

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

Hardwick • Cabot • Calais • Craftsbury • Greensboro • Marshfield • Plainfield • Stannard • Walden • Wolcott • Woodbury

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Volume 132 Number 12

COVID Takes Nasty Turn, Classes Meet Remotely

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Hazen Union, Hardwick Elementary, and Craftsbury Academy all met remotely to varying degrees Monday due to COVID and staffing shortages.

The Hazen Union Facebook page stated that another case “in the Hazen community” was reported over the weekend, and “because we have several individuals whose test results are pending, and because we are short on personnel, we will be moving Hazen Union

School to remote status for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week.”

Superintendent Adam Rosenberg said that in the past week-and-a-half there have been six cases in the Hazen Union community and one each at Hardwick Elementary (HES) and Craftsbury Academy (CA). Hazen Union met fully remote at least through Tuesday, as did HES; CA grades 3 to 8 met remotely Monday and Tuesday.

Separately, Sterling College last week announced its “first reported positive case in

the spring semester.” And Caledonia Central Supervisory Union suspended busing after its student transportation contractor experienced an outbreak, according to reports.

These latest cases in schools come as state officials said that Friday saw the single worst new case count in Vermont to date, with the majority of new cases reported in young people. That pattern was reflected in Caledonia County, which has seen the five highest days of new reported cases of the entire pandemic in the

See COVID, 3



courtesy photo

Jasper Hill Farm in Greensboro helps support Vermont's working landscape.

Is Food Still Saving our Towns? Jasper Hill Farm, Collaboration and Local Employment

by Anna Kolosky, UVM
Community News Service

GREENSBORO – Dedicated to producing quality artisan cheeses that support Vermont's working landscape, Jasper Hill Farm is a local working dairy farm in Greensboro. Zoe Brickley, a current overseer of e-commerce and communications at Jasper

Hill, has witnessed the farm's growth over the last decade.

“I moved here almost 12 years ago,” Brickley said. “I grew up in the Midwest, but I was going to culinary school and working in a cheese shop in New York City. That's how I got to know the farm.”

Brickley joined Jasper Hill

See FOOD, 2

Hardwick Home Prices Surge

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – In the one year since the first COVID Declaration of Emergency, the sales price of homes in Hardwick relative to appraised value has spiked from historical averages according to state-provided data.

In December 2020, homes sold for 153% of what they were appraised for, on average. Since last June, the average price a home was purchased for has exceeded the appraised value for every month – with every month seeing more than one single-family under-six-acre home sold, which has

See PRICES, 4

How a Little Bar in the Back of the Calais General Store May Be Key to its Survival

by Jamie Buckley, Community
News Service

CALAIS – Like many retail businesses, the Maple Corner Community Store in Calais faces financial struggles after COVID-19 disrupted normal operation. But some shareholders of the community-owned store think that the Whammy Bar, a 20-seat watering hole in the back of the store that could hold 40 people on a busy night, might be the secret to keeping the nearly two-century-old store running.

Some version of the Maple Corner Store has stood in the center of Calais since the mid-1800s. It began with the Red Shop, then it

was a mill in the early 1900s, then it became “Lackey's Store” in 1925, until it merged with the Adamant Co-op after some financial struggles. Two years later, the store burned to the ground, and it was rebuilt and passed between various private owners until late 2019, when it became community-owned, according to a business plan created at the time.

The real deficit that the store is facing now is the Whammy Bar being shut down. Located in the back of the store, the small pub the size of a living room became possibly the most unique live music venue in Vermont. The last private owners of the Maple Corner

See STORE, 4



photo by Anne Marie Shea

Calais residents help hang a new sign for the renamed store before the pandemic hit. When the store transitioned to community ownership, the general store became the Maple Corner Community Store.

Contents

Police Reports..... 3
 March Rounds Third Base with Extremes 5
 Hardwick Farmers' Market Hires New Manager 5
 Dispute with HED Still Pending Resolution..... 6
 A Cascade of Ideas from CCA Leads to Park Plans 7
 Select Board Appropriates Money for Equity Coalition..... 8
 Water District Exploring New Well Source 9
 Books Donated to Craftsbury Elementary School..... 9
 Greensboro Resident Turns Citizen Journalist..... 10
 Sterling College Reports COVID Case..... 10
 Our Communities..... 14
 Greensboro UCC to Stream Easter Service..... 14
 This Week's Events 15
 Yankee Notebook: Yet, Few of Them Are as Civilized..... 16
 In the Garden: Arrangements for Early Spring 17
 Rural Ramblings 18
 Business Directory 19
 High School Basketball Season Ends for Seniors (photos)... 20
 Ski Report..... 21
 COVID-19 Rears Ugly Head in Winter Sports Finals 23
 Experience Rules as West Rutland Topples Trojans 24

Food

Continued From Page One

right as the tiny farmhouse producer received a loan from the town of Greensboro to help build caves, or cellars, where they process and produce their cheese. According to Brickley, Jasper Hill has served as a model for rural development and expansion.

“Even before they made that investment [in the cellars], they knew that turning the dairy barn into a modern facility added value,” Brickley said. “They knew they wanted that to be a model that could be replicated, and they wanted to pay that experience forward. So, they created space in the cellars for three other farmstead producers and cheese made by Cabot (Creamery).”

This collaboration has led to tremendous growth for Jasper Hill, as they have been able to go from just working with shops and restaurants to working with distributors, Brickley added.

“We had 30-odd employees when we started and now we’re hovering around 100,” Brickley said. “It makes us the biggest employer in the region, especially in the agricultural world.”

Since then, Jasper Hill has purchased a second herd of cows and have built a second creamery within the Vermont Food Venture Center, Brickley noted. Along the way, Jasper Hill has worked and invested in local companies like Vermont Soy and High Mowing Seeds, she added.

“We’re actually renting one of the buildings that is owned by Andrew Meyer, the owner of Vermont Soy,” Brickley said. “He’s got several buildings in Hardwick, and when our e-commerce exploded last year, he made space in half of one of his buildings. We are operating our small parcel fulfillment out of there and that has been a great area of growth for us.”

This investment and expansion of Jasper Hill has allowed them to specialize and create even more job opportunities for local citizens, Brickley added.

“If you have a bigger company, you can start to specialize and do things like build a little microbiology lab and employ a microbiologist in the Northeast Kingdom,” Brickley said. “We can attract people to this area with cheese-making expertise and also create opportunities for local people to create a profession right in their backyards.”

In the future, Jasper Hill Farm is looking forward to selling their cheeses at Hardwick’s historic Yellow Barn, Brickley said. Located next to Route 15, the Yellow Barn

“There’s sort of like no out-of-pocket expense for the town of Hardwick. It’s a lot of coordination work, and then, hopefully, there’s going to be a bigger tax base and lease and the tenants of the building will be leasing it from the town of Hardwick,”

was previously a car shop, the Greensboro Garage, and will soon be a hub for local commerce.

“The town of Hardwick has gotten state and federal funding to renovate and remodel the historic Hardwick Yellow Barn,” she said. “The vision is that the Yellow Barn itself is going to host a Cabot visitor shop and retail center, where they’re going to make a deliberate effort to focus on local artists and producers.”

The building will also serve as a space for the growing Farm Connects program with the Center for an Agricultural Economy, Brickley said. The Center for an Agricultural Economy, Jasper Hill, and the towns of Hardwick and Cabot will be coming together to drive returns on investments in the building back to the town of Hardwick, she said.

“There’s sort of like no out-of-pocket expense for the town of Hardwick. It’s a lot of coordination work, and then, hopefully, there’s going to be a bigger tax base and lease and the tenants of the building will be leasing it from the town of Hardwick,” Brickley said. “So, it’s like they’re building the shell, we’re outfitting our spaces, and we’re doing it in the spirit of collaboration and rural economic development, which I think is so heartwarming and inspiring.”

With all of this community-based development, Brickley has definitely noticed how local agricultural development has fueled local economic growth.

“It’s a cumulative effect with the other businesses that sort of started at the same time and have grown,” Brickley said. “There are new businesses popping up in Hardwick and there’s a vibrancy that, I think, is noticeable.”



March 31 - April 6

Bed & Bath - 20% Off towels, sheet sets, pillows and throw blankets Sale ends April 4		New Arrivals of Spring Merchandise in Housewares. Glassware, flour sack towels & more...	
Dare Cookies 2/\$5 10.2 oz.	Carr's Crackers 2/\$5 4.25 oz.	Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice 2/\$5 64 oz.	
Starbucks Coffee \$6.99 12 oz.	Maxwell House Coffee \$5.99 24.5-30.6 oz.	King Arthur Flour 2/\$5 5 lb.	
Jello Pudding or Gelatin 89¢ 3-3.9 oz.	Diamond Shelled Walnuts or Chopped Pecans \$5.99 8-16 oz.	Prince Pasta 5/\$5 12-16 oz.	
Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$3.49 15-30 oz.	Teddie Old Fashion Peanut Butter 2/\$5 16 oz.	Nabisco Snack Crackers 2/\$4 6.5-10 oz.	
Planters Cashew Halves or Mix Nuts/Peanuts \$4.49 8-10.3 oz.	Nature Valley Granola Bars 2/\$5 7.4-8.98 oz.	Philadelphia Cream Cheese 2/\$4 8 oz.	
Planet Oatmilk 2/\$5 52 oz.	Hood Ice Cream 2/\$5 48 oz.	Pepperidge Farm Frozen Cakes \$2.99 19.6 oz.	
Del Monte Gold Pineapple 2/\$4	Maine Yellow Potatoes \$2.99 5 lb.	Pero Farms Snipped Green Beans 2/\$4 12 oz.	

The Willey's Store Since 1900 Greensboro

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 802-533-2621 • toll-free 855-533-2621

• Full-service grocery & hardware • Clothing
 • Housewares • Hunting & Fishing • Coffee Bar
 • Beer & Wine • Toys • Gifts

"If we don't have it, then you probably don't need it."

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

March 22: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Houston Hill Rd., Found Property, Main St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Public, Slapp Hill Rd.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Drugs, Vt. Rte. 14S; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/0810 Line; Accident – Property Damage On, Vt. Rte. 15.

March 23: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Theft, Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 16; DLS, Main St.; Accident – Property Damage On, Center Rd.; Accident – Property Damage On, S. Main St.; Assist – Motorist, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, E. Church St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Animal Problem Stratton Rd.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, School St.; DLS, School St.; Suspicious Event, Wakefield St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Suspicious Event, High St.

March 24: Traffic Stop, N. Main St.; Assault, Highland Ave.; Alarm, N. Main St.; Welfare Check, High St.; Intoxication, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop Mill St.

March 25: Traffic Stop, Main St.; Assist – Agency, High St.; Suspicious event, High St.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Fire, Hopkins Hill Rd.; Motor Vehicle Complaint,

Hopkins Hill Rd.; Assist – Public, High St.; Welfare Check, High St.; Citizen Dispute, High St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist – Public, School St.

March 26: Alarm, Hill Rd.; Suspicious Event, Lake Shore Rd.; Citizen Dispute, Lauradon Avenue; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Vt. Rte. 15; Suspicious Event, High St.; VIN Verification, Hopkins Hill Rd.; Threats/Harassment, N. Main St.

March 27: Alarm, Log Yard Dr.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Main St.; VIN Verification, High St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, Caspian Ave.; Medical, Vt. Rte. 4; Suspicious Event, High St.; Parking Problem, Main St.; TRO/FRO Service, US Rte. 16.

March 28: Assist – Public, High St.; Assist – Public, High St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Assist – Public, Hillside Ave.; Suspicious Event, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16.

March 29: Accident – Injury to Person(s), Vt. Rte. 16/Taylor Rd.; Accident – Injury to Person(s), Vt. Rte. 16/Bayley Hazen Rd.; Threats/Harassment, High St.

Hardwick Police

Violation of Conditions, Cell Phone while Driving, Search Warrant

On March 20, at 10:55 a.m., Caleb A. Bourdeau, of Hardwick, was stopped on Wolcott St. Police issued a \$162 ticket for No License.

On March 21, at 7:30 p.m., Benjamin R. Johnson, was stopped on Rte. 15 in Hardwick. Police issued a \$249 ticket for Operation while under Civil Suspension.

On March 22, at 8:40 a.m., Christopher E. Towne, of Morrisville, was stopped on Rte. 15 in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for Cell Phone usage while driving.

On March 23, at 11:47 a.m., police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 785 Center Road with no injuries and minor damage to one vehicle. Lee Schabler, of Lyndonville, and Jarrett Drown from Hardwick were the drivers.

On March 23, at 7 p.m., Kelly L. Lacourse, a transient from Caledonia County, was operating a motor vehicle on Mill Street with a criminally suspended license. Lacourse was processed at the Hardwick Police Department and served a citation to appear in Caledonia County Court on May 17 at 10 a.m.

On March 23, Robert C. Chaplin, of East Hardwick, was observed operating a motor vehicle outside of his allowed curfew hours. Police followed Chaplin, made contact with him, and served him a citation to appear in Caledonia Court on May 3 for charges of Criminal DLS and two counts of Violation of Conditions.

On March 24, at 11:50 a.m., Paul Eastman, of Hardwick, was stopped on North Main St. Police issued a \$220 ticket for Operating While Under Suspension.

On March 25 officers from the Hardwick Police Department assisted the Vermont Attorney General's office with executing a search warrant at a residence in Hardwick.

On March 27, at 5:30 a.m., Forrest Menard, of East Calais, was issued a \$249 ticket for Operating After Suspension.

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 13 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from March 14 through March 21. 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.

