well.”

Beloin said COVID-19 had taken away students’ opportunities for visiting prospective colleges. “Maybe over the summer, we have some kind of program where underclassmen can explore opportunities they missed this year.” Sen. Sanders said. “That is a great idea.”

Others suggested giving money to existing cash-strapped programs used by youth to find work in the community, or to expand opportunities in programs like AmeriCorps.

Cath Burns, Ph.D., Vermont’s COVID-19 Support Line clinical director, said the crisis could create an opportunity to address the stigma of mental health that “keeps people from seeking support.”

Sen. Sanders replied, “There is enough money. We have worked hard. We have tripled [the] money. Do not go by the old rules. We did that because we understand that this country and the kids, in particular, have gone through a terrible year. We have got a lot of work to do in all kinds of ways. If there is a will, we can do it, if it makes sense to people.”

Action

Continued From Page One

in the area, and Goodrich played a role in getting Ackermann to run in the first place. Ackermann paid Goodrich a visit the day after the election and says they talked for two hours. Ackermann says, “I’m representing her now,” along with the rest of the town and “their opinion is what I’m pushing for.”

Ackermann is already taking to his new role in the town. The Monday after he was elected, what was supposed to be a quick in-and-out trip to the post office, turned into an hour-long conversation with his new constituents. “They were picking on me that I got all kinds of extra work to do,”

Ackermann says. “A lot of them say, ‘What, are you crazy?’” But, he says, a lot of them also thanked him.

Goodrich expressed confidence that Ackermann will bring a valuable, and younger, perspective to the role. “Change is always good, more eyes on the subject,” she says, but notes that Ackermann will have to adjust. “From independent thinking to a five-person board, you need to compromise and to come out with what’s best for the townspeople.”

Ackermann takes on the new work and the new role with pride, saying, “Somebody’s got to step up.”



March 17 - March 23

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POLICE REPORT



(courtesy photo)

The operator of this vehicle smashed through the Victoria Hill Physical Therapy building on March 11.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The scene in the Victoria Hill Physical Therapy building located on Pearl Street in Hardwick after the operator of a vehicle stepped on the gas instead of the brake when entering the parking lot on March 11. Physical Therapist Nicole Strong was seated at her desk (left) when she leaped out of the way of the oncoming vehicle. Strong received some bruises and a sprained wrist. The business reopened Monday, March 15.

Hardwick Police Media Log Summary

March 8: Animal Problem, Rd.; Medical, Lake Shore Rd. Vt. Rte. 15/Bunker Hill Rd.; Accident – Property Damage On, Vt. Rte. 15W; Background Investigation, High St.; Accident – Property Damage On, Sumner St.; Assist – Motorist, Caspian Lake; Threats/Harassment, Hopkins Hill Rd.

March 9: Suspicious Event, W. Hill Rd.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.

March 10: Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Medical, Maple St.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Upper Cherry St.; Suspicious Event, Granite St.; Medical, Lake Shore Rd.; Medical, Lake Shore Rd.

March 11: Alarm, Log Yard Dr.; Fire Alarm, Maggie's Pond Rd.; Accident – Injury to Person(s), Pearl St.; Theft, N. Main St.; Alarm, Birch Ln.; Alarm, Wolcott St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Rte. 14/Mackville Rd.

March 12: Alarm, Log Yard Dr.

March 13: TRO/FRO Violation, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Rte. 14N, Motor Vehicle Complaint, Stratton Rd.

March 14: Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15; Accident – Property Damage On, Vt. Rte. 15; Welfare Check, Vt. Rte. 14S.

Car in Building, Multiple Cell Phone Violations

On March 9, at 8:23 p.m., Paul Laviolette, of Chelsea, was stopped on Mill St. in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for Cell Phone while Driving.

On March 10, at 7:20 a.m., Christle A. Page, of S. Ryegate, was stopped on Vt. Rte. 15 in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for Cell Phone while Driving.

On March 10, at 7:15 a.m., David W. Machon, of Plainfield, was stopped on Wolcott St. in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for Cell Phone while Driving.

On March 11, at 10:36 a.m., Police were dispatched to 13 Pearl St. for a report of a one-vehicle motor vehicle crash. Upon arrival, Police noticed a white Jeep with Tennessee plates that was inside the building. The operator reported no injuries, however, an employee, Nicole Strong, was brought to Copley Hospital for injuries to her wrist and cuts from glass.

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 14 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from February 28 through March 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.

Vermont State Police Minor Reported Missing is Found

The Vermont State Police is asking for the public's assistance locating a missing teenager who was last seen Wednesday, March 10, in Montpelier. Leilani Olive, 14, of Calais, was last seen at about 11:45 a.m. Wednesday walking in the vicinity of the Shaw's supermarket in Montpelier. The disappearance is not believed to be suspicious, but there are concerns for Leilani's welfare. She has ties to central Vermont and Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Leilani is white, 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighs 125 pounds and has brown hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a black Northface jacket, black zip-up hoodie, light-colored baggy blue jeans, white sneakers and a white beanie.

Police ask that anyone with information about Leilani's whereabouts call Detective Sgt. Amber Keener at the Middlesex Barracks at 802-229-9191. Tips also may be submitted anonymously online at vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit.

UPDATE: Leilani Olive was located safely by police at about 4:25 p.m. Thursday, March 11 in

Montpelier. Through further investigation, the Vermont State Police identified Mac Arnot, 24, of Stowe in connection with this case. Arnot was identified as having picked up Leilani at U-32 Middle & High School in Montpelier at about 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 10, without the permission of the juvenile's parent/guardian. As a result, Arnot was flash-cited on suspicion of two charges: aiding a runaway child, and kidnapping. Law enforcement is investigating the connection between Arnot and Leilani, but it is believed they knew each other. Arnot was arraigned Thursday afternoon in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court in Barre and ordered held without bail. The Vermont State Police thanks members of the public who provided information that assisted with the investigation.

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.

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Food

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reputation as a rough and tumble kind of town. There was a bar you would go to if you wanted to get into a fight. It had that kind of reputation, but it was a tight-knit town.”

Hewitt gained a professional interest in the local food movement in the early 2000s, when he and his wife owned a small homestead.

“I was raising food and I was following this local food movement in my periphery,” Hewitt said. “I was intrigued by these Hardwick enterprises, especially because it was happening in this blue-collar, more economically challenged town.”

The leadership of the movement was made up of “agri-preneurs.” mostly young, ambitious men working collaboratively, Hewitt stated.

“The vision behind it was somewhat holistic and inclusive since they weren’t in a competitive space,” Hewitt said. “They would often meet up, discuss how to help each other out and loan each other money.”

Twelve years and one pandemic later, the movement no longer commands the same widespread attention, but continues to flourish.

“It’s not getting the national media attention anymore, which I think is good,” Hewitt said. “I think it needed to quiet down.” Members of the agricultural community who once trumpeted the Hardwick story have “gotten down to running their businesses and keeping their business viable, healthy, and sustainable,” Hewitt said.

Some of the companies mentioned in Hewitt’s book, such as Pete’s Greens, Jasper Hill and High Mowing Seeds, have continued to thrive and expand – but smaller scale operations have also started popping up, Hewitt said.

“There’s this other population of smaller scale enterprises like CSAs and growers that have prospered,” Hewitt said. “Agriculturally speaking, I think the region is continuing to prosper and grow.”

But a new generation of people is moving to Hardwick and to Vermont in general, Hewitt said, which has also brought change to the town. During the pandemic, the change became more noticeable.

“The pandemic has changed everything so much. You can work from home and keep a job while living in Hardwick,” Hewitt said. “It has brought a renewed awareness and focus on the vulnerability of a lot of things we take for granted.”

He said people may be choosing to come to Vermont not just for its rural environment, but for climate change concerns.

“I already noticed there is this small trickle of upper-class environmental refugees that are like, ‘You know what? California is going to burn again next year I’m getting out,’” Hewitt said.

As more affluent people move into the area, Hewitt said he is concerned for the future of smaller farmers and CSAs.

“Vermont real estate prices are up 26% year after year.” Hewitt said. “It’s not all good or all bad; new couples are great community members who bring new things. But if you’re a local farmer who wants to buy land and prices have doubled because of this, it sucks for you. It’s how cultures change.”

While Hewitt said the cultural change is not likely to happen immediately, he hates to see local people forced out.

“I really value living amongst people who are still doing this kind of work, whether it’s logging or growing food,” Hewitt said. “They have a relationship with the land, and it’s really important to get people to care about the land if we want our species to not only survive, but thrive.”

Contract

Continued From Page One

to proceed with Hardwick for the police services,” he said. “That is an unfortunate situation. We obviously are communities that do touch each other and rely on neighbors helping neighbors. It’s unfortunate we couldn’t get it (the contract) in place. So, if in the future there is an opportunity for us to reestablish this, then we will be at the table.”

Vice Chair Circosta said, “The police contract has been a discussion point for our town for the past 4 months (since October 2020), and we believe that we have been as transparent as possible without unduly compromising our position in contract negotiations.”

He noted of the 13 select board meetings, the police contract was discussed at 12 of them.

“The public can expect to hear more details about the transition in south order. While our towns were unable to come to an agreement about police services, Greensboro would still like to work together with Hardwick for the benefit of the greater community.”

