

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Volume 132 Number 47

## VSP Arrest Alleged Woodbury Shooter

by Doug McClure

WOODBURY – Vermont State Police (VSP) announced Friday that they had made an arrest in the 2018 double homicide on Bliss Road in Woodbury. The alleged perpetrator is thirty-two-year-old Manuel Gomez of Hartford, Conn., and he is currently imprisoned in Otisville, New York's Federal Correctional Institution for unrelated charges. Vermont is waiting to extradite him from New York for arraignment.

Police say Gomez denied "knowledge of or involvement" in the killings but "statements from

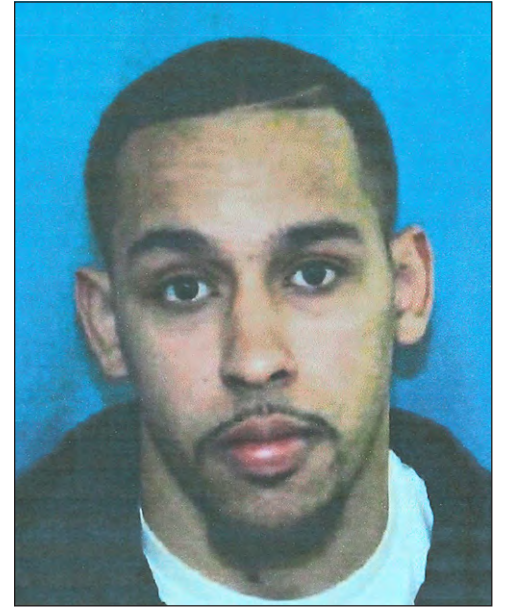
Gomez regarding his whereabouts on the evening in question contradict digital and physical evidence obtained during the investigation."

According to police, Gomez traveled to Woodbury the evening of October 30, 2018, and arrived at the residence of forty-eight-year-old David Thompson. Police say Gomez allegedly killed Thompson and twenty-nine-year-old Carol Fradette at a separate residence on the property as well as their three dogs. The homes were then set afire. Police said they believe the fires were intended to cover up the homicides.

A judge issued a warrant for

Gomez last Wednesday on charges of aggravated murder and first-degree arson. Police say the motive was that Gomez was providing "large quantities" of heroin to Thompson, who "might have owed more than \$20,000" to Gomez. Police say they have "digital evidence" that puts Gomez in Woodbury in the area right before a neighbor called 911 to report a fire.

The events took place on the night of October 30, 2018, at around 11:10 p.m., on Bliss Road in Woodbury. When Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene, they first believed only one structure was on fire and then



Manuel Gomez

See SHOOTER, 2

## Gazette to Shutter Building in Attempt to Survive COVID

HARDWICK – The Gazette will close its offices on South Main Street effective Dec. 31 to reduce costs in hopes of keeping the paper in operation.

The Gazette has served Hardwick and surrounding communities since 1889. With the onset of COVID, the paper's advertising revenues dropped 90 percent and have not recovered.

The Gazette reluctantly stopped printing its paper version in the spring of 2020 and became a digital-only publication. This reduced operating expenses, but not enough to offset the loss of advertising revenues. The move to digital also caused towns to move their public notices to other area papers that still offer

printed editions, further reducing revenues. The paper continues to lose money.

The paper hopes to continue operations by closing its building, establishing a "virtual newsroom," which will allow current staff to work from home, and by changing to a non-profit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

The Gazette also hopes that volunteer journalists will step up to cover their towns and reduce the cost of content. Before the pandemic, the Gazette ran monthly editions for and by the residents of Greensboro and Craftsbury. These monthly editions were very well received and attracted a large number of volunteer contributors.



photo by Doug McClure

The Hardwick Gazette has been in business since 1889.

See SHUTTER, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Workers at Moffatt's Tree Farm on Wild Branch Road in Craftsbury were very busy the day after Thanksgiving. Ryan Blaney (right) hands trees to Mark Guebara (second from right) who sets them on a conveyor. Loading the trees into a large trailer is Steve Moffatt (back left) and his son Gibson Moffatt (back right). The load of trees was going to Shelburne.

## More than 90 Local Newsrooms Closed During the Coronavirus Pandemic

by Kristen Hare

[10/20/21 article reprinted with permission from Poynter.org.]

At first, the pandemic cost newsrooms jobs and communities critical work. Now it's starting to end entire newsrooms.

In many places, it started with a cut in print days. Furloughs. Layoffs. Just to get through the crisis, newsroom leaders told readers.

In some places, none of it was enough.

Now, small newsrooms around the country, often more than 100 years old, often the only news source in those places, are closing under the weight of the coronavirus. Some report

they're merging with nearby publications. But that "merger" means the end of news dedicated to those communities, the evaporation of institutional knowledge and the loss of local jobs.

At least 14 of the newsrooms now gone are owned by CNHI. Several are owned by Forum Communications Company. And a few are — were — owned by local families.

Since 2004, about 1,800 newspapers have closed in the United States, Penny Abernathy reported in her research on news deserts. 1,700 are weeklies. The pace of closures, up till now, has been about 100 a year, said Abernathy, a professor at the University of North Carolina's

See NEWSROOMS, 2

**Contents**

Police Report ..... 3  
 Write for the Gazette ..... 3  
 Neighborhood Shopping Guide..... 4  
 Greensboro to Provide Community Skating Rink..... 5  
 Walden Resident Questions Missing Paving Lines..... 5  
 Holiday Activity at Tree Farm (photos) ..... 6  
 NEK Council on Aging Partners with E-Learning Platform ..... 7  
 Cabot Holds Holiday Festival and Outdoor Market ..... 7  
 Obituaries..... 8  
 Our Communities..... 9  
 Meeting Memo..... 9  
 Editorial: Writing the Next Chapter for the Gazette..... 9  
 This Week's Events ..... 10  
 Cape Breton Traditional Group Performs Dec. 11 ..... 10  
 In the Garden: Holiday Gifts for the Gardener ..... 11  
 Yankee Notebook: Being Treated as if I'm Old..... 12  
 Runners' Roundup..... 14  
 Deer Report ..... 14  
 League Realignment Poses New Challenges..... 15  
 Sports Calendar ..... 15

**Newsrooms**

**Continued From Page One**

Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

“Between places switching to online only and those that are merging, this is a really sharp increase,” she said, “and not surprising either.”

The pace might be faster, but Abernathy’s research shows a trend that’s still playing out in the middle of a pandemic — the newsrooms that are closing are mostly weeklies in small communities.

“And when you lose a small daily or a weekly, you lose the journalist who was gonna show up at your school board meeting, your planning board meeting, your county commissioner meeting,” she said.

Communities lose transparency and accountability. Then, she said, research shows that taxes go up and voter participation goes down.

Some of the places listed here grew up alongside their communities. The Journal-Express in

Knoxville, Iowa, was founded by a Civil War veteran who was friends with Abraham Lincoln, the site (which now redirects visitors to a “Knoxville” page on the website of the nearby Oskaloosa Herald) reported. After The Edmond Sun started publishing in Edmond, Oklahoma, in 1889, the nearby paper that’s now the Oklahoman told readers “The Edmond Sun now shines on our table. It has come to drive the darkness from our neighboring city.” (That site has also disappeared, instead directing readers to The Norman Transcript website.)

Some are newer, like the Waterbury Record in Vermont, which launched in 2007.

“The Record has never been profitable, but we were in this for the long haul,” publisher Greg Popa told readers. “We started publishing the paper in 2007 to fill a news desert in a community we felt was on the upswing.”