See News Happening
In Your Town? Let Us
Know!
news@hardwickgazette.com



Calderwood

INSURANCE AGENCY

Offering you *outstanding* service and protection since 1979

132 South Main St.
Hardwick, VT
802-472-5517

www.calderwoodins.com



Mike Gauthier, CIC

mikeg@calderwoodins.com

COVID

Continued From Page One

past two weeks. Even excluding the outbreak at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport, Orleans County has also seen four of its worst-ever days in the past two weeks.

As of Monday, Caledonia County's case count had gone from 581 cases to 687 in one week, an increase of over 100, with a record-breaking 30 new cases reported on Saturday. Most cases in Caledonia are currently among those aged 10-19 and 20-22. Orleans County cases increased from 780 to 865. Most cases in Orleans County involved people between 30 and 39, followed by those 40-49. Most cases in Lamoille County are in those 20-29, with the 10-19 age group in third place.

With the 10-19 age group leading or near the top in new cases, none of the vaccines yet approved for those under 16, and two more contagious variants present in the state, increased transmission is a heightened concern. The Pfizer vaccine can be administered to sixteen-year-olds, but the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines

are not cleared for anyone under 18. Not enough studies have been done on younger populations to clear the lower end of the age group for vaccination.

While the state says that two of the more contagious variants are in the state -- the B.1.1.7 variant originally discovered in the U.K. and the B.1.429 variant originally found in California -- Vermont has not yet developed the in-state capability to do the genomic testing necessary to gauge just how prevalent the variants are.

None of the ten towns covered by the Hardwick Gazette saw a massive week-to-week change in the weekly report last Friday, though Wolcott's cases increased by 12%.

Hardwick Town Manager Shaun Fielder said that he had just become eligible for vaccination and registered for an appointment. He encouraged others to do so as well and wanted "to remind folks to keep following the recommended standards, and that includes social distancing measures, that includes masking. We've got a little ways to go before we're back to normal."

Store

Continued From Page One

store, Artie and Nancy Toulis, are credited for opening the Whammy Bar back in 2012.

“The store itself is kind of a breakeven venture, and the Whammy Bar is where more of the profit margin is. So even though we had increased sales, we were still losing money,” said Rob Lamb, the store’s board secretary who was part of the founding group that transitioned the store to community ownership.

With the way vaccinations are going, Lamb says that the store is hoping to reopen the Whammy Bar this summer.

In December 2019, the Maple Corner Store had to prove its resilience in a climate where general stores were struggling across Vermont. Afraid of losing their store for good after the Toulises put it up for sale, residents of Calais banded together to purchase shares of what is now the Maple Corner Community Store. And less than three months later, as the COVID-19 pandemic started to unfold, the store and its community had to prove their resilience yet again.

Vermont general stores have always been hardy entities, adapting to the changes in their communities and evolving to overcome whatever the world

throws at them.

The stores aren’t just a one-stop for locals to get groceries or grab a quick cup of coffee, they’re a social crossroad where friends can chat over morning coffee and neighbors can catch up on the latest news.

But like most small businesses during the pandemic, Vermont general stores are struggling to keep their doors open, according to Dennis Bathory-Kitsz, author of “Country Stores of Vermont: A History & Guide.” Often kept alive by tourists looking for a taste Vermont, general stores have had to adjust to keep their businesses running in a time when no one is traveling.

In March of last year when COVID-19 hit, the Maple Corner Community Store halted in-store shopping and switched to curbside pickup only. The store drastically increased its inventory in an effort to save locals the hassle of leaving town to get their groceries. Since many felt safer buying food through the store, its sales rose dramatically, but the store still faced a steep overhead, primarily because of higher payroll costs from an increase in essential staff.

“Everything is obviously just that much harder during a pandemic,” said Olivia Gay, who grew up right next to the Maple

Corner Store and now serves as an advisory board member and shareholder of the store. “So I think it’s hard to tell if some of the bumps that the store has hit are related to the pandemic or if they’re just ordinary bumps for a transitioning business.” And while the Maple Corner Store reopened to in-store customers in the beginning of July, it still faced a slow summer compared to years past due to the lack of outsiders passing through Calais. Gay said that without the usual traffic from summer visitors and no fellow Vermonters driving out to visit Curtis Pond or walk the loop in Calais, business was slow.

Anne Marie Shea, the general manager through much of the pandemic, as well as assistant manager of the store for almost 10 years, believes the transition to community ownership has played a critical part in the store’s successful operation, especially in comparison to many other Vermont general stores that are currently struggling.

“Artie and Nancy have said specifically that they could have never done what we did through this,” she said. “I’m not sure that’s totally true, but I do think that with the community having a little bit of reserve that we could lean on was a big deal.

And having more people involved in brainstorming ways we could stay open, brainstorming ways we could feel safer was super helpful.”

Even through COVID-19, the Maple Corner Community Store has remained the central hub for residents of Calais. But some worry community support may be insufficient to keep the doors open.

“I am a little concerned for the future,” said Rob Lamb. “Our biggest concern is the unknown of when the Whammy Bar will open, and when it does, will people feel safe going there? It’s a tiny little space. That’s part of what makes it so intimate and wonderful, but that doesn’t mix well with people feeling safe about their health.”

Anne Marie Shea is a bit more optimistic.

“I’m not worried about the future of the store because I think that whether they’re on the right track or not, they’ll find it. But I do think they’re headed in the right direction,” she said.

Olivia Gay is hopeful the store’s community backing, and relatively good luck, will continue.

“We’ve just been so lucky, so fortunate, so blessed,” she said, “I don’t see any reason why we wouldn’t continue to be able to manage a project like this. I know we will.”

Prices

Continued From Page One

not happened in the past five years.

At present, four of the five listed homes in Hardwick are priced significantly above appraised value and far above what any recent sale value. The widest gap is at 69 Lower Cherry Street, which is on the market for \$396,000 with an appraised value of \$68,400 of which the majority is in the land the two homes sit on. The most recent sale was when Village Builders of Wolcott purchased it for “ten and more dollars” in April 2020. A representative of Hardwick listers said appraisals take place on April 1 and “both buildings were gutted and in tough shape.” That person added that “The property is on our list for inspection and new appraisal date of April 1, 2021. For tax year 2021/2022, the assessed value will more than likely change.”

Another nearby property is on the market for \$64,000 over appraised value, and a third property for \$102,400 over appraised. The fourth property has been the subject of several agenda items at select board meetings; due to its proximity to the dormant railway which is in

the VTrans right-of-way, it will be difficult to create a driveway on the property, which is landlocked. The building is priced at \$75,000 and was purchased for \$12,000 at tax sale. Its appraised value is \$29,000.

The Grand List is based on appraised values. Increases to the Grand List would minimally change the smaller of the two tax bills residents get, the municipal bill. More significantly, if the state determines Hardwick is appraising too low for market realities it would impact the education property tax, which is heavily swayed by “Common Level of Appraisal” (CLA). Hardwick’s CLA is estimated at 94.15% percent in the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union’s budgets for Hazen Union and the Orleans Southwest Union Elementary School District. A drop in the CLA would increase the education property tax.

The state does not mandate a town-wide re-appraisal unless the CLA hits 85 percent, but as select board chair Eric Remick noted “If the five data points [the Gazette has] identified in Hardwick turn out to be part of a trend (which I think remains to be seen), then this will drive our CLA down over time and


will trigger an early town-wide reappraisal.”

The tax consequences of a low CLA are more pronounced than an increase in the Grand List. If Hardwick’s CLA hit 86%, a point above the threshold, that would increase a \$100,000 home’s education property tax by over \$180, based on the FY2022 estimates adopted at Town Meeting.

A representative of the New England Municipal Consultants, who works as an appraiser for Hardwick, said the last assessment was

done in 2016 and “there are no plans for the next town-wide reappraisal.”

Hardwick is not alone. Zillow market reports show that home prices increased in all ten towns covered by the Gazette. Excluding the most and least expensive properties and focusing on what Zillow defines as the “middle price tier of homes,” Hardwick’s typical home price increased by nearly six percent, and other towns’ closer to ten percent, in the past year. Zillow projects that prices in Hardwick will increase 11.2% in the next year.



Family Owned And Operated

HARDWICK VILLAGE MARKET
 13 Mill Street, Hardwick • 472-6677

London Broil, USDA Choice Beef, boneless chuck shoulder, lb. ...	\$3.79
Clementines, Peelz, California, 2 lb. pkg.	\$3.49
Pork Loin, boneless, 7-9 lb. avg., lb.	\$1.79
Russet Potatoes, Maine, 5 lb. pkg.	2/\$3.50
Pastrami, New England Traditions, deli sliced, lb.	\$7.99

Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • effective April 2 - April 8
 We accept MasterCard, VISA and EBT Cards

Lamb Or Lion? March Rounds Third Base with Extremes

by Tyler Molleur

HARDWICK – For residents of the Plainfield-Marshfield area, the warm weather which trickled in last week was a welcome change. The temperatures some two months ahead of their time, however, came with disadvantages, as strong thunderstorms caused tree damage.

The stretch of seasonally abnormal temperatures ended abruptly on Friday afternoon, as a dreary day culminated with a line of severe thunderstorms that caused tree damage in spots along the Route 2 corridor. Utility workers from both Washington Electric and Green Mountain Power spent the post-storm period restoring power to roughly 400 customers. For Washington Electric, this represented 100 percent of their Plainfield customer base.

Conditions favored severe weather on Friday afternoon, after several days of anomalously

high temperatures funneled warm, moist air into the region. This combined with a powerful frontal system moving in from the southwest to provide lifting mechanisms and wind shear. In the process, several bowing segments of thunderstorms passed through central Vermont, with embedded areas of stronger winds and rotation within the storms.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Burlington paid close attention to the pattern of damage left behind by one bowing segment, starting in the Tug Hill Plateau and extending to the Adirondacks in New York. Between the two states, 17 wind damage reports were recorded, including significant tree and isolated structure damage.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Conor Lahiff said conditions were being monitored closely as the bowing segments created bookend vortices, which are known to spin up tornadoes.

In fact, severe outlooks for the day placed all of Vermont at a two percent risk for tornado development, which is significant by local standards.

“Any time we get put in a tornado threat, we take notice,” Lahiff said.

The same storm impacting northern Washington County was responsible for an EF-1 tornado just north and east of Middlebury, with maximum winds nearing 110 mph. Two injuries were reported, along with significant structural and tree damage in the area. The Burlington weather office suspects this is the second-earliest tornado ever reported. Vermont historical records show a total of 46 tornadoes confirmed in 60-plus years of record-keeping.

Two NWS employees traveled to the Montpelier area and determined damage in that region was not comparable to what was seen in Middlebury, and no investi-

gation into additional tornadoes will be performed.

Record highs were recorded on Thursday in the region, reaching 69 in St. Johnsbury and 70 in Montpelier. These shattered the previous records of 57 (2003) and 64 (1996), respectively. Last Wednesday, both cities also reached the upper 60s, breaking old records set back in 2012. The average high for this time of year should be somewhere around 45 degrees, according to weather records from the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, while the highs seen last week are akin to mid-May normals.

Temperatures behind the storm system returned to near-normal. As the first day of April approaches, meteorologists are tracking a low-pressure system which looks renew the chance for several inches of snow in the mountainous terrain, with most areas getting at least one to two inches.

Hardwick Farmers’ Market Hires New Market Manager

HARDWICK – The Center for Agricultural Economy and the Hardwick Farmers Market Board hired Kayleigh Boyle to fill the Farmers Market manager role this season.

Kayleigh is a Northeast Kingdom native who is returning to the area after over a decade managing small-scale organic farms in Massachusetts. Kayleigh and her partner are starting a half-acre no-till market garden, Breadseed Farm, in Craftsbury.

The Hardwick market is looking to expand vendors in all areas, with special rotating day vendor openings for prepared foods and artisans. For those who would like to bring agricultural products or value-added goods to the market, a vendor application and vendor policies are available at hardwickfarmersmarketvt.com.

Musicians and other indi-



Kayleigh Boyle

viduals who would like to provide demonstrations or family activities are encouraged to inquire, as well. Markets take place at Atkins Field, which offers a newly constructed pavilion space, along with walking trails, community gardens, and a bicycle pump track for children.

The Hardwick Farmers Market will run for 21 weeks, from May 21 through October 8. Markets are located at 100 Granite Street in Hardwick from 3 to 6 p.m. and take place rain or shine. Vendor applications can be mailed to Hardwick Farmers Market, PO Box 162, Hardwick, VT 05843 by April 1.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Cabot second grader Willow Perry (left), 1st grader Luciana Abare (center) and paraeducator Ethan Fielder (right) make hummingbird feeders during the Red Clover Books celebration held for 44 K-3rd grade students. They were divided into multi-age groups of 6-7 to participate in several activities and each was rewarded with a specially decorated cupcake.



Hardwick
DENTAL GROUP

Now accepting new patients.

Also offering Clear Aligner Orthodontics.
Schedule a consult today!

Making your smile last a lifetime starts with preventive care.

49 W. Church St., Hardwick, VT 05843
(802) 472-5005
Hardwickdentalgroup.com



Dr. Katie Piet

**THANKS FOR SAYING
YOU SAW IT IN**
THE **Hardwick Gazette**
Since 1889

Dispute with HED Still Pending Resolution

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – As of Monday, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) had not rendered a decision on the dispute between the Hardwick Electric Department (HED) and the Craftsbury School District.

Three briefs were filed early in March following a hearing in January before the PUC concerning an electric usage undercharge.

On March 3, Attorney Pietro Lynn filed a brief in support of the school district's claim that it should not be responsible for the \$141,865.80 of electric power charges the HED is attempting to recover. The undercharges had accrued over the past decade. The problem occurred when the Craftsbury Academy was refurbished; energy efficient and electric upgrades were done, and new meters installed. The meters were inspected and approved by HED.