At an informational meeting held prior to the town meeting in February, Circosta said that Greensboro was overpaying for police services with HPD. The police contract with HPD calls for Greensboro paying a percentage of the budget that is voted by the Hardwick voters, not the actual costs of running the HPD. Circosta said negotiations with Hardwick had stalled and that the wording of the current contract was not logical. Greensboro had overpaid

for services by as much as \$125,000, according to Circosta.

A \$190,000 figure, which was \$77,738 less than allocated in the last year’s budget, was placed in the current budget as a placeholder until negotiations were completed. At the time, it was explained that other alternatives to HPD services were being researched, including the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department.

In announcing the new contract with the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department, the Greensboro Select Board said it did not reflect a “condemnation of the quality of service” from the HPD and thanked them for their past services.

In its public statement, the Greensboro Select Board said the town had been in a disadvantageous position and had investigated other options. They determined the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department was the best candidate for alternative policing services. Discussions of the contract were done in executive session and it is unclear how that determination was made or any potential impacts of the change.

At the public town meeting informational session in February, a question was raised about the change of police services relative to the Hardwick Rescue Squad and Hardwick Fire Department when accidents occurred. It was pointed out that the HPD were often the first responders on those incidents.


The motion to change services was made by Vice Chair Circosta, seconded by Tracy Collier. New

board member, David Kelley, abstained from voting on the motion. The motion reads: “The Selectboard will sign a one-year

contract with the Orleans County Sheriff’s Dept., who will provide general law enforcement services to the town of Greensboro.”



photo by Vanessa Fournier
The Green Mountain Technology & Career Center sugarhouse was built in 2017.



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photo by Vanessa Fournier
Green Mountain Technology & Career Center forestry student Tucker Baker checks the density of the syrup with a hydrometer. On their first boil of the season on March 12 the students made 30 gallons of Amber Rich.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Sophia Molleur, 8, of Walden skates at the Woodbury ice rink March 7. This was only her second time on skates.

Budget Figures Reduced as State Recalculates

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – The Wolcott School Board is bringing a new budget to voters, proposing a slightly more than two-cent increase following the 138-91 rejection at town meeting of a proposed estimated 14 cent increase in the school budget.

Due to changes in a state budgeting formula, the 14.59 cent estimate was overstated by almost double. In a February informational meeting, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Director of Finance Brittany Currie said the state's revision of formula numbers was likely to bring down the actual real tax increase. Wolcott had nothing more current to present to voters at town meeting than the December, 2020 formula, which led to proposing the estimated 14.59 cent increase in education property tax.

As Currie anticipated, the state has adjusted its formula once more. If voters had approved the budget proposed at town meeting, the estimated increase would now be roughly seven and a half cents. Currie said even with the increase in the yield, which accounted for most of the changed amount, the legislature is still working on a final number for its formula. But the school board cannot re-propose a budget that has been rejected by voters.

The new proposal cuts a 0.5 full-time custodial position and injects \$50,000 from the building reserve fund to further soften the impact on taxes.

Currie said at the March 11 school board meeting that the town's estimated drop of 1.3% in Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) -- what properties sell for compared to what they're appraised for -- added two cents to the tax bill. Until that is resolved by the town through re-appraisal, taxes will remain higher than they otherwise would be.

The tax rate for FY22 is set at \$1.6987. If the CLA were 100%, rather than the estimated 94.21%, the tax rate would be \$1.6003. If the CLA had not dropped from last year, the tax rate would have remained virtually unchanged.

For the upcoming FY22, total tax on a \$100,000 home is projected at \$1698.65 per year, or an increase of \$22.95. These estimates are subject to change, as the legislature may further revise its education property yield figure.

Local 4-H'ers Tested on Bovine Knowledge

BURLINGTON – 4-H club members from throughout the state had an opportunity to test their knowledge of all things bovine in the annual Bovine Bonanza, held virtually this year.

The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H competition, divided by age group, was open to 4-H'ers enrolled in the dairy, beef and working steer projects. It consisted of several age-appropriate questions in four categories: animal health, types and production of cheese, commercial crops, and parts of a cow.

Registered participants received an information packet

with test questions in late February. They then had a week to submit their answers, which were scored to determine individual rankings.

Local members who placed were:

10- and 11-year-olds: Dawson Michaud, East Hardwick (second) and Brody Werner, Stannard (third).

12- and 13-year-olds: Morgan Michaud, East Hardwick.

14- to 18-year-olds: Paige Ainsworth, Stannard (seventeenth); Donovan Noyes, Calais (twentieth); Lincoln Michaud, East Hardwick (twenty-first) and Gabriel Michaud, East Hardwick (twenty-third).



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photo by Vanessa Fournier

Cabot 7th grade student Samuel Churchill stands by a model of a log cabin he built for his genius project. Each year middle school students design and implement a special project to help them acquire new knowledge and skills that are of interest to them.

Craftsbury School Board Developing Multi-Year Vision Plan

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – A draft multi-year vision plan was presented to the Craftsbury school directors by Craftsbury Schools Principal Merri Greenia at a meeting last week. The plan is under development as the Small School, Big Opportunities vision for the next five years.

When presenting the draft, Greenia said it was a work in progress. She said the plan incorporated the 2011 Portrait of the Craftsbury Graduate as developed by the board and included the 2018 faculty vision statement for Craftsbury Schools. The staff spent two afternoons in January and February working on the document, which focuses on creating equity across the educational system and providing an “added umbrella” to the Craftsbury vision.

Stakeholders will be invited to offer their comments, Greenia said, including reaching out to Wolcott to inquire about their students’ needs. The plan will be aired with the student body and presented to the School Life Association for input.

The plan involves learning spaces, high quality staffing, flexible pathways, personal wellness, and citizenship and civic responsibility.

The required volunteer component, and whether volunteer outreach should extend beyond locally, is under discussion.

The ideas of newly hired innovative coach Natasha Troop will be incorporated in the plan. The exact role of an innovative coach was unclear. OSSU Superintendent Adam Rosenberg explained the innovative coach was hired using funds from the CARES funding, but the position would be incorpo-

rated into the OSSU budget next year.

State guidelines have relaxed to allow small groups to practice music indoors if ample space and safety protocols are followed. Rosenberg reported on students returning to in-person learning in April. Since the start of the school year, about 80 percent of students opted for in-person learning. The current shortened school day will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year.

The board discussed Act 173, which “an act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability and equity of services provided to students who require additional support.” No action was taken and it will be brought forward in the April meeting, but the board appeared to support the concepts put forth in the law. Currently, equalized per pupil funding is equal for all districts and does not weigh factors such as socio-economic conditions.

The board reorganized, with Chair Harry Miller returning to his position. Kasey Allen was chosen as Vice Chair; Michelle Menard was chosen as clerk. The board will be represented at the OSSU meetings by Allen, Menard, and Jennifer Schoen.

It agreed to post meeting notices and minutes at the town hall, post office, and Craftsbury Public Library. Announcements will also be made on Front Porch Forum.

In reflecting on the town meeting, it was noted the budget had passed on a 2-1/2 to one vote with 244 “Yes,” 101 “No,” and 18 “Blank.” Transferring all school district property to the Craftsbury Academy Trustees was approved on a five-to-one vote on 272 “Yes,” 54 “No,” and 37 “Blank.”

Copley Hospital Expands Community COVID Vaccine Clinics

MORRISVILLE – Copley Hospital has been given the green light to expand community COVID vaccination clinics.

“As Governor Scott expands the population eligibility for the vaccine, there is a need for more clinics. We have been asked by the State to increase our clinics to accommodate 400 doses per day,” stated Copley CEO Joseph Woodin.

Copley began COVID vaccinations in December, beginning with healthcare workers. The hospital will soon complete the second doses for nearly 1,200 healthcare workers. In February, community clinics were added, and the hospital is now offering two clinic days per week, 400 doses for Phase 1B, community members 55 years and older with certain high-risk health conditions.

“The clinics we provide are by appointment only. Community members must register online at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine or by calling (855) 722-7878 to schedule an appointment at one of the clinics we offer,” said Jenn Holton-Clapp, director of quality, risk and informatics.

Effective March 31, Copley will be offering two clinics per week, with the option to expand to three, at the Morrisville VFW. “As the State continues to expand the population eligibility, we needed to find a venue that provides better accessibility, as

well as sufficient space for check-in, vaccination stations, and a holding area,” commented Woodin. “We fortunately found that location and have worked out a schedule with the local VFW Post 9653 on VFW Drive, behind River Arts.” Holton-Clapp added, “Currently we are scheduled for Wednesdays and Thursdays. Again, these clinics are for people who have registered on the Vermont Department of Health’s website or called in. We will not be accepting walk-ins. By the end of April, we will reach our goal of administering 500 first doses per week and 500 second doses per week.”

To register for a vaccine appointment, visit healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine (preferred method) or call 855-722-7878. Information you should have available when scheduling an appointment includes name, date of birth, address, email, phone number, and health insurance information.

As of March 11, in addition to those 65 and older, people 16 and older with certain chronic conditions are also eligible to make a vaccine appointment. The Vermont Department of Health’s website provides a list of those conditions.

The Copley community clinics are by appointment only. Walk-ins will be turned away. Watch for ads in the local papers on dates and times of these clinics.

