

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Volume 132 Number 44

## Proposed Charter Change Draws Pushback

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Select Board, or Selectboard as it might soon be known, held a public hearing last Thursday afternoon to present proposed changes to the town’s charter. The changes consist primarily of removing repealed sections and obsolescent occupations such as “fence viewers.” The board also took a half-measure of changing “selectmen” to “selectboard” in a process that, according to member Elizabeth Dow, “took several people several weeks,” but

did not go the step further to eliminate the frequent use of gender-specific language such as “he or she.”

The issue that drew the ire of some was the change of the town clerk and treasurer from elected to appointed positions. An additional concern raised was that there had been little discussion about the process that a charter change requires.

One way Vermont is legally defined is by the Vermont Statutes, and of those statutes, each town’s charter is a chapter. Hardwick is

Chapter 123. Any changes to a town charter voters approve must also be approved by the legislature, which in 2022 convenes on January 6 and, unless special circumstances intervene, adjourns May 21, 2022. The select board wanted to get the charter changes to the legislature when it opened instead of opting to wait until town meeting, which is closer to the end of the legislative session.

Resident and frequent public servant Orise Ainsworth felt the board could have been much

**See CHANGE, 2**

## COVID Forces Continuance for Johnson, Bail Resumed

by Doug McClure

NEWPORT/ST. JOHNSBURY – A hearing had been set for last Wednesday to allow both sides to present their evidence in the case of State of Vermont v. Darryl Johnson (21-CR-09385) who stands accused of one count of second-degree murder and one count of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Robert Chaplin on October 20. COVID had other plans.

Johnson was being held at the Northeast Vermont Regional Correctional Facility, and the Department of Corrections (DOC) had been instructed to bring Johnson to the Orleans County Court in Newport for the evidentiary hearing. A COVID situation at the facility in-

tervened, the DOC canceled the transport. As noted by both Orleans County Court Criminal Division Superior Judge Lisa Warren and Johnson’s lawyer, Kelly Green, Johnson has the legal right to be at his weight of evidence hearing unless he waived it.

Johnson appeared via phone from the correctional facility at the hearing. When asked by Judge Warren if he would waive that right, he replied “I believe I need to be there in person.” The court had no option but to continue the evidentiary hearing to an as-yet-undetermined date, with multiple scheduling issues complicating setting that date.

With no evidentiary hearing possible, Green took the opportunity to resume the argument she had made at the November 1 arraignment that Johnson should be released on bail. Speaking for the State, Jennifer Barrett gave a rebuttal. The attorneys laid out their arguments in greater detail than previously.

• **See CONTINUANCE, 2**



screenshot by Doug McClure

An evidentiary hearing in the case of State of Vermont v. Darryl Johnson last Wednesday was postponed by COVID, but the attorneys presented their arguments as to whether bail should be allowed. Standing (at left) is state prosecutor Jennifer Barrett, at right, Johnson’s attorney Kelly Green.

### Defense: “Frightened” Johnson Defended Himself, Others

by Doug McClure

NEWPORT/ST. JOHNSBURY – Darryl Johnson’s attorney Kelly Green reiterated her position that the court reconsider holding Johnson without bail. She referenced 13 V.S.A. § 7553 and 13 V.S.A. § 7554, “A person charged with an offense punishable by life imprisonment when the evidence of guilt is great may be

**See DEFENSE, 4**

### Prosecution: “Nothing Here That Even Smells of Self-defense”

by Doug McClure

NEWPORT – State’s Attorney Jennifer Barrett laid out an argument as to why Darryl Johnson should remain in custody without bail, beginning with Judge Lisa Warren’s own decision at the November 1 arraignment to continue holding Johnson without bail until evidence was presented.

Barrett said “[Postponement of the

**See PROSECUTION, 3**



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wolcott third graders show the dirt bike rider scarecrow they worked on recently during the school’s Fall Festival Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Celebration. They are, in front (from left) Peri McEdward, Beckham English, and Sawyer Vize. In back (from left): Jahni Thompson, Suri Izor, and Marina Lyon.



photo by Doug McClure

Last Wednesday morning the first flakes fell on Hardwick, barely covering the leaves on the shuttered pedestrian bridge. Fall re-asserted itself quickly though, and the snow melted by mid-morning.

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**Change**

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more transparent about explaining that process and the timeline. Her main question, echoed by others, was about the change from electing a town clerk and town treasurer to the select board appointing them.

Ainsworth said “why do you think the five of you are better to select the town clerk and town treasurer than the hundreds of voters? In all of my years that I’ve been involved, since I was probably fifteen, going to town meeting, there’s never been an issue with electing a town clerk and town treasurer. We aren’t very city, we’re not Burlington, we don’t need a committee to do that for us. There’s not many people here, but I’ve talked to a few that are upset by it.”

Chair Eric Remick explained that if the board hired people for those positions, it would be a standard process comprising applications and interviews. If voters elect people, there is no such process. An additional factor is that if the positions are elected, then no one can run for those positions who is not a Hardwick resident and registered voter.

Elizabeth Dow said “if [Town Clerk] Alberta [Miller] were to retire, and [Assistant Town Clerk] Tonia [Gray] decided to pack up and go someplace else, then Hardwick is left with choosing from among its voters someone to do a highly legal, highly important, highly technical job with no experience.”

Board member Shari Cornish said “the job as town clerk has become highly specialized. There’s a lot of experience and information you need to know.” She cited one example being the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) computer system.

Ainsworth disagreed, saying “I think the electorate would figure out that candidate B is not qualified... taking this away from the voters with no forewarning... was a blow and an insult.” She added that if it was an appointed position, someone could apply for the job “coming in with an agenda.”

Town Manager David Upson bluntly said “I think democracy in the town is dying. There’s no participation of the public. Tonight, it’s an issue and people have shown up. There’s countless select board meetings where no one shows up. That’s sad. The fact [is] that we have elections that are unopposed, and it’s almost by default that someone puts their name on the ballot and they get elected. I think that’s what the board is trying to prevent from happening... that’s usually where the agendas come from is when someone runs [for office], not when someone applies for a job. They apply for a job because they want to do the job, not because they have an agenda.”

Ainsworth asked whether the charter changes would be voted on as a bloc, and Remick said “it’s not a la carte,” to which she replied “you might want to reconsider that.”

She stated that, based on feedback she had received, the entire charter change might be tanked by voters when the only aspect people disagreed with was the election or appointment of town clerk. Another resident proposed a hybrid approach in which people could still be elected but the select board would have to vet them for qualifications first. Miller, whose twentieth anniversary on the job was October 29, is investigating whether it is allowed to amend the warning to reflect that change.

A second public hearing on the topic is slated for November 18, at 5:30 p.m.

**Continuance**

**Continued From Page One**

After the attorneys made their arguments, Judge Warren took a brief break. When she returned, Judge Warren laid out her logic before providing a decision. She expressed concern about how long the COVID situation would last at the facility, as well as scheduling concerns. Judge Warren repeated that she has the discretion to make an exception on holding Johnson without bail under 13 V.S.A. § 7553 and 13 V.S.A. § 7554, “A person charged with an offense punishable by life imprisonment when the evidence of guilt is great may be held without bail. If the evidence of guilt is not great, the person shall be bailable in accordance with section 7554 of this title.”

She said that operating only on the state’s Affidavit of Probable Cause, Johnson’s mental condition

“was a concern.” But, Judge Warren said, despite the “extreme violence” the state alleges in this case, there existed “no evidence of other violence” in Johnson’s history, and he had no prior record so there was no basis to assume he would fail to appear at a future hearing.

With that in mind, and apparently persuaded by Green’s effort to detail Johnson’s lifelong community ties, Judge Warren agreed to re-impose the \$100,000 bail initially set with conditions. Beyond the typical requirements of showing up in court as required, not contacting Chaplin’s family, not leaving the state, and keeping the court clerk aware of his address, Judge Warren put Johnson’s wife, Holly, as his custodian and responsible for him. Johnson will be under a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. and cannot purchase or possess any weapons. There can be no weapons in his house, either.



**November 10 - November 16**

<p><b>Meat Dept.:</b>                  Chicken Leg Quarters - 69¢ lb.                  Johnsonville Italian Sausage -  <b>\$3.99</b></p>		<p><b>Winter Hats, Gloves &amp; Mittens in stock now! Banff, Smartwool, Broner and more...</b></p>
<p><b>Boves Pasta Sauce</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> 24 oz.</p>	<p><b>Bigelow Tea</b>  <b>2/\$5</b> 18-20 ct.</p>	<p><b>Spin Drift 8 Pk. Sparkling Water</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> 96 oz.</p>
<p><b>Wide Awake Coffee</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> 12 oz. or 10 ct.</p>	<p>G.M. Trix, Coco Puff, Golden Graham or Kix Cereal  <b>2/\$5</b> 10.4-12 oz.</p>	<p><b>Quaker Instant Oatmeal</b>  <b>2/\$6</b> 11.8-15.1 oz.</p>
<p><b>Progresso Vegetable Classic Soups</b>  <b>2/\$5</b> 18-19 oz.</p>	<p><b>Clorox Bleach</b>  <b>2/\$5</b> 40-43 oz.</p>	<p><b>Charmin Essential 6 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue</b>  <b>\$5.29</b> 229-294 s.f.</p>
<p><b>Bounty Essential 6 Big Roll Paper Towel</b>  <b>\$5.29</b> 224 s.f.</p>	<p><b>Food Club Butter</b>  <b>\$2.29</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>Food Club Shredded Cheese</b>  <b>\$1.89</b> 8 oz.</p>
<p><b>Cabot Whipped Cream</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> 7 oz.</p>	<p><b>Chobani Greek Yogurt</b>  <b>5/\$5</b> 5.3 oz.</p>	<p><b>Breyers Ice Cream</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> 48 oz.</p>
<p><b>Pepperidge Farm Frozen Cakes</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> 19.6 oz.</p>	<p><b>Pepperidge Farm Turnovers</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> 12.5 oz.</p>	<p><b>Pepperidge Farm Garlic Bread</b>  <b>2/\$5</b> 10 oz.</p>
<p><b>Bluewater Farm Cranberries</b>  <b>\$1.29</b> 12 oz.</p>	<p><b>Nature Ripe Blueberries</b>  <b>2/\$5</b> pt.</p>	<p><b>Florida Tangerines</b>  <b>2/\$1</b> ea.</p>

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# POLICE REPORT

## State Police Report Two-car Collision, DUI

On November 4, at 9:03 p.m., Troopers from the Vermont State Police St. Johnsbury Barracks were notified of a two-vehicle motor vehicle crash at the intersection of Vt. Rte. 15, Maple Lane and Noyestar Road in Walden. Initial investigation revealed that Keith A. Greaves, of Walden, was operating a 2004 Chevy Truck traveling East on Vt. Rte. 15 at a higher rate of speed than the posted speed limit. Sawyer F. Castle, of East Hardwick, driving a 2010 Ford Truck, was traveling West on Vt. Rte. 15 attempting to turn onto Noyestar Road. Greaves failed to yield for oncoming traffic (Castle) before attempting to turn onto Maple Lane. As a result, Greaves' vehicle struck Castle's vehicle, causing severe front-end damage. Greaves' vehicle traveled onto Maple Lane and came to an uncontrolled rest off of the road. Both vehicles were towed away from

the scene due to disabling damage.

