

THE Hardwick Gazette

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Man Faces Two Counts of Aggravated Domestic Assault

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Righley Jones, 20, has been charged with two counts of Assault-Aggravated Domestic-First Degree With a Weapon. Jones is also charged with a misdemeanor count of Unlawful Mischief \$250 or less and Disorderly Conduct.

The felony charges each can carry a penalty of imprisonment for up to fifteen years, fines up to \$25,000, or both. The Unlawful Mischief charge carries a penalty of up to six months' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$500, or both, and the disorderly conduct charge up to

60 days' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$500, or both.

The charges stem from an incident on November 13 at Lamoille Valley Ford. Police say Jones "had threatened two people with a knife, and had also damaged a vehicle." When Hardwick Police Officer Zach Willey and Sergeant Darin Barber arrived at the scene late that morning, they say they found Jones had been subdued to the ground by one of his alleged victims and employees of Lamoille Valley Ford. Willey said that he "immediately placed Jones in handcuffs as he was still actively resisting."

According to police and witnesses, Jones

was with one of the alleged victims in their vehicle "with the intention of looking at a car for Jones, when Jones became agitated and started acting out violently." At that point, the alleged victim told police "Jones exited the vehicle and began yelling [at the person] who was trying to calm him down." They phoned their spouse to assist, and that person also tried to calm Jones down.

Police say then "Jones began stabbing the seat and tire. He then charged towards [them] with a knife." Jones allegedly also "stabbed the windshield several times." One victim "was able

See ASSAULT, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) instructor Meghan Luther (left) assists students Wyatt Flanders (center) of Hardwick and Jacob Tallman (right) of Elmore with making wreaths. Seven GMTCC students will be making around 100 wreaths of which 40 are made for the town of Morrisville. Wreaths and trees will be for sale at Aubuchon Hardware in Hardwick by Thanksgiving weekend. For special orders you may contact the GMTCC Forestry Program by email at mluther@gmtcc.net.

Board Reviews Budget Requests, Discusses Town Position

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – The Wolcott Select Board heard budget requests from the library, the fire department, and parks and recreation at last Wednesday's meeting. Vice chair Kurt Klein presented a high-level view of the budget, and both he and Linda Martin talked about the necessity of continuing with a town administrator position in some form after Randall Szott's recent departure.

The library's budget request was \$1,800 more than in previous years, primarily for improving its technology and internet access.

Patrons have said that the new depot location for the Glee Merritt Kelley Community Library is an improvement over its previous location in the school. Supply chain shortages

See REQUESTS, 4

Board Considers Sludge, Budget

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At its November 18 meeting, the Hardwick Select Board heard preliminary budget numbers in the areas of buildings and the police department, as well as an overall summary of what the preliminary picture is looking like for revenues and an estimate of the tax rate. The board also heard from Town Manager David Upson about the status of the wastewater treatment plant.

Planning Commission Chair Dave Gross gave the board the results of the walkability studies done in the past couple of months and Conservation Director Dave Linck filled the board in on the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve. The board also heard from Upson that the Lamoille Housing Partnership is looking for places to add housing in town with upcoming infrastructure grant funds coming in, and heard about an opportunity to purchase equipment earlier than planned due to a grant.

At the start of the meeting, Upson read a prepared statement that resulted from his meeting with the Buffalo Mountain Co-op in

See SLUDGE, 3



photo by Thorolf van Walsum
Matt Borg, owner, head roaster and coffee coordinator of Carrier Coffee, sets up his tasting stand in Front Seat Coffee for a tasting event last Sunday in Hardwick.

Local Businesses Brings International Flavors to Hardwick

by Thorolf van Walsum

HARDWICK -- This past Sunday, Nov. 21, the Hardwick downtown experienced a patient trickling of coffee and beer connoisseurs as Birdsong Beer & Wine and Front Seat Coffee hosted a beer and coffee tasting event for their business symbionts from Northfield:

See FLAVORS, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Lakeview students and staff pose beside the Vtrans snowplow truck which they named "Snow Dog" in the Name the State's Snowplows program sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Dee Thompson drove the truck to the school November 17 so the students could see the truck and meet its driver. Vermont schools have named 162 snowplow trucks out of the state's fleet of 250.

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Flavors

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Measure Brewing and Carrier Coffee. While every resident in Hardwick is familiar with the conjoined-twin style businesses of Front Seat and Birdsong, it may come as a surprise to learn the extent to which the community of brewers and baristas interweaves throughout the Kingdom.

Matt Borg, the owner of Northfield's Carrier Coffee, interviewed with the Hardwick Gazette as he laid out stickers and bags of coffee for the approaching tasting event, said "I love Hardwick. Love the community. I've lived here, I've lived in Woodbury... this area is a home to me. I actually only left Hardwick right before Front Seat opened, which means I got to help Tobin as he got things (at Front Seat) going." While Northfield and Hardwick are separated by about an hour's drive through Green Mountains, the bonds forged in coffee run deep.

"Coffee and beer: you put 'em together and people just feel right at home. He likes coffee, she likes beer - it's a win-win. It's like hosting a high-five for the community," said Scott Kerner, owner of Good Measure Brewing and co-owner of Carrier Coffee. "You know, I'd love to live in Montreal, to be surrounded in beer and art and crafts and culture, but that's also kind of what Vermont is about. When you have spaces like Front Seat and Birdsong or Good Measure and Carrier, you bring that metropolitan experience right to the heart of rural communities."

International experience seemed central to both Carrier Coffee and Good Measure Brewing.

"Today we're showcasing some new pour-over strains from Carrier Coffee," Matt explained. "We mostly like to do single origin, one farm or group of farmers. This lets you really see the coffee for what the farmers intend it to be, not forget its origins. Coffee is the seed of a tropical fruit, one that really reflects the geography and practices that go into it. Today we have two from Columbia, one, here, from Ethiopia." By making their products seasonal and thus always relatively fresh, Matt explained, Carrier can allow all the flavours to be as expressive of their geographic roots as possible.

Scott Kerner's presentation of Good Measure was also informative. With beers inspired from a multitude of cultures - the dense English malts of their East Street Bitter beer to their intense Belgian Barn Coat Saison - Good Measure seeks to recreate the flavors of the world with a Rural Vermont twist. "We make all of our beers with balance in mind. We want our drinks to be friendly to rural Vermonters," Scott elaborated. "They're all pub-style, approachable, and mostly low alcohol percentage. Good 'drive home' beers, while still bringing in the brewing styles of different nationalities."

"We like to think it's about placemaking," said Myles Tandy, co-owner of Birdsong and creator of the event. "Coffee, beer - these beverages bring people together. We like to host lots of events at Birdsong, but this one feels special to the Fall season. Beer and wine are both great, but it's when you pair it with coffee that the event really opens up to families ... the whole of the community, really."

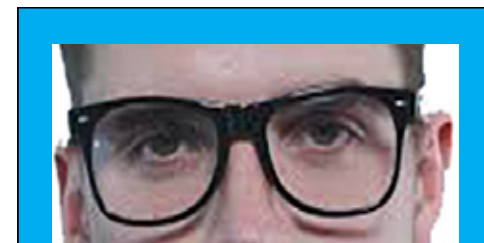
Assault

Continued From Page One

to control Jones and place him on the ground ... Jones began having a seizure and as [the alleged victim] was holding his head he tried to bite [them]."

According to Sgt. Barber, Jones had lived with the alleged victims previously. Sgt. Barber elaborated "incidents at the residence have led to Righley [Jones] living elsewhere, and [Jones] is currently homeless. [The alleged victim] advised that they had bought a camper for him to live in on their property, however it is not yet ready to move in. [One alleged victim] stated that he did not think Righley [Jones] moving into the camper was now going to be an option."

Officer Willey stated that Jones was transported to a holding cell at the Hardwick Police Department. Jones pleaded not guilty at his arraignment. According to the Vermont Department of Corrections, Jones remains housed at the Northern State Correctional Facility pending release to a responsible adult.



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November 24 - November 30

Meat Dept.: Pork Tenders \$2.95 lb. Sugardale Half Spiral Ham - \$2.49 lb.		Black Friday Sale 20% Off Sweaters, Jackets and Base-layers Nov. 26-28
Carr's Crackers 2/\$6 4.25 oz.	LaCroix 12 Pk. Sparkling Water \$4.99 144 oz.	G.M. Chex Cereal 2/\$6 12-14 oz.
Nestles Morsels 2/\$5 10-12 oz.	Gold Medal Flour 2/\$5 5 lb.	Domino Granulated Sugar 2/\$5 4 lb.
Hellmann's Mayonnaise \$3.99 20-30 oz.	Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce 2/\$3 14 oz.	College Inn Broth 2/\$4 32 oz.
Heinz Homestyle Gravy 2/\$4 12 oz.	Blue Diamond Nut Thins 2/\$5 4.25 oz.	Scott 12 Roll Bathroom Tissue \$10.49 1257 s.f.
Vanity Fair Dinner or Everyday Napkins \$1.99 40-100 ct.	Hood Sour Cream 2/\$3 12-16 oz.	Pillsbury Ready Pie Crust 2/\$6 14.1 oz.
Hood Ice Cream 2/\$5 48 oz.	Florida Natural Orange Juice 2/\$6 52 oz.	Mrs. Smith Frozen Pie \$4.99 37 oz.
Clementines 3 lb. Bag \$4.99	Maine White Potatoes \$2.99 10 lb.	Wreath Making Supplies Are In

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

Sludge

Continued From Page One

advance of its purchase of the Village Market.

Upson said “Both the town and the co-op agree to the importance of

servicing the entire community. Both are committed to maintaining and even enhancing the current experience. They’re working to make sure that there’s equity for all there, and that’s an important issue for them.”

POLICE REPORT

State Police Report Missing Juvenile, Vandalism, Domestic Assault

The Vermont State Police is seeking assistance in locating a missing juvenile. Lillian Wright, age 16, of Newport, left from a residence on Kingdom Road in the town of Albany during the early morning hours of November 10. Wright was reported to have been picked up in a vehicle operated by Braeden Niles of Newport City. Wright was last seen wearing a brown coat, black leggings and carrying a black/brown backpack. Wright has brown/black hair, approximately 5’8” in height and weighs approximately 130 pounds. Anyone with information of Wright’s whereabouts is urged to contact the Vermont State Police Derby Barracks at 802-334-8881.

On November 20, the Vermont State Police responded to two reports of vandalism in the Calais and Cabot area. It was determined residential windows had been shot with a BB or pellet gun. No injuries

were reported. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Vermont State Police Middlesex Barracks.

On November 21, at 12:21 a.m., the Vermont State Police responded to a report of a domestic dispute on Brook Rd. in Plainfield. Subsequent investigation led to the discovery that both Christina R. Kimball, of Plainfield and David P. Lee, of Plainfield had assaulted one another causing pain. The parties were separated and issued conditions of release. Both parties were issued a criminal citation and ordered to appear in Washington County Criminal Court on November 22, - at 12:30 p.m.

This report is based on information from 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.

Business manager Casey Rowell said that the fire department and Town House had very few changes to their budget. Board member Shari Cornish added that NEKarts is in the middle of a campaign to raise funds for replacing the fire escapes. She asked why there was no line in the budget for painting. Rowell said that painting is considered a capital expense. Cornish said that NEKarts hopes that the board would consider increasing the capital funding for the Town House because the building needs painting.

Rowell said the police department budget is down \$107,351. A good piece of that is the COPS grant, which ends on March 31. Vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane asked Chief Aaron Cochran if the coverage was still going to be 24x7 and he said that the primary obstacle is that two officers are on military assignment.

Chief Cochran said “Our hope would be twenty-four hours [coverage] with the two returning officers.”

The overall preliminary picture anticipated revenues to increase \$96,187 to \$1,115,095 and the total budget to increase 3% to \$3,632,664. The balance between town revenues and the total budgeted amount is funded by property taxes. Rowell said that the property tax increase per \$100,000 would “basically” be \$20 if the numbers stayed as they look now.