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photo by Doug McClure
Precanceling ink, an old mail rates chart, and an identification tag are some of the post office items on display at the Hardwick Post Office



photo by Doug McClure
Kristine McAllister stands by a display case in the Hardwick Post Office. The case holds old post office memorabilia she has saved.



photo by Doug McClure
Old post office memorabilia is displayed in a case at the Hardwick Post Office.



photo by Doug McClure
An old Rolodex, journals, and signs are some of the items on display at the Hardwick Post Office.

Post Office Display Offers Window to the Past

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Since she began working at post offices 23 years ago, Hardwick postmaster Kristine McAllister has collected old postal-related items. Now, a revolving display of those items can be found at the Hardwick post office.

McAllister oversees post offices in Hardwick, Greensboro, Greensboro Bend, Craftsbury, East Hardwick, and Woodbury, and hopes to create similar displays in those post offices. A display in Craftsbury is her next project, she said.

The oldest item in Hard-

wick's display case dates back to 1922, McAllister said. Many items are relics of earlier times in post office history: a faded Rolodex, a scale, postal stamps, a die, a vintage Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Setting Key inscribed with "Postal Laws and Regulations," and a rate card.

Also on display is an old bound carrier's route directory and a sign reminding patrons to pay their post office box rent by the end of the month. Some items are more unusual — a large tin of "Black Precanceling Ink" and an empty bottle of ferrous gluconate. An old name badge bears the name of former

postmaster Almont Stevens.

The display case itself is a link to the past. McAllister purchased it from Goodfellows Jewelers in Barre, which closed after owner Raymond Genti passed away in December. Genti inherited the business from his father, Virgil Genti, who purchased it in 1961. A Times Argus article dates the lineage of the Barre business to the mid-1800s. Its namesake was W.H. Goodfellow, who bought the store in 1910.

This month marks McAllister's 13th year as postmaster and she now manages the East Hardwick post office where her

career began. "My first office was East Hardwick and then I transferred to Waterbury Center, and then from Waterbury Center to Newport, and then from Newport to here," she said.

McAllister collected a variety of post office items throughout her career, but until now did not have a way to display them.

Beyond the items displayed for public view, McAllister keeps a shelf-full of additional curios. She encouraged people to "just stop in and take a look, see what we have going on here." She said she will add to and change the display over time. "I do plan on introducing newer stuff," she said.

Hazen Union Arts Academy Reaches Students Differently

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Hazen Union introduced its new Arts Academy for the 2020-2021 school year. The Academy is taught by Marc Considine, James Lockhart, Talan Bryant, and Leah Gagnon on alternating days of the week. The program’s 18 students normally meet at the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA), which partnered with Hazen Union for the program.

Considine said an Arts Academy had been discussed for years, even before the HCA opened. Changes to the traditional classroom model caused by the pandemic helped bring the long-proposed Academy to life.

“At the beginning of the [current] school year, there was a lot of concern, and there were students who did not want to come into this building and mix with everybody,

but they were comfortable mixing with a smaller group of people,” Considine said. “So, by having a small self-contained group, we got more kids in school than I think we would’ve otherwise.”

The Academy is not just an arts program, Considine said, “but that’s the centerpiece of it. We do a lot of literature analysis. We do a lot of reading and writing. We’re trying to incorporate a lot of history stuff, too – how art connects with history, how art affects history, how history affects art.” With art at the center of the program, “the kids seem to be more interested,” he said. “We’ve had them reflect on the year multiple times, and I’ve seen a lot of comments like, ‘I never really liked history, but this makes sense and I’m interested in it now. Or English, where ‘I never liked reading or writing,’ but now they’re finding more interest in it, because



courtesy photo

Emily Kimball at the Hazen Arts Academy.

we’re making those connections.”

The class read Sophocles’ tragedy Antigone earlier in the year. “This was a translation that was written 120 years ago, so,

even translated, it’s a language that’s kind of foreign to them,” Considine said. “But we did a lot of work around discussing the

See ACADEMY, 9

In Students’ Words: How the Hazen Arts Academy Works for Them

photos and story by Doug McClure

HARDWICK -- Hazen Union’s Arts Academy is an art-centric learning program at the school in partnership with the Highland Center for the Arts. We asked some students what the program had so far meant to them.



Leo McMurtrie

Twelfth grader McMurtrie was recently accepted into the School of Visual Arts in New York – an achievement he said he owes in part to the Arts Academy.

“I’ve always been an arts person, really into the arts,” McMurtrie said. “I’ve never been into math, never been good at science. Throughout my middle and high school experience, I’ve struggled a lot with regular STEM classes.”

McMurtrie said he was grateful for the opportunity to earn regular high school credits through an arts program. “It

was also a bonus because being a senior, I was able to really home in on my art portfolio and work I had to do for college, because I’m going to go to college for 2-D Animation,” he said. “Over the course of this year, I’ve been working on storyboarding a short film which, without the Arts Academy, I wouldn’t have been able to do.”

McMurtrie, who has a family member with a high-risk medical condition, said having to attend regular cases at Hazen increased his fear of bringing home COVID-19. “It was not worth it,” he said. “But being able to just be at the Highland Center with the same group of people for two days [a week] was really easy. I was able to keep motivated and keep doing my schoolwork.”

McMurtrie is also taking a Community College of Vermont class he described as “a lot easier” than attending Hazen.

McMurtrie said he believes alternative learning programs can be beneficial for students who struggle in a traditional classroom setting.

“Whether it’s your kid or a family member or your student or classmates, knowing how they learn is really important,” he said. “Just because they might not be able to learn in a typical school environment with regular STEM classes doesn’t mean they’re not smart. It just means they learn differently from other people.”

While he still does not

enjoy math, McMurtrie said the arts program has given him a new perspective on schoolwork. “I’m doing classes that I really, really enjoy and really have fun with,” he said. “And then once I’m finished with that, I’m able to focus on my math work.”



Orin Foran

Ninth grader Orin Foran said remote learning steered him to the Academy. Originally, he was enrolled in the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative’s arts-related classes, but decided to switch to the Arts Academy instead of the regular school curriculum. “It just sounded a lot [more fun],” he said.

The Arts Academy “helped not only just my sense of the arts in general but doing drawing classes and stuff,” Foran said. “I noticed that I am a lot better at drawing than I used to be. I guess my brain expanded.”

When asked for his take on the Arts Academy, Foran said, “I’d say it’s definitely helped me.”



Ryker Willett

Eleventh grader Ryker Willett said the Academy gave him “balance.”

Part of the program’s appeal, he said, was that it was held at the Highland Center for the Arts. “I really like that environment,” he said. “I’m really into visual art and theater and music and drawing and everything that the Arts Academy has to offer, so I was really drawn to the fact that we would be touching base on a lot of different areas of the arts.” Willett, who plays on the Hazen basketball team, said the Arts Academy and basketball gave him a balance. “They’re two complete opposites in some ways, but in some ways, they’re

See HAZEN, 9

Academy

Continued From Page 8

kids were actually taking it into language they could understand better, and having to decide, what's important to leave in? What's important to take out? How do we change the language?" The students rewrote a version of the tragedy for the class to film as a movie. "And I think they were a lot more interested in doing the writing," Considine said. "The comment that I get from a lot of them is, 'I didn't realize that I could do this and enjoy it as much.' There's a different relevance to it."

Considine said the relaxed time schedule is another benefit of the program. "I like that we're not on a time schedule, I don't have to finish class in 90 minutes," he said.

"If we get somewhere and we get on an interesting tangent that is relevant, we can go there and not feel like we have to [stop]. That extra time is "really valuable," he said. "Especially when the kids really get into something."

He offered an example. "We started off listening to a piece of music by Beethoven, which led into an entire long discussion about Napoleon, which led into the whole summary of history of Western Europe up until World War II," he said. "So, that kind of free-flowing discussion, I didn't want to stop it because they were all interested. It's nice to have that freedom to do that."

The next year will bring modifications to the Academy, but those changes remain unclear largely due to COVID-19.



courtesy photo

Bea Avery sculpting a dragon in snow at the Hazen Arts Academy.

Hazen

Continued From Page 8

pretty similar," he said. "You both have to be very confident in what you're doing to be able to just follow through with it. When I think about one, they kind of help with each other."

Willett said the Arts Academy also improved his focus. "Usually when I'm at school and when I get a bunch of other regular classes, it's, 'Okay, I have to do this, this, and this for this class. And then this, this, and this for this class,'" he said. "Whereas for here it's more enjoyable, so it's easier to balance it. And for Algebra 2, I'm really into math, so I like doing my math homework. So, it's easier to balance because it's more enjoyable."

For those curious about next year's Academy, he said "a lot of people were skeptical about

it happening this year, and it is working very, very well. And everybody here really, really enjoys it. It's something that's different from your everyday school life that I think is very helpful that it is different. And the fact that you get to work on something that I honestly think makes people very vulnerable, it's really grounding to know that you have the people around you that are there for you even when you're most vulnerable."

Willett said the program inspired him to consider new opportunities for college. "Because of the music aspect that we've done, we've worked on composing some music and writing some songs and everything, I've started looking at possible colleges that offer more of a music background," he said. "So, it has changed my kind of view of what my future could be like."

Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Tuesday, April 13, at 7 p.m., on Zoom. They will consider a Conditional Use and Variance request by Ian and Stacey Ambler for modifications and a shed addition to their cottage at 115 Cheney Road.

This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Uses, 5.5 Variances, and 8.9 Nonconforming Uses and Structures within the Shoreland Protection Zone. There will be a socially distanced site visit on Saturday, April 10, at 11 a.m. Masks are required. Both the virtual hearing and the socially distanced site visit are 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 April 13, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 875 1530 3964. There is no password. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 301 715 8592 (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.