On November 6, at approximately 6:37 p.m., the Vermont State Police responded to a single vehicle crash into a power pole on S. Craftsbury Rd. in the Town of Craftsbury. Upon arrival Troopers identified the operator as Markus Farnham, of Northfield, and observed indicators of possible impairment. Investigation revealed Farnham was under the influence of intoxicants at the time of the crash and he was subsequently taken into custody for suspicion of DUI. Farnham was transported to the Vermont State Police Barracks for processing and was released on a citation.

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.

## AWARE Report

**HARDWICK** – AWARE assisted nine victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence from October 31 through November 7. 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.

## Prosecution

Continued From Page One

the hearing] doesn't change the fact that the defendant's charged with murder, and the presumption is he be held. The state's review of the evidence, the media we've reviewed ... and the surveillance video, all the stuff that we made available for the defense yesterday but they weren't able to pick up, shows a very different story than what's being portrayed by [Johnson's defense] attorney [Kelly] Green. That's precisely why the court should not release him pending a weight of evidence hearing."

Barrett sought to remind the court of the state's allegations in its sixteen-page Affidavit of Probable Cause. She implied that while Judge Warren had read what the judge had on November 1 called a "significantly lengthy" affidavit showing the case to be "extremely serious and extremely violent," seeing the materials first-hand would amplify the state's allegations.

Barret said "the video at the Hardwick convenience store shows the defendant [Johnson] as the aggressor. He says, 'I've had enough,' and you see him violently shoving the victim [Chaplin] out of the store, hard, multiple times, across the store, across the parking lot. [Chaplin] does nothing to protect himself, and at the end of the video, you see the defendant waving [Chaplin] off, like 'whatever'—not someone who appears to be afraid. The defendant himself tells law enforcement 'if [Chaplin] comes to my house, I'm going to f----- kill him.' And law enforcement says, 'Well, don't do that unless you're afraid for your life.'"

Barrett said that Johnson "invited [Chaplin]" to come to his house, telling Chaplin "Come to my house. 'I have loaded guns.' They have this whole dialog about it there, but he invites [Chaplin] there [to his house]. Not to mention that at the store [Johnson] just says [Chaplin] said 'I know where you live' or something to [that effect]. Not 'I'm gonna kill you' or anything like that. "[Johnson] goes home, he moves his motor vehicles, and as his wife describes it, they were afraid their windshields might be damaged, or their cars might be damaged."

She referenced the timestamped surveillance mentioned in the affidavit. Police say the video shows "Johnson is seen walking outside with spotlight/flashlight and the .22 revolver" nearly half an hour before Chaplin drove up.

"The defendant waits for him and as soon as he arrives not even three seconds he's out of the house and he has a gun to his head. This is on video."

She described the state's version of the shooting in detail, adding that the court could only fully understand the situation by viewing the videos the state had intended to present at the scheduled evidentiary hearing.

"[Johnson] hits [Chaplin] with the barrel of the gun so much you can see the victim's head move over, as [Johnson's] saying 'you feel that barrel?'"

"At this point, Chaplin is not the aggressor. He's sitting in his car, he's drinking a beer, and you can hear him as he has a gun pointed to his head, [Johnson saying] 'can you feel that? you threatened me earlier.' And you can hear the victim say 'I ain't,' like 'I'm not threatening you.'"

"So, then the defendant tells him he can't leave, now he's detaining him. You have a guy who presumably he's been drinking alcohol, sitting in his car, with a beer, has never exited his car and now the defendant reaches in, tries to take his keys, and is detaining him."

"And when [Chaplin] tries to exit the car [Johnson] shoots him, and by his own admission, he pulls the trigger three times."

"[Johnson] pulls the trigger. Pulls the trigger again. And then realizes the safety's still on. Shuts the safety off and shoots him. Then, law enforcement arrives, and what is the first thing he says to law enforcement? 'I told ya. I told ya what, I was gonna shoot him.' That's what he's saying, his first response to law enforcement."

Barrett concluded her response by telling Judge Warren "This is not a case of self-defense. The defendant himself said that [Chaplin] was unarmed, that he didn't see any weapons, that he was not assaulted in any way, and by his own admission the very worst that happened [to Johnson] was a push. There's nothing here that even smells of self-defense."

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# Board Hears Department Requests for Easier Public Access to Records

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – At its regular November 3 meeting, the Wolcott Select Board heard from three departments about budgets. The board also got an opinion from Joey Wilson of Wilson Consulting Engineers, PLC about the proposed strategy for getting the box culvert for Brook Road, and the board discussed Starlink internet service.

The discussion about budgets led to a sidebar from Town Clerk Belinda Clegg. While both the zoning and listers had level-funded budgets proposed for next year, Zoning Administrator Tom Martin had a series of bullet points that he wanted the select board to hear. Martin was concerned about the organization of and public access to the tax maps, zoning permits, and listers cards.

“We need to get those online,” he said, “and they’ve never been organized. It needs to be gone through, organized, and put online so people can find it.”

Clegg said that the cost of outsourcing the work could range from \$3,500 to \$4,000, but there was a second option that would not consume budgetary resources, but instead could be paid for through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funds. She said in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns’ Kate Buckley, who is the ARPA liaison, keeping it in-house would fall under allowed uses of ARPA funds. The town would scan the documents and put them on the website. Even if the estimated 150 hours of labor required an extra hire, Clegg said she was told that would also be covered. The labor cost was put at \$3,000 based on \$20 per hour, the scanner between \$9,470 and \$10,495, and ink at \$1,000. The end result would have documents since 1975 from at least those departments online for public access.

The board was receptive to the idea in general, though vice chair Kurt Klein worried about adding an extra set of moving parts to the town’s misfiring website.

Klein said “the website is broken. It works, but it’s broken, so the idea of putting a massive database on that website as it stands now is a disaster.”

There was general agreement on that assessment, which prompted chair Linda Martin to say that the board should consider a public hearing after the upcoming November 10 meeting on the Town Forest proposal to see what the residents wanted to spend ARPA funds

on. Another question was whether the database access should be free.

The Litter Ordinance Committee had no budget last year since it was effectively disbanded and also due to COVID. Voters re-instated the committee earlier this year. The \$3,750 budget proposal’s largest line item is a “Bulk Item Trash Day.” The concept is modeled after what Klein described as a “quite successful” experiment that Craftsbury had tried, which led to “a lot less mattresses, box springs, and chairs on the side of the road.” Board member Richard Lee liked the idea.

The road crew and Lucien Gravel’s idea of separating the large Brook Road culvert’s creation from the contract work to install it was met with approval by engineer Joey Wilson. He felt that getting the bids out would be possible this month or by December, and with all approvals and permits in place, the process was in good shape. Wilson said only a handful of Vermont companies could produce the culvert as designed.

The board also discussed Starlink Internet. Klein said that Starlink’s vastly superior speed over Consolidated Communications meant the service was “integral and important to our hybrid [meeting]

system.” The board has been using Starlink for multiple meetings and the bandwidth issues experienced while relying on Consolidated DSL have evaporated. Lee said that “it sounds like a really good move,” and Clegg said some of the \$600 initial equipment fee might also be paid for through ARPA funding. Klein noted that there is a lead time to get Starlink service and he wanted to get the town on the reservation list. The board agreed.

Starlink is just one of the multiple technical aspects of hybrid meetings that technical expert Dolan Patrick has been assisting the board with. This night’s meeting was the first run entirely on the town’s equipment, except for Patrick’s Starlink and not a single glitch emerged. Klein proposed a “token recognition” of \$150 to Patrick “which does not in any way equate to the work he’s done.” Lee amended the motion to \$200. The board unanimously approved the motion and gave Patrick several rounds of applause.

Wolcott is hosting a special town meeting on November 10, at 6 p.m., at the Wolcott Town School to discuss the proposed community forest. The next regular board meeting is on November 17.

## Defense

Continued From Page One

held without bail. If the evidence of guilt is not great, the person shall be bailable in accordance with section 7554 of this title.”

Green argued that Johnson met the standard set for allowing bail “because of his character and the real fear he felt that night.” She mentioned multiple times that Chaplin had an outstanding warrant.

Green then said, “The shooting occurred in [Johnson’s] driveway. The decedent, Mr. Chaplin, had been arguing at the store with the clerk, became unruly, scared the customers, scared Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was able to eject him from the store. At that point Mr. Chaplin threatened to come to his house. [Johnson] told him not to come to his house.”

She repeated that Johnson “lived some distance away from the store, let’s say twenty or thirty minutes.”

Green said Johnson “was shocked, frightened, because Mr. Chaplin appeared at his home... there was no reason for Mr. Chaplin to be there. Mr. Johnson went outside with his gun and a flashlight.

“It was dark, [Johnson] ordered

in the strongest ways he could [for] Mr. Chaplin to leave, repeatedly—‘leave, leave, leave’—and he wouldn’t leave. Mrs. Johnson called 911 asking for help... Mr. Johnson then resorted to his second plan, which was to try take his keys and keep him there until police came. There’s nothing else you can do out there... you’re on your own. As soon as Mr. Chaplin heard the police were being called, he got out of the car, threw the door open, and lunged at Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson pushed him back and he came again at Mr. Johnson... and he shot. That was the fatal shot.”