[The last issue of the *Waterbury Record* was published on March 26, 2020.]

**Shooter**

**Continued From Page One**

determined a second was. The fire department put out both fires and discovered the bodies afterwards, then contacted VSP.

State police dispatched their Bureau of Criminal Investigations, the major crime unit, the crime scene search team, narcotics investigation unit, and victim services unit. The Vermont Department of Public Safety sent its fire and explosion investigation unit. The medical examiner determined that Thompson’s cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death as homicide. Fradette’s cause of death was blunt impact and gunshot wounds and the manner of death was also homicide.

In a release, State’s Attorney Rory Thibault is quoted as saying

“My office is grateful for the hard work and persistence that went into this investigation,” Thibault said. “The Vermont State Police, with federal partners, invested significant time and resources to develop the evidence needed to support criminal charges in this complex case. The multi-agency collaboration and follow-through by the investigative team is a testament to the skill and professionalism of Vermont’s law enforcement community, and the shared commitment to seek truth and justice.”

The agencies involved included VSP, the medical examiner, the Vermont Department of Public Safety’s Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit, the Vermont Forensic Laboratory, and the FBI. No date has been set for Gomez’s arraignment and transport to Vermont.

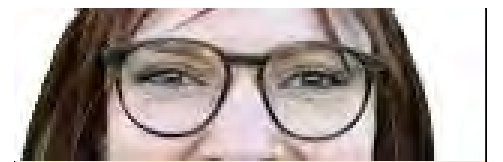
**Shutter**

**Continued From Page One**

According to editor Ray Small, “the quality of the content of the Greensboro Gazette and the Craftsbury Gazette was outstanding. Residents wrote articles, took photos, and submitted poems and cartoons. If each town can produce one or two articles a week, we will have better coverage than we did before COVID and be able to continue publishing. Ultimately, the future of the Gazette will rest with the residents of each town. If we can replicate the success of the pre-pandemic volunteer efforts in Greensboro and

Craftsbury, we may avoid shutting down the Gazette.”

Under this plan, the editing, layout and digital publishing of the paper would be handled by Gazette staff, as before. Guidelines for writing and submitting content will be run in all future editions.



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**December 1 - December 7**

<b>Meat Dept.:</b> Boneless Pork Chops/Roast - \$1.99 lb. Shurfine Roast Beef - \$8.99 lb.		Kuhl Hot Ryder Flannel Lined Pant \$99 - Now in Stock!
<b>Quaker Chewy Granola Bars</b> 2/\$5 6.7 oz.	<b>Quaker Life Cereal</b> 2/\$5 11.7-12.6 oz.	<b>Wishbone Salad Dressing</b> 4/\$5 8 oz.
<b>Old El Paso Refried Beans</b> 4/\$5 16 oz.	<b>Old El Paso Taco Kits</b> 2/\$5 8.8-12.5 oz.	<b>Food Club Salsa</b> \$1.69 16 oz.
<b>Rice-A-Roni Side Dish</b> 5/\$5 6.5-7.2 oz.	<b>Progresso Traditional Soup</b> 2/\$4 18.5-19 oz.	<b>Full Circle Beans</b> 99¢ 15.5 oz.
<b>Milk Bone Dog Biscuits</b> \$3.49 24 oz.	<b>Northern 6 Mega Roll Bathroom Tissue</b> \$6.99 179-207.7 s.f.	<b>Chobani Greek Yogurt</b> 5/\$5 5.3 oz.
<b>Meow Mix Dry Cat Food</b> \$4.49 3-3.15 lb.	<b>Pillsbury Crescent Rolls</b> 2/\$5 8 oz.	<b>Mission Med. or Large Flour Tortillas</b> 2/\$5 17.5-20 oz.
<b>Hot Pockets Sandwiches</b> 2/\$4 9 oz.	<b>Stouffers French Bread Pizza</b> 2/\$5 10.38-12.37 oz.	<b>Huggies Pull-Ups</b> \$10.49 20 ct.
Naturipe Blueberries - 2/\$6.00 pt. Raspberries - 2/\$6.00 6 oz.	<b>Maine 5 lb. Russet Potatoes</b> 2/\$4	<b>Del Fresco Seedless Cucumbers</b> 2/\$4

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police

### Media Log Summary

November 15: Directed Sign, Mill St./the Inn; Suspicious Patrol, S. Main St., Theft, Evergreen Manor Dr.

November 16: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist – Agency, Craftsbury Road; Suspicious Event, Pearl St.

November 17: Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 16; Alarm, Vt. Rte. 16; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 16; Trespassing, Center Rd.; Juvenile Problem, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Found Property, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Mill St.; Threats/Harassment, Church St.; Traffic Stop, Glenside Ave.; Directed Patrol, Glenside Ave.; Assist – Public, S. Main St.

November 18: Suspicious Event, Upper Cherry St.; Juvenile Problem, S. Mai St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Directed Patrol, Glenside Ave.

November 19: Alarm, Vt. Rte. 16; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Cobb School Rd.; Trespassing, E. Church St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Center Rd.; Animal Problem, Spruce Dr.; Noise Disturbance, Mini Mart Dr.

November 20: Noise Disturbance, Church St.; Noise Disturbance, Church St.; Found Property, S. Main St.; Assist – Motorist, N. Main St./Putnam Ave.; Theft, Mill St.; Traffic Stop.

November 21: Radar

November 22: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Suspicious Event, Montgomery Rd.; Alarm, Vt. Rte. 16; Directed Patrol, Upper Cherry St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Foot Patrol, S. Main St.

November 23: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, S. Main St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Directed patrol, Upper Cherry St.

November 24: Citizen Dispute, Elm St.

November 25: Traffic Hazard, Kate Brook Rd./Gates Trl.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 14.

November 26: Theft, Houston Hill Rd.; Theft, Wolcott St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Wolcott St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Assist – Motorist, Center Rd.

November 27: Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Alarm, N. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hillside St.

November 28: Citizen Dispute, Carey Rd.

November 29: Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Theft, High St.; Assist – Public, W. Church St.

## Hardwick Police

### Aggravated Assault, Telephone Pole Broken

On October 14, at 6:00 p.m., a citizen dispute turned into an aggravated assault on Michael Gasper, of Highland Ave., Hardwick. Scott Raymond, of St. Albans was arrested/cited.

On November 6, at 11:20 p.m., Fabian Reyes, of Orton Rd., Walden, struck telephone pole on Hopkins Hill, broke the pole, never notified police or electric department. Electric Company had to replace pole.

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

## AWARE Report

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

On November 22 through November 29. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.

## State Police Report

### DUI

On November 25, at 2:03 a.m., the Vermont State Police was notified of a vehicle off the roadway near the intersection of Route 14 and Route 2 in the town of East Montpelier. Troopers responded to the scene and spoke with the male operator, Tyson Robinson, of Marshfield. Subsequent investigation led to Robinson being taken into custody for suspicion of DUI and transported to the State Police Barracks in Middlesex for processing. Robinson was later released with a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court Criminal Division.

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

## Write for the Gazette!

by Ray Small, Editor

The Gazette needs your help in covering events in your town. Before the COVID outbreak, we ran pilot programs with volunteer journalists in Greensboro and Craftsbury. The results were terrific. Here's how you can write news stories about your town (and help keep the Gazette up and running):

Gazette news stories are short. 400-600 words will do the job.

Topics can range from select board meetings and school board meetings, to local events and organizations, to whatever you think will interest the folks in your town.

