

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Sen. Leahy Speaks at Copley Hospital

by Doug McClure

MORRISTOWN – On a brisk spring morning last Thursday, Senator Patrick Leahy and his wife Marcelle visited Morristown to announce he had just helped secure an additional \$32 million in federal funding for Vermont's COVID vaccination efforts.

In a release, Leahy stated that the additional funding would account for “the added cost of administering a vaccine program in small states with sparse rural populations.” Leahy said in the release he “led the successful effort in the Senate to include a provision ensuring adequate vaccination funding for all states” in

the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), which in Vermont's case was an additional \$18 million. “This supplemental funding, combined with national vaccination funding included in ARPA, resulted in a total of \$32 million in vaccination support for Vermont,” the release noted.

The morning's visit was not entirely about the additional vaccine funds. Leahy, along with Vermont Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine, toured the vaccine clinic at the VFW in Morrisville before speaking at Copley Hospital. Dr. Levine noted to press earlier that Vermont was approaching the 50% mark in terms of vaccinations, which he said was an important

milestone for reducing new COVID infections.

Leahy proceeded to the hospital, where he visited the emergency department and spoke with nurses, lab workers, and other staff. Well before he got to the podium, hospital workers streamed into the ambulance bay at its main entrance for his speech.

Much of Leahy's speech carried a strikingly personal tone. He spoke about hope, in its broadest sense. He “applauded” Governor Phil Scott's administration for its handling of the pandemic and vaccinations.

Leahy spoke about the vaccines and their role in bringing

See LEAHY, 2



photo by Doug McClure
Sen. Patrick Leahy spoke last Thursday about vaccine funding to a crowd at Copley Hospital in front of the hospital's main entrance.



photo by Jenny Grosvenor
Hardwick's welcome sign on Route 14, with the historic Yellow Barn in the background.

Is Food Still Saving Our Towns? Caledonia Spirits Harnesses the Power of Honey

by Anna Kolosky

MONTPELIER – In 2010, after managing organic soy and tofu production at Vermont Soy, Sophia Light decided to join Caledonia Spirits, a small Hardwick business that was learning how to make vodka from mead. Now the Vermont sales and events

manager, Light has seen Caledonia Spirits grow from a local business to a booming operation based out of Montpelier.

Caledonia Spirits was started by Todd Hardy, a beekeeper running a tiny business called Honey Gardens right off Route 7, Light stated. In 2008, he noticed

See HONEY, 4

Greensboro and Hardwick Joint Policing has Long History

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Hardwick has provided Greensboro with police service since 1980, long before Hardwick town and village merged. Before that, Hardwick town, Hardwick village, and Greensboro had their own police, but the town and Greensboro shared a chief. The joint policing agreement will come to an end on July 1, when Greensboro will contract with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department for police services.

The cooperation between Hardwick and Greensboro dates back over 40 years. The details in the reconstruction of the relationship are drawn from historical

articles in the Gazette.

A barroom brawl in 1978 was the first tipping point, and things came to a head quickly in 1979 when a two-day near riot required

See POLICING, 5

Wolcott Weighs Policing Future

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – When Wolcott appointed residents Andy Duff and Rick Harkins to the law enforcement study committee for Lamoille County in March, the committee seemed ready to wrap up its

See FUTURE, 6



photo Hardwick Gazette archives
This photo from November 6, 1979, shows Hardwick Town Manager Ernie Laird answering questions from WCAx reporter Wadi Sawabini, part of a story which the television station did on the vandalism and violence in Hardwick.

Joe's Pond Ice Out Last Saturday

WEST DANVILLE – The Joe's Pond Ice Out ended on Saturday. The block fell through the ice on April 10, at 4:57 p.m. Over 10,000 tickets were sold for the event. The winner will be announced later, once verified and notified.

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photo by Doug McClure
 Sen. Patrick Leahy exits the main entrance of Copley Hospital, where he toured the facility and spoke with lab workers. At the rear (at left, in the bow tie) is Copley Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Donald Dupuis, M.D.

Leahy

Continued From Page One

an end to the past year's stresses. He remarked on how the nurses and doctors in attendance had made this moment possible with their hard work and dedication over the past thirteen months, despite initial logistical difficulties. "When you stand up a program like this it is a challenge," he said.

Leahy said that over the past months he heard Vermont front-line medical workers' request for support. "This is a special place. We can show them, we can do it, just give us the resources and turn us loose."

Leahy said he would take this message with him to the floor of the Senate and when asked about rural communities and vaccination, he would say "let me tell you about the real people." Leahy told these frontline workers "Your example is helping."

Leahy spoke to vaccine skeptics, as well. "We have three safe and effective vaccines," he said. "we've got to get them out. Some folks fear taking the vaccine. That's the last thing you should

fear. You don't fear getting the polio vaccine. You shouldn't fear the COVID vaccine. I'll tell you right now: get the vaccine," he said.

Leahy next spoke of how vaccines promised a return to a semblance of the normal from over a year ago. "We want to go out and be together again. Without being too personal about it, when I hear teen-aged grandchildren saying they're able to hug their grandparents again, when I hear about your parents, your siblings, your friends..."

Leahy spoke of parents' relief in having children back in school again safely. He spoke of all the things that people used to take for granted. The press conference exemplified that: it was the first in-person conference Leahy had held in months since the pandemic started.

In closing he said that "I know I disrupted everybody's schedule here today. I can't tell you how much it means to me [to meet with you]." He said that he could now go back to Congress with fresh, first-hand insight about the situation on the ground in rural Vermont.



photo by Doug McClure
 A crowd of nurses, administrators, doctors and other Copley Hospital workers greeted Sen. Patrick Leahy enthusiastically last Thursday as he spoke about vaccines and the additional funding he had secured to vaccinate Vermonters.



April 14 - April 20

Craghopper Clothing Insect & UV Protection Men, Women's & Kid's Tops & Bottoms		New Products from Ariston Organic Olive Oils & Balsamic Vinegar	
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Poland Spring 8 pk. Sparkling Water 2/\$5 135.2 oz.	Near East Side Dishes 2/\$3 5.25-10 oz.	Betty Crocker Mashed Potatoes 5/\$5 4.7-5.6 oz.	
Betty Crocker Hamburger Helper 4/\$5 6.4-6.9 oz.	Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna 3/\$5 5 oz.	Aunt Jemima Pancake Mix \$2.99 32 oz.	
Quaker Life Cereal 2/\$5 13 oz.	G.M. Cheerios and Lucky Charms \$3.69 18-19.5 oz.	Cascadian Farm Granola Cereal \$2.99 9.2-16 oz.	
Nabisco Family Size Oreos 2/\$6 19.1-20 oz.	Cheez-it Snack Crackers 2/\$5 11.7-12.4 oz.	Nabisco Red Oval Crackers 2/\$5 8.8-10.6 oz.	
Glad Flex Trash or Large Kitchen Bags \$7.99 25-45 ct.	Lactaid Milk 2/\$6 64 oz.	Eggo Waffles 2/\$4 12.3 oz.	
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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

April 5: VIN verification, Vt. Rte. 16; Threats/Harassment, South Main St.; Safety Hazard, Evergreen Manor Dr.

April 6: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 14/Vt. Rte. 15; Alarm, N. Main St.; Animal Problem, Church St.; Suspicious Event, Mackville Rd.; Vandalism, Ward Hill d.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14

April 7: VIN Verification, High St.

April 8: Foot Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, High St.; Traffic Stop, W. Church St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Lower Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Assist – Agency, High St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Suspicious Event, W. Church St.; Suspi-

cious Event, Main St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.

April 9: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Main St.; Medical, Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Highland Ave.; DUI, Vt. Rte. 15W; ATV Incident, Mill St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16.

April 10: Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assault, Vt. Rte. 14S; Medical, Vt. Rte. 16; Welfare Check, Cooper Brook Dr.; Assist – Motorist, Vt. Rte. 15/McAllister Farm Rd.

April 11: Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16; Fire, Hillside St.; Suspicious Event, Granite St.; Suspicious Event, Evergreen Manor Dr.; Assist – Motorist, Vt. Rte. 16/Bailey Hazen Rd.; Assist – Agency, Mackville Rd.; Traffic Stop, Dimick Rd.

Hardwick Police

DUI, Citizen Dispute, No Registration for ATV

On April 6, at 1:35 a.m., Melissa Farnham, of E. Hardwick, was stopped on Rte 16. Police issued a \$230 ticket for Cell Phone Use.

On April 8, at 8:40 a.m., Alain Fradette, of E. Hardwick, was stopped on High St. Police issued a \$139 ticket for Signals Required.

On April 9, at 8:05 p.m., Dominic Bell, of Cabot, was stopped on Mill St. Police issued a \$162 ticket for No Registration, ATV.

On April 9, at 4:40 p.m., police received a report of a male passed out in a pickup truck beside the Tops Store. Michael Deering, of Hardwick, was screened and subsequently processed for DUI II. He was cited and released.

On April 10, at 2:10 p.m., Officers Gagnon and Stacey responded to a reported citizen dispute. They arrived on scene and met with a male victim who stated

he was assaulted by two females. Immediately after arrival, two cars pulled in, one with three males and the other with two females. The males were attempting to get to the male victim. They were stating that he had punched one of the females. He had stated that they attacked him first. One of the males went for a gun and so did the victim. Officers Gagnon and Stacey diffused the situation and the investigation is continuing.

On April 12, at 10:12 a.m., Forest S. Foster, of Hardwick, was stopped on Dimick Road. Police issued a \$162 ticket for No Insurance.

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

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served nine survivors of domestic and sexual violence from March 21 through April 4. 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.