She said that the ambulance took “approximately twenty more minutes to come” and “the whole time Mr. Johnson, with his wife screaming and crying the background, held a sweatshirt to [Chaplin’s] wound and tried to keep him alive. He was crying according to the 911 call.”

At this point in the hearing, Johnson began sobbing loudly on the phone. With his crying on the phone still in the background, Green continued to make a case for reinstating bail.

She said after the incident Johnson “immediately” went to the police, co-operated, and handed over evidence. Green said that the actions

of the police on scene reinforced her case.

“He was not arrested. You get the sense that the police had a sense of what he was like and what happened here in his driveway.”

She added that after the incident, Johnson and his wife had gone to grief counseling and employed a therapist to “help them because this was such a frightening, traumatic, and sad experience for them.”

Green described the events of Johnson’s October 29 arrest from what she said was his perspective.

“These people are not part of our world. They are just living their lives. They employed an attorney to help them... they didn’t know what was going to happen. It wasn’t until Friday the 29th that the State Police decided to charge him. Late on Friday afternoon, they sent five troopers. Mr. Johnson co-operated and went to prison.”

She said that “this court set... high bail” of \$100,000. Johnson found a bail bondsman who would take \$7,500 instead of the usual 10% required to secure his release. Green said that Johnson raised that money through “friends and family and people in the community. A bunch of people here took responsibility for his release.” She added

“the bail bondsman agreed to hold off charging him the remainder, the \$2,500, so [the Johnsons] could put it together. So, the bail bondsman felt safe enough to do that.”

Green said “this is a person who could be released on his own recognizance. If the court didn’t want to do that, it can be guaranteed that Mr. Johnson and his wife as a custodian would absolutely abide by whatever conditions. Of course, he would like to work, and his employer would like him to work, as well.”

Green said that Johnson did not know Chaplin but had worked with him years ago. She switched to the diminutive of Robert Chaplin’s name and said “sometimes Robby would need a ride, and [Johnson] would give him a ride. That’s how Robby knew where he lived.”

Green said that no one expected Chaplin to go to his house, and “certainly the police didn’t expect it.”

She said, “[Chaplin] said he was going to go to Mr. Johnson’s house. The police didn’t go out there. It was shocking to have him actually show up and make good on that promise. The only implication is that he was there for no good, to do harm.”

Green asked Judge Warren for Johnson to have bail reinstated, and “for his wellbeing, he be allowed to work [while] on release.”

# Re-use Room at Sterling College Benefits from Fundraiser

by Kate O'Farrell, UVM Community News Service

CRAFTSBURY – The Re-use Room at Sterling College, in partnership with the Helpsy organization, recently hosted a fundraiser that defied expectations for both the college and the greater Northeast Kingdom area.

The Re-use room at Sterling College is a place for students to donate and take items to avoid creating unnecessary waste. The room provides an alternative to throwing away materials and, instead, creates a cycle of re-use for students at the college. Elizabeth Faling, an employee with the ReUse Room, said that the program is “just getting people to re-use some items,” rather than adding to the landfill.

The program has significant participation from the Sterling College community. “Every day I go in, there are donations,” said Faling. However, the program is looking to improve and refurbish its space, as well as look toward a future of sustainability and re-use at the college.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, the college held its fundraiser with the help of the Helpsy organization. Helpsy is a textile recycling company that takes unwanted textiles and re-uses them as insulation, rags, and reintroducing some materials into the second-hand clothing market. Sue Wingert, a representative from Helpsy, described the for-profit organization as “Using business as a force for good” through their textile recycling.

Faling commented on the nature of textiles, saying that “it’s incredible how much waste

comes from textiles.” Textile waste is significant in the United States. The EPA estimated that the average citizen will discard 81 pounds of textiles annually. “Eighty-five percent of that could be saved,” said Wingert.

This was the first fundraiser of its kind for the ReUse room, and the success was far beyond the staff’s expectations. The ReUse Room collected over 7,000 pounds of textiles from community members from Craftsbury and beyond. The ReUse Room raised \$612.38 for their program, money that Faling hopes will refurbish the space and allow for “what our students and the smaller community needs from the ReUse Room.”

The fundraiser was for the ReUse Room, but the turnout from the wider Northeast Kingdom community proved that the college was not the only one benefitting from the drive. People came from as far as Montgomery to drop off unwanted items. The need for textile recycling was evident, as there aren’t many resources for textile recycling and re-use in the area. Faling spoke about the hopes for the money for the Reuse program, saying, “Right now, the Re-Use Room is outfitted with things that have been donated to us.” The staff hopes to use the money from the fundraiser to add more shelving to the ReUse room and continue momentum for more fundraisers like this one in the future.

Said Faling, “It was really wider than just Craftsbury.”

To learn more about Helpsy, visit [helpsy.co](https://helpsy.co). Information about the ReUse Room can be found at [sterlingcollege.edu](https://sterlingcollege.edu).



photo by Jeannine Young:

Speaker Kim Rivard from the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging spoke at the Hardwick senior citizens’ luncheon. Listening were (left row, left to right) Lois Picker, Sharon Gates, Janet Slayton, (middle row) Wanda Reen, Diane Demers, Annette Gann, Teresa Bellavance and (right row) Helen Neveu, Lizanne Blair, Nancy Stevens,

# NEK Council on Aging Visits Hardwick Senior Center

HARDWICK – Kim Rivard, community resource specialist from the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, attended the November 4 Hardwick senior citizens’ luncheon.

Rivard presented the various services available to seniors, including state health insurance assistance programs, transportation, and food and fuel services to support independence. The eighteen seniors present were able to have their questions answered. Brochures with the services provided by NEK Council on Aging were available.

Catholic Financial Life Chapter N443 St. Jean of the Greater Hardwick Area sponsored the event and provided the lunch, prepared by The Village Restaurant, supplemented with Jeannine Young’s “famous pickled beets.”

To contact NEK Council on Aging call (800) 642-5119 or go to [NEKCouncil.org](https://NEKCouncil.org).

### OUR E-MAILS

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# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Child Haven Benefit Runs Throughout Week

HARDWICK – The annual Child Haven International Extravaganza will take place this weekend in support of the 1,300 formerly destitute children in Child Haven’s Children’s Homes in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. This year’s fund-raising and outreach features three components which act to replace the usual in-person events of pre-COVID years.

The first is an on-line auction of local and South Asian items that can be seen and bid on at [32auctions.com/HardwickChildHavenAuction](https://32auctions.com/HardwickChildHavenAuction). The auction, which began on November 1, will end on Friday, Nov 12, at 8 p.m. Items won can be picked up on Saturday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hazen Union High School cafeteria.

The second part of the fundraiser is a take-out Indian meal prepared under the direction of Chef Sikander Rashid. Meals must be reserved and paid for on Child Haven’s website, [childhaven.ca](https://childhaven.ca), and may be picked up on Saturday Nov 13, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Hazen Union Cafeteria. Dinners are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children eight years old and younger. There will also be a bazaar of items for sale



The children at Child Haven’s Chittagong, Bangladesh, home will benefit from the proceeds of the Child Haven International Extravaganza held throughout the week in Hardwick.

from India, Bangladesh, Tibet and Nepal at the cafeteria for perusal while picking up meals. Masks are required. For more information on the dinner, call Deborah Hartt at 802-472-5284.

On Sunday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m., all are invited to a Hardwick Child Haven Zoom meeting featuring a live dance and song performance from some of the children at Child Haven’s Kaliyampoondi, India, Children’s Home. There will also be a slide show about the current situation at all the Homes by Child Haven board member Robin

Cappuccino, of West Wheelock. Cappuccino’s parents, Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, who founded Child Haven 35 years ago will say a few words about some of the children who have passed through the homes. The Zoom meeting will be hosted by Deborah and Walker Hartt of East Hardwick, who have volunteered at several of Child Haven’s Homes over the past few years. Those interested, can join the zoom at [us06web.zoom.us/j/87675111824](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87675111824)

For more information, call Cappuccino at 802-533-2296.



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STATE OF VERMONT  
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Orleans Unit, Docket No. 21-PR-04958

In re Estate of: John W. Hamilton

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: John W. Hamilton, late of Greensboro.

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

Dated: 11/3/2021  
Signature of Fiduciary: Mary Jane Fradette  
Executor/Administrator: Mary Jane G. Fradette  
64 Petes Pond Rd.  
East Hardwick, VT 05836  
802-793-4764  
email: [fradettesmaplesyrup@gmail.com](mailto:fradettesmaplesyrup@gmail.com)

Name of Publication: The Hardwick Gazette  
Publication Date: Wednesday, 11/10/ 2021  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court,  
Address of Probate Court: Orleans Unit  
247 Main Street,  
Newport, VT 05855

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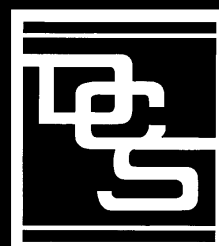
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# OBITUARIES

## OTIS D. CORROW

PIERMONT, N.H. – Otis Dean Corrow, 96, of Piermont, formerly of Hardwick, Vt., passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 31, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction, Vt.

He was born March 23, 1925, in Hardwick, the son of the late Clayton D. Corrow Sr. and Nina Marshall Corrow. He attended Hardwick Academy and many years later, on March 1, 2012, he graduated from Hazen Union School in Hardwick through a State of Vermont School program. He was 87 years young.

He enlisted in the United States Army during WWII in Hartford, Conn. He very proudly served his country in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He was one of the first wave of the soldiers onto Anzio Beach in Italy and one of the few survivors. Otis received several distinguished awards including, a double Purple Heart. Otis was Honorably Discharged on January 23, 1946.

On April 13, 1946, he married Joyce Bidwell, in Morrisville, Vt. For more than 20 years the young married couple lived in Massachusetts, before returning to Vermont in 1968 and making the Hardwick/Woodbury area their home. Following the death of Otis's beloved wife of 53 years, he moved to New Hampshire to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Jeannine and Peter.

Otis was employed by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Agricultural Department for 21 years. He later drove a truck, carrying agricultural products. He retired in 1978 due to acute health reasons.

He was an all-around Vermont farm boy at heart. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing and most of all, family life.