Atty. Lynn cited the HED's claim of \$141,865 is due "entirely the result of HED's negligence in installing an incorrect meter."

The Town of Hardwick filed a concurrent brief on March 3 and maintains the school district "has not met the legal standard that would bar HED from collecting the underbilled amount at issue." HED is asking the PUC to dismiss Craftsbury's consumer complaint and make the district pay the undercharges that should have been billed and paid.

The Department of Public Service, to whom the school district had first complained when receiving the \$141,865.80 bill from HED, had determined

the school district was responsible to pay the undercharge. The DPS proposed the amount be paid over 10 years, without interest.

The school district appealed that decision, and a hearing was held before the PUC earlier this year. The Department of Public Service argued in a brief, also filed March 3, that "Craftsbury has not sufficiently shown that it was unaware of the under-billing." The DPS stated the school district's consumer complaint should be denied and HED should collect the under-billed charges.

Atty. Lynn maintained that HED inspected the housing unit and meter "prior to energizing Craftsbury's buildings and found no issues with the electrical meter." The installation of the wrong meter was the primary cause of the incorrect metering and power usage. It is inappropriate to make "Craftsbury liable for the many, many mistakes made by HED," he stated in his brief.

"Craftsbury's taxpayers should not have to pay for HED's near decade's long mistake."

As to the overall decrease in electrical usage when the

Craftsbury Academy was refurbished, he argued the school district had "no way of knowing what its actual electrical usage would be until after the project was completed and it began using electricity with the new energy upgrades." The school district relied on HED's billings.

Lynn argued that if HED had reviewed or audited the school district's bills "in the near decade it was underpaying for electricity, it would have quickly discovered that there was an issue." He stated the school district should not be expected to "regularly inspect and examine their meters for accuracy and then compare usage to the billing received from the utility." Craftsbury should not have had to perform the audits that HED failed to conduct, he said.

"Craftsbury has and continues to pay for its electricity on time and as billed by HED," Lynn said.

If Craftsbury is forced to pay the underbilled amount, its taxpayers and school district will suffer, he said, and "cuts will need to take place and an educational system already strained by the COVID-19 pandemic will be further impacted."

Atty. Elijah D. Emerson, on behalf of the HED, argued that the school district has "not paid for 85 percent of the electric service they received over a ten-year period." He stated that "the other users of the HED system are currently being held responsible for the District's service use."

Atty. Emerson disputed the school district's claim that it would have had no way of knowing what its expected electrical usage would be after renovations were completed, stating it contradicted documents from Efficiency Vermont projecting what the savings would look like.

"The District cannot meet the 'fairly high threshold for establishing ignorance,' namely that 'it must appear that the customer could not reasonably be expected to have known the actual facts in view of all the relevant circumstances,'" Emerson argued.

The Department of Public Service maintains that Craftsbury "is a sophisticated commercial customer with the requisite expertise to monitor its electrical use, costs and budgets." A higher standard is applied to a commercial customer versus a private citizen.



Re-opening April 8
\$3 BAG SALE
on all adult clothing through April
(Excludes specially-marked items and kids' clothes.)

Slightly used and new women's, men's and childrens' clothing at great prices.

Do not leave clothing donations outside when store is closed. Please, no kitchen items.

Angel Outfitters

Thrift Shop

basement of the
United Church of Hardwick
South Main Street, Hardwick
(802) 472-6800
Hours: Thurs. 11-2; Sat. 9-2



Stowe Family
DENTISTRY

Precision, Excellence, Compassion...
Exceeding Expectations

CEREC (same-day crowns)

Our new technology allows us to fabricate and deliver all-ceramic, tooth-colored crowns in just one visit! Cerec crowns are created and customized right here in our office. No outside labs, or multiple appointments needed. We carefully design each one to blend perfectly with your natural smile for ideal results.

Currently Welcoming New Patients!

1593 Pucker Street (Route 100N), Stowe, VT
802-253-4157 | stowefamilydentistry.com

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS ON FACEBOOK

Hardwick Community Television

Annual Meeting // Thurs., April 29 - 7PM

to be held via video conference

Interested in being on the board?

Or joining the meeting?

Please contact Leif for more info:

hardwicktv@comcast.net



“Yes, and...”: A Cascade of Ideas from CCA Leads to Park Plans

by Maggie Lee, UVM Community News Service

CABOT – The Cabot Community Association (CCA) unveiled plans at the Cabot Select Board meeting on March 16 to tear down the structure on the property they had purchased at 3065 Main Street and utilize the plot to create a riverside park. While the prospect of a park in Cabot Village excites many, it has been a long road to get to this point.

When the CCA first started looking into economic development options for Cabot Village, Lori Augustyniak, executive director of the CCA, says, “We hit this road-block immediately, which was the businesses in town were already established and there really wasn’t any place else for more business development in the village.” The opportunity to purchase the property was a turning point for the CCA’s efforts to further its mission of enhancing community living in Cabot.

The property was purchased with help from a loan from the Cabot Community Investment Fund in January of 2018. Shortly thereafter, planning commenced on the future of the small property at 3065 Main Street. Initial plans were for a local, food-related business and manufacturing site that would have housed offices as well as provide space for a local artist gallery. Those plans, however, proved too large-scale for the small property and were scrapped early on.

Starting at what felt like square one for a second time, “was a little discouraging” for Augustyniak and the CCA. Fortunately, through a relationship with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the CCA was able to secure funding to bring in an outside consultant to help develop a vision for the space.

Isaac Wagner, a development consultant at Wagner Development Partners, based out of Brattleboro, was brought on to aid in developing options the CCA could pursue

with the property. Augustyniak says that, at first, “It was pretty bumpy because we really weren’t sure what we wanted to do with it. There were a lot of different ideas.”

Among those ideas were affordable workforce housing, an art gallery, retail space, or a childcare facility. With each of these ideas, the CCA walked through the process with Wagner but, “these barrier signs kept coming up, saying the site’s not a big enough,” or the plan would require a right-of-way, something the property currently lacks.

The CCA also had to contend with the existing building’s historical significance. Wagner helped the organization interpret and navigate state regulations regarding development of potentially historic sites, as well as determine what repairs would need to be made and their associated costs. According to Augustyniak, the building had been listed as salvage by the town, but the CCA wanted to ensure they went through the proper processes to move forward with development.

The idea of a park came up rather organically within the CCA and the ideas just snow-balled from there. Augustyniak described them as “yes, and” moments — a cascade of ideas building off each other. That stream of ideas did have to be tempered slightly by budgetary constraints, but Augustyniak is excited about where the CCA has landed in its plans for 3065 Main Street. “The next steps will be fundraising,” says Augustyniak, “and being able to do some grant writing and other fundraising to actually pay for all of the work that needs to be done to realize that park plan.”

From here, the CCA will work on making the park a reality, especially as the town, state, nation, and globe recover from a year with the COVID-19 pandemic. Augustyniak says, “The space will be available to help us create all kinds of cool, fun activities or events that people want to see happen in the community.”

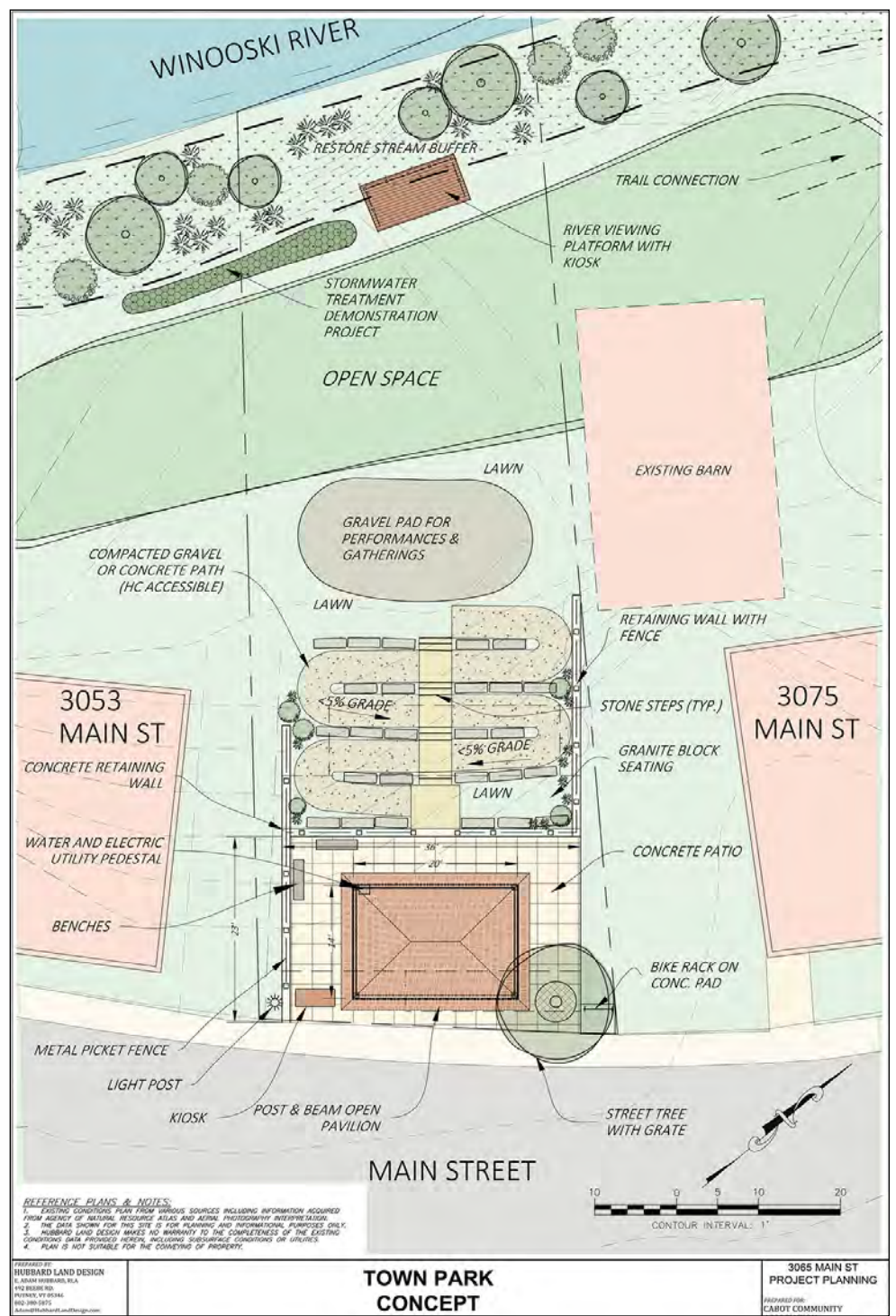


photo courtesy Lori Augustyniak
CCA park plans drawing prepared by Hubbard Land Design.

Better together.

+ + = SAVE

The more you protect the more you save.
I can help you protect more than you'd expect. I also have lots of ways to help you save when you bundle your policies.
Get the savings you deserve. Call me or stop by my office for a free quote.

Jennifer Bellavance CPIA
802-472-5721
31 North Main St.
Hardwick, VT 05843

We're always here with local advice you can trust.
Allstate
You're in good hands.

Subject to terms conditions and availability. Savings vary by state and product line. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Indemnity Co., Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co., Allstate Insurance Co. © 2015 Allstate Insurance Co. 12492107

Select Board Appropriates Money for Equity Coalition

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Equity Coalition moved one step closer to obtaining funding after the last meeting of the select board.

The board approved a \$1,300 budget for the group, pending definition of the open meeting law component. Complexities of the open meeting law include transparency of committee discussions and creating a safe environment in which members can voice ideas. Whether the equity coalition would be constituted as a group of individuals or a town committee has yet to be determined.

The board met with Wheelock Mountain Farm consultant Hilary Maynard, and Linda Ramsdell and Rudy Chase, the two active members of the first equity team formed in Craftsbury. Maynard, who works with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union and individual school districts on social equity issues, presented a draft proposal to the board projecting a \$1,300 to \$1,400 budget. The budget represents approximately a year of work for two people and equity coalition operation.

The first phase would involve structuring and forming a committee with facilitation by an outside racial equity consultant. Maynard said this would entail being intentional in the formation of a group and networking between existing entities. It would involve those who are interested, resources available, and building a structure.

Maynard explained that the Wheelock Mountain Farm is not an organization hired for consultancy work, but that individuals within the group work in their respective communities. She would identify one person within the group, in addition to herself,

Craftsbury's initial equity team was formed following a rally on the Common and controversies over Black Lives Matter signage painted in front of the Craftsbury Academy.

to work as consultants in moving Craftsbury's equity work forward.

Phase 2 calls for drafting a preliminary action plan, sharing resources, trainings with the wider community, and organizing community events. It would involve putting structures in place, sharing observations with the select board, and opening up opportunities for work with a wider community to get involved.

Phase 3 would entail moving forward and drafting a 2021-2022 budget, including professional development opportunity for the select board. It would involve looking ahead to the future and forwarding what plans that emerged from the initial work.

Regarding timelines, she indicated each phase in the three-phase proposal presented to the board would take about three months. Maynard emphasized that the draft proposal was very flexible.

"It is very likely that details of the work will emerge from initial meetings," she said.

Referring to the proposal, she said as the group forms the direction taken will depend on the work they decide to do. She stressed the need to not see the project in a rigid way.

Board Chair Bruce Urie said the equity coalition should be representative of all members within the community. Any plans developed needed to be perceived as a town plan to be accepted widely, he said.

discussions.

Craftsbury's initial equity team was formed following a rally on the Common and controversies over Black Lives Matter signage painted in front of the Craftsbury Academy. The board held several hybrid Zoom and in-person meetings with the broader community. An initial team was formed, but dwindled. Last year, the select board passed a resolution confirming the town's commitment to social equity and social justice.

