

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Volume 132 Number 18

HED Settles Lawsuit Against Auditors

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – In a press release, Hardwick Electric Department (HED) announced that it has settled its five-year lawsuit for professional malpractice against St. Albans-based auditors Kittell Branagan & Sargent LTD (KBS) for \$960,000.

KBS was HED's auditor from 2006 through 2010, during which

time former employee Joyce Belavance embezzled \$1.26m from the utility. Bellavance embezzled \$1.67m in total from HED, the release said, which reports at the time described as the largest-known government embezzlement in Vermont history.

In its release, HED said that in the ten years since Bellavance's sentencing "HED recovered assets worth over \$700,000 from Bel-

levance [sic] including luxury vehicles, furniture, jewelry, IRAs, and her Mackville Road home in Hardwick." HED also successfully sued for half of her municipal pension. The utility said that the lawsuit against KBS was "the last of these efforts" to recover the stolen moneys.

General Manager Mike Sul-

livan said in an interview, "HED and our Board of Commissioners could not be happier with this settlement, primarily because it makes our ratepayers 100% whole for all the monies stolen by Joyce Belavance – but also because it brings final closure to what has been a very long ten-year process."

See LAWSUIT, 3



courtesy photo

Joe Young (left), once a little leaguer, and Mark Royan work on the Craftsbury Little League ball field on the Common in preparation for opening day on Saturday, May 15. Craftsbury Little League has been organized again after a hiatus of decades.

"Play Ball" Heard on the Common for the First Time in Ten Years

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The Common will be filled with excited children, cheering, and lots of laughter on Saturday morning when the Craftsbury Little League holds its opening game at 10 a.m. It has been a decade or more since young athletes played ball on the Common.

Commissioner April Royan said the Craftsbury Little League

is under the aegis of the Hardwick Area Little League and has four teams. Over 60 children, almost evenly split between boys and girls aged 4 to 12, signed up in 72 hours.

On Saturday morning, former Red Sox Pitcher Bill "Spaceman" Lee, will be umpiring. The Craftsbury Academy Middle School Chorus will open the proceedings with the national anthem. School Board chair and president of

See BALL, 4

Emergency Broadband Benefit Now Available

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced that starting today people can register for its Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, which is aimed at helping people better afford broadband service during the pandemic.

Customers of EBB-participating providers who qualify are eligi-

ble for an up-to-\$50 per month discount on services and up-to-\$100 one time discount for the purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet "with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50 through a participating broadband provider."

In this area, Charter, Comcast/Xfinity, and VTel Wireless are

See BROADBAND, 3

Hardwick Budget Tightens After Contract Cancellation

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The pandemic's ripple effects and Greensboro canceling its contract with the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) have created financial concerns for the town.

Vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane wanted to assure residents that losing the Greensboro contract would not result in higher taxes. Chief Aaron Cochran said, "without drastic changes, I think we're looking at the rainy-day fund or COVID money." The latter are funds the town will receive from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The amount of the funds and parameters for how it can be used are unclear.

Chief Cochran said he wanted to "keep the coverage that I feel is

See CANCELLATION, 2

Hazen Union Announces Graduation Date

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Hazen Union has announced a date and initial plan for the Class of 2021 graduation ceremony. The ceremony is slated for June 12, at 10 a.m.

The school will set up a large tent on the soccer field, and graduating seniors will receive two tickets for family members to join them under the tent. The school is not limiting attendance for others, but noted: "there will not be seating or coverage from any unexpected

See GRADUATION, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hardwick Elementary third grade teacher Stephanie Appleton (right) listens as Nathaniel Leach (left) reads a story during Educating Children Outdoors time May 7.

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Cancellation

Continued From Page One

really important and still maintain 24-hour coverage." He said he thoroughly reviewed the department's budget and found nothing to cut. HPD is down two officers after one left for another agency and another deployed. A third officer will leave soon for basic training. Chief Cochran said he would not ask his officers to work shifts alone, as it might hurt the town's ability to recruit.

As for the town's budget, business manager Casey Rowell said revenues were "on track at this point." A milder winter than usual saved some money on road salt and overtime. The outlook will become clearer after May 10, when water and sewer bills are due, as currently \$57,000 of those are delinquent.

Jeudevine Library board chair Jodi Lew-Smith said that the trustees opened the bids for the library expansion on April 8 and experienced "sticker shock," with amounts 50% over what the library raised. Materials costs have soared due to shortages caused by the pandemic.

The trustees split the expansion plan into two phases to ensure that construction could start in 2021. Some funding sources require current-year construction, and a "big donor" recently pledged \$200,000, but wanted construction to begin this year. Lew-Smith noted there was "no guarantee prices are not going to keep going up." The contractor, Middlebury-based Breadloaf Construction, advised the library that it wanted to buy and store lumber now to ward off that possibility.

Lew-Smith said that the goal of Phase I is "to take out everything we can and still have a usable building." Phase II would seek "to have a building that we all feel really great about." While the library is aggressively fundraising, the immediate need is for Hardwick Town to sign a contract.

The revisions require the approval of one major funding source, and the library is still roughly \$200,000 short. Lew-Smith asked the board to operate with the expectation that the money will be found and proceed with signing the contract. "We're hard workers and we raise money, we just need faith to get us through this time crunch," she said. The board agreed to sign the contract.

Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC), represented by resident Ranny Bledsoe briefed the board on a "pretty long-shot grant" application from the Northern Border Regional Commission to correct some COVID-19 issues, as well as address energy efficiency.

The main focus of the \$350,000 application will be upgrading ventilation and air handling systems. Bledsoe said that "like many of the facilities, [the CCCC] realized they are at more risk than they thought they were." The CCCC will apply \$100,000 of its funds for a required match. The CCCC requested a letter of support from each town it serves.

The fireworks display is set to go forward. A major concern raised once more is that Hardwick is in a drought. If the fireworks display is not able to go forward for Memorial Day, suggestions were made to postpone festivities until the Hazen Union graduation ceremony or set off the fireworks over Hardwick Lake. Chair Eric Remick said the board and the town still wanted a show where it could "explode some stuff so we can watch it."

Board member Shari Cornish has been a proponent of porta-potties in previous proceedings. Their absence in the village had been "a problem in downtown forever," she said. There were more questions than answers regarding how much the facilities would cost, how frequently cleaning would occur, and locations.

Town Manager Shaun Fielder said, "Let's face it, when it's 90 degrees out, a porta-potty is not a pleasant thing to have next to a given location." Cornish said suggested the Peace Park as a possible location, or "the Poop Park," named for the waste left there by residents who do not clean up after their pets. Board member Elizabeth Dow suggested coin-operated facilities, which are common in Europe.

Dow also had an update of a more troubling nature. She said someone attempted to break into the Historical Society the previous night, but failed. Fielder said, "that's [intolerable] behavior. The police department is on notice."

The board also unanimously approved signing a resolution to apply for the Downtown Designation.

Graduation

Continued From Page One

weather and social distancing will be expected." If a thunderstorm warning happens, then only the two guests per student will be allowed and the ceremony will move to the auditorium.

Hardwick Community Television, as well as the school's YouTube channel, will live-stream the event. The school listed this year's graduation requirements as successful completion of required credits, a personalized learning plan and portfolio, 30 hours of documented community service, and students ensuring all school property is returned and balances paid.



May 12 - May 18

Craghoppers Insect Repellent Clothing for men, women & kids	Extra Tuf Boots back in stock	
Glutino Crackers or Wafers \$3.99 4.4-4.6 oz.	Raos Pasta Sauce \$4.99 24 oz.	Green Mt. Coffee \$5.99 12 oz. or 12 ct.
Dole Canned Pineapple 2/\$3 20 oz.	Food Club Beans 59¢ 15.5 oz.	G.M. Lucky Charms, Honeynut Cheerios or Cinn. Toast Crunch 2/\$5 10.5-12 oz.
Post Honey Bunches of Oats 2/\$4 13-14.5 oz.	Kellogg's Rice Krispies, Honey Smacks or Corn Flakes 2/\$5 12-15.3 oz.	Pringles Potato Crisp 3/\$4 5.2-5.5 oz.
Betty Crocker Assorted Fruit Snacks 2/\$4 4.5-8 oz.	Kleenex Facial Tissue \$1.79 65-144 ct.	Cabot Butter \$2.99 lb.
Planet Oatmilk 2/\$5 52 oz.	Yoplait Yogurt 10/\$5 6 oz.	Green Mt. Greek Yogurt \$4.59 32 oz.
Breyers Ice Cream \$3.49 48 oz.	Swanson Hungryman Dinners 2/\$6 16 oz.	Crav'n Pizza \$4.29 28.3-32.7 oz.
Calavo Avocados 79¢ ea.	Fresh Express 3 ct. Romaine Hearts 2/\$4	Maine White Potatoes \$2.99 5 lb.

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POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

May 3: Medical, Maple St.; Traffic Stop, Mill St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St./Lower Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Granite St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Lake Rd.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Hazard, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15.

May 4: Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

May 5: Theft – Automobile, Vt. Rte. 16; Welfare Check, Vt. Rte. 16; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St./Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

May 6: Alarm, Log Yard Dr.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 14; Assist – Public, Winnimere Cir.; Animal Problem, Vt. Rte. 16; Accident, Property Damage On, Vt.

Rte. 16/Vt. Rte. 14; Assist – Motorist, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Depot St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15/Vt. Rte. 16; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 16; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 15W.

May 7: Suspicious Event, High St.; Suspicious Event, Upper Cherry St.; Traffic Stop, Spring St.; Suspicious Event, Central St.

May 8: Medical, Hillary Dr.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Citizen Dispute, Hastings Ln.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15W

May 9: Accident – Property Damage On, Vt Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Breezy Ave.; Traffic Stop, Breezy Ave.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.; Trespassing, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, S. Main St.

Hardwick Police

Gross Negligent Operation, Unlawful Trespass

On April 25, at approximately 11:21 a.m., Police were notified of a traffic incident where Steve Shatney, of Greensboro, operated a tractor in a manner that was unsafe by turning sharply in the road crossing the yellow line two times and almost rolling the tractor both times. He was cited for Gross Negligent Operation.

On May 6, at 3:49 p.m., Police responded to 3148 Route 16 to remove Sheara Bryant, transient, from the property. Bryant was removed from the property and served a citation to appear in Caledonia County Court on June 28 for the charges of Unlawful Trespass.

On May 9, at 11:19 a.m., William S. Marlier, of Walden, was stopped on Breezy Ave. in Greensboro. Police issued a \$172

ticket for traveling at 48 mph in a 30-mph zone.

On May 9, at 10:56 a.m., Norit Demuth, of Hardwick, was stopped on Breezy Ave. in Greensboro, Police issued a \$185 ticket for traveling at 50 mph in a 30-mph zone.

May 9, 1741, Sheara Bryant, transient, had been given a No Trespass Notice and she violated it by being on the property. Police located Bryant down the road from the property and cited her roadside.

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 six survivors of domestic and sexual violence from April 25 through May 9. 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.

Broadband

Continued From Page One

participating. Consolidated Communications (previously Fairpoint) is not listed as a participant in the EBB program by the FCC, but does participate in the FCC’s “Lifeline” program.

Comcast said in a release that all tiers of service are eligible for the

up-to-\$50 a month discount, and those people already on its Internet Essentials Program automatically qualify and just need to enroll.

To qualify for the EBB program, the FCC set forth the following criteria, or which people must meet just one:

Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal

Vermont State Police

Overturned Mobile Home



photo courtesy Facebook and Paul Fixx

An overturned mobile home blocked the intersection of U.S. Route 2 and Vermont Route 14 on Thursday.

On May 6, at 1:58 p.m., the Vermont State Police Middlesex barracks responded to a report of an overturned mobile home in the roadway at the intersection of U.S. Route 2 and Vt. Rte. 14 North, in the town of East Montpelier. The operator of the truck pulling the home, Devin Poland, of Charlestown, N.H., stated the mobile home toppled over while he was turning west onto U.S. Route 2. The State of Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles assisted with

the investigation. Members of the East Montpelier fire Department assisted with traffic control until the incident was cleaned up. The roadway was reopened at approximately 3:45 p.m.