Survivors include: four children, Denise Griffith and



Otis D. Corrow

her husband, Larry of Bushnell, Fla., Jeannine Erpelding and her husband, Peter of Piermont, Carlton Corrow and his wife, Roxanne, of Lyndonville, Vt., and Dan Corrow of Charlottesville, Va.; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, Otis was predeceased by all his siblings, Archie Corrow, Clayton "Junie" Corrow Jr., Maylo Gonyaw, Irene Corrow, Gertrude DePaolo and his twin sister, Ona Miller.

Graveside services will be held in the spring in the Fairview Cemetery in Hardwick with date and time to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to help a Veteran at: Voluntary Services, White River Jct., VA Medical Center, 215 N. Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001.

Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick, Vt. Online condolences are welcomed at [northvermontfuneralservice.com](http://northvermontfuneralservice.com).

## JAMES (JIM) W. RICHARDS

CRAFTSBURY – James (Jim) W. Richards, 79, of Craftsbury passed away peacefully at his home on October 29, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on January 3, 1942, in Millport, Ala., to James and Jeanette (Dobson) Richards. Jim is a Navy veteran of the Korean War, spending time at sea aboard the USS Oriskany. In December 1963, he married Patricia Jones, and they began their lives together in Elkton, Md.

In Jim's post-Navy days, he worked at Getty Oil and put his carpentry talents to work doing side jobs. After taking early retirement from his position at Getty Oil, their family relocated to Vermont, where he started Richards and Sons building, from 1986 until he retired in 2005. During that time, he was also co-owner of the Brassknocker Inn in East Craftsbury that he, his wife, and mother owned and operated from 1988 to the early 2000s. After retiring from building, Jim enjoyed working part-time for Cabot Creamery, being the cheese "ambassador" at demos and food shows around the country. He also began working at the Country Club of Barre as an outside attendant to the pro shop. Both of these roles allowed Jim to connect with hundreds of people on a personal level – something that fueled his spirit.

He held memberships with the Meridan Sun Masonic Lodge # 20 in Craftsbury, Mount Sinai Shriners # 3 in Montpelier as part of their motorcycle unit, and the American Legion in Hardwick. His hobbies included golfing, golf club building, snowmobiling, and furniture making. He was a fan of the Philadelphia Eagles and the Alabama Crimson Tide football



James (Jim) W. Richards

teams. Jim was very family-oriented, patriotic and never hesitated to express his love for this country.

He is survived by his wife Patricia Richards of Craftsbury; his children: Jeffrey S. Richards (Caroline) of Newark, Del., Stephen D. Richards (Melissa) of Simsbury, Conn., and Philip B. Richards (Rachael) of East Montpelier; by his grandchildren: Heather, Tabitha, Kaitlyn, Chelsea, Jeffrey Jr., Emmalee, Bryson, Riley, Micah, and Lily; and his great-grandchildren: George, Amelia, and Oliver. He is also survived by his brother Michael D. Richards (Irene), and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A celebration of life will take place on November 27, the place and time to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Shriners hospital, c/o Donor relations, 29000 N. Rocky Point Drive, Tampa FL 33607, on his behalf.

On-line condolences may be made at [curtis-britch.com](http://curtis-britch.com). Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Curtis-Britch-Davis & Bouffard Funeral Home, Craftsbury Common, VT.

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# OBITUARIES

## LAURETTE DENISE PERRON

GREENSBORO – Laurette Denise Perron, 91, of Greensboro died peacefully at the Greensboro Nursing Home on November 4, with family by her side.

Born in Hardwick in 1930, she was the oldest of 15 children by the late Rosaire and Alice Renaud. As part of a large French Canadian farming family, Laurette grew up with love, music, hard work and faith as her foundations.

After completing the eighth grade, she worked in housekeeping and childcare. In 1953 she married Victor Perron of Greensboro. Before moving to the home that he built in Hardwick, they lived in a Greensboro cottage and for several summers hosted children from the Fresh Air program. Laurette enjoyed gardening, cooking, and raising her family. Her heart was broken when, at five years old, her oldest son died of leukemia.

The family moved back to Greensboro in 1970. Laurette got her GED and pursued nursing. She became an LPN in 1983 and worked for many years at the Greensboro Nursing Home. She and Victor had a loving marriage and again she suffered heartbreak when he died in 1997.

Laurette was an active and devoted member of Saint Michael's Church. She directed and sang in the choir, helped at the chicken pie suppers, became a Eucharistic minister and strongly encouraged her children and grandchildren to continue in the faith. A talented musician, she played piano, accordion and sang beautifully at home, family gatherings and as church soloist. She was proud of her French heritage, spoke it fluently and enjoyed the French folk songs. She loved parties, sharing jokes and stories with a wonderful sense of humor. She enjoyed holidays, good food and traveling, which included trips to Maine,



Laurette Denise Perron

Hawaii, Italy and Aruba.

Laurette was predeceased by her son Richard, husband Victor, Sisters Monique Martin and Patricia Ribolini, brothers Leon Renaud and Roland Renaud.

She is survived and will be very much missed by her son Robert Perron and his companion Susan Hill, daughter Alice Perron and husband MacNeil, grandchildren Roy MacNeil, Mavis MacNeil and husband Andrew Koehler, sister-in-law Nan Perron and her many sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and godchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 on Thursday, November 11, at Saint Michael's Catholic Church in Greensboro Bend with interment in St. Michael's Cemetery followed by a lunch reception in the church hall. The des Groseilliers Funeral Home is in care of arrangements. Online condolences and memories are welcome at dgfunerals.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Greensboro Nursing Home or Mary Queen of All Saints Parish.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Justice For Dogs Craft Show on Nov. 13

HARDWICK – A craft show to benefit Justice For Dogs will be held at Hazen Union High School Gym on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In addition to 50-plus crafters, the event will include a lantern auction and silent auction and musical presentations.

Justice for Dogs is a

nonprofit local animal rescue group serving both local dogs and cats operated by an all-volunteer group that has been serving local communities for the past 17 years. All proceeds from the event go to benefit and assist animals.

Masks are required at the craft show event. For more information, justicefordogsvt.org.

## Jazz Jam at the Grange on Nov. 19

EAST HARDWICK – A jazz jam will be held on Friday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., at Caledonia Grange #9, 88 East Church Street, East Hardwick. All instruments and players are welcome. This is an informal music share and practice session to swap tunes, follow along,

take the lead, or listen. There will be maintained distancing, masking when possible, and keeping the space ventilated. The event is free, but donations are welcome to support programming in East Hardwick. For more information, moderntimestheater@gmail.com.

## Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

HARDWICK – A free community Thanksgiving dinner will be served on Thursday Nov. 25, at the United Church of Hardwick. A full Thanksgiving meal will be served at noon. Reservations are requested

for take-out and eat-in. Volunteers and donations are appreciated. For more information call (802) 563-2208 or email sarahwsmilelady@gmail.com or United Church of Hardwick at (802) 472-6800.

## OSSU Announces Vaccination Clinics and Hours

HARDWICK – The Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union has recently learned of a new positive case of COVID-19 in the Craftsbury Schools community and have followed up with close contacts.

OSSU school-based vaccination clinics include:

Craftsbury Academy, November 16. There will be an option for parents of K-2 students to bring them to the Academy or to have the elementary school provide transportation.

Hardwick Elementary, November 19 and December 10.

Wolcott Elementary, December 15 and January 5.

Woodbury Elementary, students will be able to get vaccinated at Hardwick Elementary on the Hardwick dates. There will

be an option for parents to bring their children to HES or to have Woodbury provide transportation.

Lakeview Elementary students will be able to get vaccinated at Craftsbury Elementary on the Craftsbury dates. There will be an option for parents to bring their children to Craftsbury or to have Lakeview provide transportation.

Vaccinations may also be scheduled through the state website for non-school based clinics. Hardwick Health Center will held clinics for the first doses on November 9, and the second dose is scheduled for November 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. Sign up is at the Vermont Department of Health website. No walk-ins are accepted. For more information, call VDH at (855) 722-7878.



courtesy photo

Father-daughter duo Bob and Sarah Amos will anchor Bluegrass Night on November 13 at St. Johnsbury's ArtPort.

**Justice For Dogs 15th Craft Show**

Hazen Union Gym  
Hardwick, VT

**Sat. Nov. 13**  
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Fifty vendors

Silent auction, lantern auction, musical presentations  
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## Artists Invited to Submit Works for Juried Show

ST. JOHNSBURY – After a year marked by a pandemic and forced closure of numerous arts organizations, Catamount Arts is pleased to announce it will resume regular programming with its Arts Connect at Catamount Arts Juried Show as an opportunity to feature new work by emerging and established artists.

Artists are invited to submit up to five works created within the last five years. Work in all media is encouraged. Submissions are being accepted online now until Monday, Nov. 15, at midnight, when the submission period will close.

Accepted work will be displayed in the Arts Connect at Catamount Arts 2021 Juried Members Exhibition in Catamount Arts galleries and online through April 10. Due to COVID restrictions, an opening reception and award ceremony for prize-winning works will be scheduled online via Zoom. The date for the reception and award ceremony has yet to be determined.

Juror's Choice Prizes will be announced at the online reception as follows: Robert Manning First Prize: \$500; Second Prize: \$250; Third Prize: \$100; plus

six non-monetary honorable mentions.

The juror will be Gallery Director Katherine French, marking the 2021 Juried Exhibition as her last before her retirement as the Fried Family Gallery Director Emerita.

To submit work for consideration in the Arts Connect at Catamount Arts 2021 Juried Membership Exhibition, visit [catamountarts.slideroom.com](http://catamountarts.slideroom.com). All work must be submitted online. A Catamount Arts Membership (valued at \$50) is included as part of the \$35 submission fee and allows admission discounts to Catamount Arts films, KCP Presents performances, and online events. Applicants who are already Catamount Arts members will receive a one-year extension on their current membership.

Please note that Arts Connect at Catamount Arts is a competitive juried exhibition. Submission does not guarantee participation in the show. For more information about the Arts Connect at Catamount Arts 2021 Juried Membership Exhibition, visit [catamountarts.org/visual-art/juried-exhibitions-call-to-artists](http://catamountarts.org/visual-art/juried-exhibitions-call-to-artists).