Just the facts: a news article answers the 'what, when, where, who, why and/or how' of a past or future event. Keep opinions out of your writing (though you are encouraged to share your opinions in a Letter to the Editor).

Include a headline, a dateline (the town in which the event has happened or will happen, in CAPS, followed by a dash), and a byline ('by' followed

by your name).

Do not spend time formatting your article. We remove formatting from all submissions so the files work with our layout software.

Save your text file as a .rtf file. All word processing programs have that option, usually from a drop-down menu in the "Save As" option.

Submit your article as an attachment to an email (do not copy the text into the body of the email).

Submit photos as attachments, as well. Send the largest photo file size you can (reducing the file size reduces the resolution).

Submit cutlines (the text that goes with a photo) as separate text files. Please name cutline files in a way that clearly match them with your photo(s).

Send submissions to [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com). Please do not use any other email address you may have.

Questions? Drop a line to [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com).

Thanks for helping the Gazette's coverage area from becoming a local news desert!

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[mikeg@calderwoodins.com](mailto:mikeg@calderwoodins.com)

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## *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](mailto:bytheponddesign@gmail.com)**

**for more details**

# Greensboro to Provide Community Skating Rink

by Kelly Robinson

GREENSBORO – The Town of Greensboro is taking steps to help young Elladj Baldes, Tara Lipinskis, Sonja Henies and Bobby Orrs discover and polish their talents.

The town has been struggling to create a community skating rink for a number of years. Now, with help from the Highland Center for the Arts, it appears that Greensboro's skating rink dream is finally becoming a reality. The Highland Center has consented to allow the rink to be placed at the Center and has already helped do the necessary leveling and foundation work for the rink.

In addition to working with the Highland Center for the Arts, the Greensboro Recreation Committee has been working with Porta-Rinx, a skating rink company in East Montpelier, that creates skating rinks nationwide, to help create a community rink. In addition to donating use of the site and foundation work, the Highland Center has also agreed to purchase and donate the use of equipment necessary to maintain the ice on the rink.

The Greensboro Recreation Committee hopes to make the sport of skating accessible to all,

especially young people from the area. An anonymous donor has purchased fifteen pairs of skates to be available for those who do not have skates, but who would like to try skating. People who need skates can borrow them for a specific period of time with the understanding that they be returned.

When interviewed about the skating rink project, Dave Kelley, a member of the Greensboro Recreation Committee, expressed deep gratitude to Keisha Luce and the staff at the Highland Center for their willingness to help with this project. Kelley said, "The Highland Center is really the appropriate venue for this community rink. Of all sports, none is more artistic than skating." Kelley said he can envision a day when the Highland Center might even host an ice ballet—perhaps performed by area students.

Those working on the project hope that the rink will be in place before Christmas, weather permitting. The Greensboro Recreation Committee is interested in finding adults who might be willing and able to provide lessons to young novice skaters. Experienced ice skaters willing to help with this program, and those with questions, should call Dave Kelley at (802) 249-8262.

# Walden Resident Questions Missing Paving Lines

WALDEN – At a meeting of the Walden Select Board on November 22, Liz Wilkel commented on pavement lines missing on Cabot Road. Randolph Wilson said he will check with the road foreman, but believes it has not been done because of material shortages.

The road crew will begin winter hours next week. They are currently hauling gravel and grading roads.

The cyber-security discussion was tabled again until the next meeting. The town meeting was discussed, and the board directed the town clerk to order enough supplies to do a town-wide mailing again this year. It is not yet clear how town meeting will take place. Contracting winter plowing of the

town clerk's office, Rowell Road, Brookside Drive and Frost Lane was discussed. An ad will be put in the Hardwick Gazette to request bids.

The board reviewed Appendix 1 from the U.S. Department of Treasury, which lists the Expenditure Categories for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Bills and agreements with Brookfield Service for generator maintenance and a pole contract on Cobb Road from Washington Electric were signed.

Present at the meeting were select board members Brenda Huntoon, Bob Hatch and Randolph Wilson. The next meeting will be December 6, 6:30 pm at the firehouse and via Zoom.



## 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 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

## OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com  
ads@hardwickgazette.com

## Holiday Tree Activity at Moffatt's Tree Farm Choose & Cut



Selah Barrett of Stowe pulls a nine-foot tree from Moffatt's Tree Farm Choose & Cut November 26.



Olivia Saras (left) and her mom Amber Saras (right) of Morrisville carry their tree back to their car Friday after getting it at Moffatt's Choose & Cut on Wild Branch Road in Craftsbury.



John Dernavich (right) of Hardwick brings his tree to the baler before Aidan Moffatt (left) wraps it up for easier transport. Despite the rain, the day after Thanksgiving was a very busy day at Moffatt's Tree Farm Choose & Cut.



Workers at Moffatt's Tree Farm on Wild Branch Road in Craftsbury were very busy the day after Thanksgiving. Ryan Blaney (right) hands trees to Mark Guebara (second from right) who sets them on a conveyor. Loading the trees into a large trailer is Steve Moffatt (back left) and his son Gibson Moffatt (back right). The load of trees was going to Shelburne.



Steve Moffatt (left) and his son Gibson Moffatt (right) of Moffatt's Tree Farm load trees onto a trailer Friday.

**Photos  
by  
Vanessa  
Fournier**

# NEK Council on Aging Partners with E-Learning Platform

by Thorolf van Walsum

ST. JOHNSBURY – At 2 p.m., on November 29, members of the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging met with the interested public for their annual meeting over Zoom. The first half of the meeting consisted of interviews with employees who described their work and the fulfillment it gave them.

Two of the stories described the success of the Veteran’s Directive Care Program, which grew from two clients to eleven in the past year, and the “Pets for Life” program, featuring a participant who confided that her cats made life in old age enjoyable. Anne Steinberg, West Glover President of the NEKCOA board of directors, reflected on some of the difficulties COVID-19 imposed on the elderly of the Northeast Kingdom -- inflation, supply lines, and a dwindling supply of caregivers -- and how the Council addressed them.

In the second half of the meeting, NEKCOA director Meg Burmeister announced a new partnership with TruAlta.

TruAlta is an interactive e-learning platform to help manage care for aging adults at home. Designed primarily to prepare and educate unofficial caregivers, such as family and friends, in the practices of basic home care, the service has the potential to save Northeast Kingdom elders thousands of dollars and loads of worry. The service will be freely accessible through Essex, Orleans, and Caledonia counties.

In an interview with Leda Rosenthal, the director of growth at TruAlta, explained what this partnership will provide. “This a great opportunity for caregivers in Vermont to get access to educational materials for free. For the state of Vermont, it’s a great case study to see another innovative approach for how caregivers can get access. Does a remote intervention work in Vermont?”

Leda elaborated.

“Traditionally, caregiver education has been done in person, but since the pandemic, that’s been interrupted. It’s starting to come back, but this is a great complement to inputs in education. As for caregivers who could never attend education in person because they couldn’t find respite care for a loved one or were too rural, this makes training available to them, and in that sense it was very equitable.”

Understanding that technology is a limitation for many, especially in rural areas like the Northeast Kingdom, the NEK Council on Aging and TruAlta will be taking steps to ensure that the educational material is available without downloading apps, on all internet browsers and on all technological devices 24/7, as well as in print form.

Accessible at nekcoa.trualta.com, the website offers basic educational material on Alzheimer’s, dementia, cognitive decline, and general aging for not only typical family caregiver scenarios, such as children caring for their parents, but also for non-traditional arrangements, such as elders tending to youth struggling with disabilities. Other features include an NEK-specific space for socialization between caregivers, and musical therapy playlists designed to soothe dementia patients.