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.

Lawsuit

Continued From Page One

Previous legal efforts contributed significant monies toward making HED whole and the funds from the auditor settlement will first reimburse HED for all of its costs of recovery, including attorney’s fees and expert witness expenses. After paying these expenses the settlement will restore all the remaining uninsured financial losses HED suffered.”

Sullivan said the settlement will see an “immediate positive effect on our continuous effort to provide stable rates for our customers” and “it will definitely be utilized to push any rate increases further into the future.”

He said that another outcome might be potentially speeding up some of HED’s planned-for capital projects. “In the electric utility industry routine projects have costs which exceed \$500k, and a single piece of standard utility equipment can cost up to \$250k – such as a basic hot line truck. Therefore, HED will prudently evaluate where and how the settlement money will be spent to provide the greatest benefits to our customers.”

Bellavance’s actions were discovered in 2010. The December 15, 2010, Hardwick Gazette reported that, according to an FBI affidavit,

“Bellavance would use convenience checks from her personal credit cards to obtain significant cash advances by depositing those checks into her Merchants Bank account, and then use HED company checks to pay off the credit cards ... All in all, [FBI Special Agent Jennie McGlynn] Emmons stated, Bellavance wrote 267 fraudulent checks from the utility, for her personal benefit.” Her scheme was uncovered when a check “to Chase Card Services for \$12,051.46, was returned... because Bellavance forgot to sign it, and happened to be out of the office the day the check came back. An HED office employee noticed it, did some investigating, and all of a sudden Bellavance’s scheme unraveled.”

Bellavance was sentenced to 42 months in prison in January 2012 and ordered to pay restitution. Then-general manager of HED Eric Werner is quoted in the Hardwick Gazette as saying “the \$1.6 million she stole equals \$380 taken from each of HED’s 4,200 customers.”

HED sued KBS in 2016 for \$1.26m. The February 24, 2016, Gazette reported that HED’s Barre-based lawyer L. Brooke Dingleline of the firm Valsangiacomo, Detora & McQuesten, PC, alleged that KBS “failed to perform in accordance with applicable auditing standards for public utilities.”



courtesy photo

Craftsbury Little League coaches Sanjay Arcade and Ashley Nunery work on the backstop on the Common in preparation for the season's big opening game on Saturday, May 15.

Ball
Continued From Page One

Village Improvement Harry Miller will be throwing the opening pitch.

The Cubs, Red Sox, Orioles, and Cardinals are competing in the grand opening of Craftsbury Little League's revival. The t-ballers will play at 10 a.m.; the Majors vs. Minors at 11 a.m.

The teams include the Cubs (Majors, for ages 10-12), with 16 players and coaches Sanjay Arwade and Travis Reynolds; the Red Sox (Minors, ages 8-10), with 13 players and coaches Shaun Allen and Mark Royan; the Orioles (T-ball team, ages 4-7), with coaches Ashley Nunery and Cody Thompson; and the Cardinals (T-ball team, ages 4-7), with coaches Senta Augsburg and Tyler Pelland. There are 25 T-Ball

players between the two teams.

Saturday's grand opener features the Orioles vs. the Cardinals at 10 a.m. and the Cubs vs. the Red Sox at 11 a.m.

The season begins May 15 and ends June 30. Royan said that games are being scheduled with Hardwick, Morrisville, Stowe, Hyde Park, and Danville.

The revival of the games was spearheaded by Allen, Miller, and Royan working with volunteers to rebuild the field on the Common last fall in anticipation of Little League and T-ball players filling the Common again. Last fall, the diamond was rebuilt and a backstop was constructed this spring.

Royan said that 2020 with COVID-19 did not offer a lot of options for recreation and that was part of the motivation behind bringing



courtesy photo

Craftsbury Little League coach Shaun Allen and former Red Sox pitcher Bill "Spaceman" Lee work on the new ball field on the Common in preparation for opening day on Saturday, May 15. Little League has been resurrected after a long hiatus.

baseball back. The Craftsbury School Life Association and select board have been extremely supportive, she noted.

"I am really grateful," she said, "for this experience and the whole community coming together. It is really touching to see so many parents and volunteers come out."

For 25 years, Stuart LaPoint served as president of the youth organization that ran the Little League teams. He said the names have changed but that they had a Babe Ruth team, as well. "It's been a long time," LaPoint said, "but we had a lot of kids playing. We played Hardwick, Walden, and Greensboro. We played on the Common and behind the little school."

He said some of the coaches were Jim Masucci, Steve Smith, Randy Martin, Michelle Martin, Eve Moffatt, Rudy Chase, Jr., Judy Locke, and William Locke. Steve Jones and Bruce Martin (both deceased) were also deeply involved.

"I'm glad its back and alive," he said.

LaPoint recalled that Randy

and Michelle Martin took over after him, as well as Jodi Smith.

Eve Moffatt said she remembers her group of boys who worked hard and didn't mind that she was a woman coaching them.

"We had a good team," she said, and "ended up in first place."

When her son, Jesse, moved up to the Babe Ruth team, she moved up, too. Bruce Martin took over the Little Leaguers. Her daughter, Audri Miller, helped with keeping track of everything.

"It was a great time for me," she said. "I had a great team working with the boys. We would play a lot, games and practices."

There won't be beer and hot dogs Saturday morning, but there will be tee shirts and refreshments. Money raised will support the Little League and Craftsbury School Life Association.

Umpires are needed. Umpires must be over 12 years old and have a solid knowledge of baseball. Please e-mail april@decibels180.com to volunteer and lend support.

See ya' at the ball game!


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photo by Doug McClure

In Hazen's Recipe for Human Connection class, students (left to right, seated) Alex Applebee, Justin Bashaw, and Dylan Hafnaoui chop onions along with Reeve Basom of the Center for an Agricultural Economy (standing).



photo by Doug McClure

Students Dylan Hafnaoui (left) and Justin Bashaw (right) cut onions in Recipe for Human Connection class

Hazen Union Students Learn While Nourishing Community

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union class Recipe for Human Connection was in prep mode this past Monday for its weekly soup project.

The class serves several learning purposes, most directly in helping students to refine their cooking skills or gain new ones. The class also educates students on how to connect with their communities through food and cooking.

On Monday, the class worked on soup for the East Hardwick community meal. The aroma of onions filled the room as students chopped their way through piles of bulbs. Rose Friedman of East Hardwick, who helps coordinate the community meal attended the class.

The meals in East Hardwick are, Friedman said, “basically a mutual aid project out of the [Caledonia] Grange and with the help of the Greensboro Church.”

Friedman said that volunteers prepare soup to bring to the Grange where it is served to “whoever shows up. It’s a no-reservation, no-money meal for the community. Just a takeout, soup, and bread, and it’s not necessarily only for those who are food-insecure.”

In addition to addressing food insecurity, which the pandemic exposed and worsened in Vermont communities, the gatherings also help combat feelings of isolation.

“It’s also a social gathering space and a chance for people to meet each other,” Friedman said. “Last week we actually had some live music on the porch of the Grange. We have lots of donations: milk, eggs, whatever people have produced in their gardens. And you can also just hang out and visit a little bit with neighbors.”

Students of varying cooking abilities entered this course, she said. Alex Applebee said he had not done much cooking before this

class, and before the pandemic it hadn’t occurred to him to try. He became interested when the school went remote, and he sometimes found himself with “nothing to do.”

“I started cooking at home, and when a teacher came up to me during one of my study blocks and asked if wanted to join this [class], I said ‘yeah, I do.’” Applebee said he is now good enough that his family allows him to prepare meals like macaroni and cheese.

Student Dylan Hafnaoui said “My dad was a chef, good at cooking, and I used to like to cook with him. My grandfather also cooks, so I’m always around, cooking with him. I like to cook.”

Cameron Potter said she had been cooking for about four years now and enjoyed it, but the class opened up learning opportunities. “I’ve learned some new recipes, and I like learning about a bunch of new things,” she said.

Work-based Learning Coordinator Jen Olson, who co-teaches the class, said part of the curriculum involves a virtual cookbook to which students can contribute a recipe, whether it is from their family or one of their own favorites.

Hazen Union Librarian Sarah Keener used her expertise to find Book Creator, a platform for the cookbook project. Reeve Basom of the Center for an Agriculture

Economy, who also assists the class, said that each student gets virtual space in the cookbook for a “recipe and some stories about the recipe. And sometimes, they’re incorporating a variety of elements. Some are doing audio components, and some are doing photos or video.”

Applebee’s contribution to the cookbook is cinnamon-glazed carrot cupcakes. Hafnaoui said that after seeing his classmate’s apple crisp, he’d like to try making it for the cookbook.

Olson said that the class was a “more flexible approach to try and lift students up, create something in a year that has been really tough for young people.” Several students around the table said the skills they gained were valuable to them.

Olson said, “It’s nourished all of us this year in one way or another, and everyone’s been able to give a little.” Applebee emphasized one of the most important lessons: “Don’t rub your eyes after chopping onions.”

TOWN OF WOLCOTT NOTICE OF FINAL PROPERTY TAX INSTALLMENT DUE

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Wolcott Town and School District that the second installment of the 2020-2021 property taxes is due and payable in the Town Clerk’s Office before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021.

Payments may be mailed to the Town of Wolcott PO Box 100, Wolcott, VT 05680 or dropped off at the office in our locked drop box or you may come in person and knock on the door to make your payment during regular office hours.

Property taxes will be considered late if not received at the Town Clerk’s Office by the close of the business day. Interest and penalty charges will be added to any unpaid tax balances.

Postmarks will not be considered timely.

Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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Treasurer



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Dr. Katie Piet

May Town Meeting Draws Usual Number Of Voters

by Tyler Molleur

STANNARD – Any passing motorist driving along the Stannard Mountain Road on Tuesday may have been perplexed by the small crowd of 23 voters gathered in the driveway of the town clerk’s office, with chairs socially distanced and occupied by residents bundled in layers and grasping copies of their town reports.

In a rarely deployed solution to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the town decided to keep with its tradition of voting on articles from the floor and delayed its town meeting by two months to accommodate voters in an outdoor environment. The meeting had a

turnout similar to that in pre-pandemic years.

Moderator Tom Gilbert made opening remarks as he gaveled in the 2021 tradition, acknowledging the role community members have in continuing this tradition of democracy.

“It’s increasingly unique in the country,” said Gilbert of the in-person meeting, as he invited newcomers to volunteer for positions in town government. All positions up for election were filled.

Ben Hewitt is serving as the interim zoning administrator and encouraged anyone who thought the position may be a good fit for them to make their intentions known to the select board. The

zoning administrator, along with vacancies for justice of the peace and planning commissioner/zoning board member, are all positions the select board is required to appoint.

An amendment was made to Article Four, which discussed the salaries of town officials. Treasurer Regina Troiano observed that Town Clerk Connie Wither’s increased work to ensure mail-in voting went smoothly during the 2020 elections and suggested that her work be recognized moving forward.

“I thought the town clerk should get an election year bonus,” Troiano said. The voters unanimously agreed to add a \$500 stipend to the town clerk’s salary of \$4,000 for years that federal and state elections occur.

On the town budget, Joseph Gresser asked the select board to clarify the anticipated repairs. It was also noted that the town garage will need new windows. Troiano clarified that the \$1,700 budgeted for an upcoming re-appraisal will be added to the \$13,559.09 already set aside for reappraisal. The reappraisal will help to make the grand list more accurate, as recent property transfers have come in well over the 25-year-old appraised value.

Johanna Polsenberg, an EMT, requested an amendment to increase the appropriation for the Hardwick Rescue Squad from \$700 to \$850, which was accepted by the

voters in attendance. The amended \$65,414 general budget and the \$181,231.42 road budget passed unanimously.

In the town reports, Constable Warren Nott reported that most of his duties have centered around repeatedly asking community members to register their dogs. The town had 60 dogs registered last year after everyone was brought into compliance. This year, only 34 dogs have been registered thus far.

Nott also said he has dealt with increasing drug activity within the town, including reports of activity occurring at the cemetery just west of the Flagg Pond Road. He noted that the issue is beginning to impact members of the town significantly.