The wastewater treatment plant’s unexpected amount of sludge was discussed. Upson said that he had met with Aldrich + Elliott, PC “for next steps due to the SNAFU with the sludge.” He said that the sludge was being re-measured by the Vermont Rural Water Association, as well as by the town, to determine how much there was. Previously, the measuring had been left to the contractor who would be removing the sludge. Upson said that “the contractor who would make the money to remove the sludge probably shouldn’t be the guy to measure the sludge.” The project will need to be re-bid, but first the amount of sludge must be ascertained. Chair Eric Remick said that another grant opportunity had presented itself for the wastewater plant because part of the lagoon system is considered pre-treatment.

Gross discussed the results of the walkability studies. The studies were funded by the Agency of Transportation in March and were done “AARP-style.” The first street studied was West Church Street in September, followed a month later by Mill and Main Streets. The studies focused primarily on sidewalk condition or whether sidewalks existed, Gross said. Both West Church and Mill Street were rated as “poor.” While some areas on Mill Street have excellent sidewalks, multiple areas have “questionable

or nonexistent” sidewalks. Board member Elizabeth Dow added that the condition of the Mill Street sidewalks is not a recent development and “it was as bad sixty years ago. It isn’t a situation where things deteriorated.” Main Street was rated “fair,” especially on the east side where the shops are. The other side, by the Gazette building, was considered “more challenging.”

Gross said that after the paving is done in the village year, “it would be nice” if there were some sort of sidewalk improvement. He added that the state is repainting the crosswalks after the paving is complete, but one crosswalk on Mill Street won’t be repainted since it “doesn’t have a landing area” and the town could put in a concrete pad that would remedy that.

Linck gave the board an overview of the plans for the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve. First, he summarized his own background, which includes nineteen years with the Vermont Land Trust before joining the Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT) in February. Linck said that the NWT focuses “exclusively on wildlands conservation,” with a primary goal of setting aside forestland and keeping it in its natural state. The organization hopes to increase the amount of old forest land in the state from three to nine percent. He called the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve a “rare opportunity to achieve a lot of forest conservation.” Linck said \$4.5 million has been raised so far. The preserve has 69 of its 211 acres in Hardwick. The tax impact would be insignificant since most of the land is already in the state’s Current Use program. The preserve would enroll the entire parcel in that program, but would not harvest any wood since the objective is to allow the preserve to grow into an old forest. Hunting would be allowed with a special permit that sets conditions, including a proscription on trapping. The preserve would allow pedestrian uses, as well as skiing and snowshoeing. There is no plan to cut glades or new trails in the woods, but instead formalize some pre-existing informal trails.


A potential opportunity to save money on major equipment has come up. The town’s 2009 excavator was slated for replacement in 2024 in the capital fund, but a 25 percent subsidy might be available if the town purchases that equipment now, Rowell said. The excavator’s cost is estimated at between \$130,000 and \$135,000, which would mean around \$45,000 could get reimbursed if the subsidy were approved. Rowell said that the town has funds to make the purchase now but would only move forward if the town could get the 25 percent subsidy.

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE assisted nine victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence from November 14 through November 21. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984,

dedicated to resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.



HARDWICK MEMORIAL TREE
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Requests

Continued From Page One

have impacted one aspect of the move, however, with the shelving for the children's section now slated to be shipped in March. The library's next major programming is the Gingerbread House building on December 18 from 10-12.

The Women of Wolcott (WOW) have begun working on an outdoor "kiddy skating rink" adjacent to the library, with solar motion-triggered lights so people who want to skate after dark can do so, according to Deb Klein. She said that the rink was funded by the AARP grant as part of the community garden, the grant stipulates that funded projects must be usable year-round. WOW is speaking with the library's Sally Gardner about potentially debuting the new rink at the Gingerbread House event.

The other departments' budget requests are the same as last year's, or less. The fire department is asking for level funding for its \$73,050 budget, and Kee Gillen of the recreation committee is asking for half of its previous \$2,000 budget, noting in a letter to the board that "we would like to discuss and plan future projects in January 2022."

Klein presented the wider picture of the budget and said the largest percentage of the town budget goes to the road crew and

the sheriff's department's services.

He said "I thought it was good for the board to go into the budget process with an overall feel for the budget. Forty-three percent of the overall budget is coming from the highway department, and sheriff's [department] is second."

Both Klein and Martin are in conversations with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office. Klein said that "reading between the lines," the typical three percent annual increase might increase to five percent. An initiative to evaluate regional policing was not well-received by Morrisville, he said, and as a result "we're kind of at loggerheads" with the sheriff's department over the subject.

Klein said a concern on his mind was that many Vermont towns have moved from listers to assessors. Klein said that "I consider [lister Tom Martin] one of the last great, great listers," but the reality playing out in other towns was that, as listers retire, finding replacements is nearly impossible and the rates for assessors are around \$150 per hour. He said the impact on the town budget could be "really significant" if Martin retires. While Martin has not expressed a desire to retire, Klein said that this was an eventuality the board needed to prepare for.

Klein said the board should consider asking voters to allow the

board to establish capital funds for various areas where large surprises could impact taxes. He said he frequently hears from residents that their taxes are too high and having a capital fund with a balance in it to offset major expenses' impact on the tax rate was prudent.

Klein said that residents say "taxes are high, [and] year after year, there's double-digit tax increases. That's not true, but there's definitely that perception in town."

Linda Martin pointed out that multiple recent projects, such as the School Street bridge, the Brook Road repairs, and the Town Hill Road culvert, had hit Wolcott with an unbudgeted surprise.

Board member Kurt Billings said that "one time, twenty years ago, when the interest was high enough" the town had "separate savings [accounts] in different areas, and one of our persons that got elected decided it would be the best thing to take it all and use it to cut taxes."

Martin said that savings accounts and capital fund accounts are very different. Capital funds are only allowed to be used for specific things, and only voters can approve their establishment and purpose.

She said "that's why you don't just set up a savings account, but ask the voters to set up a capital

fund where you can only use it for that purpose without voter approval."

Without a capital fund, unspent money that was allocated to a specific purpose is folded back into the general fund at the end of the year. Expanding on Klein's desire to make the budget more "forward thinking," she used the example of the roof on the town offices.

Martin asked "when are we going to need a new roof on this building? We should be prepared for that. We should know when we need to have new roof and start putting money away for it every year."

Board member Richard Lee concurred, saying "we really have to get on it, it's going to be to everybody's benefit in the long haul."

Klein spoke about budgeting for a person to fill out the town administrator [TA] position Randall Szott recently resigned from. He said that "we absolutely do need a TA, a number of things have been slipping through the cracks... it's very easy to lose track of things." Klein cited the example of the meeting about the bridge scheduled for this board meeting being postponed "because of mis-coordination." He said he and Martin both work 30-35 hours per week on the town's business, and the budgeted amount of \$20,000 for a TA was unlikely to find any takers.

Martin said she saw the position more as a select board assistant which was "not a clerk, but a step up" and "someone with administrative powers." Martin said the best candidate would be "someone who wants to be engaged in your community, knows your citizens' needs."

Klein said that, given the amount of time he and Martin are putting in, "where we are at now is unsustainable. If we drop our hours, I don't think we could get the job done." He added that board members change, and future members may not be willing or able to put that amount of time in. The board will continue discussing the parameters for the position, with a framework already in place for that person's role.

With voters having given the go-ahead for the town forest, the board got an update on next steps. Kate Wanner of the Vermont Trust for Public Land described multiple scenarios. She suggested that the board strive to get a diverse group of people involved from different communities, from snowmobilers to mountain bikers and the school.

The board will next discuss the budget on December 15.

**Publish your
holiday messages**

**These messages can be from businesses or
individual people who want to wish the
community holiday greetings.**

**Messages will be in the Dec. 22nd and 29th
issues of The Hardwick Gazette.**

Deadlines Dec. 15th & 17th.

Contact Erica Baker
bytheponddesign@gmail.com
for more details



photo by Wendy Sorrell

Participants at the State 4-H Bovine Bonanza, held Nov. 14 at the University of Vermont in Burlington, listen as Chelsey Patch describes the various types of milking parlors.

Local 4-H Members Expand Their Bovine Knowledge

BURLINGTON – For Vermont 4-H’ers enrolled in the dairy, beef and working steer projects, November 14 was a day filled with opportunities to explore several bovine-related topics in depth.

Fifty-seven 4-H’ers from nine counties gathered at the Paul R. Miller Research and Educational Center on the University of Vermont (UVM) campus in Burlington for the State 4-H Bovine Bonanza. They were split into groups, according to age, to learn about agricultural careers, calf health and nutrition, farm safety, milking parlors and tractor safety.

Certificates of participation were awarded at the conclusion of

the UVM Extension 4-H-sponsored event to the following local participants, listed by age group and county: Ten- and eleven-year-olds: Trevor Smith, Hardwick; twelve- and thirteen-year olds: Emma Rowell, Greensboro;

Assisting Wendy Sorrell, UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator, with the event were UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences students Adele Biasini, Chelsey Patch, Kate Rowley and Emily Surrell and former 4-H’er Bethany Orvis. Adult volunteers included Matt Bodette, UVM dairy herd manager, and UVM Extension 4-H educators Lindy Birch, Margaret Coan and Martha Seifert.

Principal Finalists selected for Craftsbury Schools Prek-12.

The two finalists selected are Linda Radzvilla and Matt Foster

Linda Radzvilla has been a Career and Technical center director, a vice principal, and a VP of vocational programs. With a background in agricultural education, she has spent the last seven years supervising one of the four agricultural high schools in Massachusetts. After writing a grant, she and her current school were accepted to work with the Kendall Foundation in creating a farm to school program, which involved cultivating seven acres of school land and planting vegetables. She led her school in creating an internship program for her students and adding the additional major of Environmental Science. She has worked with families from all socio-economic backgrounds and led her admissions team in rewriting their admissions policy to be more inclusive and diverse.

Matt Foster has been an assistant principal, a principal in several schools, and a Business and Operations leader with a district budget of over \$120,000,000. With a Masters of Business Administration degree and a Professional Maintenance Manager certification, he has been responsible for managing over a million square feet of facility space and a fleet of over seventy buses. As the current principal of Wolcott Elementary School, he is working with a state agency to help the town of Wolcott acquire a considerable amount of acreage around the school so students can expand the outdoor education program that he and his staff have been developing. At Wolcott he has fostered a data-driven culture that continues to positively impact student achievement.

The OSSU will be hosting virtual forums with the two Principal finalists on Tuesday, November 30, at a Google Meet. Everyone is welcome to come and meet the finalists, ask questions, and provide input.