Meg Burmeister, NEKCOA Executive Director, said in a press release that “every caregiver’s journey is different, and we encourage every member of our community to recognize and engage in assisting caregivers when they can. You never know what someone may be going through.”

Leda from TruAlta emphasized that the partnership “isn’t just a program the NEKCOA is paying for. It’s much more integrated and specific to the Northeast Kingdom. The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging is going to be the intermediary that adapts the resources to ensure that it is a Northeast Kingdom specific space.”



courtesy photo

The Cabot Holiday Festival will take place on Main Street in Cabot on December 11, both outdoors and indoors.

# Cabot Holds Holiday Festival and Outdoor Market

CABOT – Cabot will hold its traditional German Christmas market on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring food, art vendors, holiday decorations, comfort food and Vermont craft beer. In addition to craft beer, holiday beverages will include hot toddy mocktails and homemade glühwein served in a custom Holiday Market mug.

Woodbelly Pizza will offer food from their pizza oven, Cabot Cafe will serve gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches, and The Den

will be offering soups and sweet treats at the Hut.

All public health precautions will be followed to keep our community safe. All the festivities are outdoors this year and masks will be required inside the store and bar during the event.

For event details, please visit the Facebook event page at “Holiday Festival and Outdoor Market” or contact the Cabot Community Association at (802) 802-279-4309 or info@cabotvermont.org.



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# OBITUARIES

## SUSAN R. "SUE" LASHER

CRAFTSBURY – Susan Rose Lasher passed away peacefully on her 51st birthday, November 20, following a courageous five-year battle with cancer. Her loving family was at her side.

She was born November 20, 1970, in Berlin, the daughter of Robert E. Fadden and Gaetane (Tanguay) Fadden. She attended Hardwick Academy and graduated from Hazen Union School in the Class of 1988.

She first worked for the Merchants Bank as part of a school credit program prior to her graduation. She excelled in the program and was hired as a full-time employee for several years. In 1997, Sue accepted a position with the State of Vermont, Department of Banking, where she has been a valuable employee for more than 24 years.

Sue married, Clay A. Lasher on July 26, 1997, at the family farm in East Hardwick. They lived most of their married life in Craftsbury.

She was a member of the American Legion Post # 7 Auxiliary in Hardwick. She enjoyed bingo. Being an avid sports fan, she loved to support her son's school sports teams. When he graduated, she continued to attend the ball games and support the children of her family and friends. Sue will be remembered by all who knew her as happy, fun-loving, energetic and always willing to help others. She displayed tremendous strength and courage, never letting the world know the pain from her illness.

Survivors include her loving husband, Clay Lasher of Craftsbury; a son, Jeremiah Lasher and his wife, Nikita, and Sue and Clay's first grandchild, Miles, all of East Craftsbury; her father, Robert Fadden of Hardwick; four siblings, Rose Fadden of Ohio, Thomas "Tom" Fadden of East Hardwick, Laurie



Susan R. "Sue" Lasher

Herron of Summerville, S.C., and Wendy Bartlett of Hardwick; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Robert and Judith McGowan of East Hardwick; a brother-in-law, Samuel "Sam" Hazard of Lyndon; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins and her loving dog, Arrow.

Sue was predeceased by her mother, Gaetane Tanguay, in 2005 and a brother-in-law, Joshua McGowan, in 2009.

A celebration of Sue's life will be held from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., on Sunday, December 5, at the American Legion Post # 7 in Hardwick. A Prayer Service will be held at 1 p.m., with Rev. Ernest Machia officiating, followed by a time of visitation.

Sue's family has requested that everyone wear a mask for the health and well-being of all who attend.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Sue's memory may be made to the Lamoille Area Cancer Network, 198 Farr Avenue, Morrisville, Vermont 05661.

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

## LEWIS "JOE" B. JUDKINS

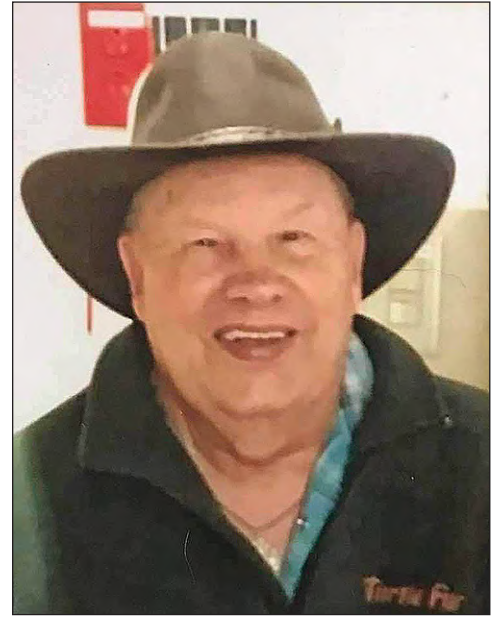
MORRISVILLE – Lewis (Joe) B. Judkins 84, passed away peacefully in his sleep November 21. Lewis was born in Hardwick, the son of Clarence Judkins Sr. and Pearl (Rich) Judkins.

Lewis was a dedicated and hardworking employee. He worked 15 years for the Short-sleeve Mink Farm, two years at the Briet's Dairy Farm, 15 years at the Eden Asbestos Mines and finished out his work career as a custodian at the Stowe High School, where he loved to be around all the students and to talk about his hunting and fishing ventures with them.

Lewis was a family man who loved sending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He loved going out to eat and visiting with everyone along the way. He loved talking about hunting. If he didn't know you, the first question he'd ask was "Do you hunt?" and then the conversation would go from there. He was always up for a conversation with anyone.

He loved his country music; you could go by the family home and hear it blasting through the windows on a warm day. In the fall, you could find him out looking for deer and getting ready for the deer or bear season to come, that was his favorite time of year. He loved to hunt no matter what it was. If his boys or someone joined him, he was even happier. Spring would start the fishing season and before he lost his fishing partner you could find him and his sister, Debbie, out by the rivers fishing away.

Lewis is survived by his partner and loving wife Jane Thomas Judkins for 40 years, his children Sherrie Bull of Hardwick, Merrie Gagnon and husband Mark



Lewis "Joe" B. Judkins

of Naples, Fla., Darrin Judkins and partner Maureen of Norwich, Jeannie Walsh and husband Jeremy of Hardwick, Jeremy Judkins and partner Stacey Boivin of Wolcott; stepchildren Rose Larrabee and husband John of Eden, Darlene McFarlane and husband John of Waterbury, and Joe Polio and wife Jenn of Morrisville; his siblings Tara Champy, Mary Lou Cooper, Russell Lamphere, Ronnie Judkins, Donna Bernadino, Cheryl Potter, Linda Dudley, Patty Allaire, and Larry Lamphere. Lewis is also survived by multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he loved very much.

He is predeceased by his parents, Clarence Judkins Sr. and Pearl Rich Judkins, sister Debbie Fellows, brother Clarence Judkins Jr., sons Randy Judkins and Terry Judkins, grandson Terry Judkins Jr. and granddaughter, Crystal Judkins.

A visitation will be held at Faith Funeral Home, 165 Brooklyn St., Morrisville, on Saturday, Dec. 11, beginning at 1 p.m., service to follow at 2 p.m., with Father Paul.