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COVID Vaccination Clinics



101-year-old Richard Abare of Morrisville receives his first dose at Copley's COVID vaccine clinic.

Copley Hospital will be holding COVID vaccination clinics at the Morrisville VFW Post 9653 - 28 VFW Street (behind River Arts)

Clinics are by appointment only

Wednesday, March 31st,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	
Thursday, April 1st,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Wednesday, April 7,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Thursday, April 8,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Wednesday, April 14,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Thursday, April 15,	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose

Please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your scheduled time



How to Make an Appointment:

To register for a vaccine appointment, visit healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine (preferred method) or call 855-722-7878. Please have your name, date of birth, address, email, phone number, and health insurance information available. The website also provides helpful tips on registering including videos.

For a full schedule of clinics visit www.copleyvt.org

OUR COMMUNITIES

Marshfield Story Project Meets March 18

MARSHFIELD – The Marshfield Story Project will host a Library Memories Zoom-a-Round on Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Participants may share memories of Jaquith Public Library: good reads, summer music, winter films, art shows and play groups, plant sales, and book sales.

Memories are sought about the library in the early days, or the move to Old Schoolhouse Common.

We want to hear your story. Those interested may sign up with Susan Green, 426-3581 or Jeanne Haskell, jhaskell73@gmail.com.

The Marshfield Story Project is a partnership between Jaquith Public Library and Marshfield Historical Society. The stories will become part of the Historical Society Archive. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Night Sky Program on March 25

GREENSBORO – The Greensboro Free Library will present Fairbanks Museum's science educator Bobby Farlice-Rubio on March 25, at 6:30 p.m., in a free program, "What's Up in the Sky Now?"

In this exploration of space, the audience will learn what the eye can see in the spring skies.

Questions are encouraged.

This program is free and for all ages and is in collaboration with the Barton and Glover Libraries. For information on the Zoom meeting, contact Emily Purdy, youth services librarian, at egreensborokids@gmail.com. Pre-registration is not required, but it is helpful.

The Golden Dome Book Club Meets on Wednesdays

MARSHFIELD – The Golden Dome Book Club of the Jaquith Library meets Wednesdays at noon.

The club is a book discussion group for children aged 9-12 years old, in fourth through sixth grades. Each week, children meet on Zoom to discuss a book from this year's Golden Dome Book Award List. Participants may tell the group about any Golden Dome Books they've been reading and enjoy a read aloud of a book selected by the group.

The Whiting Library in

Chester invited the Jaquith Library to join this informal gathering for fun, conversation, connection and to share a love of the great books nominated for this award. The library has punch cards of the 30 nominees to help keep track. Those who read five from the list are eligible to vote for the winner. Those interested in joining the book club should email Deborah at jaquithyouth@gmail.com. For more information on Golden Dome Books and the club visit jaquith-publiclibrary.org/golden-dome.html.

Events Offered During Sexual Violence Awareness Month

HARDWICK – AWARE is collaborating with the Galaxy Bookshop to offer events during Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

On April 8, at 10 a.m., Community Allies will host a panel of experts on sexual violence which will include Mark Wynn, a national consultant specializing in domestic and sexual violence training. All community members and professionals may participate virtually by linking through Facebook on the Hardwick Community Allies For Safety, Trust and Respect page or email Amy Rosenthal at amyrosenthal573@gmail.com.

Community Allies will host two book groups to discuss and explore the book, "Know My Name: A Memoir" by Chanel Miller. Miller, also known as Emily Doe, was the victim in the

Brock Turner sexual assault case at Stanford University. There will be two separate book groups, one for women and one for men. Both will be held virtually on April 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. Those interested in attending, may email Amy Rosenthal at amyrosenthal573@gmail.com. The book is available from the Galaxy Bookshop or, if you cannot afford a book, AWARE can lend or purchase a copy for you. Call 802-472-6463 or email aware@vtlink.net for more information.

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful birthday cards and phone calls. Your thoughtfulness made a special 90th birthday for me. God Bless all of you.

Dave Merrill

OBITUARIES

LOUIS JOSEPH STARE JR.

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – Louis Joseph Stare Jr. passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 6, at 90.

Known to all as Sandy, he was born May 27, 1930, in Worcester, Mass. He lived with his parents in the Boston area until they moved to Cape Cod when he was young. From then until settling in Vermont, he lived in South Yarmouth and attended Barnstable High school, where he took agriculture courses. He worked in farming, construction, maintenance and caretaking vacation properties and was employed full time at the Yarmouth Water Department, where he tested and repaired water meters.

Sandy always liked the outdoors, swimming in the ocean and roaming the woods. Although Sandy was born with a deformity from a difficult birth, he was very active. He enjoyed clamming and oystering on the Cape.

Sandy and his parents visited Vermont every fall starting in the '70s. They stayed at the Long Trail Lodge in the Killington area. At that time, he became interested in hiking and the Green Mountain Club.

In 1966 he decided to build a lean-to in Yarmouth, disassembled it into prefabricated pieces, then trucked it to the Wallingford section of the Long Trail. The process of actually getting the structure up the trail three miles and reassembled has been documented by the Green Mountain Club. For years, before it burned, there was a sign with Sandy's name. Sandy became a life-long member of the club and valued that membership.

Sandy visited Vermont several summers camping in various state parks and hiking the Long Trail on day trips. Because he wasn't able to carry a heavy pack, he would walk a section of the trail at a time. Upon completion of the entire trail, he was awarded an End-to-Ender Certificate.

He purchased his land at the end of Wylie Hill the very day he

ventured into Craftsbury in 1972, knowing that this is where he wanted to settle. In 1975 he started building his log cabin and moved in the following year. In his basement shop, he built wooden toys which he sold on the Common at Antiques & Uniques, as well as gifting many of them, including annual gifts to the Boston Children's Hospital, where he had often been a patient. He wanted the young patients to have enough toys to play with while they were there, and then to take home when discharged.

Sandy enjoyed living in the woods, snowshoeing, and going for rides around the area, including visiting the Old Stone House Museum. He worked with the Village Improvement Society's work crew replacing the entire Common fence. With an avid interest in railroading history, his long-term hobby was model trains and he was a member of the Vermont Garden Railway Society. Sandy loved animals, both wild and domestic. He kept his bird feeders full and enjoyed watching the birds, and the occasional bear who came up on his porch!

Although seeing himself as hermit-like, he truly enjoyed many community events, his membership in Horse and Buggy Club, the Lamoille County Players performances, model train shows, restaurant meals, community dinners, and, especially, the Craftsbury Farmers' Market, which he visited in his golf cart. Sandy had many friends and cherished visits with them. In his last years he was supported by a volunteer group of neighbors who enabled him to remain living in his beloved log cabin in his woods. With gratitude to the Craftsbury Fire Department and Hardwick Rescue Squad for their kind services.

Interment will be on Cape Cod. There will be no formal service. Online condolences may be made at curtis-britch.com. Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Curtis-Britch-Davis & Bouffard Funeral Home, Craftsbury Common.

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Waiting for their "apple/carrot pies" to be finished on the fire pit in the front around the fire (left to right): Jonah Wohlberg, Reeve Basom, Cordelia Marshall, Jose Paré, Aliya Young.



Craftsbury Academy Principal Merri Greenia looks on as Avery Boyce, Poppy Gletsos, and Destiny Wright prepare their food.

**Photos by
Doug McClure**



Jonah Wohlberg samples Hollis Allen's apple creation.



Hollis Allen (left) digs in while Jonah Wohlberg (right) enjoys his carefully prepared carrot dish.

Craftsbury Third-Graders Hold Their Own Masterchef Junior (Outdoor Edition)

by Doug McClure

CRAFTSBURY -- On March 9, Craftsbury third-grade teacher Julie Higgins' dozen students gathered around a fire on Dustan Field to prepare apple pies, or savory versions thereof.

Reeve Basom reminded students of safety rules for working near an open fire and using real knives, as well as standard safety protocols for COVID-19.

The students, many of whom were attempting to cook for the first time, cut up apples and carrots, seasoning them with black pepper, curry spice and cinnamon. The maple syrup was used up quickly, so the students substituted brown sugar.

After preparing their ingredients, students wrapped them into folded tin foil pouches. They

handed the pouches to Basom, who placed them on a grill above the fire to bake. There were no instructions as to how long to cook the pies, so the students judged by taste.

Hollis Allen prepared carrots drizzled with maple and brown sugar. After tasting his pie, he returned it to the fire for some additional baking time.

While adult supervision was available, most students prepared their pies independently, some taking care to measure their ingredients according to what they supposed were reasonable portions.

At the end of February Gov. Phil Scott said that because of the pandemic "Our kids are not okay." But for this outdoor hour of class, the group of third graders seemed quite a bit more than okay.



Jacob Haefs presents his apple-carrot "pie"

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Life Coach and Counseling Program Opens for April Sessions

by **Brittnay Heffermehl**

CABOT – Kumari Patricia, founder of Sage Life Coaching and Counseling, is starting an online Yoga Outreach program for women over 60.

Patricia and her children moved from Ohio and settled in small-town Cabot. Kumari first came to the state as a student at Goddard College. She fell in love with the beauty of Vermont and its supportive culture for family and love for art. Now on the faculty of Goddard, she is looking to fulfill her dream of enriching others' lives by offering her expertise in life coaching and counseling.