Craftsbury Principal Finalists Forum

Tuesday, November 30, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/vqu-hxua-vcp>

Or dial: (US) +1 316-789-6798 PIN: 461 990 556#

More phone numbers:

<https://tel.meet/vqu-hxua-vcp?pin=2782836456396>

5:30 - 6:15 Linda Radzvilla

6:15 - 7:00 Matt Foster

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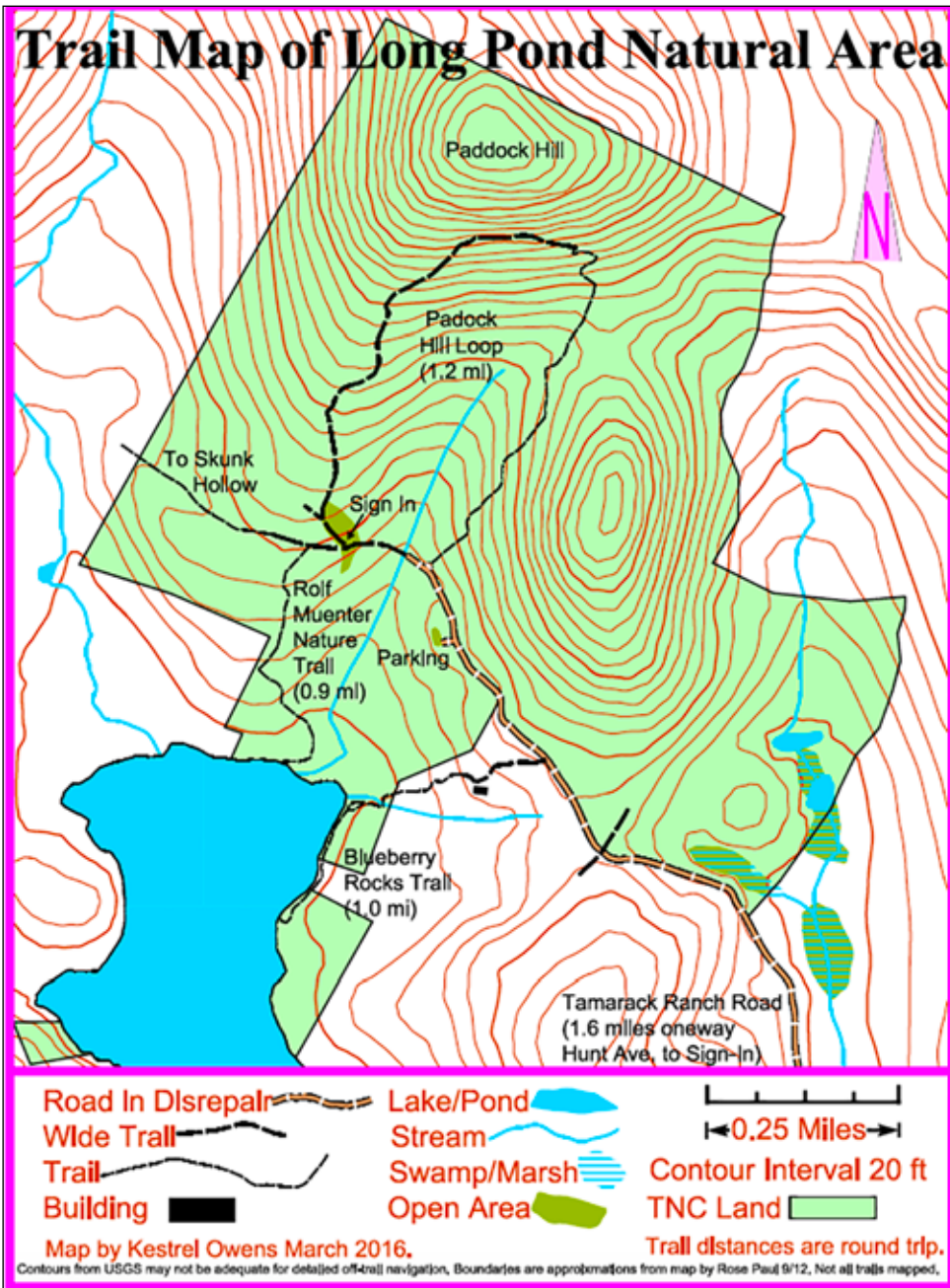
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Map by Kestrel Owens



photo by Sophia Barsalow

Rick Morrill, Mary Young, Alison Gardner, Lynn McNamara, Jack Markowski, Dawn Morgan, Zoryan Ivakhiv and (front), Auriel Gray, and Ross Morgan recently surveyed hiking trails north of Long Pond.

Developing Trails at Greensboro's Long Pond

by Hal Gray

GREENSBORO – On Friday, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Vermont chapter and Greensboro's Long Pond Stewardship Committee organized a group to survey hiking trails north of Long Pond. TNC owns 767 acres on the pond, including most of Paddock Hill, which borders Glover.

The group included Lynn McNamara, TNC's stewardship director, and Craftsbury forester Ross Morgan, who prepared a

forest management plan for Paddock Hill in 2012. The group explored some old logging roads, and followed Morgan's path up the hill, where they enjoyed a view of the pond looking south beyond the Hill Farmstead Brewery. They outlined a circular route, and also a new path down to the northern shore of Long Pond.

Mapping of the northeast section of Long Pond, up Paddock Hill, was done by Kestrel Owens in 2016, as a senior project at Craftsbury Academy.

Questions Raised Over Proposed Charter Change

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At a hearing on November 18, the Hardwick Select Board heard questions from residents Orise Ainsworth and Paul Fixx about the proposed charter change.

The articles going before voters are Article 1, which primarily deals with language changes such as changing "selectmen" to "selectboard;" Article 2 asks about combining the town clerk and town treasurer into one position; Article 3 asks about changing the position or positions of town clerk and treasurer into ones appointed by the select board instead of elected; and Article 4 asks about the same change, but for assistant town clerk and town treasurer.

One implication of changing the positions from elected to appointed is that if elected, those residents must be Hardwick voters. If appointed, no such requirement applies.

Ainsworth, who said she agreed with everything except for changing the positions to appointed, said that, as currently worded, in her interpretation Article 1 could still give the select board the power to appoint those positions. She reiterated her opposition to changing the positions from elected to appointed.

"I have not heard anything other than insults coming from this board that there's no one smart enough in the town of Hardwick to run for clerk and treasurer and that the voters are not smart enough not to elect someone that's not qualified."

She then said that the board's representation of separating the changes was not what they said.

"I'm very offended... and it's a good thing I didn't take you on your word that you separated it. Because even if I vote yes on Article 1 and no on Articles 2,3, and 4 you still have the opportunity to stop us from electing a town clerk and treasurer and appointing one because Article 1 gives you that power."

She said that there were places in the Article 1 changes that were worded in such a way that the board would still have the power to appoint those positions. Ainsworth said that the board needed to change the wording that night to comply with legal requirements for warning twenty days out.

Board member Elizabeth Dow said that the document had

been vetted by town attorney Bill Davies and the secretary of state "and they did not see the interpretation that you see."

Ainsworth replied, "I'm sorry, but if this is not amended I will [be] letting people in Hardwick know they're giving [the board] the power [to appoint]." She added that she did not trust the way things had been handled until that point or the town's lawyer and she did not trust the state not to make changes to the town charter of its own once it was sent to the legislature for approval.

She said "the legislature... [or] the governor can change anything in our charter and approve it. And once the governor signs it, we're stuck."

Vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane said that "it would be a shame if some of the changes we're trying to make weren't made because we're stuck on this issue." She said that the change from listers to assessors faced a deadline due to the listers' imminent retirement.

Fixx asked about that change, and Remick said that the town had made attempts to hire new listers, but had not received enough interest. He added that many towns were finding themselves in the same position of needing to change from listers to assessors. Fixx asked about the cost difference, and business manager Casey Rowell said it would end up costing \$23,000 more for assessors than listers. Fixx said that the town should clarify that extra cost for voters.

The board called Alberta Miller to get answers to Ainsworth's questions. She said that the legislature would be receiving a complete charter change document from her that reflected the will of the voters, not making the changes on its own. Miller said that Davies explained the wording was put as it was because it was "complicated" and necessary to make the change valid. Galloway-Kane asked Ainsworth if it would help if the board were to communicate the changes' wording with examples. Ainsworth said that would help and understood this was the process, but said that it was "absurd."

The town website notes that "voting will be done by Australian ballot either by absentee ballot or in person at the Hardwick Memorial Building Thursday December 09, 2021 from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm."

Clean Energy Committee Tackles Energy Waste One Step at a Time

by Kate O'Farrell, UVM Community News Service

HARDWICK – If you've seen Bill Chidsey biking around town and observing town buildings, you've witnessed the beginning of the Hardwick Clean Energy Committee.

The committee was formed in August of this year by Chidsey, who recently moved to Hardwick. Chidsey wanted to form the committee as, he said, "energy conservation and efficiency have been a life-long passion for me."

Chidsey has worked in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning business since 1979, and took that experience, as well as his desire to volunteer in Hardwick, to form the committee. In August, he sent a request to be the energy coordinator of Hardwick, and on August 19, the select board officially approved his position.

The committee is concerned with practical ways to reduce energy waste and consumption in Hardwick. Chidsey outlined a three-step process that would "use the municipal buildings as projects to train energy committee members how to do the work, and then be able to duplicate that in the larger community."

The first action taken by the Clean Energy Committee was Chidsey himself taking stock of the energy consumption in town buildings. As for the results of this initial look? Although he's impressed with the state of the town's municipal buildings, nothing is perfect. "All I can say is there's plenty of opportunities for improvement," Chidsey said.

He then gained permission from the town's business manager to reach out to the companies supplying energy to the town buildings and received company delivery records.

Chidsey plans to repeat the same process this month with electric consumption in the town, and eventually train committee members so that the Clean Energy

Committee can begin to assess the greater community's energy consumption and waste.

As far as addressing energy waste in the town buildings, the easiest step, in Chidsey's words, is to "understand the schedules and occupancy of every municipal building" in order to avoid unnecessary energy use.

Additionally, Chidsey has established monthly meetings with the town manager to further the practical action of the Clean Energy Committee. When speaking about the meetings, Chidsey said that the committee "can have ears to the ground of what the town manager's concerns are and also begin the process of obtaining all the maintenance records for the buildings."

The Energy Committee isn't solely concerned with the present, as Chidsey has long-term goals in mind which involve the greater town community. "A longer-term goal would be, in my words, to have a skilled energy auditor on every block." Additionally, Chidsey has thought about grants to further the goals of the committee. He believes "we are really just at the beginning of the resources" that will be tools to stop pollution.

Chidsey also wants to eventually reach out to students, saying that the committee wants to work "with high school students, tech school students, and college students."

The Hardwick Clean Energy Committee had its first meeting in September and two residents participated. Because it is a town-sponsored committee, anyone who wants to become a member would have to go to the selectboard first.

Although the goals of the Committee aren't limited to the day-to-day, Chidsey hopes to enact practical and visible change in Hardwick. As he says, "The goals and the work should produce tangible results for taxpayers and citizens."

The committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.



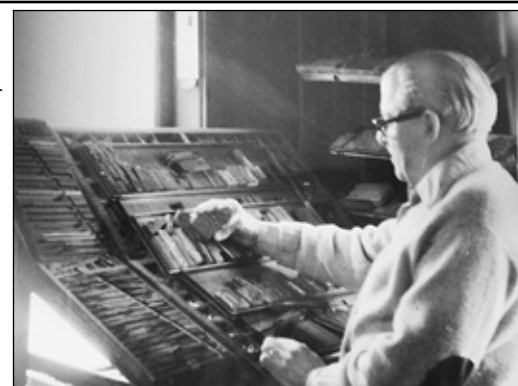
photo by Vanessa Fournier
Grayson McNaughten, 13, of Wolcott, shot this 107-pound, 3-point buck in Wolcott on November 20. It was reported at the C Village Store in Craftsbury.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Isaac Firkey of Wolcott shot this 139-pound, 6-point buck in Wolcott November 20. The buck was reported at the C Village Store in Craftsbury.

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Holiday Markets in Cabot and Craftsbury



Nick Hofmeister and Heather Winner (left) of Cabot buy some items from vendor Carol Fairbank (right) of Broadfork farm in Greensboro on Saturday at the Cabot Harvest Hub Pop-up Harvest Market. The pop-up market included seven hub producers and was held in the Faith in Action parking lot November 20.



Jeffrey Ellis and Rebecca Beidler of Peace of Earth Farm in Albany were vendors at the Craftsbury Farmers Market's Thanksgiving Market held November 20 at the Craftsbury Academy gymnasium. Seventeen food and crafts vendors participated.



Sue Morris (right) of Marshfield buys a jar of honey from vendor Stephanie Gallant (left) of Breezy Mountain Farms in Sheffield. She was one of seven producers at the Cabot Harvest Hub Pop-up Harvest Market held at the Faith in Action parking lot Saturday. The hub pop-up manager is Elizabeth Vitale. The Cabot Harvest Hub website is <http://cabotharvesthub.org>.