The question of how to reach a broader community was discussed. Post cards were sent out last year after the first community group was formed. Over 750 cards were mailed with about a 50-card response. Whether or not to send out another round of post cards to the larger community was discussed.

Currently, Sterling College has a small equity group and Maynard said she meets with two teachers and the Craftsbury School board. It was suggested that the equity coalition include the Sterling representation, Craftsbury School representation, and a select board member.

Rudy Chase said it made sense to involve the two groups talking about the same issues with any community-wide effort. Ramsdell said she would research other towns' open meeting regulations while encouraging members to feel safe and comfortable in

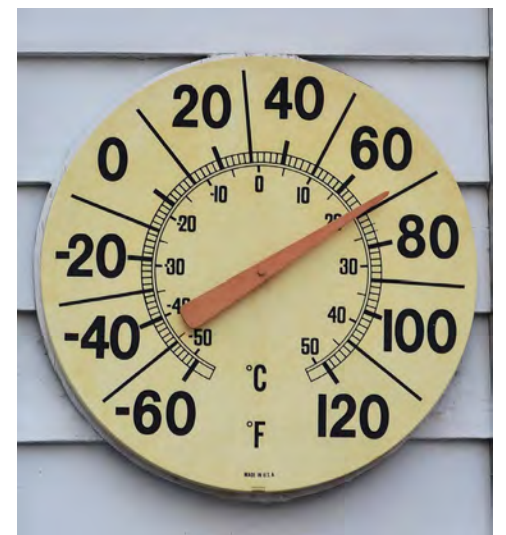


photo by Vanessa Fournier
A preview of warmer temperatures to come as a high of 70 degrees was reached on March 25 in the Hardwick area. Colder, more seasonable weather has since followed.

**Vermont Agency of Transportation
Public Notice Herbicide Spraying**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ULTRA, Garlon 3A, Oust Extra, Escort, Krenite S, Polaris and Rodeo to control unwanted vegetation along all State highways and at State airports. Operations are authorized to start approximately April 26, 2021, but will not begin until the appropriate notification requirements are completed. The application will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand-controlled methods. The methods employed are intended to avoid or eliminate drift. Residents along the rights-of-way (ROW) are encouraged to protect sensitive environments or water supplies within 100 feet of the ROW limits.

Residents should notify VTrans of the existence of any water supplies within 100 feet of the State's ROW. Citizens wishing to inform VTrans are urged to contact the nearest District Transportation Administrator as follows: District 1, Bennington - (802) 447-2790; District 2, Dummerston - (802) 254- 5011; District 3, Mendon - (802) 786-5826; District 4, White River Junction - (802) 295-8888; District 5, Colchester - (802) 655-1580; District 7, St. Johnsbury - (802) 748-6670; District 8, St. Albans - (802) 524- 5926; District 9, Derby - (802) 334-7934. The contact person at the State Highway Department Headquarters is Dexter Puls, Stormwater Technician, 2178 Airport Road Unit A, Barre, VT 05641, (802) 461-9822 or dexter.puls@vermont.gov. Contact can also be made using the VTrans Internet Web page at vtrans.vermont.gov/operations.

The appropriate place to contact with comments other than VTrans is the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Agriculture Resource Management and Environmental Stewardship, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-2431. The link to their web page that would describe the VTrans herbicide application permit request can be found at www.VermontAgriculture.com.

**Upcoming Hardwick
Gazette Special Sections**

Contact Erica Baker at 472-5019(cell) or
bytheponddesign@gmail.com

**Please note that we are digital only now and
all color ads are FREE!**

April

1st week

- National Public Health Week

2nd & 3rd week

- National Car Care Month
 - Special Rate for the first week of \$6.25/col. Inch
 - Run 2 weeks of ads and get the second for 20%, need to be the same ad.

4th week

- April is National Gardening Month
 - special ad rate of \$6.25 a column inch

Coming in May

- Mother's Day
- Spring Car Care
- Summer Time Fun!
- Summer Camp Week

Water District Exploring New Well Source

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Zoom meeting of the Craftsbury Fire District No. 2 Water Board session last week brought sixteen participants together. The district, as many others in Vermont, faces challenges with an aging system, increased dangers of pollution, and inadequate supply of water resources.

The district has established three special project subcommittees: new source well research, back-up power supply, and asset management plant. Tim Patterson, president of the board, reported that Dubois & King, who installed the water distribution system, is working with the district.

The board may be looking to secure a bond vote by June 1, which would include an asset management plant loan forgiveness. All people within the fire district boundary have the

opportunity to vote; water district customers would be responsible for the bond issue. The forgivable portions of the loan would involve 100 percent for the back-up power and approximately 70 percent for the new source well. The asset management plant would also include a generator as a back-up power supply for the pump house.

Research on locating a new water source has become a priority as the current well is only slightly under the state's guidelines for PFAs. A site on the Sterling College property behind the current pump house has been reviewed; it offers a good location relative to the existing facilities and water tower.

The question of the source of pollution was raised as the current well is close to the Sterling College leech field. Resident Penelope Doherty asked about the water recharge zone and noted it could be a broad area

as far as 20 miles away, which could be a pollution source.

Board member Norm Hanson reported that the accounting system is being updated from a manual billing process to an online process. The billing system would allow water users to pay online and submit payments directly to the fire district. The new billing system represents a major step forward from the current manual system. As the district applies for grants, updating the accounting system has become more crucial. Reports are needed which can be generated readily though an automated billing system. Letters will be sent to clients alerting them to the new accounting procedures.

Board member Matt Moody reported on the emergency planning document and building a contact list. Discussion centered on emergency shutdowns, current water source alterna-

tives, and existing chains of command. Doherty, who is on the town's emergency management committee, suggested the fire district emergency plan be coordinated with the town's emergency plan.

Water rates are expected to rise as the district has experienced a significant drop in revenues. The largest system user, Stronghold Farms, has changed its operations from dairying and its water requirements have dropped. Additionally, the COVID pandemic curtailed operations at Sterling College and Craftsbury Academy, which affected the daily consumption at both entities.

Water rates have been kept low, Patterson noted, despite the aging system and upgrades needed. He emphasized the district is a volunteer-led organization. Accessing COVID stimulus funds due to loss of revenues will be researched.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Cabot second grader Owen Adam fills the hummingbird feeder he made during the Cabot K-3 Red Clover Book celebration held on March 24.

Books Donated to Craftsbury Elementary School

CRAFTSBURY – The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network recently received a donation of 25 anti-racist picture books from the Galaxy Bookshop in Hardwick to be donated to Craftsbury Elementary school.

The Galaxy Bookshop bought these five books for the school: “My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” by Martin Luther King III; “Ambitious Girl” by Meena Harris; “A Kids Book about Racism” by Jelani Memory; “The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye

Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist” by Cynthia Levinson; “The Undeclared” by Kwame Alexander.

These book donations will help in the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network's efforts to promote anti-racism in Vermont public schools starting at the earliest age. The network is a group of middle and high school students from around the state who have joined together virtually to promote anti-racism in Vermont's K-12 schools.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE TOWN OF WALDEN

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagee of lands and personal property in the Town of Walden in County Caledonia are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 (and/or prior years if unpaid) remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such town, to wit:
REAL ESTATE OF KATHERINE CATES

Being all the same land and premises conveyed to Katherine Cates by Warranty Deed of James R. Patterson and Judith G. Patterson, dated November 1, 1999, and recorded in Book 48, Pages 78-79 of the Walden Land Records, together with a 1992 Redman mobile home and 1974 Mark IV mobile home and an unidentified their mobile home located thereon.

REAL ESTATE OF LAWRENCE AND KATIE SHERMAN

Being a part of all and the same land and premises conveyed to Lawrence Sherman and Katie Sherman by Warranty Deed of Herbert E. Thayer, Jr. and Karen Thayer dated July 10, 2015, and recorded in Book 71, Page 468 of the Town of Walden Land records.

REAL ESTATE OF KIMBERLY MERRIAM F/K/A KIMBERLY KEENE
Being all the same land and premises conveyed to Kimberly C. Keene by Quit Claim Deed of Edward G. Keene, dated December 16, 1999, and recorded in Book 48, Page 285 of the Walden Land Records.

And such lands will be sold at public auction at the Walden Town Clerk's office, a public place in such Town, on April 22, 2021, at 1 p.m., unless previously paid.

Dated at Walden, Vermont, this 3rd day of March, 2021.

Lina Smith
Delinquent Tax Collector

Cabot School Kindergarten Registration

Cabot School welcomes Kindergarten students to the 2021-2022 school year! Parents of all children who will be five by September 1, 2021, and plan to enroll in Cabot School Kindergarten must register their children during the week of May 3-7, 2021, at Cabot School office.

You may contact Linda Savoca at 563-2289 ext. 0 to set a time to pick up paperwork or email linda.savoca@ccsuvt.net and she will email or mail the forms to you. Please call if you have any questions. Please bring an original birth certificate and vaccination records.

IMPORTANT DATES: KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

MAY 3 TO MAY 7, 2021



courtesy photo

A citizen journalist for the Hardwick Gazette, Gray is an active contributor to the Greensboro community.

Greensboro Resident Turns Citizen Journalist

by **Brittnay Heffermehl, UVM Community News Service**

GREENSBORO – Hal Gray, an active Greensboro resident has added writing for the Hardwick Gazette as another way to contribute to his community.

Gray has contributed articles and photographs to the Gazette in the past, but has recently become a more regular chronicler of Greensboro events. He says that he takes pleasure in documenting town activities.

“I appreciate the function writing may contribute to the historical record of an institution, town, or individual,” Gray says.

Gray’s recent increase in journalistic contributions are far from his only community activity. He recently volunteered at the library a few weeks ago collects the recycling from the church in town on Saturday mornings. He delivers returnable bottles and cans to the elementary school, which uses the proceeds to fund school activities and field trips. Gray says, “the responsibility

for supporting your community is key in making it a place for everyone to benefit and thrive from.”

As a member of the board of trustees at the Greensboro Free Library for the past four-and-a-half years, he looks forward to events held there, as well. Gray is also a driver for Meals-on-Wheels, and mentors at Lakeview Union High School and Hazen Union High School.

“I believe it is important to be involved in one’s community and, like raising a family, it relies on the social environment,” he says.

Gray’s family connection to Vermont stem back to 1910. His grandfather and father were both professors at the University of Wisconsin and would summer in Vermont. When Hal and his wife, B.J., moved to Greensboro in 2010, one of the deciding factors in relocating was the sense of community and support in a small town. “Our desire [was] to be part of a community in which people cared about each other and about community participation,” he said.

Sterling College Reports COVID Case

CRAFTSBURY – A Sterling College student has tested positive for COVID-19 and is now in isolation. This is the first reported positive case Sterling College has had on its Vermont campus in the spring semester.

Sterling College has completed the close contact tracing interview to identify any individuals who may have been exposed to the infected student. Out of an abundance of caution, all students in the individual’s Living and Learning Pod are receiving COVID-19 tests and the residential hall is being

disinfected. Staff and students who have been identified for potential exposure through contact tracing have been informed and asked to take additional precautions until their test results are confirmed.

Sterling’s campus COVID plans were created after consultation and dialogue with other colleges and universities as set by the State of Vermont. Sterling College has complied with the reporting guidelines under the Clery Act. Testing activity and results can be found at sterling-college.edu/coronavirus-2019/.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

As part of the renovations associated with the Leesa Fine Room addition, the Craftsbury Public Library extended the size of the children’s room by taking out a former storage space and opening it up with windows to provide better sightlines from the inside of the library to the playground area. A window bench is being constructed and the space will serve as the new storytime area as well as a place to be able to sit while supervising children both inside and out.

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



A sketch of what the village center would look like with the Cabot Bypass in place. The proposal calls for a greenspace, outdoor community and dining areas, a bike-and-pedestrian-only village center.

Select Board to Consider Ambitious Pedestrian Safety Proposal

by Doug McClure

WOODBURY/HARDWICK – Thanks to the potential availability of significant federal funding, a nearly-century-old regional roads project is being resurrected by the state.

The Cabot Bypass, first envisioned in the 1930s, is under discussion once again. The highway was originally seen as linking up with state senior civil engineer Col. William Wilgus’ proposed Green Mountain Parkway across the peaks of the Green Mountains.

The Woodbury Select Board of the 1930s granted permission for “any project furthering the Cabot Bypass, in perpetuity.” In the 1970s, the plan was briefly revived, and the board re-affirmed the validity of the permit issued some 40 years before. However, funding for the project fell through.

The Cabot Bypass of 2024 would route traffic around Hardwick. In Woodbury there is no restriction on widening and elevating Route 14, allowing engineers to make the grade manageable for an elevated section that will form an exit off Route 14 onto Cabot Road, connecting Woodbury to Cabot via Cabot Road, Bothfeld Hill Road and Elm Street. The bypass would connect to Route 2 via a widened Danville Hill Road. An alternate route via Whittier Hill Road and Thistle Hill Road was rejected as the grade is too steep for large trucks in winter.

The bypass would allow tractor-trailers not making deliveries in Hardwick to navigate around Hardwick. The proposal’s authors note that routing the heavy traffic through the middle of Cabot village is “a challenge for another day, as the available funding is not unlimited.”

A spokesperson for the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) said the plan would “deal with every single issue around pedestrian and traffic safety in [Hardwick] village for good.”

Beyond making part of South Main Street a pedestrian and bicycle zone, the new Hardwick plan would see a new multi-level parking structure on Wolcott Street, below the Village Restaurant and across from the former Flood Zone site.