Diane Janukajtis of the school board reported that it was not uncommon for discarded syringes to be found on their road. Gilbert also mentioned the problem is not limited to the trafficking of drugs through town.

“A lot of the folks getting tied up are those from our community,” he said. Input is being sought from the Vermont State Police on the issue. Polsenberg suggested that the situation be treated like a neighborhood watch, so information can be forwarded to the proper authorities.

The meeting wrapped up in 85 minutes.



courtesy photo

Hank Glowiak of Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville presents Rodney Hartwig with the grand prize of the Craftsbury Community Care Center raffle, a Marin gravel bike. Hartwig bought two tickets after learning about the raffle through a newspaper article.

Morrisville Man wins Craftsbury Bike Raffle

CRAFTSBURY – Morrisville resident Rodney Hartwig has won the Craftsbury Community Care Center’s second-ever raffle fundraiser. Hartwig bought two tickets, one for himself and one for his mother-in-law. CCCC resident Fielda Calderwood drew the winning ticket - #176 – on Saturday, May 1. at the Care Center.

Hank Glowiak of Chuck’s Bikes in Morrisville collaborated with the Care Center on the Marin gravel bike and presented it to Hartwig on Tuesday, May 4. Hartwig learned about the raffle from a local newspaper article. While having no personal expe-

rience with the Care Center, he has friends in Craftsbury so “knew it was a great place.”

Hartwig said “You know, when you buy a raffle ticket you don’t expect to win – you’re just supporting a good cause.”

Care Center Board President Jane Marlin notified Hartwig of his win. “When I got the email, I had to check whether it was my ticket or my mother-in-law’s!” Hartwig said.

Hartwig and his wife moved here last year from Phoenix, Arizona and live near the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. They frequently ride it with their 11-year-old son.

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Jeudevine Falls to Open New Section

story and photos by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Bob Edebohls is expanding the access to the Jeudevine Falls on Route 14. The new section will include a bridge to a side of the property that has not been accessible to the public and, funds allowing, may also include an observation deck. He said the new area will almost double the amount of the property open to the public with relatively easy access.

Despite the Falls' size, many in the area still may not know they exist, Edebohls said. The lower falls drop over 100 feet and the upper falls are a cascade of smaller drops. Because of a visitor's suggestion in its early years, the property has seen considerable use as a wedding venue. Edebohls said he wants to raise awareness of the site's natural and historical significance.

The main fall itself is the fourth tallest in Vermont and the second widest, he said. His "labor of love" has been keeping the park as natural as possible. He has removed trees only when necessary.

The meandering path to the upper falls has a bovine backstory. "I followed the original cow paths," he said. "I figured if it was good enough for the cows, it would be good enough for us." The waterfalls are the most accessible in the state for people with disabilities, he said.

The waterfalls are more than just a daytime attraction. "This park is the only place in the world featuring two lighted waterfalls," he said.

The path leading to the new area is known as "Denny's Loop" in remembrance of long-time friend Dennis Bellavance. Edebohls opened the Jeudevine Falls to the public in August 2001 as a memorial to friends Lynn Hall, Kay Jerome, Ronnie Bellavance, Walter Garland, Bert Putvain, Norman Campbell, and Rick Eastman, all of whom died young, he said.

When Edebohls was growing up on the property, Hall died in a car accident in front of the falls on Craftsbury Road. He described the tragedy as a singularly awful moment in his young life. Edebohls said the park was meant to be his life's work. "I survived a [near] death experience before any of them died," he said of his late friends. "I [almost] drowned in the Atlantic when I was fifteen. So I always questioned, 'why was it I came back?' And I thought, maybe it's to honor these people and to turn this place into a special park because I knew what we had here was something special."

He said that some still consider him a flatlander, but "I

was carried into Hardwick when I was three months old." His family bought the property in 1955 and he grew up next to the falls.

"Every day, I'd climb [the falls], nobody ever told me not to, that it was dangerous," he said. When he returned to Hardwick to care for his ailing parents in the mid-1990s, he said the foliage was so dense "you couldn't even see the falls from a hundred feet away." He decided then to create the park to honor his departed friends.

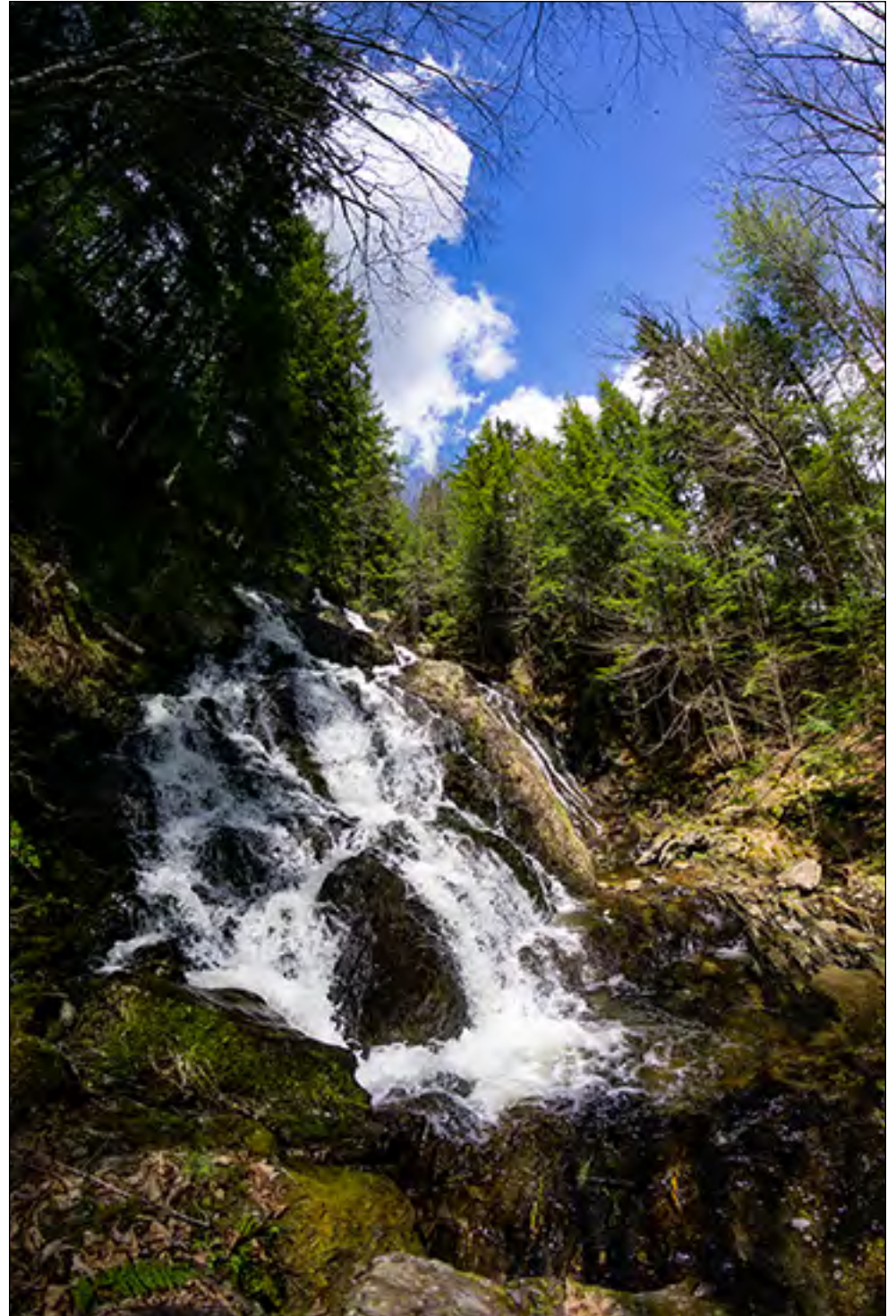
The property is steeped in the lore of Hardwick's early days. In 1839, it was part of a massive land tract owned by Alden Jeudevine, one of Hardwick's earliest settlers. Jeudevine was a Caledonia County Senator and vocal opponent of slavery. Part of the Underground Railroad crosses the property. Edebohls said when his family bought the dwelling in the 1950s there were doors leading into the crawlspace. Underneath the floorboards of an old, attached barn, his father found a rusted Civil War-era



Bob Edebohls

pistol which he donated to the Historical Society. The falls once supported a quarry and Edebohls suspects the circa-1840 house sits on a foundation made from stone quarried here. The property also housed a sawmill. Only a small section of stone wall survives from the original structures. Like most of the tract, the property was clear-cut in the late 1800s. As the trees returned, the falls remained out of public view and access until he opened it for everyone.

Edebohls' own lineage in Vermont traces to before it was even a state. His mother was from the Wheelock family which founded Wheelock and Calais. Peter Wheelock's daughter married into Hardwick's Bridgman family, for which Bridgman Hill is named. Edebohls said he is also a descendant of Christopher Fisher, for whom the Fisher Bridge is named. A miniature version



The tallest single section of the Jeudevine Fall is the lower section, which has seating and a gazebo at its base.

of that bridge sits in the park.

If all goes to plan, the new section should open when he completes the bridge across the falls. Edebohls is contemplating a special dedication or plaque to the friends who inspired the project, he said. He referred to the new section as his final "bucket list" item, as he is trying to sell the property to someone "to turn into a nonprofit, a historical, educational nature center. That is my dream now, so

this place can stay open past my existence." He said he rejected two previous offers on the land that would have closed off access to the public. "I felt it really needed to be kept open and preserved," he said.

The falls open on May 15, with daily hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., throughout the summer. Admission is \$5, and the park offers season passes ranging from \$40 for individuals to \$85 for families. For more information, call 802-472-5486.



A bridge is being laid across a section of the Jeudevine Falls' upper cascade, affording public access to a previously unseen area with spectacular views.

Wolcott Road Paving Schedule is Tight

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At its May 5 meeting, the Wolcott Select Board received new information from the road crew, including a potential time crunch to begin paving.

The town has numerous paving projects it hopes to get done, but only two of three companies bidding have responded. Town administrator Tom Szott said that he was concerned because pavers said they were short-supplied, and scheduling was tight.

To continue with a sealed build as in years past could add weeks to the process, which could mean some projects not getting done. The alternative is to make an exception and use open bids. The board concurred. Martin also told road foreman Dillan Cafferky “I wanted to thank the road crew, you’re doing a wonderful job with the roads. They look really good, especially for this time of year.”

Cafferky said that asking the board’s previously selected bidder if the town could buy sand at a unit price instead of a fixed amount resulted in the contractor asking for a three-year contract. Vice chair Kurt Klein said that the bid originally was lump-sum and to change the contract terms now would create a “credibility problem. I don’t think it would be ethical for us to do that.” The consensus was that in a future budget the change might be considered, but for the immediate budget, things would remain as they were.

In his town administrator’s report, Szott reported that Rep. Noyes had said that the legislature was looking at the education formula’s pupil weighting. “The way that they had been doing it had no basis

in fact all,” was the information Szott said he received, with some towns paying more in taxes than they should and some less. The speculation is Wolcott’s tax rate might go down 10 cents if the formula were re-evaluated.

In other news, Szott said that while it was premature to get into detail, discussions about the proposed town forest had seen “substantial progress,” with more details to come.

Chad Roy of the Schoolhouse Committee went before the board with news that the committee “as it stands now ... doesn’t really exist.” He said the building’s structural integrity and costs were the first issues, and “It kind of died from there. Those conversations about the building became pretty difficult. Money can be a difficult thing to talk about. I’m a taxpayer too, so I can understand that.”

He said the committee had taken its direction from the town

plan and “it’s pretty frustrating. I felt like it was put on us that we’re just asking for money all the time [when] it wouldn’t take an extraordinary amount of money to fix that building. It just felt more challenging than it needed to be.”

He said that at the same time he saw neighboring towns, for example, Albany, where similar initiatives had resulted in “remarkable things” since those towns had succeeded at “trying to instill some preservation and energy into their little economies.”

He added that he did not have enough time to spearhead revamping the committee which would be “a tremendous amount of work,” but “the building is worth saving. It’s a piece of town history. What is Wolcott going to have for the folks using the [Lamoille Valley] Rail Trail (LVRT)?”