Photos by Vanessa Fournier



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Koni Stoddard (left), of Wolcott, and her mom, Charlotte Keene (right), of Cabot, were selling hand-crafted items from Blackberry Ridge, including goat milk soap and skin care products, at the Craftsbury Farmers Market's Thanksgiving Market. Seventeen vendors were set up in the Craftsbury Academy gymnasium for the event held on November 20.



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The annual election period for UVM Health Advantage Medicare Advantage health plans is Oct. 15-Dec. 7, 2021. MVP Health Plan, Inc. is an HMO-POS/PPO/MSA organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MVP Health Plan depends on contract renewal. Other physicians/providers are available in the MVP Health Care network. Virtual care services from MVP Health Care are provided by UCM Digital Health, Amwell and Physera at no cost-share for members. (Plan exceptions may apply.) Members' direct or digital provider visits may be subject to co-pay/cost-share per plan.



courtesy photo

The Winooski Bridge site on the Cross Vermont Trail crosses the river in East Montpelier. The trail near Route 2.

Cross Vermont Trail Bridge and Parking Area Built in East Montpelier

by Greg Western, Executive Director of CVTA

EAST MONTPELIER – Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) has concluded the construction season with the completion of the Winooski Bridge on the Cross Vermont Trail in East Montpelier.

In July, the 200-foot-long bicycle and pedestrian bridge was hoisted over the river. Since then, contractors have worked to finish the abutments and structural details, which are now done. Meanwhile, numerous other elements of the larger trail project have been completed, leading to the bridge from each direction. A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the bridge and the first section of new trail to public use is planned for May 2022.

This bridge is the keystone piece of the Cross Vermont Trail Association-led effort to connect the Montpelier Bike Path across East Montpelier up to where the existing rail trail begins at Vermont Route 14, and ultimately to connect the Barre-Montpelier area into a statewide multi-use path network.

Travelers along Route 2 in East Montpelier have seen orange “road construction ahead” signs all this past year. In addition to the new bridge, contractors have built a trailhead parking area, located one-third mile east of the bridge

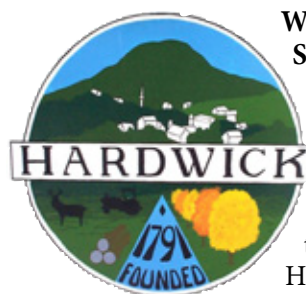
on Route 2. To link the parking area to the bridge, contractors rebuilt a 650-foot section of guardrail and road shoulder along Route 2 to make room for a fully separate trail, between the road and the river on the outside of the guardrail.

Cross Vermont Trail staff are working now and next year to build remaining trail segments between the completed contractor projects; volunteers are invited to help. In addition to the Cross Vermont Trail itself, there will be two paths linking with U-32 School, one for mountain bikes and one that is fully accessible. CVTA is also partnering with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail to make connections to the river from the trail, for portaging and water access.

In all, 2.5 miles of trail will be built between Gallison Hill Road and Route 2 by late 2022. By the end of 2023, an additional 2.5 miles will be built to finish the project up to Route 14.

Updates on the entire project are posted at crossvermont.org with information on how the public can get involved, volunteer or donate.

The mission of the Cross Vermont Trail Association is to create and maintain a multi-use trail across Vermont through the Winooski and Wells River Valleys between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River.



WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK-AMENDED SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (PROPOSED TOWN OF HARDWICK CHARTER CHANGE) DECEMBER 9, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Memorial Building in said Town of Hardwick on Thursday, December 9, 2021 from 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon until 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act on the following business:

If special accommodations are necessary because of physical disabilities, please contact the Town Clerk's Office (472- 5971).

Article 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Hardwick approve the following amendments to the Hardwick Town Charter:

(Subchapter 1: Incorporation and Grant Of Powers) - § 123-101. Corporate Existence Retained; § 123-104. Additional powers; § 123-105. Reservation of powers to the Town; §123-107. Ordinance; adoption by ~~selectmen~~ the Selectboard; § 123-108. Referendum; § 123-109. Ordinances; adoption on petition; § 123-110 Non-applicability of zoning and subdivision; § 123-112. Authority of police officers; § 123-113. Open meetings; § 123-114 Form of government; § 123-116. Intergovernmental relations; § 123-117. ~~Town School District~~; establishment.

(Subchapter 3: Officers) - § 123-302. Elective officers; § 123-303. Terms of office; ~~selectmen~~ Selectboard members; § 123-304. Other elective offices; § 123-305. ~~Treasurer~~ [§ 123-305 (a) - (b) 5 Repealed.]; § 123-306. Appointed officers; § 123-307. Vacancies and appointments; § 123-309. Oath of office; § 123-310. Town Clerk and Treasurer; § 123-311. Recall of elected officials.

(Subchapter 5: ~~Selectmen~~ Selectboard); § 123-501. Powers and duties; § 123-502. Organization; § 123-503. ~~Record of proceedings~~ [Repealed.]; § 123-504. Jurisdiction over offices and employees.

(Subchapter 7: Town Manager) - § 123-701. Appointed by ~~selectmen~~ Selectboard; § 123-703. Oath and bond; § 123-704. Duties of ~~manager~~ the Manager; § 123-705. Compensation; § 123-706. Absence.

(Subchapter 9: Commissions ~~And~~ and Appointments) - § 123-901. Appointments; § 123-902. Water supply; duties of ~~Selectboard~~ Selectboard members; § 123-903. Sewage collection and disposal; duties of ~~selectmen~~ the Selectboard; § 123-904. Electric Department commissioners; § 123-905. Fire Department; appointments; § 123-906. Police Department appointments, whenever the Town of Hardwick shall maintain a police department; § 123-907. Fire and Police Departments; general provisions; § 123-909. Board of Health.

(Subchapter 11: Town Meeting) - § 123-1103. Polling places; § 123-1104. Postponement and combining of town meeting;

(Subchapter 13: Zoning ~~And~~ and Planning) - § 123-1301. Applicability of State law to zoning and planning; § 123-1302. ~~Ratification of present zoning ordinance~~ § 123-1303. Minutes.

(Subchapter 15: Budget ~~And~~ and Taxation) - § 123-1502. Preparation and submission of budget; § 123-1504. Appropriations; § 123-1505. Amount to be raised by taxation; § 123-1506. Budget limitations- borrowing; § 123-1507. Transfers of appropriations; § 123-1509. ~~Fees and fines~~ [Repealed].

(Subchapter 17: General Provisions) - §§ 123-1702-1704. ~~[Transitional Provisions.]~~ [Repealed]; § 123-1705. Amendment of charter; §§ 123-1707-1715. ~~[Village-Town Merger Transitional Provisions]~~ [Repealed].

Article 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Hardwick approve the following amendment to the Hardwick Town Charter specific to the Office of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer: “Shall the office of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer be combined into a single position?” (Subchapter 3: Officers) § 123-302. Elective officers (6)

Article 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Hardwick approve the following amendment to the Hardwick Town Charter specific to the Office of Town Clerk and Treasurer: “Shall the Office of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer be appointed by the Selectboard?” (Subchapter 3: Officers) § 123-302. Elective officers (5) 123-304. Other elective offices; § 123-305. ~~Treasurer~~ [§ 123-305 (a)- (b) 5 Repealed § 123-306. Appointed officers; 123-307. Vacancies and appointments;

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Hardwick approve the following amendment to the Hardwick Town Charter specific to the Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer: “Shall the Office of Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer be appointed by the Selectboard?” § 123-306. Appointed officers; (11)

The complete text of proposed amendments to the Hardwick Town Charter may be obtained from the Town Offices at the Hardwick Memorial Building. Copies are also available online at: <https://hardwickvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Draft-charter-3.pdf>

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick are further notified that voter qualifications, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Special Town Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

AMENDMENT - Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 16th day of November, A.D. 2021.

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair
Shari Cornish
Michael Deering
Elizabeth Dow

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 17th day of November, 2021 at 8 o'clock 00 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy. Attest: Alberta A. Miller, Town Clerk

Hardwick Area Food Pantry Donations

Seventeen local volunteers gathered on Sunday in the United Church of Hardwick kitchen and dining hall to prepare 60 apple pies for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving food boxes. The apple pie project began in 2007, with Girl Scout Troop 674 and leaders Anne McPherson and Jodi Lew-Smith. In 2010, and for the past 11 years, 15 different families have participated in the Family Pies Project. Jennifer Fliegelman has organized the group since 2017. The dough for the pie crusts was made and donated by Charlie Emers of Patchwork Bakery, apples were donated from Burt's Orchards in Cabot, with supplemental donations by Sweetgrass Farm.



Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFF) volunteers Doug and Alice Fleer (at left) and Lauralee Sweeney, HAFF director and her daughter Isabel Dallmeyer (at right), help fill the 75 Thanksgiving food boxes Sunday. Families picked up their boxes on Monday, November 22.



Volunteers Steve and Jessica Noyes of Marshfield check a list before filling some of the 75 Thanksgiving food boxes at the Hardwick Area Food Pantry November 21. The boxes were picked up by families the following day.



Family Pies Project volunteers Patti LeBlanc (left) and Manny Fliegelman (right) put the finishing touches on the apple pies prepared for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFF) Thanksgiving boxes. Sixty pies were donated to the HAFF.



Seventeen Family Pies Project volunteers gathered at the United Church of Hardwick kitchen and dining hall Sunday to prepare 60 apple pies for the Hardwick Area Food Pantry Thanksgiving boxes. Pictured peeling and cutting apples and mixing pie filling (from left) are Roger LeBlanc, Mary Meyer, Michael Lew-Smith, Fenton Meyer and Jodi Lew-Smith.

**Photos
by
Vanessa Fournier**



courtesy photo
Glen Burkholder of Town & Country Sheds maneuvers a donated pavilion into place at the Craftsbury Community Care Center as Cody Thompson of C.T. Stoneworks fine-tunes the brackets.

Friends Pavilion Comes to Care Center

by Janet Travers

CRAFTSBURY – A generous supporter upped the excitement this year at the Craftsbury Community Care Center (CCCC), offering a beautiful cedar pavilion to add to the gazebo, plus sponsored benches, and landscaping on the center’s new NVDA-funded walking path. The improvements meant that the pavilion had to be moved from its original location.

CCCC board member Steve Pitkin assessed the pavilion, then board member Penelope Doherty took on the move, gathering care center friends for help. Local contractors and the buildings team at Craftsbury Outdoor

Center considered re-installation approaches, Glen Burkholder of Town & Country Sheds agreed to move it to the new site, Tim Beauregard prepped it for the move, and Cody Thompson of C.T. Stoneworks signed on to install it. Thompson then contacted a friend to bring helical screws to make the structure even more durable. And Craftsbury residents Eva Church, daughter Penelope Doherty, Rob and Barb Strong, and the pavilion donor partnered to underwrite the move costs.

With installation now complete, the newly named Friends Pavilion honors the community friends who came together to provide a place of respite for care center residents.



courtesy photo
Jeannine Young (left), president of Chapter St. Jean of Catholic Financial Life, presents Paulette Brochu-Colburn, AWARE board member, a \$500 match fund check for AWARE’s Lantern Raffle held at the recent Fall Craft Fair in Hardwick.

OBITUARIES

GAIE BATES ST. JOHN

SOUTH WOODBURY – Gaie Bates St. John was born in Morrisville, to Percival Bates and Enna Morey Bates, on July 30, 1937. She passed peacefully from this earth at her home in South Woodbury on November 17.

Gaie grew up in Enosburg and graduated from Enosburg High. She enrolled in Becker College and graduated with an associate’s degree in journalism. She worked as a reporter for the Burlington Daily News, then later as an administrative assistant for UVM, and the Vermont Dept. of Fish & Game. In 1974 she co-founded the TLC child development center in Montpelier with her sister.