St. Johnsbury Police DUI

On April 9, at approximately 1:10 a.m., St. Johnsbury Police located a running vehicle blocking the intersection of Town Garage Road at Western Avenue. Upon approach to the vehicle, they found the operator sleeping. When the operator, later identified as Joseph

Breer, of Plainfield, was awakened he attempted to drive away. Breer was removed from the vehicle and found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was transported to the Police Department and processed for DUI. He has a court date of April 26 at 8:30 a.m.

Vermont State Police

Police Seek Help Locating Assault Suspect

The Vermont State Police is investigating an assault that occurred Friday evening April 9 in Marshfield and troopers are searching for the suspect.

The alleged perpetrator is identified as Harley Breer, who lives on Folsom Hill Road in Marshfield near the location of the assault. Breer was on probation at the time of the incident for underlying charges of kidnapping and first-degree aggravated domestic assault. Breer is believed to have removed his ankle monitor and fled the area following the assault in which a neighbor was struck and injured.

Breer's current whereabouts are unknown, although he does have ties to the Marshfield and Plainfield areas. He is a white man, about 6 feet tall, weighing 170-180 pounds, with close-cropped blond hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a gray t-shirt, blue jeans with a studded belt, and a baseball cap.

Update on Saturday, April 10 at 3:10 a.m.

State troopers searching for assault suspect Harley Breer are investigating a missing person case that might be related.

Police have learned that Theron Prescott III, who lives on Folsom Hill Road in Marshfield near Breer's residence, told a friend who lives on the road that he planned to walk the short distance to her house around 7 p.m. Friday, April 9. He never arrived, and after several short phone conversations between the two, Prescott stopped responding to calls and messages.

Prescott owns a blue 2016 Ford Focus that matches the description of a vehicle in which Breer might have been seen in the passenger seat at about 7:15 p.m. Friday in Marshfield village headed toward Barre on U.S. Route 2. Prescott's vehicle has Vermont registration HAM 437.

Prescott is 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighs 150 pounds, and has blue eyes and brown hair. He was last known to be wearing a dark blue Dallas Cowboys sweatshirt, gray and black shorts, and either black sneakers or green Crocs.

Meanwhile, the court has issued a warrant for Breer's arrest on charges of first degree aggravated domestic assault and resisting arrest, with a bail amount set at \$100,000.

Update on Saturday, April 10 at 9:35 a.m.

On Saturday morning, the Vermont State Police were notified that Theron Prescott III had returned home with his vehicle. Troopers spoke with Prescott

and verified that he was safe and unharmed. The extent to which his disappearance related to the situation involving Harley Breer remains under investigation.

Update on Saturday, April 10 at 2:55 p.m.

The search is continuing Saturday for Harley Breer, of Marshfield in connection with the assault of a neighbor on Folsom Hill Road that occurred on Friday evening.

Members of the public should consider Breer to be dangerous and not approach him if seen. Instead, immediately call 911. Anyone with other tips or information that might assist the search is asked to call the Middlesex Barracks at 802-229-9191, or leave an anonymous tip via the Vermont State Police website by visiting <https://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit>

Domestic Assault, Car Crash with Serious Injuries

On April 7, at 10:03 a.m., Troopers were advised of a domestic assault that had occurred in Marshfield. The victim called the State Police and advised her ex-boyfriend had assaulted her and he was still at the residence. Upon arrival and after meeting with the victim, troopers made contact with Malcolm Morillo, of Springfield, Mass., inside the residence. Morillo was placed under arrest for Second Degree Domestic Assault. Morillo was additionally charged with Violation of Conditions of Release and Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order. Morillo was transported to the Middlesex State Police Barracks where he was processed and was transported to the courthouse in Barre to appear in Washington County Superior Court Criminal Division.

On April 12, at 8:10 a.m., Vermont State Police received a report of a two-vehicle crash in the area of 1385 Vt. Rte. 14 in East Montpelier. Investigation revealed both Megan Maple, of Hyde Park, and Harold Patten, of Hardwick, were traveling south on Vt. Rte. 14. Maple was attempting to take a left-hand turn into a driveway when Patten passed her, crossing the double yellow lines. Patten lost control of the vehicle and collided with an embankment. Patten sustained serious injuries and was transported to Central Vermont Medical Center.

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

Honey

Continued From Page One

burgeoning food movement in Hardwick and wanted to join, she added.

“Honey Gardens was originally all medicinal products, but then he started making mead and wanted to make it bigger,” Light said. “Now, mead is not a very popular drink. So Todd, being the savvy businessperson he is, decided to distill the mead into vodka.”

This vodka distilled from raw honey would go on to set Caledonia Spirits apart from other companies.

“We started with the vodka and the gin, and we added honey to it because Todd adds honey to everything,” Light said. “The first two spirits we launched in 2010, we actually sold. We sold them to the Vermont Department of Liquor Control in 2011, and they became sort of our first distributor.”

Around this time, Ryan Christiansen began working on the Caledonia Spirits production floor. In 2015, Christiansen bought the company from Hardy and has been in charge since.

“Ryan’s great,” Light said. “He’s just a Vermonter who’s incredibly smart and passionate about brewing. He knows so much



courtesy photo

Caledonia Spirit’s Maple Vodka sources maple syrup from Farmhand Farm Maple in Plainfield for the distillation of their maple vodka.

Most spirit brands are owned by corporations, while Caledonia Spirits is the only independently owned brand that is competing on a bigger scale, Light added. Additionally, Caledonia Spirits is also unique in its commitment to its local community and in social justice, Light added.

“We’re very committed to paying our employees a livable wage and offering benefits. One thing we rolled out recently was giving \$75 to anyone who gets vaccinated,” Light said. “We really try just stay current with the needs of the people and the community.”

The company donates to non-profit organizations like the Peace and Justice Center in Burlington.

“We are making a huge impact with our donations. We’re generating over a \$100,00 in tips that go to all sorts of organizations,” Light said. “Right now, we’re donating to an

organization that raises awareness [in] mostly white communities about the issues people of color face and how we can support the brown and black people in our community.”

Caledonia Spirits also raises awareness about pollinators through the Bee’s Knees, a social media campaign, Light said.

“We do this campaign through liquor stores and restaurants,” Light said. “When people buy a bottle of gin and make a Bee’s Knees cocktail, they post a picture and tag us. For every picture, we replant 10 square feet of pollinator habitat, and we’ve been working with Bee the Change over in Vernon for that.”

Staying connected to agriculture is essential to the company’s ethos, and they remain committed to buying a lot of their ingredients locally and working with local farms. The company has sourced maple from Farmhand Farm Maple for its Maple Vodka and burdock root from Cate Farm for a burdock spirit, Light added.

“We stopped being the beekeepers, but we partnered with one of Tom’s longtime apiary friends and we buy basically 90% of his crops to use in the distillery,” Light said. “We’re also buying a significant amount of the winter rye that Todd grows to put into our whiskey production.”

In the future, Caledonia Spirits hopes to potentially join the Yellow Barn Project and make even closer relationships with their community, Light added.

“We haven’t committed 100% to the Yellow Barn Project, but we’re very close,” Light said, “We still have some details to figure out. But we really want to honor our roots, continue to build community and have a presence.”

Caledonia Spirits will also be hosting live events from the Barr Hill Distillery, which can be found at: info.caledoniaspirits.com/virtual-events.

“Since 2018, Barr Hill has started to emerge as Vermont’s number one selling gin. That is over Tanqueray, Bombay and all of these other big corporate brands in the spirits world. We’ve also gained great traction throughout the Northeast, Texas, Florida and California.”

about taking that fermentation to that next level.”

With both Hardy’s and Christiansen’s guidance, Caledonia Spirits has had massive success in both Vermont and outside the state, Light stated. Their Barr Hill Gin in particular has gained widespread attention, Light noted.

“Since 2018, Barr Hill has started to emerge as Vermont’s number one selling gin,” Light said. “That is over Tanqueray, Bombay and all of these other big corporate brands in the spirits world. We’ve also gained great traction throughout the Northeast, Texas, Florida and California.”

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Policing

Continued From Page One

the intervention of the Vermont State Police.

In December 1978, two incidents occurred at The Office, a bar at the site of the recently destroyed Flood Zone building on Wolcott Street. First, “one patron allegedly pulled a gun on another patron. The man with the gun was hit over the head with a beer bottle.” Next, a different patron was asked to leave by special policeman Ivan Renaud but refused, and Hardwick Town Police Chief Zeke Andrews and another officer were called in. “A fight broke out and Andrews received several injuries. He was bitten more than once, cut under the eye, and kicked in the groin several times. Andrews was taken to Copley Hospital for treatment and released later that night.” Chief Andrews was also the part-time police chief for Greensboro.

The town called a hearing, and The Office again lost its liquor license. Just one month earlier, its license had been suspended “after hearing testimony about a 13-year-old boy tending bar.”

Hardwick Village formed a commission in May 1979 to run the police department. Joining the town and village police forces was considered, but the commission’s legal authority was limited.

Hardwick Village trustees had no authority over the town’s police force, either, and the only police cruiser belonged to Chief Andrews. Options included having the Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department taking over policing, or a citizen patrol that the commission reportedly described as “vigilante” groups.

The Hardwick Gazette reported in October “[Hardwick Town] Selectman Wayne Shepard said that the town and village police have lost the respect of the community.”

Caledonia County’s then-sheriff Russell Lowery said the county would offer less coverage for the town’s budget and only provide coverage in Hardwick village if the departments merged. The Vermont State Police said it would only step in if the village and town departments dissolved, and the service would be short-term.

At the end of October, Hardwick Village Police Chief Michael Lauzon resigned to avoid being fired for an incident described as “conduct unbecoming” and “the straw that broke the camel’s back” after years of ongoing complaints of roving bands of “youths” and burglaries, plus his own off-duty conduct. Lauzon said policing village and town would require “six full-time men, two cruisers, and an operating budget of around \$75,000 [\$288,000 in 2021 dollars]

to provide adequate protection.”