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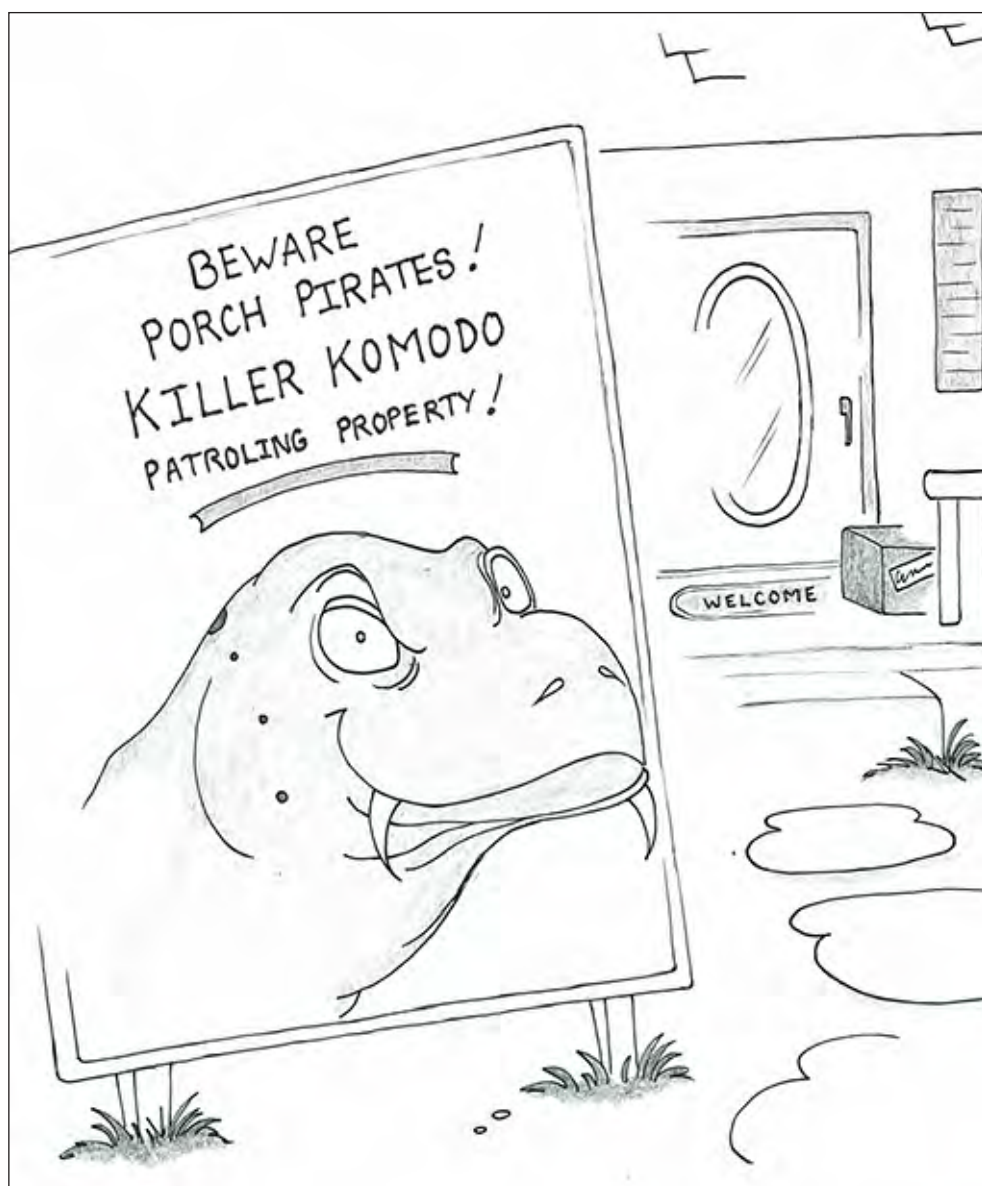
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photo by Vanessa Fournier  
 Eleanor Kokar Ott of Calais is surrounded by some of her 50 colored drawings of Spirit Beings. She is the author of "Heart-Work Trilogy." The story of how the Spirit Beings came to reveal themselves is told in the first book of the trilogy. An Open House and Community Poetry Reading will be held December 5 at the 3rd Floor Gallery in the Hardwick Inn from 1 – 3 p.m. Her exhibit will run until the end of December.

## Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Wintermarket to Feature Local Crafts, Holiday Cheer on Dec. 4

GREENSBORO – The festive, outdoor holiday markets rooted in Germany and replicated worldwide are coming to Greensboro. Highland Center for the Arts and WonderArts are teaming up on December 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to celebrate the season with local artisans and holiday festivities.

Over thirty local crafters will offer pottery, jewelry, health and skincare items, fiber arts, artwork, crafts, baked goods, and much more at this holiday market in the Northeast Kingdom. The family-friendly event will also feature music and Bavarian-style food and beverages. Shoppers may warm up by fires, make their own crafts and enjoy family photo stations.

Keisha Luce, HCA Executive Director, added, "Community is at the core of what we do. WonderArts vendors will help make the event a destination for all and featuring the WonderArts holiday market at this event allows local artisans to reach HCA's audience as well as their own just in time for holiday shopping. We look forward to hosting a lively, creative, and fun festival."

The event is free and open to the public. The market will take place at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro. In case of inclement weather, festivities will be moved to December 11. To learn more about the event, please visit [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org).

## MEETING MEMO

### Monday, December 6

• **Walden Select Board**, every other Monday.

### Town Websites, Town Clerks

Cabot: [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us)  
 Calais: [calaisvermont.gov](http://calaisvermont.gov)  
 Craftsbury: [townofcraftsbury.com](http://townofcraftsbury.com)  
 Greensboro: [greensborovt.org](http://greensborovt.org)  
 Hardwick: [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org)  
 Marshfield: [town.marshfield.vt.us](http://town.marshfield.vt.us)

Plainfield: [plainfieldvt.us](http://plainfieldvt.us)  
 Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, [townofstannard@myfairpoint.net](mailto:townofstannard@myfairpoint.net)  
 Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, fax: 802-563-3008, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. [www.waldenvt.gov](http://www.waldenvt.gov). [waldentc@pivot.net](mailto:waldentc@pivot.net)  
 Wolcott: [wolcottvt.org](http://wolcottvt.org)  
 Woodbury: [woodburyvt.org](http://woodburyvt.org)

## EDITORIAL

### Writing the Next Chapter of the Gazette

I am closing the Gazette building at the end of the year. I hope to establish a virtual newsroom and continue to produce the paper with everyone working from home. While some technological challenges remain, I think we're on track to get the virtual newsroom up and running. The Gazette traditionally closes for two weeks around Christmas and New Year's, which gives us a little bit of time to work out the bugs.

The reason for closing the building is simple: we're running out of money. COVID wiped out our ad revenues. Stopping the printed edition last year reduced our costs, but we continued to lose money. Closing the building will reduce our operating costs even more. I'm looking into selling the building. If that works out, the Gazette will have an additional financial cushion.

I am in the process of changing the Gazette's legal status from a for-profit company to a non-profit corporation. Donations and grants may be part of the paper's longer-term viability.

I remain optimistic about the Gazette's future, but the outcome will be determined largely by the residents of the towns we cover. I could cite all sorts of research about the value of a local newspaper to its community, but the question we face is pretty straightforward: do we want to work together to keep the Gazette going?

The Gazette should be able to provide the editorial, layout, and digital publication support needed to get the paper out. However, we need volunteer journalists to write articles and take photos. One or two articles per week per town should be more than enough (depending on how many towns participate in any given week). The success of the Greensboro Gazette and Craftsbury Gazette show that it can be done.

