

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Volume 132 Number 48

Mobile Phone and Social Media Lead Police to Alleged Woodbury Shooter

by Doug McClure

WOODBURY/BARRE/HARTFORD, Conn. – In its 29-page affidavit of probable cause, Vermont State Police (VSP) Detective Sergeant James Vooris laid out the state's evidence in the October 30, 2018, murders of Woodbury residents David Thompson and Carol Fradette. Police ini-

tially said that "digital and physical evidence" led them to Hartford, Conn., resident Manuel Gomez as allegedly culpable of those murders.

States Attorney Rory Thibault has charged Gomez with two counts of aggravated first- or second-degree murder, each of which carries a sentence of "imprisoned for life and for no less term with the possibility of parole." Gomez is

also charged with two felony counts of first-degree arson, which would carry a sentence of at least two years imprisonment and up to ten, or a fine of up to \$2,000, or both. Gomez is currently being held at Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport after not being able to make a surety bond or cash bail of \$750,000 or comply

See SHOOTER, 5

Hardwick Bell Restoration Depends on Volunteers

by Patrick Hussey

HARDWICK - Finn Rooney was just a sophomore at Hazen Union School, attending a class on Hardwick sports history, when his interest in the Hardwick Academy (HA) bell first was piqued.

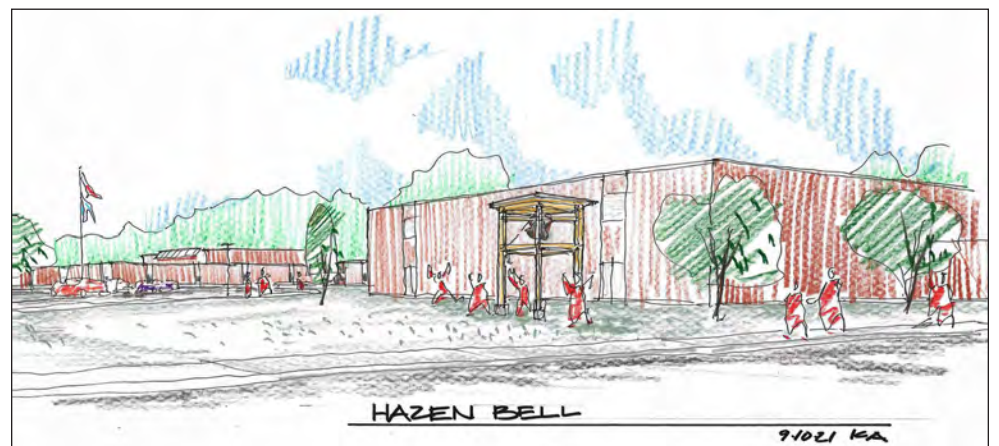
Mike Clark, who attended the Academy before it was torn down in 1970, stood in front of Aaron Hill's large class that day, fielding questions and filling the room with stories of the latter days of the Academy and the first days at Hazen Union. A 1972 Hazen Union graduate who

also attended HA, Clark told the class about a wonderful Academy tradition, the ringing of the bell after important sports victories.

Clark spoke of how, as a youth, he would be outside on his front yard on the evenings of big games, anxiously waiting to hear if the bell would ring. During playoff season, it was an especially suspenseful time on the lawn, but an absolute joy when the bell start ringing.

Clark went on to tell the class about the five members of the HA Class of 1970, who late one week-

See BELL, 3



courtesy photo

Architect Patrick Kane presented the initial drawing and sketch of a bell tower to the committee, which hopes to have the final tower design mimic the Hardwick Academy belfry.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Main Street in Hardwick looked very festive with its holiday lights and banners as snow fell Saturday.

Board Hears More Budget Proposals

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – As its December 2 meeting, the Hardwick Select Board heard proposed budgets from the recreation committee, trails committee, library, and Hardwick Rescue. The board also received an in-depth report from Police Chief Aaron Cochran comparing the types and levels of crimes in 2020 compared to 2021.

Town Manager David Upson told the board that the application for a Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grant was submitted, and the town may hear back from VOREC with

See BUDGET, 4

From Hardwick to Sofia: My Exchange in Bulgaria

by Lucas Whitaker

SOFIA, Bulgaria – A year ago now I decided to apply to the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES Abroad), alongside three other international programs. Never did I consider that a year later, I'd be living in Bulgaria.

YES Abroad is a year-long exchange program fully funded by the U.S Department of State. This program is open to U.S. citizen high school students (and recent HS graduates, like myself) aged 15-18.5 to study abroad in a country with significant Muslim populations. According to the YES Abroad website, "The YES Abroad program was initiated as a reciprocal extension of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study program for international students in countries with a significant Muslim population. The first group of Americans participated in YES Abroad in the 2009-2010 academic year, living and studying in 10 select YES



Lucas Whitaker

countries. The program now offers 65 full scholarships to American students nationwide."

YES Abroad sends students to Bosnia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, and Turkey. In March of 2021, I was offered a scholarship to live and study in Bulgaria for a year. Frankly, I was shocked, but I ended up accepting this opportunity over CBYX (a similar program that sends students to

See EXCHANGE, 2

Contents

Police Report 4
 Vtrans Presents Proposed Bridge Options 6
 This Week's Events 7
 COVID Continues Pummeling Schools..... 8
 WonderArts Holiday Market (photos)..... 10
 Obituaries..... 11-12
 Our Communities..... 12
 Memorial Tree Names..... 13
 In the Garden: Brightening the Dark Days..... 14
 Yankee Notebook: Fast-Forward 71 Years..... 15
 Letters from Readers 16
 Lady Cats Look to Develop Young Talent..... 18
 Trojans Take on Challenge of New League 18
 Fresh Start for Chargers with New Coach..... 18
 Runners' Roundup..... 19
 Wildcats Ready for Challenge of Capital Division 20
 Twinfield-Cabot Girls are Young and Ready for Next Step 20
 Deer Report 20
 Sports Calendar 20

Exchange

Continued From Page One

Germany). I've now been living in Sofia, Bulgaria for two months.

Bulgaria is located in Eastern Europe. Bordered by Romania, Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, and the Black Sea, Bulgaria is one of the eleven Balkan countries. Sofia, the city I'm living in, is located in western Bulgaria. With a population of about 1.4 million, Sofia is Bulgaria's capital city. Before I came here, one of the questions I was asked the most was what language they spoke here. No, they do not speak Russian in Bulgaria, and although the languages have similarities, they are vastly different. In Bulgaria, the language spoken is quite literally just Bulgarian. This is a Slavic language that uses the Cyrillic alphabet, making it a challenge to learn as a native English speaker.

In Sofia, I attend a local high school with people close to my age. The school I attend is fully instructed in Bulgarian, meaning that most of the time, I have no idea what's going on. Of course, I am learning the language, but not to an extent that I understand classroom instruction. With this said, I typically read a book or study my Bulgarian during class. School aside, I live with a host family. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but mine is just a host mom and I live in an apartment near the city center, meaning that I take the metro and bus everywhere I need to go. People often ask me what was most surprising for me when I came here. This is a difficult question to answer given that I've been here long enough to adjust, but I do recall the first things I noticed. Off the bat, everything here is smaller. Rather, I should say that everything in the United States is massive. The drink sizes, packaged food, and even the cars are all smaller. Aside from that, I also noticed that the food here is a lot less sweet. This doesn't include desserts, but other food in general. In the U.S, the majority of food had a lot of added sugar. I never noticed the difference in taste until I came here.

I'm also asked about how the people are here. To put it briefly, they're actually quite friendly and pleasant. I love to see the sense of pride nearly every Bulgarian has for their country, whether they'd admit it or not. They're very proud of their extensive history, which I quickly learned after my host

mom talked about it for hours at the dinner table. I've learned more about history and relations within Europe after a couple of months here than I learned at school in America. Bulgarians are also very blunt, which I was warned about before coming here. I never realized how polite Americans were until being here.

In the U.S, people are overly friendly with each other. Think about it: "how are you" is what you're expected to say after "hello", even if the person you're greeting is a stranger. In Bulgaria, if you ask someone how they are, they're going to think you're genuinely wondering. In short, don't ask anyone that you don't know 'how they are' -- it's very weird and people will be very confused as to why you care (unless you're friends, of course). As far as the bluntness goes, it's actually quite nice. People get right to the point about everything, and you'll always get a straightforward answer.

Some things I've done outside the classroom include day trips to different historical sites in Bulgaria, hiking in the Vitosha mountains, a Model United Nations conference, a presentation of American Universities in Europe, and cooking a Thanksgiving meal for my host family and friends. Ultimately, I've loved my time in Bulgaria, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the country and its culture firsthand given that very few Americans will ever get this chance. I encourage you to learn more about the world around you, especially about nations that are underrepresented in the American education system.

For those interested in studying abroad, I encourage you to apply to YES Abroad, alongside programs like CBYX and FLEX Abroad. These are all fully-funded programs upon acceptance. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program, or CBYX, sends high school students to study in Germany for a year. FLEX Abroad is now sending American high school students to Poland, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine for a year. These are all incredible opportunities. Applications for YES Abroad, FLEX Abroad, and CBYX all close on December 8th, but given it's a bit late, I encourage you to look into it for next year. All in all, I look forward to educating other Vermonters about my host country and the importance of studying abroad!



December 8 - December 14

<p>Buy \$300 (excludes Gas, UPS & Lottery Tickets) and receive a free Turkey or Ham. (while supplies last)</p>		<p>New Jackets & Sweaters for the Winter Season</p>	
<p>Green Mt. Coffee \$6.99 10-12 oz. or 12 ct.</p>	<p>Stash Tea \$2.99 18-20 ct.</p>	<p>Nature Valley Granola Bars 2/\$5 7.4-8.9 oz.</p>	
<p>Post Shredded Wheat \$2.99 15-18 oz.</p>	<p>G.M. Lucky Charms, Cheerios or Cinn. Toast Crunch 2/\$6 8.9-12 oz.</p>	<p>Diamond Walnuts \$2.99 8 oz.</p>	
<p>Newman's Salad Dressing \$2.99 16 oz.</p>	<p>Swanson Chicken or Beef Broth 2/\$4 32 oz.</p>	<p>Barilla Pasta 4/\$5 16 oz.</p>	
<p>Newman's Pasta Sauce \$2.29 24 oz.</p>	<p>Progresso Beans 4/\$5 19 oz.</p>	<p>Food Club Canned Tomatoes 99¢ 28 oz.</p>	
<p>Luv's Diapers \$6.99 25-48 ct.</p>	<p>Tide Laundry Detergent \$6.99 20 ct. or 46 oz.</p>	<p>Planet Oat Milk 2/\$6 52 oz.</p>	
<p>Dawn Dish Detergent \$3.99 28 oz.</p>	<p>Cascadian Frozen Vegetables 2/\$5 10-16 oz.</p>	<p>Cantagold Cantaloupes 2/\$5</p>	
<p>Calavo Avocados 89¢ ea.</p>	<p>California Navel Oranges 59¢ ea.</p>	<p>Sugardale Bone-In Ham Steak - \$3.99 lb. Chicken Leg Qtrs. - 69¢ lb.</p>	

The Willey's Store Since 1900 Greensboro

Hours: Mon. - Sun. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 802-533-2621 • toll-free 855-533-2621

True Value HARDWARE

- Full-service grocery & hardware • Clothing
- Housewares • Hunting & Fishing • Coffee Bar
- Beer & Wine • Toys • Gifts

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

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com
 ads@hardwickgazette.com

Bell

Continued From Page One

end night, as the Academy was in the process of being torn down, stole the bell so it would be saved. The group gave the bell back once they made sure it wouldn't be destroyed, and eventually it ended up in Memorial Park by the Hardwick Town offices, never to ring again.

Rooney, who obviously had an affection for tradition, was intrigued by the bell's history, and hoped it could be restored. It became a fixation for him. He imagined the bell becoming a community unifying symbol.

One has to wonder how an entire town let this great bell tradition fall silent. But here was this young implant, nearly 50 years later, saying loudly, "Hardwick, the bell needs to ring again."

Rooney's special gift was lifting the spirits of the people he touched. He had an eclectic set of interests. He loved baseball and excelled in the sport; he enjoyed hunting and fishing; he joined the Bread and Puppet band and was a volunteer firefighter for the Walden Fire Department. He loved bonfires and social settings.

Then, on January 3, 2020, Rooney, then a junior, a person so full of life, took his own life. Rooney's passing was extraordinarily tragic news. It shook the school and the town.

From that point in time, the resurrection of the bell took on added meaning. The push to bring back the bell in Rooney's honor took hold. Leading the charge was Hazen Union's outgoing principal, Dave Perrigo, who has made it his mission to get the bell resurrected.

"Finn was just a remarkable, special human being for anyone who knew him," said Perrigo. "He really, in so many ways, represented unusual hope in a dark time. His dream for this bell was that it would be a community unifying symbol and a healer."

"His death," Perrigo continued, "was so tragic for so many of us, but his dream for a bell was just a wonderful way for his spirit to continue to live on, and for his wonderful ideals to continue on forever."

Perrigo ran into a stumbling block when there was push-back on using the old Academy bell. It was a totally unanticipated setback. But it didn't deter Perrigo. Even if a new bell had to be purchased, the project needed to move forward.