Zeke Andrews was to be replaced as Hardwick Town Police Chief after being denied a leave of absence starting in December, though Greensboro opted to rehire him when he returned in the spring.

At a policing discussion between Hardwick Town and Greensboro, Greensboro Selectman Sig Lonegren “expressed some skepticism about turning over local police coverage to the Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department, and said he was not happy with the idea of having the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department cover the town of Greensboro.” He was quoted as saying “I think the Orleans County Sheriff’s Department is getting too big for its britches.”

Then Cabbage Night and Halloween of 1979 “almost exploded into a full-fledged war between the merchants and the street people on Halloween night,” the Hardwick Gazette reported in an article entitled “Merchants and vandals come close to ‘war.’”

“For two nights last week Hardwick’s business district was turned into a combat zone by a roving band of Halloween vandals, and only strong State Police intervention prevented a riot on Halloween night.”

The night before Halloween, “even though there were three or four local policemen and two deputy sheriffs in the village ... [t]he window of Hill’s Trading Center [on South Main Street, a portion of what is now Scale House] was broken again, and a bullet was shot through the front door of Chase’s Refrigeration and Appliances Store [in the present Gohl Block on South Main Street]. A rock was thrown through a window on one side of the Merchant’s Bank [the brick building next to Brochu’s Citgo on Mill Street]. Most of the windows along Main Street were soaped up, and obscenities were written everywhere.”

The Gazette reported that “two young women walking towards Main Street were forced to turn back by a gang throwing eggs. Special Policeman Steve Young had his truck damaged by kids kicking it, and he had rocks thrown at him.”

According to the article, the incident “that created the most animosity occurred around 9 p.m. in front of the parking lot of Pete’s Family Market [the present Hardwick Village Market on Mill Street].” Pete Clark was driving in front of his own parking lot “when a youth jumped out front of his car. When the car stopped, a rock was thrown at it, causing damage to the roof. Clark and the other occupants got out... another youth came up behind Baum Michaud



Hardwick Gazette archives, April 22, 1980: Hardwick’s new town Police Department in April 1980 (left to right): Police Chief Don Stubbs, George Brierley, Brian Ingalls, Roger Marcoux, acting Greensboro Police Chief Steve Young, and dispatcher Gloria Massey.

and held a knife at his throat. The youth allegedly threatened to kill Michaud if Clark and the others did not leave his friend alone. The youth allegedly jabbed the knife towards another man who had come out to investigate the situation.” The Gazette later clarified the knife-wielding “youth” was 20 years of age and was released without bail on personal recognition to the reported frustration of State Attorney Dale Gray.

“The situation was made more dangerous by the presence of 50 or more high school students and young people who had come down Main Street to watch the action. Young people were seen with chains and tire irons, and at least one merchant carried a revolver.”

An emergency meeting the next day included local police, Town Manager Ernie Laird, the Caledonia County State Attorney, the Caledonia County Sheriff, and representatives from the Vermont State Police and the Vermont Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Laird “told the meeting that the local police ... had been unable to control the situation.” The Vermont State Police were called in, including officers from as far away as Brattleboro.

According to the Gazette, on Halloween “as early as 6 p.m., kids began throwing eggs and exchanging threatening words with merchants. [A]round 7:30 p.m. things went sour. The Hardwick police cruiser was totally covered with eggs, and many eggs were thrown inside the vehicle.”

Vermont State Police “quickly headed off a riot with an impressive show of force. At one point 11 cruisers and 15 state troopers were lined up along Main Street and Mill Street.”

The Gazette reported that “the village trustees and town selectmen were called to witness the events of Halloween night.

‘A lot of people lost their cool,’ Selectman Art Williams said, ‘If the cops hadn’t been there, some of those kids would have been in the river.’ Many merchants feel that the vandalism has gone on long enough. ‘If the police can’t stop them, we’ll do it ourselves,’ one merchant said.”

Hardwick Area Youth Services Group director Rick Geisel said he found himself in the middle of things and “it is important to provide recreational opportunities so that kids don’t turn to vandalism out of boredom.” Geisel had been advising kids at the youth center to avoid confrontations with merchants who might consider them “troublemakers,” and “I tell them that it has gotten to the point where a kid could soap up a window for the first time in his life, and a carload of people could jump out and bash in his head.” According to the Gazette, Geisel said that “some of the kids in town are very hostile towards the merchants. Their response is, ‘well, if they jump us, then we’ll jump them.’ They feel they are being harassed.”

Further north in Greensboro Bend, “a group of young people” gathered “after dark, and covered houses with eggs, breaking some plastic windows. Tires and bales of hay were set on fire, and the police cruiser was also hit with eggs. [A] bonfire was built in the middle of the road. [T]he coals from the fire melted the pavement and created a hole about six to eight inches deep over 40 to 50 feet, according to [Chief] Andrews. Fire Chief Dave Brochu reported that the volunteers had eggs thrown at them as they put out the fire. ‘The heat was on down in Hardwick with all the police there, and it drove some of them up to Greensboro Bend,’ Andrews said. No arrests were made.”

Policing

Continued From Page 5

By that Friday, two days later, Hardwick had only Town Police Chief Andrews left on duty. The trustees “voted to dissolve the village police department and turn over the equipment to the town for \$1.”

Chief Andrews had already planned to leave for Florida in December and even the dogcatcher, who had joined police in his role as constable in trying to suppress the mayhem, resigned. Vermont State Police and the Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department took over. Pete Clark was quoted in the Gazette as saying “there has been some talk about forming vigilante groups in town.”

According to the Gazette, consensus started to crumble over what to do next.

The budget for a proposed combined force was seen as too high for residents to approve. Town residents blamed village citizens for most of the trouble, no one wanted to foot the bill for more policing, and the police commission had no authority. Former Hardwick village special police officer Steven Young



Steve Young

photo from Hardwick Gazette archives

reportedly “decided to quit the night before Halloween” after attempting to write a ticket when “a gang of about 20 people began closing in on him.” Greensboro hired him as its police chief. Laird became Hardwick town’s acting

police chief.

On Christmas Eve, two stores and Hardwick Elementary were broken into. Laird “warned that Hardwick is getting a reputation as an ‘open town’ now that is covered on a part-time basis by the State Police and Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department.”

In February 1980, the town hired Lamoille County Deputy Sheriff Don Stubbs for its chief. He was tasked with “putting together a new, expanded town police department.” Its starting budget of \$73,500 (\$282,789 in 2021 dollars) included Stubbs and three full-time officers. Stubbs said at the time: “in the beginning, that won’t be adequate.” Stubbs promised full-time coverage, which was not 24-hour policing but always having an officer on call. “We will put together the highest concentration of enforcement where the problems are. I will be making an effort to have the entire town patrolled and feel the effect of law enforcement.”

He appealed for public support and said “I can only be as effective as the townspeople will allow me to be.”

Part of his plan included enlisting citizens as confidential informants, and “pointed out that a person who shouts obscenities at a person passing on the street can be taken to court on a disorderly conduct charge [if] the victim is willing to sign a sworn statement.”

Greensboro Chief Young was to be deployed in May 1980 and the Hardwick Gazette reported at the end of April that former chief Andrews “does not want his job back.”

Greensboro’s select board told Hardwick it “wants Hardwick to provide police protection... and have offered to pay the salary of a fifth full-time member of the Hardwick Police Department,” \$15,400 total (\$59,251 in 2021 dollars), including that salary for coverage through the end of the year. Hardwick would also get Greensboro’s police cruiser. Hardwick’s select board approved the arrangement on May 1, 1980, to include 48 hours per week and rotating officers in. HPD’s ten officers on duty in Hardwick and Greensboro kept the peace on that year’s Cabbage Night. “Eggs were confiscated from one car,” the Gazette reported.

Future

Continued From Page One

discovery phase and finalize its report. But during its March 31 meeting, committee chair Duncan Hastings abruptly resigned, effectively disbanding the group.

According to official minutes, Hastings and committee member Diana Osborn disagreed about the content of Hastings’ draft report, with Osborn believing “there were a lot of subjective comments mixed in with factual information.”

Hastings wanted the content in question moved to an appendix. Osborn expressed concern about a report Duff and Harkins would be required to “rubber stamp” based on the work of others. Harkins said he agreed and wanted to do more research on the findings.

According to the meeting minutes, “Duncan [Hastings] said he has no interest in providing a report that is comprised of five or six different members’ opinions. If that is the path the committee wants to take, he will resign tonight. He is not willing to be associated with something he thinks contains some factual errors. Diana [Osborn] is leaving on a trip so there is some urgency to get this done. He has taken it about as far as he wants to.”

The minutes say Hastings resigned shortly after that. “He doesn’t feel the committee is making reasonably good progress. He said he doesn’t want the work he drafted used in conjunction

with the committee’s report and he does not plan to submit his work independently.” Osborn said she “doesn’t think the committee necessarily has to submit a report, but she thinks it would be a disservice to the select boards not to.”

That was the situation that Wolcott’s select board faced on April 7, with the law enforcement committee in tatters and a nearly quarter century, three-town partnership for law enforcement in question.

According to chair Linda Martin, Wolcott, Hyde Park, and Johnson have coordinated closely on law enforcement since the 1970s, starting under Lamoille County’s then-sheriff Gardner Manosh. The sheriff’s department has since then provided police service for Wolcott residents, though recently citizens have raised questions about coverage and responsiveness.

Duff said bluntly that “it seems the committee is defunct” and wondered what to do. “We should pursue whatever is in Wolcott’s best interests, and the committee, -- I don’t know that that’s important to us any longer. Hardwick has lost a contract with Greensboro, and it seems that they may be open to making an offer to us that might be in our favor,” he told the board.

Vice chair Kurt Klein said that while it was “unfortunate” the committee disbanded, “I don’t think we should disband our efforts in understanding what is in Wolcott’s

best interests. I think there is a lot of work yet to do.”

