

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Volume 132 Number 49

## Board Gets Update on Hazen Union Bell

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – On Monday night, the Hazen Union board received an update on the new school bell from Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) Facility Director Tod DeLaricheliere. DeLaricheliere brought along a scale model of the bell structure for

board members to see first-hand.

The bell was the vision of the late Hazen Union student Finn Rooney, who had learned about the history of the Hardwick Academy (HA) bell and became interested in bringing the bell to Hazen Union.

DeLaricheliere said that the two-level structure will currently be stationed out front of the gym.

He added in a follow-up interview that “the hope is this is a temporary structure.” Additional money will be needed and roof repairs finished before the bell can move to its final, hoped-for location atop the Hazen Union gym. The school is planning a bond vote and some of that money would go to re-locating the bell, as

See BELL, 2



photo by Doug McClure

A scale model of the planned Hazen Union bell structure was shown to the Hazen board on Monday night. The bell is slated to be operational for this year's graduation.

## Residents Have Mixed Response to Charter Change



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Sherrie Olmsted (left) gets a ballot from Hardwick Town Clerk Alberta Miller (right) during a special town vote Dec. 9. In the back is Assistant Town Clerk Tonia Chase.

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Hardwick voters went to the polls last Thursday to give their answers to four articles regarding the select board's proposed charter changes. Approximately 135 people showed up to vote, equaling around 5 percent turnout.

Article 1 asked about changes to update the language in the charter such as changing “selectmen” to “select-board” and eliminating defunct roles in the town. Voters approved those changes, 81-54.

Article 2 asked voters about combining the town clerk and town treasurer into one position. The practice has become increasingly standard in Vermont towns,

See CHARTER, 2

## The Gazette's Community Journalism Initiative: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*Why does the Gazette need community journalists?*

Two reasons: to survive (that's a biggie) and to provide better coverage of your town (also very important). Like many local weekly newspapers, the Gazette needs to change its business model – or close. Volunteer journalists can do a great job covering events in their towns. Our experience in Greensboro and Craftsbury has proven that this approach can work. Really well.

*Do I need experience in journalism?*

Nope. The most important attribute you need is a desire to share what's happening in your town with your neighbors. The Gazette will edit, format, and publish your article. A news article should answer some (or all) of the following: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

*What topics can I write about?*

Pretty much anything that you think folks in your town should know about: select board meetings, school board meetings, school and community events, what's happening at the library or historical society or church or care center or general store or community organization, or something interesting that someone in town has done.

*How about photos?*

Yes, please.

*When does the Community Journalism program start?*

Our first issue will be published on

Wednesday, January 12. The holidays are coming up, but it's not too early to think about what you might write about. Our deadline is Mondays at noon, but we love to get submissions early. Ridiculously early is not too early.

*How many articles does the Gazette need?*

For larger towns, like Hardwick, two or three articles a week. For smaller towns, an article every week or so will do the trick. Of course, we'd be happy to get more than that, but we don't need a huge number of articles for this effort to succeed.

### Details on Creating Content for the Gazette: FAQs

*How long should an article be?*

400-600 words. Most text programs have a Word Count function (in Microsoft Word, it's under the “Review” tab). Articles can be shorter. Longer ones may get pared down by the editor. [Editor's Note: yup.]

*Do I need to make the article look fancy?*

Nope. In fact, don't spend any time on formatting (centering, bolding, indenting, etc.). That's the first thing we remove since our layout software doesn't like formatted text.

*How do I submit an article?*

Please send your article as an attachment to an email (rather than copied into the body of the email) to [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com).

*What about pictures?*

Same thing: please send photos as attachments, not copied into the body of your email.

*What if not enough people submit content?*  
Sadly, and reluctantly, the Gazette will be shut down.

*What if I have questions or need advice?*

An easy first step is to look at articles published in the Gazette: What do they cover? How are they written? If that doesn't do the trick, send your question(s) to [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com). We'll be happy to help out via email, over the phone, or over a cup of coffee (COVID permitting).

Send the largest file you can; that gives us the best resolution to work with. Please include a cutline (the caption that goes with the photo) as a text file attachment to the email. In the cutline, identify the people in your photo and their position (if you can). For example: “(left to right)” or “(in the back, running away from the moose).”

*How much should I stress about all this?*

Writing articles and taking pictures requires a little bit of planning and research, but it should not be stressful. I'd aim for having fun. If you have a question, or are stuck, take a look at a recent copy of the Gazette for guidance. Or send your questions to [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com). We'll be happy to help out via email, over the phone, or over a cup of something (COVID permitting).

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**Charter**

**Continued From Page One**

especially in smaller towns where the same person often fills both positions. Voters likewise approved that change, 79-54.

The next two measures were controversial. Articles 3 and 4 involved changing the positions of town clerk and assistant town clerk from elected to appointed. That prompted a strong response from some residents, most notably resident Orise Ainsworth at a November 18 public hearing. The select board argued that the town clerk position currently is far more complex and requires more specialized skills than twenty years ago, when current town clerk Alberta Miller was first elected. Board members said that multiple towns had changed to appointing those roles to ensure as many viable candidates as possible for the jobs.

Both Articles 3 and 4 were narrowly defeated. Article 3, regarding changing the town clerk to an appointed position, fell

71-63, and Article 4, regarding the assistant town clerk, failed 74-60. Miller will now put together a document reflecting the voters' will for charter changes and submit it to the General Assembly for consideration in its upcoming biennial session that starts on January 6.

Ainsworth said "Hardwick voters have elected the clerk and treasurer for over 60 years. We have always had candidates that served Hardwick well. Taking away the voters ability to continue choosing the person to fill this position is wrong. It's also wrong to have the select board as the boss of the clerk-treasurer. You hire someone, you're the boss."

Chair Eric Remick said "I was glad that the voters of Hardwick passed the bulk of the charter changes. The voters rejected the charter change that would have made the town clerk and treasurer appointed positions, so we'll continue to elect the clerk and treasurer as we've done in the past."

**Bell**

**Continued From Page One**

well as building a visiting team locker room. Some aspects of the structure are still being worked out, such as a plaque.

Just as Rooney intended, the project has drawn in the entire Hazen Union community, and more.

"A lot of people have stepped up," DeLaricheliere said at the meeting. Among the more recent groups joining in, P&R Lumber is donating wood and Sherwin Williams is donating paint, he said. The project has received publicity statewide from virtually every news organization. DeLaricheliere said that, as a result of the publicity, just that day a donation had come in from New Jersey. The cost of the project is estimated at \$8,600, DeLaricheliere said.

A bell committee is in the process of being set up to collect donations. For now, they have a P.O. box in town. DeLaricheliere said that the committee is working toward setting up more ways to receive donation, such as Paypal, though those measures need to be approved by the school board. It is expected that a formal request from the committee to expand its fundraising initiative will go before the Hazen Union board in January. At the board meeting, Chair Steven Freihofner was very supportive of the project and DeLaricheliere said that the board has been behind the bell every step of the way.

The plan is for a May groundbreaking for the bell, and for it to be first used at this year's graduation. Donations can be sent to Hazen Bell Project, P.O. Box 189, Hardwick, VT 05843.



**December 15 - December 21**

<b>Meat Dept.:</b> Boneless Rib Eye Steaks & Roast - \$11.99 lb. McKenzie Hot & Sweet Sausage - \$4.19 lb.		Holiday Home Decor 25% Off Reg. Price. Christmas Ornaments, Holiday Gift Bags & Wrapping Paper.	
<b>Starbucks Coffee</b> \$6.99 12 oz.	<b>Post Great Grains Cereal</b> 2/\$5 13.5-16 oz.	<b>G.M. Cheerios</b> \$3.99 18-18.8 oz.	
<b>Betty Crocker Brownie Mix</b> \$1.69 16.5-18 oz.	<b>Food Club Sugar</b> \$2.29 4 lb.	<b>Boves Pasta Sauce</b> \$2.99 24 oz.	
<b>Progresso Vegetable Classic Soups</b> 3/\$5 18-19 oz.	<b>Near East Side Dishes</b> 2/\$3 5.25-10 oz.	<b>Keebler Pecan Sandies or Vienna Fingers</b> \$2.99 14.2-16.3 oz.	
<b>Rachael Nutrish Dry Cat Food</b> \$5.79 3 lb.	<b>Cottonelle 12 Pk. Bathroom Tissue</b> \$8.49 178-214.8 s.f.	<b>Kleenex Facial Tissue</b> \$1.79 65-144 ct.	
<b>Food Club Shredded Cheese</b> \$1.89 8 oz.	<b>Florida Natural Orange Juice</b> \$3.29 52 oz.	<b>Yoplait Yogurt</b> 10/\$5 6 oz.	
<b>Ben &amp; Jerry's Ice Cream</b> \$2.99 16 oz.	<b>Pepperidge Farm Cakes</b> \$2.99 19.6 oz.	<b>Rana Lasagna or Fettuccine Alfredo</b> \$9.99 39-40 oz.	
<b>Florida Red Grapefruit</b> \$1.19 ea.	<b>Florida Zucchini Squash</b> \$1.29 lb.	<b>Pero Farms 12 oz. Snipped Green Beans</b> 2/\$4	

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# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police Media Log Summary

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

December 7: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15 W.

December 8: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Fingerprints, High St.

December 9: VIN Verification, High St.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Dr.; 911 Hangup, Maple St.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Rte. 5 W; Alarm, Depot St..

December 10: Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Citizen Dispute, S. Main St.

December 11: Citizen Dispute, Stratton Rd.; Trespassing, Bunker Hill Rd.; Motor Vehicle Complaint, Hardwick; Suspicious Event, Vt. Rte. 14 S; Suspicious Event, Spring St.; Suspicious Event, Michaud Ln.; Suspicious Event, Wolcott St.