Heading into the spring, Greensboro town clerk Kim Greaves, who was following the

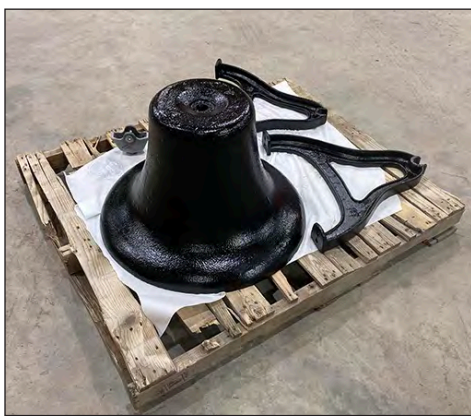


photo by Rich Mathez
Craftsbury residents Rich Mathez and Bob Griffiths restored and painted the bell.

bell developments, stumbled upon an old bell in the basement of the town offices. She immediately went through the process of getting the Town of Greensboro to donate the bell to Hazen Union.

Fittingly, on Memorial Day weekend, the bell was handed over to Hazen Union in a big ceremony behind the Greensboro town offices. With the Bread and Puppet band playing music and the Walden Fire Department on hand, the bell was gloriously paraded down to Hazen Union. It was an incredibly spiritual day, and finally the bell project had legs.

Perrigo seized the momentum. In a conversation with Clark shortly after the transfer, Perrigo asked if he would help form a diverse committee to continue the pursuit. Clark agreed and the two went into action. By July 16, the committee had been formed and met for the first time. It included Perrigo and Hazen Union staff members Tod Delaricheliere, teacher Allison Paradee and student Carter Hill. Clark invited a Greensboro contingent, Greaves, Brett Stanciu, a selectman and school board member, and resident Jeannie Eisner. It also included several Hazen Union alumni: Clark, Dave Burnham, Mario Fradette, Pat Hussey and Patty Lemay.

Their progress has been swift. By their October 13 meeting, Fradette had met with architect Patrick Kane and the initial drawing and sketch of a bell tower was presented. The committee hopes to have the final tower design mimic the HA belfry. They also implemented a timeline.

"There is a concerted effort to get this bell built by the 2022 Hazen graduation day," said Clark. "This year's Hazen senior class would love to have something in place by then. So, we've got a diverse committee, everyone is working real hard toward that goal and we've made some real progress."

At that same meeting, Delaricheliere explained that the school is getting a bond together to make needed improvements to Hazen Union, including upgrades to the gym area. If a new visiting locker

room is approved, the architects on the project have drawn up a roof over it that would be built to look like the belfry at Hardwick Academy. The bell could potentially move there in time. That bond, if it gets board approval, may be voted on by next November.

Fradette put the bell project into overdrive after a chance meeting with transplanted Craftsbury residents Rich Mathez and Bob Griffiths. Fradette met with Griffith and Mathez at Griffith's house to give him a quote on building a garage for him. The two neighboring retirees had a hobby of restoring vintage cars. Fradette asked if they did any sandblasting and they said yes. So Fradette told them the story of the bell and asked the two to listen to the Erica Heilman's Rumblestrip story of Finn and the Bell. The show aired on Vermont Public Radio (VPR) this past Sunday. Finn's story can be heard by going to rumblestripvermont.com, or for the complete version, at vpr.org.

Once they listened to Finn's story, the two felt compelled to help out. They attended the committee's November 16 meeting, joined the committee and said they would volunteer their services to restore the bell. "You know," said Mathez recently. "It's really fulfilling for us, after all the stuff Bob and I have learned to do throughout our years in this business, to finally give something back."

"When we've got that bell in our hands, I mean, it's really touching for Bob and I to have a part in this project" he continued. "We both listened to that Rumblestrip podcast, and that was a really tough thing to get through."

The two are not only restoring the bell, they are personally re-engineering broken parts. They have machined a new pivot mechanism for the bell's clapper, they are machining spokes that were in disrepair on the bell's wheel. Recently, they employed another neighbor, Mike Roussel, to make two leather pads for the clapper because the original ones were beyond repair. Russo owns a leather tailor shop in Stowe.

By the upcoming December 10



photo by Rich Mathez
Bob Griffiths sandblasted the bell before it went into the spray booth for the epoxy primer.

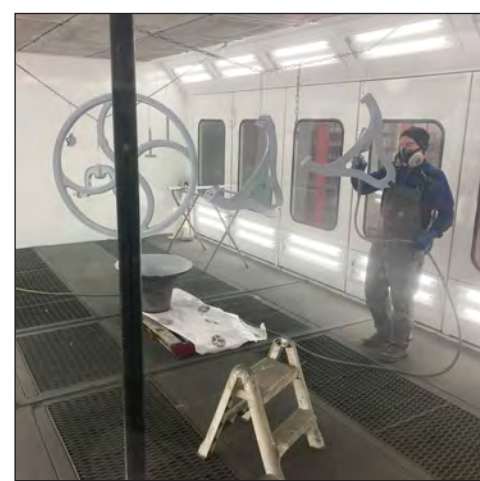


photo by Rich Mathez
Bob Griffiths and Rich Mathez are not only restoring the bell, but are personally re-engineering broken parts, including fixing disrepair on the bell's wheel.

committee meeting, the bell will be near completion. Initially the bell was completely sandblasted, primed and painted in a gloss black finish. However, the bell's surface is rough and pitted, and they didn't like the gloss look, so they completely sandblasted, primed and re-painted the bell a second time, this time with a flat finish.

The committee plans to start putting the bell on display in an upcoming fundraising drive. Fradette has also kept busy. He has secured donated building materials to begin bell tower construction this spring. Kane's drawing of the bell depicts where it will be placed out beyond the gym.

Meanwhile, Perrigo has volunteered to head up fundraising. He is scrambling to get things set up now that Finn's story has been aired on VPR. For those interested in donating, checks can currently be made out to the Hazen Bell Project and sent to the Hazen Bell Project, Box 189, Hardwick, Vt. 05843. Moving forward, Perrigo hopes to set up an electronic means to donate through a forum such as PayPal and establish a nonprofit.

Tara Reese, Finn's mother, is humbled by the project. "You know," said Reese, talking of the bell's journey. "I was even accepting of the fact that this project might not ever happen."

"But now, I mean, this is unbelievable, and if you stop and think about the logistics that are going into this project, and really the hearts of all the wonderful people involved, it's just so beautiful. I didn't even know there was a committee until just two weeks ago."

"We are completely humbled by all of this," she continued. "There is so much healing happening in my family right now, and it's because of all the wonderful people who are involved in all of this."

Finn's dream of community and healing have already begun, even before the bell even is in place, just as he dreamed it would.

POLICE REPORT

Hardwick Police

Media Log Summary

November 29: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Assist – Public, High St.; Assist – Public, W. Church St.; Citizen Dispute, Vt. Rte. 16; 911 Hangup, Hillary Dr.

November 30: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Dr.; Suspicious Event, Pleasant St.; Suspicious Event, S. Main St.; Mental Health Incident, Woodbury St.; Assist – Motorist, Vt. Rte. 15E/Vt. Rte. 16.

December 1: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Theft, Evergreen Manor Dr.; Accident – Property Damage Only;

Theft, Vt. Rte. 15 W.

December 2: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St./Cottage St.; Directed Patrol, Highland Ave.

December 3: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Alarm, Log Yard Dr.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Wanted Person, High St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, N. Main St.; Threats/Harassment, Jenne Rd.

December 6: Juvenile Problem, Vt. Rte. 15 E; Juvenile Problem, Spruce Dr.; Suspicious Event, Mill St.; Assist – Agency, E. Church St.

Hardwick Police Retail Theft

On Dec. 1, Nathaniel Bagley was cited for retail theft at Top's Market.

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.

Budget

Continued From Page One

additional questions on December 17.

Upson also informed the board that a task force to address Act 164 (cannabis policy) “should be functioning soon,” with Planning Commission Chair Dave Gross, Hazen Union Principal Jason Di Giulio, and board member Michael Deering on the task force.

On a third subject, Upson asked the board for permission to approach Woodbury about a long-standing arrangement of Hardwick plowing a Woodbury road that is cut off from Woodbury. Upson said the current arrangement is “not equitable for [Hardwick]” because all the residences on that road are in Woodbury, and therefore Woodbury collects the property taxes, with many of the residences being second homes or camps. Upson estimated that it could be costing Hardwick as much as \$18,000 and the only benefit was hauling sand in the summer that he estimated as worth \$2,500 to \$3,500.

The recreation committee, trails committee, and library kept their budget requests fairly level, except for salaries. The three characterized the rise in salaries as cost-of-living increases. COVID limited some programming in 2020.

Hardwick Rescue President Lindsay O'Steen said an additional Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) has been necessary for some time since, she said, the agency was “one injury from not being able to staff that ambulance 24x7” since state law requires three people on an ambulance. Hardwick Rescue currently

has two full-time employees, a paramedic and an AEMT, and a per-diem AEMT. In a letter to the public and area select boards, O'Steen said the number of calls this year “may well break 800.” In 2017, Hardwick Rescue answered 517 calls. She pointed out that the majority of the staffing on Hardwick rescue is volunteers who “give over 22,120 hours of time” and the paid staff “represent approximately 4,160 hours of paid time.” COVID further exacerbated the staffing crunch because “numerous volunteers retired from our roster out of concern for family or themselves.” The organization also is looking to relocate to a larger space in Hardwick to allow for sleeping quarters and a place for volunteers to prepare food.

Chief Cochran gave the board a large amount of data about the types of calls Hardwick Police Department responded to in 2021 compared to 2020. One issue is responding to burglary alarms that often turn out to be false, and Chief Cochran said a policy is being worked on in conjunction with Upson to recoup some of the costs of responding to repeated false alarms.

He thinks the ongoing mental health impact of COVID was contributing to an increase in intoxication arrests from three to 11, which he said could possibly explain the increase in temporary restraining orders and permanent restraining orders from two in 2020 to 16 this year. Calls about suspicious events are up in 2021, which Chief Cochran said often were drug activity.

State Police Report

Double Homicide Update, Single Car Rollover

Following an extensive investigation that began more than three years ago, the Vermont State Police has identified a suspect in connection with a double homicide that occurred in Woodbury on October 30, 2018. A judge on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 24, issued an arrest warrant on charges of aggravated murder and first-degree arson for Manuel Gomez, 32, of Hartford, Conn., in connection with the killings of 29-year-old Carol Fradette and 48-year-old David Thompson at their homes on Bliss Road in Woodbury.

Gomez is in custody at the Otisville Federal Correctional Institution in Otisville, N.Y., on an unrelated federal conviction for illegal possession of a firearm. He is scheduled to be released next week, at which time he will face arrest on the Vermont charges.

A joint investigation by the Vermont State Police and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives began after Fradette, Thompson, and their three dogs were shot and killed, and their residences set on fire on October 30, 2018. Fradette and Thompson lived in separate residences on the same property in Woodbury. Their bodies were found in their homes, which had both been set on fire. Investigators believe the fires were intended to conceal the homicides.

Investigators determined that Gomez was selling large quantities of heroin to Thompson, who might have owed Gomez more than \$20,000. Digital evidence shows that Gomez traveled to the Woodbury area from Hartford, Conn., on the evening of October 30, 2018, and arrived at Thompson's residence shortly before a neighbor called 911 to report a fire at the home. According to investigators and court paperwork, Gomez has denied knowledge of or involvement in the homicides. Statements from Gomez regarding his whereabouts on the evening in question contradict digital and physical

evidence obtained during the investigation.

The Vermont State Police worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office and with Washington County State's Attorney Rory Thibault throughout this investigation. Participating in the case were VSP's Major Crime Unit, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene Search Team, Narcotics Investigation Unit, and Victim Services Unit; the Department of Public Safety Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit; the Vermont Forensic Laboratory; the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's Office; the ATF; and the FBI.

“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.”

Gomez appeared in court for his arraignment on Wednesday, December 1 in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court for Washington County.

On December 3, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Vermont State Police responded to a single vehicle roll over crash near the intersection of Route 215 and Route 15 in Walden. Investigation revealed the operator, Juliana Correa, of Spofford, N.H., was traveling west on Route 15. Correa lost control of the vehicle due to the slick road conditions caused by the recent snow and went down an embankment.

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

AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE assisted nine victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence from November 27 through December 4. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to

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

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

Shooter

Continued From Page One

with other conditions of release.

Police say that on October 30, 2018, Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department discovered human remains at the two houses on 658 Bliss Road as well as two “pit-bull type dogs.” The following day, VSP Detective Sergeant Matthew Hill arrived on the scene and began investigating. According to the affidavit, Det. Sgt. Hill found “a blue lighter, a cellular telephone, and what appeared be a latex glove.” Hill applied for a search warrant, at the time noting in that application “these items were not dirty or covered in dew. These items were seized due to environmental conditions, to preserve any biological or DNA evidence that may be found on or inside these items.”

Det. Sgt. Otis of the Fire Investigation Unit and Det. Sgt. Hill investigated the two structure fires and found “multiple suspicious circumstances.” In both fires, the detectives reported “the fire investigation team was able to infer that person(s) unknown ignited materials on the chair or person that were then completely consumed in the fire event with a portable ignition device,” in one case characterizing that device as “matches or similar device” and in the other “such as a butane lighter or matches.” Police say the office of the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner determined “debris recovered from Carol’s [Fradette’s] body was later found to contain gasoline.”