In 1978 she graduated from Goddard College with a degree in early childhood development. In 1986 she started teaching at Johnson Elementary School, where she also ran the gifted and talented program for several years. She completed her master’s degree while she was the principal at Woodbury Elementary School and retired in 1999.

She was an avid yard saler and spent many years of her retirement as owner/operator of the Old Friends antique shop in Hardwick. Gaie loved to garden and enjoyed putting around her



Gaie Bates St. John

back yard. She enjoyed winters in her Lake Worth, Fla., winter home. She was a voracious reader, often going through seven or eight books a week. She loved dogs, cats and all living creatures.

She is survived by her husband, Daniel, a son and daughter from a previous marriage: Patrick Malone of Maple Corners and Shannon Bates of Montpelier, sisters Bonnie Holmquest of Charleston, S.C., and Rosie Oswald of Hiawassee, Ga., as well as several nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be held at a future date. Memories and condolences are welcome at dgfunerals.com.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

Poker Tournament to Benefit Council on Aging Gift Bags

HARDWICK – A Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournament will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, beginning at noon at the Hardwick American Legion Post 7 to help provide gift bags delivered to clients of the NEK Council on Aging. The gift bags will be delivered by Meals on Wheels.

Registration for the tournament begins at 11:30 a.m., and refreshments will be available for purchase.

The local Legion Post has worked for the past seven years with these organizations to fill the gift bags, and the number of requests for the bags have doubled in the past year, so the Legion Post is staging the tournament as a benefit for additional funds for the project.

Masks are recommended. For more information, call (802) 745-8933.

Cookie Donations Needed by Dec. 18

HARDWICK – Cookies donations are needed for Hardwick Area Food Pantry’s Christmas boxes. Every year, the food pantry brings together volunteers and donors to distribute holiday food boxes to local individuals and families and are looking forward to sharing holiday cookies donated by the community for this year’s Christmas boxes. All cookies will be accepted between

now and December 18, during open pantry hours: Monday, noon to 2 p.m.; Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The pantry is located at 39 West Church St. in Hardwick. Package cookies in sets of a dozen with a label listing the ingredients. For more information, contact LauraLee Sweeney at (802) 472-5940 or director@hardwick-areafoodpantry.org.

Coin Drive Contest to Help Furnish the Jeudevine Expansion

by Jodi Lew-Smith

HARDWICK – Given the national shortage of coins, the Hardwick community can now multitask good citizenship by contributing to the Jeudevine Expansion Project by putting coins back into circulation.

Coin jars will appear throughout town and shoppers, employees, and community members can easily “vote” for their favorite businesses by dropping spare change and/or bringing in their stockpiles of coins from home.

The proceeds from the contest will go into the Furniture Fund for furnishing the rooms of the new library, and the participating businesses and schools will be recognized on a plaque within the new

Parker Ladd Community Room. The winner of the contest will be honored with an engraved brick built into the walkway to the new front door.

Every month while the contest runs (roughly three months, from late November to Valentine’s Day) library volunteers will visit to collect the coins, or any other form of donation, and tally the amounts for each participant. Once tallied, the rankings by dollars collected will be shared so participants can see where they stand—and have time to move higher up the list.

Businesses who would like to have a coin collection jar but have not been contacted can volunteer by calling or emailing the library at 472-5948 or jeudevinelibrary@hardwickvt.org.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Connie Bellavance (left) Hardwick Kiwanis Chairperson for the Hardwick area turkey drive and Hazen Union Key Club turkey aka Sarah Collier (right) collected donations for the turkey drive held at the Hardwick Village Market November 13. Ten-pound turkeys were delivered to the Hardwick Area Food Pantry and the Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf for Thanksgiving from the donations collected.

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com

ads@hardwickgazette.com



Support the Hazen Union Student Council by having some flamingo fun!

For a modest contribution, have a flock of flamingos placed on a local yard of your choice.*

Contact hazensc@ossu.org and drop off your payment to 126 Hazen Union Drive, Hardwick.

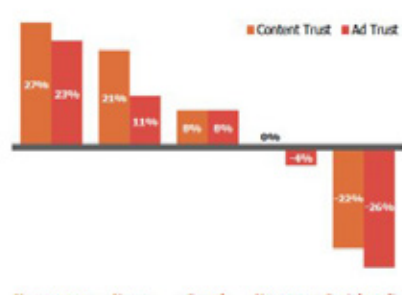
December 1 through December 31

*All flamingos will be collected within 72 hours or less.

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Search Engines	9%	9%
Non-news websites	4%	0%
Social media sites	22%	26%

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Advertising, especially with news (like the Hardwick Gazette) continues to be accessible (always in our digital archives) and simply more effective than digital ads on social media platforms. “Social media is simply no alternative to news,” the ThinkNewsBrands authors concluded. “News has strong reach, superior trust, memorability and business impact.”

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DRIVEWAY PLOWING BIDS

The Town of Greensboro is soliciting bids for driveway plowing for a 3-year contract for plowing approximately 500 driveways for years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

A copy of the list and a draft contract is available at the Greensboro Town Clerk’s Office.

Please contact Kim Greaves at the Town Clerk’s Office for specific details.

Bids are due into the Town Clerk’s Office by December 6. Bids will be opened at the December 8 select board meeting.

The select board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Left: The award-winning band Le Vent du Nord gave a live performance November 20 at the Highland Center for the Arts. Performing (from left) are Nicolas Boulerice, Andre Brunet, Rejean Brunet, Olivier Demers, Simon Beaudry.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Le Vent du Nord performed a concert at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro on November 20. Pictured (left to right) are Nicolas Boulerice, Andre Brunet, Rejean Brunet, Olivier Demers and Simon Beaudry.

“Landmark Memories” is a Gift to the Hardwick Community

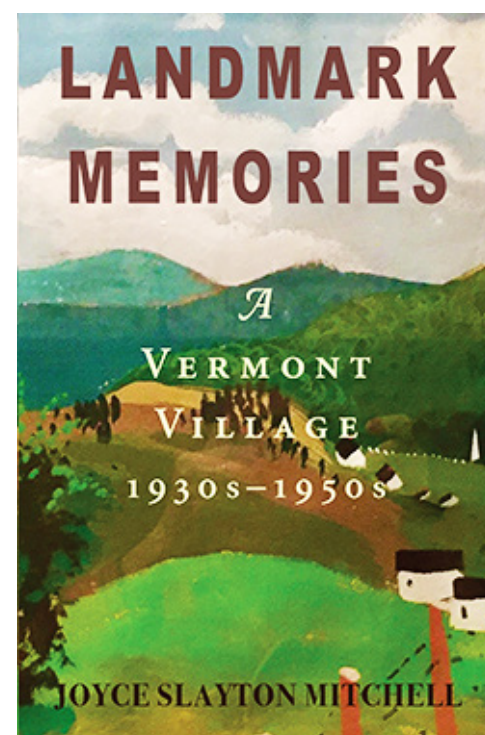
by Sandy Atkins

HARDWICK – Author Joyce Slayton Mitchell has given the town a precious gift for the holidays: a compilation of her memories of the town during the 1930s to 1950s. In her memoir, “Landmark Memories: A Vermont Village, 1930s-1950s,” Mitchell recounts the landmarks, people and events that made growing up in Hardwick a unique experience.

As an introduction to the village of the era, Mitchell describes the difference between “upstreet” and “downstreet,” a uniquely New England designation. She describes her shortcut to school, across the swinging bridge, another unique village landmark. She introduces us to the many town institutions and events that filled her days and those of the residents who volunteered, well before television and the internet took energy away from these local events.

Mitchell’s writing style is so personal. Each story in the memoir is told as if talking to each reader over a friendly cup of coffee. Her first recollection of a resident of the time and town, “Bub Rowell – Iceman,” is a perfect example of that style. Her description of this gentle, kind and influential man is so vivid. Mitchell also gives incisive portraits of strong women whom she admired: her Aunt Muriel, her neighbor Jennie Rowell, and several more.

Religion was an essential part of the life of the town and its residents, and Mitchell gives a warm description of her childhood church and the people of the United Church of Hardwick. There is also a memoir of the First Congregational Church in East Hardwick.



The memories never end: Cox’s Drug Store, Hardwick Academy, Burt’s Auction, the Green Iron Bridge, and Jeudevine Library. And more people are remembered: neighbor Evie Bemis, Sally Slayton, workman Claude Cross, artist Hazel Hall Rochester (whose illustrations are included in the book), friend Sarah Cobb Philbrook.

There is even a chapter on Hardwick recipes and recollections of meals and favorite dishes.

And there’s so much more. Mitchell’s book is a warm, but accurate portrait of a town in time, one that is unique and individual. Thankfully, this portrait now exists for all to experience.

“Landmark Memories” will be featured in a fundraiser for the Jeudevine Library in Hardwick. Mitchell is donating all profits from the book pre-ordered from November 26 through December 17. The book may be ordered from the library or from the Galaxy Bookshop.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Thursday, November 25

THANKSGIVING DINNER, United Church of Hardwick. In-person at noon in the dining room. To-go dinners can be picked up at 12:30 p.m. Call to reserve: 802-472-6800, by end of day on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

Monday, November 29

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 or 802-730-3000.

Tuesday, November 30

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, 802-635-0084.

Exhibits

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.



ANOTHER OPINION

A Thanksgiving Reflection

by Timothy Hall Breen

GREENSBORO – Let's face it: Thanksgiving Day is in peril. After all, how can we sustain a holiday that involved manipulating indigenous people who were already compromised by contagious diseases introduced by European settlers. In fact, the whole tradition is based on a single letter written by a Pilgrim leader who felt threatened by local Native Americans. Not exactly firm evidence in support of a national holiday.

But before we scrap the traditional Thanksgiving Day – doing so would be a commercial disaster in a modern consumer society – we might consider that during the Seventeenth Century there were many thanksgiving days celebrated, often several a year and none commemorating a romanticized Pilgrim feast. When a community – largely in New England – felt that it had something for which to be thankful, it held a thanksgiving. Communities recognized God's blessing. Perhaps there had been a bountiful harvest, or a ship arrived carrying needed supplies. The event made sense in a highly religious culture. For these people a formally scheduled thanksgiving day – a Thursday every year in late November – insulted the Lord. To do so meant that ordinary sinful men and women could predict in advance when the Lord would deliver good times. But God had his own reasons for acting, and when he brought prosperity to the faithful – whenever it occurred – it was their responsibility to show gratitude. Prosperity was not something one could take for granted.

But then, we might ask, what happened when things did not go well. What did one do when ships were destroyed in storms? Or when locusts ravaged the grain in the fields? Or when contagious disease such as smallpox killed scores of neighbors?

The answer was what we might label an un-thanksgiving. The early settlers called these unhappy moments days of humiliation. The members of the community gathered to reflect on what they might have done to anger the Lord and by doing so,

had caused the sinking of ships or the sudden sickening of so many people. Somehow God's children had failed. It was their responsibility on a day of humiliation to discover the errors of their ways. Perhaps they had placed material comfort before religious obligations. Perhaps they had become too self-centered, thinking more about their own economic advancement than about the teachings of Scripture.

It is impossible to know if the people really thought that their behavior – sleeping through a sermon or wasting time with friends, for example – was responsible for the Lord's punishment. Perhaps that was not the key issue. By coming together, by spending an entire day reflecting on how they might have fallen away from Scriptural teachings, they reinforced community ties. Even when faced with extraordinary perils, they reaffirmed a willingness to support neighbors by admitting and reforming their own failings. According to the Reverend Samuel Willard, the goal of these local rituals was to find “repentance of, and humiliation for what is past, and reformation for the future.”

In a more secular culture, the notion that people would come together to confess how they had put self before community would have no traction. And to do so spontaneously as a specific response to some shared disappointment would attract no support. Not even the spread of Covid or fear of global warming could achieve that end. It is much easier to blame others for setbacks than to accept group responsibility. In modern times a call for public humiliation would seem an invitation to ruin a good meal and interrupt watching a football game.