December 12: Traffic Hazard, N. Main St.; Vandalism, Granite St.; Suspicious Event, High St.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.

December 13: Assist – Agency, Vt. Rte. 15; Noise Disturbance, Carey Rd.; Directed Patrol, S. Main St.; Juvenile Problem, Hazen Union Dr.; Assist – Other, Wolcott St.; Assist – Other, Wolcott; TRO/FRO Service, Church St.

## Hardwick Police Trespassing

On November 24, at 2:20 p.m., Sequoyah Parchment, homeless, was sleeping in a vacant apartment behind the Laundromat on Mill St. He entered through an open/unlocked window.

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.

## State Police Report Unconfirmed School Threat, Violation of Conditions of Release

On December 7, the Vermont State Police were contacted by staff at Twinfield Union School on 106 Naismith Brook Rd., in Plainfield, who advised they received a report of an alleged threat made to the school by a student. The state police takes all reports of school threats seriously and initiated a response that involved coordinating with school officials and community resources, and maintaining a visible police presence at the school Wednesday. No one has been arrested, and there are currently no criminal charges. The school is operating normally. The investigation into this incident is ongoing and no further information is available.

On December 13, the Vermont State Police Middlesex responded to a report that Wade Whitehouse,

of Cabot, was in violation of court ordered Conditions of Release. Troopers located Whitehouse operating a motor vehicle on Route 215 S in Cabot. Investigation revealed Whitehouse had two active arrest warrants for prior violations of conditions of release for contacting a protected party after a domestic dispute and had violated those same conditions a third time prior to the traffic stop. Whitehouse was transported to the Washington County Court House on the active arrest warrants.

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 14 victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence from December 5 through December 12. 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.

## Cabot Receives State Funds for Tree Plantings

MONTPELIER – The Town of Cabot has been awarded funds for riparian tree plantings for a culvert project, it was announced last week by Governor Phil Scott.

The Governor announced the award of \$2.6 million to towns, state agencies, and non-profits in Vermont to reduce future threats to public safety and water quality from climate-related flood hazards.

The projects, funded under the Flood Resilient Community Fund program, will improve the landscape, enhance community resilience to flooding, and improve water quality in Vermont.

Ten other projects have been awarded funding. All projects are designed to improve stream flows and water retention. All property buyouts are done with the mutual consent of the current property owner.

The Flood Resilient Community Fund was established in the spring of 2021. The \$4,880,000 program is funded with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. An additional \$2 million is available for a second round of awards in early 2022.

“We want cities, towns,

non-profits, and other potential applicants to know that money is still available,” Vermont Emergency Management Director Erica Bornemann said. “We encourage towns to think creatively about what types of projects could make a difference in their communities.”

Funds will also be awarded to the Town of Berlin to purchase of flood-prone structure; Town of Brandon to purchase of flood-prone structures; Town of Rockingham to purchase of structure threatened by landslides; Town of Randolph to purchase of flood-prone structure; Town of Johnson to purchase vacant parcel for floodplain restoration; Brattleboro Housing Authority for floodplain restoration; Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Commission for floodplain restoration; and Friends of the Mad River for planning, scoping, and outreach on development of priority projects.

Municipalities and other potential applicants should reach out to Vermont Emergency Management at 802-989-6793 or stephanie.a.smith@vermont.gov. The application deadline for round two of funding is January 31, 2022.



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### Ultimate Decorations

Holiday decorations cover the front of Mike and Mary Benway's house on Jenne Road in Hardwick. photo by Vanessa Fournier



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Santa (aka Ed Larson) and his head elf (from left) Margaret Laggis, and Key Club Elves Chloe Cloutier, Grace Cloutier and Sarah Collier stand by the Hardwick Rescue Squad before the Memorial Tree dedication December 5.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Santa (aka Ed Larson, center) visits with people attending the Hardwick Rescue Squad Memorial Tree dedication held December 5. Elf Margaret Laggis (right) talks with Jaxon Marckres (left), 6, of Hardwick.



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# OSSU Discusses COVID Stress, Options

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – At its December 6 meeting, the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) board addressed the mounting stress and challenges of trying to keep ahead of COVID.

The state proposed a voluntary program called “Test to Stay” (TTS). The program involves administering rapid antigen tests for seven successive school days to asymptomatic but unvaccinated students who were identified as close contacts with an individual who had tested COVID positive.

A negative test would allow a student to continue staying in school but only interact with students from their own school and take part in on-campus school activities. Those students would not be allowed to attend or participate in activities, such as sports, that would involve students from other schools. A positive result would send that student into quarantine for ten days.

In the OSSU, only Wolcott Elementary had managed to get the program running but has been running into challenges with staffing to keep TTS going. Superintendent Adam Rosenberg said that the OSSU’s Safe Opening and Reentry (SOAR) team is working to come up with a Memorandum of Understanding that might incentivize staff to take on additional work for TTS, such as extra pay. The supervisory union’s health staff are stretched thin, according to Rosenberg. He noted that the schools are still conducting PCR surveillance testing weekly.

Board member Vince Raziore asked about new procedures incentivizing vaccination.

Rosenberg said that the OSSU was trying to strike a balance between getting students vaccinated and respecting the personal

choices of parents. He worried that pushing the subject harder would result in resistance. Board member Andrew Meyer said he did not want a small number of families’ resistance to impact the safety of the school overall. Rosenberg said that while vaccination was the best defense against COVID, there was not much more the school could do as far as requiring vaccination for certain activities.

The subject of requiring vaccination for teachers came up. Rosenberg said the OSSU was close to coming to an agreement with the teachers’ association on a Memorandum of Understanding that also addresses stipends for substitute teaching and quarantine leave time.

It was expressed that some teachers might feel more supported if the vaccines were required. Meyer said that the most effective countermeasure against the virus was vaccination and said he did not believe the OSSU was being forward-thinking enough in using it.

The overall question of the strain on teachers and staff this year had posed by COVID was discussed. Rosenberg said that he did not know what a “tipping point” would look like, but elsewhere school districts had seen resignations and early retirements, which thus far the OSSU has not. Board member Gordon Young said that despite the politicization of COVID safety protocols, the OSSU should focus on the safety and stress not following protocols would put on the system.

Board member Ann Peltz said that the two issues were the overall COVID protocols and the well-being of teachers, even beyond

the immediate issue of a COVID-stressed environment. The board decided to continue discussing the subject of how teachers are doing at future board meetings.

Three days later, Wolcott Principal Matt Foster reported to his own board that while the school has been able to implement TTS protocol, staffing capacity is a challenge and many staff are doing much more than their original job’s expectations. He added

that December break is coming, and many staff are eagerly anticipating it more than in than in previous years due to the stresses COVID has put on the school year. Wolcott’s nurse has been filling in for nurses in other OSSU schools; a position for an additional nurse has been posted.

In light of the challenges this school year has presented, the OSSU will let the students out early on December 23.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Penny Hewitt (left) of Lazy Mill Treecraft in Stannard shows Andrea Brightenback (right) of Hardwick how to make a bird ornament out of birch bark. In the back (center) is Josette Blais of Montpelier. Ten people participated in the Holiday Ornament Workshop held at the Highland Center for the Arts December 12.

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# 4th Annual Holiday Market and Outdoor Festival in Cabot December 11



Twenty vendors participated in the 4th Annual Cabot Holiday Market and Outdoor Festival. The event was hosted by Harry's Hardware and The Den.



Many attended the festivities held Saturday. Some of the 20 vendors were located in a lot behind Harry's Hardware.



Silas Lockwood, 3, son of Kate Martin and Josh Lockwood of Eden, visits with Santa during the outdoor festival Saturday.



Jonah Bourne (right), co-owner of Woodbelly Pizza, and Mary Beth Shebert (left) make pizzas during the four-hour Holiday Market and Outdoor Festival held in Cabot. Woodbelly just opened a pizza shop in Montpelier.



Music was provided by Jeanne Miller (center) and her sons JD Miller (left) and Will Miller (right) of The Bleeding Hearts Family Band.

**Photos  
by  
Vanessa  
Fournier**



photo by Doug McClure

The pizza box Christmas tree at House of Pizza. The restaurant, Hardwick's oldest continually operating one, is transitioning to new ownership as Artemis and Nick Vasiliadis are retiring. Michelle and Tyler Demers have been learning the ropes over the course of a year before taking full ownership.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

This open space for outdoor seating on Main Street in Hardwick was empty after the area's first snowfall and temperatures of 14 degrees. Owner Claudia Gohl made the outdoor seating available to anyone wishing to use it after COVID hit last year and indoor seating was no longer available.



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## Lamoille Family Center

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### Development Director Full Time Position in Morrisville

The Lamoille Family Center is seeking a full-time development professional to work as part of its leadership team. The Family Center is in its 45<sup>th</sup> year of encouraging, educating, and celebrating children, youth, and families and reaches over 4,000 Lamoille Valley residents each year. You could be part of this highly collaborative and supportive work environment.

If you have experience in development, or possess transferable skills you can bring to this position, we urge you to apply. Promoting this organization and being part of its team is highly rewarding and enjoyable work.

**Qualifications and Responsibilities:** This position requires a bachelor's degree, or the skills and knowledge one can expect to acquire in an undergraduate education. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated success in fundraising in a nonprofit setting including annual campaigns, grant writing, organizing special events, and leading individual/business solicitations. Especially critical to the position are strong written and verbal communication skills, and excellent organizational skills. Experience with marketing and communications including print media, website maintenance, and social media are also essential.

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

The Lamoille Family Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

# Walden Board Considers ARPA Fund Requests

WALDEN – The select board met on Monday, Dec. 6., and discussed a fire and rescue request for ARPA funds. The request included N95 masks, SCBA units with accessories, blood-borne pathogen resistant parkas, for a total of \$68,374.63. The board voted to expend these funds if they meet the guidelines for ARPA reimbursement.