The Vermont Crime Scene Search Team combed the scene, where they “located items inside the residence that were consistent with drug-dealing activities,” including bundles of heroin and \$10,700 of currency hidden in the kitchen.

Police focused on the phone recovered at the scene, referred to as the “scene phone,” which was locked, but were able to extract information from the phone’s SIM card, including its phone number, which led them to obtain a search warrant for Verizon Wireless phone records. Police determined that the name associated with the phone “may be an alias” with a falsified address. Using the phone’s International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI), which is unique to that phone, Special Agent Eric Perry of the FBI informed VSP that the phone was activated in May 2018 in a Wal-Mart in Manchester, Conn. Cell tower data showed “that the scene phone traveled between the central Vermont area and Hartford, Connecticut, area multiple times between October 26 and October 30” and pinged off a Berlin, Vt., tower the night of October 30.

Massachusetts State Police Trooper Steven Hean checked license plate readers on I-91 at the Connecticut state line and was able to trace the phone’s movements to a specific vehicle owned by Jalisa Williams of Manchester, Conn. VSP discovered it had stopped that vehicle in Chester in January 2016 for speeding, noted that Williams was the passenger and Gomez was the driver. The traffic stop uncovered “approximately 150 bags of heroin” and cash. Police arrested Gomez, but he failed to appear in court and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

On January 30, 2019, VSP detectives were notified by the Vermont Forensic Laboratory that the phone found outside the fires by Det. Sgt. Hill contained DNA that matched a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) record for Gomez. In July 2021, police obtained a federal search warrant in the Southern District of New York for a DNA sample from Gomez, who was incarcerated at Otisville Federal Correctional Facility on unrelated charges.

That sample matched the DNA on the phone.

Investigators also spoke with friends, family, and associates of Thompson and Fradette the month of the fire. That information “suggested that Thompson had been heavily involved in selling controlled substances, specifically heroin and crack, in the Woodbury area for many years and that he obtained his controlled substances from out-of-state individuals.” Police say “numerous individuals” informed them “that Thompson had recently decided to stop selling drugs because Fradette was on probation and because he wanted out of the business.” According to police, interviews “indicated that Thompson owed a substantial amount of money to one or more persons” and people told police they believed that the refusal to continue selling drugs, as well as his debt, might have led to his murder.

Thompson’s now-deceased son, Brandon, described an altercation between his father and someone he owed money to at his father’s house “on or around October 27 to 28, 2018.” Police say Brandon Thompson told them that person “had a possible nickname or street name of ‘Man,’” and phone data placed the “scene phone” in the area at the time.

The Washington County Superior Court authorized a subpoena from Google to find out what email addresses were associated with the phone found at the scene, as well as Google searches and “general location” data. Police say that, according to the information obtained, in August 2018 the phone was used to search for “carol a fradette” multiple times, as well as a WCAX article about the arrest of Christopher Thompson in Hardwick. The phone was also used to view Carol Fradette’s Facebook page. The day after the fires, the phone searched for “breaking news in east Calais, Vermont” as well as “East Calais, Vermont Obituaries” on legacy.com.

In March 2021, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms digitally extracted more information from the phone, which identified more accounts, including a Facebook account. Police say that, based on interactions with that Facebook account and those contacted via Messenger, they determined the account belonged to Manuel Gomez. Police subpoenaed Facebook and found the content of the messages “suggests Gomez was traveling between Hartford, Connecticut, and Vermont frequently in October of 2018, including on October 30, 2018.”

The messaging app TextMe was also on the phone and police say its username “appears to be Manuel Gomez.” According to police, there was an exchange with “the known number for David Thompson” using the app the day and night of October 30, 2018.

Police say one of the messages from Thompson read “There buying but not the Casper can’t sell what nobody wants is what I was trying to say.” According to the affidavit, “Multiple individuals ... advised Gomez was supplying heroin packaged in bags with the stamp ‘Casper’ around the fall of 2018.”

According to police, further messages show Gomez planned to “slide by” Thompson’s house that night, and Thompson replied, “if so I’ll stay around house.”

Gomez acknowledged to police that he sold drugs in Vermont from 2015 to 2019 and knew “D,” which police say “was used in the messages obtained from the scene phone and sent to David Thompson on October 30, 2018.” He has denied involvement in the murders.

Gomez has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Neighborhood Shopping for the Holidays

- Plan to shop locally

X-C and B-C skis and snowshoes for everyone!

PowerPlay Sports

OPEN SEVEN DAYS • Downtown Morrisville • (802) 888-6557

MENARD'S FAMILY True Value

Melissa & Doug

BERLIN LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1989

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

GIFTS FOR ALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

100# PROPANE REFILL \$79.99

20# PROPANE REFILL \$14.99

Gift Certificates Available!

FREE GIFT WRAPPING with Purchase!

802-888-3321 | Route 100, Morrisville

OPEN: Mon. - Sat., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Closed Sun.

We Wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and hope that they will offer their family members to try one free class before signing up for the whole semester.

BALLET WOLCOTT

www.balletwolcott.com

Pick Your Own Discount

AFTER SHOPPING THE CUSTOMER PICKS OUT OF THE BUCKET AND THE AMOUNT PICKED IS APPLIED!

10-50% OFF

Old Town Kayaks Tubbs snowshoes XC skis Giant Bikes

UNDER ARMOUR CROKO danako KEEN MERRELL THE NORTH FACE

The Great Outdoors

117 Waterfront Plaza, Newport, VT 05855 • 65 North Gate Plaza, Morrisville, VT 05661 • 162 Main Marketplace, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

Friday 12/11 - Sunday 12/13

VTrans Presents Proposed Bridge Options

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – On December 1, the Wolcott Select Board spent the bulk of the meeting listening to a presentation from engineer Laura Stone of VTrans about options for the School Street bridge.

The board also heard from Town Clerk Belinda Clegg about her proposed budget, which was \$1,100 higher than the year before, and it is possible that some items in that budget that are shared amongst multiple departments might be reallocated.

Stone described the presentation as a “really, really early-stage project definition.” She began with the difference in cost to the town for replacement vs. repair, and the cost impact of closing the road during construction. Under Act 153, the local share Wolcott would pay is reduced by 50 percent for rehabilitating versus replacement, with an additional 50 percent reduction if the road is closed during construction. The most Wolcott would pay would be if the bridge were kept open and replaced (10 percent); the least would be 2.5 percent if the bridge were repaired and the road closed.

Stone then gave a description of the bridge that the temporary bridge is sitting atop. The bridge is a 100-foot span parker pony truss owned by the town. It was constructed in 1928 and reconstructed in 2004. The bridge was closed in 2018 and a temporary bridge put in place. Its shoulder width is substandard, and it doesn't span the full bank width. Aerial utilities are in the project area.

Stone said that the structural failure is “very localized” and “a lot of the truss is in fairly decent shape.”

The project also needs to consider other factors. There is a small wetland area 130 feet upstream and south of the river are archaeologically sensitive areas. The bridge is considered historic by VTrans.

VTrans' design criteria for a replacement bridge are for 350 vehicles/day with a maximum 55 per hour, of which 10.6 percent would be trucks. The alternatives considered ranged from taking no action, which would require additional maintenance within ten years, to full replacement by a widened steel beam bridge with a 75-year design life.

Two additional options considered were rehabilitating the truss to address structural problems, which would have a thirty-year design life, and replacing the bridge with a

new parker pony truss similar in appearance to the current truss, expected to have a seventy-five-year design life. Both replacement options would increase the bridge's span and improve the river's hydraulics.

The replacement options also could have an optional five-foot, six-inch sidewalk, and the shoulders would be widened to three feet to accommodate bike traffic. A slight shift east of the bridge's position, or an off-alignment position might improve sight distances on Route 15, Stone said.

VTrans is recommending the option of a new 120-foot parker pony truss and an “improved alignment.”

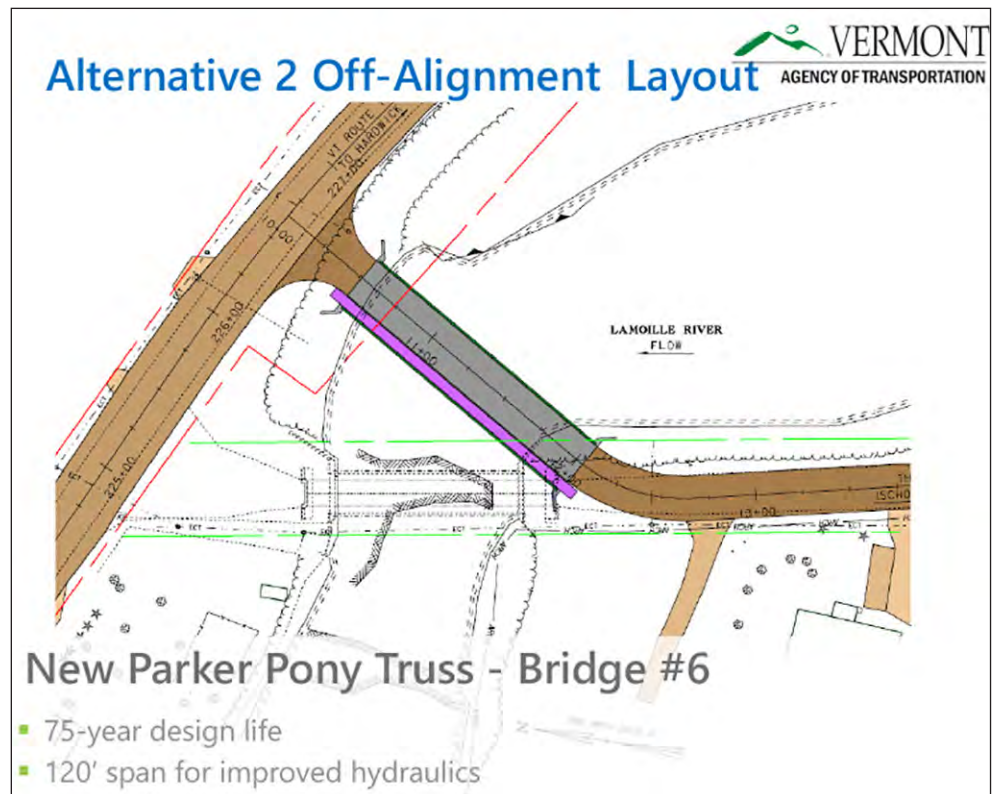
In the period of construction, two options are on the table, Stone said: either closing the bridge, with a detour in place for an entire construction season, or a one-lane temporary bridge, up- or downstream of the current temporary bridge.

VTrans is recommending the same detour currently in place using Flat Iron Road. The temporary bridge option would be “more expensive from the total cost, and also it has a much higher town cost” because of Act 153, Stone said. If the bridge were constructed off-alignment as recommended, the cost is projected at \$6,101,193, of which the town would pay 5 percent (\$305,060). If a temporary bridge is added during construction, the estimated cost climbs to \$7,402,329, with a 10 percent town match of \$740,233. The construction duration would also be two months longer with the temporary bridge (eight months) compared to the detour option at six months. The steel beam bridge options would be slightly less expensive, but the bridge's historic designation means VTrans would like to see a truss bridge.

VTrans projects that their recommended option could be built in 2025. Once the project parameters are in place, bids would go out and attempts to secure rights-of-way started, though most of the right-of-way is either Wolcott's or the state's. Without those agreements for right-of-way, a “condemnation process” would need to be initiated by the town to take the matter before a special court.

Vice chair Kurt Klein wondered if the sidewalk option would significantly impact the project costs, and Stone said it wouldn't “sugar out” to much. Chair Linda Martin said she was “very much in favor” of the sidewalk.

Stone asked the board



graphic courtesy VTrans Scoping Engineer Laura Stone
The state presented multiple options for replacing or rehabilitating the School Street bridge to the select board last Wednesday and recommend a replacement truss bridge similar in appearance to the current bridge, offset slightly for hydraulic and sight-line reasons.

what issues the detour would present, and Klein said that for both town maintenance and fire department vehicles, Flat Iron Road presented problems. He said that using that road as a detour would require an intensive maintenance schedule.

VTrans will wait for Wolcott's response. Board member Kurt Billings asked if the initial survey was sent out online or by regular mail, and Stone clarified that the initial consensus form was sent to the select board.

“So, the actual public never got to put any input on this?” asked Billings.

Martin said she had put the information in the newspaper “three or four years ago,” as well as Front Porch Forum. Billings said that he hadn't seen it, to which she replied “I'm sorry you didn't read the paper, but it was in there.” She said she also had mailed it to everyone on School Street, the ambulance, the sheriff, the fire department, the planning commission.

“All had a personal invitation to be here tonight,” she added.

Martin said the select board will discuss how it wants to proceed.



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Charlotte Stetson (left) of Hardwick shows Linda Thompson (center) and Thompson's daughter Holly Hayden (right) how to make a deco mesh wreath during a Holiday Wreath Making Workshop held at the Wolcott Fire Station December 4. Proceeds from the event will go to the Wolcott Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Saturday, December 11

4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL and Outdoor Market, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Cabot. A Cabot-style traditional German Christmas market featuring food, art vendors, holiday decorations and more. Information: 802-279-4309, info@cabotvermont.org or Facebook.
A CÒIG CHRISTMAS, 7:30 p.m., The Barre Opera House. The Cape Breton-based Celtic Music group bringing a holiday-themed show. Information and tickets: 802-476-8188 or barreoperahouse.org.