Sage Life Coaching and Counseling's mission is to help, educate, and support woman over the age of 60 who may be struggling or need greater support in life, careers, and more. Patricia is a licensed psychotherapist, with experience in several areas of counseling, and social work. She earned a master's degree in social work at the University of Michigan in 1992 and has more than thirty years of experience in the field. In 2010, she received her MFA at Goddard College. Her specialties include life coaching, self-esteem, and periods of transition in one's life.

In her years of graduate training at the University of Michigan, she worked with university counseling centers and programs, like the Center for the Education for Women. Her counseling helped women who were going through divorces, or newly struggling mothers, as well as students who were seeking support.

Patricia says her experience

as a psychotherapist and in social work has help her become a life coach. "My social work training at the University of Michigan and beyond taught me that individuals do not exist in a vacuum. We all have systems that we live in, whether it be friendships, families, work circles, etc. Every person has the capacity to be whole, to be both challenged and supported in their growth. I take this psychosocial perspective with me into life coaching as every person needs to be nurtured through listening and prompting so they can understand how to develop their best self to the world. It is about finding the authentic self, witnessing that in others, and uncovering all the places where we get stuck."

Patricia began her journey as a life coach in October of last year when she joined the Coach Training Alliance. She has since been certified as a life coach. Her program is designed to help women to set and achieve goals, offer life advice and tips, and practice mindfulness while incorporating a relaxing period of yoga in a restorative group environment.

"I find the power of groups is the way women come together to affirm, support, and encourage each other," she added.

Patricia says that she has noticed a shift in the way she is teaching, and she has changed as well, because of COVID. "Mostly I find the coaching to be more accessible with use of technology, but it can also be challenging if internet issues prevail. For the most part, it brings the women together from farther distances who most likely could not meet any other way."

CVSWMD Receives Call2Recycle's Sustainability Award

MONTPELIER – The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) has been recognized by Call2Recycle as a 2020 Top 100 Leader in Sustainability for diverting more than 8,400 pounds of batteries from the landfill. The Leader in Sustainability award is given out annually to top performing Call2Recycle program participants who excel with their battery recycling efforts.

Call2Recycle is recognizing CVSWMD for its commitment to battery recycling through a tree donation to the National Forest Foundation's "50 Million for Our Forests" campaign. CVSWMD collects batteries for recycling at its Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC) in Barre City.

CVSWMD is a 19-member union municipality that offers an array of programming to support its Zero Waste inspired implementation plan. Programs include a robust School Zero Waste Program; the Additional Recyclables Collection Center; Household Hazardous Waste collections; workshops about recycling, reducing household toxins, composting and back yard composting equipment sales; reuse grants; zero-waste tips and more.

CVSWMD Member Towns include Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, and Woodbury.



courtesy photo

Kumari Patricia, of Stratford, offers retreat cottages for her clients.

Her newest addition to the program is the mindfulness and therapeutic movements of yoga offered in 90-minute sessions. Beginning each session, clients can expect a gentle experience of yoga for about 30 minutes, followed by an hour-long session of discussion and group conversation.

Patricia's exploration in this area will include topics, such as establishing life priorities, facing and conquering challenges, and setting and establishing goals. Patricia believes in the power of communicating within groups as a way to restore and offer support for the soul.

"It is a way to connect with others and find companionship and accountability. That will motivate, inspire and move you forward from stuck patterns and fears" she says.

"At the heart of what I do is to listen in unconventional ways, by reframing and also affirming where women are, allowing them to speak and to be vulnerable and yet feel safe in the space. The

teaching is not about what I say; it is about what the women say to themselves. Women nurture each other, and I hope I can remind each woman that, while their care for each other is what defines them, it is also about the care of themselves."

Later this year, Patricia has plans to reopen her series of retreat cottages, located in Stratford. Her Life Coaching and Counseling sessions are online.

New sessions are being offered starting in April, but a sample group will be helped on March 24, from 10:30 a.m. to noon for women over 60, and 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., for women over 75. For women looking for evening sessions, or more details, and where to sign up, see sagelifecoachingandcounseling.com

Rushmore Press is also set to release a reprint of Patricia's book "Manifestations of Self Within Place," a story of yoga, art and family in Vermont. It will be available in late April.



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, March 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@wonderartsvt.org or 802-472-6857.

Friday, March 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.

ets at highlandartsvt.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: eredid@capstonevt.org.

Saturday, March 20

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

Monday, March 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-artcommunity/virtual-art-prompts/> with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to AmericorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org.

Tuesday, March 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.

MEDICARE & YOU WORKSHOP, for individuals who are new to the Medicare system, offered remotely by Central Vermont Council on Aging. Pre-register at medicareworkshops@cvcoa.org or call 802-479-0531.

Wednesday, March 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.

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, through April 17.

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



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Cabot middle school students Ethan Garrison (left) and Ben Monaco (right) take measurements and work on their design for a covering for an outdoor classroom during a Science and Social Studies project block. The outdoor structure will be located between the Cabot Performing Arts Center and the school library.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Cabot middle school students (from left) Sarah Thompson, Scarlett Wetmore, Mariah Bailey, Haylee North and Jacob Tidd make pizzas during their project studio class. They are studying microorganisms and the properties of yeast. Their teachers are Peter Stratman and Mike Crocker.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Cabot 8th grader Chad Mayo takes his pizza out of the school's bread oven during his project studio class Friday.

OUR E-MAILS

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

A Bit Over the Top

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – “Then the wolf shall live with the sheep, and the leopard lie down with the kid ... the cow and the bear shall be friends The lion shall eat straw like cattle; the infant shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the young child dance over the viper’s nest.”

Those of us who were raised in the faith remember well this prophecy from the scroll of the first Isaiah. Whoever of us was tagged to read it aloud in Sunday School had to endure the only partially suppressed snickers of his pals when the King James Version we used forced him to say “shall play over the hole of the asp.”

That idyll painted by Isaiah seemed to me then, and still does, 75 years later, a bit over the top. Lions eating straw? I doubt it. Still, the state of our union at the present time – rather like a Florida beachfront after a hurricane – might induce many of us to slip into such a fantasy (which would not, of course, include beating our swords into plowshares. Perish that thought). So how do we as a nation begin sorting out what Oliver Hardy would plaintively call “another fine mess”?

We start by agreeing we’ve got problems, ranging from a deadly pandemic still thought a hoax by many, to a flood of children being shipped north away from the terrors of central America, to an economy flailing in disarray, to multiple efforts to disenfranchise minority voters, to increasing asperity and falsehoods in social media.

Then it’s important, I think, to stop attempting to blame others. It’s also critical to put away our labels; they’re the result of lazy thinking and the resort of critics without arguments; and lately they’ve become meaningless: What’s a “Christian” anymore, or a “conservative” or a “liberal,” or a “patriot”? For that matter, with the Grand Old Party of my ancestors appearing to follow the Whigs into oblivion (see Professor Jelani Cobb’s article, “How Parties Die,” in the March 15 New Yorker), how do we resurrect the ancient art of governing by negotiation and compromise? And finally, can we possibly begin to base our important civil decisions upon empirical evidence rather than our personal principles?

We appear, from our incredible (and still growing) political

and financial inequities and legislative gridlock, to be in late-stage capitalism – Bernie Sanders our Jeremiah – yet no one seems to be seriously proposing a solution. We used to say that only people crazy enough to think they could change the world are the ones who do. Now, when the inmates seem to have taken over the asylum, I yearn for someone sane enough to believe that. My man in this situation is Bobby Kennedy, who, like many of our leaders of the past century, was assassinated: “Some men see things as they are, and say, ‘Why?’ I dream of things that never were, and say, ‘Why not?’”

Why not experiment again with Universal Basic Income (UBI)? Mitch McConnell has said that the \$1400 stimulus checks issued to eligible citizens will discourage them from seeking work (\$1400! As if!). But where UBI has been tried – Stockton, California, and Dauphin, Manitoba, it’s been a qualified success, and deserves further experiments. I’m no economist, but it seems evident that money does more good to us all in the hands of those who have to spend it, rather than in the portfolios of those who don’t. Principle, more than economics, stands in our way. So why not?

Universal health care -- why not? We know damn well why not: Insurance companies, often miscalled providers, and their executives and shareholders will suffer. The cries of “Socialism!” are frankly old hat, and fears of “government incompetence” utterly unfounded. As a 20-year participant in Medicare (and my late wife in Medicaid), I’ve found it as near to perfect as I can imagine health care insurance to be. It’s not free by a long shot. But it works. So why not?

We’re all against abortion – who isn’t? – but it’s too often framed as a matter of religious or moral principle. It never will be eliminated, but only made more lethal by banning it. Why not take a look at a place where efforts to eliminate it actually have worked? Just Google Colorado abortion rates. A combination of education, state-provided contraception, and other support has more than halved the rate.

Where often-grisly appeals to principle and legal maneuvers have failed, cooler heads have made the greatest difference. I can’t help but wonder why government-supported – and reversible – vasectomy wouldn’t be even more effective. What’s good for the goose, eh?

We’ve got the resources to make this country so much better for all of us; so why not clean up that hurricane-littered beach and, as mariners say, make it so? Why not?