Town clerk Belinda Clegg updated the board on the current state of the budget and had both

suggestions and questions.

Regarding the budget, Clegg said she had done a profit and loss comparison to previous years, and “we are making a lot more revenue, but are also making a lot more in expenses.” Regarding the transfer station’s financials, she said that “It looks like we don’t have enough revenue to cover our overhead and expenses at the moment.” She said it might be prudent to reassess fees. But overall, she said of the budget, “I think we’re going to be in a very good position at the end of this year.”

The board also briefly revisited the LVRT Right-of-Way Lease from VTrans which, due to the area being smaller than expected, would now cost slightly less at \$200 per year. Klein noted that VTrans had provided a drawing without measurements and said the board might consider using that map to stake out the perimeter for its own use so it knew the dimensions.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
The Hardwick Kiwanis Club celebrated its 80th birthday at its annual meeting held outside in a barn structure May 3 at Sherry and Greg Lussier’s. Next year’s officers were elected. Pictured (from left): current president Rich Jacobs, president-elect Sherry Lussier, secretary-elect Connie Bellavance, and treasurer John Bellavance.

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NOTICE TO PARENTS WITH HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

Annually, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, Woodbury, and Wolcott) gives notice to parents of children with disabilities in home school placements who reside in our towns of their opportunity to provide input to special education services delivered. If you have a child with a disability who is home schooled and your child qualifies for special education services, you are invited to attend a consultation meeting via Google Meet on Monday, May 24th from 3 to 4 p.m., so that you can provide your input. Please contact Wanda Webster at 472-2908 or wwebster@ossu.org to register for the meeting.

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Care Center Seeks Board Support for Grant

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The select board’s meeting last week covered a wide range of activities, from addressing the Open Meeting Law to giving its support to the Craftsbury Community Care Center’s (CCCC) grant application.

The CCCC is seeking a Northern Border Regional Commission grant to improve the air filtration system at the center. In a phone interview, CCCC

Board President Jane Marlin said the building was constructed 26 years ago and had been enlarged since that time. Improving the air filtration handling system was already being considered prior to the pandemic.

The center hired an engineering firm to assess the building’s air filtration handling system and is now seeking a grant. Air filtration systems have improved with newer technologies; the cost is about \$450,000, which is the

amount of the grant being sought.

Marlin said the project would improve the building’s air filtration as well as its energy efficiency.

The center has received letters of support from Albany, Glover, Greensboro, and Hardwick. Select board co-chair Jim Jones signed a letter of support with the board’s unanimous approval.

The board approved a three-page synopsis of Vermont’s Open Meeting Law which will be sent to all town committee chairs. The document was drafted by board member Susie Houston and board clerk Michelle Martin.

The Open Meeting Law (1 V.S.A. Sect. 310-314) and Public Records Act (1 V.S.A. Sect. 315-320) were enacted to ensure the public’s effective role as participants in government. The Vermont Constitution states that officials of government are legally trustees and servants of the people at all times, and accountable to them.

Every municipal board, council, commission, committee, or subcommittee, legally defined as a public body, must comply with the Open Meeting Law. The law applies when a quorum is present and involved in a discussion or taking an action on anything over which it has authority or responsibility.

The public must receive advance notice of meetings, with agendas posted at designated places. Public comment at all meetings must be allowed and minutes taken and posted.

Agendas must be clear on topics to be addressed or actions that may be taken at a meeting. Agendas must be posted 48 hours in advance of regular meetings, 24 hours in advance of special meetings.

Draft meeting minutes must be posted within five days on the town website and remain on the website for a minimum of one year. The board is requesting that approved minutes be posted in a

timely manner thereafter and is recommending that paper copies be kept.

Each public body is responsible for drafting its own minutes. Minutes should include names of members present; active participants; motions, proposal, and/or resolutions made, offered, considered and disposition thereof. The minutes should reflect what has transpired at a meeting, but need not be a transcript of the proceedings.

Correspondence or electronic communication between members of a public body when scheduling a meeting, organizing an agenda, or distributing materials to discuss must be available for inspection under the Public Records Act. This applies to e-mail, telephone, or teleconferencing.

When a quorum of members attend social gatherings, conventions, media events other similar venues, it is not a meeting as such. However, they may not discuss specific business of the public body which will be taken up by them as a public body at the time of the exchange or at a later time.

Act 92 allows public bodies to meet electronically for a quorum; remote meetings must enable all public attendees to hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Ground rules for participation are recommended.

In other business, the board continued its planning for a “Bulky Day” disposal of large items. More details are forthcoming when the specific date is decided.

Board co-chair Bruce Urie reported that the town is expecting \$175,000 from the state for paving. The town will have over \$220,000 available, including additional funds voted at the annual meeting.

The board was notified that the Big Hosmer Soccer Camp has been discontinued and 2019 was the last Big Hosmer Soccer Camp to be held.



photo by Doug McClure

The kiosk atop Stannard Mountain is on the ground after being pulled down by force. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Specialist Tony Smith said the agency was aware of the situation but is short-staffed due to COVID and expects to fix the sign in the next month or so. He remembered installing the kiosk 10 or 15 years ago and said it has never been damaged like this before. Smith said it seemed extremely unlikely that wind caused the sign to blow over.

Board Approves Purchase of Trailer

WALDEN – The Walden Select Board met on Monday, May 10, at the fire station.

Present were Brenda Huntoon and Randolph Wilson in person, and Bob Hatch via Zoom.

The board approved the purchase of a 20-ton trailer for \$5,000. The money will come out of the equipment fund. The 10-ton trailer will be put up for sale for \$2,500 (or best offer) on Front Porch Forum, Craigslist and the newspaper.

A complaint was received about Bayley-Hazen Road. The board is looking into the problem.

The road crew had a flat tire on the loader last week and Marshalls from Littleton, NH came and fixed it. The road crew is working 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday.

The board approved hiring flaggers when Cabot Road is paved in June.

The board will advertise for roadside mowing.

Liz Wilkel resigned from being the town representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste

District. Anyone interested in filling this position should call the town clerk before the next meeting on May 24.

Two overweight permits and bills were signed, and contracts were signed for Jeff Badore to do cemetery and ballfield mowing and Ben Ackerman for excavation work for projects in June.

The next meeting will be at the fire station and via Zoom.



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Dow Appointed to Select Board, Town Manager Search Organizes

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The sudden, unexpected passing of Gary Bellavance on April 16 left the select board with a vacancy. The board finalized the agreement for former Town Manager Jon Jewett to take the reins after current Town Manager Shaun Fielder resigns while it searches for a permanent appointee for the position.

The board met in a special session on April 27 with the primary goal of finding a candidate to fill Bellavance's seat. It noted "it is with sadness that the Select Board must act to fill a Select Board term after the recent death of Gary Bellavance" and "the Town sends their deepest sympathies to Gary's family and friends."

Under Hardwick's Town Charter, 24A V.S.A. § 123-302(d), "When an elected officer specified in section 302(a) of this charter resigns, makes another Town his or her residence, dies, or becomes

incapacitated, the office shall become vacant and the selectmen shall appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting. The person elected shall at the annual meeting serve until the predecessor's term expires."

The one-year term received two letters of interest, one from former board member Elizabeth Dow and the other from Larry Hamel, who has served on the board in years past. Board member Shari Cornish said Dow's recent departure meant she was familiar with many of the projects currently in play. She motioned to appoint Dow and the board approved the appointment. The term ends March 2022.

A search committee, led by vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, is being assembled to find a full-time town manager. Chair Eric Remick focused on finalizing the contract with Jon Jewett, which the select board signed off on tonight. Remick

said Jewett mentioned the town's administration could probably support some of the search committee's administrative tasks since the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is not able to devote time to the search as it had in the past.

Galloway-Kane has six people interested in joining the committee: former board member Danny Hale, Hardwick Electric Commission Chair Lynne Gedanken, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Board Chair and Hazen Union Board member Amy Rosenthal, former select board member Lucian Avery, and residents Ross Connelly and Jenn MacLean.

Hale said he was involved in two previous town manager searches. Cornish said Hale brings "valued pragmatism" to the table. Gedanken said her experience with the Hardwick Electric Department meant she had been "learning a lot about the town." Rosenthal, who is also a coordinator of

Community Allies, noted she was not only involved in the search for the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union's new superintendent but also Hazen Union's principal search.

Remick commented on the substantial time commitment in previous searches, recalling it had involved 30-40 applicants and "maybe a half-dozen" interviews. Hale said the previous search had been national, which the board decided was too broad this time around. "It was a learning experience," said Remick, "what we learned from it was we need somebody with real knowledge of New England towns." Hale said the position was not likely to attract interest outside of the region. "It's not the job that somebody's going to pack their family up and move to Hardwick [for]," he said.

Cornish said five members of the current board, including the new people, have participated in at least one town manager search.

Children 12 and Up Can Soon Get Vaccine

by Doug McClure

MONTPELIER – On Monday, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for those 12 and up, and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is expected to follow suit today and update its recommendations.

With those two hurdles cleared, children as young as 12 can be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are only authorized for use in those 18 and up, though trials for younger people are in process.

Agency of Human Services Secretary Mike Smith said Tuesday that Vermont was gearing up for the new age band's eligibility and had ordered over 4,400 extra doses of the Pfizer vaccine in expectation of the final go-ahead from the CDC.

Apart of the state's vaccination plan for children will involve what

Smith said was over 40 school-based vaccine clinic sites starting on May 17, and anyone 12 and up can get vaccinated at any Pfizer vaccination site. When setting up an appointment at healthvermont.gov/myvaccine each site identifies which vaccine is in use during that session.

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union Superintendent Adam Rosenberg said that the state had been in contact and "we're in the process of working with them to schedule a couple of Hazen Union clinics."

The most recent state data show the number of cases among those ages 10-19 is the highest of any age group in Caledonia County, is tied for third place in Orleans County, and ranked fourth in Lamoille County. Just 18% of 16- and 17-year-olds are vaccinated in Orleans County, while in Lamoille County nearly half are. In Caledonia County, 31% of 16 and 17-year-olds are vaccinated.

A recent study of young people found "evidence from the first study of long COVID in children suggests that more than half of children aged between 6 and 16 years old who contract the virus have at least one symptom lasting more than 120 days, with 42.6 percent impaired

by these symptoms during daily activities." Long COVID is the blanket descriptor for a wide variety of symptoms from COVID that can sometimes linger for months or years, including fatigue, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, and chest or joint pain.



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The Town of Greensboro is seeking bids for the following:
 800 Ln/ft of 5" Straight Vertical Granite Curb installed
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 email news@hardwickgazette.com or call (802) 472-6521.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Hardwick Historical Society Spring Program May 17

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Historical Society will hold its annual meeting upstairs in the Memorial Building on Monday, May 17, at 7 p.m.

Following a short business meeting and election of officers, Tim Breen will discuss the American Revolution.

A professional historian, Dr. Breen, received his Ph.D. from Yale and spent most of his teaching career at Northwestern University. He has traveled the globe as a visiting professor and guest lecturer and has

received a number of awards and honors for his work.

His work focuses on the era of American Revolution, largely telling the story of the impact of common people on the war and the impact of the war on common people. He will talk on “The Crisis of 1778: How the People Saved the American Revolution.”

The event is free and open to the public. The room has been set up to assure social distancing, and attendees should wear a mask.

Free Webinar Explores Soil Biodiversity on May 20

BURLINGTON – Gardeners interested in learning what they can do to improve their soil are invited to attend “Creating a Biodiverse Garden for Ecological Resilience,” a free Zoom webinar on May 20.

Dr. Wendy Sue Harper, a Vermont soil scientist, will discuss why soil biodiversity is essential for healthy plants and describe soil-based practices for healthy, resilient soil. Her presentation will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and include a 30-minute question-and-answer session.

No pre-registration is required. Details about the webinar and how to join by computer or phone can be found at go.uvm.edu/mg-classes.

Harper has taught classes

for the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener program since 1994, and for the UVM Extension Master Composter program since 2003. She is an associate faculty member at Prescott College in Arizona, where she teaches courses in ecological approaches to agriculture, biodiversity conservation and soil science for its online Master of Science in sustainable food systems.