The plan calls for the parking structure to be limited to Hardwick residents only. Residents would be able to buy an annual parking pass for a fee of \$120, which would help defray the cost of the matching grant the town would be responsible for. The parking garage would access South Main Street through ADA-accessible elevators that open onto the municipal parking lot next to the Village Restaurant. The blinking

yellow light at the intersection of Routes 14 and 15 would be replaced by a regular streetlight.

An optional feature of the plan calls for a “Green Gondola,” connecting the upper level of the garage to the Hazen Union campus. The proposal document states that the electricity to power the gondola would be provided by a “small, commercial-grade” wind turbine to be installed on top of Buffalo Mountain.

See PEDESTRIAN, 12



This design re-imagines the Route 15 west entrance to Hardwick, based on a proposed new pedestrian safety plan. A press release from the Boston-based engineering firm highlights the efforts made to include flood prevention features in the design.

Ice Out Precedes Close of Ticket Sales; Association Takes Other Spring-Welcoming Approach

by Alexander "Sandy" More-water

WEST DANVILLE – The tradition of an informal diagnostic test of spring's arrival fell through, literally, as warm weather triggered a premature ice-out at Joe's Pond. Now members of the Joe's Pond Association are scrambling to find some way to offset the shortened duration of ticket sales.

"The ice went out at 4:01 p.m. on March 24," reported a release on the association's website, "We know many of you were in the process of submitting your wagers on when this would happen, and we're certain that no one had a guess this premature."

The 2021 ice-out is the earliest in the history of the event, which had a previous early date of April 8, set in 2012. The Danville tradition dates to 1988, when Jules Chatot served as president of the association and formalized a process for establishing the ice-out, while also turning the project into a contest.

Participation in the ice-out competition has grown from roughly 1,500 to over 12,000 submissions annually. Profits from ticket sales are split 50:50 between the winner and the association, which uses the proceeds to fund Fourth of July fireworks and other association-sponsored activities.

While the mood of many lifelong entrants is dampened by the news, the association is reaching across town lines with some hopes of creating another unique Vermont tradition.

"The Joe's Pond Association reached out to us last week asking if we would host a 'mud-out,'" said Brenda Huntoon, of the Walden

Select Board, noting the fireworks event is attended by numerous residents of Walden.

The proposal comes at a time when many towns with a vast back road network, such as Walden, are gearing up to keep loaded trucks off the roads in anticipation of mud season. One of areas of town, Coles Pond, is well known for being slightly behind the rest of the area in terms of thawing, making it the perfect setting to hold a "mud-out". The town has been asked to let a loaded truck drive on the Coles Pond Road, with the full anticipation of it getting stuck daily.

"The idea is that the first day of the spring the truck doesn't get stuck signals the arrival of the better part of the season", outlined the proposal submitted to the select board, which also offered removal services for the truck free of charge to the town.

The delayed thawing is expected to give the Joe's Pond Association an extra two weeks to sell tickets, but it is meeting some backlash from the lesser-known Coles Pond Association, which believes the town government and residents will make huge sacrifices but reap little reward.

"If we are going to jeopardize our infrastructure and access to the pond, perhaps we should be the ones putting on the fireworks," was the response for one Coles Pond Association member, who provided comment on the condition of anonymity.

The town will take up this issue at a special virtual select board meeting which will be held tomorrow, April 1, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be followed by a site visit to Coles Pond.

Pedestrian

Continued From Page Eleven

The proposal states that the gondola would "enhance pedestrian safety by eliminating the need for Hazen students and staff to walk the heavily-trafficked stretch of North Main Street between the campus and the village center. It [the gondola] would also build on Hardwick's ongoing efforts to establish itself as a destination town."

The report defines a desti-

nation town as one "which is marketed or markets itself as a place for tourists to visit." Funding for the gondola is a separate line item in the proposal.

VTrans will hold a public hearing on the proposal tomorrow, April 1, from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. at the State Transportation Agency office at 158 Derrywoods Road in Londonderry. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to call ahead to see if there is still room in the room.

The image shows a blue sign for 'MAINE-LY HEMP'. At the top, the name is written in large, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. Below the name is a yellow square containing a red cartoon lobster smoking a cigarette. Underneath the square, the text reads 'Hemp-based Clothing, Cosmetics & Accessories @ the Yellow Barn Vt. Rte. 15 Hardwick, Vermont'. To the right of this text is a white box with the text 'Yoga Pants Tote Bags Socks & more!'. On the left side of the sign, there is a small graphic of a green hemp leaf with the word 'Hemp:' above it. The leaf has various words written on its segments: 'PAPER', 'FUEL', 'TEXTILES', 'FOOD', and 'OIL'.

Image courtesy of Maine-ly Hemp

The Maine-ly Hemp sign (pictured) contributed to moving the store's opening from Portland, Maine to Hardwick. The Portland landlord backed out of the lease after expressing reservations about the logo.

New Anchor Store for Yellow Barn Announced

by Cyrus Telk [UVN Service Community News]

HARDWICK – A hemp-themed retail store will be a new anchor tenant at the Yellow Barn Business Incubator when the site opens, according to a new press release.

Maine-ly Hemp will sell a wide range of hemp-based products, including clothing, tote bags, and cosmetics.

"The Hardwick area has several industry-leading hemp growers, so it is an ideal location for a hemp-based retail business. Plus, the Yellow Barn people have been very welcoming and supportive," said Scott Feigin, the owner of Maine-ly Hemp. "There's a lot of misinformation out there about hemp, and some landlords haven't been very enthusiastic about leasing to a hemp-based business," he added.

The store has an unusual name for a Hardwick business. Feigin explained how Maine-ly Hemp wound up in Vermont.

"We were all set to open in Portland, Maine. We had a verbal agreement with the landlord and met with him several times over a period of several weeks, but we hadn't actually signed the lease. Everything seemed ready to go, but he got cold feet at the last second. He really didn't like our logo and decided not to rent us the space. Unfortunately, we had already invested most of our startup capital in the Maine-ly Hemp name: product inventory, store signs, the website ... everything. Even changing the website was more

than we could afford. We got a great deal on our lease at the Yellow Barn, so we decided to stick with the name and open in Hardwick."

Maine-ly Hemp's move to the Green Mountain State was aided by a tax rebate funded by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD). A VCRD statement noted that "a store selling hemp products fits with our mission of highlighting local agricultural businesses. The hemp crop is increasingly important to Vermont's agricultural economy and bringing in a retail establishment that amplifies the utility of hemp-based products should fuel hemp production."

According to a December 2020 article in Textile World, hemp is "one of the earliest known textile fibers. [It] has seen heightened interest and a true resurgence since it was formally legalized, or perhaps relegalized, in the United States with the signing of the Farm Bill Act in 2018. The bill effectively removed industrial hemp from inclusion in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA)."

The store is set to open when the refurbished Yellow Barn site does. Feigin said that "the timing is still not finalized, but that's okay. That gives us time to see whether Hardwick is interested in allowing a cannabis dispensary. We think that would be a logical fit with our product line and we wouldn't have to spend the money to update our logo."

Feigin expects to get an update on the projected opening date during a meeting with state officials on Thursday, April 1 in Montpelier.

Maple Tree Rights Coalition Roiling Sugar Industry

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Maple Tree Rights Coalition (MTRC) is raising the Vermont sugaring industry's temperature to the boiling point with its Maple Tree Rights Manifesto. Starting tomorrow, April 1, the manifesto will be publicly distributed in the Northeast Kingdom and blasted across Front Porch Forum. It is expected to ignite a wintry firestorm.

In a statement, MTRC spokesperson Gaia Sweettree said that “Vegan bloodletting of maple trees needs a system-wide tourniquet applied before it's too late to save Vermont's majestic maples. We once used leeches on humans, thinking it cured them. Trees are helpless, powerless, and voiceless. We proclaim their right to life.

“Vermonters hold a nostalgic reverence for this slow death of our beautiful maples,” she continued, “and have no compassion for the suffering and fear trees undergo all year, only to have their life's blood extracted each spring.”

The MTRC manifesto proclaims April 1 as Save Vermont Maple Trees Day.

Apparently, the MTRC does not limit its activism to press releases. Several unconfirmed reports claim that MTRC operatives have dramatized their claim that sugaring is the same as bloodletting by injecting red food coloring into sap lines to turn the sap the color of blood.

Another report claims that the MTRC is attempting to train squirrels to chew through sap lines. According to the Gardening section of the Belleville News Democrat, based in Belleville, Illinois: “It is quite common for a squirrel to lick the sap from a tree, especially a sugar maple, which has the highest amount of sugar in its sap. Be on the lookout for squirrels chewing on the bark around these two locations. They are members of the rodent family and their front incisor teeth are constantly growing. They can chew through soft bark quite easily. As the sap begins to dry up, they will try to damage the bark to see if more sap will be produced.”

Sweettree said that sugaring tortures thousands of innocent maple trees throughout the state -- more than acid rain, more than climate change, and more than the extensive damage wrought by selfie-taking leaf peepers.

Sweettree said that the industry has outlived itself. She reported that the MTRC has tested a commercial “analog” maple syrup that has zero calories. “It's controlled for purity and color, and its taste is indistinguishable from tree sap syrup.” She also noted that



A trained Maple Tree Rights Coalition squirrel, looking very guilty, was caught taking a break from chewing plastic tubing on a Craftsbury sugar bush.

analog maple syrup production employs people year-round, not only in the wintry spring.

“We need to educate people on the true nature of this industry,” Sweettree said. “It's barbaric. We ignore it while destroying our Vermont landscape. What's more beautiful: an autumn sunset with

red, yellow, orange leaves aglow on mountain tops, or miles and miles of plastic tubing, strung like the tentacles of blood-sucking parasites?”

The “Just Ask Us” section of the Wisconsin State Journal quotes Gretchen Grape, executive director of the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association as follows: “Maple trees

are not harmed by the tapping process unless a tap is deeper than 2 1/2 inches into the tree, where it is possible to hit the heart of the tree.”

Asked for a comment, Sweettree replied that “It's common knowledge that Midwestern maples have no anima, no soul. Vermont maples are loving, caring beings.”

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com

ads@hardwickgazette.com

OUR COMMUNITIES

Tree Pruning Workshop on April 3

HARDWICK – The 2021 Grow Your Own workshop series starts on April 3 with fruit tree pruning with Bob Duggan at Atkins Field.

These workshops are free of charge, but registration is required. Register by contacting LauraLee Sweeney at the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) either by email at director@hardwickareafoodpantry.org or by phone at (802)

472-5940.

April workshops will be outside, with masks and social distancing required.

On April 24, Carol Fairbank will lead a workshop on mushroom growing, also at Atkins Field.

For more information, see nourishhardwick.org. The steering committee is working on a calendar of 18 workshops this year.

Free Vegetable Gardening Series Offered

BURLINGTON – University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Community Horticulture Program Master Gardener volunteers will host a free vegetable gardening education series on six consecutive Saturdays this spring.

Learn to Grow Vegetables will be offered weekly via Zoom, April 17 through May 22, from 9 to 10 a.m. The series consists of 10 short videos produced by University of Maine Cooperative Extension on different vegetable gardening topics, and includes live, facilitated Q&A sessions with UVM Extension Master Gardeners. The final session will be a live presentation on using high and low tunnels to extend the growing season.

Although geared to novice and first-time gardeners, the series will be of interest to anyone who wants to

learn more about growing vegetables in the shorter growing season found in northern climates. To register for one or more of the six sessions, go to [/go.uvm.edu/growveg](http://go.uvm.edu/growveg).

Dates and topics: April 17, Vegetable Gardening -- Where to Begin and Planning Your Garden; April 24, Preparing Your Garden Soil and Planting; May 1, Managing Weeds and Watering Your Garden; May 8, Plant Diseases and Preserving the Harvest; May 15, Pain-Free Gardening and Preparing Your Garden for Winter; May 22: Extending the Season with High and Low Tunnels.

For more information, contact Cindy Heath at (603) 543-1307 or cindy.heath@uvm.edu. To request a disability-related accommodation, please contact her two weeks prior to the day of the session.



photo by Hal Gray
Deacon Paula Harmon and Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters burning the "Troubles and Frets" tree.

Greensboro UCC to Stream Easter Service

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – Among its Lenten activities, Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) hosted a Zoom gathering each Thursday evening, which included the reading of poems by Mary Oliver. Parishioners also fastened slips of paper with their concerns and troubles on the Troubles and Frets Tree, which was then burned

March 21 to symbolically free them of their burdens.

Across was also erected outside the church for Palm Sunday, March 28, signaling the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. The cross also emphasizes Good Friday (April 2) in preparation for Easter Sunday, April 4.

The church will live-stream its Easter service on Sunday at 10 a.m., at GUCCVT.org.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

At this time of the year, water on the Common in Craftsbury is a common occurrence. Snow melt, rain and drainage contribute to the annual dilemma.

des Groseilliers Funeral Home

Douglas and Nicole
472-5541 dgfunerals.com

We are here to assist with your end-of-life intentions in advance and at time of need.

Offering arrangements in the comfort of your own home.

Two generations of funeral and cremation care for families in the greater Hardwick area.

VERMONT MONUMENTS

Custom Memorials - Cleaning
Sandblast Lettering - Cemetery Restoration

Quality Service, Attention to Detail, Affordable Prices

[View our online store & memorial display!](#)



652 Laporte Rd.
Morrisville, VT



802-393-9388

Open M/W/F 9am-4pm

Vermontmonuments.com Vermontmonuments@gmail.com

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, April 1

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.

PARENT CAFE SERIES, hosted by Healthy Lamoille Valley, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. A monthly gathering designed to highlight a community resource or parenting skill and encourage conversation with other parents/caregivers. Preregistration and information: healthylamoillevalley.org/parent-cafe-series.