Klein suggested reviewing the unapproved material and statistics offered by former chair Hastings and weighing options, including the Vermont State Police, Hardwick, and Morrisville for law enforcement services. “I think it’s just in our best interests to really pursue what opportunities are out there and equally important what the deliverables are there — what does the town of Wolcott really need from law enforcement, and who can best serve that?”

He later returned to the subject and said, “I don’t know that we have that with [the] sheriff right now, I have not seen any document that really clarifies what the deliverables are from the sheriff’s department.”

Duff said that “the state police are only going to come when you have a serious incident. If somebody complains their car is missing from their driveway, it’s not going to be at the top of their list.” He said he would be willing to approach Hardwick and Morrisville for an offer.

Duff said that, based on his own experience as a first responder, in any major incident all the agencies would show up. “I hate to use this word, but ‘nickel-and-dime’ [incidents], husband and wife who are arguing and fighting and somebody to needs to come out, that’s what we need coverage for,” he said.

Chair Linda Martin said a major concern raised to her by residents was speeding. Klein said that, as he understood it, the focus was “traffic control, physical presence, visibility. That is very important, being able to respond to day-to-day activities that are required from policing. Good access and some efficiency.”

Martin said that the town’s emergency manager Ryan Bjerke expressed interest in the committee, but the board had already appointed Duff and Harkins. She wondered if the three could get together and start working on a plan while coordinating with town administrator Randall Szott. Both agreed, and Szott said another person had expressed interest and he would contact them.

Klein was in favor of moving forward with a group that was “Wolcott-centric” and said, “We don’t know where Johnson and Hyde Park are going to go after this resignation.”

Duff asked if anyone had approached Morrisville and Martin said that in the past “they’ve been kind of like ‘we don’t need you,’ but maybe things will be different [with a new administrator being hired].” She added, “I really respect their chief of police, he does a good job.”

The board approved continuing exploring options for Wolcott. Duff and Harkins will work with Bjerke on progress to address the town’s law enforcement needs more directly.

Warm Weather Signals Changes in Wolcott

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At its April 7 meeting, the Wolcott Select Board addressed several items that have come up with the arrival of warmer weather.

The road crew is grading roads and is changing to a 10-hour, four-day work week. Plans for a community garden are afoot and the recreation committee is eyeing several projects now that the expectation is that COVID will be tamped down enough for a more normal summer season. The board is still trying to get past the damage from the Halloween Storm of 2019, and a relatively new agency introduced itself to the board.

The ongoing efforts to get easements for Brook Road allowing a culvert continued to be a thorn in the sides of road commissioner Lucien Gravel and board chair Linda Martin. To avoid paying a significant amount for a surveyor, the two have tried to devise a solution with no formal experience in surveying. No historical survey exists, so they have guessed, and guessed wrong three times, as to who owns a corner of one piece of unmarked property which the easement would cover. “I don’t like spending the money, but in the interests of the town we should spend the \$6,000 [for the surveyor],” Gravel said. Even if he managed to extrapolate from a rough map, he said “I’m not a licensed surveyor, it would not hold up in court. There’s no pins to measure off of.” The board moved to hire the surveyor.

Town administrator Randall Szott described attending some webinars and his meetings with the state and Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). He also said that he had information that the early figures of American Rescue Plan funds for Vermont’s towns may be low because the federal government built those figures off of the assumption of an active county

government, which Vermont does not have.

The Lamoille Area Health and Human Services Response Command Center (LAH2S-RCC)’s Greg Stefanski and Emily Rosenbaum introduced the organization to the board. The organization was founded early on in the pandemic to address food insecurity, housing, employment, medical care, and substance abuse exacerbated by COVID. The group wanted the board to know about its availability to the residents of Lamoille County.

Keen Gillen of the recreation committee said that the committee has a slate of improvements planned. Among those are the School Street ball field and the planters being re-deployed to the nascent community garden.

While inactive last year due to COVID, the athletic association also plans to use its appropriation this year for projects. The ball field project will need to have sod removed and replaced with sand, which Gillen expected to cost roughly \$1,000. He also proposed moving the planters previously stationed around the post office to the town offices or around the community garden. Gillen said that if the projects it is planning do not absorb its entire budget any remaining funds could go to the community garden.

That garden is in the works and the board approved \$790 to purchase eight raised beds and six yards of soil so it would be good to go once planting season starts. The garden’s chief advocate and architect, Deborah Klein, expounded Monday night on much more dramatic impacts this garden could achieve if the AARP Community Challenge Grant application succeeds, describing a project that would complement the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and could potentially prove transformative for Wolcott Village. Szott cautioned the board at a subsequent meeting that the grant had not yet been awarded and these discussions were, in his opinion, premature.



courtesy photo

Steve and Noah Sweet of Steve’s Electric in Craftsbury work on the electrical upgrades to the Caledonia Grange #9 in East Hardwick.

Grange Completes Electrical Upgrades

EAST HARDWICK – Caledonia Grange #9 has just completed electrical upgrades to its historic 1909 Grange Hall in East Hardwick.

The work was done by Steve Sweet of Steve’s Electric in Craftsbury. The electrical work was funded with a Cultural Facilities Grant from the Vermont Arts Council, and assisted by a Preservation Grant, made possible by a partnership between the Freeman Foundation and the Preser-

vation Trust of Vermont.

These necessary upgrades are the first step in a multi-phase plan to make this historic building an accessible and safe community center for performances, workshops, community meals, and agricultural events.

The next projects will be to replace the roof and to create a fully accessible entrance to the main hall. Contact easthardwickgrange@gmail.com for more information, or to find out how to get involved.

NOTICE TOWN OF HARDWICK HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Town of Hardwick Public Works Department will be conducting hydrant flushing during the week of April 19 - 23. Flushing will begin at North Main Street. All hydrants in the Village will be flushed. If you experience dirty water, please let your faucets run until the water clears. If you have any concerns, please contact the Town Manager’s office at 472-6120.

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Urie Named Librarian at Simpson Memorial Library

EAST CRAFTSBURY -- The board of trustees of the John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library selected Kristin Urie to lead the institution as it begins its next century of service to the community.

Urie brings experience to the librarian position. She is presently the librarian at the Albany Public Library, where she undertook a revitalization project in 2018. She has served many local organizations, including Craftsbury Saplings, the Craftsbury Community Care Center, and the Albany Community School. She is a resident of Albany, where she shares a farm with her husband and four children. She received her BA degree from Brown University.

“I am delighted and honored to be joining the Simpson Library as librarian in its hundredth year of serving the community,” Urie said. “As I learn about the history of the library and discover the incredible collection here, I am so grateful to the librarians who have come before me, especially Sherry Urie, who cared for and developed the library collection over the past 35 years, her predecessor Arline Daniels, and library founder Jean Simpson, whose dedication and creative spirit still live on in our community. The library was created to be a place to gather, a place where you could learn, be inspired, and have your world expanded, and a place that supported the activities of local organizations. This is the foundation we are building upon and

the history we are leaning into as we reopen this spring.”

The J.W. Simpson Memorial Library was established in 1921 by Jean Simpson, in what had been the old Simpson family store. Simpson named the library after her father, whose legal career took him to New York as founding partner of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, a leading international law firm to this day.

Her cousin, Mary Jean Simpson, said at the time, “It is still the old store. The difference is that now instead of food and clothing, it is dispensing ideas and ideals.” Over the years, Jean Simpson built a collection of books and provided educational services and activities for children. The library served as a community center, housing meetings and providing access to the technologies of the day, such as record players and radios. Glass cases filled with interesting artifacts and a frequently used ping-pong table have defined the character of the library for many years. After Jean Simpson’s death in 1980, librarians Arline Daniels and Sherry Urie honored her work until the library temporarily closed a year ago due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Simpson Library and the Craftsbury Public Library have entered into a collaborative agreement that will allow sharing of a common online catalog among the two Craftsbury institutions and the Albany Public Library. This will make the Simpson Library collection accessible to the entire area.

A grant from the Vermont



courtesy photo

Susan O’Connell (left) and Kristin Urie work together at the J.W. Simpson Memorial Library.

Community Foundation as well as generous donations from local private donors have made it possible for the Simpson Library to benefit from the expertise of Susan O’Connell, librarian at the Craftsbury Public Library, in digitizing and organizing the Simpson collection.

“Craftsbury is very lucky to have two excellent and complementary public libraries,” said

O’Connell. “I am excited to be working with the Simpson Library to strengthen the collaboration between our two institutions. Our library collections each have their strengths, and by working more closely together we can serve the community even better in the future.”

The Simpson Library expects to reopen its doors soon. Until then, free outside Wi-Fi is available.

EDUCATION

Students Named to President’s List

JOHNSON-LYNDONVILLE – The following students at Northern Vermont University in Vermont were named to the President’s List for the fall 2020 semester: Emmett Avery, Emily Tallman and Brook Watsula, Hardwick; Zayda Kellogg, Marshfield; John Foster, Wolcott; Macy Molleur, Woodbury.

Students who achieve a 4.00 semester average are named to the President’s List.

BIRTHS

Bright Juniper Roberts

A daughter, Bright Juniper Roberts, was born to Ailynne Adams and Gabriel Roberts, of Craftsbury, on January 25 at Copley Hospital.

The Hardwick Gazette



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cabot/Agri-Mark to Launch Line of Snack Products



Vermont Cheese Products, Inc.'s first offering using Cabot's cheese.

WAITSFIELD – Alpine Summit Capital Partners (ASCP), a Vermont-based private equity firm launched in 2018 to leverage brands' value into new categories, is investing in a new company, Vermont Cheese Products, Inc. (VCPI). The first license by VCPI covers a line of specially-branded consumer snack products under the Cabot brand, held by Agri-Mark, the dairy cooperative with more than 800 farm family members.