It was noted that \$8,000 have been previously approved for digital records and cyber security.

Trooper Hemond from the Caledonia Country Sheriff’s department gave an overview of the services provided to the Town this past year and the sheriff’s contract for a cost of \$7,500 was signed.

The only bid received for plowing small roads was opened and awarded to Louis Patoine. Placing bids in the Caledonian

Record in the future was discussed and will be revisited.

The first draft of the FY 23 budget was formulated and discussed. A VTrans request for grant reimbursement for Cabot Road paving was signed.

A letter was written to Daren North requesting reimbursement for costs the town incurred in picking up and rehoming two dogs that he left on his property on Davidson Drive.

Present at the meeting were select board members Brenda Huntoon, Bob Hatch and Randolph Wilson in person; members of the public Bob Bell, Lina Smith, Trooper James Hemond from Caledonia Sheriff’s department in person; and Robyn Cook Hubner via Zoom.

The next meeting will be December 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the firehouse and via Zoom.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Ed Keene of East Hardwick takes a chance on winning some items on the Christmas Auction table at the First Congregational Church in East Hardwick Christmas Bazaar held December 4.

***Publish your holiday messages***

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

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

***Deadlines Dec. 15th & 17th.***

**Contact Erica Baker**  
[bytheponddesign@gmail.com](mailto:bytheponddesign@gmail.com)  
**for more details**

# OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM PAUL QUINN SR.

CRAFTSBURY – William Paul Quinn Sr., 56, passed away peacefully Thursday, December 2, with his family by his side at the Copley Hospital in Morrisville. William, also known as Bill, was born in Montpelier, December 17, 1964, the son of John and June (Wood) Quinn Sr. William attended People’s Academy in Morrisville.

Throughout school Bill worked at Bevin’s Speed and Cycle in Montpelier, then worked for Dubois Construction, also of Montpelier, and went on to run the maintenance department for the Village Green in Stowe where he met Elin Skjolberg. They married in 1987 and found their way to Florida in 1990. Three children from this previous marriage include William P. Quinn, Jr., Erik S. Quinn, and Dakota J. Quinn. Bill moved to Hudson, Fla., and started his own business called Quinn’s Home and Property Maintenance where he met Heather Bell. The business was successful for 20-plus years. Bill and Heather married on September 11, 2008, moving back to Vermont in 2009.

Bill lived life to the fullest and enjoyed boating, riding dirt bikes and four-wheelers, fishing, cooking and baking for family functions, homesteading, doing mechanical work and, especially, spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Heather of Braintree; his dad, John J Quinn, Sr. of Hardwick; five children: William Quinn Sr.



William Paul Quinn Sr.

and his partner, Ashley, and his beloved granddaughter, Raelynn; Erik Quinn, Dakota Quinn, Patrick Quinn (from current marriage with Heather Quinn) all of Craftsbury; three sisters: Donna Ford of Florida, Deanna Turner of South Carolina, Darlene LaCasse of Hardwick, and many nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his mom, June Wood Quinn; brother, John Joseph Quinn, Jr; sister Debbie Quinn; and his daughter, Fiona Quinn. In keeping with his wishes, there are no calling hours. A celebration of his life will be conducted this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society. Kingston Funeral Home in Northfield is assisting with the arrangements.

## MARJORIE M. FARR

HARDWICK – Marjorie Mary Farr, 95, of Hardwick passed away peacefully on December 13 at the Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury with her loving family at her side.

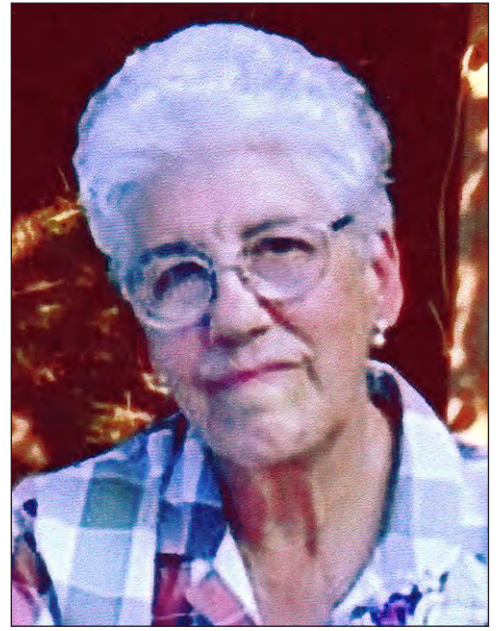
She was born June 3, 1926, in Swanton, the daughter of the late Albert L. Sholan Sr. and Louise (Trayah) Sholan. She attended Elmore and Walden public schools.

Marge was first employed as a housekeeper for Sam Daniels, in Hardwick. Her family moved to Hartford, Conn., where she was employed at New Method Laundry. She soon returned to Hardwick to help her sister, Mildred Symonds, raise her children, while her husband was at war. At the same time, she was a seamstress at the Hardwick Knitwear, where she worked for more than 32 years, retiring in the late ‘70s.

She married Wayne Ralph Farr on May 18, 1946, in Morrisville. They lived all of their married life in Hardwick.

She was a 50-year member of the United Church of Hardwick; the Women’s Fellowship of that church; the Hardwick Senior Citizens; and the American Legion Post #7 Auxiliary. She loved spending time with her family, flower gardening, cooking and sewing. She will be remembered by many of the local young people as “Grammy Wayne.” She was very active and always willing to help anyone in need.

Survivors include: two daughters, Gail LeBlanc and her husband, David of Hardwick, and Elaine Farr of Kernersville, N. C.;



Marjorie M. Farr

a foster daughter, Joan Hudson and her husband, Rick, of Barton; a brother, Albert Sholan Jr. of Vero Beach, Fla.; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband, Wayne, in 2009; her siblings, Lawrence Sholan, Theodore Paul Sholan, Irene Martin and Mildred Symonds.

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

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Hardwick Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 837, Hardwick, Vermont 05843.

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

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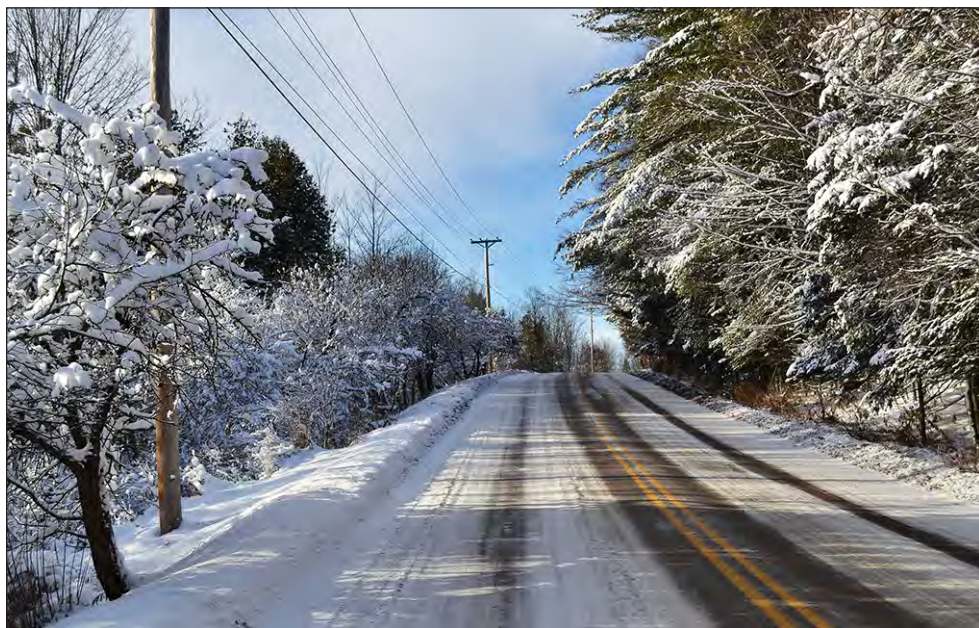


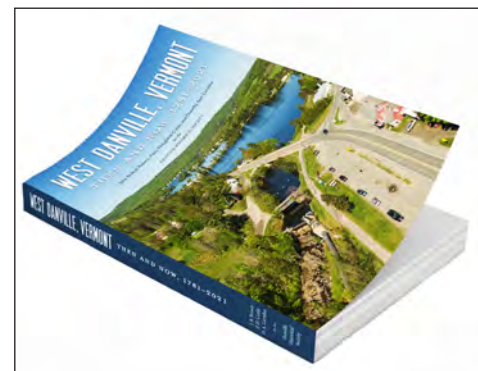
photo by Vanessa Fournier

A pretty scene on Center Road in Hardwick after the area's first significant snowfall of the season.

## OUR COMMUNITIES

### Book on West Danville History Published

WEST DANVILLE – A comprehensive history of West Danville and Joe's Pond, "West Danville, Vermont Then and Now, 1791 – 2021," has been published, and includes supporting information about Cabot, Marshfield, Walden, and other area towns. The book is published under the auspices of the West Danville Book Committee and the Danville Historical Society.



West Danville, Vermont Then and Now, 1791-2021.

The book has hundreds of images, some from glass plates by Harold Hatch and family collections that have never been published before.

The history is a collaboration of work by three authors, Jane Bolton Brown of Cabot, Patty Houghton Conly of the Danville Historical Society, and the late Dorothy Ayer Larrabee, who grew up and owned a business in West Danville. The late Jane Hastings Larrabee, former owner of Hastings Store, contributed stories and photos.

Over a period of eight years, these women researched and compiled information, stories, and images for this project, using newspaper archives, personal interviews and town records. There are chapters about the very earliest settlement of West Danville: the boom years when the town bustled with several

stores, a hotel, a two-story schoolhouse, two stone sheds, a grist mill, sawmill, dance halls and prosperous farms. Business thrived with lumbering, farming, Christmas trees, and ice cutting industries.