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MEETING MEMO

Monday, March 22

•**Cabot School District Board of Directors’ Regular Meeting, 6 - 8 p.m.** <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/82117586467?pwd=YV-11eXU5Sm5RdjVrcm1scVNX-dEZ3dz09>. Meeting ID: 821 1758 6467. Passcode: 289227. Dial 1-646-558-8656.

•**Danville School District Board of Directors’ Special 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



IN THE GARDEN

Starting from Seeds: It's Time to Get Ready!

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I love starting seedlings indoors when it's still cold and raw outside. It makes me dream of summer and the first red tomato. For me, it is still too early to plant most things, and I certainly don't want to have to baby my seedlings along for 12 weeks or more. If you haven't ever set up grow-lights and don't have all the equipment for indoor growing, now is the time to get everything you need before the stores sell out.

First, some basics: you need lights over your seedlings in order to get good plants. Yes, I know some people grow things on a bright windowsill for a few weeks, but getting sturdy tomato plants or zesty zinnias requires supplemental lighting.

Second, you can't use garden soil to grow your seedlings.



courtesy photo

A simple homemade plant stand.

Ordinary garden soil is too heavy and gets compacted with watering, and it may harbor fungal diseases. You need to purchase potting soil.

Last, you need a place that is at least 60 degrees, but no more than 70 degrees. Cooler temps at night are good. Electric heat mats place under your seedlings will help get quick, even germination, but are not required.

There are several types of lights for growing seedlings. For years, I used fluorescent lights: four-footers with fat T-12 tubes. These work, but now have been replaced with more energy efficient, slimmer, T-8 tubes. There are also LED grow-lights of various sorts that use even less energy, though those can be very expensive.

Sold as shop lights, T-8 two-tube fixtures should cost around \$20 each, plus the fluorescent tubes which cost around \$8 each. But do not, I repeat, do not spend the money to buy

full-spectrum tubes which cost upwards of \$35 each. You are not raising plants for sale, and for the short time they will spend in your basement, regular cool white tubes are fine. Or mix cool and warm white to get a broader light spectrum.

If you have a warm basement, I'd suggest that the easiest approach for a starting a few things would be to use a card table and four-foot fluorescent fixtures hanging from the ceiling. Put plastic over the table to protect it from water spills.

You can also go to my web site, Gardening-Guy.com and search for "Building a Plant Stand". That will give step-by-step directions for building an inexpensive A-frame plant stand that will hold 6 flats, and have room below it for 4 to 6 more flats on the floor.

Your hardware store can sell you something called "jack-chain" that will allow you to adjust the height of your lights as your plants grow. Ideally, your lights will hang about six inches above the top of your plants. Two four-foot fixtures, each with two tubes, hanging a few inches apart will illuminate four flats (or trays) of seedlings. When you buy your flats, be sure to get those that do not have holes in the bottom, as some do.

The flimsy "six-packs" that fit into the flats come in various sizes, but I always look for the biggest, deepest cells. So, yes, you can get tiny cells that will allow you to



courtesy photo

A flat with six-packs for starting seeds, and a plastic cover to contain moisture.

plant 48 or even 72 plants in a flat, but there is not much room for roots.

The flimsy six-packs tend to self-destruct easily, particularly if you try to wash them out for re-use. But there are heavy duty planting trays and cells that will last many



courtesy photo

Tomato seedlings that are almost ready for the garden.

years. Gardener's Supply sells them, along with clear domes to go over them. They cost more, but will last forever, and some have self-watering features.

What about the soil mix for growing? Buy good quality "Seed starting mix" labeled as such. I mix it with high quality compost in a 50-50 ratio. Sometimes I make my own starting mix using peat moss, perlite, vermiculite, compost and a slow-release organic bagged fertilizer. I start about 10 flats of

that fit over each flat. These, like the flats, are re-useable. They will steam up, and rain the moisture back onto your plants, just like a tropical jungle. Remove them when most cells have plants that have germinated.

How deep should you plant your seeds? About three times the length of the seed. Tiny seeds need just a thin sprinkling of soil



courtesy photo

Jack chain easily allows you to adjust the height of your lights.

mix over them. Bigger things like pumpkin seeds can be covered with half an inch of soil mix. Press down lightly with your fingers after covering the seeds so the soil mix is in good contact with the seed.

Lastly, water them. I like a soda bottle for watering, as it can deliver a nice slow trickle. Water the soil mix before planting, because if it is too dry, it is resistant to absorbing water.

The bottom line is that starting seeds is fun. And it lets you choose plants you might not find at the garden center. So, get your materials and set up your lights. I start tomatoes and other frost-sensitive plants six to eight weeks before I would put them in the garden.

plants each year, so there are cost savings for making my own mix.

Seeds are very susceptible to drying out, which can be lethal. One way to keep that from happening is to check on them often. Once a day is fine. Or, if you have a busy schedule, buy clear plastic covers

Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



LETTERS FROM READERS

Love the Digital Format

To the editor:
Just thought I would write to tell you how much I love the new digital format. I loved "reading the newspaper" digitally before, "turning" the pages of the paper, but what a beautiful transition and transformation digitally. I love the menu, breakdown of sections with new and old articles, the weather and police reports. I like that when I actually get online the titles of the articles mention which town

it's talking about; my email version leaves out town names in the titles.

Beautiful job, well done and what a great way to keep the newspaper advancing into the future. I also want to mention I'm so glad you are using student reporters. What a great opportunity on both fronts and it's wonderful to see their talent. I love your paper even more.

**Annie Minor
Delray Beach, Fla.**

Greensboro Police Services Changes

To the editor:
At our March meeting, Greensboro's select board signed a one-year contract for police services with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department. We arrived at this decision after four months of careful deliberation over the contract terms and conditions. It is in no way a condemnation of the quality of service we received from the Hardwick Police Department and we thank them for their work over the years.

to our concerns and requests.

After many meetings and interviews, we determined that the Orleans County Sheriff's Department was the best candidate to provide police services for the town. There was no disagreement among the current and previous select board members in the final decision. We are confident that Greensboro will receive as much, or more, patrol presence as the town presently receives, as well as increased accountability and improved reporting, all at a lower cost. The new contract begins July 1, 2021.

Contract negotiations with Hardwick stalled in November, primarily over how to fairly determine Greensboro's cost for police services. Both our current contract and the proposed renewal contract put Greensboro in a highly disadvantageous position. Therefore, the select board was obligated to investigate other options. A few weeks ago, Hardwick's negotiators finally decided to take Greensboro's point of view seriously. However, by that point, we had found an alternative that we believe will be more responsive

Sheriff Jennifer Harlow and her deputies look forward to meeting and serving the people of Greensboro, and it is with enthusiasm that we welcome them into our community. We invite your questions and comments at any time. We will continue to solicit input and monitor the quality of police services during and after the transition.

**Peter Romans
for the Greensboro
Selectboard**



The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union invites qualified, independent Certified Public Accountants, licensed to practice in the State of Vermont, to submit proposals to conduct annual audits of its financial accounts for three years ending June 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023. This includes 5 school districts and 1 supervisory union to include an annual single audit as well. For further information please contact Taylor Blaisdell, Ex. Assistant at 802-472-6531 or tblaisdell@ossu.org to get a copy of the RFP if interested. Deadline to submit an RFP is April 2, 2021 10AM.

Greensboro Nursing Home



Do you love Country Living? Are you interested in working in a wonderful, home-like, country setting?

Consider applying for a position at Greensboro Nursing Home, in Greensboro Vermont. We currently have several open positions in Nursing, including Full-Time or Part-Time RN (any shift), Full-Time or Part-Time LPN (any shift) and Part-Time LNA (Evenings/Nights).

We offer a generous benefits package to our Full-Time and Part-Time employees, which includes Earned Time Off (ETO), Health Insurance, Dental, Vision, 401K, AFLAC and paid mealtimes (and we provide our employees with one meal per shift!)

So, if you like a skilled nursing facility with a very home-like environment, co-workers who treat you like family, and a great staff to resident ratio, you will love Greensboro Nursing Home!

**Give us a call at (802)533-7051 and ask to speak with
Beth Daniels (Director of Nursing) or
Brian Labelle (Administrator).**

VERMONT RAIL SYSTEM

Vermont Railway • Green Mountain Railroad • Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad
Washington County Railroad & WACR Conn River Division

Weed Control Program Newspaper Advertisement

The Vermont Rail System has applied to the Secretary of Agriculture for a permit to apply herbicides to its tracks for control of weed growth in the ballast.

- Vermont Railway operates between Bennington and Burlington. (In the towns of Burlington, S. Burlington, Shelburne, Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, Vergennes, New Haven, Middlebury, Salisbury, Leicester, Brandon, Pittsford, Rutland Town, Rutland City, Clarendon, Wallingford, Danby, Mt. Tabor, Dorset, Manchester, Sunderland, Arlington, Shaftsbury, Bennington)

- Green Mountain Railroad operates between Bellows Falls and Rutland City. (In the towns of Rockingham/Bellows Falls, Chester, Cavendish, Ludlow, Mt. Holly, East Wallingford, Shrewsbury, Rutland Town, Rutland City)

- Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad operates between Rutland and Whitehall N.Y., and Pittsford Town. (In the towns of Pittsford, Rutland Town, West Rutland, Ira, Castleton, Fair Haven)

- Washington County Railroad operates between Montpelier and Barre. (In the towns of Montpelier, Barre City, Barre Town, S. Barre, Berlin)

- WACR Conn River Division operates between White River Junction to Newport, Vermont. (In the towns of White River, Hartford, Wilder, Norwich, Thetford, Fairlee, Bradford, Newbury, Wells River, Newport, Coventry, Orleans, Barton, Sutton, West Burke, Lyndonville, St. Johnsbury, Passumpsic, Barre, Ryegate.)