The webinar is sponsored by the Northwest chapter of the UVM Extension Master Gardener program. To learn more or to request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Jonathan Trefry at trefryj@gmavt.net or (802) 598-0855.

Farmers’ Market Begins May 22

CRAFTSBURY COMMON – The Craftsbury Farmers’ Market will begin its twentieth season on May 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and every Saturday until October 2.

Many previous vendors are returning to the market, offering locally-produced food and crafts and there will be many new vendors offering products which have not been available at the market before.

The season is shaping up with

a diversity of products, including food from staples such as breads, eggs, cheese and maple syrup to new offerings of meat pies, soft pretzels, hot sauces, popcorn, granola, rillettes, galettes, Poulet à la Moutarde, pastries, gluten-free baked goods, and pierogi.

There will be free family-friendly entertainment every Saturday and special events throughout the season.

Visit CraftsburyFarmers-Market.com for more detail.

Plainfield’s Community Bagged Supper on May 25

PLAINFIELD – Concluding the third year of serving community suppers, Plainfield’s Community Supper Support Group will serve the final meal of the season on May 25, from 6 to 7 p.m., at Grace United Methodist Church in Plainfield lower village. Participants can expect a variety of pre-cooked soups and take-out items from which to choose, as well as side items such as fresh-baked bread and a choice of desserts.

Remaining meals will be

available the next day, Wednesday, May 26, starting at around 11 a.m., at the Onion River Food Shelf at the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield.

Volunteers and donations are welcome as planning begins for the 2021-2022 supper season, with an exploration of new COVID-19 social precautions. For further information, please contact Michael Cerulli Billingsley at michaelbix@gmail.com or Helen Rabin at 802-454-7119.

Summer Masses Begin May 29

CRAFTSBURY – Summer Masses will resume at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Craftsbury on Saturday, May 29, at 6 p.m. mqasvt.org. For information on updated Mass protocols go to vermont-catholic.org/covid-19.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cabot Launches Yogurt Line with Six Flavors

CABOT – Cabot’s has released a new line of eight-ounce Triple Cream Yogurt that includes six flavors: chocolate mousse, salted caramel, cupcake, red velvet, vanilla chai, and orange ginger, each offered in resealable containers.

“Cabot’s newest addition to their yogurt offerings brings something uniquely indulgent to the category, driving both incremental sales from existing consumers and bringing new consumers into the category,” states Rachael Richards, cultured category manager.

Cabot 8 oz Triple Cream Yogurts were developed to capitalize on the snack trends and to bring those trends to the yogurt category. The Triple Cream Yogurt line is available throughout New England and Upstate New York.

Cabot has grown from a single butter plant in the town of Cabot to four creameries producing over one thousand varieties of dairy products and cheeses being distributed in every state and 22 countries. Since its founding, all profits have been returned to the farm families who own the co-op



courtesy photo

Cabot has introduced a snacking yogurt line featuring six flavors.

— a practice that continues to this day. Cabot Creamery Co-operative has been in continuous operation in Vermont since 1919, and makes a full line of cheeses, Greek yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese and butter. Widely known as makers of “The World’s Best Cheddar,” Cabot is owned by the 800 dairy farm families of Agri-Mark, the Northeast’s premier dairy cooperative, with farms located throughout New England and upstate New York. For more information, see cabotchese.coop.

OUR E-MAILS

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ads@hardwickgazette.com

CABOT SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Cabot School District, Cabot, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, to transact the following business by Australian Ballot. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Willey Building, 3084 Main St, Cabot, VT 05647.

The School Board will hold an informational hearing via electronic conference (Zoom) on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss all articles as warned below. A meeting notice with information for accessing this Zoom meeting will be posted separately.

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Cabot School District authorize the Cabot School Board to expend three million three hundred sixteen thousand seven hundred sixty-six dollars (\$3,316,766) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,215.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is a 2.6% increase in spending compared to the current year.

Dated at Cabot, Vermont April 22, 2021
Lisa Olson, Chair, Rory Thibault, Vice Chair
Frank Kampf, Michael Taub, Chris Torney

Attest: Betty Ritter, Town Clerk

OBITUARIES

GROVER D. "BUTCH" POTTER

LYNDONVILLE – Graveside services for Grover Dan "Butch" Potter, who died December 16, 2020, from diabetes-related kidney and heart failure, will be held at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, May 26, in the Main Street Cemetery in

Hardwick. The Rev. Dr. Evelyn Lavelli of the United Church of Hardwick will officiate.

Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick.

THE REVEREND JOHN WILLIS HAMILTON

GREENSBORO – The Reverend John Willis Hamilton, age 76, died on May 4. Father Hamilton was born on July 27, 1944, in Rutland, the son of the late Willis Carlton and Mary Ellen (Connors) Hamilton. He attended Christ the King and Mount Saint Joseph in Rutland, St. John Vianney Seminary in Barre and St. Paul Seminary in Ottawa, Canada.

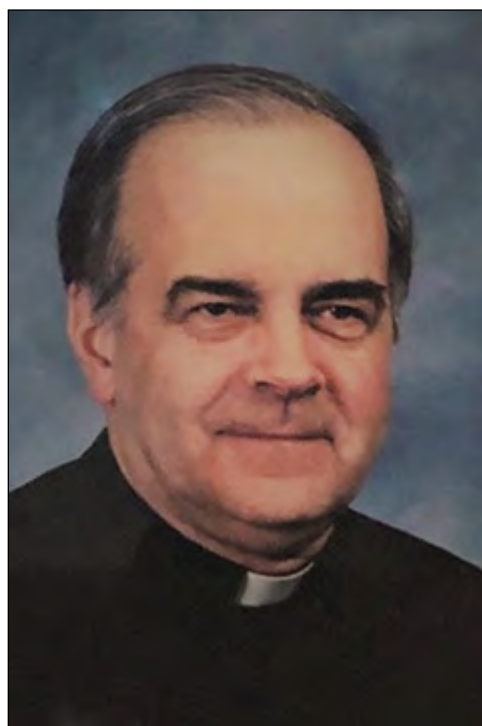
Father Hamilton was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1970, at Christ the King, Rutland, by Bishop Robert F. Joyce. His priestly ministry began as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis in Bennington. He also served as Parochial Vicar at St. Mark, Burlington. His first pastorate was at St. Michael Church, Greensboro Bend. He also served as pastor at St. Edward in Derby Line, St. Catherine of Siena in Shelburne, St. John Vianney in South Burlington, St. Norbert in Hardwick, St. Michael in Greensboro Bend and Our Lady of Fatima, Craftsbury. Father Hamilton was granted senior priest status on May 7, 2008.

His diocesan responsibilities included diocesan board of consultors, diocesan review board, Presbyterian council, dean of the South Burlington, Orleans and Caledonia Deanery and chaplain at St. Joseph/Kervick Home, Rutland.

Father Hamilton leaves behind his sisters Mary Therese (Hamilton) Grace, Joan Agnes (Hamilton) Haley, Barbara Jean (Hamilton) Mazut, numerous nieces and nephews, and many life-long friends.

In addition to his parents, he is also predeceased by his sister Patricia Ann (Hamilton) Lester and her husband Harlan D. Lester, his sister Dolores Elaine (Hamilton) Gray and her husband John P. Gray, his brothers-in-law James H. Grace, Joseph A. Mazut, and Bernard P. Haley.

The Father was an avid reader, especially James Patterson



The Reverend John Willis Hamilton mysteries. He loved trips to Maine, primarily trips to Acadia National Park and Ogunquit Beach. He loved playing jokes, teasing people, and was always good for an exuberant laugh. He loved his family; spending time with his sisters and their children was one of his greatest joys.

Hours of visitation will be held on May 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., at St. Michael Church, Greensboro Bend. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, May 14, at St. Michael Catholic Church at 11 a.m., with Bishop Christopher J. Coyne as principal celebrant, followed by burial at St. Michael Cemetery. Parishioners, friends, and community members wishing to join in honoring Father Hamilton are encouraged to attend the hours of visitation on Thursday as attendance for the Mass on Friday is limited due to COVID policies. The des Groseilliers Funeral Home is in care of arrangements. Condolences and memories may be conveyed to the family online at dgfunerals.com.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Father Hamilton's memory may be made to the Mary Queen of All Saints Fund or St. Michael Cemetery Fund at maryqueenofallsaints.vermontcatholic.org/donate.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Tulips are in full bloom at Hardwick Elementary School.

Northern Vermont Funeral Service

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Thursday, May 13

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 on the first Thursday of each month, 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, May 14

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, May 15

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

Monday, May 17

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

GRACE presents free, virtual weekly art prompts. Each week GRACE will post a piece of art from their "Outsider Art" collection for people to use as inspiration for their own original creation. These will be available on Mondays at <https://graceart.org/virtual-artcommunity/virtual-art-prompts/> with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org.

Tuesday, May 18

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

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, May 19

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 SUPER, 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

MARTHA ELMES: Relief Prints, Collage Assemblage and Block Prints on exhibit at the Parker Pie Gallery, West Glover, through May 26. Information: 802-525-3366.

1111 COPPER NAILS: Bread & Puppet Calendar Prints - A 36-Year Retrospective, a Dual Location Exhibition in Hardwick, through the Summer. The Hardwick Inn, 4 S. Main St., Exhibit on all 3 floors, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon. - Sat. Front Seat Coffee, 101 S. Main St., B&P Calendars and Art for sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon. - Fri. Information: VtPieGirlCo@gmail.com, oliveyin1@gmail.com or BreadandPuppet.org.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Volunteer Jason Bahner (left) puts air in Nathaniel Leach's (front right) bike before the Bike & Walk to School Day May 6. Watching (from left) are Joe Donna, Jedediah Donna and Serenity Leach.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hardwick Elementary crossing guard Richard Coolbeth (right) stops traffic for students in the Bike & Walk to School Day May 6. Fifteen students and 10 adults participated in the event organized by volunteers Jason Bahner, Caitlin Strong and Bevin Barber-Campbell who are all advocates for safe cycling for youth and adults. Pictured in front (from left) are Noah Foster, Parker Bailey and Serenity Leach.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Wesley Strong (left), Finn Burgess (center) and Fred Daniels (right) enjoy a breakfast snack under the pavilion on Atkins field before celebrating Bike & Walk to School Day on Thursday. Fifteen students and 10 adults participated in the event organized by volunteers.

Card Shower
Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary, May 22!
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YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Fraught and Complicated Relationships

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Noodling through the Internet this past weekend, I couldn't help but see the hundreds of tributes inspired by the observance of Mother's Day. Most were accompanied by photographs from decades ago, when the mothers were young and beautiful. The kids, full of promise, smiled uncertainly and squinted into the sunshine.

I was struck by one contemporary photo of three great, strapping men towering over a wrinkled little old lady who gazed, with a faint smile, straight into the camera, clearly proud of and a bit amused by the prodigies she'd borne and raised. There was also in those posts a lot of sweetness and light, much nostalgia and gratitude, and expressions of the hope to be reunited someday with the women who'd meant so much in the posters' lives.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the globe, some men (a fact that goes without saying) detonated powerful car bombs outside an Afghan girls' school, killing or maiming several dozens of students and citizens, as well as many who rushed to help them.

Of all the fraught and complicated relationships between human beings – religious, political, ethnic, caste, gender identification, equity – the one between the sexes seems the most unyielding to solution.

Comedians from Jack Benny, Henny Youngman ("Now, you take my wife – please!"), and Red Skelton riffed on it generations ago. Jack Kennedy treated it with irony, as when asked by Helen Thomas what his administration was doing for women, "I'm not sure, but I am sure that, whatever it is, it isn't enough." And in recent years, movements from Women's Lib to #MeToo have kept a dynamic tension on the issue. Lawsuits citing violations of Title IX, as well as others alleging sexual harassment and bullying, have become increasingly incisive and effective.

I broach the subject with considerable trepidation, given the virulence of the opinions it engenders – plus the fact that, as a man, I'm probably on the stupid side of the issue – just as, being a white person, I can't empathize with the experience of being Black in America. But as someone now not unhappily past sexual politics (there's a reason philosophers

are old guys, if not in body, at least in spirit), I'm out of the hurly-burly and can look back more or less dispassionately at what once was, still is, and probably what still will be.