There are many sources of news and information available these days. That said, I believe that the Gazette offers something that is valuable and is not available anywhere else. This week's edition gives some guidelines for preparing content for the paper. I'd be happy to work with any individuals or groups that want to help out. Thanks!

R.S.

# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

## Thursday, December 2

**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, December 6

**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, December 7

**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.

**SUE TESTER:** Photographs of the unspoiled local landscape, through January 7, 2022, Parker Pie Gallery, County Road, West Glover. Information: 802-525-3366.



*courtesy photo*  
Darren McMullen, Chrissy Crowley, Rachel Davis and Thierry Clouette, members of Còig, will perform in a holiday concert at the Barre Opera House on December 11.

# Cape Breton Traditional Group Performs Dec. 11

**BARRE** – The Cape Breton traditional group Còig will perform at a holiday show at the Barre Opera House on December 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Atlantic Canada's Còig is a North American Celtic group that offers a mix of traditional tunes, lively instrumentals and contemporary songs performed on over a dozen instruments (vocals, fiddles, guitar, banjo, mandolin, viola, bouzouki, whistles, and more) in a lot of non-traditional ways.

Còig features the fiddling and step-dancing duo of Chrissy Crowley and Rachel Davis, multi-instrumentalist Darren

McMullen, and Thierry Clouette's guitar.

Còig has collected awards and nominations for their catalogue of recordings, "Carols Too" (2019), "Rove" (2017), "Carols" (2016) and "Five" (2014) including a Canadian Folk Music Award, a JUNO nomination, and multiple East Coast Music Awards and Music Nova Scotia Awards.

Tickets and more information are at barreoperahouse.org or call the Barre Opera House at (802) 476-8188. The Opera House, located at 6 North Main Street in Barre, is handicapped accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Bread and Puppet Theater puppeteers animate their huge paper mache and cardboard puppets during their performance of *The Domestic Resurrection Obligation Show* held Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Highland Center for the Arts.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Puppeteers from the Bread and Puppet Theater perform during *The Domestic Resurrection Obligation Show* November 28 at the Highland Center for the Arts.

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# IN THE GARDEN

## Holiday Gifts for the Gardener

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Ready to shop! Every time I turn on the radio or open a newspaper, there are articles about supply chain issues. Even the reliable old US Postal Service is saying deliveries may well be delayed. So, share some garden produce this year or shop at a local, family-owned business when you can.

Food is a great gift. You don't need fancy fruit shipped from Oregon if you made plenty of tomato sauce or quince jelly this year. Share the harvest. A quart of dried cherry tomatoes contains a lot of love and work. You had to grow, harvest, wash and dehydrate. Only people dear to my heart will rate such a gift.

My dream gift? A friend, loved one, or reader sending me a nice card, along with a homemade

*Month-by-Month Guide.*” Signed and mailed to you for just \$19. Send a check to Henry Homeyer at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. I will try to figure out how to reduce the price on my website, Gardening-Guy.com, where it is currently for sale at \$21 if you want to use PayPal.

What else at the bookstore? “*Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States*,” by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge is a great companion for Doug Tallamy’s book. Michael Durr has written lots of great tree books. He is informative and opinionated. Allan Armitage is just as opinionated and thorough about flowers as Durr is about trees. Or get a gift certificate and let your gardener pick her own books at the local bookstore.

If deer are a problem in the garden of your loved one, I find



courtesy photo

Gardening books make great presents.

Lowe with two dots over the O, not to be confused with the American retailer Lowe’s. The pruners are of the anvil type, designed and manufactured well. They sell a size nice for small hands (Lowe 5.107) and a larger size, too. OESCO sells replacement blades and parts.

Of course, every gardener needs a good weeding tool. My favorite is the CobraHead, and has been for years. They now have a mini-Cobrahead which is designed for smaller hands. Available from CobraHead.com or 866-962-6272 or at your local garden center. It has a single curved tine like a steel finger that will tease out roots

from below while you tug a weed from above. I emailed the owner, Noel Valdes, who told me there are plenty in stock.

I found a wonderful shovel for digging in tough areas with lots of roots. It’s called the Root Slayer and is available from Gardeners Supply and a few other retailers. I’ve used mine all summer and love it! Great for cutting through sod, too. It has a sharp blade and teeth along the sides for slicing roots.

Lastly, think about a gift certificate at your local nursery or garden center for plant purchases in the spring. Plants are always good.



courtesy photo

Root Slayer spade and CobraHead weeder are excellent tools.

certificate for four hours of weeding in my garden. Or two hours. Working in the garden with a friend or relative can be a great way to strengthen a friendship. Politics don’t matter in the garden. I might suspect my brother-in-law didn’t vote the way I did in the last election. But if he will bring his chain saw and help me take down and cut up a 12-inch diameter boxelder I want removed, send me the gift certificate!

Books are great gifts, and books printed in the United States should be readily available at your local bookstore. My first choice for a book to give? Doug Tallamy’s book, “*Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard.*” It explains how what we plant can affect the planet, especially our pollinators and birds. And all of us, really.

I’ve re-printed my last gardening book and will be selling it at a discount directly to you, signed. It’s a collection of my best articles organized around the calendar year. It’s titled “*Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On,*

nothing better than “Fend Off Deer and Rabbit Repellent Odor Clips”. Available at Gardeners Supply and other retailers. A package of 25 sells for about \$20. I use one or two per shrub to keep deer away all winter. They clip on with a clothes-pin style attachment. They contain just garlic and soy oil, no chemicals.

I recently wrote about using hardware cloth (wire screening) to keep voles from chewing off bark and killing young trees. Since then, I have used plastic spiral tree guards that are easy to install and will protect against sun scald in winter, too. They are inexpensive and can be re-used (I will remove them in the spring). They are sold as Rainbow Professional LTD White Spiral Tree Guards at OESCOinc.com or by calling them at 413-469-4335. They sent my order out the very day I called.

Also available from OESCO are some pruners that I like a lot. OESCO is a small company based in Conway, Mass., catering to orchard professionals. The pruners are made by a German company,



courtesy photo

I like this Löwe anvil pruner.



courtesy photo

This tree guard keeps voles from damaging young trees.



courtesy photo

Garlic clips work well for me to deter deer.

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Being Treated as if I'm Old

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – Much of the travel writing to which we're exposed reminds me of the old fable of the six blind men inspecting and describing an elephant: it reports on only a portion – and often a small one, at that – of the reality of the travel destination. A bright, sunny piece about, for example, a Jamaican beach resort somehow misses the nearly toothless man beside the road just outside the walls selling for a penny apiece the tiny fish he's caught. This effect of a complimentary vacation shouldn't be surprising.

This past week, after over a year of COVID-related stalling (I'd even missed a granddaughter's wedding), I traveled happily to northwest Arkansas to spend Thanksgiving week with my son's family in Springdale, a town whose geographic relationship to Bentonville, Rogers, Fayetteville, and Siloam Springs I still can't visualize. The maze of highways, intersections, and roundabouts had me perpetually staring at the car dashboard in search of a compass. It doesn't matter. Nowadays I travel like a meadow vole through his tunnel, led by computer printouts, lists of regulations, boarding passes, and pure dumb luck, to (I hope) my destination. This trip had the irresistible promise of warm, creative hospitality when and if I got there, and the company of grandchildren.

As the last surviving member of my family generation, I've become the delighted target of the attention, concern, and love once distributed among all the original five. Being there is a lot like doing one of those trust falls off a piano into waiting arms.