Friday, April 2

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

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

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

Saturday, April 3

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

Monday, April 5

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, April 6

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

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

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

Wednesday, April 7

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

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.

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Orleans Unit Docket No. 233-10-20 Ospr
In re Estate of: Janet M. Reed

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Janet M. Reed, late of Albany, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 3-30-2021
Signature of Fiduciary: George Reed
Executor/Administrator: George Reed
209 Willey St., Apt. 5B
Newport, VT 05855
802-487-4470

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette
Publication Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Orleans Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 247 Main Street, Newport, VT 05855



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Cabot third grader Caleb Pecor (left) and second grader Kaylee Smith (right) perform sink & float experiments to study what trash does to the ocean during the Red Clover Books celebration held at Cabot on March 24 for students in grades K-3. The librarian read 10 Red Clover Books to the students this past winter.

THANKS

FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

The CHARLMONT

Routes 15 & 100, Morrisville, VT • 888-4242 • thecharlmontvt.com

EASTER SUNDAY MENU

12:30 P.M. TO 6 P.M. | *Order now for takeout!*

All takeout orders will be slotted to a specific pickup time.

All orders must be made by Saturday, April 3 - NO EXCEPTIONS!

Baked Ham with Maple Raisin Sauce | \$16.95

Roast Turkey with Cornbread Stuffing | \$16.95

Prime Rib | \$21.95

Leg of Lamb with Mint Jelly | \$19.95

Fresh Grilled Salmon with Balsamic Ginger Marinade | \$21.95

All Entrees Include

Choice of Baked Potato OR Mashed Potato OR Rice Pilaf
Salad with Choice of Dressing AND Rolls and Butter AND Fresh Vegetable

Choice of Dessert

(Lemon Meringue, Carrot Cake, Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie OR Pecan Pie)

Kids Menu (Under 8)

Roast Turkey OR Chicken Tenders OR Mac & Cheese | \$8.95

INDOOR BREAKFAST

8 A.M. TO NOON | *Reservations a must!*

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Yet, Few of Them Are as Civilized

by Willem Lange

EAST MONPELIER – A few days ago, after the supermarket shooting in Boulder had become the topic du jour, I engaged in an exchange with a Facebook “friend.” Here it is, [sic]-free:

Friend: We have to answer the Y How can we id the people before they go off! I don’t have the answers, but am willing to enage in the discussion.

Me: Are you willing to include in this discussion the possibility of banning the ownership of weapons designed primarily to kill people?

Friend: Probably not even though I persnally Feel that all firearms are in existence to kill animals. PEOPLE are animals, and some are worse than animals. It’s not the weapon, it’s the user of the weapon.

Me: Exactly what I expected. You could have just said no. So no discussion.

That exchange, unfortunately, is pretty much identical to those occurring all over the United States at the present time. Very few of them are as civilized as that one. And none – at least that I’ve read about – has resulted in any compromises or concrete legislative action to somehow diminish the United States’ grim toll in the number of civilian deaths from firearms. Yeats’ line, “The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity,” seems increasingly to have become our national motto.

Pete Buttigieg, a rising politician with a conspicuous gift for coherence, remarked during the debates for the Democratic nomination, “If more guns made us safer, we’d be the safest nation on earth – but it doesn’t work that way.” Yet when I mention him, I often get, “He’s just young and innocent. How can he possibly know much?” Then, when I Google the list of older – and presumably less innocent – United States senators who enjoy the financial support of the NRA, it’s hard for me to credit, considering their consistent legislative inertia, what comes out of their mouths.

One pundit has remarked that purchasing a weapon should be as hassle-free as buying a car. It’s a brilliant idea. Each gun-purchaser would need to show a license that, like his driver’s license, would show proof of skill and passage of a written exam, and list physical restrictions. Each sale would be registered and the title affirmed by the state. Renewal of license, and inspection of each weapon would be required at

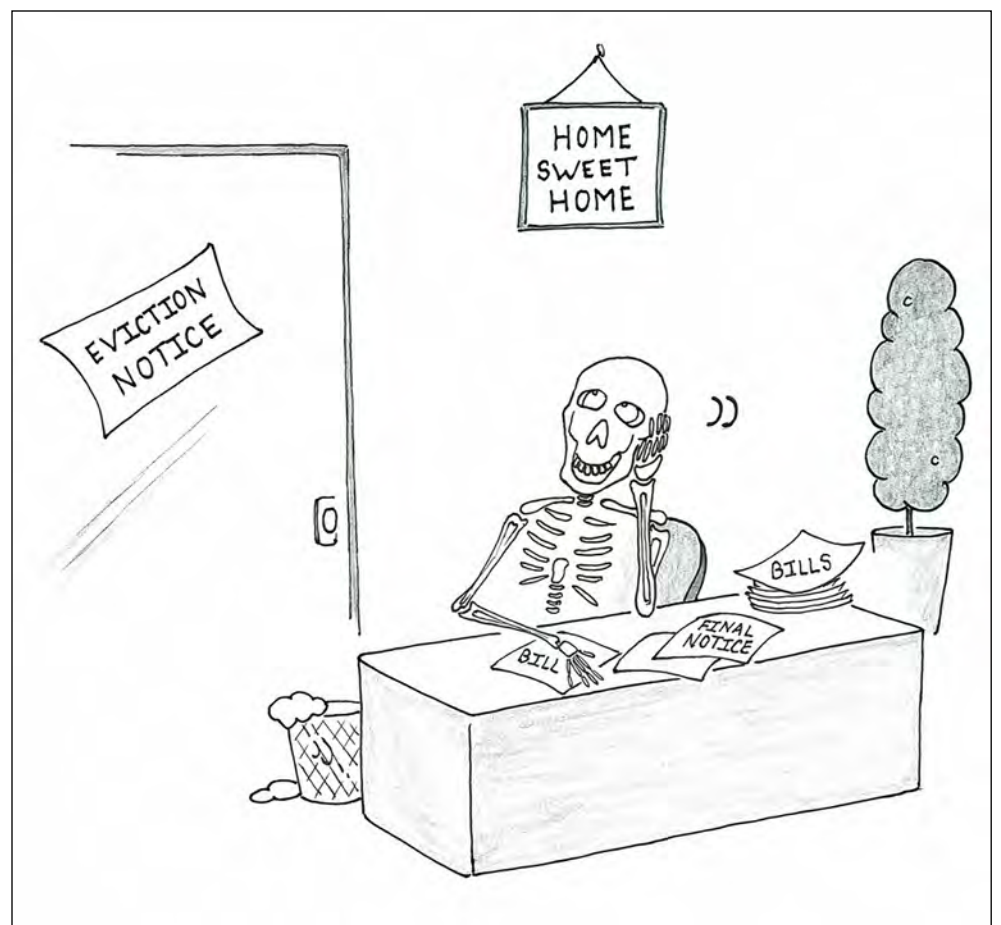
intervals. And most important would be required liability insurance.

Everybody has an opinion about the causes and cures for our national pandemic of violence. I take a look at who’s shooting people, and come up with a profile: male, white, aggrieved, suggestible, deaf to nuance, contemptuous of “liberals,” threatened by imminent loss of majority status. Has access, for about \$1,000, to a weapon designed primarily to intimidate, maim, or kill as many human beings as possible in as short a period of time as possible. He goes to a shooting range where, instead of firing at circular targets and scoring his results, he blasts silhouettes of human figures that often face him threateningly. He feels empowered. He feels dangerous. He’s both.

All of us who engage with social media chat with those most congenial to us; so does he. And in that milieu, he exchanges feelings with like-minded denizens of the Internet. He reads their rants about the rising tide of other-colored people and absorbs their misogyny. The foundations of white society, the way he’s always known it, are being threatened. He owns a “fantasy weapon,” one that often causes its owner to believe he is the answer to problems caused by people less deserving of life than he. Kyle Rittenhouse, the Kenosha shooter, believed he was serving justice by carrying a fantasy weapon into the chaos of a Black Lives Matter protest.

Of course, it can be any or all these things: mental illness, family prejudice, addiction to drugs or violent websites, white supremacy propaganda, xenophobia. But the common factor is the weapon – that sleek, black tool of war, adapted for civilian recreation, that makes a confused, fearful man feel like somebody important. Which, sadly, he often turns out to be.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



“STILL WAITING ON A STIMULUS CHECK!”

MEETING MEMO

Tuesday, April 6
•Danville School District Board of Directors’ Regular Meeting, 6 p.m. <https://ccsu.zoom.us/j/7143620563>. Meeting ID: 714 362 0563. Dial 1-646-558-8656.
Town Websites, Town Clerks
 Cabot: cabotvt.us
 Calais: calaisvermont.gov
 Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
 Greensboro: greensborovt.org

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

THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

The Hardwick Gazette is published every Wednesday except the first week in January by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.,
 Main Street, Hardwick, Vermont 05843
 Tel. (802) 472-6521, Fax. (802) 472-6522. E-mail: news@hardwickgazette.com
 Publication (ISSN 0744-5512).
 Periodicals postage paid at Hardwick, Vermont 05843.
 Postmaster send address changes to
 The Hardwick Gazette, P.O. Box 367, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

EDITOR
 Ray Small

SPORTS EDITOR EMERITUS
 Dave Morse

PHOTOGRAPHER
 Vanessa Fournier

CIRCULATION
 Dawn Gustafson

PRODUCTION
 Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
 Sandy Atkins, Michael Bielawski,
 Ken Brown, June Cook,
 Jim Flint, Eric Hanson,
 Pat Hussey,
 Willem Lange, Doug McClure,
 Daniel Métraux,
 Joyce Slayton Mitchell

ADVERTISING SALES
 Erica Baker

CARTOONIST
 Julie Atwood

The Hardwick Gazette assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertisements but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error appeared. Advertisers must notify the Gazette within five days of any error that occurred. Copyright 2021 by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.

IN THE GARDEN

Arrangements for Early Spring

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – I miss being able to go to my garden and pick flowers for the table. Yes, spring is on the way and even feels present on good days now. But it will be a while until my daffodils and tulips bloom. My winter aconite, small yellow bulb flowers, are blooming, and little white snowdrops have pushed through frozen earth. Those mini-flowers aren't really suitable for a bouquet, but I've picked a few things that please me.

First, I picked some stems from my 'Merrill' magnolia. It is loaded with fuzzy buds for its late-

Beech branches are good for arrangements, too. The young trees hold onto their light brown leaves, filling spaces in a vase. And the stems are a smooth gray, with cigar-shaped, pointy buds.

Of course, red- or yellow-twigged dogwood stems add color to a winter arrangement. Each year one must cut back the plants in spring or winter to get color on the new stems. They are fast-growing plants, so they can grow five feet of new stem in a single summer. They grow best in moist or marshy places.

For contrast in my vase, I like to have some dark stems. Trees in the cherry family (*Prunus* spp.)



courtesy photo

Forced tête-à-tête daffodils.



courtesy photo

Winter aconite blooms about the same time as snowdrops.

April blooming, and these look good in an arrangement. Magnolia branches tend to fork and grow in different directions, so placing stems in a vase can be tricky. I put some in a dry vase with dried flowers and seed-bearing stems and one in a vase with water to put on a windowsill. The buds I picked on January 31 bloomed on March 17.



courtesy photo

A dry vase with Pink Diamond hydrangea, teasel, beech and magnolia stems.

do well there. Chokecherry, pin cherry and black cherry look good in a vase. Young white birch have dark stems, as does hop hornbeam. But basically, you can pick any tree branches if you like their look.

Greenery is nice for contrast with bare stems. I recommend white pine for greenery. I has a nice weeping tendency, and is great around the outside of the vase. Unlike Canadian hemlock, it holds onto its needles quite well, but hemlocks are more common on my property, so I often use them.

Then there are the hydrangeas. Many species and varieties hold onto their flower panicles well into winter and can be quite nice in a vase. My favorite is one called "Pink Diamond." It has long stems and holds onto the fertile and infertile inflorescences, showing contrast between white and black florets on the panicles. Although the blossoms are pink toward the end of their bloom cycle, they are not pink after frost.

Winter weeds can be interesting, too. One of my favorites for winter picking is teasel. Technically, this is a biennial weed. I harvested some seeds from a corn field in Ohio

years ago. The corn farmer thought I was a total nut case because to him, teasel is a noxious weed. But I have learned its habits and allow just half a dozen plants to flower and produce seed every year, and it is a delightful addition to winter arrangements.

The key to keeping teasel in check is to recognize the first-year plants. They are rosettes of light green leaves. I pull most but leave half a dozen to mature and bloom in year two. The second-year plants are loaded with thorns, and have a deep tap root, so if you pull them, you must wear gloves. I rub the thorns off while wearing gloves as I pick them and can then handle them with ease when arranging them in a vase.

Astillbes bloom magnificently for me, and their winter stems are great in a dry vase. I have many different species and varieties, ranging from short (12-inch blossom stems) to tall (48-inches). Their chief requirement is moist soil, and I have plenty of that. If you don't have moist soil, the leaves will brown up in the heat of summer. One trick I have tried in dry locations is to bury a plastic bag a foot or so deep in the soil before planting. That will act like a

little bathtub and hold some water in dry times. They like a half day of sunshine and prefer morning sun.

Snake root or black cohosh (formerly called *Cimicifuga* spp., now in the genus *Actea*) holds on to dry blossoms long after summer has passed. They look good in dry arrangements if you have any still standing.

Winter arrangements tend to be fairly monochromatic – tan or



courtesy photo

Teasel stands out nicely in winter, both in the garden and in a vase.

brown colors are most common. I have seen gardeners use dry allium (onion-family) blossoms to bring color to the table by spray painting them with red, blue, purple and yellow spray paints. I have never done so, but if I think to harvest some next spring or summer, I may do so. I have even seen them sprayed while still in the garden!