Raised on a heavy-handed dose of Levitical patriarchy – a small boy is worth five shekels, a small girl, three – and the apostle Paul, and further encouraged by the vestiges of the Victorian canard that young women needed protection both from and by young men, I was too indoctrinated to protest when, as recently as 1960, my wife, who'd already been on her own for years, was denied a savings or checking account without my signature. It would have been counterproductive for me to have objected; but the shame of my silence lingers still. Decades later, after a bankruptcy, she took over our family financial affairs, and did much better than I had.

From my vantage point at the end of an electronic funnel into which the affairs of the world are poured 24 hours a day, it seems patent that the women of the United States are making strides toward eventual equality. But those strides aren't without menace; many men feel threatened by that progress, seeing it, perhaps, as the worm turning, and then turning on them. The fact that they are already a diminishing demographic must also haunt them, often to lethal effect. The big, rumbling pickup trucks blowing black smoke and waving large flags are symbols of that anxiety.

That lethal effect is also what we're witnessing in Afghanistan and, to a lesser extent, in some Arab countries. The patriarchy still thrives: Of two parties "taken in adultery," one is chided by the clerics and the other fiercely stoned to death. That has to stop, and it will. But not soon enough.

One of my heroes in this tumultuous relationship ("hero" being now gender-unspecific) is Lysistrata, who in Aristophanes' comedy of the same name determines to end the interminable Peloponnesian wars by persuading the women of Greece to withhold sex from their husbands 'til they sign a peace treaty. Hardly a laughing matter for the patriarchy, the play was banned in its native Greece, in 411 BC. Sadly, it was not approved for performance in the United States till the 1930s. I suppose that's progress. But there's still a rough climb ahead to the glass ceiling.

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ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION #5L0916-3 10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 – 6093

On April 15, 2021, Manosh Properties, LLC, filed application 5L0916-3 for a project generally described as remodel an existing 1800 sf space and construction of an 1800 sf heated building addition to the existing "High Mowing Seeds" building. [If the application is a subdivision, the project description must include the number of lots proposed to be created per Act 250 Rule 10(G).] The project is located at 76 Quarry Road in Wolcott, Vermont. No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before June 1, 2021, a party notifies the District 5 Commission in writing at the address below of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing to the address below, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. The application and proposed permit may also be viewed on the Natural Resources Board's web site (<http://nrb.vermont.gov>) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering project number 5L0916-3. If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in a public hearing, if one is held), please notify us as soon as possible, in order to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information contact Josh Donabedian at the address or telephone number below.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2021.

BY: Joshua Donabedian, Coordinator
District 5, 6 & 9 Environmental Commission
10 Baldwin Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633-3201
802-476-0186, Joshua.donabedian@vermont.gov

Woodsmoke *by Julie Atwood*



"WE WOULDN'T BE DOING THIS IF PEOPLE DIDN'T LITTER IN THE FIRST PLACE!"



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Tri-State Painting, Inc. of Tilton, N.H., is the contractor for the Vt. 16 bridge #1 at the intersection of Vt. Rte. 15 and Vt. Rte. 16 in Hardwick. The work to be performed for the project includes applying metalized coating to the steel beams on the bridge over Haynesville Brook. The estimated cost of the project is \$525,269.20.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Construction on the Vt. Rte. 16 bridge #1 as seen from Route 15 in Hardwick.

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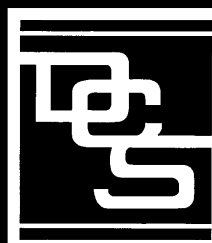
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IN THE GARDEN

Insects: Friends or Foes?

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – It's spring, and insects are hatching, flying, and munching. Contrary to what you may think, most are not a problem for your garden. There are over a million named insect species and many, perhaps most, co-evolved with flowering plants. They pollinate our crops and do many wonderful things for us.

One of the most hated insects is the Japanese beetle. These beetles, as the name suggests, are originally from Japan, and were first observed in New Jersey in 1916. In just over 100 years they have become omnipresent in Eastern United States. Why? They have very few natural predators: even birds don't want to eat them.

As larvae, these pests generally live in lawns, feeding on grass roots. They are whitish grubs of various sizes, but up to an inch long. If you cut open a square foot of lawn with a sharp shovel and peel back the sod, you are likely to see a grub or two. If you count 10 or more in that sample, you have an infestation that will be a problem.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a remedy in the 1940s called milky spore, which is a bacterium that can be suspended in water and sprayed on lawns. It is not a miracle cure and is quite expensive. Not all entomologists believe that milky spore is an effective cure, at least not in New England where cold winters can kill the bacterium.

Not only that, those darn Japanese beetles fly. So, you can treat your lawn with milky spore only to have your neighbor's beetles fly over the fence to attack your roses. I did talk to an enterprising gardener once who convinced her neighbors to treat, too, and she



courtesy photo

A simple house for solitary wasps made with bamboo pieces in a box hangs on my barn.

feels it made a significant reduction in beetle numbers.

What else can you do? There are beneficial nematodes (unsegmented worms) called Hb nematodes that will attack Japanese beetle larvae and are said to be 96% effective in eliminating Japanese beetle and rose chafer larvae if applied properly. The best time to apply these nematodes is July and August, when the grubs are feeding in your lawn. If you buy them, follow the directions carefully: they need to be applied to moist lawn at dusk, and then watered in. These are live worms, and as such need to be used soon after purchasing them. They are not generally available at garden centers, but are available online.

What about those Japanese beetle traps? Give them to neighbors you don't like. They attract lots of beetles, but only capture some, so they attract more hungry beetles to your property if you use them. Really, just don't buy them.

I am a firm believer that the best method of insect control for most bad bugs is hand-picking them and dropping in soapy water. Insects often have several life cycles in a summer, so try to reduce



courtesy photo

Catch Japanese beetles with a milk jug and soapy water.

numbers before they reproduce.

Hand picking works for potato bugs, for example, if you check your plants early in the season, before large numbers have appeared. Look under the leaves: if you see orange egg masses, scrape them off and drown them in soapy water, along with the beetles and larvae. If you grow too many potatoes for hand picking bugs, try something called "Bt", another beneficial bacterium. It is readily available at garden centers. It does not act as a contact poison but sickens the larvae so they stop feeding and don't reach adulthood.

My insect nemesis is the striped cucumber beetle. It is a small striped beetle that can devour an entire small plant in one night. It eats not only cucumber leaves, but anything in that family including squashes and pumpkins. I do two things to help prevent their



courtesy photo

Hand pick potato beetles and look for orange egg masses on underneath side of leaves.

destruction: I grow my seedlings in pots until they have three to four leaves so the beetles can't kill the plant in one night. And I cover my plants with row covers (breathable garden fabric) to physically keep those darn beetles off the leaves. Which is not to say that they can't come up under the covers through the soil, but the method does help. And when the blossoms come, I'll have to remove the row covers to allow pollination.

Can you create habitat for beneficial insects? Sure. Don't manicure every inch of your garden. Leave a few dead branches or decomposing flower stems in piles at the edge of your property. Allow fallen leaves to serve as

mulch. Consider putting up a simple structure for solitary wasps (such as those that control those pesky tomato hornworms). They are sold next to the birdhouses at the garden center.

I'm afraid that mosquitoes, black flies and deer ticks have given all insects a bad name, but most are beneficial. They pollinate, serve as food for baby birds, they help to keep vigorous plants and other insects from taking over. And please remember this: if you decide that spraying pesticides is easier than the organic methods described here, know that those same sprays will kill small beneficial insects that you probably never even notice.



courtesy photo

Leaves eaten by striped cucumber beetles.

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**Town of Stowe
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The Town of Stowe, Vermont, 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, 3 miles of sidewalks, related storm water systems and miscellaneous facilities. The position requires an advanced understanding of the principles, 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 VT-DEC 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.townofstovevt.org. Submit employment application, letter of interest, resume and contact information for 3 references, - c/o Susan Moeck, PO Box 730, Stowe VT 05672 or email townhall@stovevt.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Stowe is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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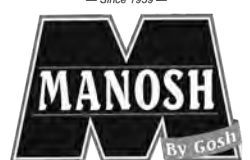
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SPORTS

Hilly Half Marathon Inspires Local Runners

by Jim Flint

ADAMANT – The rhythmic beat of runners’ footsteps returned to the enduring hills of Calais and East Montpelier on Saturday, May 8. The event was the Adamant Half Marathon, sponsored by Central Vermont Runners.

The back-roads contest was the first road race held in the greater Hardwick area since the Sodom Pond Four-Miler on September 18, 2019.

Of the 57 finishers, nine hailed from towns covered by the Hardwick Gazette. Weather conditions were ideal, with temperatures in the 50s, cloudy skies, and a light breeze.

Stephen Larock, 30, from Waterbury, cruised to a win on the hilly 13.1-mile course. His time was one hour, 23 minutes, and 50 seconds. Mountain running champion Kasie Enman, 41, from Huntington, was the top female runner. Enman finished less than a minute behind Larock, in 1:24:26.

Adamant’s newest ace runner, Jack Fannon, 20, was the top male finisher from towns covered by the Gazette. He placed fourth overall, in 1:30:47.

Erin Magoon, 42, from Craftsbury Common, was the fastest female runner from the Gazette’s coverage area. She averaged 8:36 per mile to finish in 1:52:37.

“The first wave went out fast,” said Magoon. “I got passed at the end by older dudes, but kept up

with them. I think that it was a similar time to when I last ran the Dandelion Half Marathon, so I’m happy with it.”

The figure-eight course started with a three-mile downhill and ended with a two-mile descent. The eight miles in-between were a roller coaster climb from the low point of 933 feet to the high point of 1,327 feet. The total elevation gain for the half marathon was a hefty 1,302 feet.

Kari Bradley, 53, from Calais, placed third in the competitive men’s 50-59 age group. Bradley finished 17th overall in 1:44:14. Theresa Fennell, 33, also from Calais, crossed the line in 2:00:23.

Marshfield’s Michelle Risley, 35, placed third in the women’s 30-39 age group. She finished in 1:55:36. Mark Howard, 58, also from Marshfield, was close behind at 1:55:45.

Tim Hogeboom, 69, from Walden, finished in 1:59:54. Hogeboom, who will soon turn 70, got a taste of competing against John Hackney, one of the fastest age 70+ runners in northern Vermont. Hackney, 75, finished just ahead of Hogeboom in 1:59:50.

“I slowed my pace considerably on the hills,” said Hogeboom. “I walked the steepest pitches while refueling with pieces of banana and hydrating with a homemade electrolyte solution. That strategy, to carefully conserve energy, helped me finish in under two hours. That was my goal.”

Adamant’s Dot Helling, 71,



courtesy photo

Elizabeth McCarthy, from Walden, was inspired to compose an original poem, “when the soil is thawed,” while running the Adamant Half Marathon on May 8. The 13.1-mile race started and ended in Adamant Village.

won the women’s 70-79 age group. Her time was 2:12:33. Elizabeth McCarthy, 68, took in the beauty of the course and the challenge of enduring the steep climbs. McCarthy was grateful for the downhill finish. She completed the rigorous race in 2:30:02.

“Everyone seemed happy to be running again,” said McCarthy. “Starting in waves was less stressful for me as I didn’t have to wonder who was in front or behind me. I thought I was last in the race since I was alone much of the time.”

“Seeing blossoms along the

roadside helped make it enjoyable ... serviceberry, red trillium, and dandelions. I passed a burial along the way in a country cemetery and was once again reminded of how lucky we are to be running and healthy.”