My concerns about weather and congestion were for nothing. It's only two short flights from Burlington to Fayetteville, and the ogres of O'Hare, who have in the past bedeviled my passage, were apparently on a tea break. The kids operate like a well-oiled machine: my son met me at baggage and grabbed my duffel, while telling my daughter-in-law by cell we'd be right out front.

I'm still trying to get used to being treated as if I'm old. There are days that it's not at all unpleasant, but it's often surprising. I think the kids thought I might be tired from my trip. They'd bought a bottle of my favorite bourbon, which my son poured for me as carefully as if it were a dose of medicine. Which, of course, it was. A granddaughter and her fiancé came for dinner that first evening (barring catastrophe, I'll be back for their wedding in June).

Next day, into the belly of the Beast – The Walmart Museum. It's hard to hear a kind word about Walmart among my set of friends; and I'm instinctively allergic to hagiography. Still, I have to admit that Sam Walton, building ener-



courtesy photo

Sam Walton's bust on display at the Walmart Museum, with Willem Lange. Lange admits that Sam Walton was "a bit of a genius."

getically on one simple, brilliant idea, was a bit of a genius. I had my picture taken with his bust and his old pickup truck with hunting dog kennels in the bed.

Most of us are familiar with St. Johnsbury, Vermont, which clearly displays the effects of 19th-century philanthropy. Bentonville is in many ways its 21st-century equivalent. Hundreds of millions of Walmart money have endowed the place liberally. Ice skaters glided around an outdoor rink; mountain bikers by the dozen – on a weekday morning, at that – whizzed or labored past my son and me as we walked on trails stretching many miles. Stone artwork popped up here and there. I called it Alice Walton's woods, after the main benefactor of the justly famous Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art that wraps around a pair of pools below the trails.

A great week. We hiked, and one day had lunch with another old-timer from Oklahoma who, like Sam Walton, was building a version of the American dream, in this case, sporting goods stores with a big climbing wall. We went out one evening for hot toddies, again with grandkids, at a place near the University of Arkansas campus. We dined at two tables for

Thanksgiving dinner. Somehow I was relegated to the senior table, where, as I later found out, I was hearing two different Arkansas dialects, mid- and southern (almost in Louisiana). Wish I'd known before I sat down.

My last day there, we drove away from the sprawling corporate headquarters, chain stores, car dealers, and fast-food franchises, to the rural valley of War Eagle Creek, deeply incised into the ancient sandstone of the southern Ozarks. Here, on a bench at the top of a cliff on my grandson's farm, was his "quiet place." Next morning, I was off, back to my own snow-covered quiet place.



courtesy photo

Willem Lange, while touring the Walmart Museum in Bentonville, Ark., found Sam Walton's old pickup truck on display.

## THE Hardwick Gazette

Since 1889

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**PLOWING BIDS**  
 The Town of Walden is soliciting bids for plowing the following:  
 Brookside Drive  
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 The Fire Station/Town Clerk parking lot  
 Please contact Bob Bell at 563-2504 with any questions.  
 Bids are due into the Town Clerk's Office by December 2. Bids will be opened at the December 6 select board meeting. Please submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance along with the bid.  
 The select board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

**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.

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# SPORTS

## JIM FLINT'S RUNNERS' ROUNDUP

### High School Harriers Post Positive Postseason Performances

WAPPINGER'S FALLS, N.Y. – The Craftsbury Chargers cross-country team got its first taste of postseason competition Saturday at the Nike Cross Northeast Regional. The event included top-caliber high school runners from all six New England states, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

The Chargers arrived Friday at Bowdoin Park, which overlooks the Hudson River. Rain showers made for a few muddy sections during the course walk-through. Fortunately for the racers, drier weather prevailed, and volunteers ensured that the footing was good for Saturday's competition.

Race organizers created a championship experience for the athletes. Each team carried a personalized flag during the introductions. Weather conditions were ideal, with cool temperatures and sunshine.

A field of 177 runners lined up for the Northeast Championship boys race at 12:30 p.m. The race began with a 600-meter grassy stretch. The runners then funneled onto wide trails traversing woods, fields, and challenging hills. From the viewing area, spectators could see most of the race.

Cormac Leahy led the Charger boys with a 25th-place finish. His time was 17:06. Charlie Krebs placed 60th in 17:39. Matt Califano (18:10), Leo Circosta (18:18), Charlie Kehler (18:30), Alan Moody (18:44), and Alex Califano (18:58) rounded out Craftsbury's strong team performance.

The Chargers placed 15th of 23 teams. U-32's Cross Team was the top Vermont entry, placing seventh. Sargent Burns of Calais finished in 18:17 to place 103rd for the U-32 boys.

Anika Leahy was the sole Charger running in the Northeast Regional Girls Championship race, which kicked off at 1:10 p.m. Leahy finished 82nd of 122 athletes. Her 5k time was 22:16.

The Chargers head back on the road on Thursday. The team will travel by van to Charlotte, N.C., for the AAU Cross Country National Championships on December 4.

"Overnight travel was a learning experience for our athletes," said the Chargers' coach, Mike Levangie. "National competition and exposure strengthen our resolve for the work necessary to produce great results. Being recognized by Nike NXR as one of the top 25 teams in the Northeast shows hard work and dedication still pay dividends."

**Regional Championship  
Attracts Vermont D-I  
Standouts**

### Regional Championship Attracts Vermont D-I Standouts

BRONX, N.Y. – A talented cohort of northern Vermont runners completed their high school careers Saturday at the Foot Locker East Bay Northeast Regional Cross Country Championships. Held on the iconic Van Cortlandt Park 5k course, the competition was one of four regional championship races. The top ten finishers in each regional championship qualified to advance to the National Championship Race on December 11 in San Diego, Calif.

Gavin Sherry of West Hartford, Conn., was the boys' division winner, in 15:05. Angelina Perez from Ringwood, N.J., won the girls' division in 17:21.

Evan Thornton-Sherman was the top Vermont finisher in the boys' division. He placed 42nd in 16:17. Thornton-Sherman, who is a senior at St. Johnsbury Academy, recently signed a national letter of intent to compete for the University of Maine. He is the Vermont D-I state champion.

Ethan Mashtare, a senior at BFA St. Albans, was the second Vermonter across the finish line. His time of 16:22 placed 50th out of 227 runners.

Loghan Hughes, a senior at BFA St. Albans, was Vermont's only entrant in the girls' championship race. Hughes finished 42nd in 19:24. She is the Vermont D-I state champion and earned high school All American honors in lacrosse.

### Cool Running at Fallen Leaves Finale

MONTPELIER – The Fallen Leaves 5k Series concluded on November 20 with a season's-best field of 90 finishers. Race conditions were cold and dry, with brilliant sunshine

*Dot Helling, 71, of Adamant continued her amazing year of age-defying performances. Helling crossed the finish line in 27:08 to win the F70-79 age group. She ran at an average pace of 8:44 per mile.*

and a few snowflakes on the ground. The race started with two laps on the Montpelier High School track followed by an out-and-back stretch on the Montpelier Bike Path.

Race participants included 24 runners ages 10 to 19. Ethan Mashtare edged out fellow BFA-St. Albans' cross country teammate Jacob Tremblay, 16:08 to 16:13 to win the 5k race. Loghan Hughes of BFA-St. Albans was the top female finisher, in 16:08. Tess Drury of Mount Mansfield Union High School captured runner-up honors for the women, in 20:01.