There is a chapter about the railroad being built, the power plant, church, Prohibition, the weather, Joe's Pond and much more: 32 chapters that take the reader from when Jesse Leavenworth wandered off the Bayley-Hazen Military Road and staked his claim at the outlet of the pond, thinking he was in the town of Cabot, to the present. There are hundreds of family names fully indexed for easy reference.

The book is available at the Danville Historical Society on Hill Street in Danville, Hastings Store in West Danville, and the Corner Stop Inn Shop in Walden.

## OBITUARIES

### ALTON L. CHASE

HARDWICK – Alton Leonard Chase, 69, of Hardwick, died early Sunday, December 12, in the comfort of his home, following a courageous battle with cancer. His family was at his side.

He was born December 27, 1951, in Hardwick, the youngest of three children born to the late Kenneth and Mary (Marckres) Chase. He graduated from Hardwick Academy in the class of 1969.

Following his education, he entered the Vermont Army National Guards. He served his country for six years and was Honorably Discharged.

On April 30, 1983, he married the love of his life, Melody Van Foster. They exchanged their vows at the log home that he built in the Mackville area of Hardwick.

Alton was employed all of his working years in the same auto parts building in Hardwick. First the Hardwick Auto Supply, then Partstown, and later Fisher Auto. He was the auto parts clerk. Alton was a member of the Hardwick Fire Department and a life member of the American Legion Post #7 in Hardwick. He enjoyed softball and rifle season. Alton was a man of many talents. He will be remembered as a devoted family man who was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Survivors include: his wife, Melody; a son, Levi Chase and his wife, Joann; a brother, Arthur "Art" Chase and his wife, Alice,



Alton Leonard Chase

all of Hardwick; a sister, Aleta Akerlind of Craftsbury; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

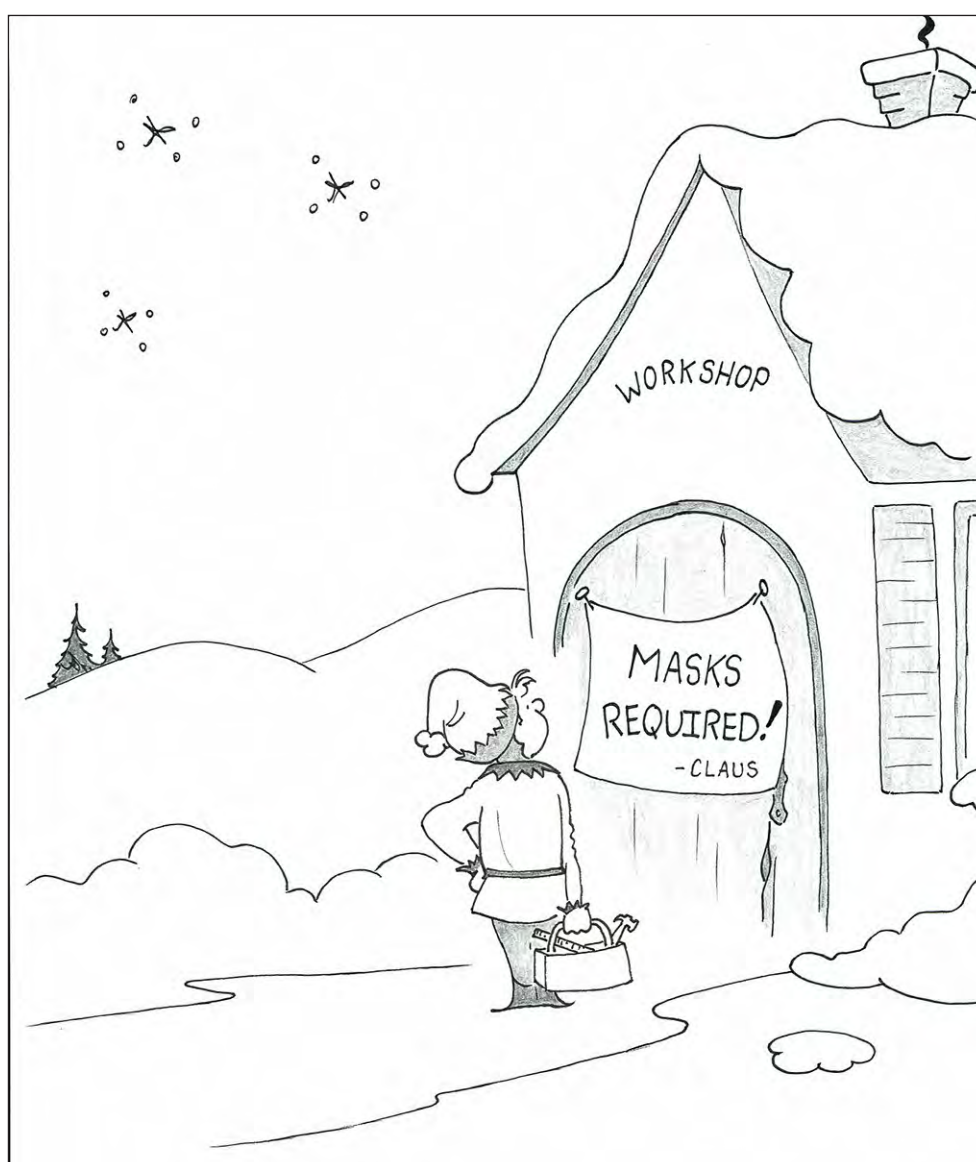
In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by an infant daughter, Hope.

To honor his request, all gatherings will be private at the convenience of his family.

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

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

### Woodsmoke by Julie Atwood



### OUR E-MAILS

[news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com)

[ads@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:ads@hardwickgazette.com)



courtesy photo

An open-air gallery and ski and snowshoe trail will open to the public on January 1 at Highland Center for the Arts.

## Gallery, Ski and Snowshoe Trail Opens Jan. 1

GREENSBORO – The Open Air Gallery and Ski and Snowshoe Trail will be open to the public every day Saturday, from January 1 through March 31, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA).

Skiers and snowshoers may go

at their own pace and time through winter-proof works by 20 artists on a two-mile trail that begins at HCA and traverses the fields of neighboring Wilson Farm. There are paths for all ages and abilities.

For more information, see [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org) or call (802) 533-2000.



courtesy photo

A free fireside concert featuring Burlington Taiko will be held on January 1 at Highland Center for the Arts.

## Open Air Concert at HCA on Jan. 1

GREENSBORO – The New Year will see the opening of the Open Air Gallery: Ski and Snowshoe Trail and a free fireside concert at Highland Center for the Arts with Burlington Taiko.

The Burlington Taiko concert will begin at 1 p.m. Taiko is Japanese for “big drum” and is a modern revival of ancient Japanese drumming traditions. Taiko arrived in Japan around 500 AD and became part of Japanese culture; spiritual healers played taiko to dispel evil spirits and drive insects from the rice fields; Samurai employed taiko to instill fear in the enemy and courage in themselves; villagers used taiko in their prayers for rain and in thanksgiving for a bountiful

harvest. Over time, many areas developed unique choreography and rhythms for celebrating festivals or recreations of historical events.

In modern times, taiko has emerged as a performing art. Groups such as Osuwa Daiko, led by Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi, and Sukeroku Taiko of Tokyo pioneered the way in the '70s and '80s, collecting local festival rhythms and transforming them into stage performance pieces.

Burlington Taiko will also hold an outdoor workshop on January 2

Participants are advised to wear appropriate winter clothing, as this is an outdoor event. For more information, see [highlandartsvt.org](http://highlandartsvt.org) or call (802) 533-2000.

## Packer Book Suggests There is Work Yet to be Done

### REVIEW

by Anne Molleur Hanson

If you are like me, fretting that the “American Experiment” may have arrived at its twilight, a relatively quick read will provide a framework, perspective, and a possible pathway out of the dark hours of this moment.

Inspired by political pamphlets of former times, journalist George Packer has delivered a compelling analysis in a concise and deftly written little book, “*Last Best Hope, America in Crisis and Renewal.*” As the title suggests, the overall analysis is that our nation is not yet at “lost cause status” but there is work to be done. It must begin with us, and yesterday would be a good time to begin.

Packer uses the tactic of zooming in and then zooming out. It’s an effective technique for providing perspective, and through that “long view” this author delivers a radical suggestion: American Democracy is an ideal, always more an aspiration than an actualized thing.

The prologue takes us to fall of 2020, just before the election, and relays a personal experience that illuminates a familiar American tension: that of the rural folk-transplants who co-exist, yet have almost no idea of the other’s experience: a non-understanding that could be an undoing.

Packer then goes back in time, revealing an insight from French sociologist Alexis de Tocqueville, whose visit in the first half century of post-revolution America led him to identify what Packer later names the hidden code encrypted in the ideal of America. The hidden code, much like our state motto of freedom and unity, is simply stated yet paradoxically complex, so spacious that it can be easily derailed by the greatest and most common of our human foibles: self interest and greed.

Nope, I’m not going to reveal the code in this review because I don’t want to deprive you of the experience of reading this book.

I will tell you that Packer is a realist: he does not shy from our collective hypocrisies: the way our nation projects itself as originator and savior of Democracy, even while our closed eyes or non-participation has brought us to the brink of losing the very institutions and civil conduct that make Democracy possible. He could lament that we have only ourselves to blame, he could finger-point at all the ways

“those people” are destroying our country. That’s fashionable right now, but it’s not where he goes.