McCarthy, who is a part of an international poetry group, worked out the verses of a poem during her 13.1-mile trek. Back home in Walden, she was inspired to write “when the soil is thawed.” McCarthy gave her permission for the poem to be published in this week’s Hardwick Gazette.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury sophomore Charlie Krebs practices the long jump during track and field on Dustan Field Friday.

when the soil is thawed
 along Vermont’s rolling dirt roads
 the serviceberry is in bloom,
 a sign that earth had softened
 woodland soil where the trillium
 can rise and stand alone in her
 burgundy whorl
 farmer’s fields now glow green
 with bursting yellow blossoms
 earth once again opens
 and winter’s loss is laid to rest
 in the country cemetery
 where people gather in Sunday’s best
 like the bouquet of wildflowers
 surrounding a box of beauty
 fragile and fleeting
 as the delicate white and red petals
 and the dandelion duff

Elizabeth McCarthy, May 2021

SPORTS

Golf League Gets Early Start to Season

by Patrick Hussey

GREENSBORO -- With spring arriving much earlier than normal this year, and despite a couple April snowstorms, the Tuesday night golf league at Mountain View Country Club (MVSS) got blessed with an early beginning.

A late season snowfall delayed MVCC's opening day, but once the course opened on Wednesday, April 28, the Boys of Tuesday showed up to embark on a new season. However, Mother Nature was not kind on this night, with temperatures in the 50s and a late-developing rain shower.

It was a sparsely populated opening as just eight players braved the damp weather. The goal each golfer had on this opening night was to predict what they would shoot before beginning play. As it turned out, the first foursome to hit the links won the night.

The group of Karl Ferland, Richard Coolbeth, Dennis Pudvah and Dave Campbell came the closest, missing their predicted scores by just eight strokes. That crowned them the weekly champions, the opening day winners and gave them a very rare April Championship title. Not a bad way to begin their season. It may have been the league's first-ever April championship.

Campbell had a real handle on

The league played its May opener this past week as temperatures were again in the low 50s, but it was dry despite very grey skies. This time, a full slate of 22 golfers attended as momentum in the league is starting to build.

his game, missing his predicted score by just a stroke. Ferland and Coolbeth were only off by two strokes and Pudvah missed by just three.

Behind them in second place was the foursome of Jaxson Hussey, Patrick Hussey, Mike Clark and Mike Nixon. The two Hussey's went out earlier than their partners and, after their round, the elder Hussey missed by one stroke and the younger Hussey missed by four.

Behind them came the twosome of Mike Clark and Mike Nixon. They got caught in the worst of the weather, playing through a complete downpour. Still, Nixon managed to come within two strokes of his prediction.

Clark shot a fantastic round, posting the night's low round with a sterling 38 in the worst weather possible. Unfortunately, he figured he was going to be in for a tough night and predicted a 45 before going out. The team settled for second after missing by

14 strokes.

Clark also won closest to the pin on five, leaving his drive just 13 feet 9 inches from the pin. He had a birdie on one and parred every hole coming in, starting on the fourth hole. Nixon won closest to the pin on three, leaving his drive 23 feet 8 inches from the hole.

The league played its May opener this past week as temperatures were again in the low 50s, but it was dry despite very grey skies. This time, a full slate of 22 golfers attended as momentum in the league is starting to build.

Playing a team best ball format with handicaps, the foursome of Jefferson Tolman, Bill Richardson, Marcus Brown and Pete DesChamps won by shooting a gross 43 best ball and netting out at a 26 to win by a stroke over two teams. Tolman led the way by shooting a 46. He either had the low score or tied for it on six of the team's nine holes.

However, DesChamps, Brown

and Richardson all had a few low holes to help out. Richardson also won closest in two on nine by leaving his approach 13 feet 5 inches from the pin.

One shot out in second place were two foursomes. The group of Dan Gauthier, Brad Ferland, Mike Nixon and John Sperry got there by shooting a three-over 38 and netting a 27. Sperry had the hot hand in this group, paring his last five holes while shooting a 41. But Nixon and Ferland got the team some low scores on the early holes, with Nixon paring one and Ferland bogeying two and three.

Tying them for second place was the foursome of Kip Doyon, Patrick Hussey, Nate Brown and Richard Brochu. They also shot 38 and netted a 27 after hitting for six pars and three bogeys. Doyon and Hussey both shot 43s to help the cause.

Back in third place was the team of Dennis Pudvah, Karl Ferland, Richard Coolbeth and Dave Campbell, shooting a 46 and netting a 28. The foursome of Joe Mulligan, Dan Miko, Matt Kiley and Carl Edwards shot the night's best gross round, shooting an even par 35 and netting a 30.

Mulligan had the night's low round with a 39. He also won closest to the pin on five with a drive that landed 25 feet 5 inches from the pin.

Bolduc Heats up as Track and Field Season Nears Finish Line

by Ken Brown

NEWPORT -- The Craftsbury Academy (CA) and Hazen Union track and field teams were both in action last week at North Country High School and the Burlington Invitational. Camille Bolduc stole the show again for the Chargers, winning her fifth event of the season.

Bolduc entered the North Country meet with a pair of wins in the 800m this season already in her back pocket, but she added to that total last Tuesday and showed her versatility as an athlete at the same time.

Bolduc bested Hazel Fay of St. Johnsbury by over a full second to win her first 400m event of the season and then turned around and blitzed the 1500m field by

over ten seconds to accomplish the same feat. She also took home a respectable third place finish in the 200m with teammate Sadie Skorstad close behind in fourth.

Skorstad was also runner-up to St. Johnsbury's Peggy Fischer in the long jump, with teammate Ida Eames finishing third. Skorstad wrapped up her impressive day with a third-place finish in the 100m.

Ava Purdy finished sixth in the 800m for the Chargers and teammate Ella Gillespie posted her best time of the season in the 200m event.

Bolduc didn't disappoint in the biggest event of the season on Saturday as she took home the 800m title against a stacked field at the Burlington Invitational. She bested U-32's May Lamb by more

than a second and a half and also placed third in the 1500m event.

Bolduc will be eyeing her third straight state title in the 800m in the upcoming Vermont Track and Field State Championships on June 4.

On the boys' side Dalton Gravel and Silas Hunt finished eighth in the shot put and discus events, with Cole VanWinkle finishing ninth in the shot put for the Chargers.

Orion Cenkl had an impressive sixth-place finish in the 3000m and also posted his best time of the season in the 400m along with teammates Alex Califano and Linden Stelma-Leonard. Charlie Krebs finished twelfth in the 800m and beat two thirds of the field in the 1500m event, finishing tenth overall.

Jessica Royer continued her

strong season for Hazen Union last Tuesday as she posted a fourth-place finish in the 3000m at North Country. Bruce Fortmann had a solid ninth-place finish for the Wildcats in the 200m and finished twelfth in the 100m, both against very deep fields. Cassandra Royer had a pair of thirteenth place finishes in the 800m and 1500m events and Ella Considine, Lila Meyer, and Mary Jane McKenzie posted personal bests in the 200m, discus, and 100m hurdle events. Cassandra Royer and Fortmann also competed at the Burlington Invitational on Saturday and posted solid finishes in the 1500m and 200m.

Both Hazen Union and Craftsbury Academy will back in action this Friday at Lyndon Institute.

SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Wildcat sophomore Tyler Rivard hits the ball in a game against Peoples May 8. P.A. won 7-0.

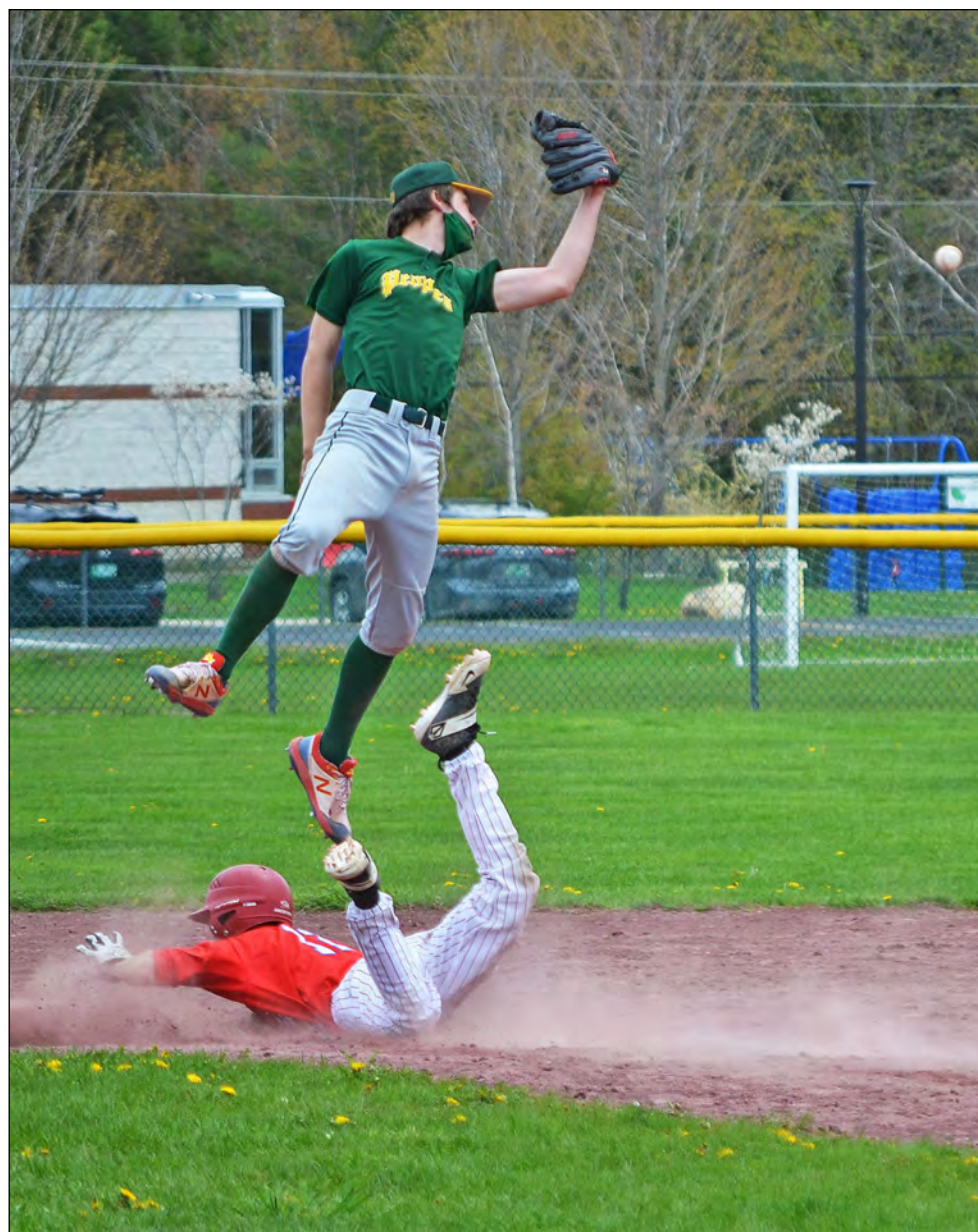


photo by Vanessa Fournier
Hazen sophomore Jadon Baker safely slides into second base as Chandler Follensbee of Peoples leaps for the ball during action Saturday at P.A.

Rooney Continues to Turn Heads in Big Week for Wildcats

by Ken Brown

MORRISVILLE – Super sophomore Lyle Rooney silenced Peoples Academy (PA) last week, handing them their first loss of the season as the Hazen Union baseball team won two more games on the week to improve to 5-2 on the season.

Rooney twirled a one hitter last Tuesday, striking out 12 Wolves and walking none as the Wildcats came away with an impressive 4-0 road win. In a scoreless game in the top of the fourth, a PA error set up a four-run inning for the Wildcats, all with two outs. Ethan Shopland singled home Jadon Baker for the eventual game-winner and singles by Tyler Rivard and Rooney added insurance. Hazen Union also stole three bases in the inning. Ben Alekson was the hard luck loser for the Wolves, striking out 15 on the day. PA had scored 39 runs in their first two wins of the season before falling to Rooney and the Wildcats.

“Lyle was very impressive in commanding all of his pitches, the guys played great defense behind him, and James Montgomery called a great game behind the plate. We kept battling all day against a very good pitcher and we capi-

talized on their mistakes at the right time. It’s a really good win and the guys were pretty pumped on the bus ride home,” said head coach Spencer Howard.