Monday, December 13

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 14

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.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Customers shop at the Whistle Emporium in Hardwick on Small Business Saturday, November 27.

Calderwood

INSURANCE AGENCY

Offering you *outstanding* service and protection since 1979

132 South Main St.
 Hardwick, VT
 802-472-5517
www.calderwoodins.com



Mike Gauthier, CIC
mikeg@calderwoodins.com



Family Owned And Operated

HARDWICK VILLAGE MARKET

13 Mill Street, Hardwick • 472-6677

Rib Roast , boneless, USDA Select Beef, lb.	\$12.99
Healthy Ham , New England Traditions, deli sliced, imported, lb.	\$4.99
Navel Oranges , California, 4 lb. pkg.	\$4.49
Yellow Potatoes , New England Grown, 5 lb. pkg.	2/\$5
Rib Roast , bone-in, USDA Select Beef, large end, lb.	\$11.49

Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • effective December 10 - December 16
 We accept MasterCard, VISA and EBT Cards

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com
 ads@hardwickgazette.com

Hardwick Community Television (HCTV) is looking for a new Executive Director to lead this small but vital public access station into the future.

This person will have skills in tv broadcast, videography, editing, file management, teaching and administration.

To view the full job description and apply, please visit:
<https://hctv.us/hctv-executive-director-job-application/>

EEO



Better together.


= SAVE



The more you protect the more you save.

I can help you protect more than you'd expect. I also have lots of ways to help you save when you bundle your policies.

Get the savings you deserve. Call me or stop by my office for a free quote.

Jennifer Bellavance CPIA
 802-472-5721
 31 North Main St.
 Hardwick, VT 05843

We're always here with local advice you can trust.



Subject to terms conditions and availability. Savings vary by state and product line. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Allstate Indemnity Co., Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co., Allstate Insurance Co. © 2015 Allstate Insurance Co. 12492107

COVID Continues Pummeling Schools, Communities

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK/WOLCOTT/GREENSBORO – As the daily case counts the state reports continue to soar, including a December 4 record of over six hundred in one day, the rate of new cases in Hardwick and Wolcott continue to rank among the highest in the state.

Schools are getting hit hard, with at least seventeen known cases reported by the OSSU in the week from November 29 to December 6. “The Hazen Union community” had the highest number of cases, with six new cases, according to an OSSU email. There were four new cases at Lakeview, three at Wolcott, and two each at Woodbury and Hardwick Elementary. While Vermont touts its 80 percent vaccination rate statewide for children 12-17 and 45% for ages 5-11, the picture in Orleans and Caledonia Counties is different. Just 58 percent of people ages 12-17 in Orleans County and 71 percent in Caledonia County are vaccinated with at least one shot. In the age 5-11 group, only a quarter have received in Orleans County have received at least one shot and 35 percent in Caledonia.

The state does not track people who are under 18 how have completed both vaccines and/or a booster, but in the youngest group it did report, age 18-29, 13 percent in Caledonia County and 10 percent in Orleans County of people are reported to be fully vaccinated. No age group younger than 65 is above the 50 percent rate in either county.

The effects are broader than children getting sick. Those who are sent home are isolated, sometimes for days, before their test result comes back. A ten-day period is required for a second test — if no symptoms present. One teacher said that “the kids (and teachers) are under a lot of stress for many reasons, and it is starting to affect their physical health. As far as I’m concerned, that’s the story here. This year is stressful for everyone.”

Mask Mandates Discussed

Governor Phil Scott recently changed course and is allowing select boards to create local rules for mask mandates. Both Hardwick and Wolcott discussed that option at last week’s board meetings. While Wolcott has already required masks in town buildings regardless of vaccination status, it is less clear

See COVID, 9

“We found out that help with vaccine registration and a ride to get it is available and free.”

So, what's stopping you?

Learn more about the COVID vaccine and how easy it is to get vaccinated. Call our Helpline at **1-800-642-5119** or visit **Vaccine4Vermont.com**

Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging

NORTHEAST KINGDOM Council on Aging

Helping older Vermonters age well.



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

COVID

Continued From Page Eight

whether Hardwick does.

Last April the town published guidelines stating “Masks are required (regardless of vaccination status of visitor)” for the Memorial Building, but at the meeting just two of the five board members, chair Eric Remick and vice chair Ceildh Galloway-Kane, were masked. Several audience members were not wearing masks, either.

The mask mandate agenda item proved controversial, with one unmasked resident saying they were “very curious to know who put [the mask mandate discussion] on the agenda.” Their concern was that a Burlington City Council discussion of a mask mandate became “a really heated affair,” which drew a swift but polite rebuke from multiple board members saying that Hardwick is not Burlington and does not look to Burlington for guidance.

A second resident, masked, said they had previous experience as an ICU nurse and “having lost some friends to COVID and the with the infection rate now ... I just think it’s worth the discussion. I’m looking around here wondering why people don’t have masks on.” That person acknowledged the inability of enforcing a mandate but said “If we could get 20 percent more people to wear masks indoors ... it’s not just about us an individual, it’s what we can cause to happen to other people [if we gave them COVID].”

A third unmasked resident responded that “My health is my responsibility, my responsibility is not for someone else’s health.” They then went on to claim, inaccurately, that masks hamper a person’s health, suggesting that they believe carbon dioxide can’t get through masks. “God gave me my immune system that I have to take care of,” they said.

Remick quickly said that the claim about carbon dioxide was not accurate and studies have shown masks to be effective at slowing the spread. Board member Galloway-Kane tried to keep the discussion focused on whether the town could or should enact a mask mandate and not on the topic of masks themselves. Resident Paul Fixx said that the CDC “considers the amount of COVID in our area high enough to warrant a recommendation that we wear masks,” adding “I don’t think there’s a higher authority in the U.S. on masking and its effectiveness. We tend to look at our leaders for guidance.” He suggested the select board should set an example.

Board member Michael Deering told the board that people he spoke with were “vehemently” opposed to a mandate, and said “it’s a slippery slope ... and I might be the first one in court with a ticket.” The board had not broached the subject of penalties.

Select board members largely felt that the inability to enforce a mask mandate would make the board a “paper tiger.” Police Chief Aaron Cochran, unmasked, added that he thought a mask mandate would not be enforceable.

Galloway-Kane said that getting Hardwick Area Neighbor to Neighbor involved help identify some solutions.

Town manager David Upson, also unmasked, made a comment that “Hardwick is a great community. We rally together and help each other out. The pandemic has weighed on us all.” He said a mask mandate would be “divisive.”

Board member Shari Cornish said the onus had to be on the business owners, as it is for her village business, the Whistle Emporium, where masks are universally required. She said the store has only her and one other employee.

She said “If one of us gets sick, the store closes. I don’t know why people don’t have a mask in their pocket if they want to come in [the store]. People are not coming in [to Whistle Emporium] without a mask, period.”

The resident who supported

a mask mandate said an in-person vote was scheduled on Hardwick’s charter changes and people would be crowded into the Memorial Building, with only the honor system in place to ensure unvaccinated people were masked. She repeated Fixx’s comment that the select board should be modeling the masking behavior the CDC recommends.

Wolcott’s board did not have the same disparity. All the board members at its Wednesday meeting

wore masks. Wolcott is also in a different situation than Hardwick, with few public places and a universal mask mandate for town offices. The board decided that it was up to those businesses to set and enforce mask rules, while also supporting wearing masks in all public places.

Hardwick is now up to a case total of 258, and Wolcott 126 as of last week. There have been 380 cases in Caledonia County in the past two weeks.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Paula Tamburello and Chris Greene of South Woodbury check out some books at the Galaxy Bookshop during Small Business Saturday.

 A festive holiday-themed advertisement for publishing messages. The background features pine branches, a blue ornament with white patterns, and pinecones. The text is centered and reads:

**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

WonderArts Holiday Market

photos by Vanessa Fournier



Sheila LaPoint of Rabbit Run Art stands behind her mixed media paintings Saturday at the WonderArts Holiday Market held at the Highland Center for the Arts.



Nutcrackers stood at the entrance/exit of the Artisan WonderArts Holiday Market held at the Highland Center for the Arts December 4.



There were 35 crafters at the Wintermarkt featuring the WonderArts Holiday Market held at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro December 4.



Atlas Clark (right), 4, of Marshfield, watches as Elizabeth Conway (left) of Kingdom Fleece Fiberworks spins wool into yarn at Saturday's Holiday Wintermarkt in Greensboro.



MJ Wright (left) of Waterbury examines the Vermont products from Ed Arnold (right) of Lyndon. Arnold was one of 35 vendors at the holiday market held at the Highland Center for the Arts.



Nathan Longo of Calais plays his accordion during Saturday's Wintermarkt featuring the WonderArts Holiday Market held at the Highland Center for the Arts.

OBITUARIES

DWIGHT CHARLES "SLIM" DUKE

MARSHFIELD – Dwight Charles "Slim" Duke, 78, passed away at his home on Tuesday, November 30. A graveside service will be held in the spring in Durant

Cemetery, Lower Cabot with a date to be announced. The des Groseilliers Funeral Home is in care of arrangements. Condolences and memories are welcome at dgfunerals.com.

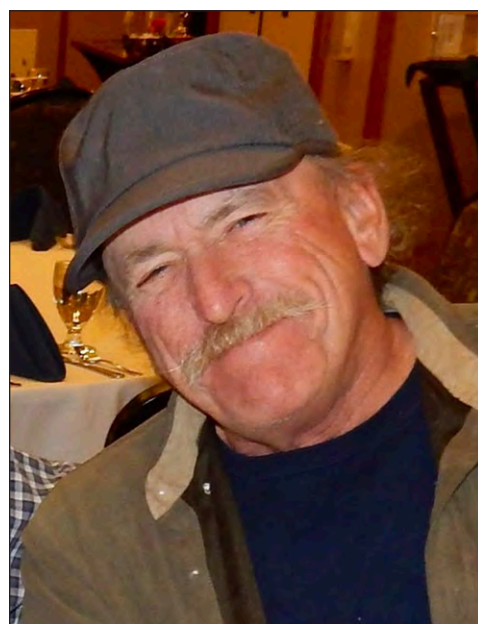
JAMES EDWARD MAXFIELD

CRAFTSBURY – In the afternoon of October 3, James Edward Maxfield of Craftsbury died at the age of 66 of heart failure. His last weeks he was surrounded by love from his family and friends.

James, better known as Jim, was born in 1955. His parents Jackulene and Elmer Maxfield owned and operated Dot's Restaurant in Irasburg for over 25 years. He has two older siblings, Janet and Christopher (Elmer) Maxfield. He spent his childhood years alpine skiing, water skiing and sailing and created many found memories with his many cousins. In high school he worked at his family's restaurant, enjoyed deer hunting, and snowmobiling. He graduated in 1973 from Lake Region. Jim married his wife Janice on May 19, 1974, and raised four girls together: Jasmin Leblanc, Melissa Pelkey, Ashley Maxfield and Katelyn Bushey. He has eight grandchildren: Makayla, Hunter, Issiah, Skye, Jacquelyn, Connor, Zach, and one on the way, and two great-grand children.

Jim founded his own roofing company, The Roofmeisters, in 1975 and served his community with skilled and reliable roofing work. He was done countless roofs over the years, from schools, ski resort buildings, residential, and many other commercial buildings throughout Vermont.

When Jim wasn't running his business, he spent his years coaching alpine ski racing at Burke, and even started a USSA/FIS racing program at Lyndon Outing Club in the early 2000s. He also coached softball, and soccer and spent many years as an official soccer referee and official umpire. He was also a ski patroller at Jay Peak Resort for over 30 years, serving as a mentor to many patrollers throughout the years.



James Edward Maxfield

He was a vital part of the Jay Peak community and an irreplaceable force within Jay Peak ski patrol.

In the more recent years Jim slowed down from coaching and enjoyed his time at his and his wife's camp on Lake Parker. He enjoyed family time sitting outside around the campfire and many Sundays kayaking, relaxing in his hammock and playing pickup softball down the road at his friend Dennis's field.

Jim had a wonderfully caring heart. He was generous, supportive and liked to joke. He was the main caretaker for his elderly father, Elmer, and always found ways to help all of his family members and friends, whether it was buying them a car, offering them a job, giving loans, donating time to help fix something, or other countless ways he continuously helped others.

A celebration of life was held in his honor courtesy of Jay Peak Resort and Jay Peak Ski Patrol. The family would like to formally thank the Jay Peak family for their generosity. Also, a heartfelt thank you to the 150-plus family and friends that came to honor him that day and to the ones that were with us in spirit. James will be forever loved and forever missed.

BEVERLY J. YOUNG

GREENSBORO – Beverly Jean Young, 79, of Greensboro died peacefully following a short illness on Friday, December 3, at the Greensboro Nursing Home, with her family at her side.

She was born July 21, 1942, in Hardwick, the daughter of Robert H. Howard Sr. and Louise (Chabot) Howard. She attended Hardwick public schools and graduated from Hardwick Academy in the class of 1960. Bev continued her education at Trinity College in Burlington.