The tracks in these locations will be treated utilizing "hi-rail" equipped trucks with nozzles aimed downward from fixed booms 18 inches above the rails which spray the roadbed beneath the tracks. Beginning on or near May 1, 2021, our applicator will be using a mix of Aquaneat (Glyphosate), Esplanade 200 SC (Indaziflam), Opensight or Milestone (Aminopyralid, Metsulfuron Methyl, Aminopyralid), and Oust XP (Sulfometuron Methyl) with an anti-drift additive in water for control of weeds and grass. Beginning on or about July 1, 2021, areas close to streams and standing water which were not sprayed on the first application, will be spot treated with Aquaneat (Glyphosate) with an anti-drift additive in water.

Residents abutting Vermont Rail System right-of-way should protect private water supplies or other sensitive areas. It is the responsibility of the resident to notify us of the existence of a private water supply located near our property.

Notification from residents along the Vermont Railway, Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad, Green Mountain Railroad, Washington County Conn River Division and the Washington County Railroad Barre to Montpelier, should be made before April 26, 2021, to: Rick T. Boucher, Chief Engineer M.O.W., Vermont Railway, Inc., 118 Post Street, Rutland, VT 05701, or by telephone at (802) 775-4356, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Questions or comments should be addressed to: Vermont Department of Agriculture, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602-2901, or by telephone at (802) 828-2431.



Marlow Fliegelman at the Hazen Arts Academy.

courtesy photo



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The Center for an Agricultural Economy is Hiring!

Currently accepting applications for these positions, open until filled: • Development & Communications Coordinator • Farm-to-Institution Production Manager • Farm-to-Institution Kitchen Staff


Jobs are based in Hardwick. To learn more or apply, visit www.hardwickagriculture.org/jobs



Center for an Agricultural Economy

Seeking PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER

for medical office in Hardwick. Must have minimum two years experience in PC MS WORD, EXCEL, QUICKBOOKS PRO DESKTOP. Duties include: bookkeeping (processing insurance payments/deposits) accounts payable, and managing inventory. Must be reliable, detail oriented and practice social distancing. Work on site with COVID-19 protection practices in place. Qualified applicants only. Please contact (802) 472-9355 for a phone interview.



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SPORTS

Isaiah Baker Heating up for the Wildcats

“We probably have the toughest road to Barre that we’ve ever had this year and it starts with a very scrappy Stowe team that has played some really good teams tough this year.”

by Ken Brown

NORTHFIELD – Isaiah Baker amassed 57 points in a pair of road wins over Northfield and Richford last week as the Hazen boys’ basketball team improved to 7-2 and will enter the Division III playoffs this week as the #3 seed.

Baker poured in a season-high 30 points last Monday to lead the Wildcats to a resounding 82-57 road win over Northfield. The senior sharpshooter did it all, falling one assist shy of a triple-double, as the Wildcats took a 36-24 lead into the break and never looked back.

Tyler Rivard was strong inside for Hazen with 15 points and Carter Hill added 12 in the win. Ethan Miller led the Marauders with 20 and Adam King and Hayden Lilly added 12 apiece in the loss.

“Isaiah probably played his best half of the season in the first two quarters, he dominated in all facets of the game and was all over the place. As a team we played much better in the second half and Ethan Shopland really stepped up defensively and ran the floor well,” said head coach Aaron Hill.

Baker kept it rolling on Friday night, scoring 19 of his game-high 27 in the first quarter to lead the



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Isaiah Baker poured in 57 points in two road wins for the Hazen Union Wildcats. He is shown here in a recent game against Randolph.

Wildcats past Richford on the road 91-37. Ethan Shopland added 14 points and Carter Hill and Jadon Baker chipped in with 12 apiece in the win. Xavier Hill knocked down three 3-pointers in what was a memorable fourth quarter for the freshman. The loss dropped Richford to 1-8 on the season.

“They play a zone defense, so it was really good preparation for us heading into the playoffs. We’ve been working on it and the guys did a nice job of moving the basketball. We’re working towards playing our best basketball at the right time and Carter has really started to show his versatility on both ends of the court the last few games. We probably have the toughest road to Barre that we’ve ever had this year and it starts with a very scrappy Stowe team that has played some really good teams tough this year. We hope to get Lincoln Michaud back from injury this week and hopefully we can remain healthy, stay focused, and make a good run,” said Hill.

Hazen will host Stowe on Wednesday night in the opening round of the Division III playoffs. If they advance, they will welcome the winner of the Enosburg/Peoples Academy matchup to the “Cat Den” in the quarterfinals on Saturday at 2 p.m.



courtesy photo
Lizzy Considine works on a snow sculpture at the Hazen Arts Academy.

Craftsbury Ends Regular Season Early

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – Craftsbury Academy’s boys’ and girls’ basketball teams canceled their final regular season games against Danville last week for precautionary reasons due to COVID-19 related issues.

Carter Blaney scored 18 points to lead Richford to a 60-55 road win against the Chargers last Tuesday. Evan LaMare led Craftsbury with 15 points, including a pair of 3’s in the opening quarter to give the Chargers an 18-10 lead after one. Johns Smith added 14 of his own to keep the Chargers within striking distance, down just three at the break. The Falcons would go on a 20-11 run in the third to pull away behind 15 points from Ben Greenwood and 13 from Will Steinhour to earn their first win of the season. Lone Senior Logan Lanphere had a strong finish to his high school career, scoring 12 points in the loss for Craftsbury. The Chargers were scheduled to host Danville last Friday, but the game was canceled, along with any postseason hopes for Craftsbury, out of an abundance of caution.

“The guys would love to play one more game, but we would only have five available players and for safety reasons it just doesn’t make sense,” said head coach Tyler Gillespie.

The Lady Chargers were scheduled to play their final game of the regular season at Danville over the weekend, but that game was canceled, as well. They are tentatively scheduled to travel to fifth-seeded Rivendell Academy on Wednesday in the first round of the Division IV playoffs.

SPORTS

Shorthanded Trojans Limp into Postseason

by Ken Brown

DANVILLE – Without their star senior center, the Twinfield/Cabot boys' basketball team wrapped up the regular season with road losses to Danville and Blue Mountain last week, leaving them wondering just how healthy they'll be to make a run in the upcoming Division IV tournament.

Ethan Gould scored a game-high 22 to help Danville stay perfect on the season with a 55-47 home win over the Trojans last Tuesday. Twinfield/Cabot held a three-point lead after one period and battled the Indians down to the final minute despite not having scoring leader Gavin Fowler, who was out with an injury. Cutler Gladding

and Mason Cushing combined for 25 points and 21 boards and trailed by just a basket with two minutes to play, but the Indians made 9-11 from the charity stripe on the night to hold the Trojans off. Jacob Baesemann chipped in 12 points for Danville, which improved to 9-0 and will be the top seed in the Division IV tournament.

"I was really happy with how we came out and controlled the paint, but our youth showed up in this one and we just made too many mistakes down the stretch," said head coach Chris Hudson. "We had our chances against a really good team, we moved the ball and got the looks we wanted. You hate to lose games like this, but I'm proud of how the guys stepped up without Gavin in

"This is the time of year where you have to dig deep and other guys are going to have to find a way to step up to the challenge."

the lineup and if there ever is a good loss it would be this one,"

Evan Denis scored 16 points and the Trojan offense sputtered without Fowler on Friday as Blue Mountain came away with a 48-34 home win. Gladding led Twinfield/Cabot with 9 and Lucas Roberts added 8 in the loss. The Bucks improved to 2-2 and will be the eighth seed in the upcoming tournament. Despite the slide, the Trojans earned the third seed and will get a bye into the Division IV quarterfinals. They will host the winner of the Twin Valley/Richford matchup on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. It is still up in the air whether or not the

Trojans will be at full strength.

"As good as we played against Danville, our effort was equally as bad against Blue Mountain. Our advantage against teams is in the paint and we only managed 14 points and that just isn't going to get it done. This is a game that we put behind us and focus on getting some good practices in this week. We won't know the status of Gavin until later this week, but we have to prepare like he isn't going to be there. This is the time of year where you have to dig deep and other guys are going to have to find a way to step up to the challenge," said Hudson.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Trojan Cutler Gladding drives for a layup while Danville's Ben Lyons tries to block the shot March 9 at Danville. At left in the back is Ethan Gould of Danville and Twinfield's Dom Hale (#13). Danville got by Twinfield 55-47.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield's Kerrick Medose races up the court closely followed by Anthoni Guinard of Danville March 9. Danville won 55-47.

SPORTS

SKI REPORT

Craftsbury Academy Boys Second at Nordic Division 2 State Meet

by Eric Hanson

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) Boys' team was making the larger schools a bit nervous, with six skiers ready to challenge them. U-32 came out on top with a solid team performance with CA in second place, edging out Middlebury by a single point.