Tyler Rivard smacked three hits and Andrew Menard earned his first career varsity win as the Wildcats outlasted Williamstown on the road last Thursday, 9-6. Menard struck out four Blue Devils over three innings and Jadon Baker pitched an inning and a third to secure the save. Ethan Shopland and Lyle Rooney combined for four hits and four RBIs and Baker added two more hits and a run. The Wildcats stole seven more bases on the afternoon in the win. Max Dexter took the loss for the second straight week as Williamstown fell to 0-6.

“The guys did a nice job of putting pressure on their defense all day, built a nice lead and got out of there with a win. We have some really good athletes on this team, and they want to run and are smart about it. It gives us options to manufacture runs when we are struggling to string together hits,” said Howard.

Ben Alekson and the Wolves got their revenge on Saturday as the sophomore struckout 16 Wildcats and gave up one hit in an impressive 7-0 home win. Tyler

Rivard took the loss, striking out three and giving up one earned over six innings.

PA improved to 3-2 on the season with their only losses coming to Hazen Union and division power Montpelier. The Wildcats’ impressive week vaulted them to third in the Division III standings. Hazen Union’s baseball program hasn’t hosted a playoff game or had a winning season since 2007. That team made it to the Division III state title game and current head coach Spencer Howard was on the roster.

“[Alekson] is an impressive kid and he did a nice job of pitching backwards with some breaking stuff this time around. Our defense was night and day from Tuesday and we just gave them too many free outs. Overall, it was a good week to build on. We have to keep our focus on one pitch and one at bat at a time and don’t overlook anybody. After this week it is a sprint to the end of the regular season with 6 games in 8 days and it will be challenging. This is a special group of kids, though, and they love to learn and are eager to get better and succeed and they have fun doing it,” said Howard.

Hazen Union welcomed Northfield to town on Tuesday and will travel to Danville Saturday afternoon.

SPORTS

Sicard Opens White Mountain Season with Dominating Triple Crown Win

N. WOODSTOCK, N.H. – Barton, Vt.'s Shane Sicard showed why he's a three-time defending White Mountain Motorsports Park champion with a dominating victory in the Triple Crown Series on Saturday, May 8. Sicard took the lead from Marshfield's Matthew Potter on lap-six of the 75-lap Flying Tiger feature and cruised to the win as part of the 29th White Mountain season opener.

For Sicard, it was the third straight year that he's won the opening round of the Triple Crown Series. The victory was also his 14th overall in that same time span.

A trio of Potters led the field to the initial green flag with "Uncle" Michael, Matthew, and rookie Chandler earning the top three starting spots in qualifying. Matthew Potter grabbed the lead from Michael at the start with Sicard following him around the outside into the second spot.

Sicard got a crack at the lead when Jason Woodard, the 2019 Triple Crown champion, spun on lap-four following a Turn Four jumble-up to bring out the first caution. Matthew Potter was able to keep the nose out front on lap five, but Sicard took over the point one lap later.

After another yellow on lap 10 for Chandler Potter's encounter with the backstretch wall, Sicard checked out from the field. A scintillating battle for second raged through the race's middle stages with Matthew Potter, Ryan Ware, and rookie Brandon Gray going at it. But Sicard was long gone, at one point holding a margin of nearly half a track.

The third and final yellow on lap 46 for Colin Cornell's spin let the field get a shot at Sicard. It wasn't enough, though, as Sicard blazed to the season-opening victory.

Woodard steadily sliced through the field after his early spin and passed Gray in the closing laps for second. Matthew Potter finished fourth, followed by rookie Tanner Woodard. Bryan Wall Jr., Ware, Michael Potter, Cornell, and Jody Sicard rounded out the top 10.

North Haverhill's Ryan Olsen got his first Late Model win since 2014 in the 50-lap event. Olsen started sixth and was patient in the early stages as polesitter Tyler Cahoon, who had won his heat and

the semi feature, ran away from the pack.

Things closed up on lap 18 when John Donahue spun in Turn Four to bring out the caution. The field got antsy on the restart, and Olsen took advantage, shooting to the runner-up spot. Cahoon and Olsen then pulled away as Alby Ovitt, Mike "Beetle" Bailey, Derek Ming, and others duked it out behind them.

Another caution lap 30 for the stalled Chris Roberts machine put Cahoon and Olsen door to door. Cahoon chose the inside for the restart and cleared Olsen at first. But the fourth-generation racer kept at it and drove around the outside of Cahoon to take the lead with 14 circuits remaining.

Cahoon stuck right to Olsen's bumper in the closing laps as Quinny Welch, who'd surged to the third position, lurked in the shadows. With four laps to go, Bailey cut a tire while running fourth, and the resulting caution gave Cahoon one last shot. Cahoon had his hands full with Welch on the restart, though, and Olsen was able to escape for a long-overdue win.

Danville's Cahoon settled for second with Groveton's Welch, who started 13th, coming home third. Ovitt held off Jimmy Renfrew Jr. for fourth. All four drivers got off to great starts in their bids for the inaugural New England Late Model Challenge Cup.

Ming, Jeff Marshall, Donahue, Kasey Beattie, and Matthew Morrill completed the top 10. Twenty-five Late Models rolled through the pit gate, with 22 starting the main event.

Groveton's "Lucky" Luke Shannon brought the crowd to its feet with a last-lap pass to win his first-ever Strictly Stock Mini start. Shannon started 11th in the 25-lap main event and quickly knifed through the pack. After a hard-fought battle with Jack Hayes, Shannon moved into third with six laps to go. However, he was still well back of leader Tyler Thompson and runner-up Donnie Baumgardner.

But one circuit later, John Knight spun to bring the caution out and bunch up the field for a five-lap showdown. Baumgardner drifted up the track on the restart and Shannon slid underneath to grab second. He then set his sights



courtesy photo

North Haverhill, N.H.'s Ryan Olsen (center) beat out Tyler Cahoon (right) and Quinny Welch (left) for his first Late Model win since 2014.

on Thompson and swung to the outside with the white flag in sight. The youngster edged Thompson by just seven-hundredths of a second at the finish line for a thrilling victory.

Thompson and Hayes, both of Littleton, completed the podium. Baumgardner, Mike Smith, reigning champion Brett Jackson, Jon Savage, Todd Derrington, Tim Corey, and Scott Senecal finished fourth through tenth.

Lincoln's "Downtown" Bobby Brown fended off a late charge from St. Johnsbury's Colby Bourgeois to win the 25-lap Dwarf Car feature. Brown grabbed the lead from Jeff Ainsworth on lap-four and seemed to be well on his way to victory. Bourgeois moved into second on the ninth circuit but was having trouble catching Brown.

As the laps were winding down, though, Brown came up on up some slower traffic. As Brown struggled to get around them on the outside, Bourgeois came right up on his doorstep. However, the veteran Brown — now in his 49th season of racing — had a few tricks up his sleeve and held the young gun at bay.

Gilmanton's Tommy Smithers came out on top of a wheel-banger with reigning champion Jason Wyman for the third position. Chad Dufour rounded out the top-five.

Smithers' son Thomas VI was the winner in the Kids Truck 15-lap feature. Glover's Owen Rogers was holding Smithers off for the lead when Damion Sicard and Logan Farnsworth tangled with four laps to go. The contact sent Sicard hard into the Turn Three tire barriers and let Smithers get alongside Rogers for a four-lap dash.

Rogers was able to hold off Smithers for one lap, but Smithers was just too strong. He swiped the lead away the following circuit and scored his seventh victory since the start of 2020. Waterford's McKenna Merchant took third, followed by Farnsworth and Dominic Warren.

The day began with the annual White Mountain Car Show at the track. Island Pond's Derek Ming was the Late Model Car Show winner. Littleton's Russ Clark was judged the top Flying Tiger entry. Rookie Chris Moulton won the Strictly Stock Minis, Colby Bourgeois was top dog in the Dwarf Cars, and McKenna Merchant took home the first-place Kids Truck Car Show trophy.

White Mountain Motorsports Park returns to action this Saturday, May 15 at 6 p.m. with the Late Models, Flying Tigers, Strictly Stock Minis, Dwarf Cars, and Kids Trucks.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

LOCAL FINISHERS

Pos., Start Pos., Driver, Car #, Hometown, Laps

FLYING TIGERS

4. (2) Matthew Potter (23vt), Marshfield, Vt., 75 Laps

8. (1) Michael Potter (23nh), Plainfield, Vt., 75 Laps

12. (13) Jaden Perry (92vt), Hardwick, Vt., 52 Laps

14. (3) #Chandler Potter (22nh), Plainfield, Vt., 10 Laps

15. (16) Hunter King (62vt), Woodbury, Vt., 3 Laps

LATE MODELS

2. Tyler Cahoon (38vt) Danville, Vt.

17. #Laci Potter (55nh) West Danville, Vt.

20. Marcel J. Gravel (86vt) Wolcott, Vt.

KIDS TRUCKS

2. Owen Rogers (4) Glover, Vt.

SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Twinfield's Maddie Duke pitches to a Blue Mountain batter during play May 8 at Twinfield. In the back is Sophia Mancini. Blue Mountain won 16-4.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Umpire Leo Clark calls Delaney Fowler of Twinfield out at the plate as Blue Mountain catcher Lauren Joy makes the play.

Lady Trojans Struggle Against Top of the Division

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – Division IV powers Danville and Blue Mountain flexed their muscles against the Twinfield softball team last week, ending their two-game win streak.

Danville remained perfect within the division last Monday, blanking Twinfield on the road, 23-0. Makayla Quintin was a bright spot for the Lady Trojans, going 3-3, and eighth grader Sophi

Mancini made some spectacular diving plays in the outfield. Danville improved to 4-1 on the season with their only loss coming to Division III BFA-Fairfax. They sit atop of the division and have outscored their opponents this season 83-12.

“They are a very good team and it was just one of those games where we just struggled to get anything going,” said head coach Christin Martin.

Blue Mountain kept pace with

Danville in the divisional standings on Saturday, handing the Lady Trojans their second straight home loss, 16-4. Maggie Emerson and Gabby Houghton had two hits apiece for Blue Mountain and Jordan Alley belted a double and drove in four on the afternoon. Freshman Felicity Sulham earned the win as the Lady Bucks improved to 5-1. Ginger Klarich struck out three for Twinfield in the loss and Maddi Duke drove in two runs. The loss dropped Twinfield to 2-3 on the

season.

“Blue Mountain is also one of the better teams in the division, but overall, the girls played a much better game. Our defense is continuing to improve and Hannah Haverick and Zari Elliott made some crucial plays for us in the outfield and Maddi put together some really nice at bats,” said Martin.

Twinfield hosted Williamstown on Monday and are scheduled to travel to Mount. St. Joseph's Academy on Thursday.

Purrier Breaks Four-Minute 1500m Barrier for First Time

WALNUT, Calif. – Elinor Purrier, from Richford, has done Vermont proud again. On May 9, the 26-year-old distance running sensation competed in the USATF Golden Games.

Purrier outran a talented field to win the women's 1500-meter race. She became only the sixth American woman in history to break the four-minute barrier in the 1500m event.

Purrier won the race in 3:58.36. Her 1500m performance on Sunday currently ranks first for women athletes worldwide in 2021.

Purrier is a favorite to qualify for the U.S. Olympic track and field team. The Olympic trials will take place at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, on June 18-27, 2021.

The 1500m race is 109 meters short of a mile. Shelly Houlihan set the American women's 1500m record of 3:54.99 on October 5, 2019. Purrier set the American women's

indoor mile record of 4:16.85 on February 8, 2020.

The University of New Hampshire graduate grew up on a dairy farm in Richford. She got her start running cross country, playing basketball, and competing in track and field for Richford High School. Purrier still holds the Division IV Vermont state outdoor track and field records in the 400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m events.

On a local note, Craftsbury Academy senior Camille Bolduc is following in Purrier's footsteps. Bolduc broke the 1500m 5-minute barrier for the first time on Saturday at the Burlington High School Invitational. Bolduc, who is a two-time state champion in the 800m event, finished third in 4:54.82. The Vermont D-IV state women's 1500m record is within Bolduc's reach. The mark of 4:45.35 was set by Elinor Purrier on May 31, 2013.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

MaryJane McKenzie (left) and Jessica Royer (right) of the Hazen Union track and field team pass a baton during practice May 6 on Hudson Field.