Perhaps there is room for compromise. Even on a scheduled thanksgiving day – every November 25 – we might merge thanks with humiliation, a sense of joy for personal and family success with a recognition of our inability to prosper without other men and women in our community. And perhaps we might even devote a minute to contemplating what we as individuals might do to remove the dark clouds that once called for days of humiliation.

EDITORIAL

Celebrating this Thanksgiving ... and Looking Forward to the Next

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope this message finds you and yours well.

This year, many of us have much to be thankful for – despite the pandemic. Each of us has personal reasons to be grateful. My list includes the fact that the Gazette is still up and running, unlike many small community papers around the US (especially since the onset of COVID-19).

The paper reflects what is happening in our community, so some stories are happy, others less so. The pandemic is, obviously, the recurring theme. As a community, we can celebrate the efforts of Neighbor-to-Neighbor organizations in several of our towns, the Herculean efforts of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry staff and volunteers, AWARE, Hardwick Community Allies ... the list of civic organizations that have helped – and help define – our community goes on and on.

We can celebrate Vermont's high vaccination rate and the halting return to normal that it enabled. Businesses and schools re-opened, and the healthcare system was not overwhelmed. The “new normal” is becoming a little more like the old.

Some stories, however, remind that a lot of work remains to make our community what we really want it to be. The stories of anti-Semitic graffiti in Hardwick, of racist and homophobic chants at high school soccer games, of areas with lagging vaccination rates ... all these show that we have more to learn, more to improve.

On this most American of holidays, we might remember that a central tenet of the American Project is to recognize challenges and fix them; to improve our community and country for the next generation.

Progress on building a more just and inclusive society, and on taking uncomfortably aggressive steps to address climate change would make fine additions to next year's list of Things to be Thankful For.

[Editor's Note: Things for Which to be Thankful.]

R.S.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Karl Stein of the Greensboro/Stannard Emergency Response Team updates the data on this informational COVID 19 sign every two weeks. The statistics are for Orleans County (which includes 17 towns). The sign is located across from Willey's Store on the Green in Greensboro.

OUR E-MAILS

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IN THE GARDEN

Roasting Garden Produce



courtesy photo

Waltham butternut squash is great when roasted.

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – One of the reasons I garden is that I love to cook and to create wonderful, flavorful dishes that I might not get elsewhere. I think many gardeners share that inclination. One of the techniques I have not used much is roasting vegetables, but I recently did some roasting, and will do some more. I find it sweetens and intensifies flavors.

It all started when I was baking some potatoes. I had the oven at 425 and decided to make some kale chips at the same time. I ran down to the garden and picked some leaves. I took four of them, sliced the leafy part off the stems, and chopped coarsely to one-to two-inch squares. Then I sprinkled them with olive oil, tossed them well and dusted them with salt. I put them on a cookie sheet and roasted until crisp: ten minutes seemed just right.

I've made kale chips before but was never enamored of them. This kale had been hit by frost several times, which made the leaves sweeter. And I cooked them at a higher temperature than I've done before. I also made a small batch: Cindy and I ate them all before dinner. In the past I have stored kale chips in a well-sealed glass jar, but they got soggy anyway. Still got kale in the garden? Give it a try.

Baked potatoes are a classic dish, and easy to make. A few tips: grow some russets next year, they are best for baking. And brush them with as little melted butter or olive oil to help

crisp up the skins. But plan ahead: it takes 45 to 65 minutes at 400 degrees to bake a potato. The bigger the spud, the longer it takes. You should be able to poke a fork or knife in easily when cooked. Oh, and don't forget to poke some holes in the skin when you start: I'm told they can explode if you don't.

I usually freeze fresh bell peppers in the fall. I find they are great for cooking, and can be tossed in a salad, too. No blanching: I just wash and wipe dry, then seed and slice them and freeze in a zipper bag. I decided to try roasting frozen peppers now to see how they would do.

I spread out a couple of cups of frozen sliced peppers on a clean cloth towel on the counter, while pre-heating the oven to 450. They thawed quickly, and I patted them dry. I put them in a bowl and tossed them with some olive oil. Then I removed one half and put on the cookie sheet for cooking; the other half I sprinkled with dried oregano flakes and a little salt before spreading on the pan. Put down parchment paper or aluminum foil to simplify clean up.

The peppers needed 25 to 30 minutes until they were soft and slightly charred. I did not remove the skins, though people who roast them whole tend to do that. If you are roasting peppers as a side dish, be aware that roasting them reduces the size considerably: a cup of sliced peppers doesn't make much of a dish.

A few days later, I got a nice pork roast and cooked it at 350 degrees for over an hour. This gave me a medium-hot oven



courtesy photo

Roasted tomatoes with basil.

just begging to roast veggies. I roasted beets, carrots, onions and tomatoes, and all were delicious!

The beets were medium sized, 2-inches in diameter or so, and took an hour or a little more to feel well cooked. I wrapped them loosely in aluminum foil after cutting off the leaves. I left the tails (roots) on the beets, and an inch or so of the stem and leaves. Cut beets tend to bleed, and I didn't want that.

The carrots I just tossed



courtesy photo

Frozen peppers thawing before roasting.

into the roasting pan after a cleaned them well and cut off the stems and tips. If you have small carrots they don't take as long as beets, so you can put them in later in the cooking process. Onions I peeled and roasted whole. While roasting they caramelized, turning sweeter. Good used cold in sandwiches!

I tried roasting my tomatoes by either cutting tomatoes into half-inch slices and also just cutting them in half. I found the halves were easier to serve: the sliced tomatoes tended to fall apart. Later, when roasting peppers, I also roasted three more fresh tomatoes at 450 degrees after sprinkling them

with dry basil. Even at 450 it takes an hour or so to get them to collapse and brown up.

Roasting tomatoes does give them a very nice, intense tomato flavor. Years ago, I roasted quite a few with the idea of storing the results in the freezer. It worked well. I roasted them longer than I did just now, until almost all the moisture was out, probably at a lower temperature. Then I put them in zipper bags and froze them for use in winter sandwiches. I took the frozen tomato pieces and thawed them in a toaster oven.

Each year I grow some winter squash. My favorite is the Waltham butternut. It is a light-brown squash with a bulbous, seed-filled distal end, and a narrower section with no seeds that extends to the attachment point on the vine. Mostly I peel them, remove the seeds and chop into cubes to include in stews and stir fries.

Recently, I roasted a butternut squash and was delighted not only by the flavor, but also by the fact that I did not have to peel the skin. When serving (after an hour at 350 degrees) I scooped the cooked meat out of the skin. But later, I tried a bite of the skin, and it was soft and delicious. Vegetable skins generally are full of vitamins and minerals, so I shall plan on eating squash skins from now on (with the exception of Blue Hubbard skins which are so thick and leathery).

So, as you plan your garden for next year, think about growing veggies you can roast. They are perfect comfort food for long winter nights.

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

I Still Was the Beatnik

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – It was a stage set by Dickens: the best of times, the worst of times. Caught in the clutches of what I'd now call an aggressive lack of direction and purpose, I'd retreated in my ancient Plymouth sedan to a tiny village in the high peaks of the Adirondacks. I'd been there before – my prep school roommate was from there – but I knew nobody and had no place to live, except in the car. The locals dubbed me the Beatnik and slashed my tires one night. I switched to eight-ply tires, parked far off the beaten track, and looked for work while living in a lightly used lean-to about a mile from the end of the road. A copy of "On the Road" was tucked under the old car's driver's seat; and I'd have been on the road myself, if I'd had any money and thought she could get beyond Buffalo.

I needed a job, and I needed somehow to fit in. The job, after one false start, practically dropped into my lap. It was up in the woods (which meant room and board, too) working with three local guides. One of them heard about my living arrangements and offered a little screened-in gazebo at the edge of his property. I carried water from the brook for cooking and washed after work beneath a waterfall (the origin of my lifelong use of Ivory soap, which floated if I dropped it in the river). As the weather cooled in November, I found a \$10-a-month upstairs apartment with running water, electricity, and a space heater. Life was getting easier. But I still was the Beatnik.

Every man in the village who still could, hunted. It was a natural part of November. A buck pole in front of the bar displayed the most recent trophies, and a jar full of dollar bills inside went to various categories of winners. If I didn't hunt, my weirdness would be complete. So, I drove to Saranac Lake and bought a Winchester .32 Special – I'm looking at it as I type – for about \$58, and set out up Adirondack Street, headed for the mountains.

Two quite different things saved me. When my job ended in the fall, I went across the road each morning for coffee and a donut. Jeanie, who ran the shop, often slipped me a free day-old donut and charged me half the going rate for coffee. The men

of the village who were likewise unemployed gathered there. I was accepted – sort of – but often tested, one way or another.

One morning the object of interest was a "grip-tester," a little device that you put into the palm of your hand and squeezed. It passed from hand to hand – 60, 75, 85 pounds mostly – and then it came to me. I was still pretty skinny in those days, and neither they nor I thought I'd hit even fifty. But just as I started to squeeze, a noisy Chrysler woody went by – summer folks up for the holidays – and somebody threw from a window a bottle that shattered on the pavement. Every eye was fixed on the scene in front; and at that moment I took the grip-tester and gave it all I had with both hands. When they'd all finished clucking about rich kids and summer folks, they turned back to me. I casually handed the device to the man next to me. It read 130. Lord! I prayed, don't let 'em make me do it again. They didn't. It made a big difference.

Every man in the village who still could, hunted. It was a natural part of November. A buck pole in front of the bar displayed the most recent trophies, and a jar full of dollar bills inside went to various categories of winners. If I didn't hunt, my weirdness would be complete. So, I drove to Saranac Lake and bought a Winchester .32 Special – I'm looking at it as I type – for about \$58, and set out up Adirondack Street, headed for the mountains.

As I walked past the bar with determined tread, three old-timers gossiping on the corner kind of snickered. "Go get 'em, Dan'l!" called old Pete Bigelow. I swore under my breath and resolved at that moment that I wouldn't be coming back down from the mountain without a buck if I had to spend the whole winter up there.

The fates were kind. About a mile up Slide Brook, I happened by pure luck to pick a spot smack on a classic deer runway between the Brothers and the Porter ledges. And perhaps half an hour later a perfect buck came ambling down the slope toward the brook. He passed behind a bush, which gave me a chance to move enough to aim where I thought he'd come out. He did. I shot, and as he collapsed felt for the first time in my life that painful mixture of elation and regret that always comes with the death of a beautiful animal.

The regret didn't last. This buck had died not for art's sake, but to cement my standing among the men of the village. Which it did; and, foolish though it may seem after over sixty years, I still feel a debt to him. Ever since that afternoon, through many fits, starts, and calamities, life has been a long, slow climb to a sufficiency – and led at last to an unbreakable truce with wild animals.