On May 29, 1965, she married George Everett Young at St. Norbert's Church in Hardwick. For more than 56 years, they have made their home in Greensboro on the family dairy farm.

Beverly was first employed at National Life Insurance Co., in Montpelier for several years. When her children were born, she stayed at home to care for her young family and help on the family farm.

She was an active member of the Hardwick Academy Alumni Association for many years, serving as secretary-treasurer, and the American Legion Post # 7 Auxiliary in Hardwick. She served as a member of the Hazen Union School Board. She was an avid reader. Bev loved to cook, but most of all, she enjoyed her family. Beverly will be remembered as an active Greensboro community member and good friend. She enjoyed volunteering, especially at the elementary school while her children and grandchildren attended. She became a substitute and worked in the school lunch program when needed. She could be relied on to complete any task that she said she would.

Survivors include her



Beverly J. Young

husband, George Young; two children, Lorelei Wheeler and her husband, Clarence; Scott A. Young and his wife, Kellye, all of Greensboro; four grandchildren, Alyssa Pickett, Lyndsay Wheeler, Scott A. Young, Jr., and Robert A. Young; a great grand-daughter, Kaleigh Cyr; a brother, George Howard of Hardwick; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her father, her mother in August 2021 and a brother, Robert H. Howard Jr.

To honor her request, there will be no services, nor visiting hours.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Greensboro Nursing Home, 47 Maggie's Pond Road, Greensboro, Vermont 05841.

Arrangements are in the care of Dian R. Holcomb of Northern Vermont Funeral Service, 60 Elm Street, Hardwick. Online condolences are welcomed at northernvermontfuneralservice.com.

Northern Vermont Funeral Service

60 Elm St. • Hardwick, VT 05843
802-472-6861

Dian R. Holcomb
Funeral Director

PRENEED
PLANNING



Scott & Lori Bianchi, Owners

515 Union St., Newport, VT
Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Any time by appointment.

www.heritagememorialsvt.com

802-334-2314

- Monuments
- Lettering
- Cleaning
- Restoration
- Granite Benches
- Cremation Memorials
- Granite & Quartz Countertops



photo by Vanessa Fournier
Perley Allen (center) of the Hardwick Fire Department releases 3,000 gallons of water from the department's tanker Saturday to flood the Hardwick Recreation Department's 27 x 40 foot skating rink on Atkins Field. Watching (from left) are volunteers Nick Whites, Mallory Greaves, Allen, Joe Brosseau and Michael Deering.

OBITUARIES

JEAN PATERSON DAWSON

HARDWICK – It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Jean Paterson Dawson on Oct 22, 2021. Jean was born on July 11, 1921, in County Dumfries, Scotland, and was raised by her grandparents Nan and William Paterson. She attended local public schools until working age.

As World War II erupted in Europe, Jean was conscripted into the army of Great Britain at age twenty. She was a soldier in the Royal Artillery based in London and Southampton. She met Charles Dawson in Nova Scotia at the war's end. They were married in their native Scotland on September 9, 1946.

In 1953 the couple sailed to the United States with their two young sons via passage on the ocean liner Queen Elizabeth. They disembarked in New York City and Waldwick, N.J., became the site of their first home. It was in New Jersey that Jean studied and received certification as an X-ray technician. Interestingly, Life Magazine interviewed Jean as part of a story on mothers who returned to school and launched new careers. Some of her fondest

memories were of working at Ridgewood Valley Hospital.

In 1970 Charlie and Jean's long-range plan to move north to Vermont was actualized. Together they built and co-operated the Braeside Motel in Woodstock, Vt. At the same time, Jean resumed working as a technician at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital for several years. When they moved to Hardwick, Jean's dream of raising cattle came true. They spent their last years together in their Montgomery Road home.

Survivors include Jean's devoted grandson, William G. Dawson of Burlington, two godsons, Angus and Alex McAndrew of East Hardwick and nephews Andrew and Peter. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles, and her two sons Dennis Robert and William Raymond.

Burial will be on June 4, at 2 p.m., at the Sanborn Cemetery in East Hardwick. Special thanks to the extraordinary individuals of East Hardwick whose love and care allowed her to stay in her home for as long as possible. Her immediate family looks forward to thanking them at the gathering after the burial.

OUR COMMUNITIES

New Program Offers Free On-farm Technical Aid

BURLINGTON – University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture recently launched a new program to provide free on-farm technical assistance for Vermont farm business owners and managers interested in improving their bottom line through changes in management practices.

The program's technical service providers will work one-on-one with farmers to answer questions and provide technical assistance in a number of areas, including milk quality, grazing and pasture management, dairy nutrition, animal housing and facilities, animal husbandry and personnel management. In addition, they may source grant funding for fences, waterlines and

barnyard improvements and help farms enroll in state and federal programs, such as those that provide payments for rotational grazing and excluding livestock from waterways.

Tony Kitsos heads up the team, which includes two recently-hired dairy herd management educators, Whitney Hull and Kelsie Meehan. Kitsos and Hull are available to work with medium- and large-scale cow dairy operations, while Meehan will assist small-scale, small ruminant, organic, grass-based and/or transitional cow, goat and sheep dairies.

To learn more or to request assistance, go to go.uvm.edu/dhm-assistance, or contact Kitsos at (802) 524-6501, ext. 440, or tony.kitsos@uvm.edu.

NOTICE

WARNING OF CALEDONIA COUNTY MEETINGS

In compliance with Title 24 VSA §133, a meeting of the registered voters in Caledonia County, Vermont, is hereby called for the presenting of the proposed Caledonia County budget for the ensuing 2023 fiscal year (1 July 2022-30 June 2023).

All citizens interested in these matters are welcome to meet in the Bandstand on Caledonia Courthouse grounds at 1126 Main Street, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, at noon, 21 December, 2021, to discuss the county budget.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting will not be held inside the Courthouse.

A final budget meeting will be held at noon, on 25 January, 2022, at the same location.

PERSONNEL	\$132,000
OPERATIONS	8,200
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	9,000
PROBATE COURT	1,500
RESERVE FUND	100
TOTAL COUNTY COURT EXPENSE	150,800
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	198,000
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR CALEDONIA COUNTY	348,800

Past Year's Budgets

FY2022 \$346,800	FY2021 \$357,266	FY2020 \$355,492
FY2019 \$367,686	FY2018 \$353,587	FY2017 \$360,784

Dated in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, this 7 December, 2021
John S. Hall
Assistant Judge

Merle L. Haskins
Assistant Judge

OUR E-MAILS

news@hardwickgazette.com

ads@hardwickgazette.com



**Support your local news coverage
We invite volunteer journalists to
submit articles and photos.**

**Write about important events in your town
and send in your photos.**

**See hardwickgazette.com for submission guidelines, or
email news@hardwickgazette.com or call (802) 472-6521.**

38th Annual Hardwick Area Rescue Squad Memorial Tree Lighting, Sunday, Dec. 5

Adolph Keene Jr.
 Adrian Fournier
 Al Hark
 Alexander Messier
 Alice Sutphen
 All Veterans
 Allen Gates
 Allen Zecchinelli
 Alma & Charlie Rowley
 Alphonse Bellavance
 Anne Parke
 Anita Crowley
 Ann Sullivan
 Annabell Bird
 Anselme LeCours
 Antoinette Demers
 Arthur Brown
 Arthur Corrow
 Arthur Gauthier
 Arthur Jarvinen
 Barbara Brown
 Barbara Gaillard McNear
 Bert C. Bellavance
 Berta Blaise Goodrich
 Bertha Blair Johnson
 Beryl Winchester
 Bessie Young
 Betty Corrow
 Beverly Young
 Bill Holdman
 Blanche Lamore
 Blanche Neveu
 Bob Parke
 Bobbi Boulrisse
 Brandy
 Bud and Angela Kast
 Bud Batchelder
 Buddy LaCasse
 Camil & Theresa Brochu
 Carolyn Lynch
 Casey Young
 Cathy Potvin
 Charlene Montgomery
 Charles Tanielian
 Charlie and Esther Fontaine
 Chip and Aileen Chaffee
 Chuck Ambler
 Clair Young
 Claude Nayman
 Clermont Fournier
 Clint Brown
 Connie Kapusta
 Craig Montgomery
 Crystal Hall
 Cupcake Bell
 Cynthia Hislop
 Dale Orton
 Dan O'Connor
 Dave Gaillard
 Dave Morse
 David Kircher
 David Mayo
 David Parchment
 Davila Ferland
 Deceased students of
 Walden Heights School
 Deborah Emery Ferland
 Delevan Keene
 Delina Ferland
 Denis LeCours
 Dennis Bellavance
 Dick Cummins
 Dolores Richardson
 Donald and Phyllis Lane
 Donald Darling



People gathered around the Hardwick Rescue Squad Memorial Tree for its official lighting and dedication December 5. *photo by Vanessa Fournier*

Donald Lane	George Nudd	Judy Cummings	Mary Brock	Roger LeCours
Doris Hill	George Slayton	June Abel	Mary Gusha	Ron Beaupre
Dorothy Allen	Gerry Cummins	June Breer	Mathew Doyle	Ronald and Greta Gadden
Dorothy Delaricheliere	Ginette Demers	June Cooke Sullivan	Maurice Delaricheliere	Ronald Houston
Dougal Stuart	Gladyas Gaustin	June O'Connor	Mavis Doyle	Ronnie Bellavance
Douglas Rogers	Robertson	Kellee Landry	Merlene Oron	Rose Gauthier
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Buscemi	Glen Slayton	Ken (Bill) Brown Jr.	Michael Pierce	Ruth Rogers
Earl Parkhurst	Glendor Laird	Kenneth Tucker	Mignonne LeBlanc	Sally Slayton
Earle Larrabee	Gordie Daniels	Kevin Eldred	Mike Trombley	Sam LeCours
Earthel and Mamie Vest	Gordon Durkee	Laura Slayton	Mildred Slayton	Samantha Brochu
Ed O'Connor	Gov. and Mrs. Lahar Bell	Laura Zecchinelli	Morley Family	Sandy Thomas
Eden Norris	Grandpa Bert	Laureat Demers	Morris Lamore	Sara Urban Canann
Edna Blaise	Grandpa Zoom	Laurent Gerard	Mr. and Mrs. Archie Strong	Sharon Wetzel
Edward Phelps	Gwen Griggs	Bellavance	Mr. and Mrs. John Leaney	Sherry Gray
Elaine Hill	Harold Allen	Laury LeBlanc	Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodenough	Stanley McAllister
Ellis Vest	Hazel Bailey-Scott	Lawrence (Nippy) Garbeck	Muriel Nichols	Steve Holdman
Emeric Tanguay	Helen Ambrosini	Leo Lemay	Myrna Holdman	Steven Machia
Emile J. Fournier	Helen D. Renaud	Leon F. and Ethyl Chaffee	Nestor Morin	Stuart Slayton
Eric Gauthier	Helen Machia	Leon Frederick	Nylah Torrey	Stuart Todd
Ernest Machia	Henry A. Young Sr.	Leon McAllister	Olive Deschamps	Susan Chaffee
Esther Kesselman	Henry Jordan	Leona Tanielian	O'Neal Demars Sr.	Susan Jarzyna
Ethel Larrabee	Henry L. Young Jr.	Lily Tucker	Page Stegner	Taffy Todd
Eva Bemis	Henry Richardson	Linda Blouin	Pam Harshman	Tahchee Lavendy
Evelyn Gauthier	Hilda Demars	Linda Tucker	Patricia LeCours	Ted LeClair
Everett Keene	Hugo and Liza Meyer	Lisa Fecteau	Patrick Ferland	The Cats Konchog and Mr. Mao
Fernand Fontaine	Inez Bird	Little Boy Brock	Patrick LeCours	The Courvilles
Florence Johnson	Irene Corrow	Louise Nudd Loney	Paul Houston	The Misses Adine and Jennie Bell
Florence Nudd	Iris Brock	Loretta Chaples	Peg Holdman	Thelma and Louis Rodriguez
Florence Miles	J. Ernest Johnson	Lou Kircher	Peggy Holbrook	Theresa Ferland
Forrest Winchester	Jack & Linda MacGregor	Louis Deschamps Jr.	Peter Buscemi Esq.	Theresa Keene
Fosco Ambrosini	Jack Rogers	Louis Deschamps Sr.	Peter Cummins	Theresa LaCasse
Frances and J.R. Hall	Jane Anderson	Louise Montgomery	Peter J. Reeks	Tony Cummings
Frances Frederick	Jane McTigue	Louise Kesselman	Phil Fournier	Vera Batchelder
Frances Houston	Jay Slayton	Lucille and Loren Willis	Phil Renaud	Vincent LeBlanc
Frank (Ken) Deschamps	Jeanette Badger	Luigi Zecchinelli	Phyllis Lane	Violet LeCours
Frank Brock	Jeannette Tanguay	Lysle Boulrisse	Phyllis Zecchinelli	Waldo Bemis
Frank Casavant	Jennie Bellavance	Mac and Kate Drennan	Priscilla Young	Walter Griggs
Frank Crowley	Joan Brown	Madeleine LeCours	Randy Bagley	Wanda Casavant
Frank Neveu	John and Betty Hyde	Margaret Lavendy	Raymond Lavendy	Wendy Silk
Frank Young	John Ahern Sullivan	Margaret Nudd Laflamme	Reginald Ferland	Wendy Tanner
Fred Young	Joseph Gauthier	Marguerite Darling	Richard LeCours	Wilfred William
Gabrielle LaCroix	Josh Fecteau	Marguerite Fournier	Robert and Annie Jenne	William H. Bird
Gail LeCours	Joy Williams	Marguerite Fontaine	Robert (Butch) Casavant	William S. Hill
Gailene Richardson	Joyce Dorsett	Marina Fadden	Robert (Pa) Casavant	Yvonne Messier
Gary G. Bellavance	Joyce F. Bellavance	Marion Morin	Robert Chaplin	
George Messier		Marguerite Fournier	Robert Joyal	
			Robert LaCasse	

IN THE GARDEN

Brightening the Dark Days of Winter

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – This is the darkest time of the year: not only are the days short, clouds obscure the sun much of the time. Many of us find the gloom oppressive, especially when there is neither enough snow to ski, nor ice to skate on. And for gardeners, there is little we can (or wish to) do outside. So, what do I do?