VCPI will produce an array of high-quality products that align with Cabot's legacy as "Makers of The World's Best Cheddar." For Cabot, VCPI will initially focus on Cabot-branded boxed macaroni and cheese, popcorn, and potato chips. According to VCPI Chief Executive Officer Adam Farmer's assessment and reason for the license is the potential he and his partners see to grow Cabot in the snack food category.

"Many of today's best-selling consumer snacks are cheese-based products. But no other snack food brand in the US, especially on the East Coast, has the consumer affiliation nor the B Corp certification we found with Cabot," Farmer said. "In fact, many popular snack food brands do not even contain real cheese at all. All of our products are made with the exact same, award-winning cheese that has made Cabot a household name. Working with Agri-Mark/Cabot opens up a world of possibilities to produce unique flavors combinations and

healthy snacks that do not require refrigeration."

Farmer noted VCPI will align their product offerings with Cabot's award-winning cheeses by first introducing Cabot Seriously Sharp Mac & Cheese, followed shortly thereafter by Cabot Seriously Sharp, Pepper Jack, and Maple Cheddar popcorn flavors. Additionally, VCPI plans to introduce Habanero Cheddar, Spicy Jack Cheddar, and Smokey Bacon Cheddar popcorn flavors, along with other unique flavors in the coming months. There will also be seasonal variations such as Apple Pie Cheddar Popcorn in the fall. Farmer noted that, "The use of new flavors will continue to cause excitement around the Cabot-branded snacks."

Agri-Mark Board Chair James 'Cricket' Jacquier saluted the latest license adopted by the board of directors, "to introduce more consumers to Cabot in the snack aisles and to more parts of the country. Our farmers have invested heavily in our brand, plants, and equipment with our team members. Licensing is a way our farmers' brand value can add a new income stream."

According to Alpine Summit advisor Jeffrey Hollender, co-founder of Seventh Generation, "We're thrilled to collaborate on several exciting line extensions for the Cabot brand, beginning with the introduction of Seriously Sharp Mac & Cheese that is just now hitting select stores in the Northeast," Hollender said. "Cabot has been an amazing and iconic brand for more than a century and represents everything that is wonderful about Vermont and cheese. We're especially grateful to the 800 hard-working Cabot farm families that make all of this possible."

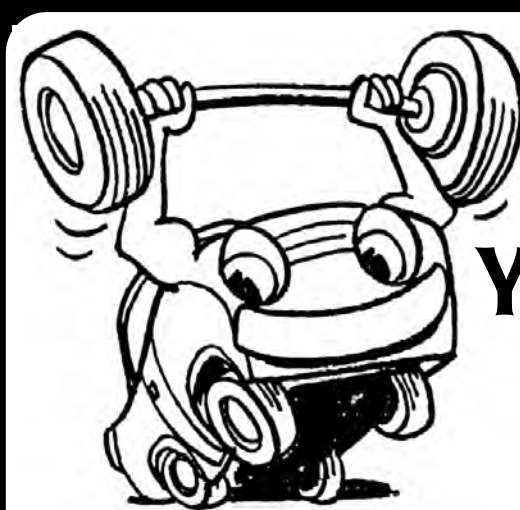
Farrell Distributing of Vermont, which is the exclusive distributor of the product line throughout the Green Mountain State, is also an investor in VCPI. "We are thrilled to be a part of this exciting new chapter in Cabot's proud history of delivering world-class products to their many loyal consumers who have grown up enjoying the World's Best Cheddar," said David Farrell, president/CEO of Farrell Distributing. "Like Cabot, Farrell is deeply rooted in family, community, quality and a commitment to social responsibility. These shared values make our relationship with Cabot and VCPI all the more exciting for us."



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Librarian Sally Gardner continues to get the new Wolcott Community Library on 46 Railroad Street ready to open. She has been offering curbside service since January, Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. - noon. She plans to open in person for up to five patrons at a time in April. Local residents helped to design and renovate the interior of the depot building. Gardner has been the librarian in Wolcott for 37 years.

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Energy Committee Revs Up Two Winter Programs

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Energy Committee is gearing up for next winter with a second firewood project and rejuvenating its Window Dressers Window Insert Program.

The committee implemented a successful firewood project last year to help families in need; the window insert program was placed on hold due to COVID-19 during the 2020 winter season.

The second of two firewood bee sessions was held Saturday and brought 13 volunteers together to cut, split, stack, and deliver firewood. The first session brought an equal number of volunteers. Volunteers in both sessions ranged in age from high school students to retirees. Twelve cords of log-length firewood were cut. To date, nine families will be aided, with some families helping in the program; the project is geared to Craftsbury residents.

Energy committee chair Kevin Gregoire spearheaded the program with assistance from Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery in locating wood from sustainable forestry practices. Gregoire said people may contact 802-281-4432 and reserve a cord if they feel they will have a hard time buying firewood for next winter.

The wood was secured

through a community grant that select board member Susie Houston had helped to expedite. Gregoire said that Sterling College students spent three days on their own splitting four cords of the wood. All equipment used for the project was donated. On Saturday, four wood splitters were in operation.

The firewood assistance program was first implemented last year, and Gregoire hopes it can continue. He said the plan is to keep it going and was particularly gratified to “see younger folks getting involved.”

The committee’s window insert program, put on hold last year, has been reopened. The inserts insulate the inside of a window with a 1-inch by 2-inch pine frame that is wrapped with 3M plastic on both sides, with a three-quarter inch expandable foam rim around the outside edge. The inserts are designed to fit snugly into the inside window frame, creating two additional insulating layers with semi-air tightness. Windows are each measured specifically, and the insert frames then cut to the exact measurements.

Volunteers from Albany, Craftsbury, and Greensboro are collaborating on the project. Gregoire said that the window measurements are done in the summer. Members of each community will do the measurements in their own community.



photo by June Pichel Cook

The Craftsbury Energy Committee’s Firewood Bee drew a dozen volunteers on Saturday morning to cut, split, and stack firewood to serve families in need. Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery (left) wields a chain saw while Mabel Houghton (right) handles wood and Anders Hanson hauls large chunks ready to be split.

Precise measurements are taken electronically by trained volunteers; the data is electronically forwarded to Window Dressers in Maine where the window kits are cut to the specifications. Volunteers from the three communities and recipient homeowners will meet in October to assemble the inserts.

Gregoire said measurements will begin in August in Craftsbury.

The average cost per insert is about \$38. If needed, a grant is also available to cover some of the costs. Up to 10 free inserts can be obtained through the grant program. Efficiency Vermont is offering a \$100 rebate if a homeowner buys three inserts.

If interested, please contact craftsburyenergycommittee@gmail.com or call 802-281-4432

“So far, so good” for Cabot Trails Committee Hub and Spoke Trail Network



photo by Chuck Talbert

A Cabot Recreation Trails trail marker points the way on the Talbert farm.

by Maggie Lee, UVM Community News Service

CABOT—Chuck Talbert, chair of the Cabot Trails Committee, took a break from checking his sap lines to talk about the committee’s “hub and spoke” plan. Once implemented, the plan would connect Cabot’s village center with a network of trails across the town and plug the local trail system into

the regional Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and the state-spanning Cross Vermont Trail.

Talbert volunteered his farm to run as a pilot project for the larger network. The trails on his land run through the farm’s sugar bush along paths that Talbert packs down with an ATV.

Over the winter, Talbert says, “we’ve had some traffic up at the farm; it was actually a little

surprising.” Every weekend there would be a few cars in the parking lot, an encouraging sign for Talbert.

Talbert and the committee envision bikers and hikers (in the summer) and snowshoers and skiers (in the winter) enjoying the trails, which are laid out in a network that connects the village center with surrounding ridges and scenic views.

Talbert said that “Wherever you ride from the village, it’s uphill and that may not be everybody’s cup of tea.” The plan hopes to address individual terrain preferences and be accessible to all trail users by incorporating several parking areas so users could park a car at the bottom of a ridge and then drive a second car to the top. The trails will be open to any non-motorized use, excluding horses.

Trail systems like this have been popping up all over Vermont as a strategy to revitalize downtowns and villages across the state.

Faith Ingulsrud, a former planner for the Vermont

Department of Housing and Community Development emphasized in an email that, “These bike and trail initiatives that link villages are an amazing resource for rural Vermonters – both improving the quality of life for people living there and offering visitors unique and wonderful opportunities to head out on foot or on a bike.”

Currently, the big lift for the trails committee is obtaining landowner permission to use abandoned Class Four roads that cut through private land. “These kind of rec trails are going to be totally dependent on the goodwill of private landowners,” Talbert says, adding that they already have permission from several landowners. He has heard through word of mouth that others are less open to the idea.

Talbert wants to assure landowners that the Cabot Trails Committee will not push anyone who doesn’t want trails on their property saying, “We’re just not going to go there, we don’t want friction.”

See TRAILS, 11



courtesy photo

The trail map shows pilot trails on the Talbert farm.

Trails

Continued From Page Ten

Talbert is excited for the final vision to come to fruition, but is cautious of what he calls “growth issues.” He referenced Kingdom Trails, a large trail network for mountain biking in the Northeast Kingdom, and their struggles with landowner permissions as they’re visitation has grown.

But Talbert is optimistic for Cabot. He believes that the benefits of having these trails are well worth the effort. “It’s such a new thing for us. We’re hoping to have the cooperation of as many local landowners as we can. So far, so good.”

To learn more about Cabot Trails Committee’s hub and spoke plan visit cabotvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Cabot-Trails-Master-Plan-August-17-2020.pdf.



photo by Tyler Molleur

This spotted salamander emerged in the Mackville area earlier this week. As the warmer temperatures thaw out the vernal pools, many amphibians, including salamanders, make their way to bodies of water for breeding season. Most crossings are seen on cooler, wetter nights. Drivers are encouraged to be alert for salamanders crossing busy roadways.



photo by Brittney Heffermehl

Several positive COVID-19 cases have been confirmed at Danville School this past week.