Instead, he tells a story, four of them in fact. Packer writes that America today can be best understood through the narratives of “*Free America, Smart America, Real America, and Just America.*” This is a workable framework that focuses our attention and translates the experiences of those we don’t understand. It’s a necessary translation since we’ve largely stopped talking to people who are out of our tribe. Though there are moments when it feels like Packer is painting with too broad a brush, his four stories give us a way to see ourselves and those who differ from us. The insights in each story have an uncomfortable accuracy that glimmer like a clear pool: when we look into it, we may see things about ourselves that we’d rather not. By holding up that mirror anyway, Packer provides a helpful map to navigate the complicated landscape of understanding not just what America has become, but who it is and why.

Packer’s writing makes for an easy read, which is remarkable for the density of ideas this slim book contains. He draws on wisdom from near and far times, from a French resistance fighter and historian whose analysis of his nation’s fall to Germany is as prophetic and salient as the measured voice of Jacob Blake’s mother.

Packer shares a segment of the unrehearsed speech she gave in Kenosha, days after her son was shot. Later in the book he introduces us to thought leaders of former eras whose work advanced America’s Democracy even when it seemed sure to founder. Horace Greeley, Frances Perkins and Bayard Rustin are part of the history of evolving America from parchment promises that excluded too many and whose work brought us closer to the actualizing of American Democracy. Each of these Americans responded to crises that could have derailed the nation. Because they did, they strengthened the fabric of what this nation could be.

Those of us lucky to live in communities where the scale of human living still necessitates a baseline of interdependence are well-positioned to read this book and begin a new day. Most of us understand that we are at a point of converging crises. “America’s Best Hope” suggests how we begin the hard but not impossible work of renewal.

Please buy it locally or find it at your library.

[Anne Molleur Hanson is a resident of Craftsbury.]

# StJ Art on the Street Showcases Stained Glass in Winter Show

ST. JOHNSBURY – StJ Art on the Street announces its new winter show featuring the work of several artists in storefront, sidewalk, and indoor galleries along Railroad Street and Eastern Avenue.

The new show is now open and runs through February 25. StJ Art on the Street exhibits are free and open to the public.

StJ Art on the Street's Winter 2021 show marks one year since the outdoor sidewalk gallery opened as a way to safely display art during the pandemic. Catamount Arts has maintained the walkable downtown gallery, changing shows every season, and adding indoor venues such as the Cosmic Cup Café, Whirligig Brewing, Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, and Catamount's Eastern Avenue galleries as businesses re-opened after 2020's pandemic-related closures.

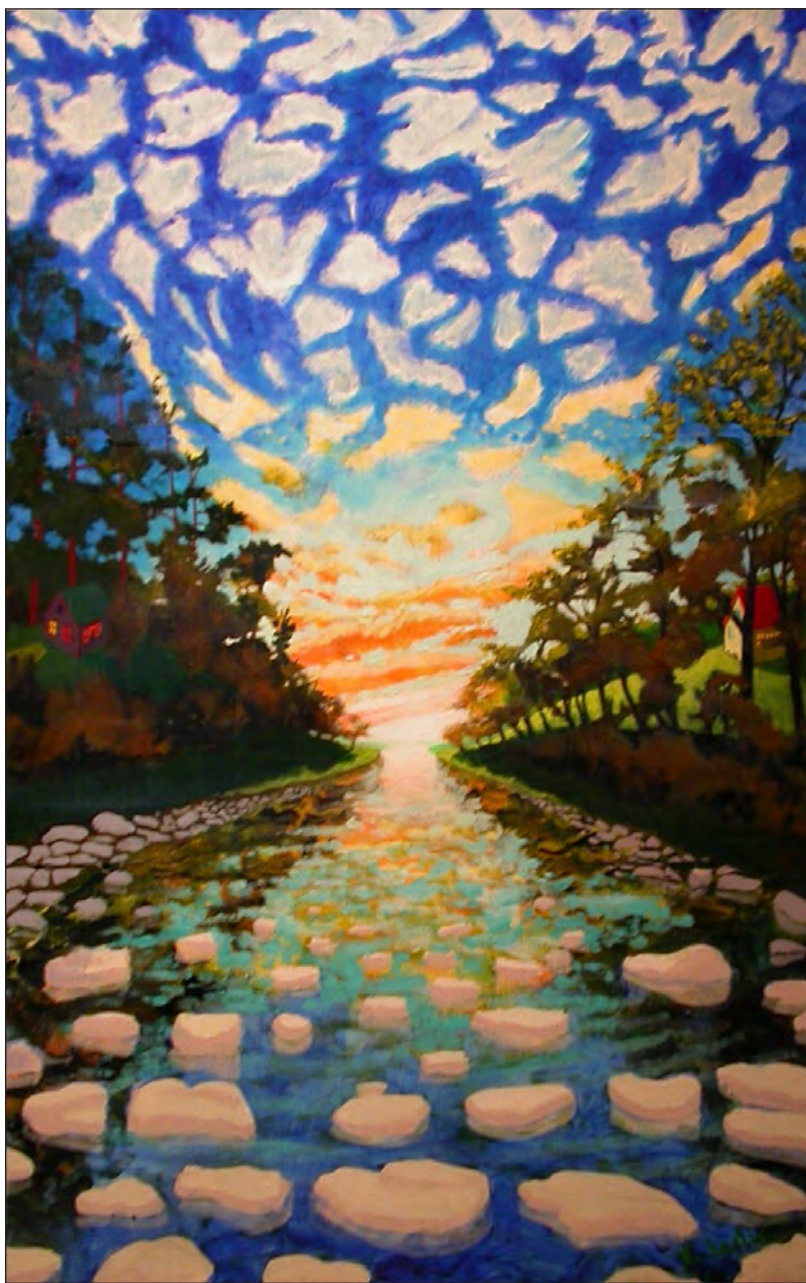
The new show features colorful stained glass as well as lamps, paintings, and mixed media pieces. Artists Kathy Chapman, James Frase-White, Mary Tapogna, and Ken Leslie are exhibiting on Railroad Street and Eastern Avenue. Art from The Foundry Glass Workshop, led by Justin and Mary Ellen Hannington, will be displayed on Eastern Avenue, as well.

Work by Kathy Chapman is at 457 Railroad Street and 142 Eastern Avenue. A painter, stained glass artist, and restorer of stained-glass windows, Chapman considers stained glass painting with light, and says being surrounded by color is "pure joy."

Also at 457 Railroad Street is work by James Frase-White of St. Johnsbury. Inspired by art in many different forms ranging from children's illustrations to fine art, Frase-White is an avid student of art history and culture.

A recent transplant from Portland, Oregon, Mary Tapogna is showing work at 457 Railroad Street. Tapogna works with glass to create mosaics, and her work includes a wide range of both religious and secular portraits, crosses, rosaries, tables, lamps, and more. She makes portraits and lamps using various accumulated materials, images, and layering. Each piece is made from found and recycled materials gathered from everyday surroundings.

Northern Express Care, One Eastern Avenue, shows work by



*courtesy photo*  
Ken Leslie's "Methfessel + Hourglass" is one of the works on display on Eastern Avenue in St. Johnsbury as part of StJ Art on the Street.

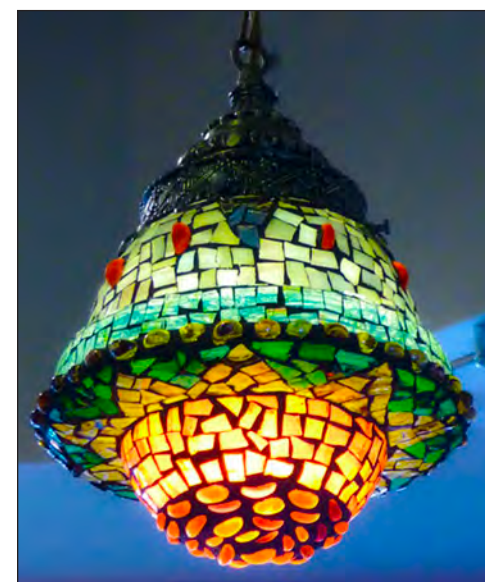
Ken Leslie, professor of Fine Arts at Northern Vermont University's Visual Arts Center. Leslie has taught painting and drawing at NVU since 1984. His exploration of time and space has taken him to several residencies on and above the Arctic Circle in both winter and summer.

At 67 Eastern Avenue, learn more about the Foundry Glass Workshop. The Foundry, a maker-space located in Lyndon Center, provides materials and expertise to assist community members with a variety of creative projects. They have recently begun offering stained glass classes led by Justin and Mary Ellen Hannington in the glass studio.

StJ Art on the Street fans looking to see more stained glass around St. Johnsbury are invited to visit Natural Provisions at 537 Railroad Street, Grace United Methodist Church at 36 Central Street, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 1265 Main Street, United Community Church at 1325 Main Street, St. John the Evangelist Church at 49 Winter Street, and the St. Johnsbury History and Heritage Center at



*courtesy photo*  
Work by Kathy Chapman, stained glass artist, is on display at 457 Railroad St. in St. Johnsbury, as part of StJ Art on the Street.



*courtesy photo*  
Mosaicist Mary Tapogna's work is on display through February 25, as part of St. Johnsbury's StJ Art on the Street.

421 Summer Street.

For more information about StJ Art on the Street, including the artists featured in the current exhibit, visit [catamountarts.org/visual-art/StJ-art-on-the-street](http://catamountarts.org/visual-art/StJ-art-on-the-street).



*courtesy photo*  
"White Blue Moon" by James Frase-White is on display at 457 Railroad St. in St. Johnsbury as part of StJ Art on the Street. The display runs through February 25.

# IN THE GARDEN

## In Praise of Kale, the Misunderstood Vegetable Hero

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – Like Rodney Dangerfield, kale doesn't get enough respect. I've been told that it only became a commonly grown vegetable in the 1970s, when salad bars ordered it to use as the bed upon which other edibles, like tomatoes, carrots and cukes, slept on in nearly ordered arrangements. No one actually ate kale. But that has changed, at least with the Birkenstock crowd. Like me, for one.