First, I go to my local grocery store or florist and buy cut flowers or potted plants. For \$10 or \$15 I can brighten my outlook considerably. The most economical to buy are potted plants. They will, with a minimum of care and forethought, bloom for weeks or even for months. Here are a few of my favorites:

Christmas cactus. It should be called a Thanksgiving cactus, really, because they usually bloom well before Christmas. Buy one in full bloom, or that has a mix

to say, “Look at me, I’m dying of thirst!” But they recover quickly. Place your plant in a saucer of water and let it suck up water. But don’t let it sit in water for long.

My mother loved African violets and did well with them. I remember doing an experiment with my new Chemistry Set for Young Scientists when I was in the fourth grade. I made a solution of tannic acid and put a drop on a leaf. Overnight, it burned a perfect hole! Great experiment until my mother asked me if I had done something to her plant.

I have not had great luck with African violets here in New Hampshire (they may have heard about my experiment, way back when). I largely heat with a wood stove, and keep the house warm, but quite cool at night. I read an article that said one should never let the temperature in the room they are in drop below 70 degrees. So, I no longer try, though I have



courtesy photo

Cyclamen really are not fussy, and bloom for weeks.

of blossoms and buds. They need moderate light indoors, but not hot afternoon sun. Temperatures of 60 to 70 degrees are best for success. They should not be allowed to dry out completely, but neither do they want to be kept soggy. They like humidity, so place them in a saucer of small stones and add water. Never let the pot sit in water.

Cyclamen. Another low-light plant. This one suited for even less light than Christmas cactus. If you give it any direct sunshine, an hour or two of morning sun is plenty, but indirect light is better.

Water your cyclamen only when dry, which depends on the temperature and relative humidity. I find picking up the pot tells me a lot: if dry, it weighs very little, when moist, it is heavier. If you go too long, the flowers will flop as if

recently read that temps down to 60 degrees are okay.

If you want to grow them, keep them consistently warm in a bright room but not in direct sunshine. They like high humidity (hence do not like woodstoves) but do not tolerate soggy roots. Water from the bottom, but water once a month from above (to flush out any fertilizer salts). Never let water get on the leaves. Pinch off spent blossoms or yellowed leaves.

My absolute favorite house plant is an orchid called Phalaenopsis or moth orchid. Buy them in bloom, and they will bloom for many weeks. Direct sunlight can scorch the leaves, but they need a bright room. These are tropical orchids so like warm temperatures. But cool nights are good, down to 55 degrees.



courtesy photo

Phalaenopsis orchids are elegant, but not easy to get to re-bloom.

Moth orchids in their native environment grow in trees. So, the soil mix they come in is generally a special orchid mix made of bark chips, and perhaps a little perlite or vermiculite. This mix allows water to run right through it. Be sure that if it comes with an inner pot and an outer pot, to pour out water after watering from the outer pot, which normally has no drainage. Or just lift the inner pot and run water through in your sink. Otherwise, you will kill your

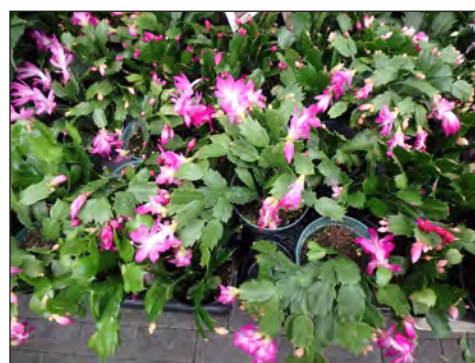
grow them in the bathroom where steam from the shower helps.

But if you have no patience with house plants, or believe you cannot grow them, buy flowers for a vase. Most cut flowers will last a week in a vase, many will last longer. Most stems cost between \$1.50 and \$3. Buy an odd number of stems, three, five, seven or 11, depending on your budget.

The vase for displaying cut flowers should be about half as tall as the stems are long (or a little less). But that rule is not firm. If the arrangement looks good to your eye, it is fine. Use a clean glass or pottery vase for best results, but if you want to use Grandma’s silver vase, go ahead. Elegance is good.

Cut flowers generally come with a little packet of white powder. Use it. It helps to keep the water from getting full of bacteria or fungus that will clog the stem, keeping it from taking up water. Pull off any leaves that would otherwise go in the water. You can also use a teaspoon of Clorox in a quart of water. Never put cut flowers near a radiator or wood stove.

So, buy something in bloom. It will help to dissipate the gloom of short, dark days. Oh, and about that African violet: I confessed, and did not get punished. But I never experimented with her houseplants again.



courtesy photo

A Christmas cactus will bloom for weeks.

orchid. Water once a week, or if exposed roots turn silvery white.

According to the experts, tree orchids such as these do best with good air circulation. Me? I find that in a room with people coming and going there is enough air movement to keep them healthy. I do grow them over a saucer of pebbles and water to increase humidity and

YANKEE NOTEBOOK

Fast-Forward 71 Years

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – During my first year at a boarding school where all the students worked about ten hours a week, I was assigned menial labor in the barns. Perversely, perhaps, I loved it -- spreading chopped silage as it poured in overhead from a chute, shoveling manure from the gutters behind the cows, grading apples and potatoes, beating the feathers from dead, scalded chickens (not a favorite), and slopping the hogs. The one place I was warned not to get too close to was the bull pens. A giant Holstein bull brooded dangerously in each, pawing rocks out of the mud with such force that they smashed the clapboards of the barn behind them.

When a cow came into heat, the herdsman slipped a pan of oats under the door of the pen and, when the bull dropped its head to scarf up the grain, snapped a spring-loaded hook onto its nose ring. Thus he led the huge creature, as easily as a puppy, out across the yard to the breeding pen, where his lady love awaited. We students watched, fascinated, but wary, from a safe distance.

Fast forward 71 years. A current Internet post by the organization Occupy Democrats quotes Matthew Dowd, a former Republican strategist now running as a Democrat for Lieutenant Governor of Texas: “A supermajority of Americans want Roe v. Wade kept in place, want common sense gun reform, see healthcare as a right, want an increase in the minimum wage, and want voting made easier.” As the news from all the media pours in daily, the image of that great bull being led by the nose springs always to my mind. What’s become of us?

Rewind about ninety years. The parallels between our often bland assumptions that the nation’s Constitution will protect us from all assaults, domestic and foreign, and German citizens’ assumption that the Bundestag would find a way out of the country’s economic woes, are too ominous to be ignored. Author Sinclair Lewis picked up on it way back in 1935, with “It Can’t Happen Here,” in which it does happen here. The appeals to the basest instincts of the turbulent electorate, the leadership of a manic populist, the scapegoating of minorities and aliens, the demonization of the media, the impotence and corruption

of the elected legislative body, the repetition of the Big Lie -- all have happened before; and what is there in that list that isn’t happening around us right now? January Sixth was only a foretaste; and who among us believes that the Congressional committee “investigating” that event -- an investigation that, owing to legal foot-dragging and wrangling, resembles running in knee-deep mud--- thinks it will lead anywhere?

Remember the scene in “Huckleberry Finn” in which Huck attempts to explain different languages to Jim? Jim’s final poser is that, if a Frenchman is a man, why doesn’t he talk like one. My question is that, if a supermajority of us wants to preserve Roe v. Wade, enact some gun control, pass the Voting Rights act, and expand health care protection -- if indeed we are a majority, then why don’t we start acting like one?

We’ve been bullied by armed goons who stalk our streets, public places, and now even our legislative chambers, citing an interpretation of the Second Amendment that bears no resemblance to its original intent, and personifying an implicit threat to those who disagree. We’ve been bamboozled by the constant erosive comments designed to destroy our confidence in our sources of information. We’ve been outmaneuvered by a legislative body in thrall to a narcissistic despot, which has transformed our last resort -- the courts -- into political kabuki. We’ve failed to fight the integration of far-right politics with a perversion of Christianity. We’ve allowed the power of large fortunes and corporations to co-opt our representative democracy and render our middle class impotent. We’ve failed to remember Elie Wiesel’s admonition that acquiescence is complicity.

Compare the resources and passion expended in the attempt prohibit a woman’s access to an abortion with those spent to protect our schoolchildren from random lethal mayhem. A supermajority of Americans, apparently, find that imbalance insupportable. So where are they? With no divine intervention in prospect, the American experiment as we have known it could end. Ben Franklin and his colleagues gave us “a republic, if you can keep it.” If we can’t, Shakespeare will have written our epitaph: “The fault...is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are underlings.”

THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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

EDITOR
Ray Small

SPORTS EDITOR EMERITUS
Dave Morse

PHOTOGRAPHER
Vanessa Fournier

CIRCULATION
Dawn Gustafson

PRODUCTION
Sandy Atkins, Dawn Gustafson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Sandy Atkins, Michael Bielawski,
Ken Brown, June Cook,
Jim Flint, Eric Hanson,
Pat Hussey,
Willem Lange, Doug McClure,
Daniel Métraux,
Joyce Slayton Mitchell

ADVERTISING SALES
Erica Baker

CARTOONIST
Julie Atwood

The Hardwick Gazette assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertisements but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error appeared. Advertisers must notify the Gazette within five days of any error that occurred. Copyright 2021 by The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from The Hardwick Journalism Co., Inc.

MEETING MEMO

Thursday, December 9

• **Danville School District Board of Directors Special Meeting**, 6 p.m., Danville School Library, with remote access also available.

Tuesday, November 14

• **Hardwick Energy Committee**, 6 p.m., Hardwick Memorial Building, 20 Church St., 1st floor. Information: 802-249-6004.

Town Websites, Town Clerks
Cabot: cabotvt.us
Calais: calaisvermont.gov

Craftsbury: townofcraftsbury.com
Greensboro: greensborovt.org
Hardwick: hardwickvt.org
Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us
Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us
Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net
Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, fax: 802-563-3008, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. www.waldenvt.gov.
waldentc@pivot.net
Wolcott: wolcottvt.org
Woodbury: woodburyvt.org

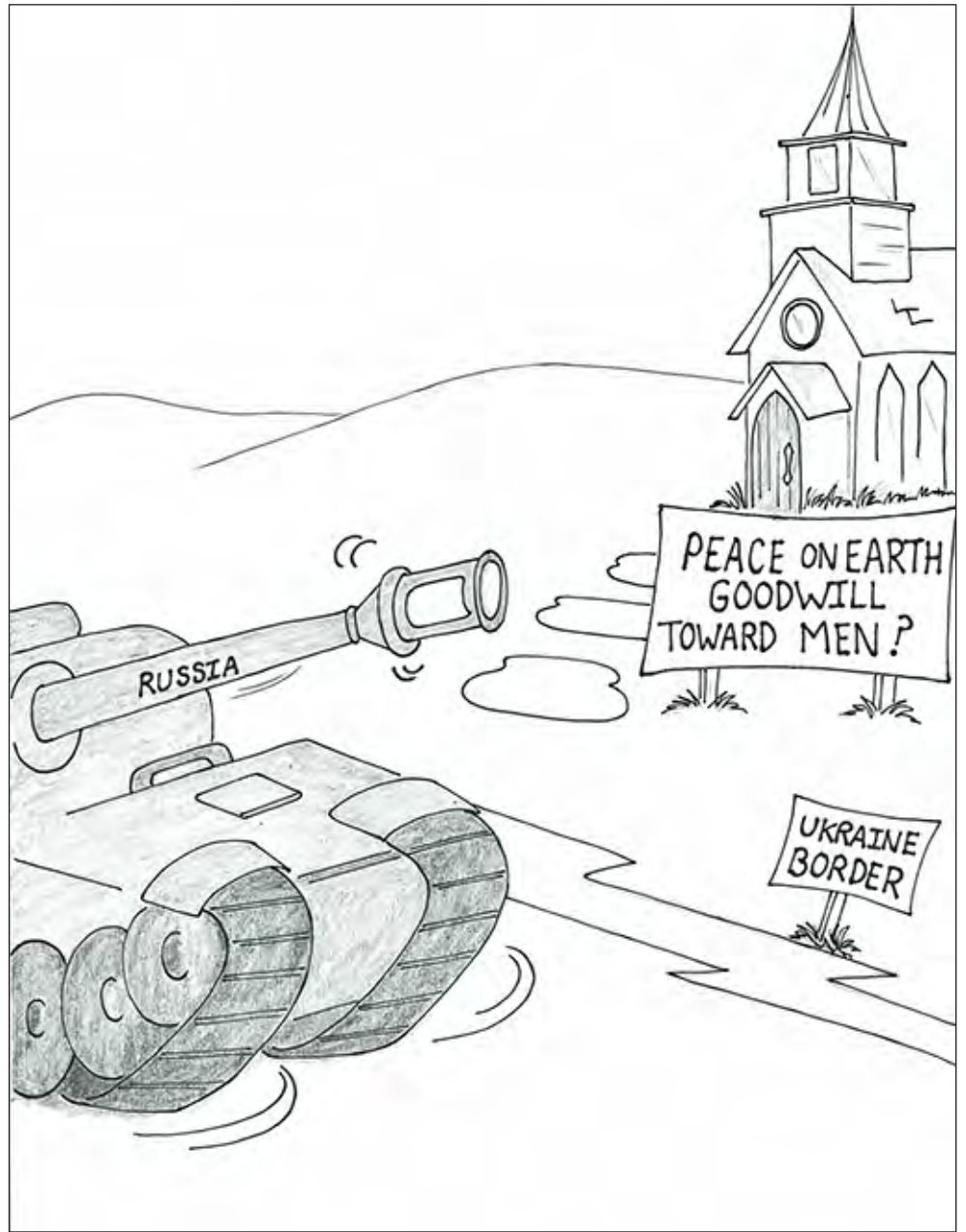




photo by Vanessa Fournier

Phyllis Cloutier of East Hardwick checks out the food and crafts table at the First Congregational Church in East Hardwick Christmas Bazaar held December 4.

Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



LETTERS FROM READERS

The Hardwick Dec. 9 Vote

To the editor:

Hardwick voters: we are voting Thursday, Dec. 9, (from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.) at the Memorial Building on the select board's proposed Charter changes. The ballot contains four articles.

I will be voting "Opposed to the Proposed Charter Amendments" on Articles 1, 3 and 4. Some of the changes make sense, but the one I disagree with is losing my right to vote for the town clerk and treasurer.

The select board is proposing changes that would allow them to appoint our clerk-treasurer, as well as the assistant clerk-treasurer. Currently the clerk-treasurer hires the assistant. In their explanation for doing this, they say the position is very technical and makes it impossible for an untrained clerk-treasurer to just walk into the office and do the job. In the last 60-plus years, the assistant has been elected to fill the position when the clerk-treasurer has stepped down. Therefore, I don't see the need to change the system and take away the voters' right to fill this position.

Article 2 is to combine the clerk-treasurer as a single position. Thus, we would only vote for one person. Our history shows this is what actually happens, so I agree and will vote in favor.

Other proposed changes in Article 1 are: changing select man (men) to select board;

Not electing listers, the select board will hire a professional firm to this work;

Not electing auditors, as the town hires professional auditors;

Not electing fence viewers, as the zoning administrator actually does this job;

Not electing trustees of public funds, as there is no job for this position.

Wording added to Section 123-906 police department; "whenever the Town of Hardwick shall maintain a police department" the Town Manager shall appoint the Police Chief. This was not mentioned in the legal notice in the Gazette or the two public hearings I attended. I discovered it in the proposed charter document when I was writing this letter. I wonder if the select board is looking to do away with our local police department and contract with a sheriff's department or other organization. What services would we no longer have to protect us and what would the response time be if an officer has to travel a long distance, instead of already being in town? What is the cost difference?

You can find the proposed Charter changes at hardwickvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Draft-charter-3.pdf

Thank you for considering my opinion.

**Orise Ainsworth
Hardwick**



photo by Hal Gray

Carolers enjoying hot cider and cookies after the late afternoon Christmas carol sing beside the lighted Christmas tree on the green opposite the Willey's Store in downtown Greensboro on December 5.



photo by Hal Gray

Thank-you messages are displayed at the Greensboro United Church of Christ (GUCC) for the 33 turkeys handed out by GUCC deacons and the Rev. Sunday-Winters the week before Thanksgiving to Lakeview School families as their youngsters left for home. This is the second year of this event, with the Willey's Store assisting.

Dealership Quality at Service Station Prices

OIL and LUBE

4-WHEEL COMPUTER ALIGNMENTS

COMPUTERIZED SPIN BALANCE

VERMONT INSPECTION

TIRES, BRAKES, SHOCKS

EXHAUST SYSTEMS

COMPLETE ENGINE SERVICE

~ Office for Bessette Mini-storage ~



DONA'S CAR STORE

Lower Wolcott Street • Hardwick, VT 05843

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

472-5501

BF Goodrich



Delivering On A Promise
Dead River Company

Propane • Heating Oil • Diesel Heating Equipment Installations

189 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT
(802) 748-8934 or (800) 222-9276



Are you flexible, cheerful, and a master of multi-tasking? Compassionate and caring? Join our upbeat team and make a difference every day!

Craftsbury Community Care Center seeks Med Techs/Nursing Assistants (part-time)

Assist with personal care, med administration, daily monitoring of resident well-being and communication of resident needs. This is a fulfilling direct care position.

Experience with elders a plus, smiles with elders guaranteed.

Health benefits based on hours. Contact Kim: kroberge@craftsbury-carecenter.org, (802) 586-2415.



Are you flexible, cheerful, and a master of multi-tasking? Creative and fun-loving? Craftsbury Community Care Center is forming its

Activities Team

We're hiring Activities staff to organize and conduct fun, healthy and engaging activities to meet the social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of eager residents. Strong organizational, volunteer, communication, and relationship skills are needed in this rewarding and very fast-paced role, 16 to 30 hours per week.

Join our upbeat team and make a difference every day! Experience with elders a plus, smiles with elders guaranteed.

Health benefits based on hours. Contact Kim: kroberge@craftsbury-carecenter.org, (802) 586-2415.

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

click here for more information

Advertising

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!

Financial Services

Edward Jones



Rich Jacobs

Financial Advisor

31 Lower Main St Suite 2
P O Box 1639
Morrisville, VT 05661-1639
802-888-4207
877-491-6475

Rich.Jacobs@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Home Improvement



Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 9 a.m. - noon

"Quality You Can Stand On"
454-7301, Hollister Hill, Plainfield

Plumbing



LICENSED & INSURED
HOLMES PLUMBING
Glenside St., RFD 1, Hardwick, VT 05843
Josh Holmes • 472-6228
Cell: (802) 745-8390

Services

Services

Services

Services

Toya's Play Shop LLC

TAYLOUR HAY
Owner-Technician



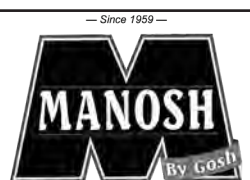
1043 Dimick Road, off Rte. 16, Greensboro • open Mon.-Fri., 9-5
(802) 533-7070 or (802) 498-8822 • toyas.play



Septic Tank Pumping • Line Jetting & Thawing
Camera Inspection • Hydro-Vac Services
Catch Basin Cleaning • Lift Station Maintenance
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

Place Your Ad Here For Only \$6.10 Per Week!



Water Wells • Complete Geothermal Systems
Water Treatment • Pump Sales & Service
Aggregate- Gravel & Stone Products
Pond Aeration
24/7 Emergency Service

120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, SUITE 2 MORRISVILLE
802.888.5722 | MANOSH.COM

SPORTS

Lady Cats Look to Develop Young Talent this Season

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen Union girls' basketball program will be young and inexperienced in head coach Tim Whitney's third season at the helm after graduating most of their starting lineup from a season ago.

The Lady Cats were 3-6 in a COVID-shortened season last winter, but played its best basketball down the stretch and nearly upset of Mount St. Joseph Academy in the first round of the Division IV playoffs. Whitney lost five seniors and four starters from that team, including the inside presence of Alleigh Gabaree. Eighteen strong have come out for the team so far, however, and this gives Whitney the opportunity to have a junior varsity (JV) team for the first time in a few years.

"We lost a lot and it's going to be a rebuilding year. We knew that going into this season," said Whitney. "That's not necessarily a bad thing though. Numbers are up and we have a lot of interest from younger players that will allow us to develop the program long term through playing JV games. We're going to develop the young building blocks we have and use every game to

find out what our identity is and improve as the season goes on," added Whitney.

The Lady Cats do return some varsity experience in junior Alexis Christensen and sophomore Tessa Luther. Christensen showed flashes of her shooting talent in her sophomore campaign, burying six three-pointers in a near upset of Division III BFA-Fairfax, and Luther subbed in admirably for an injured Gabaree with a 10-point effort against Richford last winter. Whitney's program will also get a shot in the arm with the return of the multi-talented sophomore guard Kaitlyn Davison, who transferred to Spaulding last year. Davison broke onto the scene at Hazen Union as an eighth grader, being inserted into Whitney's line-up and shining during their 2020 playoff run.

"Alexis will be an important part of our backcourt with her ability to handle and shoot the basketball. Her and Tessa provide some experience, skill, and leadership that we'll need for our developing players. Kaitlyn is a talented athlete and we're all excited to have her back in the program. She can make a lot of things happen on both sides of the basketball and she's the type of player you can build a program around. We are

still figuring out what everyone's role is going to be, but we're going to be flexible because we have some good raw talent amongst our freshman players," said Whitney.

Whitney will be coaching both JV and varsity programs this season with help from his daughter, Randy Lumsden, Dorothy Hill, and Earl Casper. The Lady Cats scrimmaged Division II Lyndon Institute last week and Whitney was pleasantly surprised with what he saw from his young team.

"They played for a state title last season and are a very good program, but the girls really hung in there with them for the first half. We're not conditioned yet, but that will come. I was really impressed with how well the girls played. They are a very big and physical team, but our young bigs Haley Michaud and Edie McKenzie hung in there and they'll only keep improving," said Whitney.

Hazen Union had their final tune-up on Monday against Peoples Academy and will open the at the "Cat Den" on Friday as they host Enosburg. The first road test will come next Tuesday as they travel to Danville.

Trojans Take on Challenge of a New League

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – Head coach Chris Hudson and his Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team will enter a new era in the revamped Mountain League this winter and look build upon their Division IV Final Four appearance last March.

In a COVID-shortened season, Hudson and his Trojan squad had everything lined up for a title run in 2021, busting out of the gate with a 5-0 record before a season-ending injury robbed star center Gavin Fowler of a 1,000-point career and a chance to win a state championship. Hudson also lost Cutler Gladding and Henry LoRe to graduation and will look to switch gears in 2022 with a smaller and quicker roster.

"We lost three really good

seniors and Gavin was a special kind of talent and player that doesn't come through your program very often. We definitely won't have the size advantage that we've enjoyed the last few years, but the guys coming back have been through this already when we lost Gavin to injury at the end of last season. This is new territory for me as we install a whole new offense and I'm going to have to be patient as we work through it. This is kind of where the game is evolving to anyway and I like what I've seen from the guys so far in practice. This is a great group of kids and they already have chemistry from last season and they know what it takes to be successful," said Hudson.

Mason Cushing returns for the Trojans and will be asked to be the main inside presence for Hudson's

new guard-centric lineup. Freshman Kerrick Medose also returns to run the point after a stellar eighth grade campaign and the flow of the offense will run through his hands. Meles Gouge will be Hudson's defensive stopper and interchange with Medose at the point to utilize his ability to score off the ball. Lucas Roberts should provide outside shooting and senior leadership, Sam Russell will be looked to for instant offense off the bench from the outside, and T.J. Bernatchy's size and quickness in the first week of practices has turned heads. Dom Hale will be an integral part of the roster with his relentless hustle and defense and will also be joined on the team from Cabot by Neil Alexander and Brody Moran.

"I'm excited with the depth we have and literally have ten guys who

can go in and do the job. Kerrick and Mason haven't stopped playing since last March, so they have a bit of a head start, but everyone looks good so far. We have a lot of talent on this team, but we are heading into a new league and none of those teams are going to roll over and give you a win. We have a lot of work to do in a short period of time to establish our defensive identity. We're excited to take on the challenge of a new schedule and I have no doubt that this will make us more playoff ready come March. The guys still have a bad taste in their mouth from our Final Four loss last year and they're ready to get the season started," said Hudson.

Twinfield-Cabot will tip-off the season next Friday and Saturday as they travel to Proctor to play in the Bob Abrahamson Classic.

Fresh Start for Chargers with New Coach

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys' basketball program is rebuilding after struggling to field teams and earn wins the past three years and will have a fresh start with first-year head coach Sean Ryan this season.

Ryan replaces Tyler Gillespie after a winless season that was shortened by COVID last winter. The program is still recovering from a winless 2019 campaign that saw several student athletes transfer out. The Chargers rebooted in 2020 with mostly eighth graders and freshmen. Interest and overall skill level has steadily grown since. Ryan likes what he's seen so far in practices and his roster has grown to twelve strong.

"I've been teaching or officiating the game for a long time, but I've always wanted to coach at this level and I'm super excited for the opportunity here at Craftsbury. We started out with

9 at practice and it has already grown to 12 by word of mouth, so that is encouraging. The guys have the challenge of getting to know me and learning a new system at the same time, but the effort in practice so far has been lights out. I believe the basketball court is an extension of the classroom and as we all work hard together to improve while embracing teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, and learning to overcome adversity along the way," said Ryan.