*courtesy photo*

*Teenagers Ted, Maedi, Finn and Max make up the Kowal Family Band which will perform November 13 on Bluegrass Night at St. Johnsbury's ArtPort.*

## Catamount Bluegrass Night Returns to New Venue, Nov. 13

ST. JOHNSBURY – Catamount Arts will resume Catamount Bluegrass Night, a recurring evening of live bluegrass music showcasing some of Vermont and Northern New England's favorite Americana, roots, and folk musicians, on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., at Catamount ArtPort, in the Green Mountain Mall.

Formerly a monthly series held at Catamount's Eastern Avenue location and featuring an open jam session at the close of every show, Catamount Bluegrass Night will come back slowly (every two months to start), safely (no jam sessions yet) and in a bigger, well-ventilated space (the ArtPort) more conducive to distancing and air circulation.

"We are so excited," says Bluegrass Night host and veteran Bob Amos, "to bring Bluegrass Night back in a safe way that all acoustic music fans can enjoy." The newly revamped series, hosted by popular father-daughter duo Bob and Sarah Amos, will feature the bluegrass and acoustic music acts in Vermont and be held November 13, January 22, and March 26 at Catamount ArtPort.

"The new venue," Amos continues, "is a very interesting space, and parking and access is great. We will also have the Catamount Arts pro sound crew and staff to make this a really high-

quality show experience." As always, admission to Catamount Bluegrass Night will be free, but donations are encouraged and very much appreciated.

The first show, on November 13, will open with a couple of songs from NEK favorites Bob and Sarah Amos and will then feature Banjo Dan's Bluegrass Pioneers, as well as the Kowal Family Band. Comprised of some of the greatest acoustic music veterans in Vermont, Bluegrass Pioneers includes Banjo Dan and Will Lindner, Danny Coane, and Sam Blagden. Teenagers Ted, Maedi, Finn, and Max Kowal make up the Kowal Family Band who, combined with Bluegrass Pioneers and the Amos duo, represent over 50 years of Vermont bluegrass music.

On Saturday, January 22, Catamount Bluegrass Night will return to the ArtPort with Beg, Steal or Borrow and the Kowal Family Band. On Saturday, March 26, headliners will be the Bob and Sarah Amos Band and the Matt Flinger Trio.

Masks will be required of all attendees, performers, and staff as well as proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test.

For more information about Catamount Bluegrass Night, or to learn more about additional fall programming or Catamount's COVID safety protocol, call 748-2600 or visit [catamountarts.org](http://catamountarts.org).

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### Saturday, November 13

**JUSTICE FOR DOGS**, 15th Craft Show, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Hazen Union Gym, Hardwick. Silent auction, lantern auction and more.

### Monday, November 15

**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.

**THE DADS' GROUP**, every Monday, 5-6 p.m., at the Oxbow in Morrisville. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information: Rob at [rcary@LRCVT.org](mailto:rcary@LRCVT.org) or 802-730-3000.

### Tuesday, November 16

**THE MOMS IN RECOVERY** Support Program, tailored to support

pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 1 - 2 p.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: [crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com](mailto:crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com), 802-635-0084.

### Exhibits

**MARCY LINDSTADT**: Pandemic Pastels, through Nov. 16, Parker Pie Art Gallery, West Glover.

**ELEANOR OTT'S ART** is on display, the Third Floor Gallery, Hardwick Inn, through December. Reception date to be announced.

**To get your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: [news@hardwick-gazette.com](mailto:news@hardwick-gazette.com).**



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# IN THE GARDEN

## Preventing Tree Death by Bark Mulch or Rodents



*courtesy photo*  
Hardware cloth will keep rodents from chewing the bark and killing this young cherry tree.

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – If you have cleaned up the vegetable garden and cut back your perennials, you might be feeling just a little smug – especially since this gardening guy admits he is behind you in completing those tasks. But there may still be tasks for you to do, and important ones for the trees on your property.

Are you one of those gardeners who has fallen in love with bark mulch? Do you use it not only in flower gardens, but also around trees planted in the lawn to keep down weeds, hold in moisture, and keep the deadly string trimmer at bay? If you do, take a few moments to walk around and check out your trees and shrubs.

Bark mulch should never touch the stems of woody plants. You need a donut hole around your trees: a four- to six-inch area bare of mulch on all sides of your beloved trees. Why? Tree bark protects the

tree from rain and snow, but it will eventually rot if it is covered with soil or bark mulch. And if the rot extends into the cambium layer – the layer beneath the bark – it will, eventually kill the tree. But mulch is not the only culprit. Many trees are planted too deeply, and the flare is covered with soil, which is just as lethal.

If you look at a tree that Mother Nature planted – or perhaps it was a forgetful squirrel – you will see that a tree flares, or widens, at its base. That part of the tree needs to be planted above ground at planting time. Unfortunately, trees sold in pots often have the trunk flare covered with soil and get planted just the way they were in the pot. I have seen trees in large pots with the trunk flare covered by four inches of soil or more.

Mulch or soil over the trunk flare does not kill your tree right away. It often takes from six to ten years to see signs of decline. Look at the tips of branches at the



*courtesy photo*  
These beeches are infected with a fungus that will prove fatal in time.

top of the tree. Leaf loss there is a definite sign of decline. Early color change in the fall is another sign. That maple that turns color before others on the property? It may be stressed by bark rot caused by damage to the trunk flare.

So, examine your trees. If the trunk flare is covered with mulch or soil, you have work to do. If a tree is straight (like a telephone pole) at the soil surface, you need to pull the mulch away. And if you still don't see a flared area, you need to re-grade the soil around your tree.

Use gloved hands or work gently with a hand tool to remove the soil around the tree until you see the trunk flare. You may notice fine roots in the soil or mulch as you remove it, but these roots can be cut away. You are looking for big roots headed away from the trunk. Keep your hand tool away from the trunk as the bark will be tender, and easily damaged. But the good news is that most trees will recover if you remove the soil or bark mulch and let the bark dry out.

If you have planted a tree on a hillside, I assume you planted it be vertical. But to do that you had to cut back into the uphill side of the planting area to create a flat spot. If, after planting, erosion has moved soil downhill to cover one side of the trunk, remove that. People with excavators working on your property presumably know not to pile soil against the bark of trees, but check anyway. Remove soil as needed.

Another fall task involves protecting young trees from damage by rodents. The worst is the meadow vole. These are little rodents that look a lot like mice – but stockier, with short tails. Think of mice as a ballerinas and voles as hockey players. They often leave tunnels in the lawn grass during the winter.

Voles can reach sexual maturity in just five weeks after birth, so they can increase in numbers exponentially, given the right conditions. If hungry enough, they will chew the bark off young trees, killing them by damaging the tender cambium layer and eating the phloem all around a tree, girdling it.

Young fruit trees are the most susceptible to girdling. Older trees have thicker bark and are generally less interesting to rodents. If you planted an apple tree within the last five years, you should protect the bark. Even though they did not damage the tree in the past, you cannot assume they will not this year. If there are high numbers of voles this year, and a deep snow cover to hide them from predators, they may attack.

The best way to protect trees against damage by voles is to surround the trunk with a ring of wire mesh called hardware cloth. Get some with quarter-inch spacing of the wires, and create a ring 24-inches tall. Make the ring of wire big enough to leave a couple of inches of space between the mesh and the trunk. That will allow the tree to get fatter without meeting the hardware cloth. If you have low branches (within 24 inches of the ground), you can prune them off to accommodate the wire mesh.

Hardware cloth comes in 24-inch rolls. You will need tin snips to cut it and leather gloves to protect your fingers. The stuff is like razor wire once cut. But, having seen what rodents can do, I recommend protecting new trees. There are plastic wraps and special cloth wraps that claim to protect against rodents, and may, but I have not tried them. They are definitely easier to use. So, check out your trees, and get busy if need be.



*courtesy photo*  
This well-planted maple flares out at its base.

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## It Gets Old

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The hammer of autumn darkness and the return to “standard time” seemed to fall harder than usual this past week. The reason is probably that, whereas twenty years ago we suffered them in relative silence and isolation, now thousands of us are loudly proclaiming our pain from the rooftops of the internet. That’s both a good thing and a bad: bad because depression can be as contagious as a virus; good because the obviously widespread discontent may lead to legislation to put the foolishness of manipulated time behind us.

*You have to wonder how the old-timers coped with the darkness without electricity or central heating. Simple: They worked from dawn till dark and, as the saying goes, went to bed with the chickens.*

I can’t say I care much which standard we adopt. For me, the main reasons to stick with one or the other are, first, the hazard of setting my two wall clocks (one, the higher up, is supposed to set itself. A cruel joke; it’s currently two hours ahead) and second, the complexity of falling back an hour on a digital clock without going through all the other settings, as well. Plus, the protocols are all different. My kitchen stove clock hasn’t been set successfully since we installed it fourteen years ago (one internet adviser suggests using a three-pound hammer). The cars – well, I don’t have to worry about the summer car; by the time it comes out of its protective cocoon in the spring, we’ll have switched back to its current setting. The newer car’s clock can be set, according to a note on Page 102 of the Owner’s Manual by referring to “General Settings” on Page 425. Reminds me of the remark of the Kapellmeister in “Amadeus” about Mozart’s music: “Too many notes.”

The most rueful remarks I’ve read have been those of pet owners. The poor animals, who, like the rest of the natural world, take their cues from the sun, the rain, and the temperature, don’t understand the sudden changes in their humans’ behavior. Those who “need to go out” at sunrise now need to go out and be fed their breakfast an hour earlier, to the disgruntlement of the slaves to the clock. Personally, I’m

blessed with a little terrier who apparently’s been equipped with the bladder of a rhinoceros. Often – and especially in this colder weather when she’s deep under the bedcovers – Kiki knows it’s morning only by the racket of my phone alarm, to which I may or may not respond, and she doesn’t always ask to be let out to pee and clear the yard of predators. The scent of brewing coffee does nothing for her – she gets no meal in the morning, anyway – but the aromas of hot sausage and an omelet being sautéed in butter finally bring her in for a treat.

During the afternoon is when I notice the difference. For safety’s sake, I need to be out of the park while I can still see my feet, and dark’s now an hour earlier. Cued by the position of the sun, Kiki begins to tease to get going an hour earlier by my clock; so I’ve moved up our departure time, as well as our preprandial ritual and supper, by half an hour. That makes for a longer evening and an earlier bedtime; but with warm flannel sheets and a thick comforter beckoning, and darkness-triggered melatonin coursing through our veins, the prospect of hibernation is as welcome as the sight of its barn to a tired horse.