Kale became the carpet for other veggies because it is a deep, rich green, and seemingly never wilts. It is the toupee of veggies, always looking neat and presentable. I often pick a few leaves and place the stems in a jar of water on the kitchen counter to remind me to include it in soups, stews, scrambled eggs and more. And to admire.

On a recent raw December morn, I took our new dog out for a walk. Rowan is a year-old Irish setter-golden retriever mix we adopted just before Thanksgiving. As he zoomed around the property, I stopped to see how our kale is doing. Still healthy, despite occasional temps down to 15 degrees, and now covered with wet snow. I picked a few leaves and brought them up to include in a soup or salad.

Kale is crunchy. In a salad, I cut it finely, blending it in with lettuce, although my wife, Cindy, recently made a kale salad. She also used walnuts, crispy rice, and dried cranberries, and it was delicious. She massaged the fine-cut leaves with olive oil for a couple of minutes first to help make it less crunchy.

It is one of the more nutritious greens. Compared to iceberg lettuce, it has two and a half times more fiber. It has more thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, Vitamin B6 and folate than iceberg lettuce. It is a great source of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin K, calcium, and potassium. It has twice the calories of iceberg lettuce, but neither is a high-calorie food. You can eat all the kale you want and not gain an ounce of fat.

One of my favorite ways to eat kale is in a green smoothie for breakfast. I use about two cups of kale removed from the center rib, a banana, half an avocado (if I have one), half a cup of orange juice and a cup and a half of

water. Oh, and I squeeze half a lime into the mix, and grate in some fresh ginger if I have it. I chop the kale very, very finely because my older blender doesn't liquefy it, even though the dial says "Liquefy". I don't want to have to chew my smoothie.

Sometimes I add frozen blueberries or raspberries to the mix, or if I want a cold smoothie, I substitute ice cubes for some of the water. In summer, I try to add four or more leaves of other greens; lettuce, Swiss chard, or whatever looks good. Spinach is good, and very nutritious. It freezes well after a brief blanching.

Growing kale is easy. I rarely find the leaves eaten by insects, though some readers have written me about flea beetles (or something) eating holes in the leaves. You can stymie most bugs by covering the plants with a layer of row cover. Row cover is a spun agricultural fabric that looks like those dryer sheets that reduce static and add fragrance



*courtesy photo*  
December kale with Rowan, our new dog.

to laundry. But this stuff comes in long 60-inch wide pieces. Wires are sold to form hoops over small plants, but you can drape it right on bigger plants. It is great for keeping potato beetles away from your spuds, too.

Kale is a big plant. I grow it 18 inches apart in a wide, raised bed. It grows best in full sun, but if sun is at a premium in your garden, it will do fine in part shade. Hot afternoon sun and dry soil is not ideal for kale. I recommend adding plenty of compost in the planting hole, and some slow-release organic fertilizer.

Sometimes I start kale from seed indoors six weeks before planting it outside, but if too busy, I just buy some started plants from my favorite farm stand. If you start your own kale indoors, you may get tall, lanky plants – due to not enough light inside. No



*courtesy photo*  
All the kale varieties with "bor" in them, like this Redbor kale, are excellent.

problem. Bury some of the stem. Just pinch off some lower leaves and plant the kale deep in the soil so it is not flopping over when it goes in the ground.

I make a great winter stew using kale and other garden vegetables that I have either stored or frozen. It can be either vegetarian or not. It is loosely based on a Portuguese stew I ate years ago on Cape Cod. I don't think you need a step-by-step recipe, nor do I know the exact proportions, but I share with you my carnivore version and you can make your own according to your preferences and what you have available.

I start by slicing a pound of Linguica Portuguese sausage into smallish cubes and browning in olive oil with onions and/or leeks (which I always have in the freezer). If you don't find Linguica, substitute any spicy sausage like Andouille Cajun



*courtesy photo*  
A few ingredients for my soup - dry beans, kale, scallions, and garlic.

sausage.

Then I add water and tomatoes. I freeze tomatoes whole in September, so I use those, chopped up, but you could use a 28-oz. can of diced tomatoes. Into



*courtesy photo*  
Kale in the garden in February.

the stew goes a couple of cups of chopped kale. Then I add herbs: parsley, fennel seed, oregano and marjoram. And carrots, for sweetness.

Lastly, I add something to give the stew rib-sticking goodness: either potatoes, winter squash, or cooked dry beans. I let the stew simmer until hunger overwhelms me, but I always make plenty as it is good warmed up for days.

So, remember to plant plenty of kale next spring. It won't disappoint you.

# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Enjoying the Light of the Season

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark outside already.

We hear a lot of grouching, as the winter solstice approaches, about the misery and depression caused by the early evening darkness. We perhaps don't appreciate how good we've got it here, compared to Ebenezer Scrooge, poring over his ledgers by candlelight at 51-degrees north latitude. And consider the travail of the printers, also working in the near dark, as they tried to decipher Charles Dickens' almost illegible hen-scratchings, blots, circles, and marginal additions, in those opening lines of "A Christmas Carol."

*If you have to be at work by the clock, there's not much, except, perhaps, rejoice that we no longer have to remove our 6-volt car batteries on icy nights and carry them indoors to keep warm. Reinstalling them in the predawn by flashlight and with freezing fingers was one of life's grimmest chores 65 years ago.*

Most of Europe is darker than we are during the winter. The mouth of the Rhone River, where it debouches into the sunny Mediterranean, is at the same latitude as Woodstock, Vermont. Paris is north of Montreal. And Trondheim at 63 degrees north? There's a reason Scandinavians stage a mighty Christmas light show. It's a Viking gesture of defiance at the all-encompassing darkness.

My friends Larry and Helen in Kugluktuk, on the shore of Coronation Gulf looking out upon the old Northwest Passage, have dining room picture windows facing south and east up the broad valley of the Coppermine River. The view is spectacular. But at the moment it's pretty much a reflection of what's indoors; the sun has disappeared for a few weeks. In mid-January, Helen will post a photo taken with her cell phone, of a bit of bright orange peeping over the southern hills at high noon. Many people would find that time of darkness oppressive, but the changes between that and uninterrupted midsummer daylight are so swift and dynamic it's actually interesting.

When my buddy Dudley and I were skiing night and day during the 200-mile Alaska Marathon in February of 1985, I was fascinated not only by the depth of the darkness in the bush – holding my mittened hand a foot above the snow, I could see its shadow by the light of Venus – but by the discernible difference in the time of each day's sunrise. It might have been 26 degrees below one night, but spring was on its way back like a tsunami.

Still, February is two months away (when, incidentally, if nothing more goes wrong, I'll be enjoying almost endless daylight south of 60 degrees). How do we make the most of the current crimp in our daylight hours?

If you have to be at work by the clock, there's not much, except, perhaps, rejoice that we no longer have to remove our 6-volt car batteries on icy nights and carry them indoors to keep warm. Reinstalling them in the predawn by flashlight and with freezing fingers was one of life's grimmest chores 65 years ago. How often, in order to be near the head of the line of contractors, was I at the lumberyard in the dark? Again, at 4:15 in the afternoon, I routinely announced, "Well, 'bout time to pick up." Safely packed, we sat on tailgates in the dark, talked a while, and headed home.

We cope in various ways. Kids in far northern Europe and Russia take spa soaks and read by full-spectrum light at school. In some parts of Scandinavia, alcoholism runs rampant during the winter; in others, thousands take to skis in long-distance loppets. Seasonal Affective Disorder seems to disrupt many sedentary lives; working inside "light boxes" seems to help. Me, I've got a little terrier who can read a clock and knows in advance when it's time for our daily walk in the park.

And everywhere there are lights. Houses, trees, even concrete-mixing trucks blaze across our eyes wherever we turn. Men with hydraulic lifts deck the downtown streets with overhead stars and angels with trumpets. Why the trumpets? They're announcing the sublime metaphor of a tiny newborn baby bringing light to a dark world. Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, and Kwanzaa, both focus on rows of candles with symbolic meaning.

Light attracts us during dark times. We gather like moths to a flame and sit in communal circles, singing, talking, telling stories, watching familiar faces by firelight, candlelight, or lamplight. Our backsides may be freezing, but it's then that we feel warmest and closest together.

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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## MEETING MEMO

**Wednesday, December 15**  
 •**Special Meeting of CCSU Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee**, 3:30 p.m., CCSU Central Office or via Zoom.

**Monday, December 20**  
 •**Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, Full Board of Directors' Regular Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., Danville School Library and remote access also available.

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 Calais: calaisvermont.gov

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 Hardwick: hardwickvt.org  
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# ANOTHER OPINION

## How Our Classrooms Are Being Cheated

by David Kelley

GREENSBORO – In my lifetime we have fought more than our share of senseless wars. The so-called “war on poverty” has been one of them. Its failures are too replete to recount in a short op ed, but surely schools are the front line of that war, and here in Vermont our educational funding formula continues to be one of our biggest failures.

The average teacher’s salary at Hazen Union is \$56,652. At South Burlington, the average teacher’s salary is \$80,294. In Hardwick, Hazen’s biggest town, 17.6 percent of the families live below the poverty line. In South Burlington 6.63 percent of the families live below the poverty line.

Approximately one out of five students at Hazen Union requires special ed services. Approximately one out of ten students at South Burlington

requires special ed services. Hazen Union spends \$23,527 per special needs student. South Burlington spends \$32,317.

As the former chair of the Hazen Union School Board and a volunteer debate coach for many years at both Hazen Union and South Burlington, I am familiar with both schools, and both are great in different ways. I have met great students and great teachers at both schools. But legislators need to appreciate the differences between these schools if the promise of Brigham, that all Vermont students are “entitled to substantially equal educational opportunity”, is ever going to be anything more than an empty promise.