Of course, the best color in the house for me right now are my forced daffodils. Last fall I potted up plenty of "tete-a-tete" daffodils and kept them in my cold cellar until recently. Each bulb provided many blossoms and even now, after the flowers have gone by, they are still pleasant looking with green leaves and dried yellow flowers.



courtesy photo

Forced flowers of my Merrill magnolia took six weeks to bloom.

Rural Ramblings

Through the Morning Mist

by Julie Atwood

RANDOLPH – I was fortunate to hear a cardinal singing while I went about my daily chores. I stopped and stood still, listening to its beautiful melody ringing through the morning air. Sharp and clear, it reminded me of another time when I heard a bird singing a mournful tune before attending a funeral. It was as if the spirit of the deceased visited me with a song to stir my soul.

After finishing my chores, I went inside and turned on the news. I could still hear the cardinal singing outside the window while I learned of the tragedy in Boulder, Colo. Many people lost their lives to someone who chose to take them. Just like me, these people went about their chores

not knowing the outcome of the day. Had they known what was to take place, they would still be alive.

Our fate is never revealed to us. Destiny doesn't show us its plan, if there is one. We can only hope our journey in life is a safe and happy one, and it will not be tragically cut short before we've had the chance to fully enjoy it. The heartache of losing a loved one lives on in those left behind. It is the living who suffer and grieve.

So when you hear a bird singing a beautiful song, stop and listen. One never knows if you will hear that melody again. Perhaps, it's the sound of a soul moving on.

[Editor's note: Julie Atwood, a former Hardwick resident, is the Hardwick Gazette cartoonist.]

Town of Woodbury Request for Proposals

Three (3) Year Contract for Mowing and Grounds Maintenance of Town Cemeteries and Town Properties

The Woodbury Cemetery Commission and the Town of Woodbury Select Board are seeking bids for mowing five town cemeteries and four town properties for summer seasons 2021, 2022, and 2023 commencing May 15, and ending on September 15, for each season. The successful contractor will furnish all equipment, fuel, and labor necessary to maintain these properties in good condition.

Contact the Town Office at 456-7051 for a copy of the RFP.

Sealed bids must be received at the Woodbury Town Office, P.O. Box 10, Woodbury, Vermont 05681 by noon on April 12, 2021, and be clearly marked: Three Year Mowing Bid, Attention: Robin Durkee, Woodbury Town Clerk.

TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Twinfield Union School District No. 33, a municipal corporation consisting of the member towns of Marshfield and Plainfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, to transact the following business by Australian Ballot. Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town Hall for Plainfield residents and at the Old Schoolhouse Common for Marshfield residents.

The School Board will hold an informational hearing via electronic conference (Zoom) on Wednesday, March 31, at 6 p.m., to discuss all articles as warned below. A separate meeting notice with information for Zoom will be posted separately.

Article 1. To elect a School District Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

Article 2. To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

Article 3. To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Twinfield Union School District authorize the Twinfield Union School Board to expend six million five hundred ninety-one thousand four hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$6,591,499.00) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,122.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.9% lower than spending for the current year.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Twinfield Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Twinfield Union School District authorize the Board of School Directors to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2022, in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

Patrick Healy, Board Chair, Lauren Cleary, Vice Chair,
Janna Osman, Jamie Spector, Manny Sainz

Erin Barry, District Clerk, Twinfield Union School District No. 33

Twinfield Kindergarten Registration

Twinfield Union School would like to register and welcome kindergarten students for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Registration will be held April 12-16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please come to the main office to pick up and complete registration packets. Your child's immunization record and a copy of his/her birth certificate are mandatory at the time of registration. No appointment is necessary.

In order to be eligible for kindergarten, your child MUST be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2021.

Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 7 p.m., on Zoom. They will consider a Conditional Use request by Justin Keyes to build a new boathouse at 1183 Craftsbury Road. This application will be considered under the following by-laws: 2.7 Shoreland Protection District, 5.4 Conditional Uses, and 8.8 New Uses and Encroachments Within the Shoreland Buffer Resource Zone. There will be a socially distanced site visit on Saturday, April 17, 2021, 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 Tuesday, April 20, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 646 876 9923. There is no password. You may phone into the Zoom meeting at: 646 876 9923 (this is not a toll free number).

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

Greensboro Development Review Board

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

CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Cabot School District, Cabot, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, to transact the following business by Australian Ballot. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Willey Building, 3084 Main St, Cabot, VT 05647

The School Board will hold an informational hearing via electronic conference (Zoom) on Monday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss all articles as warned below. A separate meeting notice with information for Zoom will be posted separately.

Article 1. To elect a School District Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

Article 2. To elect a School Director for a term of three (3) years.

Article 3. To elect a School Director for a term of two (2) years.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Cabot School Board to expend three million three hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$3,325,439.00) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,399.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.6% increase in spending compared to the current year.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and receipts of other funds to be used for those purposes?

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Board of School Directors to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2022 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

Dated at Cabot, Vermont February 22, 2021

Lisa Olson, Chair, Rory Thibault, Vice Chair,
Sharon O'Connor, Michael Taub, Chris Tormey

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk



Delivering On A Promise
Dead River Company

**Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel
Heating Equipment Installations**
189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT
(802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD: Cut, Split and Delivered.
Green - \$235.00/Cord. Seasoned - \$260/
Cord. 802-754-6172. (11-3)

THANKS FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE GAZETTE!



THANKS
FOR SAYING YOU SAW IT IN THE HARDWICK GAZETTE



Joe Mulligan
15-plus years industry experience in the central Vermont area, fully insured.

- Prompt, professional customized pest services. Call soon for your organic tick remediation treatment.
- Specializing in preventative carpenter ant and other crawling insect pest treatments.
- Mouse and rat reduction services
- Spring and fall wasp reduction treatments

josephmulligan@centralvermontpestcontrol.com
(802) 477-3899




Westaff
Providing Essential People

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU

NOW HIRING:

HR ADMINISTRATION | CUSTOMER SERVICE | MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION

Openings in St. Johnsbury, Cabot, Newport, Morrisville, Barre, Montpelier, Wolcott & Hyde Park Areas
Contact our offices for more information.
Lyndonville: 802-751-8100
Barre - 802-477-4700



The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union invites landscaping contractors to submit a bid for lawn care services for our schools across the Supervisory Union to include campuses in Craftsbury, Wolcott, and Woodbury. 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 9, 2021 10AM.

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

click here for more information

Advertising

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

Financial Services



Financial Advisor
The Old Post Office
31 Lower Main Street, Suite #2
P.O. Box 1639
Morrisville, Vt 05661

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC

Bus. (802) 888-4207
Cell (802) 498-4343
rich.jacobs@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Home Improvement



Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 9 a.m. - noon

"Quality You Can Stand On"
454-7301, Hollister Hill, Plainfield

Plumbing



LICENSED & INSURED
HOLMES PLUMBING
Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843
Josh Holmes • 472-6228
Cell: (802) 745-8390

Services

Toya's Play Shop LLC

TAYLOUR HAY
Owner-Technician



1043 Dimick Road, off Rte. 16, Greensboro • open Mon.-Fri., 9-5
(802) 533-7070 or (802) 498-8822 • toyas.play

Services



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing
Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services
Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

Services

LUDDITE CARPENTERS

John Campbell
Cabot, Vt.
20 years experience
Fully insured

Remodeling • Additions • Home repairs
General carpentry • Hardwood flooring
Interior painting • Siding • Decks
Door/window replacement

Contact for free estimates: (970) 980-6908
ludditecarpenters@gmail.com
ludditecarpenters.com

Services



Water Wells • Complete Geothermal Systems
Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service
Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products
Pond Aeration
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

SPORTS

2021 High School Basketball Season Ends for Seniors



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield senior boys (from left): Henry LoRe, Gavin Fowler, Cutler Gladding and Aziz Yachfine.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Twinfield's only senior girl, Bailey Cushing.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Craftsbury Academy's only senior girl, Heather Meehan.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury Academy's senior boys Logan Lanphere (left) and John Smith (right).

SPORTS

SKI REPORT

by Eric Hanson

Craftsbury Biathlon Skiers Have Strong Results at the World Cup

NOVE MESTO, CZECH REPUBLIC – Craftsbury Green Racing Project (GRP) biathletes Clare Egan and Susan Dunklee combined with Joanne Reid and Deedra Irwin to finish a historic sixth in the IBU World Cup relay on March 4.

Susan Dunklee hit all five targets in first shooting stage and left the range in first place. She had to use two spare rounds in the standing stage of shooting, dropping back to sixth but only 10 seconds behind the leader when she tagged off to Joanne Reid. Reid kept Team USA in sixth and tagged to Clare Egan. Egan skied fast and shot well, needing only one spare round and moved the team up to second place, just 6.6 seconds from first. In the final leg, Deedra Irwin hung on to keep the U.S. close. The sixth-place finish is the best result for a World Cup Women's Relay since 1994.

On March 12, Susan Dunklee landed an eighth-place finish in the 7.5 km sprint. In an interview with U.S. Biathlon, Dunklee reflected that "there's a reason biathlon is such a compelling sport to follow. It's dramatic and the unpredictability adds to its appeal. We did two identical races one week apart: the same format, the same course, and the same competitors. Last week I placed 91st and this week I placed eighth. I didn't try any less hard last week or approach this week with any more professionalism. We love it because it is challenging. The highs are that much sweeter after overcoming the lows." The result was Dunklee's best of the year.

Two days later, on March 14, Dunklee paired up with Sean Doherty (Center Conway, N.H.) to place third in the single mixed relay. Dunklee hit every target in first prone stage and led leaving the range ahead of Switzerland's Elisa Gasparin and Sweden's Linn Persson. She needed three spares in the standing stage and tagged off to Doherty in sixth place, 11.8 seconds off the lead. Doherty moved the twosome back to third at the next exchange. Dunklee

only needed a single spare in her last stage, moving the team up to second in the final exchange. Doherty kept the team close using two extra rounds with the team finishing in third behind Sweden and Norway.

Not to be outdone, Craftsbury GRP biathletes Clare Egan and Jake Brown propelled the U.S. mixed relay team to a sixth-place finish with Joanne Reid (Grand Junction, CO) and Leif Nordgren (Hinesbury, Vt.). There were 25 teams in the race.

U.S. Skier Jessie Diggins WINS the Overall World Cup

ENGADIN, SWITZERLAND – Only once has an American skier won the overall World Cup; that was Vermont's Bill Koch in 1982. Alaska's Kikkan Randall won several overall sprint World Cup titles. The overall World Cup combines classic and skate races in both the sprint and distance formats. Diggins is most known for pairing up with Randall to win the team sprint gold medal in South Korea in 2018.

She started this season more slowly, finishing 15th overall in Ruka, Finland back in late November. She made her move at the Tour de Ski in January, racing eight races over 11 days in Switzerland and Italy, where she had two wins, one second, and three third-place finishes. Norway opted out of racing the tour along with a few other weekends because of COVID and traveling concerns, while Sweden opted out of a few World Cup weekends but was at



courtesy photo

Dunklee on the podium in the single mixed relay.

the tour. Therese Johaug (Norway) wins most of the distance races, but she's not a sprinter

A week after Norway returned to the circuit, Diggins showed she meant business, winning the 10k skate ahead of Johaug; this was Johaug's first defeat in a distance race since 2016. Although Diggins did not win any more races in the late season, she consistently placed in the top five. She ended the season winning the distance title and placing fourth in the sprint overall. Russian Yulia Stupak was second overall, followed by Sweden's Ebba Andersson in third. U.S. Skier Rosie Brennan (Alaska) finished fourth overall, an amazing result for any U.S. skier. Diggins, a native of Afton, Minn., now lives in southern Vermont and trains with the Stratton Mountain School Team 2 (SMS T2).

The 100 Mile Ski in a Day

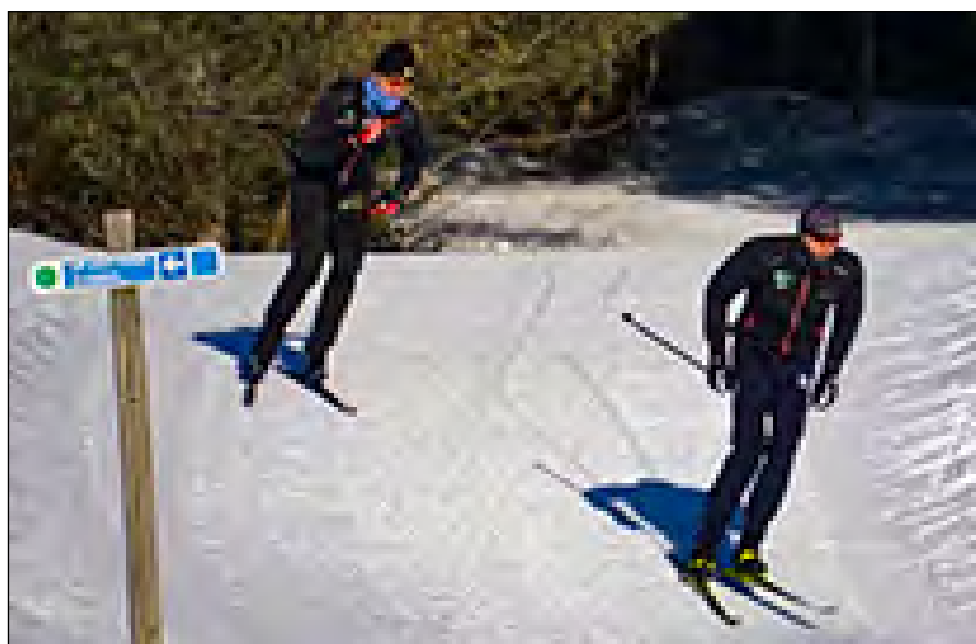
ALBANY-GREENSBORO – Imagine cross country skiing on 100 miles of groomed trails from Craftsbury to White River Junction, climbing over 11,000 feet with all the ups and downs in a single day. Vistas to New Hampshire and Mt. Mansfield, fast downhill, slow climbs, lots of food and water to keep your engine running.