The competitive 40-49 age group had 27 participants, including Jessica Bolduc and Damian Bolduc from Craftsbury. Jessica placed fifth of 13 runners in 23:06. Damian's time of 21:41 placed seventh of 14 in his age group.

Cathy DuPont of Marshfield placed fourth in the F50-59 age group. Her time was 27:03. Elizabeth McCarthy of Walden finished in 28:32 to place second in the F60-69 age group.

Mack Gardner-Morse of Calais was the fastest runner from towns covered by the Hardwick Gazette. Gardner-Morse won the M60-69 age group in 21:17. Adamant's Chris Andresen (23:29) and Marshfield's Manny Sainz (27:26) placed second and fifth in the M60-69 age group.

Dot Helling, 71, of Adamant continued her amazing year of age-defying performances. Helling crossed the finish line in 27:08 to win the F70-79 age group. She ran at an average pace of 8:44 per mile.

The Fallen Leaves Series concluded the Central Vermont Runners' race calendar for the year. CVR's 2022 season kicks off with the New Year's Eve Race in Montpelier on December 31. For registration details, visit [cvrunners.org](http://cvrunners.org).

## DEER REPORTS

### Smith's Store

Alton Whipple, in Cabot, 6 pts., 133 lbs.; Kent Stearns, in Johnson, 6 pts., 121 lbs.; Matthew Brown, in Stannard, 6 pts., 173 lbs.; Todd Fletcher, in Greensboro, 4 pts., 135 lbs.; Patrick Morrisey, in Danville, 3 pts., 99 lbs.; Caleb Holbrook,

in Hardwick, 3 pts., 146 lbs.; Cedric Alexander, in Wheelock, 8 pts., 165 lbs.; Keith Dunbar, in Craftsbury, 8 pts., 187 lbs.; Dillon Gile, in Morristown, 4 pts., 124 lbs.; Dale Hall, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 109 lbs.; Jacob Perry, in Peacham, 8 pts., 146 lbs.; Norbert Renaud, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 106

lbs.; Joseph Rivard, in Hardwick, 4 pts., 109 lbs.; Brent Tomlinson, in Johnson, 6 pts., 123 lbs.; John Swahn, in Hardwick, 1 pt., 120 lbs.; Michael Gokey, in Stannard, 2 pts., 112 lbs.; Cody Pilbin, in Glover, 2 pts., 143 lbs.; Shawn Messier, in Walden, 4 pts., 106 lbs.; Jacob Borgeson, in Johnson,

5 pts., 124 lbs.; Jamie Brochu, in Hardwick, 6 pts., 115 lbs.; Jeff Perry, in Cabot, 6 pts., 109 lbs.; Dann Rogers, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 120 lbs. Hans Laggis, in Hardwick, 2 pts., 106 lbs.; Frank McAllister, in Greensboro, 7 pts., 129 lbs.; Patrick Smith, in Montpelier, 0 pts., 87 lbs.

# SPORTS

## League Realignment Poses New Challenges for Local Hoop Teams

by Ken Brown

NORTHEAST KINGDOM – Vermont high school basketball practices tipped-off this week and with that comes new challenges for Hazen Union, Twinfield-Cabot, and Craftsbury Academy (CA) as they transition into new leagues and divisions entering the 2021-22 hoop season.

Head coach Aaron Hill and his Wildcats will leave behind a Mountain League that they dominated the last two decades and will be the new kid on the block in the vaunted Capital Division this winter. The Capital is filled with Division II and Division III perennial powers that include U-32, Spaulding, Harwood, North Country, Lamoille, Lyndon Institute, Peoples Academy, Thetford, Northfield-Williamstown, Montpelier, Randolph, Lake Region, and Stowe. Hill has built a Division III powerhouse at Hazen Union in his twenty-three seasons at the helm, winning five state titles. He has

always been ahead of the curve with a challenging non-league schedule to get his teams tournament ready. He'll be at it again next Monday as he readies his squad for the rigors of the Capital Division with a road scrimmage against Division I Burlington next Monday.

Hazen Union athletic director John Sperry and Hill made a collaborative decision for the move to the Capital Division this winter and believe playing stiffer competition will benefit the program in the long term. The Hazen Union boys' soccer team played their first season in their new division this past fall under head coach Allison Paradee with success and Spencer Howard will do the same with his Wildcat squad on the diamond this spring.

The Central Vermont League was dissolved in the fall of 2019, forcing several small schools in the Northeast Kingdom to scramble to fill schedules and leaving Twinfield-Cabot and Craftsbury Academy without a home the last two seasons. Both boys' and girls' programs join

the revamped Mountain League this winter and the challenges that come with it.

On the boys' side, Twinfield-Cabot, CA, and Blue Mountain will join Mountain League mainstays Danville and Richford as the schools representing Division IV. Enosburg, BFA-Fairfax, Oxbow, and Winooski will round out the league from Division III. Chris Hudson's Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball program is a perennial Final Four contender and has always traveled south to take on the divisional powers to get his squads battle tested for the postseason but will have to look no further than within their own league for those battles this winter.

On the girls' side, Twinfield-Cabot, Craftsbury Academy, and Blue Mountain will join Hazen Union, Richford, and Danville in the Mountain League from Division IV. Oxbow, BFA-Fairfax, and Enosburg will represent the teams from Division III and Missisquoi Valley will be the lone team from Division II.

## 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 Burligton.

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 Burligton.

### 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.

### Friday, December 10

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

varsity basketball vs. Enosburg, at Hazen Union.

5:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot girls' junior varsity basketball at Peoples.

7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball vs. Enosburg, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' varsity basketball vs. Proctor (tournament).

7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot girls' varsity basketball at Peoples.

### Saturday, December 11

5:30 p.m. or 7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' varsity basketball vs. TBD (tournament).

### Tuesday, December 14

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School boys' basketball vs. Danville, at Twinfield.

6 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball at Williamstown.

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

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' varsity basketball at Enosburg.

6:15 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School girls' basketball vs. Danville, at Twinfield.

7:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Danville.

### Wednesday, December 15

5:30 p.m., Lamoille vs. Williamstown, Dave Morse Classic, at Hazen Union.

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls'

varsity basketball vs. Richford, at Craftsbury.

7 p.m., Randolph vs. Hazen Union, Dave Morse Classic, at Hazen Union.

### Friday, December 17

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball at Oxbow.

7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Oxbow.

### Friday, December 17

5:30 p.m., Consolation Round, Dave Morse Classic, at Hazen Union.

5:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' varsity basketball at Winooski.

5:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot girls' junior varsity basketball at Richford.

7 p.m., finals, Dave Morse Classic, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot girls' varsity basketball at Richford.

### Monday, December 20

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball at Richford.

7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Richford.

### Tuesday, December 21

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School boys' basketball at St. Michaels.

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union boys' junior varsity basketball at Stowe.

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

### Wednesday, December 22

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School girls' basketball vs. Northfield, at Twinfield.

6:15 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School boys' basketball vs. Northfield, at Twinfield.

### Thursday, December 23

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball at Vergennes.

7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Vergennes.

### Tuesday, December 28

5:30 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' junior varsity basketball vs. West Rutland, at Twinfield.

6 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.

7 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot boys' varsity basketball vs. West Rutland, at Twinfield.

7:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball vs. Fairfax, at Hazen Union.

### Wednesday, January 5

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School boys' basketball at Craftsbury.

5:30 p.m., Hazen Union girls' junior varsity basketball at Winooski.

6:15 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle School girls' basketball at Craftsbury.

7 p.m., Hazen Union girls' varsity basketball at Winooski.