The data points to differences that have profound classroom consequences. At Hazen Union, the differences are manifested in greater classroom management challenges, reduced learning opportunities, and increased

teacher burnout.

One of Vermont’s most respected superintendents, a man who has devoted his career to some of Vermont’s most impoverished school districts, told me recently, “There are times when the needs are so great they can create a deficit mentality and lower expectations. It takes extraordinary principals, staff and teachers to transcend the weight of these needs, to sustain the responsibility to set high expectations and to advance all learners.” A budget crisis at some schools means cutting robotics programs. At Hazen Union and other schools it means cutting a behavioral specialist, home school coordinators or school-based clinicians.

In the Northeast Kingdom, levels of poverty are more shameful than ever. There is little hope of breaking a cycle of generational poverty without recognizing that substandard housing, substance abuse and unemployment have profound impacts on the classroom. We aren’t going to fix our housing problems or our substance abuse problems this year or this decade, but we can fix our education funding formula.

The funding formula needs to be weighted in a way that accounts for poverty and special needs. The formula needs genuine weighting, not categorical aid. As just one example, the way small school grants are now distributed makes a mockery of categorical aid. They are not trusted by school boards or communities. Act 173, likewise, cannot be implemented, except in conjunction with meaningful weighting, and even then it’s ramifications need to be carefully monitored and adjusted. A block grant based on census is inadequate to meet the needs of districts with high percentages of both poverty and special ed needs.

There is irrefutable evidence that today’s educational funding formula is violating the Common Benefits Clause of the Vermont Constitution. But providing equal educational opportunity to all Vermont students is not just a legal imperative. It is a moral and economic imperative, as well. If there is any hope for success in the war on poverty, the frontline will always be the classroom.

[David Kelley is the former chair of the Hazen Union School Board.]

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Surprised and Disappointed

To the editor:

I was disappointed to read in last week’s Gazette the Hardwick Select Board did not take advantage of the governor’s and Legislature’s action to allow the adoption of a mask mandate for public spaces. And I was surprised, and disappointed, that some town employees, some members of the Select Board and some residents in attendance were not wearing masks during the meeting. (According to the Gazette article, masking is required in the Memorial Building since last April.)

Statements, by unnamed people attending the public meeting, as well as the town manager, the police chief and board members said a mask mandate would be unenforceable and/or divisive.

Persons who disrupt a public meeting can be asked to leave. If they refuse, they can be removed. And that says nothing about common sense.

I’m sure many a parent has had arguments — dare I say divisive arguments — with their children about bedtime, eating the food on their plate, being home by a certain time, focusing on homework rather than a television show, and other matters.

Not everyone agrees seat belts are needed. Not everyone believes

vaccinating children for contagious diseases is a good idea. Not everyone believes it is wrong, and illegal, to yell “Fire!” in a crowded theater when there is no fire. At times, disagreement — dare I say divisiveness — saves lives.

Divisiveness is part of life. That’s not the issue. The issue is public health and the common good. Close to 800,000 people in the United States have died from COVID, millions have been stricken by the virus, millions more around the world have been sickened and died. COVID is contagious. COVID is deadly.

The people of this town, the state, the nation, the world need to wear masks. The people need to get vaccinated and boosted. People need to take this virus seriously to stop serious illness and, yes, more death.

COVID is not a matter of “personal rights.” The adage that one person’s rights end where another person’s nose begins seems most appropriate in this time of need. According to the scientists and medical professionals, the COVID virus passes easily between the eyes, mouth — and noses — when inhaling and exhaling.

COVID is a public health crisis and the public needs to act if the disease is to be controlled. That’s not divisive. That’s reality.

**Ross Connelly  
Hardwick**

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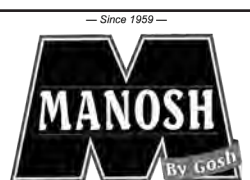
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# SPORTS

## Enosburg Stifles Lady Cats in Season Opener



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Wildcat sophomore Sarah Collier passes the ball past Enosburg's Gabby Spaulding Friday during play at Hazen Union. Enosburg defeated Hazen 47-15.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen Union sophomore Tessa Luther heads toward the basket guarded by Enosburg's Emily Adams (left) and Paige Johnson (right) during a home game December 10.

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – Head coach Tim Whitney and his Hazen Union girls' basketball team drew a tough assignment in their season opener last week as Enosburg showed that they've reloaded in 2022 and will be a tier one team in Division II this season.

Alexis Kittell led all scorers with 11 points to lead Enosburg to a decisive 47-15 road win over the Lady Cats last Friday. Enosburg used its size, athleticism, and experience to frustrate Whitney's young Hazen Union squad with an array of full court presses and half court traps. The Lady Hornet program graduated to Division II in 2018 and haven't missed a beat, making the Final Four in 2020. They returned two seniors and eight underclassmen from last season and hit the jackpot with Kittell, who transferred from BFA-St.

Albans this past fall. The senior point guard helped BFA-St. Albans capture the Division I state championship last winter and eyes the same result with Enosburg in 2022.

"I'm not sure we'll see a team like that the rest of the season," said Whitney. "Their bigs are extremely versatile inside the paint and can also run the floor. The addition of Kittell and their Spanish exchange student Abril Ciurana make them even deeper, and it was a tough match-up for us right out of the gate. It's one thing for us to walk through in limited practices on keys to breaking a press and then try to execute it at the speed Enosburg was playing at and we really struggled making the adjustment," added Whitney.

Kaitlyn Davison and Alexis Christensen led Hazen with six points apiece and Tessa Luther chipped in with three. Whitney has the tall task of forming a new team after graduating

a senior starting five from 2021, but Davison, Christensen, and Luther have had success at the varsity level and he looks forward to developing the rest of his young team throughout the season.

"We have some good young talent on this team, but we are still getting to know each other as players. With such a short window to practice and scrimmage before the start of the season, it is going to take some time. We start the season with some teams that have a lot of experience and we need to grind through it, keep improving, and see progress as a team so that once that we get into divisional play, we know what our roles are as players and what our identity is as a team," said Whitney.

The Lady Cats faced their first road test of the season at Danville on Tuesday and will stay on the road against Oxbow on Thursday before traveling to Richford next Monday.

## Trojans Bounce Back Big after Season Opening Loss

by Ken Brown

PROCTOR – The Twinfield-Cabot boys' basketball team ran into a buzzsaw against Proctor to open the season last week but carved up Twin Valley's zone in the consolation game of the Bob Abrahamson Classic.

Bryson Bourn scored a career-high 30 points to lead Proctor to a 64-46 home win over

Twinfield-Cabot last Friday in the opening round of the Bob Abrahamson Classic. Bourn knocked down six 3-pointers on the night to help the Phantoms build a twelve-point lead at the break. The Trojans stormed back and cut the lead to two midway through the third quarter behind a team-high 15 points from Mason Cushing, but foul trouble hit the Trojans and Proctor ended the quarter on a

7-0 run and would win going away. Levi Petit added 13 points for the Phantoms and Jacob Patch chipped in with 10. Kerrick Medose was Twinfield-Cabot's second leading scorer on the night with 13.

"We knew going in they would be big and fast, and I thought the guys did a really nice job limiting Petit and some of their other weapons, but Bourn really surprised us," said head coach

Chris Hudson. "He made some open looks, but he also knocked down a bunch of contested shots and you can't do much about that when a guy gets that hot. I was happy the way the guys battled back into the game in the third quarter, but when Kerrick had to go to the bench with foul trouble it turned the whole complexion of the game around and we didn't recover. We

See TROJANS, next page

# SPORTS

## Lady Wolves Run Past Twinfield-Cabot Girls in Opener

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – The Twinfield-Cabot girls' basketball team's welcome to the Mountain League was not a warm one by Division III Peoples Academy (PA) last week in both team's season opener.

Shelby Wells poured in a game-high 20 points to lead PA past Twinfield-Cabot on the road last Friday, 59-26. The Lady Wolves started the game on a 17-6 run and took a 33-12 edge into the break and never looked back.

"They are big and athletic and jumped all over us right from the opening tip," said head coach Jason Cushing. "They definitely used their height to their advantage and they executed well, were patient, and are a well-coached team," added Cushing.

Wells was a Vermont Dream Dozen selection in 2021 after an outstanding season that also saw her take home Mountain League POY honors. Her team rolled through the first round of the Division III playoffs last winter, but they were forced out of the tournament in

*"In a game like that you sometimes see players give up, but our girls never quit hustling and continued to play hard defense and I commend them for that. They are all committed to working hard at improving and providing input to how we can get better."*

the quarterfinals due to COVID.

"It was definitely a challenge opening the season against a team like that, but you have to look at like an ice breaker, learn from it, and continue to work at getting better as a team. We didn't shoot well at all from the field or from the line and we gave them way too many easy buckets off of turnovers," said Cushing.

Jorga Washburn, Alice McLane, and

Kendall Fowler all scored six points apiece for the Lady Trojans in the loss. Cushing's young squad played an abbreviated junior varsity schedule last season, going 6-1. Transitioning to the Mountain League this season will have its growing pains, but he's committed to getting as many games as possible for his junior varsity team this season as well for the long-term growth of his program.

"In a game like that you sometimes see players give up, but our girls never quit hustling and continued to play hard defense and I commend them for that. They are all committed to working hard at improving and providing input to how we can get better as a team and that is the type of team you want to coach. We're a small school and don't have the ideal numbers for a full junior varsity schedule, but we're going to play as many as we can. It is vital for the long-term development of our program," said Cushing.

Twinfield-Cabot will get their first road test of the season on Saturday against Richford.

## Craftsbury Girls Ready Themselves for Mountain League

by Ken Brown

CRAFTSBURY – The Craftsbury Academy (CA) girls' basketball program will play their first full varsity basketball schedule since 2017 this week in a new league and with a new head coach.