Except in midsummer, I’m almost always making breakfast in the dark, anyway; so, if I were to vote, it would be for daylight savings time. But permanent. No more of this sloppy switching back and forth. It gets old, especially as you get old yourself.

You have to wonder how the old-timers coped with the darkness without electricity or central heating. Simple: They worked from dawn till dark and, as the saying goes, went to bed with the chickens. An old journal I found from 1875 recorded that on the coldest winter days the writer and his father worked by daylight in the shop, splitting shingles, mending harness, and carving maple taps. Lamp oil and candles were extravagances for many of those folks. A good wood stove could hold a fire all night, and the first family member up in the morning stirred it to life and fed it fresh chunks for everyone else’s comfort. We’ve got it so good that, regardless of the time of day or night, we can watch television, compose on the computer, and read ourselves to sleep.

So how did those ancestors of ours, often clad defensively in long johns for as many months as we’re currently operating by standard time, manage those interminable nights in bed in the dark with nothing to do? If you have to ask, it’s possible that our modern conveniences, for all they’re able to perform for us, have caused your imagination to atrophy.

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

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## MEETING MEMO

### Monday, November 8

- **Caledonia Cooperative School District Full Board of Directors’ Regular Meeting**, 6 p.m., Waterford School Room 13 and remote access also available.
- **Walden Select Board**, every other Monday

### Tuesday, November 9

- **Twinfield Union School Regular Board Meeting**, 6 - 8 p.m., Twinfield Union School Library and remote access also available.

**Town Websites, Town Clerks**  
Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov  
Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com  
Greensboro: greensborovt.org  
Hardwick: hardwickvt.org  
Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us  
Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net  
Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, fax: 802-563-3008, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. www.waldenvt.gov. waldentc@pivot.net

Wolcott: wolcottvt.org  
Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Do Better

To the editor:

To the punk who scrawled anti-Semitic graffiti on his neighbor's apartment door: consider yourself called out. Knock that s\*\*\* off. Remember how to act in community. Anti-Semitic graffiti has no place in a community we all share. And before you say it's

not my business: it's everybody's business. When I read that newspaper piece by Doug McClure, I knew I couldn't look my Jewish friends in the face if I just let it go by. Or my Christian friends, either. Do better, friend.

**Hester Fuller**  
Craftsbury

## Unsupervised Children at Atkins Field

To the editor and neighbors:

It has come to our attention at the Center for an Agricultural Economy that a teenage boy has been frequenting Atkins Field, asking young children for drugs and to inappropriately touch him in exchange for \$20. Many of the children who frequent Atkins Field are much younger, age ten or so, and they are unsupervised.

At the same time, we have seen a small group of young children engaging in vandalism at Atkins. Vegetables, bicycles, signage, and the hoop plastic have been destroyed with baseball bats and golf clubs.

All of this pain and violence is so difficult to see, and we can only imagine how difficult it must be for our young people to experience. We can almost hear these young people all screaming for help in these various ways. The question for the Hardwick community is, what are we going to do about that?

For starters, although we

believe many consider Atkins a safe place, people should know that CAE does not have offices on site. Staff and volunteers are often on the property for meetings and garden work, but we are not trained in child therapy or services.

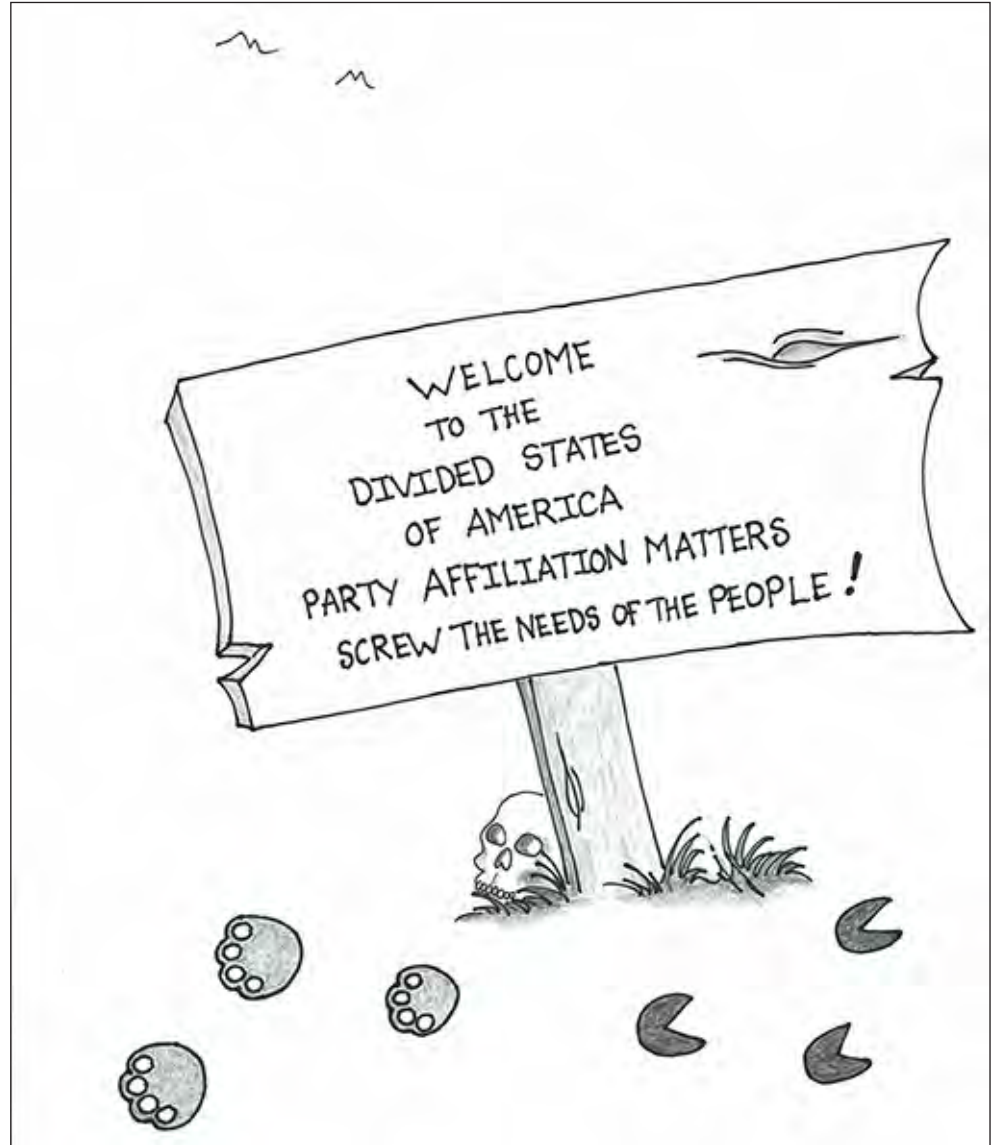
This is not just an Atkins Field problem. We would like to start a broader conversation with our community about these troubles. Can we find some solutions together?

Meanwhile, no parent should assume their child will be supervised at Atkins Field. Please be aware of these facts in deciding how your family spends time at Atkins Field.

Thank you for your understanding. Please get in touch if you would like to join a larger conversation about how to make Hardwick a safer, healthier community, especially for our young people.

**Bethany M. Dunbar**  
The Center for an  
Agricultural Economy

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood





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The Lamoille Family Center seeks a full-time Job Coach to support Reach Up participants to secure and maintain employment.

Responsibilities include: member of employment team with partner agencies; assist participants with resume writing, job applications and interview preparation; cultivate and maintain community service and employment sites; provide coaching services to individuals once employed including on-site visits, teaching workplace etiquette and social skills, and troubleshooting solutions to maintain employment; and serve as a liaison between the worksite supervisor and individual.

Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in a related field; understanding of the barriers to employment; knowledge of local and state employment programs; ability to engage with a variety of partners including program participants, worksites, state agencies, and other non-profit organizations; excellent administrative, organizational, and communication skills.

Position open until filled. Please send cover letter and resume to Jeff Hunsberger, Lamoille Family Center, 480 Cady's Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661 or [info@lamoillefamilycenter.org](mailto:info@lamoillefamilycenter.org).



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Wolcott first grader Mica Smith holds up the gourd she painted during the school's Fall Festival Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Celebration for grades K-6.

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For more information or to apply, contact Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee at [calaisroadcommissioner@myfairpoint.net](mailto:calaisroadcommissioner@myfairpoint.net) or at 456-7466. Applications accepted until position is filled.

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**Technology Assistant: Tier 0-1**

Lamoille North School District is searching for a skilled and motivated Technology Assistant to join our team. The ideal candidate for this position has a good understanding of Information Technology and routinely thinks outside the box to solve problems quickly and understands what impeccable customer service is all about. The Technology Assistant will be responsible for responding to helpdesk requests and performing technical and system diagnostics as required. If you are interested in joining a collaborative team, please visit [Schoolspring.com](http://Schoolspring.com) for more information.

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**1:1 Device Project Technician: Tier 1-2**

Lamoille North School District is searching for a skilled and motivated 1:1 Device Project Technician to join our team. The ideal candidate for this position has a good understanding of Information Technology and routinely thinks outside the box to solve problems quickly and understands what impeccable customer service is all about. The 1:1 Device Project Technician will be responsible for responding to 1:1 Device helpdesk requests and performing technical and system diagnostics as required. If you are interested in joining a collaborative team, please visit [Schoolspring.com](http://Schoolspring.com) for more information.

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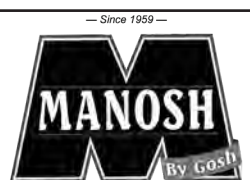
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# SPORTS

## Meet of Champions Attracts Local Harriers

by Jim Flint

ST. ALBANS – High school cross country runners from across Vermont gathered at Hard'Ack Ski Area on November 6, for the Meet of Champions. The field of pre-qualified competitors included a cohort of local student-athletes representing Craftsbury Academy and U-32 High School. Cool temperatures led to fast times on the grassy, gently rolling 5k course.

D-II state champion Harwood Union High School edged out Champlain Valley Union High School, 50 to 52 points, to win the varsity girls team competition. Essex (88 points) and U-32 (107 points) placed third and fourth. The Craftsbury Academy girls placed a respectable eighth out of nine scoring teams.