Recent Spikes in COVID Cases Lower in CCSU Schools

by Brittney Heffermehl, UVM Community News Service

this past week.

DANVILLE – The Barnet and Danville schools have found that the number of positive COVID-19 cases have varied among schools in the last week. The increase in cases is mostly confined to students, with a single transmission outside of students and staff.

Tucker pointed out that protocols for testing usually only occur when persons are experiencing symptoms or may have had close contact with an infected person.

These recent cases have been reported within the last seven days by [the Vermont Department of Health](http://the.Vermont.Department.of.Health). The report contains all positive cases in Vermont schools districts and communities and are updated weekly. The most recent report of [K-12 learning communities](http://K-12.learning.communities), from April 7, shows a spike in positive cases that total six positives in both Barnet Elementary and Danville School. The schools in the district include those from Cabot and Twinfield.

“Testing and positive case rates are linked, but of course not everyone who gets tested turns out to be a positive case,” said Tucker.

Mark Tucker, superintendent of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (CCSU), says that they have only had two confirmed transmissions in the last year among all seven schools in the district. Caledonia County is better off than many other counties in the state. Southern Vermont counties like Rutland have not had the same luck. The Rutland Supervisory Union adds to the state’s total, with just under 20 cases, while the Quarry Unified Union School district, which includes the towns of Proctor and Poultney, reported over 10 cases in this fiscal year alone. The Lamoille Unified Union district follows in suit with just one new case at the Stowe middle school and three new cases at Peoples Academy

Students who have tested positive are sent home to quarantine. A COVID-19 PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test is required for anyone to return to campus, assuming that the result is negative and the person has no clear symptoms. Tucker confirmed that, in almost all cases, close contacts also tested negative. During quarantine, students’ classes switch to a remote status.

“We have only had one instance where we had to close an entire school,” Tucker says. This was due to an uncertainty on a Sunday afternoon with contact tracing a couple months ago at Waterford Elementary. The school was closed for a day and reopened on Tuesday. Cabot School was also among those identified as having in-school transmissions, Tucker added.

The district will continue to follow state protocols and guidance from the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education.

“I trust that they will continue to be guided by the science and current conditions,” says Tucker. He hopes things will improve as the states opens availability for persons under 16 to receive the vaccine.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Libraries to Offer Comics and Poetry Workshops for Youth

HARDWICK – On Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m. join cartoonists Dan Nott and Daryl Seitchik for a workshop about using comics to explore the topics most important to you!

Dan will be talking about the comic *This Is What Democracy Looks Like*, which uses drawing to visualize the many layers of our democracy and how we can be more involved. Dan and Daryl will also be giving a tutorial on how we can use comics to express ourselves and the issues we care about, like fighting for equality and increasing awareness about climate change.

On Wednesday, May 5 at 7 p.m. join local poet and writer Tousseint St. Negritude to find your voice on important issues through words. This project will culminate with youth submissions to create their own comic book or “zine,” which will be printed at Spark and

given to each participant. This community engagement project will be available to browse at each participating library. Each participant will also be able to pick up a copy of the CCS comic “This Is What Democracy Looks Like” from their local library.

This opportunity is geared for youth ages 10-16 and is free and open to all, with thanks to a generous grant from the CLiF foundation.

Please contact your local librarian to sign up for the links to these workshops and to get your free CCS comic “This Is What Democracy Looks Like.”

Pam Kennedy (Barton) pamkenn@gmail.com; Toni Eubanks (Glover) toni.eubanks@gmail.com; Emily Purdy (Greensboro) greensborokids@gmail.com; Diane Grenkow (Hardwick) jeudevinyouthlibrarian@hardwickvt.org.



photo by M. Billingsley

The choice of soups is arranged for pickup at the March bagged supper.

Bagged Community Supper on April 27

PLAINFIELD – The bagged community supper will be serving the public on April 27, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church.

Participants can expect a variety of precooked soups and take out items from which to choose, as well as side items such as bread, a choice of baked dessert, and an apple. All meals are free.

Marshfield’s Onion River Food Shelf at the Old Schoolhouse Common will provide the balance of the bagged meals to participants in Marshfield the following day, Wednesday, April 28, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Grace Church door and the Old Schoolhouse entrances are both handicapped accessible.

Participants are asked to wear masks, to choose from the menu

outside, and then to pick up at the side door of the church, observing a six-foot distance while waiting outside to get meals. Each meal bag serves two people.

Community Supper Support Group (CSSG) volunteers are careful with sanitizing, masks, and gloves to prevent any illness or contamination as the meals are assembled.

In addition to two local household sponsors this month and space provided by Grace Church, bread for the meal is donated by the Red Hen Bakery in Middlesex and the main meal soups are prepared and provided with significant discount by Joe’s Kitchen in Montpelier.

Leave a message at (802) 454-1203 (before that Tuesday) for more details or to contribute for future meals.

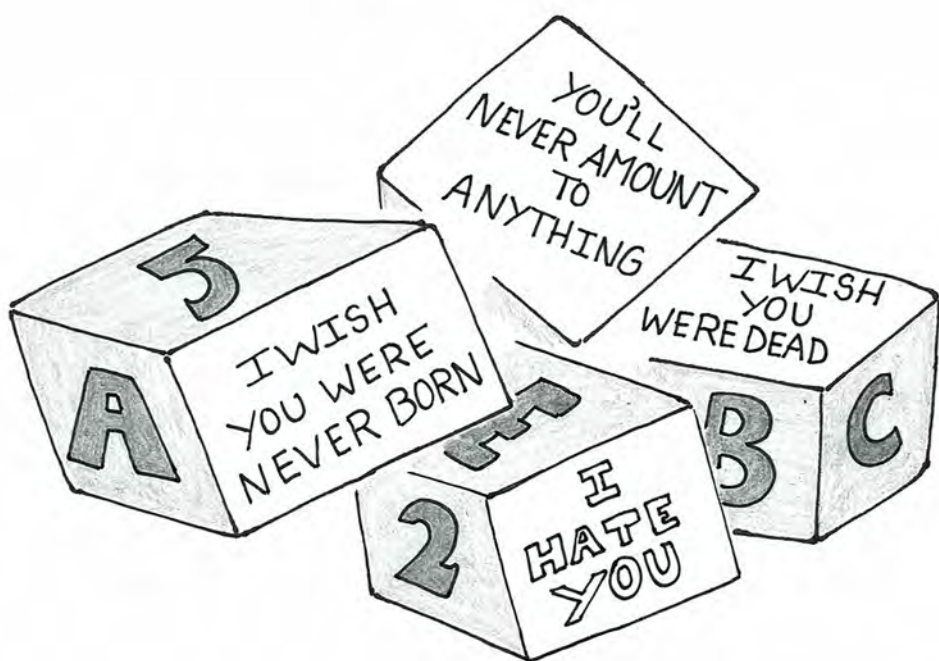


photo by Vanessa Fournier

This picture overlooking Caspian Lake in Greensboro was taken on April 9.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood

APRIL
IS
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH



“PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE CAN LAST A LIFETIME! THE BEST ADVOCATES IN THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE ARE THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES.”

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.

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**

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA STEVENS SMITH

MONTPELIER – Patricia Stevens Smith, 93, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 3, at the Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin.

She was born on September 12, 1927, in Hardwick, the daughter of Glenn and Myra (Jenne) Stevens. She attended Hardwick schools and graduated from Hardwick Academy in 1945.

On June 24, 1949, Patricia married her life-long love and companion, Wendell Mason Smith. Sadly, Mr. Smith predeceased her in 2001. Pat and Wendell enjoyed a rich life with friends and family: attending auctions, snowshoeing, attending events at the Montpelier Elks Club, and being at their camp on Lake Elmore. She and her husband enjoyed escaping from the Vermont winters to southwest Florida, where they would look forward to visits from family.

Patricia worked as subscription editor for Vermont Life, and held a variety of positions with the State of Vermont Department of Employment Security and Department of Human Services.

Her greatest focus in life was her love of home and family. She loved decorating her home on Center Street with her various auction antiques and finds, as well refurbishing and refinishing sentimental family items.

She enjoyed cooking and spending time with her children and grandchildren at her Lake Elmore Camp, creating a special place for each child and grandchild. Pat nurtured her friends and family with her comfortable surroundings, her cookies, her baked beans, and strawberry



Patricia Stevens Smith

shortcake. Camp was and will always be a special place for family. Christmas Eve on Center Street was a magical time with flaming candles, punch bowls, and lobster casserole. Her family will always remember the love and care she put into these events.

Survivors include her children: Wendy Smith Lucas of Barre, Sandra Smith Thompson and husband Jim of Montpelier, Steven Andrew Smith and wife Dawne of Barre, and Scott Mason Smith and wife Karen of Berlin. Her grandchildren include Adam Hudson and wife Janet McLaughlin of Burlington, Jonah Hudson of Williamstown, Ashley Elizabeth Hudson and fiancé Marc Rishforth of Essex Junction, Sarah Lucas Green and husband Kyle of Barre, Jared Lucas and partner Jennifer Miller of Barre, Chelsea Smith and fiancé Zachary Fournier of Utah, Shannon Smith of Barcelona, Spain, and step-grandchildren Whitney and Derrick Mann. She

also leaves nine great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her only sibling, Almont “Buster” Stevens who, in their later years, enjoyed taking her on rides on Vermont back roads in exchange for a batch of cookies, loaf of bread, and affectionate banter.

Pat’s goal was to live out her life in her own home, which she was able to do with the support of neighbors, friends and family who transported, visited, called, cleaned, delivered food, and checked on her frequently. Her family is grateful for all the love and support she received to achieve this.