The girls' varsity basketball program at CA had been dormant since their Division IV Final Four appearance in 2017. Athletic director Gabriela Silva brought back the program last winter with the help of several student-athletes recruiting for the team.

They played a COVID-shortened season in 2021, but will embark on a full varsity schedule this winter with Mariah LeVangie at the helm. LeVangie was a star high school basketball player in Sacramento, Calif., and had aspirations of playing at the next level before injuries took over. She is now a senior at St. Michael's College and will coach her first high school varsity game this week after assisting Silva with the team a season ago.

"Some of our players touched a basketball for the first time last season, so we're a little behind as a program after such a short season last year, but we have a great group of athletic girls and I wanted to help this program grow and hopefully instill some of my knowledge of the game along the way. We are taking a big step going into the

*"We have seven amazing girls on the team this year. They have a familiarity with one another from playing multiple sports together. It has been exciting to see how much this young team has developed from last season."*

Mountain League this year, so we are all a little nervous and excited at the same time and the girls are ready to show their skills," said LeVangie.

LeVangie will have seven girls on the team heading into the season, led senior captain Ida Eames and a pair of underclassmen captains in Ella Gillespie and Savannah Boyce. Gillespie led the Lady Chargers in scoring last season and Boyce will direct the offense from her point guard position. The team is rounded out by seniors Maggie Royer and Amelia Eagan and underclassmen Sadie Skolstad and Abbie Gillespie.

"We have seven amazing girls on the team this year. They have a familiarity with one another from playing multiple sports together, including soccer this past fall. Practices have gone well so far, and we've had one scrimmage. It has

been exciting to see how much this young team has developed from last season. I've been an athlete all my life and have been lucky enough to have amazing coaches throughout and I truly believe that I am the person I have grown to be because of those relationships. Having a true connection with teammates and coaches creates a family bond and that is what I'm striving for with my girls this season. I coach because of the passion I have for the sport and to make my players better prepared for the future. You

can get the outcome you desire through hard work and all of us have to work together as a team to achieve our individual goals. Our team values will be based on respect, responsibility, and sportsmanship and we are all looking forward to playing a full schedule in a new league this season," said LeVangie.

The Lady Chargers will open up the season at home this Wednesday against Richford and are scheduled to host Blue Mountain next Monday.

### Trojans

Continued from previous page

didn't get as much live action in as we wanted heading into a matchup of this magnitude, but, overall, it's good for our team to go on the road and match up against some of the best competition. We'd rather have a loss like that in December rather than in March and we'll learn from it," added Hudson.

Medose bounced back with a game-high 20 points on Saturday to lead Twinfield-Cabot past Twin Valley 61-38 in the consolation game. Lucas Roberts used a hot hand to score 19 and Meles Gouge added nine in the win. Liam Wendall led the Wildcats with 14 as they fell to 0-2 on the season.

"They are a huge team that plays a 2-3 zone, but we had prepared

for it and the guys did a great job of finding the middle of it, working the ball through Mason and exposing the weak spots. Overall, we shot the ball better, but we're still taking a few too many 3-pointers. Early in a season you want to see improvements as a team from game to game and we executed much better after the opener. I'm happy with what I saw this weekend. We have a lot to improve on going forward, but this team hasn't scratched the surface of its potential yet. We have some tough games coming up in the Mountain League and we're looking forward to the challenge," said Hudson.

The Trojans get a week of recovery and practice before traveling to Winooski on Friday and will host West Rutland in their home opener next Tuesday.

# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury sophomore Dylan Washer drives to the basket guarded by Joel Roberts (#4) and Jaden Goepner (#11) of Mid Vermont Christian. In the back is official Chris Macfarlure (left). Craftsbury lost 33-51.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury senior Jas Zendik looks to pass the ball around Mid Vermont Christian's Abel Goodwin (left) and Joel Roberts (right) during action in the World War II Gymnasium in Craftsbury. Charger Mark Guebara is in the back (center).

## Chargers Fall in Home Opener Last Week

by Ken Brown

**CRAFTSBURY** — Mid-Vermont Christian School (MVCS) used a big second half to hand the Craftsbury Academy (CA) boys' basketball team a loss in their season opener last week.

Roman Goepner poured in a game-high 21 points to help MVCS pull away for a 51-33 road win over the Chargers last Friday. Mark Guebara kept CA within five points at the break with a team-high eight points, but the Eagles used a 15-6 run in the third quarter to put the home team in a hole they couldn't dig out of.

"We did a good job of playing them pretty tight in the first half as we tried to shake the rust and the nerves off in the first game of the season," said head coach Sean Ryan. "Things fell apart a little in the third quarter for us with too many turnovers and they really took advantage of their opportunities in the paint. The guys did a nice job of regrouping in the fourth, but we just didn't box out or shoot well enough in the second half to get back into the game," added Ryan.

Joel Roberts complimented

Goepner with 13 points for the Eagles as the duo dominated the boards on both the offensive and defensive end. Dylan Washburn chipped in with seven points for the Chargers, but no one really found the hot hand from the outside to counter the Eagles size.

"They're not very deep, but they're a very good, experienced

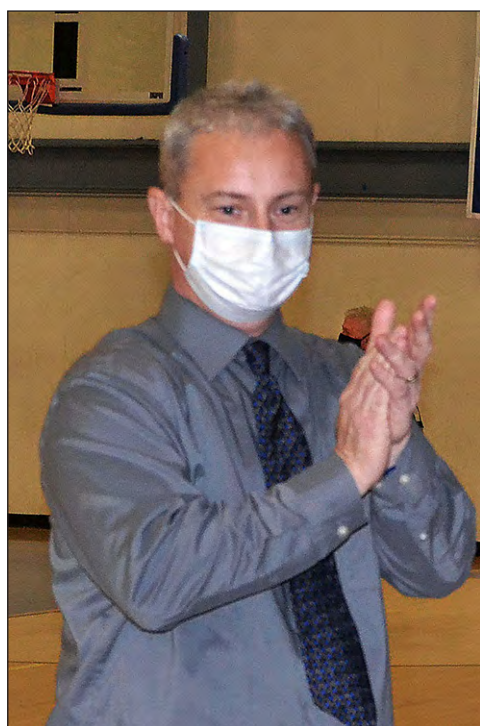


photo by Vanessa Fournier

Sean Ryan of Newport is the new Craftsbury boys' varsity coach.

team and we were all fighting the nerves a little bit in our season opener. But, overall, I liked the way we ran our offense and got some open looks. They just didn't fall. We are a drive-and-kick offense and it is a tough ask to be in a good shooting rhythm to start the season. I think if we continue to put in the work we will get better results throughout the season. Cutting down turnovers, mental mistakes, and boxing out is what

we have to work on going forward, but this is a learning experience for all of us. We're a young team and everyone is going to get the needed varsity experience throughout the season to get to where we need to become as a team," said Ryan.

The Chargers traveled out of division to a tough Enosburg team on Tuesday and will return home to host Christ Covenant on Friday before a home date against Richford next Tuesday.



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# SPORTS

## Wildcats Defense of Dave Morse Classic Begins This Week

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – The sixth annual Dave Morse Classic (DMC) tips off this week, celebrating the life of a Vermont Hall of Fame journalist and community legend, as well as showcasing some of the best high school basketball in the state.

COVID derailed the defense of the Hazen Union boys' basketball team's third straight DMC last winter, but it returns this Wednesday at the 'Cat Den in

front of fans from all over the state. Hazen Union, Williamstown, Lamoille, and Randolph will showcase their talents in the round robin tournament that runs Wednesday through Friday.

The tournament was created by Hazen Union boys' head coach Aaron Hill and athletic director John Sperry after Morse lost his battle with cancer in March of 2015. Coaches, referees, and fans statewide have traveled to Hardwick over the years to pay tribute to

Morse's contributions to the game and his community. The DMC has raised thousands of dollars for the Dave Morse Scholarship Fund, and it will be welcomed back Wednesday night to what Hill and Sperry hopes is a sold out 'Cat Den.

"We are very excited to have the return of the Dave Morse Classic. He was such a special part of our program here at Hazen for so long. It is important to continue to talk about him and tell the kids about what he stood for in our

community. He was able to bring our community together in such a special way," said Hill.

Hill and his Wildcats tipped off the season on the road against rival Williamstown on Tuesday and will battle Randolph in the night-cap of the DMC this Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Lamoille and Williamstown will square off in the opener on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The consolation game will be played Friday at 5:30 p.m., followed by the championship game.

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### Wednesday, December 15

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

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball vs. Richford, at Craftsbury.

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

### Friday, December 17

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

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

### Friday, December 17

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

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

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

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy boys' varsity basketball vs. Christ Covenant, at Craftsbury.

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

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

### Monday, December 20

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

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball vs. Blue Mountain, at Craftsbury.

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

### Tuesday, December 21

5 p.m., Twinfield-Cabot Middle

School boys' basketball at St. Michaels.

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

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

### Wednesday, December 22

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

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

### Thursday, December 23

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

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

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

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

### Tuesday, December 28

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

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

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

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

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

### Wednesday, December 29

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

junior varsity basketball at Enosburg.

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

### Thursday, December 30

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball vs. Northfield, at Craftsbury.

### Tuesday, January 4

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

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

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

### Wednesday, January 5

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

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

junior varsity basketball at Winooski.

6 p.m., Craftsbury Academy girls' varsity basketball at Twinfield.

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

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

### Thursday, January 6

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

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

### Friday, January 7

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

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



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Many tears in the Hardwick Recreation ice rink liner were repaired by volunteers before installing it on December 5. Apparently, all of the tears were not found as the rink did not hold all of the 3,000 gallons of water that was poured into it. Until further notice the skating rink located under the Pavilion on Atkins Field is not to be used.



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