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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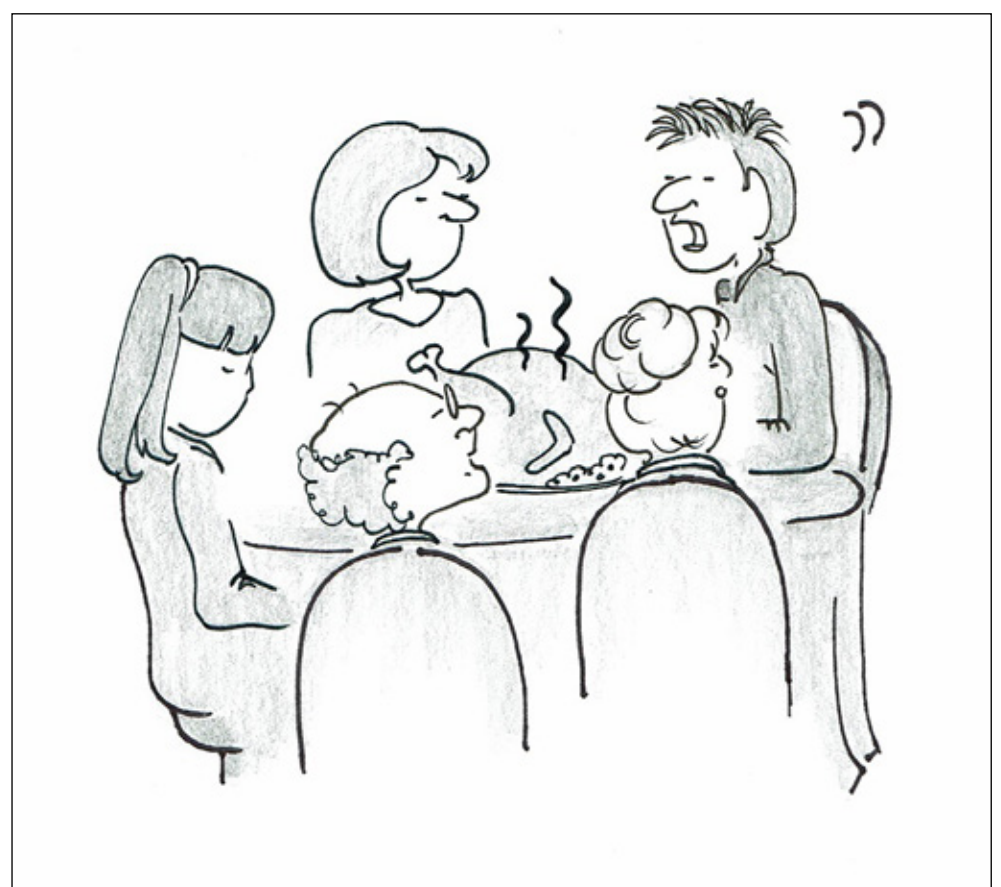
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Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



"WE DON'T DISCUSS POLITICS, WE DON'T DISCUSS RELIGION AND WE DEFINITELY WON'T DISCUSS VACCINE STATUS!"

LETTERS FROM READERS

Silence is Not an Option

To the editor:

Recently the Gazette reported on a dispute between neighbors in a Hardwick apartment building that ended in someone scrawling an anti-Semitic profanity — let's call it the K-word — on the door of a Jewish family living there. The article did not include details of the arguments that led up to this written assault. We understand that in this kind of conflict, fault is rarely entirely on one side.

But we don't need to know what happened between the tenants to make the far more important point, or to make it without reservation: We deplore and denounce this language and the bigotry behind them. They are inexcusable in our community or anywhere.

We also know that this is not an isolated event. The sentiment expressed on that door does not come from nowhere. We are living at a time when some of our

political leaders not only condone but also actively promote bigotry and violence and deploy it for their own gains. Many people feel they've been given permission to voice — and act on — their most irrational fears and vilest feelings and beliefs.

The problem is not just about speech. Bullying, harassment, and violent hate crimes against people of color, sex and gender minorities, people with disabilities, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, and other currently despised groups are alarmingly on the rise. Racism and nativism threaten democracy and peace around the world.

We call upon community members and elected officials, including the Select Board, to speak out against this and all forms of bigotry. Silence is not an option.

**Judith Levine
Hardwick**

Democracy and a Folding Chair

To the editor:

Anyone looking for Democracy on Monday night could have found her at Woodbury Town Hall, sitting on a folding chair among a group of residents meeting with the select board to discuss the proposed Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve.

She sat attentively through the presentation, learning about “belt and suspender” conservation easements, forever-wild preservation, saw-whet owls and fingernail clams; use value appraisal program, red spruce-cinnamon fern, carbon, fishers, American beech; transfer tax, linkage, Worcester to Kingdom and Eagle Ledge, watershed divide—Lamoille, Winooski—meeting again in Lake Champlain; black cherry, perpetuity, blue warbler, yellow-bellied flycatcher, pink lady slipper, Hugo Meyer and E.B. Hyde, one mountain, four towns, and a family that cared for its land...

As the agenda proceeded to comments and questions, she edged forward in her chair. The public body raised its hands representing voices ready to speak; in turn the moderator signaled and they spoke: proponents citing water, wildlife, habitat, views—protecting the roots; opponents citing hunting, logging, traverse, tradition—protecting the roots. Strong pleadings, disputes, assertions, rebuttals; yet civil, forbearing, keeping the ground fertile for

seeds of concession and fruits of consensus.

Democracy herself said nothing, but nodded in agreement at points well-made on both sides. She noted the solemn and eager, with hands raised awaiting to speak—such restraint affecting the orderliness required by Open Meeting Law, and the neighborliness needed to build a community.

Discussion ended, residents folded and returned their chairs to the corners, then milled about mingling and chatting. The chair of the board carefully not too soon, at last reminded his garrulous neighbors that, although discussion on the agenda item had ended, the meeting had not—therefore please remain, seated, or say goodnight. Then the board on its bedrock of creaking wood floor and folding metal chairs resumed the essential works of democracy.

She stayed through passage of the motion to adjourn, then donned her frayed coat and walked out the door. She passed the firehouse, post office, then crossed the bridge at the stream, and hiked the hill toward the library and school. On this cold, clear, starry night Democracy took heart—for though now she feels in some parts unwelcome, she finds enduring an unlocked door, an open floor, and a folding chair at town hall in Woodbury.

**Stephen Murphy
Woodbury**

A Statewide Mask Mandate

To the editor:

As COVID cases continue to rise alarmingly in Vermont, I wonder why it's so hard for our governor to institute a simple statewide indoor mask mandate. He's done it before, successfully, with many more restrictions.

Far from being, as he calls it, “an abuse of [his] authority,” this is a simple health and hygiene measure to protect us from chances of catching or spreading this aggressive and potentially life-threatening virus. With the onset of cold weather, more time spent indoors, the borders open to foreign tourists and skiers, and as we consider holiday gatherings with families and friends, it's very difficult to imagine the number of cases, hospitalizations and possible death counts going down, based on past experience.

Gov. Scott's mantra — “take personal responsibility, get your vaccination, wear a mask and stay six feet apart” — is a laudable exhortation, but it's no longer working. My wife and I have gotten all the shots, we wear masks indoors, give others space and wash our hands frequently. We shop mostly in Montpelier and a little in Barre, Phil Scott's hometown. Most Montpelier

shopkeepers and customers take Covid seriously by wearing masks.

Unfortunately, many of the citizens in Barre don't seem to care. We stopped in a few businesses there recently and found few salespeople or customers wearing masks, let alone keeping their distance. It turned us off to wanting to shop there for a while, probably the last thing the Chamber of Commerce wants to hear.

Gov. Scott claims many people won't abide by a mask mandate, so why bother? Certainly, some selfish or ignorant people do not care about their responsibility to fellow citizens and won't comply. So be it. But the majority of people will do the right thing if ordered to in a health crisis such as this.

As much as we appreciate the transparency and truthfulness of the governor's weekly press conferences, we need more than explanations of how and why the virus is spreading, and more leadership from our governor. Leaving it to the legislature to allow patchwork, town by town mask ordinances is not the solution. I urge him to please step up and order a statewide mask mandate.

**Fletcher Dean
East Calais**

Lamoille Housing Partnership Makes Statement Regarding Anti-Semitic Acts

To the editor:

“Resident's Door Defaced with Anti-Semitic Graffiti,” an article published by the Hardwick Gazette recently, addressed an issue of extreme concern affecting residents at Lamoille Housing Partnership affordable rental housing properties and the Hardwick community. “Lamoille Housing Partnership condemns antisemitism, discrimination, bigotry, racism, and hate speech and actions, whether explicit or implicit, intentional or inadvertent, in the strongest possible terms,” said Lamoille Housing Partnership (LHP) Executive Director, Jim Lovinsky.

LHP is addressing this matter by conducting a thorough internal investigation and working with the Hardwick Police Department on their investigation to ensure the ongoing safety of our residents, to get a clearer scope of the issue

at hand to identify what occurred and why it occurred, and how to move forward appropriately.

LHP believes that everyone deserves to live safely, peacefully, and not feel threatened in any way regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, receipt of public assistance, gender identity, abuse, sexual assault and stalking, or denial of development permitting based on income of prospective residents.

LHP thanks the Hardwick Police Department for their efforts and concerned faith groups and community members who have contacted us about this serious matter. At this time, we cannot share any further information while the respective investigations are underway.

**Kerrie Lohr
Lamoille Housing
Partnership
Morrisville**

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 For more information or to apply, contact Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee at calaisroadcommissioner@myfairpoint.net or at 456-7466. Applications accepted until position is filled.
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Lamoille Site Supervisor
 Are you passionate about bettering the community you live in? Do you enjoy working with children and families? If you answered "yes," Capstone Community Action has a unique opportunity for you. Our Lamoille Integrated Service Center in Morrisville is currently hiring a site supervisor to help our daily operations run smoothly while fostering community connection and creating events/summer programs for local children and families.
 We are seeking a community focused and team-oriented individual with great customer service skills, and experience serving at risk children and families. This position is full-time with potential for flexibility and job share.
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SPORTS

Dave Morse Classic to Return this Winter with Fans

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The memory and life of Vermont Hall of Fame sports writer and journalist Dave Morse will once again be celebrated this winter as the Dave Morse Classic (DMC) returns to the “Cat Den,” showcasing some of the best high school basketball in the state after a year hiatus.

COVID shortened the Vermont high school winter sports season in 2021 and one of the casualties of the abbreviated schedule was the sixth installment of the Dave Morse Classic. The four-team round robin tournament was created by Hazen

Union boys’ head coach Aaron Hill and Hazen Union Athletic Director John Sperry after the community legend lost his battle with cancer in March of 2015.

Coaches, referees, and fans from all over the state have traveled to Hardwick over the years to support the tournament, honor his memory, and enjoy some of the best basketball the state has to offer. Hill’s Wildcats are two-time defending champs and will host Williamstown, Randolph, and Lamoille this season. The DMC has raised thousands of dollars for the Dave Morse Scholarship Fund and it will be welcomed back this December with what Sperry hopes is

safe enough conditions for a packed gymnasium.

“Last season was hard for everybody in a lot of ways and it feels great to get the DMC back along with the fans. Everyone in the gymnasium, including the players will have masks on, so we hope conditions will allow us to have a packed gym to fully support the tournament. It is always a great weekend of high-quality basketball, and we already have the trophies and t-shirts ordered, so we’ll cross our fingers as we head into December and get through the holidays safe,” said Sperry.

Health and safety protocols have not been the only thing keeping the Vermont Principal’s Association busy this fall as sportsmanship took a major hit during the high school soccer season, with several incidents of hate speech, racial and homophobic slurs, and other forms of unsportsmanlike conduct from both players and fans. High school administrators, athletic directors, and coaches will be on high alert this winter as fans are scheduled to return to gymnasiums around the state in full force. The VPA has sent out a public statement to high school

administrators and has asked for it to be read aloud to fans, coaches, referees, and players before the playing of each game. The statement supports the intolerance for hate speech of any kind at Vermont high school events. They have also created an open log on their website, vpaonline.org, for high school officials, student athletes, fans, and coaches to identify specific incidents that may require investigation throughout the winter sports season. Sperry attends every home game for both girls and boys’ at Hazen and hasn’t turned a blind eye to what he saw during the soccer season.

“Unfortunately, some of the things I saw myself and read about this past fall was worrisome and sportsmanship amongst fans and players seems to be getting worse. We’ll remind everyone before every game this winter what the standard is for our fans and players to treat each other with respect. Hopefully, we won’t have any issues, but I’ll be on the lookout this season and so will the officials on the floor,” said Sperry.

High school basketball practices officially start on November 29 for Hazen Union, Twinfield-Cabot, and Craftsbury Academy.

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SPORTS

New Coaching Faces on the Sidelines this Winter for Craftsbury Academy

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams will have new head coaches on the sidelines when the season tips-off in December.