Akeo Maifeld-Marcucci and Adam Martin, both professional skiers for the Craftsbury Green Racing Project, essentially did this feat on March 8. They made a goal of skiing every ski trail maintained by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) from Albany to Greensboro starting and finishing from their house on Town Highway 19 in Craftsbury.

They covered the trail network near the COC, crossing the high points along Creek Road, heading to Big and Little Hosmer ponds, circling over to Wylie Hill Road, took a lunch break, and then headed to East Craftsbury, Circus Road, and Hanks Hill on the way to Highland Lodge. They made their way to Greensboro Town Hall, then up and over Barr Hill to Long Pond and Rocking Rock Road.

They spent a very slow 30 minutes post-holing through 3 km of ungroomed trail on Gebbies Run, which was ungroomed due to a logging operation. As they neared the end, Akeo and Adam descended 1,000 feet back to Craftsbury Village, with a final gradual climb back to TH 19. Mix in a lot of meanders and back and forth

See 100-MILE, 22



courtesy photo

Akeo Maifeld-Carucci and Adam Martin early in the day.

SPORTS

100-Mile

Continued From Page 21

sections, it added up to about 100 miles over a 10-hour period.

From Adam Martin's blog (greenracingproject.com/grpblog/every-trail-craftsbury):

"After circling Great Hosmer, I felt beat skiing up to the new West Side loop and worried that our initial pace had been too hot. Fortunately, a few minutes of undulating terrain recharged our legs, and when we emerged into the beautiful, sunny West Side field and saw that we had already skied 50k, our spirits were renewed. My watch said we climbed 11,000 feet of elevation in the challenge, and I suspect the Greensboro trail system accounts for a big part of this. Six and a half hours in, climbing up Gray's Drive strewn with conifer needles, my suffering reached a high point. Thankfully, Akeo encouraged me to eat more, despite having just stopped for a bar, and I pulled out my secret weapon: a sampler six

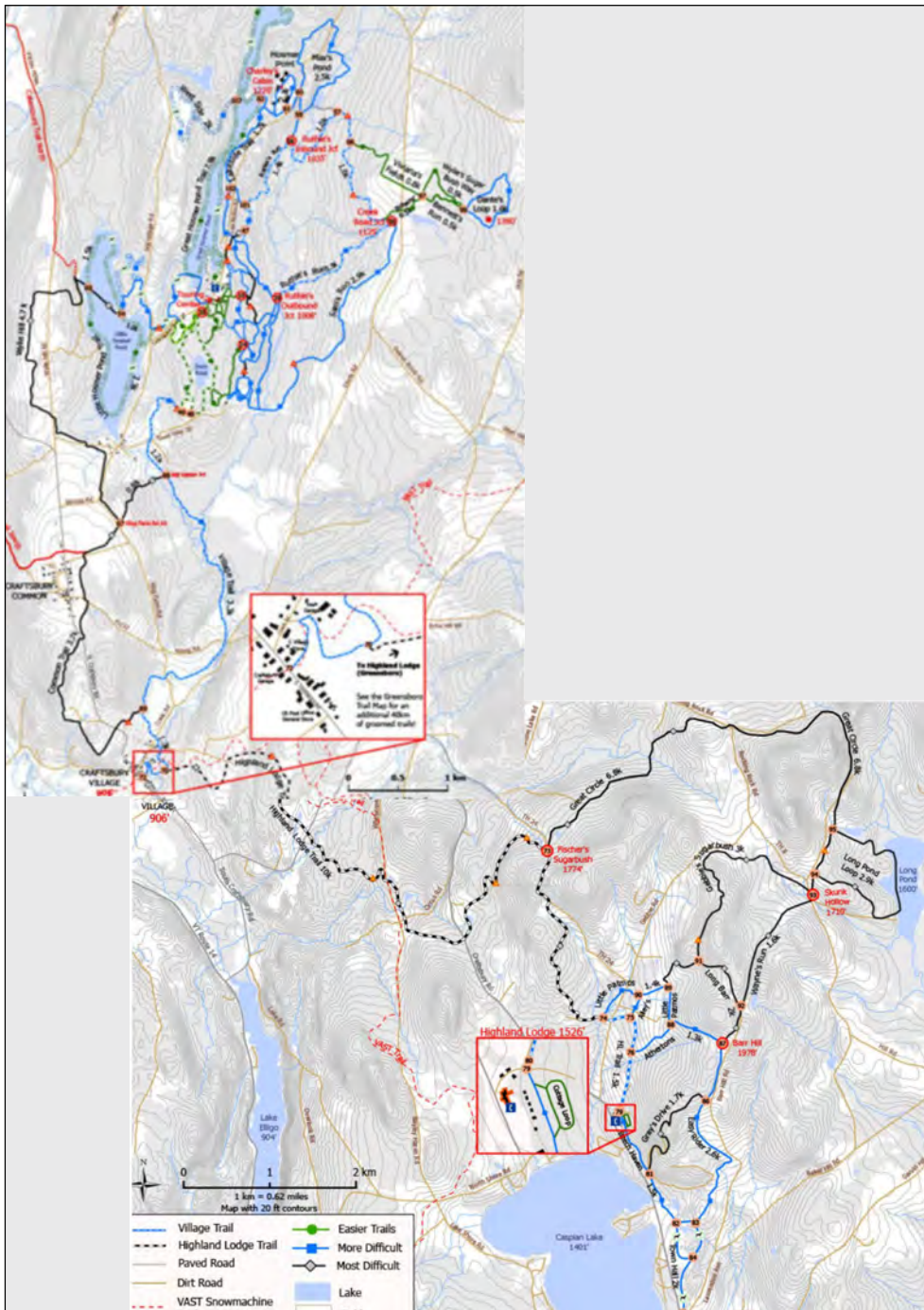
pack of Oreos. By the challenge's conclusion, I ended up consuming 5 Clif bars, 6 regular Oreos, 3 Clif shot bloks, a big tupperware of overnight oats, and 2.5L of water. My watch calculated that I burned 7,000 kcal. For both Akeo and I, around 7.5 hours in, skiing became noticeably easier. I can think of physiological and physical explanations for the decreased effort: the digestion of our larger food intake at lunch may have finally relinquished its hold on our blood supply and the setting sun and corresponding glazing snow gave our skis a welcome boost."

Maifeld-Carucci exclaimed afterward, "I view (this ski) as a celebration of the local trail network, a chance to really appreciate all the trail work, grooming, the vision, and especially the land-owner generosity that goes into it making this such a special place. So, a big thank you to (everyone) who makes it possible to do that virtually any day, all winter long."



courtesy photo.

Adam (left) and Akeo (right) ready to go on a 100-mile adventure.



courtesy photo.

Ski map of trails maintained by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center from Albany to Greensboro.

Dealership Quality at Service Station Prices

OIL and LUBE

4-WHEEL COMPUTER ALIGNMENTS

COMPUTERIZED SPIN BALANCE

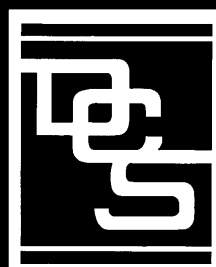
VERMONT INSPECTION

TIRES, BRAKES, SHOCKS

EXHAUST SYSTEMS

COMPLETE ENGINE SERVICE

~ Office for Bessette Mini-storage ~



DONA'S CAR STORE

Lower Wolcott Street • Hardwick, VT 05843

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

472-5501

BF Goodrich



SPORTS



Senior Lady Cats

Hazen Union senior girls (from left) Abby Ainsworth, Macy Molleur, Alleigh Gabaree, Natalie Geoffroy and Harley Papineau.

photo by Vanessa Fournier

COVID-19 Rears Ugly Head in High School Winter Sports Finales

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls' basketball team's first round loss to Mount St. Joseph's Academy (MSJ) in the first round of the Division IV playoffs two weeks ago seemed ordinary within the Vermont high school tournament landscape at the time. Multiple COVID-19 tests that have ensued since, however, has robbed entire teams of a chance to play for a state title, as well as put the start of Hazen Union's upcoming spring sports schedule in jeopardy.

Following MSJ's first-round win over Hazen Union on March 16 and second-round loss to West Rutland on March 19, MSJ reported that a member of their basketball team had tested positive for COVID-19. Vermont Principal's Association (VPA) virus protocols mandate that team members in close contact must quarantine for seven days and have a negative test before returning to competition.

Top-seeded West Rutland was forced to play their semifinal matchup with Danville on March 23 with five eighth graders and four freshmen, inevitably falling 44-22. Subsequent positive tests within the Danville program forced them to withdraw from the Division IV state title game against Proctor and, through VPA protocols set up before the start of the season, Proctor was crowned state champions.

Had the Lady Cats defeated MSJ in the first round, they would have been forced to bow out of the

"Our kids and coaches have done a great job of following protocols throughout the season and I'm glad they got a chance to compete and have some sense of normalcy."

tournament as they, too, had a member of their team test positive.

Similar circumstances happened in the Division I girls' state title game when Rice was forced to withdraw and BFA-St. Albans was crowned state champions. None of the high school boys' championships were affected, but it is unknown whether or not the Hazen Union boys' program would have been able to advance had they defeated Enosburg in their quarterfinal matchup on March 20. Hazen Union has currently had five positive COVID-19 tests since the third week of March and has gone back to remote learning.

"Overall, for our programs to get half of our games in with such a delayed start is pretty amazing," said Hazen Union athletic director John Sperry. "Our kids and coaches have done a great job of following protocols throughout the season and I'm glad they got a chance to compete and have some sense of normalcy. You definitely feel for some of these teams that got so close to the finish line and were derailed. It just shows us that we have to continue to be vigilant and not let our guard down if we want the

long as they wear masks and social distance six feet apart.

"We are currently in a holding pattern and hopefully we can get everyone back to school safely sooner than later. We hope we can start the season on time, but with COVID-19 and unpredictable spring weather it will be tight. It will be nice to see parents and fans be able to attend games again, but it is important that we are all following the protocols as religiously as the student athletes are," said Sperry.

Several high school hockey championships around the state were also affected on both the girls' and boys' side.

kids to have a chance to compete," said Sperry.

Hazen Union's baseball program is scheduled to start their season on April 17, but they must get 10 team practices in first. Practices are currently on pause during remote learning. When the season does get underway, fans will be allowed to attend this spring as



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Union senior boys Isaiah Baker (left) and Ethan Shopland (right).

SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Twinfield 8th grader Kerrick Medose looks to pass while guarded by West Rutland's Levi Petit. The semi-final game was played at Twinfield last Wednesday. West Rutland prevailed 58-46.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Twinfield 9th grader Meles Gouge races around Michael Goodnough of West Rutland Wednesday during semi-final action. West Rutland defeated Twinfield 58-46.

Experience Rules as West Rutland Topples Trojans

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – West Rutland used the experience and athleticism of their nine seniors last week to advance to the Division IV state title game with a road win over the Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team in the semifinals.

Tyler Serrani scored a game-high 18 points to lead the seventh-seeded Golden Horde to an impressive 58-46 road win over the Trojans last Wednesday. Timothy Blanchard was also a handful, chipping in with 14 points in the win. West Rutland used a full court man-to-man press to take a 13-7 lead after one quarter and kept the Trojans off the boards in the first half to take a 28-17 lead into the break.

"To see them on video is one thing, but in person they were much bigger and faster and just impressive physically. Our advantage is our size and they neutralized that, punched us in the mouth, and took us out of our game plan," said head coach Chris Hudson.

Serrani converted two steals into easy buckets and added a free throw to start the second half as the lead swelled to sixteen, increasing to 45-28 after three quarters. Brody Moran connected on a pair of three-pointers late to pull Twinfield-Cabot within nine, but they would get no closer. Cutler Gladding led the Trojans with 11 points, Henry LoRe added nine, and Kerrick

Medose and Lucas Roberts combined for thirteen more in the loss. Senior Gavin Fowler was sidelined once again with a season-ending leg injury and the loss of his prolific production finally caught up to the Trojans.

"We've pieced it together and a lot of guys have stepped up since Gavin got hurt, but you just can't replace what he gives us on the court in points, rebounds, and leadership. He is the best student athlete that I've had the privilege of coaching and he's not just a great basketball player, he's a great human being. He got a raw deal the way his high school career ended, but I have no doubt he will go on to do wonderful things in life. No one on this team likes to lose when you get this far, but I am so proud of these kids and the effort that they have put in all season" said Hudson.

Hudson will also lose Cutler and LoRe to graduation but will return a talented young core that now has varsity and playoff experience under its belt.

"Henry and Cutler gave this program everything they had the past two years. Henry is a great example of a kid putting in the extra work and being patient for his time to come. Cutler has improved so much since he got here and we only wish we had him longer. They are both great leaders along with Gavin and they all will be missed. We have a bunch of eighth graders and freshman who gained invaluable experience going up

against a veteran team like West Rutland in a semifinal game. You can't simulate that and, knowing this group, they will use that experience as fuel to drive them to get better this summer," said Hudson.

Fifth-seeded Proctor ended the Golden Horde's hopes of its first state title in eight years with a 58-57 win on Sunday at the Barre Auditorium.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Twinfield coach Chris Hudson (left) and assistant coach John Medose (right) during the semi-final home game against West Rutland on March 24.