Craftsbury's Ava Purdy and Anika Leahy pushed each other from start to finish. Purdy finished a nose ahead of Leahy, in 20:55.9. Leahy's time was 20:56.0. The Charger girls placed 24th and 25th of 66 finishers. Purdy and Leahy also set new personal best 5k marks.

Running against tough competition, Ruth Krebs (22:29), Rachel Bjerke (24:34), and Daisy Roianov (27:53) had 5k finish times for Craftsbury which were close to their personal bests.

Amy Felice of U-32 High School was the fastest varsity girl from towns covered by the Hardwick Gazette. She placed tenth, finishing in a new personal best time of 20:08. Felice, who is from Calais, will run with the U-32 girls at the

New England Cross Country Championships on November 13.

The Meet of Champions was the season finale for the Craftsbury Academy girls' team, which placed third in the D-III state championships on October 30. The Chargers were the only D-III school to field a full girls' squad at the Meet of Champions.

In the boys' varsity division, Craftsbury Academy's Cormac Leahy went into the Meet of Champions eager to compete side-by-side with the top D-I and D-II runners in Vermont. Leahy, the D-III champion, got what he wished for and more. He placed fifth of 80 runners and nearly broke through the 16-minute barrier. His time of 16:03 was 25 seconds faster than his 2020 Meet of Champions race on the same course.

Craftsbury's second man, Charlie Krebs, continued his string of consistently strong performances. He placed 14th in 16:43 and set a new personal best 5k mark. His time at the meet was 31 seconds faster than last year's effort.

Alex Califano had his highest finish of the year for the Chargers. Califano placed 28th in a new personal best time of 17:17. He eclipsed his finish in the 2020 Meet of Champions by nearly two minutes.

Leo Circosta (17:30) and Alan Moody (17:45) also set new personal best 5k times for Craftsbury. The boys placed 34th and 39th respectively. Matt Califano (17:48) finished 41st to round out the Charger boys. He took more than a minute off his time at the 2020 Meet of Champions.

Division-II champion U-32 High School won the team scoring contest with 33 points. Essex High (94 points) and Bellows Free Academy (97 points) placed second and third. The Craftsbury Academy boys placed fourth with 109 points, moving up from last year's seventh-place finish. D-I champion St. Johnsbury Academy opted out of competing at this year's Meet of Champions.

Sargent Burns, from Calais, placed 26th in 17:14. The U-32 junior ran in the Meet of Champions for the first time. Like the Craftsbury boys, his next stop is the New England Championships on November 13 in Thetford.

The Craftsbury boys will finish their historic high school cross-country season on the Woods Trail course, which they have run twice already this season. The Chargers are the first D-III squad to qualify as a team for the New England Championships. The boys' New England Championship race is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., followed by the girls' championship race at 12:15 p.m. Spectators are advised to allow extra time before the race starts to park and walk to the meet area at Thetford Academy.

"This will be a sharpening week that is light on mileage," said Craftsbury Academy head coach Mike Levangie. "Our goal is to stay bouncy and loose. We'll also keep an eye on the weather; it may be muddy at Thetford. Nasty conditions are better for us and the Vermont teams. The boys are focused on the New England Championships and are already planning ahead for next year."

## Cold, Frosty Run at Fallen Leaves in Montpelier

by Jim Flint

MONTPELIER – The Fallen Leaves Race Series kicked off Saturday morning with a thick coating of frost on the ground and clear blue skies above. Runners circled the Montpelier High School track to warm up as they awaited the 9 a.m. start. Despite lung-chilling temperatures in the twenties, several athletes posted speedy times.

Neal Graves of Stowe blazed the out-and-back 5k course in 16:47. He finished nearly a minute ahead of the runner-up, Oliver Medrich. Rima Carlson of Montpelier outpaced Amanda Repp to win the women's division, 21:59 to 22:06.

Tennessee Lamb, from East Calais, was the fastest runner from towns covered by the Gazette. He placed fifth overall in 18:46. Lamb is a freshman cross country runner at U-32 High School. His 5k effort at Fallen Leaves was a new personal best time.

Mack Gardner-Morse, 60, from Calais, keeps getting faster with age. Gardner-Morse averaged 6:47 per mile to win the M60-69 age group in 21:05. He placed 15th overall out of 67 finishers.

Adamant's Donna Smyers, 64, is another ageless athlete. She paced at 7:42 per mile, en route to winning the F60-69 age group in 23:55. Mark Howard, 59, of Marshfield finished just ahead of Smyers in 23:51. He placed fourth in the M50-59 age group.



photo by Jim Flint

Donna Smyers won the F60-69 age group at Fallen Leaves. The Adamant physical therapist cruised the out-and-back section on the Montpelier Bike Path. She finished the 5k race in 23:55. Mark Howard (#150) of Marshfield finished just ahead of Smyers

Cathy DuPont, 56, placed second in the F50-59 age group. DuPont, who coaches cross country at Twinfield Union High School, brought along her sister Bess Powers. Powers placed fourth in the F60-69 age group. The sisters, who are from Marshfield, finished together in 27:28.

"The race was Bess' first run after recovering from a broken bone in her ankle," said DuPont. "We had a great time!"

Tim Hogeboom and Elizabeth McCarthy completed their 22nd race of the year at Fallen Leaves. Hogeboom, 70, placed third in the M70+ age group. His time was 25:58. McCarthy, 69,

finished in 28:24. She placed fifth in the F60-69 age group.

The Walden couple plan to run the 5k and 10k road races at the 2022 National Senior Games. The biennial games for athletes age 50+ take place next May in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Fallen Leaves Race Series continues on November 13 and November 20 at Montpelier High School. The race entry fee is \$5. Day of Race registration is from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. Start time is 9 a.m. For more information, visit [cvrunters.org](http://cvrunters.org).



photo by Jim Flint

Elizabeth McCarthy (#102) of Walden finished the Fallen Leaves 5k race in 28:24. She placed fifth in the competitive F60-69 age group.

# SPORTS

## Marshfield Man Manages Massive Miles

by Jim Flint

SUTTON, Mass. – Mark Howard, 59, is a contemplative runner. The thought of ordinary humans trekking extraordinary distances intrigues him. This fascination pulled him into the ultramarathon world and a community of athletes who share his passion.

Howard did not run when he was young. In middle school, he started smoking. His tobacco use grew into a pack-a-day habit by adulthood. Unfiltered Camel Straights were his cigarettes of choice. “I’d walk a mile for a Camel” was the brand’s iconic slogan.

When Howard was in his mid-forties, he wanted to hike but didn’t have enough lung capacity. He quit smoking in 2005 and began walking two miles a day with a neighbor. His breathing started to clear up. As he neared 50, he thought about exercising more.

Howard saw a poster at Twinfield High School for April Farnham’s boot camp. He stewed on the idea for two years. In January 2012, he signed up for 5 a.m. workouts three days a week, year-round. Although Farnham’s boot camp ended several years ago, Howard still rouses from sleep at 4 a.m. He dons a headlamp and joins Farnham and friends in Plainfield, Marshfield, East Montpelier, or Adamant for a morning run.

Howard entered his first race, a 5k, in 2012. In September 2013, he finished a 50k mountain trail race in just over seven hours. Since then, he has completed at least one ultramarathon each year. His longest race was the Vermont 100, on July 21, 2018. He covered the 100-mile distance, including 17,000 feet of vertical climbing, in just under 24 hours.

When the pandemic canceled last year’s races, Howard hatched an idea and ran it by Farnham, who lives in Plainfield, and Ira Wheeler, from Danville. On October 24, 2020, the trio ran the Bayley-Hazen Military Road from Wells River to Hazen’s Notch. They started and finished the 67-mile route in the dark. Their historic adventure lasted 16 hours and 29 minutes.

Howard selected the Midstate Massive Ultra Trail Marathon for his 2021 goal event. The point-to-point race started in New Ipswich, N.H. The endpoint was near the



*photo courtesy of ING Guides Media*  
Mark Howard of Marshfield ran and walked 80 miles of the 100-mile Midstate Massive Trail during an ultramarathon race last month. He reached the 28-mile aid station at the Mt. Wachusett Ski Area parking during the afternoon of Oct. 9. Most of the challenging route was on rugged single-track trails. Howard completed his 22 hour and 40 minute trek when dawn broke on Oct. 10.

intersection of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

The 100-mile route winds through the mountains and countryside of central Massachusetts, with 10,000 feet of vertical climbing. Runners have up to 34 hours to complete the race. Howard would need to average three miles per hour, every hour, to complete the entire distance.

Howard began his odyssey at 9 a.m. on October 9. The initial New Hampshire section was on familiar trails that he had run before. After entering Massachusetts, the route continued on technical single-track trails with steep ups and downs. Howard was moving well. He found interesting people to run with and loved the course. He got over Mount Wachusett, elevation 2,004 feet, before sundown. He was just past the 50k mark in his journey when darkness set in.

“I have done plenty of night running and enjoy it, but I just had an awful time running on the rocky trails in the dark,” said Howard. “I would get little running spurts in on smooth sections and then go back to walking. And so it went through the night, initially slowed by not feeling I had enough light, and later slowed by increasing exhaustion.”

When Howard runs an ultramarathon, he keeps moving without stopping to rest. Easily digestible GU energy gels and shot block chews are his main source of nutrition. Though he burns 300 calories each hour, he

can only digest 200 to 300 calories per hour without feeling nauseous. Adrenalin and body fat stores make up the energy deficit. Caffeine in the gels and chews kept Howard alert and took the edge off the pain in his muscles and joints.

The Midstate Massive has 16 aid stations along the 100-mile route. Howard carried a liter and a half of water in a vest with a bladder, which he refilled at the aid stations. The weather was ideal for running, pleasantly cool during the day and above freezing at night.

After descending Mount Wachusett, Howard continued on single-track trails, often rocky, until the 100k (62 mile mark). After that point, there were longer road sections between trails. He ran alone for most of the long night. Fatigue and questioning set in. He had gone many miles beyond his longest training run going into the race.

Just before dawn, Howard walked along a section of paved

road. Doubts entered his mind. “Wouldn’t it be nice to just call it at the 80-mile aid station and go home?” he questioned.

“I considered the ultramarathon ethic,” Howard reflected. “The approach to be successful is to hold fast to trying to finish, with every last-ditch of effort. At the same time, you don’t want to do any physical harm. I wasn’t injured, not completely spent as many who put everything into it. I just didn’t feel like walking anymore.”