The Chargers will instantly gain some experience this season with the return of seniors Jas Zendik and Blair Locke after a year away from the program. Zendik was a star on the soccer pitch this past fall and will bring leadership and athleticism to Ryan's squad. Ryan will also return Dylan Washer, who led the Chargers in scoring a season ago as just a freshman. He currently has six sophomores and three juniors on the roster. Evan LaMare is the lone freshman, but has turned heads early on in practice.

"Jas and Blair are really good athletes and

have been great communicators and leaders in our first week. Dylan has great skills and I'm really looking forward to his development the next four years and where he can go. Evan is young, but already has shown some really good court sense and his effort on both sides of the ball is ferocious. This is a really good group of kids who have natural chemistry together through other sports. We are still figuring out who fits where at certain positions to make them and the team better, but we are optimistic about what we've seen so far, and this group believes they can be successful. This game has taught me life lessons and that is what I want for these kids. We will be in this together throughout the season and we'll win with dignity and lose with grace," said Ryan.

The Chargers scrimmaged Stowe on Monday for a final tune-up before tipping off the season at home on Friday against Mid-Vermont Christian School. They will get their first road test next Tuesday against Enosburg.

SPORTS

JIM FLINT'S RUNNERS' ROUNDUP

Craftsbury Runners Finish XC Season on High Note

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Eight Craftsbury Academy runners concluded their storybook fall season Saturday at the AAU National Cross Country Championships. Competing as the NEK Elite Team, the local harriers placed fifth of 11 teams competing in the boys' age 15-18 division.

The team departed Craftsbury on Thursday in a 15-passenger van. Coach Mike Levangie shared driving duties with parents Matt Krebs, Richard Califano, and Gary Circosta. The group stopped en route in Bayonne, N.J., for a run along the Hudson River. They arrived at their hotel in Charlotte at 1 a.m. Friday morning.

McAlpine Creek Park was the site for the championship races. After breakfast at a bagel shop on Friday morning, the team walked and jogged the 5k course. Save for a brief hill at the halfway mark of the race, the terrain was flat and fast, with short-cropped grass and dirt roads.

The team went out to dinner and retired early, in anticipation of the 9:30 a.m. race. Weather conditions on Saturday were ideal with the temperature around 50 degrees, calm winds, and overcast skies. The starting area was wide, with plenty of room to maneuver. A field of 114 high school boys toed the line waiting for the crack of the gun.

Cormac Leahy and Charlie Krebs led the way for the NEK Elite Team. Leahy finished 11th in 16:24. He was named an AAU All American by placing sixth in the 17-18 age group. Krebs tied his personal best 5k mark of 16:43 set on November 6, at the Vermont Meet of Champions. He finished 22nd overall and was 12th in the 15-16 age group.

Charlie Kehler was one of two 14-year-old runners competing in the 15-18 age group. Kehler eclipsed his previous personal best time of 17:26, set on October 9 at the Peoples Academy Invitational. He scorched the course in 16:47 to place 25th.

"It was very exciting to come through the finish and see the clock," said Kehler. "Throughout

most of the race, I focused on having a relaxed face and opening my stride, but still being in control. I am extremely happy and glad that I was able to have that experience with my teammates."

Matt Califano also broke through the 17-minute barrier for the first time. Califano's 16:58 finish shattered his previous personal best of 17:42 set at the Randolph Invitational on September 11.

He placed 32nd overall.

Leo Circosta was Craftsbury's fifth man. Circosta finished 44th in 17:20. He cut ten seconds off his previous personal best time, set at the Vermont Meet of Champions on November 6.

Circosta, Califano, Kehler, and Krebs were top 25 medalists for the 15-16 age group.

Alex Califano (17:33), Alan Moody (17:52), and Linden "Lenny" Stelma-Leonard (18:55) rounded out the strong individual performances by the NEK Elite Team. Stelma-Leonard, who is the team captain, lowered his personal best time of 19:37, set at the Peoples Academy Invitational.

The AAU Nationals allowed eight-member teams instead of the usual seven runners. This provided Stelma-Leonard with a chance to compete in a postseason race with his Craftsbury Academy teammates.

"We chose to go to this event because we wanted to celebrate the coronation of a great year," said Coach Levangie. "The team was thrilled that Lenny was part of it. He trained on his own during the postseason. Doing that when you're not able to race shows a lot of fortitude."

The team arrived back in Craftsbury Sunday morning. The long ride home offered a chance to joke around, talk about what's next and what they learned, and add to the list of desires and team goals. Levangie plans to meet with team members this winter as they mix cross-country skiing, running, and possible indoor track competition into their yearlong training regimen.

Fenoff Completes College Cross Country Career

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Riley



photo by Matt Krebs

Charlie Krebs of Craftsbury leads Logan Nasky of Irving, Texas, at the two-mile mark in Saturday's AAU National Cross Country Championship race for 15- to 18-year-old boys. Running for the NEK Elite team, Krebs placed 22nd of 114 finishers in the 5k race held at McAlpine Creek Park in Charlotte, N.C. Krebs' 16:43 finish tied his personal best 5k time set earlier in the season. Nasky moved up to 13th place, finishing in 16:29. Cormac Leahy was the top NEK Elite team finisher. He placed 11th in 16:24.

Fenoff of Danville helped lead the Franklin Pierce University men's cross-country team to a fifth-place finish on November 6, at the NCAA Division II Championship East Regional. The 21-team meet was hosted by Roberts Wesleyan College.

American International won the East Regional team championship with 25 points, followed by Southern Connecticut State (50), Stonehill (89), Roberts Wesleyan (93), and Franklin Pierce (112). The top 25 finishers at the meet earned All-Region honors.

Fenoff was one of three All-Region Ravens, all hailing from Vermont. Sophomore Wondu Summa (Burlington) placed 12th in the 143-runner field, with a time of 31:46 for the 10k race. Fenoff placed 18th in 32:14, followed by fellow senior Cody Tallent (Bellows Falls) in 24th place. Tallent's time was 33:04.

A psychology major, Fenoff carries a 4.0 GPA. On October 24, he and his teammate Alena Masterson (Pelham, N.H.) were honored with the Elite 24 Award from the Northeast-10 Conference for the third straight year. The Elite 24 Award honors the male and female student-athletes with the highest cumulative grade-point

average (GPA) who participated in the NE10 Championship cross country meet.

Vermont Indoor Track Season Scheduled to Resume

BURLINGTON – In alignment with the Vermont Principals Association, Sprintcity Athletics will coordinate the 2021-2022 Vermont Indoor Track high school season. The resumption of indoor competition follows the cancellation of last year's season due to the pandemic.

Five regular season meets are scheduled from December 18 to January 15. The short season culminates with a championship meet (date to be announced). The top 18 girls and boys in each track event and the top 12 athletes in each field event advance to the championship meet.

Events will be held at the Gardner-Collins Indoor Track facility at the University of Vermont's Gutterson Field House. The sloped track is 1/10 of a mile to a lap. Masks will be required. Athletes, coaches, and spectators must register in advance online. Details are available at sprintcity.com.

SPORTS

Wildcats Ready for Challenge of the Capital Division

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The Hazen boys' basketball team are a big and physical team in 2022 and head coach Aaron Hill knows they'll have to be as they transition to the rigors of their new division.

The COVID-shortened season last winter brought with it the unexpected to many teams last season, and the Wildcats were not excluded as they were denied a third straight trip to the Division III Final Four by a miraculous last-second heave by Enosburg. Hill returns the entire young core of that team but graduated the leadership glue of Ethan Shopland and arguably the greatest shooter in school history in Isaiah Baker. The memory of their improbable exit from the tournament last season is very much still fresh in their mind and Hill said his team came into practice, bigger, stronger, and more determined than ever.

"That loss stayed with all of us throughout the offseason. You don't forget things like that. We lost two great seniors, but we return

a hardworking and talented core that is maybe the most physical team I've ever coached. I'm extremely happy with the summer work the guys put in and I'm feeling great about this team heading into the season," said Hill.

Despite playing a much tougher schedule in the Capital Division this winter, the Wildcats will not be easy to push around as they return the physical presence of big men Tyler Rivard, Lincoln Michaud, and the tireless Carter Hill, who ran for the Hazen cross-country team this past fall. Hill also returns Jadon Baker, who enjoyed a breakout sophomore season alongside his brother in 2021 and was named to the Vermont Dream Dozen team for his efforts. Aasha Gould will also return to provide stability to the backcourt, and seniors Ryker Willett and Gabe Michaud will provide even more depth and size in the front-court for the Wildcats. Xavier Hill is one of three sophomores to make the squad and will push for some serious playing time.

"We've had the luxury of relying on Isaiah's scoring the last few years, but we have six or seven guys on this team who can score double

digits. We'll be a lot more balanced and tough to defend. Even though this team is a little bigger than one's in the past, we'll still look to run and create pressure, but we also have the ability to play different ways and create different matchups this year," said Hill.

Hazen Union already scrimmaged a Division II North Country team that made it to the state title game last year and traveled to D1 Burlington for the first time on Monday as Hill continues to get his team ready for the Capital Division.

"North Country is a really good program and I thought we played them even. I was happy with the guys' effort, but we'll need to cut down on the turnovers as we get into the season. The guys are super excited to travel to Burlington and meet that challenge. Like I said, they still remember how last season ended and they feel like they really have something to prove this year," said Hill.

Hazen Union is scheduled to tip-off the season next Tuesday on the road at rival Williamstown.

Twinfield-Cabot Girls are Young and Ready for Next Step

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – After playing a junior varsity schedule and posting a 6-1 record last season with a team filled with eighth graders and freshman, the Twinfield-Cabot girls' basketball team will graduate to the rugged Mountain League this season.

The pandemic shortened the season in 2021 and, with scheduling challenges and the youth of his team, head coach Jason Cushing opted to have his team play a junior varsity for the long-term growth of his program. Only Bailey Cushing was lost to graduation and Cushing returns an extremely young core that is ready and eager to test their

skills at the varsity level.

"We are still going to be super young this year, but I can't say enough of how proud I was of our eighth graders and freshman last season. They stepped up in a big way and what we did last season prepared us for this year and allowed us to build and develop the program in the right direction. We have thirteen girls practicing right now and we hope to be able to add more so we can have a junior varsity team and keep the girls learning and developing," said Cushing.

Jorga Washburn burst onto the scene last winter, leading the team in scoring as an eighth grader. She returns, along with sophomore Alice McLane who was also

a bright spot on the offensive end. Makayla Quintin will be Cushing's only source of senior leadership and he'll rely also on juniors Ginger Klarich, Madison Duke, and Cabot's Cadence Celley.

"Jorga and Alice did a nice job scoring for us last season and Makayla and our juniors should provide some added scoring and leadership, as well. I've seen some really good things from our freshmen in practice, as well, and you can tell the girls are comfortable with each other through summer league and AAU. We're going to be quick and were going to be aggressive with our press and hope to get some easy baskets through transition. We don't have a ton of size, so it will be a collective team effort on the glass all season," said Cushing.

Twinfield-Cabot enters the revamped Mountain League this

winter and will play a much more challenging schedule than in years past. They will play seven Division III schools throughout the season, along with Division II Milton, rounded out by divisional matchups with Hazen Union, Danville, Craftsbury Academy, Blue Mountain, and Richford.

"This league is definitely more challenging and competitive, and we'll see it first thing on opening night, but these teams are all new to these girls, so they're more excited than intimidated. They've seen a lot of these girls throughout AAU ball, so I think they'll go in confident. We'll just try to compete and play our game," said Cushing.

The Lady Trojans will host Peoples Academy on Friday in their season opener and will match up with Richford next Friday for their first road test of the season.

DEER REPORTS

Rite Way Sports

Alton Ingalls, in Johnson, 6 pts., 160 lbs.

C Village Store

Shawn Currier, in Stowe, 8 pts., 160 lbs.; Jeffrey Drekter, in Greensboro, 8 pts., 187 lbs.; Cody Goodwin, in Wolcott, 6 pts., 150 lbs.; Martin Lincoln, in Craftsbury, 6 pts., 141 lbs.; Bruce Prescott, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 114 lbs.; Nicholas Wheeler, in Craftsbury, 6 pts., 115 lbs.; Thad Shedd, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 119 lbs.; Kent Young, in Craftsbury, 2 pts.,

111 lbs.; Duane Bailey, in Craftsbury, 3 pts., 122 lbs.; Eric Bornemann, in Eden, 2 pts., 107 lbs.; Adam Young, in Craftsbury, 3 pts., 109 lbs.; Tyson Draper, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 108 lbs.; Jeffrey Russin, in Johnson, 2 pts., 119 lbs.; Anthony Fitzgerald, in Wolcott, 2 pts., 109 lbs.; Randy Trombly Judkins, in Stowe, 8 pts., 157 lbs.; Meghan Brown, in Craftsbury, 2 pts., 145 lbs.; William Harvey, in Hyde Park, 3 pts., 116 lbs.; Kristopher Dompierre, in Hyde Park, 8 pts., 107 lbs.

SPORTS CALENDAR

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.



YOUR GIFT-GIVING MADE EASY!

Santa recommends the electronic Hardwick Gazette.

You probably know someone who would love to receive the Hardwick Gazette. For \$45 a year, it's easy to give the welcome gift of community news to someone on your list. Your gift will arrive every Wednesday morning after 6 a.m.

**To arrange for your gift,
go to hardwickgazette.com
or call (802) 472-6521**