The girls' varsity basketball program at CA was resurrected last season after a three-year hiatus under the leadership of first year athletic director Gabriela Silva. Silva also served as the head coach during the pandemic-shortened season, assisted by Mariah LeVangie. LeVangie will take over head coaching duties this season, with Silva assisting when she can. CA alum and 1,000-point career scorer Janet Bohannon will also assist with varsity coaching, as well as coaching the middle school program. Eighth grader Ella Gillespie led the Lady Chargers in scoring last season and, with growing interest in the program and players returning with varsity experience, the arrow on the Lady Charger rebuild is pointing up.

"Mariah did a great job last season. I'm excited to see her develop this team as a head coach, with her ability to teach the game one-on-one with the girls. Janet was a great player here and she is a huge addition to the program. We have a talented group of athletic girls who are still young, but they led the charge in bringing this program back to the varsity level last season and they are excited to keep building it. We are excited for the future and can't wait for the season to start," said Silva.

Sean Ryan takes over head coaching duties for the boys' program after Tyler Gillespie

"We will be taking all the appropriate measures to mask and social distance to be able to bring the fans back to our gymnasium. We will also separate the home and away crowds like we did during our fall season. I'm very lucky to have an amazing team around me who helps in keeping the environment as safe as possible."

stepped down after one season. Ryan supervises, teaches, and councils in the Montpelier private school system and also has an extensive background in coaching and officiating. The Chargers have struggled with participation numbers the last few seasons, but Silva likes what she's seen so far in early sign ups for the boys' varsity team.

"Sean really stood out amongst our final candidates for the position and we're super excited to watch him continue to develop the boys' program. He has a lot of experience in various aspects of the game and has a great track record in teaching and working closely with kids. Early sign-ups have been really encouraging so far and we will get a couple of seniors back in Jas Zendik and Blair Locke

who return to CA for their final season. We are excited for the future of both of these programs, and I just think it's great that we are able to give the kids an opportunity to play and compete," said Silva.

Fans will return to gymnasiums around the state this winter, but masks will still be required for all fans, coaches, officials, and players. The Vermont Principal's Association has also put out a statement to administrators to promote sportsmanship before high school events after several instances of unsportsmanlike conduct took place in Vermont high school soccer this past fall that included various forms of hate speech between players and fans.

"We will be taking all the appropriate measures to mask and social distance to be able to bring the fans back to our gymnasium. We will also separate the home and away crowds like we did during our fall season. I'm very lucky to have an amazing team around me who helps in keeping the environment as safe as possible. Our hope is to have full capacity crowds and we'll monitor things as the winter goes on and change and adjust as the situation does. We are excited for Mariah and Sean to lead our teams from a coaching and teaching standpoint, but they also bring an incredible amount of positivity into the program that we were seeking. We want our kids to be competitive and have fun, but also be respectful towards the sportsmanship side of high school athletics that is so important," said Silva.

Practices will tip-off for Craftsbury Academy on November 29.



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SPORTS

DEER REPORTS

Smith's Store, Greensboro Bend
Zachary Bartlett, in Stannard, 8 pts., 169 lbs.; Ronald Whitcomb, in Woodbury, 6 pts., 157 lbs.; Lincoln Miller, in Greensboro, 8 pts., 190 lbs. Justin Holbrook, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 148 lbs.; Barry Eastman, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 119 lbs.; Bradley Gaboriault, in Elmore, 3 pts., 115 lbs.; Wilfred McAllister, in Hardwick, 6 pts., 158 lbs.; James Russell, in Stannard, 5 pts., 104 lbs.; Nickolas Molleur, in Woodbury, 7 pts., 199 lbs.; Dean Hill, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 155 lbs.; Matt Willey, in Wheelock, 8 pts., 145 lbs.; Donald Dragon, in Hardwick, 8 pts., 172 lbs.; Daniel Baillargeon, in Cabot, 6 pts., 134 lbs.; George Goldsworthy, in Walden, 8 pts., 174 lbs.; Randolph Wilson, in Walden, 6 pts., 170 lbs.;

Adam Holbrook, in Hardwick, 3 pts., 132 lbs.; Michael Tatro, in Greensboro, 4 pts., 188 lbs.; Clinton Cyr, in Walden, 2 pts., 110 lbs. Jaden Lesperance, in Woodbury, 8 pts., 160 lbs.; Wilfred McAllister, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 120 lbs.; Kelly Nottermann, in Hardwick, 6 pts., 155 lbs.; Rachael Shedd, in Walden, 2 pts., 122 lbs.; Eric Molleur, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 133 lbs.; Nicholas Hayden, in Woodbury, 3 pts., 129 lbs.; Lawrence Chadwick, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 125 lbs. Tyler Harvey, in Walden, 2 pts., 102 lbs.; Matthew McAllister, in Elmore, 4 pts., 138 lbs.; Sheli Grady, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 118 lbs.; Eugene McAllister, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 149 lbs.; Riley Rich, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 136 lbs.; Renaud Demers, in

Greensboro, 4 pts., 132 lbs.; Clarence Wheeler, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 130 lbs.; Ralph Pickett, in Greensboro, 3 pts., 150 lbs.; Elizabeth Eastman, in Hardwick, 8 pts., 157 lbs.; Eugene McAllister, in Hardwick, 1 pt., 118 lbs.; Wyatt Flanders, in Wolcott, 4 pts., 165 lbs.; Joshua Sibley, in Stannard, 4 pts., 156 lbs.; Shirley Gaylor, in Craftsbury, 3 pts., 113 lbs.; David Campbell, in Hardwick, 3 pts., 106 lbs.; Keven Rich, in Greensboro, 6 pts., 165 lbs.; Jason Mercy, in Wolcott, 9 pts., 181 lbs.; Ross Gouin, in Woodbury, 8 pts., 134 lbs.; Jacob Pilbin, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 145 lbs.; Chad Brochu, in Craftsbury, 4 pts., 126 lbs.; Vincent St. Amour, in Stannard, 2 pts., 117 lbs.; Ray Shatney, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 104 lbs.; Sawyer Cloutier, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 124 lbs.;

Peter Clifford, in Walden, 4 pts., 149 lbs.; Angus Tomlinson, in Johnson, 6 pts., 163 lbs.; Theodore Georgiadis, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 114 lbs.; Wilfred McAllister, in Hardwick, 9 pts., 151 lbs.; Riley Brochu, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 111 lbs.; Michael McAllister, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 115 lbs.; Benjamin Molleur, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 113 lbs.; Roger Dufresne, in Greensboro, 9 pts., 126 lbs.; Arthur Brochu, in Greensboro, 5 pts., 169 lbs.; Slade Farnham, in Walden, 2 pts., 111 lbs.; Steven Flood, in Walden, 5 pts., 169 lbs.; Susan Rivard, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 142 lbs.; Daniel Greaves, in Walden, 9 pts., 136 lbs.; Karl Fontaine, in Walden, 5 pts., 160 lbs.; Phil Degreenia in Wolcott, 4 pts., 136 lbs.; Maureen Demers, 2 pts., 101 lbs.

C. Village Store, Craftsbury
Tony Jones, in Craftsbury, 3 pts., 129 lbs.; Norman Auger, in Glover, 5 pts., 158 lbs.; John Roessner, in Eden, 6 pts., 128 lbs.; Michael Shedd, in Wolcott, 4 pts., 153 lbs.; Raymond Wells, in Morristown, 9 pts., 193 lbs.; Jeffrey Davis, in Albany, 3 pts., 117 lbs.; Camden Pierce, in Craftsbury, 4 pts., 116 lbs.; Deven Mandigo, in Johnson, 3 pts., 141 lbs.; Russell Draper, in Hardwick, 6 pts., 173 lbs.; Simon Kribstock, in Hyde Park, 6 pts., 119 lbs.; Kaleb Wetherell, in Morristown, 3 pts., 123 lbs.; Roger Guilmette, in Morristown, 11 pts., 218 lbs.; Kevin Willey in Craftsbury, 7 pts., 193 lbs.; Derek Small, in Hyde Park, 3 pts., 119 lbs.; Gary Stack, in Albany, 1 pt., 108 lbs.; David Geoffroy, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 126 lbs.; Brandon Locke, in Craftsbury, 8 pts., 212 lbs. Michael Audy, in Morristown, 8 pts., 206 lbs.; Roy Darling, in Craftsbury 4 pts., 103 lbs.; Diane Earle, in Wolcott, 3 pts., 128 lbs.; Shawn Arnold, in Johnson, 3 pts., 116 lbs.; Steven Martin, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 121 lbs.;

Tyler Manosh, in Eden, 5 pts., 151 lbs.; Jared Reil, in Greensboro, 4 pts., 180 lbs.; Arron Courtemanche, in Elmore, 6 pts., 150 lbs.; Jason Tuthill, in Morristown, 3 pts., 126 lbs. David Small, in Wolcott, 4 pts., 116 lbs.; Tom Anderson, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 111 lbs.; Edward Manosh, in Eden, 4 pts., 121 lbs.; Brandon Sheldrick, in Belvidere, 8 pts., 168 lbs.; Travis Earle, in Eden, 4 pts., 119 lbs.; Devin Small, in Craftsbury, 4 pts., 156 lbs.; Samuel Price, in Eden, 7 pts., 164 lbs.; Melinda Fitzgerald, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 108 lbs.; Samuel Nolan, in Greensboro, 6 pts., 156 lbs.; Levi Allen, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 117 lbs.; Joseph Hoadley, in Morristown, 6 pts., 119 lbs.; Aaron Bailey, in Greensboro, 7 pts., 149 lbs.; Corey Draper, in Morristown, 4 pts., 168 lbs.; Walter Earle, in Lowell, 2 pts., 145 lbs.; Marc Paquette, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 110 lbs.; Kevin Johnson, in Hardwick, 7 pts., 121 lbs.;

Ryan Allen, in Woodbury, 3 pts., 128 lbs.; Jay Lamell, in Stowe, 2 pts., 123 lbs.; Isaac Firkey, in Wolcott, 6 pts., 139 lbs.; Grayson Menaughten, in Wolcott, 3 pts., 107 lbs.; Shaun Allen, in Eden, 6 pts., 108 lbs.; Haven Young, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 116 lbs.; Asa Searles, in Westfield, 8 pts., 171

lbs.; Matthew Hall, in Craftsbury, 4 pts., 103 lbs. Issac Spaulding, in Morristown, 8 pts., 186 lbs.; Cecil Mayo, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 124 lbs.; Holden Daigle, in Eden, 6 pts., 162 lbs.; David Reed, in Eden, 2 pts., 139 lbs.; Geoffrey Urie, in Glover, 5 pts., 140 lbs.; Val Lamonda, in Craftsbury, 5 pts., 128 lbs.; Evan Bilodeau, in Greensboro, 2 pts., 126 lbs.; Wayne Blaisdell, in Stowe, 2 pts., 130 lbs.; Tanner Westcom, in Hyde Park, 5 pts., 148 lbs.; Jamie Griggs, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 121 lbs.; Joseph Galati, in Albany, 2 pts., 123 lbs.; Thomas Spear, in Lowell, 2 pts., 116 lbs.; Thomas Blaney, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 129 lbs.; Devin Graves, in Stowe, 3 pts., 192 lbs.; Brian Currier, in Johnson, 4 pts., 120 lbs.; Dallas Reed, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 105 lbs.

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SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, December 2

6 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball scrimmage at Lyndon.

7:15 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball scrimmage at Lyndon.

Saturday, December 4

11 a.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball scrimmage at North Country.

12:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' varsity basketball scrimmage at North Country.

Monday, December 6

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior

varsity basketball scrimmage at Burlington.

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball scrimmage vs. Peoples, at Hazen Union.

6:45 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball scrimmage vs. Peoples, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Hazen Union boys' varsity basketball scrimmage at Burlington.

Wednesday, December 8

6 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball scrimmage vs. Milton, at Hazen Union.

7:15 p.m., Hazen Union boys' varsity basketball scrimmage vs. Milton, at Hazen Union.