Howard’s name isn’t among the 72 runners from 15 states who completed the entire 100-mile Midstate Massive Ultra Marathon. He finished his race at the 80-mile aid station. Including a couple of wrong turns, he had trekked 82 miles in 22 hours and 40 minutes.

“I had a great time and enjoyed every step I took,” said Howard. “The more challenging the trail, the more interesting. The best parts of the course were the gnarly sections that reminded me of the Long Trail. The hardest point was coming to terms with not being able to run as well in the dark. That meant more walking than running.”

“One of my biggest takeaways was to use a brighter headlamp and do more night training runs on rough trails. I felt a bit bad because so many people put so much into this, and I just quit. But it is a clear lesson that I need good solid reasons for doing these things. It is a fabulous course worthy of inspiration, just not for me that day.”

Howard has begun planning for his next adventure, the Ultra Trail Chic Chocs in the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec. The 113-kilometer race on August 19-21, 2022, crosses 25 mountain peaks over 1,000 meters tall. “There is something magical about traveling across vast distances on your feet,” he contemplated.

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# SPORTS



Above: Craftsbury Soccer senior girls (from left to right): Felicia Flint, Maggie Royer, Amelia Eagan and Ida Eames. Left: Craftsbury Soccer senior boys (from left to right): Ethan Sibley, Jas Zendik, Blair Locke, and Greyson VanWinkle. Below: Twinfield Soccer senior girls (from left): Eva Hebert, Makayla Quintin, Nicole Gouge and Julia Light.

**Photos  
by  
Vanessa  
Fournier**



# SPORTS

## Twinfield-Cabot Boys Can't Slow Down Green Wave's Title Run

Ken Brown

RUTLAND – Mount St. Joseph Academy (MSJ) ended the Twinfield-Cabot boys' soccer team's amazing run through the 2021 season last week in the Division IV semifinals and capped it off with their program's first state championship over the weekend.

Tyler Corey and Ryan Jones scored two goals apiece last Tuesday to power MSJ to a 4-1 home win over the Trojans in the Division IV Final Four. Sophomore Meles Gouge put the Green Wave on upset alert early, scoring his twentieth goal of the season to put the Trojans up 1-0 four minutes into the match.

"The guys had a great week of practice and were super focused and it was a great feeling taking the lead early and control some tempo. We knew going in they had a really strong team and their counterattack put us on our heels a little and we struggled to get the momentum back," said head coach Peter Stratman.

Corey buried a feed from Jones five minutes later to tie the match at 1-1 and Jones would be credited with the eventual game-winner midway through the first half off of a Corey corner kick. Nine minutes into the second half, Corey narrowly beat Twinfield-Cabot goalkeeper Neil Alexander on a bang-bang play to make it 3-1 and Alexander would be forced to leave the match with a possible concussion. Jones made it 4-1 midway through the second half to end the scoring on the day.

Alexander recorded 11 saves in the loss and Dominick Phillips made six stops for MSJ for their fifteenth win of the season. Corey and Jones transferred from Mill River this fall for their senior season and instantly transformed the Green Wave offensively as they outscored their opponents 87-26 to advance to their first-ever title match.

"I'm really proud of how our guys competed and represented themselves and this program and hats off to MSJ. They are a very experienced team and have two guys in Corey and Jones that are versatile and can hurt you from multiple positions on the field. Lucas Roberts, Alec

*"It's phenomenal what these kids accomplished this season with a very challenging schedule, they overcame adversity and I'm so proud of them. This was one of the most well-rounded teams skill level wise that I've had the privilege to coach."*

Moran, and Brody Moran are the only seniors on a team that was filled with sophomores, freshman, and eighth graders this season. They've helped turn this program completely around and they are not only great soccer players, but even better people and they will be sorely missed," said Stratman.

Twinfield-Cabot's run ends with their first Division IV Final Four appearance in 21 years and their second straight season with a playoff win after an eleven-year drought. Stratman is 28-12-1 in his three seasons as the Trojan head coach and likes the direction the program is headed and the young and talented core he hopes to return next season.

"It's phenomenal what these kids accomplished this season with a very challenging schedule, they overcame adversity and I'm so proud of them. This was one of the most well-rounded teams skill level wise that I've had the privilege to coach and we should return a very talented and cohesive crew next fall. We came together really well as a team this season and it was fun to watch them grow and create bonds and relationships. I grow, evolve, and invest my own emotion as I coach them throughout the season, so there is definitely a real sense of loss when the season is over," said Stratman.

MSJ defeated Rivendell Academy over the weekend, 3-2, to claim their first boys' soccer Division IV state championship in school history.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Twinfield Soccer senior boys Alec Moran (left), Brody Moran (center) and Lucas Roberts (right).



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# SPORTS



## Promoting Cooperation and Sportsmanship

The Twinfield-Cabot soccer teams helped promote cooperation and sportsmanship throughout the season. The boys' soccer team includes (back row, left to right) Silas Robbins, Brody Moran, Rowan Cleary, Neil Alexander, Cooper Bernatchy, TJ Bernatchy, Declan O'Connor, Lucas Roberts, Dominick Hale, (middle) Shea Winter, Sam McLane, Franklin Castillo, Eli Russell, (front) Sam Russell, Meles Gouge, Alec Moran, Keenan Wallace. *courtesy photo*

## Twinfield-Cabot Boys United as One this Fall

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD-CABOT – With sportsmanship in high school sports taking a major hit around the state this past fall, the Twinfield-Cabot boys' soccer team fought through their own adversity and came out the other side as a true cooperative with their own unified message.

Head coach Peter Stratman took over a sinking boys soccer program at Twinfield three years ago that was struggling to simply field competitive teams. He has over 100 wins in his coaching career, with the majority of his success coming at Cabot, where he took an underdog program to the Division IV Final Four twice. When Cabot dissolved its varsity athletic program at the end of the 2017 sports season, Stratman took a season off before taking over a Twinfield boys' soccer program that was struggling with participation numbers and hadn't won a playoff match since 2009. Stratman has helped nurture the athletic cooperative between Cabot and Twinfield for the last three years and the program has made a complete turnaround, with 28 wins since 2019 culminating with their first trip in 21 years to the Division IV semifinals last week.

"We had six boys from Cabot on the roster this season that played key roles in our

success and, coupled with the talented athletes on the team from Twinfield, for the first time this year I felt like the players, the program, and the communities really came together as one cohesive unit," said Stratman.

Several soccer matches around the state this season have been marred by allegations of racial slurs directed at players by other players and fans and various other instances of unsportsmanlike conduct. Twinfield-Cabot players experienced this firsthand in September, when Christ Covenant spectators were alleged to be taunting Twinfield-Cabot players and yelling homophobic slurs during a 5-1 Trojan win on September 17. Administrators from both Twinfield and Cabot agreed to cancel the rematch with Christ Covenant on September 28. Stratman's team is one of the most diverse rosters in the Northeast Kingdom and, in response to their experience and with incidents of hate speech around high school soccer throughout the fall, the team decided to make a statement by posting a Black Lives Matter sign on their bench the rest of the season.

"This is a great group of kids, and it didn't matter if they were from Cabot or Twinfield throughout the season, they were focused on the team and

they really became a tightknit crew. It was their idea to try and process what they were experiencing by making a statement and I'm super proud of them for standing up and using their voice," said Stratman.

On October 13 the Hazen Union and Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' soccer teams squared off in the first annual OSSU Derby. The match promoted

sportsmanship in high school soccer and captains from both teams spoke to the crowd about what sportsmanship and community meant to them. Honorary referees Mike Clark of Hazen Union and Tom Stames of CA were recognized for their lifelong contribution to soccer.

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# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Hazen Soccer senior boys (from left): Aidan Neill, Tyson Davison, Reed Kehler and Ryker Willett.

## College Roundup

# Former High School Soccer Stars Finish College Careers

by Ken Brown

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM** – Several former high school soccer stars finished up their soccer seasons and careers at the collegiate level around the state the last two weeks.

Twinfield-Cabot's Arianna Moran finished a solid career for the NVU-Lyndon women's soccer team in late October. The senior defender had two assists this past fall in 13 matches and started 41 of the last 42 matches for the Lady Hornets in her four seasons in the backfield. Hazen Union's Silas Lowenthal started eight of nine matches for the NVU-Johnson men's soccer team in his junior campaign and the midfielder has one career goal for the Badgers.

Hazen Union's Julius Rosendahl and Colt Niemi finished up their sophomore season with the Vermont Tech men's soccer team this past October. Rosendahl

started all eleven matches for the Knights in the backfield and Niemi made ten of eleven starts in the midfield.

Freshman Jacob Baesermann of Danville started fifteen of sixteen matches for NVU-Lyndon this fall, recording a goal and an assist on eighteen shots. Lamoille's Ben Cheever also played for NVU-Lyndon this season and the senior finished his career by starting all fifteen matches for the Hornets in the backfield.

Peoples Academy's (PA) Jules Reed finished her soccer career with NVU-Johnson in late October. The senior midfielder/defensemen started 43 of the last 44 matches for the Lady Badgers and has recorded one career goal.

Sophomore Amy Yando started all twelve matches in the midfield for Vermont Tech this past fall. The former Peoples Academy star scored one goal and recorded eight shots on the season.

Graduate student Jamie Barrett of PA finished up her career with Castleton University this past fall with a goal and an assist in her senior campaign. The midfielder ended her career with the Lady Spartans with five goals and seven assists, while starting twenty-four of seventy-five matches.

Woodbury's Nate Gilcris will look to end his collegiate track and field career in style for Castleton University this coming winter and

spring. The former Hazen Union multi-sport star burst onto the collegiate track and field scene for the Spartans in 2019 by shattering the school record in the high jump in his first ever competition at any level. Gilcris has since broken his own high jump record and has added sprinting events to his repertoire as he looks to get back onto the track for the Spartans in December after 2020 was cancelled by COVID-19.

## Athlete of the Week

### Meles Gouge

Meles Gouge, sophomore striker from Twinfield-Cabot, scored his team-leading twentieth goal of the season last week in Twinfield-Cabot's 4-1 loss to MSJ in the Division IV semifinals. Twinfield-Cabot won 11 matches this season and made it to the Final Four for the first time in 21 years.



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