Services will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the UVM Cancer Center. securelb.imodules.com/s/1690/19/interior.aspx?sid=1690&gid=2&p-gid=945&cid=2080.

Those wishing to express online condolences may do so at guareandsons.com.

PHYLLIS RACHEL LARRABEE



Phyllis Rachel Larrabee

MONTPELIER – Phyllis Rachel Larrabee died April 7, at the Heaton Woods Residence in Montpelier. She was buried Thursday, April 8, in the Beth Jacob section of Green Mount cemetery in Montpelier.

Donations in her memory may be sent to Emile Sawyer, 810 West Manhattan Ave., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. A complete obituary will appear at a later date.

KEN ATHERTON

MARICOPA, Ariz. – Ken Atherton, 69, passed away on April 5, at home in Maricopa. He was born on October 11, 1951, to Myrtle Reil and Kenneth Atherton in Hardwick.

Ken grew up on a dairy farm on Branch Road in Craftsbury. He moved to New Hampshire for a number of years to start his career. He returned to Craftsbury, where he enjoyed visiting with his neighbors and friends.

Ken is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Susan; his son, Donald Atherton; his siblings, Shirley and her husband, Don Nelson; and Larry Atherton and his wife, Linda; his grandson,



Ken Atherton

James; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his brother Woody and his sister Kerry.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

A view from Lauredon Avenue in Greensboro April 9 on a picture-perfect spring day.

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, April 15

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 16

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

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

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

Saturday, April 17

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

Monday, April 19

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 week-

ly 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 20

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 21

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.

LETTERS FROM READERS

What is the Common Denominator?

To the editor:

Why are three cops needed to stop a 20-year-old man for having an air freshener hang from his rear-view mirror? The cops had the car's license plate number and could have found him at his house and given him a word to the wise for the not uncommon practice. Certainly, cops had little trouble finding the people who smashed their way into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, threatened death to legislators and then-Vice President Mike Pence, destroyed and stole property, and killed a cop. The cops didn't shoot anyone that day. A cop had an "accidental discharge" of her gun this week, according to the chief of police in Brooklyn Center, Minn. An air freshener? An accidental discharge? The man is dead!

Why did two cops in Windsor, Va., pull over a new vehicle for not having plates when the temporary plate was plainly visible in the rear window? The cops pepper sprayed the man, a military officer who was in his fatigues, put him on the ground and handcuffed him. They released him with no charges, but allegedly threatened him if he reported their behavior.

That was in December 2020. His lawsuit against the cops and the town was made public this month.

Why did Barre cops not do more, or at least let the public know they were actively investigating the unexplained disappearance of a man, a year ago this month? The man is missing. The public might offer tips to his whereabouts or about what happened to him.

Why did George Floyd die after a Minneapolis cop put his knee on his neck last May and pinned him to the ground for about nine minutes, while two other cops watched and Floyd was face down with his wrists in handcuffs? Floyd was alive when he was put down and had stopped breathing when the cop stood up.

Being Black is the common denominator of the four men. Two are dead, one is missing and maybe dead, and the fourth is lucky he isn't.

Some people say All Lives Matter. That's true, but all lives won't matter until all lives matter. All lives will matter when more than white lives matter.

Black Lives Matter.

Ross Connelly
Hardwick

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Greensboro Development Review Board Warning

The Greensboro Development Review Board will conduct a virtual hearing on Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m., on Zoom. They will consider a request by the Highland Center for the Arts to amend Condition #5 in HCA's Conditional Use Permit of 2014. Condition #5 states: "Performances and events conducted on the site will not utilize sound outside of the structure." There will be a socially distanced site visit on Saturday, May 1, 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](https://zoom.us)), then at 7 p.m., on May 3, go to Zoom and click on: join a meeting. The meeting number is 856 0114 8791. 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, 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 greensborovt.org.

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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Retreating into Simplicity, Suspicions or Conspiracy Theories

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The older you get, the more you know. And the more you know, the more you realize how pitifully little you know.

I don't mean just the mysteries of, say, medical, chemical, psychological, financial, political, and physical frontiers. I mean everything.

The print media are like whiskey distillers: They crank out their stuff faster than any of us can consume it. That, coupled with our recently enhanced skepticism of almost anything we read, can render a lot of information seem to be a shifting cloud that occludes the clear blue sky of factual information: What or whom can we believe anymore? This may be why so many of us, unable to live with uncertainty or to process nuance, retreat into simplicity, suspicion, or conspiracy theories.

We read this week that a proposed hotel and parking garage will not be built, at least for now, in our capital city, thanks mostly – apparently – to the persistent objections of residents with a view of a more attractive riverbank, perhaps like San Antonio's famous River Walk.

The state's teachers are up arms (figuratively for now) over the poor performance and sketchy future of their pension fund. Widening the lens from there, we read about the threatening anomalies in Vermont's heretofore excellent performance against the COVID-19 virus; phosphorus pollution threatening Lake Champlain; summertime bear-hounding and recreational trapping threatening our native wild animals; climate change and another dry year threatening everything from the sweetness of maple sap to our crops and water wells; the threats go on.

If I were young and considering a career in what was once called public service, I'd first have my head examined (another antique expression).

The most disturbing political piece I read this week, looming like a dark cloud over the idiotic bashing of Asian-Americans, opined that the leaders of China believe the West (which includes, most prominently, us) is in irreversible decline, and are rushing to capitalize on it. That little sentence, out of all the hundreds I read this week, has stuck like a burr in my consciousness. Are they

right? And what might be leading them to such a conclusion?

There's no doubt our dominance is being tested. Russia has annexed Crimea with little but finger-wagging from the United States and is about to try the same in Ukraine. The military rulers of Myanmar have abandoned any pretense of democracy, are slaughtering protesters, and daring the rest of the world (that includes us, too) to do something about it. China has annexed and destroyed the institutions of Tibet; tightened its autocratic coils around Hong Kong in violation of prior agreements; clearly has its sights on Taiwan; and has established in far-west Xinjiang a Communist state whose rigid controls would turn Josef Stalin or Erich Honecker green with envy.

Americans have been, at least since World War II, conditioned to run for their shotguns at the mention of Communism. We've been conditioned to fear it like the Devil incarnate. It's less about its ideology, which few Americans understand, than what it morphs into – autocracy. One of the best descriptions of that process is in Amor Towles' brilliant novel "A Gentleman in Moscow." Revolutionary committees, as batty about purity of thought as any Spanish Inquisitors, rapidly impose it upon everyone and root out, execute, or exile those they deem tepid or recalcitrant.

If you have an hour this week to read, get hold of "Ghost Walls," a lengthy article by Raffi Khatchadourian in the April 12 issue of New Yorker. It describes in excruciating detail the experience of a young woman from Xinjiang trapped in the labyrinth created in her homeland by the Chinese government. Her long, Kafkaesque imprisonment and reeducation begin when an airport official takes her passport into a back room for consultation. It's "1984" incarnated, but with inspectors (called "family members" when they come for tea at people's houses), microphones, and cameras everywhere, all connected to a supercomputer that recognizes and records ethnic features. Just as in the late, unlamented East Germany, everyone is afraid to step out of line and threaten the main goals of the central government: conformity and "stability."

And what are we doing about all this? Well, we're discussing a boycott of the 2022 Olympics; we're arguing over an arcane political tactic called the filibuster; and we're enacting laws to keep undesirables from voting. No wonder the People's Republic thinks we're in irreversible decline.

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COVID Vaccination Clinics



Tricia Follert of Wolcott rolls her sleeve up for her first dose of vaccine given by Copley Hospital's Andy Duff, RN at a recent 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

Thursday, April 15	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:00pm, 2nd dose
Wednesday, April 21	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:30pm, 2nd dose
Thursday, April 22	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:30pm, 2nd dose
Wednesday, April 28	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:30pm, 2nd dose
Thursday, April 29	7:00-10:15am; 1st dose	10:45am-2:30pm, 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

IN THE GARDEN

How What We Grow Helps Our Feathered Friends

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – By now, birds are finding their own food and have less need for that sunflower seed we have been providing during the cold days of winter. So, what can we do to help our birds as they go into the season of having young? Growing native trees and shrubs on our property can be a huge help to our bird friends.

Let me explain. It is not enough to put out birdhouses, we need to help birds find food for their chicks. The diet of baby birds is about 90% composed of caterpillars. Caterpillars, the larvae of Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies), are high in fat and protein that developing birds need to grow and be healthy. One clutch of chickadees can, according to entomologist Doug Tallamy, a PhD researcher from the University of Delaware, consume 6,000 to

eat what was available to them. It's as if they learned to eat things the way we learned to eat Brussel sprouts.

Although caterpillars eat the leaves of our native plants, they rarely damage or defoliate their host plants. Tent caterpillars and a few other imported species will defoliate trees, but that's rare. It's just that most of us never notice the little holes chewed in the leaves that are supporting the caterpillars.

In fact, I rarely notice caterpillars in the trees and shrubs at all, but our bird friends certainly do. They evolved along with the caterpillars and are genetically programmed to recognize them and bring them to their young, even birds that are seed eaters.

As Dr. Tallamy explains in the book, not all native plants are created equal. Some native species may only feed a few varieties of caterpillars. Some, like



courtesy photo

Bird houses are nice, but we need to do more for our baby birds, including growing native plants.



courtesy photos

Leaf litter and native plants are better under a tree than lawn.

9,000 caterpillars in the 16 days from hatching to fledging. And most parent birds continue to feed their chicks even after they have fledged.

In Tallamy's new book, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*, he explains that not all trees and shrubs are created equal. Those that evolved alongside the butterflies and moths are palatable to them. Those that were imported from Asia or Europe mostly are not of interest to them.