Aiden Casey led the Chargers winning the classic race by 0.6 seconds (10:06.3) ahead of good friend Jed Kurts from U-32. CA's Cormac Leahy placed fifth (10:21) followed by Charlie Krebs 14th (10:49), Orion Cenkl 19th (11:27), Linden Stelma-Leonard 21st (11:43), and Aidan Moffat 60th (15:05). Independent and home-school skier Leo Circosta skied to an impressive ninth (10:29) representing Hazen Union (since he lives in Greensboro). Only the top four skiers score for a team, and U-32 skiers finished 2, 4, 8 and 10. Middlebury out-skied the CA team in the classic race with 30 points compared to CA's 33 (low points are better).

The CA boys were hoping to make up ground in the skate race. They skied fast enough to overtake Middlebury by a single point in the combined race totals, with CA having 62 points and Middlebury 63 (skate race: CA 29, Middlebury 33). U-32 skied well enough to pull off their third state title in a row with 41 total points. However, the podium was almost all Craftsbury, with Casey winning his second race of the day by six seconds (8:41) and Leahy coming in third (8:54). Krebs moved up to 11th (9:12), Cenkl 17th (9:56), Stelma-Leonard 19th (10:12), and Moffat 61st (13:03). Unfortunately, Moffat and Circosta both had crashes on the famed Elinor's Hill. Circosta had to ski up some long hills with a broken pole before being provided a replacement. He hung on for 22nd. This is only the third time in 10 years that the CA team has had four scoring skiers for the team event. Other teams' results: fourth - Lamoille Union, fifth - Burr and Burton Academy, sixth - Harwood Union, seventh - BFA Fairfax and eighth - Lyndon Institute. Montpelier High School did not race because of a positive COVID case.

In the Division 1 races, Mount Mansfield Union placed first (75 pts) ahead of Mount. Anthony Union (79 points). North Country's Jack Young won both the classic

and skate races. In the classic race Luke Rizio of Twin Valley was second, with Riley Thurber of Mount Anthony in third. In the skate race, Rizio was second followed by Elliott Austin MMU in third.

Up until mid-February, it was not certain if the cross-country state meet could even take place. Most ski races this season were team time trials, with schools racing the same course at separate times. With a track record of hosting safe races for non-school events, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) worked closely with coaches across the state to plan a COVID-safe race. The plan was approved and the races were on. Sarah Strack, the CVU coach, was instrumental in a putting the pieces together with Ollie Burress, the race director at COC.

The format of the races was changed to limit the number of competitors on-site at any one time. The Division 1 boys skied a 3.8 km classic race starting at 10 a.m. with racers starting 30 seconds apart. An hour later, at 11 a.m., they went off again for the 3.7 km skate race. The courses were challenging, with two to three major climbs in each race with little rest in between. The Division 2 boys raced in the afternoon. The same format was repeated on Wed. March 10 for the girls' events.

Craftsbury's Bolduc Lands Two Podiums at State Meet

CRAFTSBURY -- Spring weather greeted the Division 1 and Division 2 Cross Country Skiing High School Girls state meet participants on Wednesday, March 10. Starting at 10 a.m., the D2 girls headed out onto the 3.8 km classic course 30 seconds apart. The tracks were still fast with cold snow temperatures overnight. Craftsbury Academy's Camille Bolduc was the seventh racer on course, followed by two U.S. World Junior skiers, Nina Seeman (Lyndon Institute) and Ava Thurston (Harwood) starting 30 and 60 seconds behind here. Bolduc knew these two fast girls would be chasing her. Bolduc ended up placing third in the classic race (11:26) behind Thurston (10:47) and Seeman (11:05), but neither of them caught her on the course. In their first major races ever, CA's Sadie Skorstad placed 45th (16:52), with teammate Ava Purdy close behind in 47th (17:13). CA did not have a



courtesy photo

Craftsbury Academy ninth-grade skiers Ava Purdy (33) and Sadie Skorstad at their first Vermont state high school meet.

fourth skier for the team scoring.

After a short break, the skiers started the 3.7-km skate race. With temperatures climbing from 13 F early the morning to over 50 F, any snow in the sun was becoming drastically slower. The slowing snow, combined with the two major climbs and a second race within an hour made for very challenging skiing. The girls gritted it out, with CA's Bolduc holding off Seeman by six seconds for second place (10:15) and Thurston taking the win (9:57). Purdy and Skorstad made big leaps forward, moving up to 33rd (14:52) and 38th (15:22), respectively. The skiing future bodes well for these two ninth graders.

On the team front, U32 (61

points) was able to stay ahead of Harwood (73) with Middlebury (141), Lamoille Union (156), and Peoples Academy (158) battling it out for the three-to-five positions.

In the afternoon, MMU's Hattie Barker slogged through the slow, wet snow winning in 13:52, over 2-1/2 minutes slower than the D2 winning time. Burlington skiers Rebecca Cunningham and Quincy Massey-Bierman finished second and third. An hour later in the skate race, it was an exact repeat of the podium of Barker (11:30), Cunningham, and Massey-Bierman. Burlington High School (55 pts) topped perennial Nordic powerhouses MMU (71) and CVU (86) for the state title.



courtesy photo

Orion Cenkl, skiing for the Craftsbury Academy Boys at the state Nordic Division 2 state meet, was one of the six members of the team challenging larger schools.

SPORTS

Lady Trojans Finish Season with Promise

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – The Twinfield/Cabot girls' basketball team completed a season sweep of Craftsbury Academy and a win over Danville's junior varsity team last week to finish up the season at 6-1.

Freshman Alice McLaine scored a game-high 12 points to lead the Lady Trojans to a 45-29 home win over Craftsbury last Wednesday. Makayla Quintin, Carley Mancinie, and Jorga Washburn all chipped in with 6 in the win. Ella Gillespie led the Lady Chargers with eight as they fell to Twinfield/Cabot for the second time in five days. Bailey Cushing of Twinfield/Cabot and Heather Meehan of Craftsbury were honored as the lone upperclassmen on their respective teams on Senior Night.

"We basically went with the same game plan as the first match up and the girls did a great job of pressuring their guards and creating turnovers for some easy buckets early. The girls were really excited about sweeping the series and the confidence that they've built. The development they've shown since the start of the season speaks volumes

to the work that they've all been willing to put in at practice. When you have the opportunity to coach your daughter there are a lot of photos you can dig up to embarrass her with. We had some good clean fun with Bailey and it was a proud night to watch her finish out her high school career," said head coach Jason Cushing.

McLaine continued her scoring surge on Saturday, pouring in 14 to lead the Lady Trojans to a 53-38 home win over Danville. Washburn added 13 as the eighth grader capped off a stellar season, leading Twinfield/Cabot in scoring. Lilly Klark led Danville with 12 in the loss. Washburn and McLaine could be the building blocks for Cushing as he attempts to turn around a once-dominant Lady Trojan program that will return to varsity competition next season.

"This is a really fun group of young girls to coach who seem to enjoy the work and the process of getting better. Playing mostly a junior varsity schedule was the best thing we could have done with this young team and it should give them a lot of confidence heading into next season," said Cushing.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Sophia Augsberger (left), of Craftsbury, shoots the ball while guarded by Twinfield's Bailey Cushing (#33) during action at Twinfield on March 10. At right is Carley Mancini. The Lady Trojans prevailed 45-29.



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SPORTS

Lady Cats Build Momentum Going into Postseason

by Ken Brown

WELLS RIVER – The Hazen girls’ basketball team ended the regular season with a dominant road win over Blue Mountain, putting them at 3-6 and the ninth seed heading into the Division IV playoffs.

Alleigh Gabaree poured in a season-high 20 points to lead the Lady Cats to a 63-36 road win over Blue Mountain Saturday afternoon. Macy Moulleur added 12 and Natalie Geoffroy chipped in with 11 as Hazen took a 26-12 lead into the break. Jordan Alley led the Lady Bucks with 15 in the loss as they finished up the regular season at 0-4. Blue Mountain was one of the last high schools in the state to start their season after having to manage a COVID-19 outbreak just as other teams were about to start live competition.

“They lost a lot of experience from last season and had a lot of challenges this year, but they’re going to be a good young team and it was nice to get a win on the road within the division,” said head coach Tim Whitney. “We’re finally getting fully healthy and starting to play better basketball. I think the girls are starting to figure out everyone’s roles and what we need to do as a team to be successful.”

Six of Hazen’s nine games this season were against Division II and III competition and winning two of their last three games gives them some momentum heading



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen Union principal David Perrigo cheers during the girls’ varsity Senior Night held March 8. Although no spectators were allowed to watch the basketball games this season because of COVID-19 protocol, the principal made it a point to attend all of the girls’ and boys’ varsity home games. The senior girls’ parents were allowed to decorate the gym before the Senior Night game.

into the tournament. They traveled to eighth seeded Mt. Saint Joseph Academy on Tuesday night and if they pull the upset, would travel to top-seeded West Rutland on Friday.

“I think with the schedule that we played, the girls feel battle tested and definitely have some confidence heading into the tournament. We’re probable flying a little under the radar with our record, which could be a good thing, but we need to show up and execute the way we’re capable of,” said Whitney.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen Union 9th grader Edythe McKenzie (#15) aims for the basket during action in the Wildcat Den against Aliyah Elliott (#25) and Raven Premont (#21) of Spaulding March 8. Spaulding won 64-43.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen Union seniors (from left) Harley Papineau, Alleigh Gabaree, Abby Ainsworth, Natalie Geoffroy and Macy Moulleur collected all of their balloons and posters after their Senior Night celebration.