Most woody plants create toxins or bad-tasting chemicals to keep all sorts of animals from eating them, but caterpillars have developed ways to eat most native tree leaves: they have adapted to

our oaks, feed many hundreds of varieties. These keystone species are critical to supporting our wildlife. Five percent of the native species support over 70% of our Lepidoptera, according to Tallamy.

So what plants are best to feed the caterpillars that support our birds? According to Tallamy's research, native oaks, cherries, willows, birches, poplars and elms are best, and goldenrods, asters and perennial sunflowers "lead the herbaceous pack." The National Wildlife Federation's Plant Finder website (nwf.org/NativePlant-Finder) allows you to enter your zip code and see what plants are best for your zone, and how many pollinators are served by each.

Tallamy did a study in Portland, Oregon, and found that

of 1,176 trees he identified on the streets there, 91.5% of them were from other continents or ecoregions, mainly Asia. What does that mean? Portland is a pretty city with lots of trees, but it is largely a wasteland for caterpillars that feed our baby birds. The birds need to nest where they can get food for their young.

If you wish to improve your landscape and plant native species that will support wildlife, think about reducing lawn size. Tallamy explains that there are 40 million acres of lawn in America, an area the size of New England. Thirty percent of our water is used to water lawns, and 40 to 60% of all fertilizer ends up in our waterways and drinking water, he wrote.

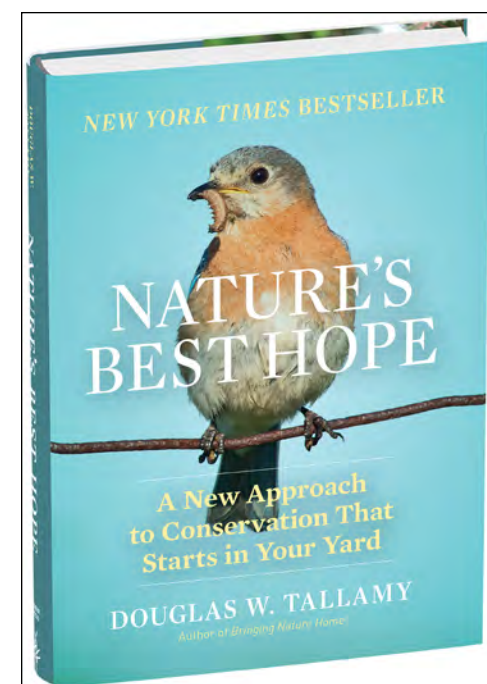
Doug Tallamy proposes that we all join him in creating a "Homegrown National Park", by reducing our lawns by 50% and growing native plants. This will create wildlife corridors and improve our environment in many ways. The plants will sequester carbon in ways that lawn does not. It will help to save endangered species of insects and birds. It will reduce pollution of our air and water. Who could argue with such an idea?

According to one study, in newer housing developments lawn covers about 92% of space not covered with driveways and buildings. If we were all willing to reduce our lawns and add trees, shrubs and native perennials, that would make a big difference in helping to reduce species extinction of Lepidoptera, birds and small mammals. It does not require eliminating lawn, just reducing it. Think of lawn as area

rugs, not wall-to-wall carpeting.

What else can you do to help our birds? Add a water feature. Even a small pool with a re-circulating pump will attract birds, especially migrating birds that need water and food for their long journey.

Instead of lawn, add native ground covers. Lawns



courtesy photo

Nature's Best Hope.

get compacted by lawnmowers, making it difficult for caterpillars and native bees to burrow in the ground. Most caterpillars pupate in the ground or in leaf litter, but lawns are not suitable. Other than honeybees, most bees burrow into the ground or into decaying wood to lay their eggs and hatch their young.

I love the idea of us all of linking our properties together to support our butterflies and bees. You can go to homegrown-nationalpark.org to register your property as part of this movement.

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TOWN FIRST CONSTABLE

The Town of Greensboro is looking to appoint a Town First Constable. Applicant must be 21 years old and have a valid driver's license and a functioning vehicle. This is a volunteer position. Please call Kim Greaves at the Greensboro Town Clerk's Office at 802-533-2508 or email at town-clerk@greensborovt.org.

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The Town of Stowe, seeks its next Highway Department Superintendent. Responsible for the leadership, direction and supervision of the Highway Department, which operates, maintains and repairs approximately 95 miles of Town Highways, 25 bridges, three miles of sidewalks, related stormwater systems and miscellaneous facilities. The position requires an advanced understanding of the principals, practices and techniques of highway maintenance and construction and the ability to work well with a diverse group of people including the general public. The position also requires on-call availability, after regular working hours, for emergency response typically associated with severe weather events or natural disasters.

A high school diploma or equivalent and ten years minimum of experience in highway/site construction and/or maintenance with a minimum of five years of experience in a supervisory capacity, or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job is required. Must possess a valid Vermont driver's license. A working knowledge of VTDEC Municipal Road General Permit requirements would be highly desirable.

This is a full-time exempt position with excellent benefits which currently includes health, dental and disability insurance, earned time off and retirement plan. The starting salary is anticipated to be \$74,892 to \$84,292 depending on qualifications and experience.

A job description and employment application can be obtained on our website: www.townofstowevt.org. Submit employment application, letter of interest, resume and contact information for 3 references, - c/o Susan Moeck, P.O. Box 730, Stowe VT 05672 or email townhall@stowevt.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Stowe is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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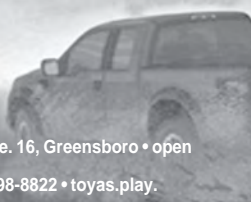
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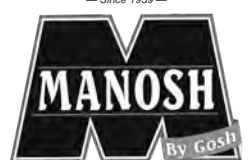
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SPORTS

Twinfield Athletes Practice for Spring Competition



Twinfield players (from left) Delaney Fowler, Zari Elliott, Kayla Green and KimLinh DeBona wait to bat during practice April 8. Their first game is scheduled at home against Peoples on April 22 at 4:30 p.m.



Hunter Clark catches during the Twinfield Trojans practice last week.

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Softball players Maddison Duke (left) and KimLinh DeBona (right) of Twinfield practice on the Burt Hodgdon Field Thursday.



Christin Martin, a 2014 graduate of Twinfield, is the new softball coach for the Lady Trojans.



Twinfield's Alex Dufresne (left) waits for the ball as Liam Lyman-Leas reaches first base during the teams practice April 8. Their first game is scheduled for April 22 at home against Peoples at 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS



Ava Purdy throws a discus during track & field practice at Craftsbury Academy Friday.

Spring Sports Practice Begins at Craftsbury Academy

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Jeff Tucker is the new track & field coach at Craftsbury Academy. He demonstrates how to throw a discus.



Cole Van Winkle (left) and Linden Stelma-Leonard (right) throw a discus during track & field practice Friday at Craftsbury.



Craftsbury track & field coach Raleigh Goessling (left) demonstrates block starts to Rachel Bjerke (center) and Anika Leahy (right) during practice last week on Dustan Field.



Rowan McLellan (left) and Calvin Cacciamani (right) practice playing lacrosse April 9 at Craftsbury Academy.



Coach Nate Van Gulden (right) throws a ball ahead of Dalton Gravel during a drill during lacrosse practice last week in the World War II Memorial gymnasium. At left is Cole Van Winkle.

SPORTS



courtesy photo

A young Craftsbury Academy softball team looks forward to a new season: (front row, left to right) Sage Sweeney, Sadie Skorstad, Alexis VanDyk; (second row, left to right) Savannah Boyce, Ariana VanDyk, Hazel Graham, Natalie Dunn, Rachel Bailey; (back row, left to right) Asst. Coach Joel VanDyk, Adeline Gillespie, Amelia Eagan, Sophia Augsberger, Ella Gillespie, Alana Ulrich, Jessalynn Gravel.

Lady Charger Softball Full of Optimism

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) softball program was reintroduced as a club sport in 2019 after a nine-year hiatus and will officially return to varsity and junior varsity competition this spring under head coach Ashley Gravel.

The effort to retain and revive the athletic programs at CA continues under athletic director Gabriela Silva and it will be on full display in a couple weeks with a young and athletic Lady Charger softball team.

Gravel made strides with the program in 2019, generating interest in the sport and ultimately playing an abbreviated club schedule with surrounding junior varsity teams. Gravel, a softball diehard, played for Lamoille at the high school level and continues to play in competitive leagues in the summer once or twice a week.

COVID-19 cancelled Vermont spring sports in 2020, but it didn't stop Gravel from staying

in touch with her players virtually and keeping their interest for what she hopes will be a big year for the program in 2021.

“Last year was tough for everyone and I feared that a year away from the sport might stunt all of the growth and interest that we created amongst the girls at the school. I got five or six girls to meet me virtually once a week last spring and it was a great way to stay in touch and bond. I would give them drills to work on at home and we would talk about it the following week. It was a great display of dedication and we are already seeing the results in improved fundamentals in practice the last couple of weeks,” said Gravel.

Efforts are paying off so far as 14 girls have come out for the team as they work towards getting 10 practices in before the start of the season.

Juniors Natalie Dunn and Amelia Eagan are the only upperclassmen on a team rounded out by five sophomores, four freshman, and three

eighth graders. The Lady Chargers will play a mixed schedule of varsity and junior varsity competition. They were scheduled to start the season next Tuesday at Blue Mountain, but will now travel to Lake Region on April 28 for their season opener.

Gravel hasn't named captains yet, but she likes the positive attitudes that she's seen in practice and sees a young and talented team that is hungry to improve.

“We are young still, but this group of girls are very athletic and dedicated to getting better. They are tight knit, support each other, and are extremely coachable. As you move up in competition it is essential that you find a consistent pitcher, so we are still working hard on that, but overall there just aren't as many glaring weakness in this team that we saw two years ago when we restarted the program. If this group continues to work this hard, they have the talent to be a force and we are super excited to start the season,” said Gravel.